



Turin stampede leaves 1,500 injured after bomb scare



Trump agenda imperiled in distracted US Congress



Nadal moves into quarters, Wozniacki tops ex-champ



Imsak 03:04 Fajr 03:14 Shorook 04:48 Duhr 11:47 Asr 15:21 Maghrib 18:45 Isha 20:16

150 FILS
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40 PAGES

7 KILLED IN 'EVIL' LONDON TERROR ATTACK; 12 HELD

AMIR SENDS CONDOLENCES; KUWAITI CITIZENS SAFE

Min 25°
Max 44°
High Tide 09:16 & 20:50
Low Tide 02:46 & 15:46



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greets the officers of Kuwait's armed forces on the holy month of Ramadan as he arrives at the Army Officers' Club on Saturday. — KUNA (See Page 2)

AMIR URGES ARMED FORCES TO BE VIGILANT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday urged the armed forces to be more ready and vigilant to defend the homeland soil. HH the Amir made the call in a visit to the Army Officers Club, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He expressed congratulations to the officers and military personnel on the holy month of Ramadan. HH the Amir started his address to the Deputy Prime Minister

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LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May blamed "evil" Islamist ideology yesterday for an attack by knife-wielding men who mowed down and stabbed revellers in London, killing seven, as police said they had arrested 12 suspects.

Saturday night's rampage at the popular nightlife hub around London Bridge, by three men arriving in a van and wearing fake suicide vests, was the third deadly terror attack in Britain in three months and came only days before snap elections.

National campaigning for Thursday's general election was suspended for the day out of respect for the victims, who included 48 people treated in hospital, some of them in life-threatening conditions.

No details have been released about the suspects, who were shot dead within minutes by police, and detectives are still investigating whether they acted alone. The 12 arrests were made in the ethnically diverse east London suburb of Barking, with Sky News reporting that a property raided by police belonged to one of the killers.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent two cables of condolences to Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Theresa May over the victims of the attack in London. HH the Amir expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the deadly attack on the London Bridge, which killed several people and wounded others. HH the Amir reaffirmed Kuwait's outright rejection of all forms of terrorism and renewed support to the government of the UK in whatever measures it might take to protect the Kingdom's security and stability.

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LONDON: Police officers and members of the emergency services attend to a person injured in an apparent terror attack on London Bridge in central London on Saturday. — AFP (See Page 11)



TREASURES OF RAMADAN: LESSONS FOR CHILDREN

By Reham Al-Sayed

According to leading researcher on gratitude, Robert Emmons, gratitude has two key components. First, it's an affirmation of goodness; we affirm that there are good things in the world, gifts and benefits we received, and second, we recognize that sources of this goodness are outside ourselves. Other people, or a higher power (God) gave us many gifts to help us achieve the goodness in our lives. Hundreds of studies have documented the social, physical and psychological benefits of gratitude, which include increasing happiness and reducing stress, lowering blood pressure and strengthening the immune system. Gratitude makes us sleep better, and makes us more resilient, helpful and compassionate. (Greatergood.berkeley.edu) The Quran says, "And remember! when your Lord proclaimed, 'If you are grateful, I will surely increase you (in favors)' (14:7).

Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) said, "If the entire world along with its contents were to be in the hand of a man from my nation and then he were to say alhamdulillah (all Praise and Thanks are due to God) then alhamdulillah would be better than (what his hand contained)." Praising and giving thanks to Allah is better than the world since the world is soon to perish but this statement will endure for it is from those righteous deeds that remain. Allah said, "The righteous deeds that last are better in the Sight of your Lord, for reward and better for resort." (19:76)

We should engage with our children in activities to cultivate gratitude. A nice idea is a "Gratitude (Alhamdulillah) Chart." Write at the top of a large poster, "This Ramadan, we say Alhamdulillah for..." and place it where the family gathers to eat or pray. Leave a marker and a stack of sticky notes nearby so each person can write at least one thing they are grateful for every day in Ramadan. It can be as important as their life, family, health, or faith, or as small and funny as chocolate, coffee or tickles. At the end of the month, your family will have not just a gorgeous record of gratitude to God, but a tangible proof of the abundant blessings in their lives. (Productive Muslim.com - How to get your Kids to Love Ramadan)

Social connections and charity

Studies have found that we're happier when we spend money on others and that we experience positive emotions when we engage in acts of kindness to others. The Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) was the most generous of men at all times, but his generosity reached its peak in Ramadan (Al-Bukhari). Ramadan is a time to strengthen ties of kinship and to revive all friendships. All good deeds are multiplied during this month. Some ideas include:

Continued on Page 13

NA PANEL: KAC MUST BE A STATE-HELD FIRM

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly financial and economic affairs committee yesterday approved a draft law stipulating that Kuwait Airways will be a state-held authority, practically rejecting efforts in the past few years to privatize the loss-making carrier.

Rapporteur of the committee MP Safa Al-Hashem said that under the bill, the government will pay all the losses incurred by the carrier until when the law becomes effective.

Hashem said the committee decided to reject bids to privatize the company because the government experiments with privatization has been disappointing. She added that the decision to keep KAC under government control is because of several attempts to

control it by private entities in a way that involves losses to public funds.

The law also requires that the percentage of Kuwaitis should be at least 60 percent at the airlines three years from applying the law. The National Assembly passed in 2008 a law stipulating to privatize KAC by giving a stake to a strategic investor, foreign or local, another to Kuwaiti citizens and a third stake of 24 percent will be given to state institutions. The law was amended several times but it could not be implemented despite the company purchasing around 35 new aircraft.

MP Askar Al-Enezi said he and a number of lawmakers will submit today a motion calling to debate and approve a draft law stipulating that the government should naturalize up to 4,000 stateless people or bedoons in 2017 as part of resolving their problem.

Askar said that there is a majority of lawmakers who want to approve the draft legislation. Several such laws were approved in the past several years but remained mostly unimplemented as the government naturalized only a few bedoons. Head of the National Assembly budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said yesterday the committee rejected to approve the final accounts of state for the 2015/2016 but approved the draft budget for 2017/2018. The lawmaker said that the rejection came to protest the government failure to respond to remarks made by the Audit Bureau.

In the meantime, opposition MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie said yesterday that he plans to file to grill the education minister after the opening session of the next term in October over alleged violations at the Public Authority for Education and Training.

TRUMP SLAMS LONDON MAYOR FOR BEING 'POLITICALLY CORRECT'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump, in a flurry of Sunday morning tweets on the London attacks, criticized the city's mayor and bemoaned what Trump described as political correctness when it comes to national security. The attacks killed seven people in a busy section of London and wounded about 50 people.

Trump went after London Mayor Sadiq Khan for saying there was "no reason to be alarmed." Khan did use those words in a television interview, but it was to reassure Londoners about a stepped up police presence they might see: "No reason to be alarmed. One of things the police and all of us need to do to make sure we are as safe as we possibly can be," Khan said. The president, who used his initial response late Saturday to promote his travel ban that courts have blocked, returned again to national security. "We must stop being politically correct and get down to the business of security for

our people. If we don't get smart it will only get worse," Trump tweeted.

His first comment on Twitter late Saturday was: "We need to be smart, vigilant and tough. We need the courts to give us back our rights. We need the Travel Ban as an extra level of safety!"

His administration asked the Supreme Court last week to immediately reinstate his proposed ban on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries and refugees from anywhere in the world. The administration argues that the US will be safer if the policy is put in place.

Lower courts have blocked the Trump policy, citing various reasons including statements Trump made during the 2016 campaign. The legal fight pits the president's authority over immigration against what lower courts have said is a policy that purported to be about national security but was intended to target Muslims. — AP



LONDON: A person (center) is led away in handcuffs during a police operation at an address in Barking, east London, yesterday. — AP



HEBRON, Palestinian Territories: A Palestinian vendor displays pickles for sale in the old city of the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday during the holy fasting month of Ramadan. — AFP

INDONESIA SAYS 1,200 IS OPERATIVES IN PHILIPPINES

SINGAPORE: There are about 1,200 Islamic State (IS) group operatives in the Philippines, including foreigners of whom 40 are from Indonesia, the Indonesian defense minister told an international security forum yesterday.

Speaking in Singapore amid a bloody standoff between Philippine troops and militants fighting under the IS flag in Marawi city, Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu called the militants "killing machines" and urged full-scale regional cooperation against them.

"I was advised last night, 1,200 ISIS in the Philippines, around 40 from Indonesia," Ryacudu told the Shangri-La Dialogue, using another name for the IS group. The threat of heightened terrorism, including the impending return of hundreds of Southeast Asian fighters who fought with IS in Syria and Iraq, has been a hot-button issue at the three-day Singapore summit also attended by US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, other top state officials and National Guard officers pose for a group photo. — Amiri Diwan photos

AMIR CONGRATULATES NATIONAL GUARD ON RAMADAN

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, visited headquarters of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) on Saturday. His Highness the Amir said it was a pleasure for him and His Highness the Crown Prince to pay the regular visit to KNG's headquarters so as to congratulate the officers on the Muslims' holy month of Ramadan.



Kuwait National Guard Undersecretary General Hashem Al-Rifae delivers his speech.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center right), His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center left), Chief of Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah (center), and other top state officials attend the gathering.

Since its establishment, the Kuwait National Guard has been supporting all security and military sectors as well as others across the country, His Highness the Amir added. KNG's personnel have proven that they are able to confront decisively everybody seeking to tamper with the country's security, and maintain vital facilities, His Highness the Amir noted. His Highness the Amir lauded the signing of a memo between the Ministry of Interior and the Kuwait National Guard aiming to promote cooperation and coordination, and achieve security integration.

His Highness the Amir expressed his appreciation to Chief of Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and his deputy Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who were at his reception, for unlimited efforts made to upgrade efficiency of the KNG's staff through continued military exercises inside and outside the country. His Highness the Amir went to say that His Highness Sheikh Salem and his

deputy are working permanently to provide the apparatus with the latest military equipment and developed devices, wishing the State of Kuwait everlasting security, safety and prosperity. KNG Undersecretary General Hashem Al-Rifae congratulated His Highness the Amir for Kuwait's membership in the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2018-19. He said His Highness the Amir's visit coincided with KNG's

50th anniversary, during which the military institution defended Kuwait and its citizens hand-in-hand with the defense and interior ministries, and fire department. He said His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad contributed to the development of KNG in military, security, administrative, technical, medical and sport domains.

Rifae said the KNG, following its 'Security First' motto, is following transparent methods to recruiting Kuwaiti nationals and protection of vital facilities nationwide particularly oil sites. The KNG officials then displayed a film about the chemical defense and radioactive detection center. His Highness the Amir was accompanied by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Sabah, Deputy

Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Director of His Highness the Amir's office Ahmad Al-Fahad, Undersecretary of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Sabah, Head of Amiri Diwan Media and Culture Affairs Yusuf Al-Roumi, Sheikh Majed Al-Sabah, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah and Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah writes in the guestbook.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah writes in the guestbook.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greets Chief of Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greets Chief of Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: (From left) His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Deputy Head of National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah react during the gathering.

ARMY CHIEF COMMENDS AMIR FOR SOLVING CONFLICTS



Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr delivers his speech.

KUWAIT: Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr commended Saturday His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for helping overcome many challenges facing region.

Khodhr, in a speech before His Highness the Amir during his visit to the Army Officers Club, said His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's keenness on unity at the domestic and regional levels contributed to solving many "critical situations that faced the region."

He said the three summits held recently in Saudi Arabia sent a clear message to any person trying to undermine security and stability of the region, that "there is an agreement between the Arab and Islamic worlds, and friendly countries to confront these acts."

Khodhr congratulated His Highness the Amir after Kuwait won a UN Security Council seat for 2018-19, which he attributed as a victory for "Your Highness sharp vision and wisdom in foreign policy." The top gen-

eral reaffirmed, meanwhile, that the armed forces were constantly developing their armament and capabilities in order to protect sovereignty, security and independence of Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir was accompanied His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Head of National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Sabah.

He was accompanied by Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Sabah, Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Director of His Highness the Amir's office Ahmad Al-Fahad, Undersecretary of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Sabah, Head of Amiri Diwan Media and Culture Affairs Yusuf Al-Roumi, Sheikh Majed Al-Sabah, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah and Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greets as he enters the venue along with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other officials.

KUWAIT DENIES REPORTED LIST OF ENVOYS' SHUFFLE

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah Saturday categorically denied social media reports which talked about transfers of Ambassadors among diplomatic missions, terming the reports as "not true." Jarallah said a list that was published containing the shuffle of heads of diplomatic missions "is a great embarrassment for the State of Kuwait with the capitals of the countries mentioned in the list." This list, he added in a statement, violated the diplomatic norms. Jarallah called on social media users to get their information from official sources, or the measures would "regrettably take appropriate legal measures against any person publishing such lists." — KUNA



Khaled Al-Jarallah

MUNICIPALITY HALTS HOME BUSINESS LICENSING

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality halted a decision that Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan planned to issue last week about regulating home business licenses. The municipality said that the decision would violate the regulations of Kuwait's structural plan in terms of banning commercial businesses within residential areas.

The municipality added that it has been working on removing commercial stores already existing there, such as tailor shops, barbershops, laundries, grocery stores, etc out of residential areas. Notably, Roudhan had stated that a decision would be issued on regulating 18 types of to-be licensed home businesses to encourage more citizens to start their own businesses.

Mental diseases

Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said an average of 1,500-2,000 new cases are annually diagnosed with mental diseases at Kuwait Psychological Health Center. Harbi added that criminal investigation authorities referred 67 suspects to examine their mental health last year and 39 of them were found fully sane and responsible for their actions. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry about psychiatric patients holding special cards explaining their cases, Harbi stressed that patients were usually given regular cards with their data, file number and OPD appointments. "Such cards do not entitle holders to special treatment," he underlined.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Commander of US Central Command Army General Joseph L. Votel attend the meeting yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT, US DISCUSS JOINT MILITARY COOPERATION

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Commander of US Central Command Army General Joseph L. Votel discussed boosting joint cooperation yesterday. The two sides also discussed topics of mutual concern and

boosting military cooperation, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement. The meeting was attended by several high-ranking army officers including Kuwaiti Army's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr, and US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi (left) welcomes Ramadan well-wishers yesterday. — KUNA

MOH CREATES MEDICAL E-FILE UNDER KOREAN TUTELAGE

KUWAIT: Kuwait is eager to keep abreast of advancements in healthcare, Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said yesterday, a week before the Ministry of Health (MoH) hosts a contingent of South Korean doctors. Speaking to the press, Harbi said that the MoH will seek the South Korean medical contingent's guidance to initiate a unified medical electronic file (e-file). Moreover, he noted that a group of Kuwaiti doctors will also visit a hospital in the South Korean capital Seoul, where more than 300 liver transplantation procedures were conducted.

"We received last month a South Korean medical delegation well-versed in liver transplantation," Al-Harbi said, pointing out that "a number of issues were discussed." Meanwhile, MoH's Assistant Undersecretary for Planning Mohammad Al-Khashti said that an e-file merging all primary medical healthcare centers was completed, with hospitals and clinics to follow soon. He also noted that the MoH looks forward to develop its e-files through the use of cutting-edge technology. — KUNA

LIQUOR FACTORY IN JABER AL-AHMAD AREA RAIDED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police raided a home brew liquor factory in Jaber Al-Ahmad area. Two men were arrested. Case papers indicate that detectives had been tipped off concerning illegal activity and after surveillance, the place was raided and detectives arrested two Asians, both of whom illegal residents. Police found 3,500 plastic bottles, 90 barrels full of liquor, five pumps and quantities of raw material used in the process. Alcohol is illegal in Kuwait but homemade liquor brewing factories due to consist demand for illicit liquor.

Fire in laborers' residence

A fire broke out at midnight in a building used to accommodate laborers opposite Al-Mubarakiya market, in downtown Kuwait City, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and found out that the fire had started on the third floor. The building was evacuated and the fire was controlled. No casualties were reported.



KUWAIT: Barrels containing liquor found in a Jaber Al-Ahmad house that police raided yesterday.



KUWAIT: Cardboard boxes containing liquor bottles found in a Jaber Al-Ahmad house that was raided yesterday.

IICO PROVIDES IFTAR MEALS TO SYRIAN REFUGEES



Food items distributed during the campaign.



AMMAN: Kuwait's Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom Dr Hamad Al-Duaij launches the campaign. — KUNA

AMMAN: Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) launched yesterday a Ramadan iftar campaign for needy Syrian refugee families residing across Jordan. IICO will join forces with local charities to distribute more than 1,800 food baskets containing basic items such as rice, sugar and dates, all of which are staples during the holy month of Ramadan.

Kuwait's Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom Dr Hamad Al-Duaij described the endeavor as a measure intended to provide relief for people who are highly dependent on such aid. Duaij noted that the Kuwaiti embassy was eager to carry out similar projects to help out all those affected by the rigors of penury.

Meanwhile, Khalil Hamad, IICO's supervisor, said that the annual project will grant more than 700 Syrian refugee families access to fresh and quality food. Similarly, Hamid Al-Tarawna, the director of a local Jordanian charity, said that IICO has been a trusted partner for years, thanking Kuwait for the country's persistent support. — KUNA

Legalese

WORK-RELATED CONCERNS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I write this to the beautiful souls in Kuwait that make our country a better place to live in. As I have mentioned in my columns and articles multiple times, there are many legal concerns by non-nationals in Kuwait regarding their employment. Kuwait has gone a long way in making this country a better place, but there is still a lot that we need to work on for us to be a more welcoming country to people from all walks of life. I have said this on multiple occasions - it is a blessing that we have so many different nationalities in Kuwait. Here are some major concerns from non-nationals living and working in Kuwait.

Leaving on notice period

Question: As per my contract, I have a three-month notice that I have to serve my boss. However, two different HR professionals have informed me that my boss has the right to tell me that my services are not needed and can ask me to stop coming without any notice and stop paying me thereafter. I was wondering if this is correct.

Fajer: Even though your boss has the right to tell you not to attend work during your three-month notice period before resignation, they do not have the right to withhold your three months' salary. Your employer and you should both decide amicably what is best for both parties. Should there be a disagreement or should they decide to withhold your salary for the three months, I suggest you resign at the Shuoon (Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor).

Debit cards/illegal sponsorship

Question: I am a US contractor and my salary is \$10,000 that is transferred to my American bank account. Yet my company keeps getting me to sign a yearly contract with my sponsor/kafeel, and that document has a salary of KD 1,200. I later found that they even opened a bank account under my name and they have been placing KD 1,200 in my account on a monthly basis and withdrawing it! Isn't this illegal?

Fajer: 1. Debit cards: You will be surprised to know how many employees come to me without knowing that they have bank accounts in Kuwait. Violating employers have a common practice of getting the employees to sign documents or to give them the authority to open bank accounts on their behalf. These documents are usually in Arabic, and the employees have no idea that they have an active bank account in Kuwait. Their salary as mentioned in their contract at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor could be less or more than what they are receiving by their employers - their actual salary. Some companies keep the debit cards with them - this constitutes as a crime by the employer, depending on the action involved. Please check and be careful. To answer the question, yes this is illegal and you can file both criminal charges as well as civil cases against your employer asking for compensation.

2. The other illegal issue here is that you are working under two contracts - one registered just for sponsorship purposes, while the other is your actual contract. This is also a very common practice in Kuwait and unfortunately makes it very hard for us lawyers. The system keeps changing, so please be very careful and ask for things to be clear from the beginning.

Abandoning

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

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

If you have any legal questions, please email Ask@FajerTheLawyer.com

NO CONTAMINATED RICE IN LOCAL MARKETS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Well-informed municipal sources strongly denied that any municipality inspector throughout Kuwait had received any complaint concerning a video about selling rice that contains plastic in local markets. The source stressed that inspectors searched various stores and outlets in search of such a product but found none.

Khairan

Municipal Council member and head of the technical committee Fahd Al-Sane urged relevant government authorities to come up with quick solutions to end the suffering of the people living in Khairan residential area. Sane explained that the area's residents have many complaints, such as the stench from overflowing sewage water, accumulated garbage, waste that has not been collected for weeks and roads blocked by sand, which has been causing many traffic accidents.

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A vendor displays dates at a market in downtown Kuwait City on June 3, 2017, during the holy month of Ramadan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

SAFIR HOTEL AND RESIDENCE KUWAIT AL-FINTAS HOSTS GHABQA FOR MEDIA

KUWAIT: Safir Hotel and Residences Kuwait - Al-Fintas hosted a warm Ramadan ghabqa Night for the press and media family on the 30th of May 2017 in the 1,400 square meter Royal Tent, as an expression of appreciation and gratefulness for their strong support at all times.

The hotel's management team welcomed

the press and media personnel with their families to Ramadan ghabqa Night to enjoy with us the atmosphere of Safir Al-Fintas Ramadan Nights, the lavish ghabqa buffet, along with the live oriental music and shisha.

The hotel also offered an array of exceptional gifts for its guests, including accommodation in hotel suites and rooms, lunch or dinner

at Al-Roshinah Traditional Kuwaiti Restaurant, as well as gifts from Safir International Hotels and Resorts Management Group and sponsors such as Beidoun, SEBA Med, Grand Cinemas and the Scientific Center.

The General Manager of Safir Hotel and Residences Kuwait - Al-Fintas, Saif Eddin Mohammed, expressed his gratitude to the

press and media family for attending Ramadan ghabqa Night which would have never been so warm and magical without their presence with us. The general manager also thanked the hotel employees for their outstanding performance through the collective effort that contributed to the success of this special evening.



Yousef Al-Nasr

CREATE A BETTER FUTURE

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

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?

Most people think that the world needs some kind of a great power to be saved. Meanwhile, there are many people who are trying to give some of their time to make it kinder and happier. A young man called Yousef Al-Nasr is one of them, and he wants to share his thoughts on how to create peace in this world.

He said, "I would like to begin by saying, in order for us to have an accurate prediction of the future, we should simply work on creating one. I remember twenty years ago when I was somewhere near six years old I used to get so disturbed listening about wars, starvation, and climate change, so I used to ask myself 'why aren't we doing anything about it?'"

"If it was me I would have had made peace with everyone, fed those who are starving and planted more plants," he said. "But I am just one person out of 7.7 billion people. I grew up hating news and thinking that I am useless because I did not have the resources to help our planet, but I slowly started growing up to find myself helping those around me, joining volunteering groups, being rebellious about sitting around cross handed like I do not have the power to do anything about it, even though I thought like it was nothing and it would not matter to anyone."

"Later on I started noticing how much it would mean to all those people, and how much a very small simple thing can be big in the eyes of those people who are helping," he noted. "I started seeing inspiring people who were simple individuals that caused huge changes and I thought to myself if this person can do it, I should be able to do something as well, so I started with simple things such as feeding animals, cleaning the beach, giving cold water to those workers under the sun or hot tea in winter when the weather is cold, the rest is for you to imagine."

"I would say in order for you to improve the community around, do whatever you are capable of, no matter how simple it is as long as you are being positive and staying genuine," he indicated. "Simplest things such as giving your seat to an elderly person, helping someone without them having to or making coffee and delivering it to your colleagues, will make them all happy. These simple things are like small steps, they eventually grow larger."

Kuwait

Heritage



The Mubarakiyah school, opened in 1911, was named after Kuwait's seventh ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah (Mubarak the Great). It started by teaching basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. In 1921, another school was opened; the Ahmadiyyah school, pupils seem to be having an English lesson. In 1937, the first girls school was opened. The picture shows students apparently during an English language class in the Ahmadiyyah school circa 1939. (Source: Kuwait in the eyes of early photographers, William Facey, Gillian Gran, London 1989. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)

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The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).

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Crime

Report

WOMAN HURT WHILE ESCAPING HARASSER

KUWAIT: A female citizen sustained various injuries when she drove her vehicle into a cement barrier along King Faisal expressway, said security sources. The girl rejected a young man's attempts to speak to her in a cafe, then he chased her when she left and forced her off the lane to collide into the barrier, the sources explained. However, the girl managed to jot down his license plate number and provided the police with it.

Boy faces deportation

Following up the case of the young Egyptian man who had been reported missing and was finally found by his father, security sources noted that after collecting his son from Jleeb park, the father went to the police to close the case and report that his son was found. However, the son was detained and is facing charges of 'disturbing authorities' after taking KD 150 from the house and wandering around several mosques during his absence. The sources noted that the boy may be deported.



Police assaulted

A special forces agent was arrested for assaulting a police officer, said security sources, noting that the agent's wife and friend fought with the owner of a beauty salon in Salmiya, which made the wife call her husband for help. By the time he arrived, the owner had called the police who arrived earlier, which angered the agent and he assaulted the policeman and took his wife attempting to flee the scene but was detained and referred to relevant authorities. Separately, an expat and his 23-year-old daughter were arrested in Sulaibiya for insulting and assaulting policemen when they went to their house to collect the father's vehicle because it was involved in a traffic accident, said security sources.

Heart hypertrophy

A citizen was rushed to Mubarak Hospital and admitted inside the intensive care unit (ICU) after having a medication that is supposed to be used for fat burning and slimming, said security sources, noting that the medicine lead to heart hypertrophy (enlargement of the cardiac muscle). A case was filed and further investigation is in progress. Separately, a citizen was arrested in Hawally for assaulting a pharmacist who refused to sell him some drugs without a prescription, said security sources. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



THE SAME OLD STORY

By Ali Khajah

I still cannot find a logical justification for those supporting a law punishing those who drink or eat in public during daytime in Ramadan because they mostly use excuses like 'we have been brought up to it and cannot accept changing it.' Yes, indeed. I will repeat the very same old story I write every Ramadan until things change or until I get convinced that what is happening is the right thing; i.e. punishing those drinking or eating in public during daytime in Ramadan by imprisonment for a month, which is a law imposed on everyone residing in Kuwait.

Other excuses they use are respecting the feelings of people who are fasting, and those whose fasting might be affected by seeing someone drinking water or eating during fasting hours. Well, such an excuse might have been acceptable 70 years ago when people did not have TV screens, programs and series filled with scenes about food and beverages all day long. So, if a fasting person might be affected by watching someone eat or drink on the street, the same effect will happen on watching someone eat on the TV, which refutes the excuse about 'hurting the feelings of those fasting.'

The second excuse relies on the fact that we are living in a Muslim country and that everybody has to respect the feelings and rituals of Muslims in this country including abstaining from eating and drinking during daytime in Ramadan, which is a deeper and more profound excuse compared to the so-called 'hurting the feelings of those fasting'. Nonetheless, if this very same excuse is used worldwide, Muslims would be in real trouble because they would be banned from eating meat in certain countries or wearing hijab in others in addition of being banned from practicing so many Islamic rituals with the excuse of respecting the religions of those countries. This would be totally rejected by Muslims themselves including Kuwaitis who usually join so many loud voices condemning hijab ban in any given country and call for respecting others' liberties and values.

Such excuses and so many others are so feeble compared to people's own liberty to fast or break the fast. I can hardly find any positive impact from preventing people from eating or drinking in public, especially in such an extremely hot weather which requires constant drinking of fluids and when we have so many non-Muslims who are not religiously asked to fast. We must not hold to what we have been brought up to simply because of that. We must change whatever sounds illogical. Finally, do you think that people were punished for breaking their fast in public on the early days of Islam? — *Translated by Kuwait Times*

CARPE DIEM INCENTIVES

By Hassan Al-Essa

A very feverish race is currently going on amongst some lawmakers to get a new teachers' incentive approved so as to 'develop Kuwaiti teachers' profession', as described by Kuwait Teachers Association at a time when the total number of Kuwaiti physics teachers in Kuwait is only four. The new incentives' project is but a new one added to a long series of pay increases approved and legalized by the state ever since it began to export oil and adapt the 'revenues' way of living, including buying old houses and all the way through giving endless financial grants in the form of salaries paid even when no real work is done.

This has left the door wide open for approving various pay hikes and increments for a large number of government employees in recent years, which turned those employees from people with medium income into wealthy ones. The parliament would suggest a project that is later approved by the government and following governments in a race to win more popularity through silencing the beneficiaries who would be very thankful to both the parliament and the government forever.

Consciousness is being sedated by immediate increments and diverted from thinking about the future; a state with which nobody talks about corruption, huge financial deals, commissions, over-employment, the lack of productivity and indifference in doing public jobs. Well, we cannot criticize this because we would be accused of being envious, keeping

silent about mega merchants, and benefiting from those close to ruling circles.

Accusations will be endless about being envious to public servants regardless of the nature of their jobs, including those hardworking forgotten ones without support from a lawmaker, a relative or a 'wasta' beyond accountability. What is the difference in corruption when it happens in the form of a commission paid for a deal custom-tailored to fit a certain influential tycoon who appears on front pages of hollow newspapers, or in the form of a dishonest contractor who gets control over a sub-contract that had been waiting to be executed for twenty years in Sulaibikhat?

How different are those forms of corruption from MPs' attempts to have a new pay hike passed only to add a new leaking hole in a budget full of holes made by corruption and indifference? We do wish Kuwaiti teachers all the best, but things are different with non-Kuwaiti teachers because they are temporary and it does not matter if the Ministry of Education is unfair to them and deducts small rent allowance from their salaries. It does not matter if their salaries are barely enough because they make it up through private tuitions, as those behind the decision believe. I would have no objection whatsoever to this or any other pay hike proposals if the sky was raining gold instead of the daily growing deficits in a Carpe Diem state. — *Translated by Kuwait Times*



GULF BANK AND AL-SADU SOCIETY CONCLUDES FIRST PHASE OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank and Al-Sadu Society announce the conclusion of phase one of their year-long series of educational workshops entitled 'Fun with Textiles', which are designed for children to develop their skills in crafts and textile art techniques. Activities will resume in September and run until end of the year.

Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank said: "We were pleased with the first phase of the workshops. The children were engaged in fun and educational handicraft activities at the Sadu House. The environment and the activities encouraged them to appreciate and understand Kuwaiti heritage and traditions. We look forward to the resuming the workshop in September."

The workshops are free and open to children ages 6-12, although advanced registration is required. Each session is open to 12 attendees who will learn and develop creative skills in a relaxed and stimulating environment, with the

assistance of professional bilingual instructors. The workshops are structured to ensure that it is fun, flexible and practical. Children will learn how create modern, fun accessories for themselves. Additionally, the children will be able to explore the exhibits at the Sadu House Museum.

During these workshops, children are given a guided choice of colors, designs and techniques, through which they will be able to develop their creative skills while having fun. Instructors will be present in each session to encourage children and teach them that crafts are a form of art. Based on Gulf Bank's sponsorship, all workshops are free of charge, and are divided into different and varied activities.

Gulf Bank's sponsorship of Al-Sadu Society workshops comes in line with its corporate social responsibility program that supports events and initiatives that are focused on promoting Kuwait's heritage and culture, supporting youth education, encouraging health and fitness, helping the underprivileged and empowering women.



HAWALLY GOVERNOR HAILS KFH'S ROLE IN RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Hawally Governor Retired Lieutenant-General Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf praised Kuwait Finance House (KFH) for its social contribution activities in Ramadan, hailing its iftar meals distribution program that encompasses different society segments.

His statement was made during a reception for a delegation from KFH headed by Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh and the public relations team. KFH visit reflects the bank's priority to support and serve the society in coordination and collaboration with the public and official authorities.

KFH delegation hailed the efforts exerted by the Hawally Governor, expressing the bank's appreciation to these efforts and the bank's readiness to boost collaboration, indicating KFH will distribute iftar meals all days of Ramadan as part of its Ramadan program that includes vari-



KUWAIT: KFH's delegation poses with the governor.

ous social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives.



ZAIN HOSTS RAMADAN IFTAR MEAL FOR SECURITY PERSONNEL AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, held its interactive social visits program during the holy month of Ramadan for the fifth year running. The company hosted an iftar gathering for the Department of Airport security to share the blessings of Ramadan with them in recognition of the efforts they exert during the holy month.

Zain's team visited Kuwait International Airport to share the iftar meal it hosted with the personnel on duty in their place of operation. This annual initiative came as part of Zain's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, which aims at

growing the company's support for charitable and social oriented programs.

Zain hosted the annual iftar gathering as a gesture of gratitude and appreciation to those men who dedicate their time and efforts to the safety and protection of Kuwait. Zain shares the blessings of the holy month of Ramadan with several sectors of the community as it sees the importance of recognizing their great efforts and sacrifices.

Zain stressed that it has always been keen to organize a number of social and humanitarian initiatives during Ramadan to support the vari-

ous sectors of the Kuwaiti society, and the company is keen on reflecting the religious as well as traditional humanitarian values and principles to enrich the art of giving and to increase bonding between individuals.

The company further affirmed its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility campaign during the holy month of Ramadan, which includes an extensive array of programs that cover different areas. The initiatives and programs include humanitarian, voluntary, cultural, religious, sports, and recreational activities to cater to the different segments of society.



Philippines police say casino attacker indebted gambler

TRUMP AGENDA IMPERILED IN DISTRACTED US CONGRESS



TURIN: Juventus supporters evacuate Piazza San Carlo after a panic movement in the fanzone where thousands of Juventus fans were watching the UEFA Champions League Final football match between Juventus and Real Madrid on a giant screen on Saturday. —AFP

TURIN STAMPEDE LEAVES 1,500 INJURED

BOMB SCARE LEADS TO PANIC AMONG FOOTBALL FANS

TURIN, Italy: More than 1,500 people were injured, three seriously, after a bomb scare triggered a stampede among Juventus fans watching the Champions League final in Turin, local authorities said yesterday. In an update on Saturday's dramatic events in a square packed with supporters watching the Cardiff match on a giant screen, the local prefecture said 1,527 had been treated for mainly minor injuries.

Three people were in a serious but not life-threatening condition, including a young boy. Local media described him as a seven-year-old and said he was in a coma with serious chest injuries after being trampled in the crush. AFP reporters who witnessed the scenes said the panic seemed to have been triggered by fireworks, followed by one or more people shouting that a bomb had exploded - a notion that quickly filtered through the crowd.

The incident compounded a miserable night for fans of Turin-based Juventus, who lost the final 4-1 to Real Madrid. It also underlined the impact recent acts of terror are having on a jittery public across Europe, and the dilemmas now faced by organizers of any mass gathering of people following the Bataclan, Paris and Manchester concert attacks. "This is a city that lives with anxiety and panic is something that is very difficult to control," said Turin Prefect Renato Saccone.

Beer bottles

The scare in Turin came just minutes before another

deadly attack unfolded in London with assailants driving a van into pedestrians on London Bridge and then going on a stabbing spree before being shot dead by police. "Even if there have been no Islamist attacks in Italy, the panic of last night shows they are achieving their objectives even here," said Roberto Calderoli, a Senator for the Northern League.

Several thousand fans had turned up to watch the match in the Piazza San Carlo in downtown Turin. As fear took hold, a rush towards exit points quickly accelerated and the square emptied so quickly it was left strewn with hundreds of shoes ripped off people's feet as they ran. The square was still dotted with shoes, clothes, bags and patches of blood on Sunday morning. The high number of cuts was blamed on beer in glass bottles having been freely available before and during the match from unlicensed vendors.

"We heard a noise, then there was a movement of people like a wave and everyone started falling over each other," said Luca, one of the fans caught up in the drama. "I have got blood on me from the people who fell on top of me, people were screaming, jumping over each other," he told AFP. "It was really awful - we really thought it was Manchester again."

Heysel memories

Some of the injuries occurred after a railing around the entrance to an underground car park beneath the square gave way under the weight of the crush, causing some of those injured to fall up to two meters onto tarmac. Local media cited older Juventus supporters present as saying the panic had evoked painful memories of the 1985 Heysel disaster, in which 39 mostly Italian fans died when they were crushed by a collapsing wall before the start of that year's European Cup final, against Liverpool.

Another fan, Giulio, said he had been knocked to the ground. "Everyone just trampled over me. I got separated from all my friends. I don't have the slightest idea what happened." Fellow supporter Filippo took refuge in a restaurant in a neighboring square. "They gave us something to drink and we stayed there until it was calm outside and we went back to find the shoe my daughter had lost." "It was very stressful," added Gaetan. "With everything that is going on nowadays, it's only to be expected. We just panicked and tried to get out of there." — AFP

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IN US EXILE, KREMLIN WATCHER SEES RUSSIA DRAW CLOSER

OAKLAND, California: A Russian analyst and journalist scrutinizing her home country from thousands of miles away, Kseniya Kirillova works out of an impersonal Oakland apartment that she deliberately keeps bare of mementos, except for a stuffed teddy bear memorializing another Russian opposition journalist who died doing the same kind of work. These days, the 32-year-old's work has drawn closer to her new home, the United States, where she awaits a decision on her application for asylum.

As Congress and a special counsel appointed by the US Justice Department investigate alleged Russian interference in this country's 2016 presidential race, Russian state tactics such as amplifying "fake news" have moved to the center of US political discussion. Kirillova's work examining alleged Russian actions in other countries helps in understanding such events in the United States, according to several American analysts of Russia who often cite her work.

Americans can be "naive about foreign policy, about Russian propaganda," says Kirillova, who contributes to news outlets in Europe, including the US government-funded Radio Liberty broadcast news organization, which also provides global news in the Middle East and Asia.

Kirillova says growing up in Russia, she saw the tactics used to undermine American society and government. "They really tried to destroy American institutions. They really consider the United States as their main enemy," she said.

In the Cold War, the Soviets called the kind of tactics Kirillova monitors "active measures" - covert efforts by both Moscow and Washington, DC, to exploit divisions, sway public opinion, and influence events in rival countries and blocs. The FBI and CIA say Americans experienced those tactics in 2016 when hackers allegedly allied with Putin's administration obtained the emails of Democratic officials, and Russian state media outlets spread leaked and made-up news to influence the US election.

Putin denies his government interfered, although he suggested last week that "patriotically minded" Russian hackers could be going after Russia's critics on their own. Kirillova's network of Eastern and Western security sources and her grounding in Eastern European cultures, politics and languages make her unique among US-based journalists, said John Sipher, a 28-year US intelligence veteran who now works as a Russia analyst in Washington, D.C. Her ability to tease out clues and point to



OAKLAND, California: In this photo taken on March 22, 2017, Russian journalist-in-exile Kseniya Kirillova looks over a doll that belonged to her late friend, journalist Alexander Shcheginin, in a lobby near her home. —AP

patterns "has added to the depth and breadth of what's going on," Sipher said.

For instance, he said, Kirillova tracked down photos showing Russian officials were acquainted with people and groups Interpol had sought as suspects in an alleged coup attempt last year in Montenegro, a former Yugoslav republic that has angered Russia by becoming the newest member of the NATO Western military alliance. Russia denies involvement in the alleged plot. "Nobody else that I've seen in the US is doing that,"

Sipher said. The kind of Russia-monitoring Kirillova is doing from the United States could be extremely important for Americans, says Alya Shandra, managing editor of Euromaidan Press, an English-language news site based in Ukraine. A war with Russia in Ukraine is blamed for the deaths of nearly 9,500 people and the displacement of millions since 2014, the United Nations says. Americans greatly underestimate the danger they face from Russia, and it's "very hard for us in Ukraine" getting that across, Shandra said.

Asylum

Raised in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, Kirillova came to the United States in 2014 when her husband landed contracts with tech companies. She says Russian authorities began moving against the online news site and bank accounts of her-then colleague Alexander Shcheginin, who worked with her covering Russian actions in Ukraine. The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists says it does not track the number of foreign journalists seeking asylum in the United States, which can be a yearslong process.

Recent instances that have come to public notice include a Mexican journalist who tangled with drug cartels in

Mexico and sought asylum in the US. He returned home after losing his bid for parole while his case played out. A teenage blogger from Singapore sought asylum in the US after mocking the government in his home country, and he is fighting with the federal government over his case.

Kirillova says contacts warned her and Shcheginin that Russian security agencies were scrutinizing them. At least 36 journalists have been killed in Russia in retaliation for their reporting since 1992, the Committee to Protect Journalists says. The teddy bear Kirillova keeps with her was Shcheginin's. It wears a cheerful red sweater bearing a Ukrainian flag, a token of their work covering Ukraine, she said. At one point, he sent her and her husband a selfie from Moscow, cheekily posed with the Ukrainian teddy bear in front of Russia's old KGB headquarters. To show "we shouldn't fear them," she says.

In August, after Russia succeeded in stifling his news operation, Shcheginin was found dead of a gunshot wound in his apartment in Ukraine's capital, a gun beside him. Authorities said they were investigating the possibilities of both murder and suicide. A friend retrieved the teddy bear from his apartment and sent it to Kirillova in the United States. —AP



FALLUJAH: In this June 1, 2017 photo, Sheikh Talib Al-Hasnawi, the head of the municipal council, speaks during the opening ceremony of a water station. —AP

FALLUJAH STRUGGLING TO REBUILD AFTER LIBERATION

CITY A PATCHWORK OF DESTRUCTION AND REVIVAL

FALLUJAH, Iraq: Even as Iraqi forces in Mosul close in on the last pockets of urban territory still held by the Islamic State group, residents of Fallujah in Iraq's Sunni heartland are still struggling to rebuild nearly a year after their neighborhoods were declared liberated from the extremists. After declaring the city liberated last June, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi called the victory a major step toward unifying Iraq more than two years after nearly a third of the country fell to IS. "Fallujah has returned to the nation," he declared in a speech broadcast nationwide.

But in the months that followed, while the Iraqi government compiled databases and set up tight checkpoints on the main roads in and out of Fallujah to screen residents for suspected ties with IS, it provided little in the way of reconstruction money, local officials say. Sheikh Talib Al-Hasnawi, the head of Fallujah's municipal council, said international aid is what has provided electricity, repaired water pumps and built filtration systems.

"We have a real problem with (IS) sleeper cells," he said, adding that what Fallujah needs most is a strong security force to prevent the extremists from re-establishing a foothold in the city some 65 km west of Baghdad. "Honestly the support from Baghdad has been very weak," he added, noting that his repeated requests for more equipment and arms for the city's local police have gone unheeded. "So mostly we are relying on the civilians to alert us to threats," he said. "All we can provide are the very basics."

Dr. Mahdi Al-Alak, the Secretary-General of the Iraqi Cabinet, said the government has budgeted about \$19.5 billion for stabilization-related projects in Anbar Province, where Fallujah is located. Alak said two new water plants in the al-Baghdadi and Fallujah area have been built, with seven others "rehabilitated." He also said some roads and bridges have been reconstructed, without elaborating. Alak acknowledged the budget does not cover healthcare infrastructure, for which about \$39.8 million is needed to repair

22 damaged health centers in the area. Located in the heart of the province, Fallujah has a long history of anti-government sentiment. After the US-led invasion in 2003 toppled Saddam Hussein, many of the city's residents supported a Sunni insurgency that rose up against US forces and the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad. In 2014, many in Fallujah welcomed IS when the militants took over following a bloody government crackdown on thousands of protesters camped out on the city's outskirts to challenge the increasingly sectarian rule of then-Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki.

After the fight to retake Fallujah from IS, the city was left a ghost town. It had been entirely emptied of its civilian population by Iraqi security forces and IS fighters had left behind hundreds of explosives rigged to kill those who tried to return. "I had never seen anything like it and I can assure you no one else has," said Pehr Lodhammer, a demining expert with the UN's Mine Action Service who has worked in the field for decades. In Fallujah he said his team cleared 289 explosive remnants and 333 so-called improvised explosive devices, bombs that IS now produces on an industrial scale. In Mosul - a city more than eight times the size of Fallujah - he said he expects neighborhoods will be littered with far more explosives.

Residents returning

On Fallujah's main streets, shops and buildings are a patchwork of destruction and revival. On a visit this week one shop owner was installing shiny new signs and tall glass storefronts on a building still stained black by smoke and punctured by artillery rounds. In nearby residential neighborhoods, families who had returned were plastering over bullet holes and repairing collapsed terraces. In the past nine months alone, more than 370,000 people have returned, but many streets remain blighted with abandoned houses, often partially destroyed or burned.

"Those houses, they have (the words) 'Daesh house' painted on the walls outside," said Abdul

Hassan, a blacksmith from the Al-Askari neighborhood, using the Arabic acronym for IS. He said most of the still-abandoned houses belonged to families who supported IS and fled with the fighters. "In my neighborhood we had very few Daesh families, maybe just four out of 100."

He insisted it would be impossible for IS fighters to return because their neighbors would immediately turn them over to the police, though he acknowledged that he hasn't brought his wife and children back yet. When asked if he was concerned about security he shrugged. "Once there are enough schools, I'll bring my children. Until then I'll keep them in Baghdad," he said.

A dozen schools have been reopened in Fallujah with help from the United Nations, along with pumping and filtration stations that now provide more than 60 percent of the city with running water. "What we learned ... is you need to get people electricity and water first and fast," said Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq Lise Grande. "We did that in Anbar but we want to do it even more quickly," she added, saying it was a lesson she hoped would be applied to Mosul reconstruction.

As the fight for Mosul continues - closely backed by the US-led coalition and heavily reliant on airpower to clear territory - reconstruction costs will only mount. Rebuilding Mosul will cost between \$50 billion and \$100 billion, according to initial estimates from the Nineveh governor's office and the provincial council. And as Iraq continues to battle an economic crisis exacerbated by entrenched corruption and a bloated public sector, it is unlikely the government will be in a position to provide more monetary help any time soon. Khaldoon Ibrahim, a teacher from Fallujah's Shurta neighborhood said he returned to the city with his family last September, the day he heard civilians were being allowed back in. "Of course not everything is available," he said. "But if we waited for everything to be fixed we would never be able to come home." —AP

TUNISIA PM WARNS NO ONE SAFE IN ANTI-GRAFT 'WAR'

TUNIS: Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed was reported yesterday as saying no one in the North African country involved in corruption would emerge unscathed in his government's "war" on graft. Corruption was widespread in Tunisia under longtime president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who was ousted in the 2011 uprising that spawned the Arab Spring, but it remains endemic. Last month a dozen people including businessmen, suspected smugglers and even a former security official were arrested, in a country where nepotism and corruption are seen as a powerful brake on the road to economic recovery.

"I hear some people say this is just a campaign, but it's not - it is state policy... Corruption in our country is widespread," Chahed said in an interview published on Sunday in the newspapers La Presse and Assabah. "We aim to tear down the systems of corruption. The struggle against corruption will be a long-term war, a sustained policy," he said. "For all the arrests, preliminary enquiries took months. I presided over them and we worked with total discretion, in absolute secrecy," Chahed said in the interview.

On Wednesday, the daily Al-Chourouk deplored what it called "the absence of a plan of communication" about the arrests and the Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights said it was "surprised" at official "vagueness" on the issue. Saying in yesterday's interview that he had acted "in harmony" with President Beji Caïd Essebsi, the premier vowed that "no one will be protected in this war against corruption".

'Big fish'

Those being held are "big fish" and there will be further arrests, he said. "The

amount of money confiscated over the past eight months was 700 million dinars (\$288 million)," Chahed said. He dismissed accusations that the crackdown was a countermeasure to the rise of regional social protest movements. Some of those detained are accused of "incitement and alleged financing of the protest movement" in the south. "It is a system that can be seen everywhere... Even social protests are exploited by this system (of corruption), and terrorists also benefit from it," he said.

The anti-corruption arrests, made possible by a state of emergency in force since November 2015, have been largely welcomed. But some say such measures do not go far enough, and that more is needed than the arrest of a few prominent figures. Chahed rejected criticism of the use of the state of emergency to make the arrests. "In exceptional circumstances, exceptional measures," he said, adding: "Other actions are planned in this framework... People will have to get used to them," as they have "in the fight against terrorism".

Since the 2011 revolution, Tunisia has experienced an increase in jihadist attacks that have killed dozens of members of the security forces and 59 foreign tourists. Analyst Hamza Meddeb of the European University Institute near Florence, speaking before Sunday's interview, said that by making the arrests Chahed's government may well have wanted to ease the pressure caused by the social unrest. But he finds himself in a delicate position. "If he goes further, he risks touching extremely well-established interests and political elites," Meddeb said, adding that he cannot back down "without it appearing that he has let himself be used." — AFP

SOUTH SUDAN WAR LEAVES DISABLED, ELDERLY AT RISK

BENTIU, South Sudan: More than 1 million disabled people are vulnerable to the increasing violence of South Sudan's brutal civil war. Mary Nyakwas lost her leg to a crocodile while fleeing the fighting. She and her four children had taken refuge from the conflict in a nearby swamp when the reptile attacked her. Now the 30-year-old sits on the floor of her hut in a civilian protection camp in Bentiu, running her finger over the curve of her stump. Nyakwas relies on friends and neighbors to bring her water and food. Without them, she says, she'd starve. "I can't do anything for myself now," she says.

When clashes break out, South Sudan's disabled and elderly are often unable to flee and are sometimes shot, hacked to death or burned alive, according to a new report by Human Rights Watch. The disabled and older people "find themselves at much greater risk of starvation or abuse," the Human Rights Watch report said, urging the United Nations and aid groups to do more to assist the vulnerable.

As South Sudan's civil war moves well into its fourth year, aid workers are struggling to meet the needs of 1.9 million internally displaced people. An estimated 250,000 are disabled and living in UN civilian protection sites across the country, the World Health Organization says. Even in the camps, many end up living in squalor with little assistance. Nyakwas has been offered

some help. The International Committee of the Red Cross planned to fly her to the capital, Juba, so she could be fitted with a prosthetic limb. But she didn't want to leave her children behind.

The ICRC says it is looking into creating small mobile units to operate in more remote areas of the country. But because of a recent increase in fighting, the organization has put such projects on hold. The UN humanitarian agency said many aid groups are trying to respond to the needs of the disabled and elderly. It also called on all parties in the conflict to spare the most vulnerable from the "scourge of war".

Another young South Sudanese woman, Nyang Maria, has never been able to use her legs, but she says life was easier before she came to live in the Bentiu camp. As she can't stand up, the 19-year-old is forced to sit on the camp's filthy latrines, which are rarely cleaned and full of feces. "Before, I could go to the bathroom anywhere," Nyang says. "Here, there are just a few toilets and they're all full of disease."

In order to increase her mobility, the International Organization for Migration gave her a special-needs tricycle, but she says the tires keep bursting because of the camp's gravel roads. It now sits idle in the corner of her home. She lies limp on the floor beside it. "Why?" she says, tears streaming down her face. "Why did God make me this way?" — AP

MOROCCO POLICE STIFLE WOMEN'S PROTEST

AL-HOCEIMA, Morocco: Moroccan authorities stifled a women's protest against official abuses and corruption on Saturday in a northern town where months of unrest has tested the North African kingdom. The protest in the town of Al-Hoceima was organized by the "Hirak" movement, which is campaigning for jobs, infrastructure and other demands in the northern Rif region, and whose leader Nasser Zefzafi was arrested last week on charges of threatening national security, among other offenses.

Police encircled hundreds of female protesters to leave a public

park in Al-Hoceima late on Saturday, impeding others from joining, as the women chanted "freedom, dignity and social justice," a Reuters reporter at the scene said. Female police officers and riot police pushed the leader of the protest, Nawal Ben Aissa, a prominent member of Hirak, away from the group. She was accompanied at the protest by Zefzafi's mother.

Political rallies are rare in Morocco and usually heavily policed. But protests around Al-Hoceima have been simmering since October after a fishmonger, Mouhcine Fikri, was crushed to death inside a garbage

truck while trying to salvage fish that had been confiscated by police. Fikri's death has become a symbol for frustrations about official abuses and revived the spirit of the February 20 movement that led pro-democracy rallies in 2011 and prompted King Mohammed VI to cede some of his powers.

Since Zefzafi's arrest after he interrupted a Friday prayer sermon, protests have become a daily occurrence in the town. "We go to sleep in fear, and we wake up in fear," said Fatima Alghoulbazi, 54 who tried to join the protest on Saturday. "We never imagined our

city would become like this." One woman fainted after police stifled the protest.

A heavy security presence has been in place around the city's Sidi Abed square. Since Zefzafi's arrest, police have been increasingly preventing people joining in protests and blocking access, organizers say. Moroccan government spokesperson Mustapha El-Khalfi acknowledged last week that the Hirak protests and demands were "legitimate," and said authorities were speeding up promised infrastructure and development projects for the region. —Reuters



BENTIU, South Sudan: In this June 2, 2017 photo, Mary Nyakwas stands with her children outside her hut. Mary lost her leg to a crocodile while hiding in the swamps, as she and her four children fled the fighting in her village. —AP

SHE RAN WITH CHRISTIE, BUT NOW HIGHLIGHTS DIFFERENCES

TRENTON, New Jersey: New Jersey Lt Gov Kim Guadagno spent more than seven years touring the state on behalf of Gov. Chris Christie, cutting ribbons and handing out her cellphone number to voters. While Guadagno is the leading Republican to succeed Christie in Tuesday's primary, she's had to work hard to highlight her differences with a governor whose popularity took a beating from the George Washington Bridge lane closure scandal and a failed presidential run eventually won by fellow Republican Donald Trump.

New Jersey and Virginia are the only two states with statewide races this year. Guadagno faces four Republican challengers, including a state lawmaker. Six Democrats, including two state lawmakers, a former Goldman Sachs executive and a former federal prosecutor, are running in their own primary. The winners will face off in a November election that will decide who replaces the term-limited Christie.

Guadagno's approach has been to embrace the positive: New Jersey's

unemployment rate is at a 16-year low at 4.1 percent. "I thought it was important for me to run on my record," she said recently. "What we're doing in this campaign is what I would do as governor, not what's been done in the past." But a recent survey showed her solidly behind the leading Democratic candidate for governor, Phil Murphy, and her primary opponent Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli is working hard to remind voters of the Christie-Guadagno connection.

"Chris Christie's lieutenant governor, Kim Guadagno, had seven years of fixings and failed. Had enough? Me too," Ciattarelli says in an ad airing on cable, radio and online. Guadagno has strained to show she's not on board with everything Christie does. Her campaign slogan is "better". She has attacked Christie's \$300 million statehouse renovation, comparing it to the Palace of Versailles and promising to scrap the project if elected.

She also crossed the governor over his support for a ballot question last year calling for a newly enacted gas tax increase

to be dedicated to transportation. She argued it was a back door into increased state borrowing, which led Christie to publicly rebuke her. Christie has declined to endorse anyone in the primary, saying only that voters would decide and the Republican candidate would be better than any of the Democrats. But Christie heaped praise on her at a news conference to announce the most recent unemployment rate drop. "The fact is the lieutenant governor deserves credit for a lot of what's happened," he said. Experts say that Guadagno is in a box when it comes to how to handle her record and Christie. "She can disavow the governor but alienate his remaining Republican base," said Peter Woolley, Fairleigh Dickinson University political science professor. "Or she can avoid condemning her unpopular boss but then give up any claim to bring change."

Bigger question

Whether Guadagno can overcome the Christie connection looks like a bigger

question for the Nov 7 general election, said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute. Her supporters say she's impressed them over seven years by working hard to keep businesses in the state. Assemblyman Robert Auth, of Bergen County, said she talked with officials at BMW in his district to persuade them to remain in New Jersey after Mercedes left the state. "She's worked the state very hard over seven years," Auth said.

But those behind-the-scenes efforts aren't evident to all voters. Joe Ferrandino, of Long Hill, is a former pest-control business owner who said he is out now on disability. He cast an early vote for Ciattarelli because he thinks the Somerset County resident will be stronger on school vouchers, a top issue for him. But the issue just behind that, he said, was the so-called Bridgegate scandal. Three of Christie's former aides were convicted in the 2013 political retribution scheme; the governor denied wrongdoing and wasn't charged. What does that have to do with Guadagno?



NEWARK, New Jersey: In this May 18, 2017 photo, New Jersey Lt Gov Kim Guadagno speaks during a Republican gubernatorial primary debate. —AP

"If you lay down with dogs, you wake up with fleas," Ferrandino said. Still, he said he would likely vote for her in the general election. "If it comes down to her and a Democrat who wanted to raise taxes I'd have to (vote for her) because it was the lesser of two evils," he said. —AP



LOS ANGELES: Activists carrying placards with political points of view march to City Hall through downtown Los Angeles on Saturday in the March for Truth, part of a peaceful nationwide demonstration aimed at restoring faith in American democracy and the US electoral system. — AFP

TRUMP AGENDA IMPERILED IN DISTRACTED US CONGRESS

US PRESIDENT FACES UPHILL BATTLES

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump may have managed to unilaterally reject a global climate pact, but the US president faces uphill battles to achieve his legislative priorities, with Congress consumed by division and distracted by Russia probes and looming fiscal deadlines. When he addressed a gathering Thursday in the White House Rose Garden, Trump used his executive authority to declare that "we're getting out" of the Paris climate accord.

It is less simple on Capitol Hill, where political novice Trump has endured a rough education in Washington dealmaking since taking office in January. In the opening months, he has learned how little control he has over Congress, even when its two chambers are led by his own Republican Party. Lawmakers return to Washington on Monday under pressure to advance Trump's agenda, notably bills to repeal and replace Barack Obama's health care reforms and overhaul US tax law.

In the absence of major legislative victories, and with crises roiling the White House - including a bombshell report that Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner sought a secret communications link to Russia - the Trump administration is desperate for a rallying win. But there is a shrinking window for success; Congress has just seven work weeks before its members head home in late July for a summer recess that lasts until early September.

White House officials have privately expressed frustration with the slow pace on Capitol Hill, as well as some embarrassment about how an initial effort to ram health care changes through the House of Representatives collapsed in March. A revised Obamacare repeal bill passed the House in May, and Senate Republicans are crafting their own version. But even Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has acknowledged it will be difficult to pass it through the Senate, where Republicans have a nar-

row 52-48 majority. "Hopefully Republican Senators, good people all, can quickly get together and pass a new (repeal & replace) HEALTHCARE bill," Trump tweeted Wednesday, in a more-than-gentle nudge. In a sign Trump was losing patience, however, he urged the Senate to change its longstanding rules and "switch to 51 votes" to pass health care and tax reform with simple majorities instead of the 60 votes needed to overcome opposition blocking tactics.

But despite weeks of closed-door meetings, Republican senators have yet to unveil a new health bill. The effort took a crushing blow last month, when a nonpartisan congressional study estimated the new House plan would leave 23 million more Americans uninsured than under current law. Still, number two Senate Republican John Cornyn assured that an Obamacare repeal will be ready by the summer recess. "We'll get it done by the end of July at the latest," he told the Chad Hasty radio show.

Russia, debt ceiling, budget

Trump meanwhile signaled Thursday that tax reform is "moving along in Congress" and doing "very well". House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi painted a different picture, saying lawmakers only have the White House's bare-bones, one-page tax plan that outlines dramatic tax cuts for businesses and individuals. "The president keeps saying the tax bill is moving through Congress. It doesn't exist!" Pelosi exclaimed Friday. Tax reform, repealing Obamacare, and immigration reform - including funding for Trump's wall on the US-Mexico border - were all part of his opening 100-day plan.

That marker came and went April 29, with none of those targets met. Another big Trump campaign pledge - to spend billions on revamping the nation's crumbling infrastructure, such as roads,

bridges and airports - is expected to get a push this week from the president. And even if Republicans are ready to jump headfirst into health care and taxes, distractions abound.

A special counsel is investigating Russia's US election meddling, and whether Trump's campaign coordinated or colluded with Moscow in that effort. Congressional committees are busy issuing subpoenas. And in what could be an explosive moment, sacked FBI director James Comey testifies Thursday in an open Senate Intelligence Committee hearing. Lawmakers will press him, in the open hearing and in another behind closed doors, on whether Trump urged Comey to stop investigating his fired national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Complicating the schedule, Congress must formulate a budget and vote on a spending bill before the fiscal year ends Sept 30. Republican divisions over spending priorities could make that task difficult. In another squeeze, the administration is now urging Congress to vote to raise the debt ceiling before summer recess, due to weaker-than-expected government revenues. Some Republicans oppose allowing government to borrow more money without commitments to reduce overall federal spending.

The White House on Friday could not say whether it wanted a "clean" debt ceiling hike, one with no conditions. "We're not there yet," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said. Acting soon would force lawmakers to take a controversial vote before they return to their districts. If Trump's health care and tax priorities drag into late 2017 or beyond, they risk butting up against 2018's midterm election campaign, when Republicans, already saddled by Trump scandals, will be eager to avoid further controversy. — AFP

BROTHER OF DISMEMBERED BOY'S KILLER FOUND DEAD

NEW YORK: Nearly six years after detectives uncovered the dismembered remains of an 8-year-old boy in a Brooklyn house, the brother of the man now imprisoned for killing the child was found dead in the same family home. Police responding to a call from the family on Friday discovered the body of Tzvi Aron, bound, wrapped in a blanket and stuffed in a basement closet, a law enforcement official said.

The 29-year-old bakery worker had last been seen on Tuesday. The death is being investigated as a homicide; Aron had recently been threatened but it wasn't clear why, the official said. The medical examiner will determine a cause of death. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Tzvi's brother, Levi Aron, pleaded guilty in July 2011 in the kidnapping and killing of 8-year-old Leiby Kletzky. Leiby got lost on his walk home from a religious day camp. It was the first time he was allowed to go home alone and he was supposed to walk about seven blocks to meet his mother, but missed his turn. On the street, he ran into Levi Aron, who promised to take the boy home. Instead, Aron brought the boy about 64 km upstate to Monsey, New York, where he attended a wedding before bringing him back to his home. He kept him there overnight and the following day when he went to work at a hardware store.

Meanwhile, a massive search for the boy was underway in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, home to one of the world's largest communities of Orthodox Jews outside of Israel. Thousands of volunteers from the Hasidic community had assembled to comb the streets. Aron is Orthodox but not Hasidic. The Hasidim are ultra-Orthodox Jews. When Aron noticed flyers plastered on lampposts with the boy's photo, he said he got spooked, went home and suffocated the boy, police said. A toxicology report found Leiby also had been drugged.

Detectives found the boy's severed feet, wrapped in plastic, in a freezer at Aron's home, about 3 km from the boy's home. A cutting board and three bloody carving knives were found in the refrigerator. The

rest of the boy's body was discovered in bags inside a red suitcase in a trash bin about a mile from the home. His legs had been cut from his torso. Levi Aron pleaded guilty to kidnapping and killing the boy, and is serving 40 years to life in prison.

In the years since, his family remained at their Brooklyn home, which is divided into apartments. Tzvi lived in the basement apartment; Levi had lived on the top floor. Another brother also lives there. The family's mother died from cancer and a sister, Sarah, died while institutionalized with schizophrenia before Levi Aron was arrested, according to Levi Aron's psychiatric report obtained by the AP.

Tzvi Aron defended his family at the



NEW YORK: In this Aug 4, 2011 file photo, Levi Aron, accused of abducting and dismembering eight-year-old boy Leiby Kletzky, is arraigned at Brooklyn criminal court. — AP

time his brother was arrested, saying they were unaware of Levi's acts. "People who know us know we're a good family," he told New York's Daily News at the time. Over the years they've received dozens of death threats after the horrifying killing. On Friday, police once again cordoned off the cream-colored home, in Brooklyn's Kensington neighborhood, as a crime scene. "It was spooky," neighbor Kathleen Henderson told the Daily News. "Everyone keeps an eye on that house for obvious reasons. No one trusted them after that incident with the little boy." — AP



BROOKHAVEN, Mississippi: Mourners pray during funeral services Saturday for the youngest victims killed in Lincoln County. — AP

FUNERALS HELD FOR 2 COUSINS KILLED IN MISSISSIPPI RAMPAGE

BROOKHAVEN, Mississippi: Funeral services were held Saturday for the youngest victims killed in Mississippi when a man first opened fire at his in-laws' house, ultimately killing eight people at three separate homes. Multiple media outlets report that more than 1,000 people attended the services for 11-year-old Austin Edwards and his 18-year-old cousin Jordan Blackwell inside a Brookhaven junior high school in Lincoln County. Twin caskets stood at the front of the stage where friends and family recounted how each had touched their lives.

There was not a dry eye in the house as family members recounted how the boys had touched their lives. "Austin was my assistant cook," said the Rev. Shon Blackwell, Jordan's father. "He liked prepping the meat, cooking the meat. But most of all, he like eating the meat," drawing laughter from the crowd. "Jordan, on the other hand, liked to smell the meat before eating it. I still don't understand that," he said with a smile.

"Their memories will live on," said their

uncle, who also sang a couple of gospel songs in their honor. "Every time I go fishing, I'll think about Austin, and though my nephew Jordan didn't like my Pittsburgh Steelers, every time I turn on the TV and watch any kind of football, he'll be here." "He was a real bright kid," said Austin's teacher Dorice Coleman. "Very intelligent. Looked just like his grand daddy." "He was very energetic," said Bridgette Gilmore, Jordan's 4th grade teacher. "He was a comedian. Always kept me laughing... Always kept me smiling."

The boys were among eight people killed during a series of shootings last weekend started by a domestic dispute. Willie Cory Godbolt, 35, faces one count of capital murder in Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy William Durr's death and seven counts of first-degree murder. He is jailed without bail. Aside from Durr, everyone killed was a relative or acquaintance of Godbolt. The remaining five victims will be laid to rest yesterday and today in two separate services at the junior high school. — AP

MEXICO RULING PARTY FACES TIGHT VOTE

TOLUCA, Mexico: Mexico's ruling party risked humiliation yesterday in President Enrique Peña Nieto's home state in a gubernatorial vote that could give a giant boost to leftist presidential hopeful Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. The bellwether election in the state of Mexico could turn out to be catastrophic for the once-mighty Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI - something even its own candidate admits. Political analysts say the tight race has meanwhile bolstered Lopez Obrador's chances heading into presidential elections next year, which the fiery populist hopes will make him Mexico's first leftist president in recent memory.

His party, the National Regeneration Movement, or Morena - an upstart leftist party that has never held a governorship - was never supposed to come this close in the key central state. "It's the most important state in the country and has served as the PRI's base and bastion," historian and political analyst Jose Antonio Crespo told AFP. But the campaign in the state of 16 million people has been a mini-portrait of everything

that has Mexicans fed up with Pena Nieto and the PRI.

The ruling party's candidate is Alfredo del Mazo, heir to the dynasty that has ruled the state for nearly 90 years. His father and grandfather were governors, and the president - also a former governor - is his cousin. To many Mexicans, that smacks of the nepotism and backroom deals that crit-

ics say plague the PRI, a broadly centrist party that ruled Mexico as a one-party state from 1929 to 2000.

Pena Nieto brought the PRI back to power in 2012 with promises to do things differently: End cronyism, crack down on corruption and rein in the horrific violence fueled by the country's war on drugs. Instead, his presidency has been marred by corruption scandals and a surging

murder rate - not to mention the lackluster performance of Latin America's second-largest economy. The PRI already lost five governorships in 2016, including in Veracruz, the country's third-largest state.

Facing off against Del Mazo, 41, is schoolteacher Delfina Gomez, 54, a Lopez Obrador protege and former congresswoman who has played up her humble background as a construction worker's daughter. "They think a little schoolteacher can't do it," Gomez has said. "These politicians think they should have all the money, that they're the only ones with the pedigree to govern."

High stakes

Even a narrow loss for Gomez would be a boon for Lopez Obrador - widely known by his initials, AMLO - who also ran for president in 2006 and 2012. "There is only upside for Morena in this election," said Daniel Kerner of the Eurasia Group consultancy. "A Gomez victory, or even narrow loss, would prove and solidify Lopez Obrador's competitiveness ahead of the 2018 presidential elections. In this scenario, the PRI would fall into a very deep crisis," he wrote in a note. — AFP



NEZAHUALCOYOTL, Mexico: In this May 28, 2017 photo, Delfina Gomez, Mexico State gubernatorial candidate for the National Regeneration Movement, greets supporters as she arrives for a campaign rally. — AP

SLOVENIA 'ECO-HERO' WHO CRUSHED A CEMENT GIANT

TRBOVLJE, Slovenia: When he saw swallows nesting in the barn for the first time in almost two decades, Slovenian farmer Uros Macerl felt vindicated. His exhausting battle against a polluting industrial giant had been worthwhile. A role model to some, an "eco-terrorist" to others, Macerl recently picked up one of the world's most

prestigious environmental awards for shutting down a cement plant owned by French corporation Lafarge in his home region of Trbovlje region in 2015.

The 48-year-old flew to New York in late April to receive the US Goldman Prize, which honors "environmental heroes" for their efforts to protect nature, often at

great personal expense. In Macerl's case, the 13-year fight cost him his marriage. "I've paid a high toll with my family... but it also taught my children the struggle was worth it," the father of three told AFP. For as long as Macerl could remember, heavy industry had not only been providing jobs to Trbovlje's 16,000 or so inhabitants, but also polluting its air.

Emissions from a glass factory and coal-fired power plant would slowly rise from the Central Sava valley, enveloping the farms on the surrounding hills in a toxic fog. In winter, "the snow was always black" because dust and ashes would turn the white blanket into dark slush within 24 hours, Macerl recalled. Things got worse in 2002 when Lafarge took over a 130-year old cement factory. The company intensified exploitation using petroleum coke - a dirty byproduct of oil refining that burns extremely hot - and industrial waste instead of coal. "They boosted production to make as much profit as possible," said Macerl. "Cement was like gold back then."

'Unbearable situation'

Lafarge's actions had a devastating effect on the environment and people's health. Within a year, the level of benzene in the air jumped by more than 250 percent. Cancer rates in the region were above the national average, 2012 data from the Organisation for Economic Co-

operation and Development showed. The high concentration of acid and other toxic substances also began to destroy the vegetation. When Macerl took over his parents farm at the age of 23, he decided to raise sheep because the fruit trees died. But the "sheep often had miscarriages," he said.

A meeting with Lafarge representatives failed to produce results. "I described the unbearable situation on top of the hills but they just made fun of me. 'If you don't like it sue us,' they told me," Macerl said. Frustrated, he and other locals took matters into their own hands, gathering data on toxic emissions to show the dramatic rise in dangerous air pollutants. Their research revealed that the Lafarge factory was exceeding permitted emission levels. But the local authorities ignored the findings, according to Macerl. "They turned a blind eye because Lafarge provided jobs, sponsored local sports clubs, donated to hospitals and heavily invested in infrastructure," he said.

Brussels intervenes

The tide turned in 2009 when Lafarge applied for a new license to incinerate tyres and plastic. Looking at the plans, Macerl realized that a tiny part of his farmland fell inside the so-called "pollution zone", entitling him to challenge the company's permit. When the government failed to act upon Macerl's repeated complaints, he took his fight all the way to the

top and filed a petition with the European Commission in 2010.

After a five-year legal battle, Lafarge was eventually forced to mothball its operations in March 2015 after Brussels ruled that Slovenia had run foul of EU rules regarding the plant's permits. Macerl says there are now signs that nature is recovering, a process also helped by the coal-fired power station's closure in 2016. "I'd never seen swallows here... but since (Lafarge's) production was halted, they've started coming. We have some 16 or 17 nests in our barn," Macerl said with a proud smile.

Lafarge insists its plant had operated under the "most stringent" regulation and fully respected EU legislation. In a statement to AFP, the company said the EU's decision had gone against the "expert decisions" made by Slovenia's environmental agency and government. Slovenian Economy Minister Zdravko Pocivalsek accused Macerl and his fellow campaigners of being "eco-terrorists" in a 2016 interview.

Some locals have also deplored Lafarge's closure. "Health-wise (the closure of Lafarge) was right, but damage was done, people have no work," an elderly pensioner, who identified himself as Edi, told AFP. But Macerl has no regrets. "We're at a crossroads: either we continue promoting Slovenia with false promises in which case tourists will sooner or later find out we're bluffing... or we start protecting what we have." —AFP



RAVENSKA VAS, Slovenia: Slovenian farmer Uros Macerl, recipient of the 2017 Goldman Environmental Prize, poses at his farm in central Slovenia on May 2, 2017. —AFP

OUTGOING PM TRIUMPHS IN EARLY MALTA POLLS

VOTERS SHRUG OFF CORRUPTION CLAIMS

VALLETTA: Outgoing Prime Minister Joseph Muscat has retained power in Malta with a commanding victory in an early general election called against a backdrop of corruption allegations against his Labour Party administration. A sample count of ballots yesterday showed a clear enough trend for Muscat, 43, to make an early declaration of victory. Projections suggested Labour had won 55 percent of the vote on a 92-percent turnout, which will translate into a majority

The victory means there will be no major disruption to the business of the European Union, whose rotating presidency Malta holds until the end of this month. It was the first time since Malta became independent from Britain in 1964 that Labour, now located in the mainstream of European social democracy, has won back-to-back elections.

Muscat, who has been premier since 2013, went to the polls a year early after his wife was implicated in one of a series of alleged corruption

evidence emerges of his family having secret accounts used to bank kickbacks - as had been alleged by a high-profile blogger with a record of correctly highlighting previous scandals in the island nation. Muscat had also come under fire for not sacking his chief of staff Keith Schembri and government minister Konrad Mizzi after they admitted having previously undeclared companies set up for them by Mossack Fonseca.

mer academic, Busuttil may now face a challenge for the leadership of his party with the preliminary count suggesting Muscat's was nearly as commanding as it was when he swept to power in 2013.

Since then, the former journalist has presided over an investment-led boom that has seen Malta's growth accelerate to three times the eurozone average and pushed government finances into a surplus. Muscat also oversaw legislation introducing civil unions for same-sex couples and other anti-discrimination measures, and strong backing from the LGBT community has helped to underpin his electoral success.

Increased scrutiny

In his second term, Muscat has promised to leverage the country's healthy finances to fund the biggest infrastructure project in its history, a 700-million-euro scheme to resurface every road in the densely-populated island nation. He is also promising tax cuts and pension increases for working and middle class voters. His election win will not however make the corruption issue go away with magistrates still looking into whether kickbacks were paid to members of his inner circle in relation to an investment-based citizenship scheme, a gas supply deal with China and the granting of bank licenses.

Those probes will be watched closely in Brussels against a backdrop of mounting interest in the activities of Malta's financial services sector. Germany in particular is demanding clarification of the status of nearly 2,000 Malta-registered companies it suspects were established as vehicles for illegal tax avoidance by major German corporations. There are also fears among some economists that boom could easily turn to bust if the expansion of key sectors such as financial services and online gambling slows sufficiently to burst a real estate bubble which environmentalists have slammed as disastrous for the island. —AFP



Newly re-elected Prime Minister Joseph Muscat speaks to the press as he arrives yesterday at the counting hall in Naxxar. Outgoing Prime Minister Joseph Muscat has been re-elected after the opposition Nationalist Party conceded it had lost yesterday's general election. —AFP

of up to nine seats in the 71-seat one chamber parliament. "It is clear that the people have chosen to stay the course," he said, urging Maltese to unite after a divisive campaign as Labour supporters took to the streets in celebration.

Simon Busuttil, leader of the opposition Nationalist Party (PN), called Muscat to concede defeat. "As always, we respect the decision of the electorate," he said in a tweet.

cases. All of them arose from information contained in the Panama Papers, a massive data leak from the Mossack Fonseca law firm that specializes in establishing secretive offshore companies and bank accounts for wealthy individuals from across the globe.

Gay vote

Muscat denies any wrongdoing and has promised to quit if any

But the allegations had little impact among Labour's loyal base against a backdrop of a booming economy and the lowest unemployment the country of 430,000 people has ever known. Busuttil had framed the vote as a choice between change and allowing Malta's international reputation, and its prosperity, to be shredded as a result of the taint of corruption damaging investment. A for-



Emmanuel Macron

WILL MACRON FACE FRENCH RESISTANCE WITH REFORMS?

PARIS: He had just secured a great win, but on the night Emmanuel Macron captured the French presidency, several hundred far-left and anti-capitalist activists and anarchists took to the streets. Among the crowd of mostly young men on May 7 were 29-year-old Adrien and his friend Gregory. It hadn't taken long to register their discontent: Both were arrested around the time Macron was on stage in front of cheering supporters at his victory party at the Louvre museum.

"We wanted to go to the Louvre to boo him, but when we saw it wasn't possible we went to Menilmontant where we knew there was a demo planned," Adrien, a member of the hackers' collective Anonymous, told AFP, referring to an area in northeast Paris. Groups including antifascist Antifa and hooded anti-capitalist activists from the Black Bloc collective were behind the rally, which saw stones thrown at riot police and tear gas fired. Around 140 people were arrested.

Adrien predicts "Paris will be completely blocked" if the 39-year-old president, a former investment banker, tries to implement his pro-business program which has radical labor market reform at its core. Macron wants to "impose the American model on France. Our French economic model is at risk of dying very quickly," Adrien said in a cafe in a town near Paris having been banned from entering the capital.

On the day after Adrien and Gregory's arrests, several thousand protesters from the far-left Social Front group - which had urged voters to reject both Macron and his far-right opponent Marine Le Pen in the election - paraded through Paris, some shouting "Macron resign! One day is enough!"

Unifying reformer?

In his bid to introduce greater flexibility into the workforce, Macron wants French companies to be able to negotiate pay, working time and conditions directly with employees - weakening the national labour code and trade unions. Only days after he was inaugurated he began negotiations with the trade unions, welcoming

leaders to the Elysee Palace for talks. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe has said the government will present a bill to the parliament that emerges from legislative elections on June 11 and 18.

It will allow the government, which has said it wants to move "quickly", to push through reforms by executive order. Over the past three years, other economic reforms introduced under Macron's predecessor Francois Hollande sparked scenes which have become hallmarks of French democracy: mass street protests and clouds of tear gas. The previous government's labor reforms - which Macron as economy minister helped draw up but later said did not go far enough - resulted in five months of protests by trade unions last year. Oil refineries were blocked and rubbish piled up in the streets ahead of the Euro 2016 football championship.

Unions led the protests, but far-left activists and anarchists, as well as violent individuals known as "casseurs" (hooligans), often hijacked the demonstrations, which routinely ended with serious injuries. Far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon, who finished fourth in the presidential election, has accused Macron of wanting to "destroy" the labor code, saying the plans would encourage a race to the bottom on pay and conditions.

In his victory speech, Macron acknowledged the divisions and anxieties of French society which deepened during a vicious election campaign. "I will bring us together and reconcile us because I want our people and our country to be united," he told thousands of supporters at the Louvre. And on the campaign trail, he spoke regularly of the need for France to be "soothed".

But calming the country must be balanced with his other priority: implementing his program, which he has said he will do with presidential decrees if needed. "I will not reverse course on any of the commitments taken in front of the French people," he said as he took power on May 14 in comments welcomed by corporate leaders and economists. —AFP

PREACHING FROM BEHIND BARBED WIRE IN KOSOVO

MITROVICA, Kosovo: Father Nenad Stojanovic is waiting for the day when he will celebrate Sunday service in Kosovo's northern city of Mitrovica "without police protection or barbed wire". The Orthodox priest officiates at St Sava Church in the Muslim-majority Albanian part of a city that is sharply divided along ethnic lines. Just a dozen people congregate at the church on Sundays, including the Stojanovic family. The priest, his wife and their four children are the only Serbs living in the south of Mitrovica since the 1998-1999 Kosovo war.

The conflict left 13,000 dead, including 10,000 ethnic Albanians, and led to the unilateral secession of Kosovo from Serbia a decade later. The fate of Kosovo's Serb minority and relations between Belgrade and its former province, whose independence has been recognised by more than 110 countries, remain central themes of a general election in Kosovo on June 11.

Two different worlds

Zivko Zivkovic, a 60-year-old mechanic, is among the handful of worshippers at St Sava. He explains how, before going to the other side of the Ibar river to attend church, he makes the sign of the cross. The bridge is guarded by international forces and each side is home to a different world, with its own currency, warrior statues and flag -

Serbian or Albanian. St Sava used to be the main church in the city of 80,000 people, including about 10,000 Serbs who have parallel institutions in the northern area such as their own mayor.

Cars there have Serbian number plates or none at all. Having Kosovan plates in the north is considered a risk, as are Serbian plates in Albanian-dominated areas. St Sava, which was set on fire during riots in 2004, was for more than a decade only opened for religious festivals, when the faithful would disembark from buses under high-level protection. A new church of St. Dimitri was built in the north on a hill overlooking the city.

'Important in dark times'

In 2016, after a year of renovations, Father Nenad was sent to St Sava by his bishop - a strong gesture for Serbs "for whom the Church has always been important in dark times," said the bearded 34-year-old priest. "Considering that there are no Serbs living in the south, it is a success to have a few people" at Sunday services. The church and presbytery are surrounded by walls lined with barbed wire and watched over by police. The family has never been threatened and the children play in the garden, but not with young Albanian neighbors.

Every day their father takes them to school on the other side of the city. He goes out in ordinary

clothes after removing his cassock. The owners of a nearby grocery store know him and say every customer is welcome. But the people running a car equipment shop opposite have never spoken to Father Nenad. "They cannot complain, they are protected by Kosovo's police, paid by our taxes," the shopkeeper said, without giving his name.

Raised in the north, this 50-year-old has only once travelled the 200-m distance from his store across the river since the war ended - to drive past his old house in ruins. Serbs "enjoy greater freedom of movement than we do when we go to our cemetery in the north, to the graves of our relatives," said Afrim Dibrani, a 31-year-old construction worker.

'Lack of interaction'

"The biggest problem is the lack of interaction," said Father Nenad. The divisions are particularly stark 90 km to the south at the Visoki Decani monastery, a symbol of Serbian Orthodoxy. In a sign of persistent tension between the two communities, the white-marbled monastery, richly decorated with 14th century frescoes, is accessed through barriers and strict security checks. Home to 20 monks, it is the only religious site in Kosovo still protected by NATO soldiers, who in early 2016 intercepted four men travelling nearby in a car stuffed with weapons. —AFP

MAN SHOTS DEAD 9 IN RUSSIA VILLAGE QUARREL

MOSCOW: A man has been detained after shooting dead nine people in a drunken dispute at a weekend cottage in a village outside Moscow, Russian investigators said yesterday. The alleged assailant gunned down five men and four women after a drinking session on Saturday night turned violent in the village of Redkino, some 110 km northwest of Moscow, the Investigative Committee said.

"During the get-together there was a domestic dispute between the guests,

after which the suspect left and then returned with a hunting rifle," investigators said in a statement, adding that the man had been "drinking spirits". "He fired several shots, as a result of which at least nine people died," investigators said, raising the death toll by one from figures given earlier yesterday morning. Investigators said the shooter - a 45-year-old resident of Moscow - was detained on suspicion of mass murder after survivors managed to call the police. —AFP

OUTRAGE, SOLIDARITY OVER 'COWARDLY' LONDON ATTACKS

PARIS: British and world leaders yesterday condemned the attacks in Central London, reacting with both outrage and solidarity.

Britain

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said the attack was "a deliberate and cowardly attack on innocent Londoners and visitors to our city enjoying their Saturday night," adding: "There is no justification whatsoever for such barbaric acts." Prime Minister Theresa May confirmed that the "terrible incident in London" was being treated as "a potential act of terrorism" and said she would hold emergency ministerial talks later in the day.

Manchester's newly-elected mayor Andy Burnham said it was "sickening to hear of the attack" and said he was "sending a message of solidarity from Greater Manchester". He added: "Terrorism will not break us." Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn:

"Brutal and shocking incidents reported in London. My thoughts are with the victims and their families. Thank you to the emergency services." Scottish Nationalist Party leader Nicola Sturgeon: "Dreadful news from London. My thoughts are with all those affected."

Germany

Chancellor Angela Merkel: "Today we are united across borders in horror and mourning, but also in determination," she said in a statement. "For Germany, I reiterate that in the fight against all forms of terrorism, we are resolutely at Britain's side."

US

President Donald Trump: "Whatever the United States can do to help out in London and the UK, we will be there - WE ARE WITH YOU. GOD BLESS!" Early on, with the situation in London still fluid, Trump seized the occasion to plug his

thwarted ban on travelers from six mainly Muslim countries. Without mentioning the London events specifically, Trump tweeted: "We need to be smart, vigilant and tough. We need the courts to give us back our rights. We need the Travel Ban as an extra level of safety!"

The State Department called the assaults "cowardly attacks targeting innocent civilians" and added: "The United States stands ready to provide any assistance authorities in the United Kingdom may request." Pop star Ariana Grande whose concert in Manchester last month was the scene of a deadly suicide bombing, tweeted simply: "Praying for London."

Russia

President Vladimir Putin "expresses his profound condolences for the British people and condemns the terrorist attack carried out hours ago in London," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agencies.

European Union

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker: "Following latest London incidents with horror. Thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Please stay safe."

France

President Emmanuel Macron: "In the face of this new tragedy, France is more than ever at Britain's side. My thoughts go out to the victims and their loved ones."

Canada

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: "Awful news from London tonight. We're monitoring the situation."

The Netherlands

Prime Minister Mark Rutte: "London is in mourning, once again, after a cowardly attack. And we are in mourning with her. Our thoughts and our heart are with the victims and their families."

Italy

Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni: "In memory of the victims and the injured, we stand together in a shared commitment to combatting terrorism." "You are not alone," Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano said.

Australia

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull: "Prayers and resolute solidarity are today as always with the people of Britain in the face of the shocking terrorist attacks in London."

New Zealand

Prime Minister Bill English: "New Zealand's thoughts are with the victims of today's attack, along with their families and friends. Our hearts go out to you. Too many lives are being taken by terrorists set on inflicting pain and suffering on innocent people." —AFP



Police escort a member of public as they clear the scene of a terror attack on London Bridge.



Police and members of the emergency services attend to victims of a terror attack on London Bridge.



Debris and abandoned cars remain on London Bridge.

A SUMMER NIGHT OUT IN LONDON TURNS TO HORROR

LONDON: Just minutes before Saturday's terror attack in London, pubs were crammed with revellers enjoying a balmy night out in a trendy part of the city, many of them watching the Champions League final on big screens. And then terror struck yet again at London's heart as a van smashed into pedestrians before its occupants went on a stabbing rampage, bringing bloodshed to the streets of the British capital.

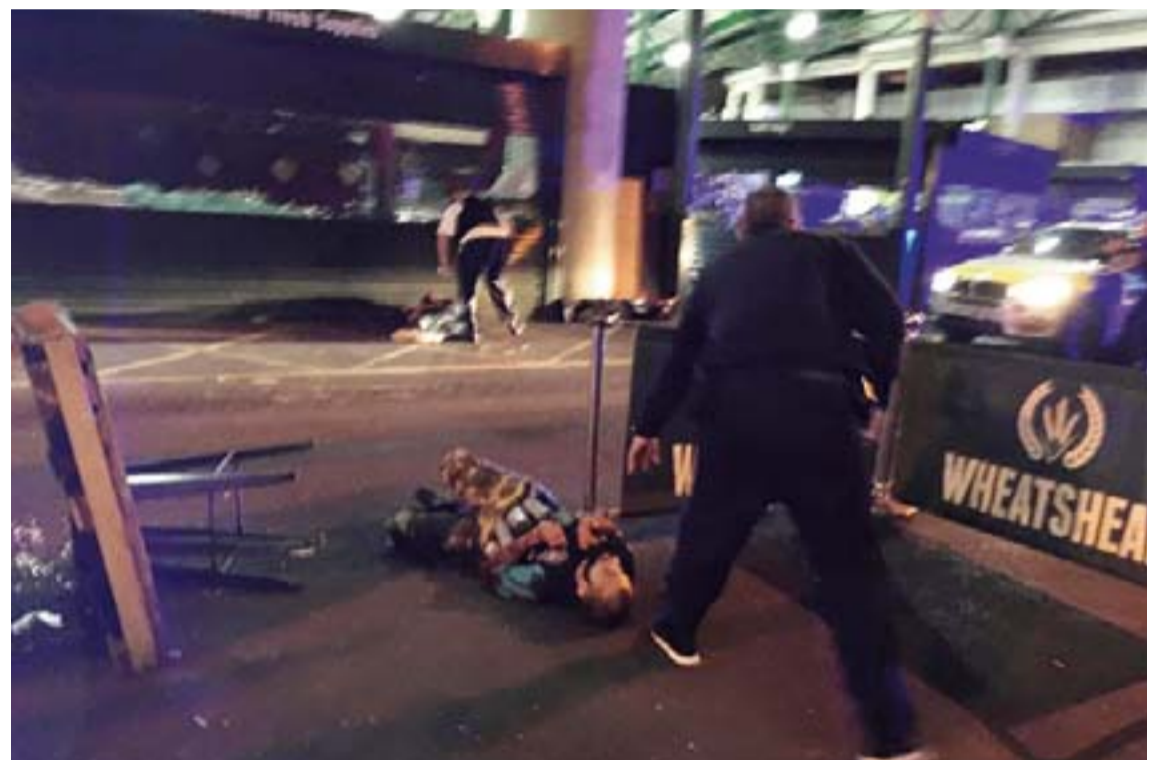
Within minutes, seven people had been killed and three attackers shot dead by armed police. Dozens more were wounded. People enjoying their evening out near the River Thames told of how their night became a nightmare in seconds as they witnessed the attack unfold.

'I saw her bounce up in the air'

First, a white van veered wildly into pedestrians crossing London Bridge, with those who managed to avoid the attack rushing to aid those who were hit. The van deliberately swerved into groups of people at speed, eyewitnesses said. "I saw this van going left and right, left and right, trying to catch as many people as he could," Alessandro told BBC radio. "There were five or six people that we tried to help, they were young people."

Mark, another witness, was in the middle of London Bridge, taking pictures of Tower Bridge downstream. "It was swerving from side to side. I could see it hitting people," he said of the van. "It hit one person about 20 foot (six metres) in the air. Poor girl. I just saw her bounce up in the air. There must have been about five or six people on the ground, they must have been seriously injured," he told BBC radio.

London resident Dee, 26, said she was sure it was a terror attack as the van careered southwards over London Bridge. "And then there was a man with a knife, he was running, he came down the stairs and went to a bar," she told AFP. After the van crashed right by Southwark Cathedral, the stabbing spree



Armed police stand over what is believed to be a suspect shot at the scene of a terror attack outside Borough Market in central London on Saturday. —AFP photos

began, with the attackers descending into Borough Market, a popular area of trendy bars and eateries on the south side of the bridge.

Taxi driver Chris told LBC radio he saw men brandishing long knives emerging from the van. "Three men got out with long blades, 12 inches (30 cm) long and went randomly... stabbing people." Witness Eric saw the trio get out of the van and thought they were going to help those who had been hit. However, they were "kicking them, punching them, and took out knives. It was a rampage." They then ran towards Borough Market with a shout of "this is for Allah".

Bleeding from the mouth

Alex Shellum, who was in The Mudlark pub near London Bridge said he saw a young woman stagger in. "She was bleeding heavily from the neck and from her mouth," he

said. "It appeared to myself and to my friends that her throat had been cut," he told the BBC. Police held people inside bars and restaurants for their own safety, telling them to get under the tables. They were later asked to leave with their hands on their heads.

Frightened people were led away as police officers screamed at them to run. Many were in tears, with friends supporting each other along the road. Roads were closed off and stations evacuated as police shouted at people to flee the scene. Three attackers wearing hoax suicide vests caused mayhem, repeatedly stabbing one of the first police officers on the scene. Within eight minutes of the first calls to the emergency services, the three assailants were fatally shot by armed police.

Blood on chef's uniform

Gerard Kavanar, 46, who lives by

Tower Bridge, told AFP: "There was lot of chefs in white costumes, one had blood on his shoulder". Police boats scanned the Thames in the dark while helicopters circled overhead and streets were cordoned off, AFP reporters said. An emergency response helicopter landed on London Bridge, while emergency service workers rushed people on trolleys to waiting ambulances, AFP photographers saw.

Members of the public were seen leaving the scene wrapped in foil emergency blankets while armed police patrolled the scene. Debris could be seen on the bridge where people had fled. Several people on Twitter offered their homes for anyone left stranded by the attack. One of those was Bea Corkhill, 17, who told AFP her boyfriend was chased by a man with a knife. "I want to go home but I don't know how," she said. —AFP



Armed police officers arrive at The Shard in the London Bridge quarter yesterday.



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May delivers a statement outside 10 Downing Street in central London yesterday.



Police forensic officers work near Borough Market in London yesterday, as police continue their investigations following the terror attack.



A view of the van yesterday which was used by three attackers which was driven onto London Bridge, striking pedestrians, before they went on a stabbing rampage in nearby Borough Market Saturday evening. —AP

LONDONERS FOUGHT BACK AS KILLERS RAMPAGED

LONDON: When three men armed with a van and knives went on the attack in a bustling area of the British capital on Saturday night, Londoners fought back with whatever came to hand, in some cases hurling chairs and tables to ward them off. The attack, which saw the assailants kill at least seven people and injure almost 50 before they were shot dead by police, began with a van being driven at high speed into a crowd of pedestrians on London Bridge.

"It looked like he was aiming for groups of people," Mark Roberts, a 53-year-old management consultant, told Reuters. He saw at least six people on the ground after the van veered on and off the pavement. "It was horrendous." Then the knife-wielding assailants took their attack to the nearby Borough Market, where survivors described a hellish scene in an area packed with people enjoying a night out in bars and restaurants.

Gerard Vowles told Sky TV that he was on the street near the Southwark Tavern pub, the scene of multiple stabbings, when he heard someone say: "I've been stabbed,

I've been stabbed." "I thought they were joking," he said. He said he then saw a woman and man being stabbed while the attackers shouted: "This is for Allah", and recalled how he tried to distract the men. "As they left I was going 'Oi, oi, cowards!' Vowles said. "I was just trying to get their attention by throwing things at them ... I thought if I throw bottles or chairs they can come after me. If I can get them to come to the main road then the police can stop them, they can obviously shoot them."

Other witnesses reported seeing a man with a large blade, similar to a kitchen knife, and victims bleeding from stab wounds. They said people were fleeing the area in panic. One witness, who only gave the BBC his first name of Ben, said he saw a man dressed in red who was stabbing a man with a blade that appeared to be about 10 inches long. "He was being stabbed quite coldly and he slumped to the ground," he said of the victim. The attacker then walked towards Southwark Tavern where a chair was thrown towards him, shortly before gunshots rang out. —Reuters

LOCAL CAMBODIA POLLS TEST STRONGMAN'S POPULARITY

PHNOM PENH: Millions of Cambodians voted in local polls yesterday, testing the political temperature of a country rife with tension between its strongman premier and an embattled opposition determined to end his three-decade rule. Prime Minister Hun Sen, one of the world's longest serving leaders, has run Cambodia for 32 years. Supporters see the 64-year-old as a beacon of stability while detractors accuse him and a coterie of allies of huge self-enrichment, corruption and autocracy.

Yesterday's vote in more than 1,600 communes - village clusters - is viewed as a warm-up for next year's national elections. But the opposition has been hammered by a crackdown in recent months, with critics jailed and the main political rival to Hun Sen fleeing overseas to escape charges. "I voted for a change, I want to try new leaders," Tara, a 30-year-old garment factory worker, told AFP after casting her vote for the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) at a polling booth in the capital. "I want the country to be more progressive, I want mutual respect for human rights," she added.



KANDAL, Cambodia: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen looks at a ballot box after he cast his ballot as his wife Bun Rany (left) looks on at a polling station yesterday. — AFP

Hun Sen cast his ballot shortly after polls opened at 7am (0000 GMT) in Takhmao, a town on the outskirts of Phnom Penh where he has a residence

and a nearby bodyguard unit stationed. He declined to speak to media but appeared relaxed, smiling and waving to voters as he passed. Many supporters cit-

ed Hun Sen's oft-repeated mantra of stability as they backed his Cambodian People's Party. "I voted for his party because he has done many good things for the country," 68-year-old Rath Chy told AFP. "I need peace, stability and development."

The last time Cambodians went to the polls - national elections in 2013 - the CNRP made huge gains, spurred in part by a significant appetite for change among young voters. The opposition says it only lost that vote because of widespread fraud, something the government denies.

Rare rally appearance

But analysts say that result was a scare for a leader unused to losing and the recent crackdown on the opposition is an attempt to ensure no repeat. The CNRP's former leader Sam Rainsy currently lives in self-exile in France to avoid charges he says are politically motivated. His replacement Kem Sokha spent nearly nine months barricaded in his party headquarters last year to escape a prosecution before he was eventually pardoned.

Casting his vote at a primary school in

the capital, Kem Sokha told reporters he expected his party to win some 60 percent of the communes. "More and more people showed their willingness to support the CNRP," he said. In a possible sign of nerves Hun Sen broke with his tradition of avoiding the campaign trail to lead a major CPP rally on Friday in Phnom Penh. He has also given a series of increasingly shrill speeches in recent weeks, warning of war if he or his party loses power.

The CNRP also held a rally on Friday but it was noticeably smaller in size. The party has proven particularly popular among young voters, who often complain about a culture of corruption that only seems to benefit a wealthy elite or those with the right connections. Cambodia has one of the world's youngest populations, with some 70 percent of the country under 30, and they are courted by politicians. Yet the opposition movement has been dented by Hun Sen's crackdown, with at least 27 Cambodian human rights defenders and political activists thrown behind bars since 2013, according to a recent Amnesty International report. —AFP

PHILIPPINES POLICE SAY CASINO ATTACKER INDEBTED GAMBLER

DUTERTE ASSURES SHOOTER NOT A TERRORIST

MANILA: An armed man who killed 37 people when he set fire to a casino in the Philippine capital was a father-of-three from Manila motivated by heavy gambling debts and not terrorism, authorities said yesterday. The identification of the attacker as Jessie Carlos, a Catholic, proves that claims of responsibility by the Islamic State group for Friday's attack were false, President Rodrigo Duterte and police said. "I would call him a habitual gambler. He lost everything in his life and became crazy. He lost his mind. He vented his anger (through the inci-

dent) with his wife and parents," Albayalde said as he sat alongside Carlos's parents and wife at a press conference announcing the gunman's identity. "He was barred by Pagcor from all casinos because of the request of next of kin. This could have probably triggered him. That's why he was so mad at casinos."

Carlos walked into the Resorts World casino and hotel complex in Manila on Friday with an M4 automatic rifle and a bottle of petrol, before setting alight a number of different rooms in the complex, according to police accounts. Thirty-

seven people died in the fires, dozens more injured in a stampede to escape, and Carlos was found dead about five hours later in a hotel room after committing suicide by setting fire to himself, police had said.

Security film of the incident released on Saturday showed the gunman calmly and slowly walking through the casino and firing into the air most of the time, apparently as warning shots

for people to leave. At one point he fired at security guards when they confronted him, but missed. After they ran away, he calmly walked up some stairs. The video also showed him breaking into a secure room where chips and money were being kept, apparently intent on stealing what he could. Carlos set alight many gambling tables in what police said was probably an attempt to create a diversion so he could escape.

Begging for forgiveness

At yesterday's press conference, Carlos's tearful mother said he had been a good man who committed the violence because of his gambling addiction. "We ask for forgiveness. My son was a good child to us. But since he started playing at the casinos, that's all he did. He did not visit us. It was painful for us not to see him," said his mother, Teodora Carlos. Albayalde said the "high-roller" Carlos had worked in the Department of Finance but had been sacked because he had lied on official forms about unexplained assets and properties.

The finance department said yesterday that Carlos was sacked as a tax specialist in 2014 for not declaring properties and for taking mysterious loans far more than a bank would lend. Authorities had repeatedly insisted on Friday and Saturday the attack was not terrorism-related, just a bizarre robbery attempt by a deranged man. But IS claimed responsibility, with a report on its self-styled Amaq news agency saying its "fighters" carried out the attack.

Duterte has repeatedly warned that IS is gaining a greater foothold in the mainly Catholic Philippines. Those concerns escalated when militants flying black IS flags rampaged through the Philippines' main Islamic city in the south nearly two weeks ago, triggering clashes that are still continuing and have left roughly 200 people dead. Duterte declared martial law in the south of the Philippines on May 23 in a bid to quash the rising IS threat, and said he was prepared to impose military rule nationwide if terrorism spread. After identifying Carlos as the attacker yesterday, Albayalde repeatedly sought to discredit IS. "We will not allow people or any threat group to use this situation to advance their propaganda or personal causes, whether foreign or local," Albayalde said. —AFP



MANILA: Police Gen Oscar Albayalde holds a copy of an image of a gunman who stormed the Resorts World Manila complex whom he identified as Jessie Carlos during a news conference yesterday in suburban Pasay city. —AP

dent), Duterte told reporters yesterday. "It's not terrorism." Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde said Carlos, 43, had three children and had been banned from all casinos in April by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) following a request from his family because of his gambling addiction. "He is heavily indebted due to being hooked to casino gambling. This became the cause of misunderstand-

seven people died in the fires, dozens more injured in a stampede to escape, and Carlos was found dead about five hours later in a hotel room after committing suicide by setting fire to himself, police had said.

Security film of the incident released on Saturday showed the gunman calmly and slowly walking through the casino and firing into the air most of the time, apparently as warning shots

FRESH BATTLE ENDS BID TO FREE CIVILIANS IN PHILIPPINE CITY

MARAWI, Philippines: Efforts to rescue up to 2,000 civilians trapped by fighting between troops and Islamist militants in a southern Philippine city failed yesterday when a proposed truce ended in a hail of gunfire and explosions, authorities and witnesses said. The civilians were pinned down nearly two weeks ago in the center of Marawi on Mindanao island, where gunmen loyal to the Islamic State group are holding out against a military assault. The government said 178 people have been killed so far.

Local authorities said government officials, working through intermediaries, had reached agreement with the militants to observe a four-hour ceasefire yesterday to let the trapped civilians leave. But the officials failed to secure agreement from their own military for the truce, provincial crisis management committee spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong told AFP. He said the military only allowed rescuers to access areas on the fringes of zones held by the militants, and barred them from entering bombed-out city blocks.

As a result only some 170-plus trapped residents were led to safety Sunday, according to the military. "We felt a bit disappointed and betrayed. We're talking about lives of people, my God!" Adiong said. "There are 2,000 people who need immediate help (after) 13 days without food." Gunfire and explosions, including from several artillery shells, later forced the rescuers to retreat, AFP journalists

saw. There were contradictory reports on who was firing. "The military... did not approve entry into high-risk areas to avoid putting our humanitarians in danger and any possibility that may complicate the situation," President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

The chief delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross in the southern Philippines told AFP those rescued yesterday were mostly men and appeared to be in relatively good health. By contrast, 14 of the nearly 200 rescued on Saturday had to be hospitalised, Roberto Petronio said. "These were mostly children who were suffering from diarrhoea and malnutrition," he added.

Hardline groups

The military has bombarded



MARAWI, Philippines: Evacuated residents arrive at a checkpoint yesterday. —AP

Marawi with air strikes and waged fierce street-to-street battles with hundreds of gunmen since they began a rampage through residential areas waving the black flags of the IS. A total of 120 gunmen including eight foreign fighters, 38 soldiers and police and 20 civilians have been killed, officials said, giving lower figures than previously for civilian deaths. Scores of people made a daring dash for safety on Saturday, including one of Marawi's most respected politicians who had hidden 71 Christians in his home and led 144 people through downtown streets strewn with rotting corpses.

Yesterday's ceasefire deal was initially reached following a meeting last week between Duterte and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the nation's biggest rebel organization which offered to bro-

ker a halt in hostilities using contacts with the fighters in Marawi, Adiong told AFP. Unarmed MILF rebels were to have escorted the civilians to safety during a four-hour period ending at noon (0400 GMT). The main Muslim rebel groups like the MILF have signed accords with the government aimed at forging a final peace, giving up their separatist ambitions in return for autonomy.

But small hardline groups, including the Maute and Abu Sayyaf, which are involved in the Marawi battle, have refused to negotiate and sought to unite behind IS. Indonesia's Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu said on Sunday there are about 1,200 IS operatives in the Philippines. He was speaking at a security forum in Singapore. Philippine Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David, speaking at the same event, put the figure at about 250-400. The clashes in Marawi erupted when security forces raided a house to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as IS' leader in the Philippines. He is on the US government's list of most-wanted terrorists.

Authorities said they were taken by surprise when many gunmen emerged to protect Hapilon and then went on a rampage through Marawi, which has a population of 200,000. Shortly after the violence erupted Duterte imposed martial law across the southern region of Mindanao, home to 20 million people, to quell what he said was an IS bid to establish a base in the mainly Catholic Philippines. —AFP



HONG KONG: Members of the public gather around a memorial and a wreath ahead of a candlelight vigil yesterday to mark the 28th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown in Beijing. —AFP

CROWDS GATHER FOR HONG KONG TIANANMEN VIGIL

HONG KONG: Thousands were expected at a candlelit vigil in Hong Kong yesterday night to mark 28 years since China's bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown but the annual event is struggling for support among younger generations. Semi-autonomous Hong Kong is the only place on Chinese soil to see a major commemoration of the military's brutal crushing of pro-democracy protests in central Beijing in 1989. But in the past two years, student unions have boycotted the longstanding vigil in Victoria Park as they say its message is increasingly irrelevant.

The vigil, organized by an umbrella group of veteran democracy activists, demands justice for the victims of the crackdown and also pushes for the democratization of China. Some young activists in Hong Kong say they want to prioritize the democratic future of the city itself and not China as a whole, as anti-Beijing sentiment grows. Younger generations tend to see themselves as distant from mainland China, with some calling for more autonomy or even independence for Hong Kong after mass rallies for political reform in 2014 failed to win concessions.

Mak Kwan-wai, vice president of Hong Kong Baptist University's student union, told AFP that building a democratic system in China was not Hong Kongers' responsi-

bility. "What Hong Kongers should do is protect themselves," Mak added. Baptist is among several universities whose student unions have said they would not attend the vigil. However, democracy campaigner Joshua Wong, who led the 2014 pro-democracy rallies, said people should not forget the victims of June 4 as he arrived at the park for the vigil.

"Young people are increasingly adopting their own identity as Hong Kongers and are not satisfied with the commemoration under the traditional banner of patriotism," said Wong, 20. "But I believe we all share the same goal, which is to demand that the central government take responsibility for the massacre." Wong added it was particularly important to support the vigil and its call for justice as the city approaches the 20th anniversary of its handover from Britain to China on July 1, 1997.

China's President Xi Jinping is expected to visit as part of the celebrations. One mainland human rights activist, Wang Yan, 52, was among the crowds arriving in Victoria Park. Wang, who has been living in Hong Kong for the past seven years, warned against complacency over the Tiananmen crackdown. "We have to keep persisting. If we give up, are we just going to let it go if people get killed in the future?" he told AFP. —AFP



ABU, Japan: Schoolchildren leave the compound of their school during an evacuation drill yesterday. —AP

JAPAN HOLDS EVACUATION DRILLS AS N KOREA MISSILE FEARS GROW

TOKYO: Hundreds of residents of a small Japanese coastal town took part in an evacuation drill yesterday as fears grow that a North Korean missile could hit the country. The drill in the town of Abu, about 800 km west of Tokyo facing the Sea of Japan, simulated a ballistic missile attack in the surrounding mountains in Yamaguchi prefecture which hosts a major US Marine Corps air station, a disaster agency official said.

It came less than a week after the nuclear-armed North test-fired a short-range projectile which fell provocatively close to Japan, its 12th ballistic missile test this year - in defiance of UN sanctions warnings and US threats of possible military action. TV footage from Abu showed young children holding hands as they ran to a school gymnasium doubling as an evacuation center after a siren began blaring early yesterday.

"I was able to stay calm and evacuated in a few minutes," 67-year-old Yuriko Suewaka,

who was among the 280 people involved in the exercise, told Jiji Press. The drill, organized by central and local authorities, followed a similar exercise in March in the northern prefecture of Akita. There are plans to conduct drills later this month in Yamagata and Niigata, north of Tokyo, both of which face the Sea of Japan, the official said. "The government has requested local communities to prepare for the holding of an evacuation drill," he told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The southwestern city of Onojo in Fukuoka prefecture also held a drill yesterday, independently from the central government, the official added. Japan has been on edge over North Korean launches since a mid-range ballistic missile flew without warning over the northern part of the country and into the western Pacific in 1998. The pace of the North's missile development has intensified and its projectiles have since last year been landing ever closer to Japan's coast. —AFP



LONDON: Three women hand flowers to a police officer at a police cordon at the north end of London Bridge in London yesterday to add to tributes piled there for the victims of the June 3 deadly terror attack.— AFP

7 KILLED IN 'EVIL' LONDON TERROR ATTACK...

Continued from Page 1

He also expressed condolences to the families of the victims and wished those injured a speedy recovery. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent two similar cables of condolences to Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister May. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent two similar cables.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim yesterday expressed "total solidarity" with Britain in the wake of last night's "terrorist" attacks in London which killed seven people and injured 48 others.

Citizens safe

Kuwait's Embassy in the United Kingdom said yesterday that Kuwaiti citizens in London were safe after attacks in the capital city left seven dead and 48 people injured the night before. In a statement, the embassy reiterated its warning to Kuwaitis on the need to be vigilant, to steer clear of crowded places and to adhere to instructions from British authorities. In the event of an emergency, the embassy urged citizens to contact its emergency hotline +4475903400.

The State of Kuwait meanwhile denounced "terrorist incidents" that hit London late Saturday and left scores of people dead or injured. "These criminal acts indicate once more the pressing need for doubling international efforts to fight terrorism, and to maintain the security of humanity and world stability," an official source at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. The source reiterated that Kuwait stands with the UK and supports all measures it is taking in order to safeguard its security and stability.

'Evil ideology'

May said the attack was driven by the same "evil ideology of Islamist extremism" behind last week's Manchester suicide bombing that left 22 people dead, and the Westminster attack in March, which killed five. "The recent attacks are not connected but we believe we are experiencing a new trend in the threat we face," she said after chairing a meeting of the government's emergency Cobra committee.

She warned that perpetrators are inspired to attack "by copying one another". The assailants wore fake suicide vests in a bid to increase the sense of panic as they lunged seemingly at random at the crowds gathered around London Bridge and Borough Market, which is full of restaurants and bars. Gerard Vowls, 47, said he saw a woman repeatedly stabbed, and threw chairs, glasses and bottles at the attackers in a bid to stop them.

"They kept coming to try to stab me... they were stabbing everyone. Evil, evil people," he told The Guardian newspaper. Holly Jones, a BBC reporter, saw a white van speeding into crowds of people walking along the pavement on London Bridge, saying it hit about five or six people.

Another witness called Eric told the BBC he had seen three men get out and thought they were going to help. Instead they "started kicking them, punching them and took out knives. It was a rampage really," he said. An Australian and four French nationals were

among those hospitalized, their governments said, while a Spaniard was slightly wounded.

'Praying for London'

Britain was already on high alert following the attack on a concert by US pop star Ariana Grande in Manchester, northwest England, in which seven children were among the dead. Grande, who will headline a benefit concert in Manchester later Sunday alongside stars including Pharrell Williams and Justin Bieber, tweeted that she was "Praying for London."

The national threat level was raised to maximum after the Manchester attack and troops were deployed at key public sites, but reduced to its second highest level last weekend. May, who served as interior minister for six years before taking office after the Brexit vote last summer, said Britain's response to the terror threat must change.

"We cannot and must not pretend that things can continue as they are," she said. She repeated calls for international action to combat extremist content online, a message she took to the G7 leaders summit last week.

May also warned there was "far too much tolerance of extremism in our country", promising to review counter-terrorism efforts, including possibly increasing the jail terms handed out in terror cases. The ruling Conservatives and the main opposition Labor party suspended national campaign events for the day, although local campaigning will continue.

"But violence can never be allowed to disrupt the democratic process, so those campaigns will resume in full tomorrow and the general election will go ahead as planned on Thursday," the prime minister said. Saturday's rampage is the latest in a string of attacks to hit Europe, including in Paris, Berlin and Saint Petersburg, and the French, German and Russian leaders sent messages of support.

US President Donald Trump offered his help, tweeting "WE ARE WITH YOU. GOD BLESS!" and highlighting his thwarted ban on travellers from six mainly Muslim countries.

Echoes of Westminster attack

Several people said they were ordered by police to stay inside pubs and restaurants as the terror raged outside. Alex Shellum at the Mudlark pub said a woman had come into the bar "bleeding heavily from the neck", telling the BBC: "It appeared that her throat had been cut." Italian photographer Gabriele Sciotto, who was watching the football at the Wheatheaf pub in Borough Market, said he saw three men shot just outside the pub.

In a picture he took, a man wearing combat trousers, with a shaved head and what looked like a belt with canisters attached to it could be seen on the ground with two more bodies behind him. "In two or five seconds, they shot all the three men down," Sciotto told the BBC. The attack had harrowing echoes of the attack on Westminster Bridge in March, when British Muslim convert Khalid Masood rammed his car into pedestrians before crashing into the barriers surrounding parliament. He stabbed a police officer to death before being shot dead by a ministerial bodyguard. — Agencies

INDONESIA SAYS 1,200 IS OPERATIVES...

Continued from Page 1

Hundreds of Islamist gunmen rampaged through Marawi, a largely Muslim city of 200,000 in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 after government forces attempted to arrest their leader, Isnilon Hapilon. Up to 50 gunmen are still controlling the city centre nearly two weeks after the start of fighting that has killed 177 people including 120 militants.

"How can we tackle these foreign fighters? We have to be comprehensive," said Ryacudu, a retired general. "We have to find... complete ways but we must exercise caution, they are killing machines. Their aim is to kill other people so that's why it's our responsibility that we have common understanding, consensus and common proceedings on how to fight these foreign fighters."

Philippine Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David,

speaking at the same forum, said the 1,200 figure for total IS fighters in the Philippines mentioned by Indonesia was new to him. "I really don't know, my figure is about 250-400, a lot less," he told reporters. But David said there were 40 foreign IS fighters among those who seized parts of Marawi, eight of whom have been killed by government forces. Earlier, Philippine officials said the slain foreign fighters were from Malaysia, Indonesia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Chechnya.

"Our intelligence estimates that there are about 40 foreigners that fought in the Marawi incident," David said. The Philippine official added that the foreign fighters used "back channels" in the Sulu and Celebes Seas near the borders of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia to enter the southern island of Mindanao and link up with local terror groups. "That's why they were able to muster the operations in the area of Marawi," David said. —AFP

TREASURES OF RAMADAN: LESSONS FOR CHILDREN

Continued from Page 1

- Invite family and friends over for Iftar and ask your child to help you prepare." Whoever feeds a person breaking his fast will earn the same reward as him without anything being lessened from the reward of the fasting person" (Al-Tirmithi)

- Dedicate a day where you cook for the needy and ask your child to help you prepare or pack the food.

- Label and decorate a box and name it a Charity Box and ask everyone in the house to donate any of their possessions to others, whether books, toys, clothes, or other things.

- Bake for the neighbors and ask your child to deliver the treats.

- If you have a maid or servant, encourage your child to help her to lessen her burdens, and bring her a gift or a card.

- Introduce children to the concept of Zakat (alms tax), and voluntary charities in Islam and that it is due to poor and needy relatives, Muslims and all people in the world.

Remember that the reward of every spiritual work your children do will be yours without diminishing their own rewards. All praise and thanks is due to Allah. So remember to manage your time, make to-do lists before bed with your kids and repeat the treasure of Paradise-La Hawla wa La Quwata Illa Billah (there is no strength or transformation except with the help of Allah).

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.

AMIR URGES ARMED FORCES TO BE VIGILANT

Continued from Page 1

and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Defense Undersecretary Jassar Abdulrazzag Al-Jassar and Lieut. Gen Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder, the Army Chief of Staff.

HH the Amir stated, "We are pleased that we meet with my brother HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the accompanying brothers with you in this night of the blessed month of Ramadan to exchange congratulations on this graced month.

"We also address the felicitations and greetings on this occasion to our brave soldiers and your brothers who are in the combat front participating in defending territories of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and partaking with their brothers in the coalition forces in defending legitimacy of the sisterly republic of Yemen." HH the Amir prayed to His Almighty to safeguard the troops' souls and restore security and stability to Yemen.

He affirmed confidence in the armed forces, "the shield for defending the homeland." HH the Amir urged the attending officers and personnel to remain in a state of vigilance and cautiousness, ready to defend soil of the homeland and firmly resist any power that tries to infringe on Kuwait's security and safety. He boasted of the noticeable development of the armed forces' capacities and combat readiness, "based on high patriotic spirits," vowing that the leadership would do its best to secure most modern equipment for the forces. HH the Amir expressed congratulations on inaugurating Ahmad Al-Jaber Air Base at Ali Al-Salem Air Base.

"I am quite confident that you will be up to the responsibility and readiness to face all circumstances, praying to His Almighty to back your steps while recalling with pride your brothers who sacrificed their souls for defending the soil of the precious homeland, praying to His Almighty to bestow mercy upon their souls." — KUNA

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Focus

TRUMP'S CLIMATE
DECISION PUTS US
ON A LONELY PATH

By Julie Pace

President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the landmark Paris climate accord sends an unmistakable message to the world: America First can mean America Alone. Trump's move, announced with great fanfare in the White House Rose Garden on Thursday, immediately leaves the United States isolated on a paramount global concern. It demonstrates the US is willing to back away from a coalition it assembled just 18 months ago. Nearly 200 countries joined the landmark deal forged under Trump's predecessor. Now the US stands with only Syria and Nicaragua as countries on the sidelines. Nicaragua balked because it found the deal's standards insufficient.

It's a bitter blow to stalwart European partners who launched an aggressive campaign to convince Trump that American leadership is central to combating climate change. Even a direct appeal from the Vatican wasn't enough to persuade the president. Miguel Arias Canete, the European Union's top climate change official, called Trump's decision "a sad day for the global community." For anxious allies, Trump's rejection of the Paris pact is particularly jarring in the wake of his first international trip last week. Standing in the heart of Europe, Trump publicly lectured NATO partners about their military commitments and offered no explicit endorsement for the collective defense agreement at the core of trans-Atlantic security for decades. His stunning posture left the distinct impression that for the new American president, the nation's long-standing obligations to allies are neither unshakable nor unbreakable.

Trump did little to quell those concerns Thursday. Offering a glimpse into his apparent anxiety over how he's viewed on the world stage, Trump argued that the same countries practically begging him to stay in the Paris accord were in fact mocking the United States' participation. "We don't want other countries laughing at us anymore and they won't," Trump declared. "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris." Indeed, Trump's supporters cheered the decision, which marked the fulfillment both of his campaign promise to scrap the climate accord and his broader pledge to put American interests above all else. As a candidate, he vigorously accused President Barack Obama of capitulating to other nations in negotiations not only on the Paris pact, but also multi-country trade deals and the agreement to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Trump's record of holding to those promises is mixed: He moved swiftly to withdraw from the sweeping Pacific Rim trade pact the Obama administration negotiated, but has signaled to other nations that he plans to stay in the nuclear deal so long as Iran lives up to its obligations.

To be sure, Trump is hardly the first American president to turn his back on a predecessor's international agreement. President George W. Bush provoked similar anger from European allies when he decided not to implement the 1997 Kyoto climate change treaty, which was ratified by 140 nations. Bush made a similar argument to the one outlined by Trump Thursday, saying it put the US at a disadvantage compared with major polluters like China and India.

Still, Bush made the broad and public case for US leadership in international cooperation, even as his policies in Iraq and Afghanistan frayed some American alliances. Trump's "America First" mantra, underscored by his condemnation of both Bush's wars and Obama's diplomacy, has signaled a new strain of isolationism. On Thursday, he not only called the Paris accord a bad deal, he declared its rejection to be "a reassertion of America's sovereignty." Since the election, administration officials have labored to explain that Trump does not intend to insulate the US from the rest of the world or leave allies in a lurch. White House advisers point to Trump's decision to renegotiate, rather than scrap, the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico as a sign that the president isn't recoiling from all of America's commitments.

Trump left open the prospect that he'll ultimately take a similar approach to the Paris pact, announcing Thursday that while the US will immediately stop complying with the standards, his administration will begin negotiations to seek a better deal. It's unclear why the US would need to start such negotiations given that the climate agreement gave each country the ability to set its own targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The European nations that pushed for Trump to stay in the deal appear to be in little mood to help the president take credit for getting a better deal. France, Germany and Italy quickly issued a joint statement Thursday saying the Paris climate accord can't be renegotiated. — AP

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PHILIPPINES SIEGE: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR SE ASIA

By Tom Allard

At the beginning of the battle that has raged for the past 12 days in Marawi City at the southern end of the Philippines, dozens of Islamist militants stormed its prison, overwhelming the guards.

"They said 'surrender the Christians,'" said Faridah P. Ali, an assistant director of the regional prison authority. "We only had one Christian staff member so we put him with the inmates so he wouldn't be noticed," he said.

Fighters from the Maute group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State (IS), menaced the guards and shouted at prisoners: but no one gave up the Christian man. "When they freed the inmates, he got free," said Ali. It was a brief moment of cheer, but over the next few hours the militants took control of most of the city, attacked the police station and stole weapons and ammunition, and set up roadblocks and positioned snipers on buildings at key approaches. The assault has already led to the death of almost 180 people and the vast majority of Marawi's population of about 200,000 has fled.

The seizing of the city by Maute and its allies on the island of Mindanao is the biggest warning yet that the Islamic State is building a base in Southeast Asia and bringing the brutal tactics seen in Iraq and Syria in recent years to the region. Defense and other government officials from within the region told Reuters evidence is mounting that this was a sophisticated plot to bring forces from different groups who support the Islamic State together to take control of Marawi.

The presence of foreigners - intelligence sources say the fighters have included militants from as far away as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Chechnya and Morocco - alongside locals in Marawi, has particularly alarmed security officials. For some time, governments in Southeast Asia have been worried about what happens when battle-hardened Islamic State fighters from their countries return home as the group loses ground in the Middle East, and now they have added concerns about the region becoming a magnet for foreign jihadis. "If we do nothing, they get a foothold in this region," said Hishammuddin Hussein, the defense minister of neighboring Malaysia.

Defense and military officials in the Philippines said that all four of the country's pro-Islamic State groups sent fight-

ers to Marawi with the intention of establishing the city as a Southeast Asian 'wilayat' - or governorate - for the radical group. Mindanao - roiled for decades by Islamic separatists, communist rebels, and warlords - was fertile ground for Islamic State's ideology to take root. This is the one region in this largely Catholic country to have a significant Muslim minority and Marawi itself is predominantly Muslim.

It is difficult for governments to prevent militants from getting to Mindanao from countries like Malaysia and Indonesia through waters that have often been lawless and plagued by pirates.

The Combating Terrorism Center, a West Point, New York-based think tank, said in a report this week that Islamic State is leveraging militant groups in Southeast Asia to solidify and expand its presence in the region. The key will be how well it manages relations with the region's jihadi old guard, CTC said.

Commander fired

The Maute group's attack is the biggest challenge faced by Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte since coming to power last June. He has declared martial law in Mindanao, which is his political base. His defense forces were caught off guard by the assault and have had difficulty in regaining control of the city - on Saturday they were still struggling to wipe out pockets of resistance. On Monday, Brigadier-General Nixon Fortes, the commander of the army brigade in Marawi, was sacked.

An army spokesman said this was unrelated to the battle. But a military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters on Friday that Fortes was dismissed because not all his forces were in the city when the rebels began their rampage, even though military intelligence had indicated that Islamist militants were amassing there. The assault came just months after security forces attacked the mountain lair of Isnilon Hapilon, a long-time leader of Abu Sayyaf, or "Father of the Sword," a notorious Islamist militant group known for kidnapping.

He swore allegiance to Islamic State in 2014, and quickly got other groups to join him. Most important among them was the Maute group, run by brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute from a well-known family in Marawi. In a video that surfaced last June, a Syria-based leader of the group urged followers in the region to join Hapilon if they could not

travel to the Middle East. Hapilon was named IS leader in Southeast Asia last year.

The Philippines military said Hapilon was likely wounded in the raids but managed to escape to Marawi, where he joined up with the Maute group. According to a statement on a social media group used by Maute fighters, the group wants to cleanse Marawi of Christians, Shi'ite Muslims, and polytheists - who believe in more than one God. It also wants to ban betting, karaoke and so-called "relationship dating."

Mountain liars

Some officials said Philippines security forces became complacent about the threat from IS after the January raids. "We did not notice they have slipped into Marawi because we are focusing on their mountain lairs," Philippines Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters. Over the past few months, Philippine and Indonesian intelligence sources said, Hapilon's forces were swelled by foreign fighters and new recruits within Marawi. Many of the outsiders came to Marawi using the cover of an Islamic prayer festival in the city last month, said Philippines military spokesman Lt Col Jo-Ar Herrera.

Lorenzana said that Hapilon brought 50-100 fighters to join Maute's 250-300 men, while two other groups, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the Ansar Al-Khilafah Philippines, together brought at least 40 militants with them.

On May 23, four days before the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, they launched their attack when Philippine forces made an abortive attempt to capture Hapilon inside Marawi. After the military retreated in the face of a phalanx of armed guards, about 400 militants quickly fanned out across the city, riding trucks mounted with 50-calibre machine guns and armed with rocket-propelled grenades and high-powered rifles.

Within hours, they attacked the jail and nearby police station, seizing weapons and ammunition, according to accounts from residents. The Dansalan College, a Protestant institution, and the Catholic Cathedral of Maria Auxiliadora, were both razed, and a priest and about a dozen other parishioners captured. They remain hostages.

A Shi'ite mosque was also destroyed, and a statue of Jose Rizal, the Philippines hero of the uprising against Spanish rule, was beheaded.—Reuters

HURDLES TO FRANCO-GERMAN BARGAIN ARE HIGH

By Noah Barkin

Midway through their news conference in Berlin last month, French President Emmanuel Macron turned to German Chancellor Angela Merkel and laid out a quid pro quo on strengthening Europe's single currency project. "Everyone has a job to do," Macron said.

"I have to press ahead with reforms that are necessary for our country and for restoring trust between France and Germany. And the chancellor must make a convincing case to her public, to her political class," Macron campaigned on a promise to "rebuild" Europe through deeper integration of the euro zone, the 19-nation currency zone which ranks as one of the EU's biggest achievements but which critics say is still work in progress 18 years after its launch. He seems determined to fulfill his side of the bargain. Polls suggest his new party, la Republique en Marche, could win an absolute majority in parliamentary elections this month. That would make it easier for him to deliver on his plans to reform the French economy.

But in Berlin, questions remain about whether Merkel will embrace the leap in European integration that Macron wants. That would mean taking on skeptics in her party who remain reluctant to compromise with the new president of France, a country they worry has a vision of a Europe in which Germany has to pay for the failure of others to knock their economies into shape.

Macron's team was elated with their Merkel meeting in Berlin. She agreed to work with them on a "roadmap" for eurozone reform and hinted at the possibility of radical steps that would require changes to

the European Union's Lisbon treaty. Last Sunday, she appeared to double down on the idea of closer European cooperation, telling a political rally in Munich that the continent may no longer be able to count on the United States and must take its destiny into its own hands. But people close to the chancellor who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity said it would be wrong to interpret her recent remarks as a sign that Berlin is preparing to water down the principles that have guided it for years: those of a rules-based Europe where "responsibility" trumps "solidarity." "The chancellor did not say what she said in Munich because she wants to prepare the ground for making financial concessions to Macron," a top aide told Reuters.

Small steps

At the heart of Macron's plan for Europe



French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel

is the creation of a euro zone finance minister who would oversee a pooled budget for investments and transfers intended to help euro zone members cushion downturns. That official would be answerable to a euro zone parliament, or sub-section of the European Parliament. Germany's Social Democrats (SPD), junior partners in Merkel's "grand coalition," have backed this approach. But opposition among Merkel's conservative allies runs deep.

In conversations with half a dozen lawmakers from Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) a picture emerged of a party that would prefer to take small symbolic steps with France - identifying joint investment projects or aligning corporate tax rates - than contemplate the big changes that Macron is seeking. Many of the lawmakers said they were worried about alienating non-euro countries in eastern Europe

and Scandinavia with an aggressive push for deeper cooperation between members single currency bloc.

They also argued that none of the steps being proposed by Macron could be done without treaty change, a multi-year process fraught with political risks. "There are those that say we need to do everything in our power to ensure Macron is successful, otherwise we'll have (French far-right leader) Marine Le Pen five years from now," said Thorsten Frei, a CDU lawmaker and member of the European Affairs committee of the Bundestag. "I don't share this viewpoint at all. What we need to do is build Europe in the right way," he said. "We should not be lurching into a quick deepening of the eurozone."

Guenter Krichbaum, another CDU member and head of the European Affairs committee, said Macron's ideas for a eurozone budget and parliament made little sense because they would only duplicate EU structures. "When Britain leaves, 85 percent of the EU budget will be financed by members of the euro zone. You don't need an extra budget for the euro zone on top of that," he said.

Black-yellow

Whether Merkel is prepared to push back against the skeptics, as Macron suggested last month, may not become clear until after the German election in September. But people close to the chancellor say they do not expect her to make a strong case for deeper European integration during the election campaign. "Of course we will talk about Brexit. We will talk about the new Franco-German tandem," the aide said. "But this will not be a plebiscite on Europe." Much could depend on the outcome of the vote.—Reuters

CHANG GRABS PLAYOFF WIN IN KOREA OPEN

SEOUL: South Korean golfer Chang Yi-Keun clinched victory at OneAsia's Kolon Korea Open final round yesterday, defeating overnight leader Kim Gi-Whan in a thrilling three-hole aggregate playoff. Chang, world ranked 533rd, earned his breakthrough win with a cumulative score of 12 on the 16th, 17th and 18th holes at Woo Jeong Hills Country Club. "I made a mistake at the 14th hole that led to a double bogey," the 23-year-old said. "However, I thought that there were many holes left and I tried to think as positively as possible." Chang, who pocketed a cheque for US\$270,000, added: "It's great to get the win." Kim, who entered the final round in the lead, matched Chang's par on the 16th but bogeyed the next and double bogeyed the 18th for a total of 15. Chang, two shots adrift of compatriot Kim at the start of the match, birdied the final three holes in regulation play to card a 70 while Kim matched Chang's birdies on 17 and 18 for a battling one over 72. —AFP

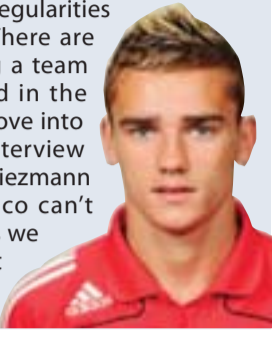


COURT DRAGGING TENNIS TO 'DARK AGES', SAYS MCENROE

PARIS: John McEnroe claimed Margaret Court was taking tennis back to "the dark ages" with her controversial and sustained outbursts over homosexuality. The 58-year-old American legend also included Ilie Nastase in his blast after the Romanian recently made derogatory remarks over women and Serena Williams's unborn baby. Court, the winner of a record 24 Grand Slam titles, has made a string of lurid claims over same-sex marriage, homosexuality and transgender children. "Margaret Court and Ilie Nastase have taken tennis back to the dark ages," McEnroe said in a Eurosport video. "So I pronounce you man and wife." McEnroe suggested a solution to the ongoing push to have the Margaret Court Arena at the Australian Open renamed in protest at the 74-year-old's views. "The jury is still out," he said. "But when same-sex marriage becomes legal in Australia, I will call my good friend Elton John to host the biggest same-sex marriage ceremony ever seen in the Margaret Court Arena." McEnroe added that he was a firm supporter of same-sex marriage. "I don't see any reason for them not to be as miserable as everyone else," he joked. —AFP

I'M STAYING AT ATLETICO, INSISTS GRIEZMANN

PARIS: Atletico Madrid star Antoine Griezmann intends to stay at the Spanish club next season amid ongoing speculation about his future, the striker told French television station TF1 yesterday. Griezmann has been heavily linked with a move away from Atletico, all the more so since the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) upheld a transfer ban that means the club will not be able to sign any new players until January next year as a punishment for irregularities in the signing of foreign players under 18. There are concerns that will prevent them from having a team that can compete at the top of La Liga and in the Champions League next season, when they move into a new 68,000-capacity stadium. But, in an interview with Sunday morning programme Telefoot, Griezmann said: "The CAS sanction has come in. Atletico can't make any signings. With my advisor Eric Olhats we have decided to stay. "It is a difficult moment for the club. —AFP



AL-SEYASSAH CLINCH ANNAHAR RAMADAN SOCCER CUP

KUWAIT: Al-Seyassah soccer team recently won the Annahar First Ramadan Soccer Tourney for newspapers and magazines after beating Al-Shahed team by 5-1 in the final match they played Saturday at the High Institute for Navigation and Communication in Shuwaikh. Notably, the tourney was 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, under whose auspices the conclusion ceremony was held in the presence of Information Ministry Undersecretary for New and Political Programs Affairs, Mohammed Bin Naji. The ceremony was also attended by

Annahar editor in chief, Emad Bokhamseen, KJA Secretary General Adnan Al-Rashid, the institute's director, Monther Al-Kandary and a number of journalists.

During the ceremony, Bokhamssen honored Al-Abdullah and KJA chairperson, Fatima Hussein, Al-Kandary, the referees and the tournament's sponsors.

In addition, the conclusion ceremony also witnessed a match between artists and journalists.

Speaking on the occasion, Bokhamseen expressed happiness for the success achieved on the first tourney and the wide scale participation from all newspapers, magazines and KUNA and promised that it would continue

and be developed in further years. "Such activities strengthen bonds amongst members of the media and journalists and provide chances for recreation away from work stress", he added.

On his part, KJA's Secretary General, Adnan Al-Rashid hailed the tourney and thanked Annahar for organizing it.



RACING

BEGGY IN EXALTED COMPANY IN RIDING TO REDEMPTION

LONDON: Pdraig Beggy's name will sit alongside those of legendary jockeys Kieren Fallon and Frankie Dettori for the high of winning the Epsom Derby and not solely because they served bans for taking cocaine.

Beggy's ride to redemption came on 40/1 shot Wings of Eagles bringing him from third last three furlongs (600 metres) out to overhaul fellow Aidan O'Brien stablemate Cliffs of Moher in the final furlongs.

Quite aside from the winner being O'Brien's fifth string what was even more remarkable was that it was Beggy's first ride on the tough undulating camber track. "Happy Days!" grinned Beggy and with good reason for there had been many dark days before Saturday's glory

at Epsom. Whilst both Dettori and Fallon's blips came after years of success 31-year-old Beggy's came in 2014 in Australia where he had decamped to in a desperate move to try and light a fire under his career which had hit the buffers. Both Fallon and Dettori-diametrically opposed characters the former an introverted Irishman and the latter an exuberant larger than life Italian-went off the rails not because of the extreme pressures of constantly keeping their weight in check nor of their tiny physiques trying to control highly-strung thoroughbreds day in day out.

Fallon's was due to the pressure of a court case over alleged race-fixing which saw him exonerated-and Dettori's for seeing his massively successful 18

year association with Sheikh Mohammed bin al-Maktoum's Godolphin Operation come to an acrimonious end.

"Things were going bad, I was depressed and I guess (in) a moment of weakness I fell for it and I've only got myself to blame," Dettori told Channel Four News in 2013. Fallon, who is now retired, came back from his 18 month ban driven even more determined to succeed. "I feel satisfaction when I win even more so now," he told the Daily Mirror in 2010.

'BIT OF TROUBLE'

"I need it more than ever. I've something to prove." For Beggy his lapse of judgment came after the move to

Australia-following an unsuccessful spell in England-had not worked out either receiving a year's suspension for both the failed test and for on two occasions giving a false explanation for it being in his system.

"I got into a bit of trouble in Australia, a bad mistake and something that I've put behind me," he said in the wake of his Derby victory.

Fortunately like Fallon found succour on his return from the wilderness with the likes of Luca Cumani giving him rides and Dettori finding another training powerhouse John Gosden a faithful friend so Beggy found a new home at the Ballydoyle Stables in County Tipperary made famous first by late legend Vincent O'Brien and now by his

namesake and equally talented but no relation Aidan O'Brien.

"Aidan had a chat with me and said, 'Padraig, you keep working, some day we'll repay you.' I don't think he meant the Derby," he said dryly.

"So I got into Ballydoyle and I worked hard. He was good to me. I owe him a lot." The winners have not flowed since he was given his second chance in 2015 — four to be precise-but he has won a race 'the blue riband' of English flat racing that some more successful jockeys never succeeded in landing in as dramatic a fashion as how his career has panned out. "I had to pick myself up and I've come back out fighting and today I think I've proved that," he said. Few would argue with him. — AFP

SEA EAGLES PIP RAIDERS WITH GOLDEN POINT WINNER

SYDNEY: Scrum-half Daly Cherry Evans plotted a golden-point drop goal to snatch a thrilling 21-20 National Rugby League win for the Manly Sea Eagles over Canberra yesterday. The Raiders looked to be surging home after they overcame a 14-point half-time deficit to send the game into extra time. But their comeback ended when Junior Paulo dropped the ball in their first set of tackles in extra time, allowing Cherry-Evans to kick the winning drop goal.

Manly moved to sixth spot after their exciting win in the 13th round of the contest. Melbourne, who lead the standings, beat Newcastle 40-12 on Friday after fullback Billy Slater scored a try double. Test fullback Slater, who was controversially left out of Queensland's team for the mid-week State of Origin series-opener, pushed his claims for a recall for the second game with two second-half tries and two try assists. The Storm lead inactive defending champions Cronulla Sharks by two points, with St George Illawarra and Sydney Roosters both winning on Saturday to lie third and fourth.

The Dragons fought off the Wests Tigers 16-12, with captain and English interna-

tional Gareth Widdop scoring two tries on his return from a five-week knee-injury lay-off. Two tries from NSW skipper Boyd Cordner inspired the Roosters to a thrilling 18-16 win over Brisbane.

Broncos goalkicker Jordan Kahu had a chance to send the game into golden point extra time. With three minutes remaining, he had an opportunity to convert Tautau Moga's try.

But he hooked his sideline conversion wide, for the Roosters to stay in the top four. Queensland utility back Michael Morgan put the disappointment of the Maroons' 28-4 State of Origin loss behind him by guiding North Queensland to a 20-8 home win over Gold Coast on Saturday.

With Cowboys captain Johnathan Thurston still sidelined through injury, Morgan scored a try and impressed with his kicking game. Penrith's mid-season resurgence gained momentum with a 38-0 rout of the Canterbury Bulldogs yesterday.

A month after dropping to second-last spot, the Panthers played with great verve to inject life into their premiership hopes with their third straight win. —AFP



BAY OF ISLANDS: British and Irish Lions flyhalf Owen Farrell greets locals following the national welcome ceremony on the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, yesterday. The British and Irish Lions began their 10-match tour of New Zealand with a 13-7 win over the New Zealand Provincial Barbarians in Whangarei on Saturday. — AP

YACHTING

ORACLE TEAM USA BEAT KIWIS IN KEY AMERICA'S CUP QUALIFIER

HAMILTON: Holders Oracle Team USA defeated Emirates Team New Zealand on Saturday to win the round-robin phase of qualifying for the 35th America's Cup.

The victory means Team USA will go into the America's Cup match, which starts on June 17 on Bermuda's Great Sound, with one bonus point.

"We just won a race in the Cup," USA tactician Tom Slingsby could be heard telling the Oracle crew after they crossed the line 29 seconds in front of Team New Zealand.

Team USA won the start, forcing a penalty from Peter Burling's New Zealand to seize an early advantage. Skipper Jimmy Spithill and his crew led by seven seconds at the first mark and by nine at the second.

New Zealand gained on the upwind leg, even briefly taking the lead, but Oracle were ahead at every mark. "What a great effort from the team, the entire team," Spithill said. "Great training for us to get a high pressure race like that and come out on top. Two for two against the Kiwis... we have a lot of work to do, but great to see the boys pull it out under pressure."

Team New Zealand were hurt by uncharacteristic errors.

Burling piloted New Zealand across the race boundary to receive a third, which was followed by a fourth for failing to take the third in a timely fashion. "Obviously it's a little disappointing to lose that one point,"

Burling said. "But at the end of the day it's about carrying on improving and carrying on learning and making sure we get back facing them again."

"We made some little errors and then learned a lot and we stayed out for a while afterwards to practice a few things that went wrong during the race and we are really happy with the few improvements we made afterwards."

Already assured of topping the table, Team USA closed out round-robin action with a victory over Britain's Land Rover BAR to take their total to nine points.

New Zealand, with eight points, are the top seeds in the qualifying semi-finals ahead of Britain, Artemis Racing of Sweden and SoftBank Team Japan.

That gave New Zealand the chance to choose their next opponent, and they opted to take on Britain in the semi-finals that start Sunday, when Sweden will square off against Japan.

Oracle, meanwhile, will head to the sidelines as the four remaining would-be challengers battle it out for the right to race for the Cup. Despite the defeat to Oracle, it was an encouraging day for Ben Ainslie's British outfit, who beat Japan in their other race of the day. Sweden won comfortably over Groupama Team France, who had already been eliminated from contention on Friday. — AFP



HAMILTON: Emirates Team New Zealand skippered by Peter Burling races during the America's Cup on Saturday on Bermuda's Great Sound. Holders Oracle Team USA defeated Emirates Team New Zealand on Saturday to win the round-robin phase of qualifying for the 35th America's Cup. The victory means Team USA will go into the America's Cup match, which starts on June 17 on Bermuda's Great Sound, with one bonus point. — AFP

RUGBY

CRUSADERS BACK FROM THE BRINK TO STAY UNBEATEN

SYDNEY: The never-say-die Canterbury Crusaders remained unbeaten with a dramatic after-the-siren drop goal while defending champions Wellington Hurricanes romped to a Super Rugby try-scoring record this weekend.

The Crusaders needed a clutch 45-metre Mitchell Hunt drop goal three minutes after the full-time siren to snatch a 25-22 victory over title rivals the Otago Highlanders in their last match before the international break. The seven-time champions have a 10-point lead at the top of the New Zealand conference over the Hurricanes, who forged a 34-12 win over the Western Force in Perth.

The Hurricanes broke the record for most tries in a Super Rugby season with their six in the match taking them to 83, surpassing the 81 scored by South Africa's Golden Lions last year.

Both Kiwi heavyweights sent out a clear signal to the touring British and Irish Lions of what they can expect from the All Blacks in the three-Test series which begins on June 24.

The Crusaders left it till very late to pinch a hard-fought victory over the Highlanders in

Christchurch, fighting their way into position for Hunt to let fly with his long-range drop goal winner. "Wyatt Crockett turned around and said: 'Do something with it', and there's wasn't anything else I could do," Hunt said, admitting he was surprised the kick went over.

RECORD-BREAKERS

"For a short player I can hardly punt it that far so I was pretty lucky with that kick." It was the Crusaders' 14th consecutive victory, breaking their own previous Super Rugby record of 13 set in 2002. The Highlanders were up 22-19 with four minutes to go after a pair of Waisake Naholo tries early in the second half lifted them from a 19-10 deficit at the turn. The Hurricanes have two games left to reel in the Crusaders in the New Zealand conference, but one match is against them at home. The Hurricanes' victory also further extended New Zealand's winning record over Australian opposition this season to 23-0. The champions' potent attacking big guns-TJ Perenara, Beauden Barrett, Vince Aso and Ngani Laumape-were constantly in the play,

with Laumape and Aso taking their season tally to 14 tries each.

A hat-trick of tries to James Lowe saved the Waikato Chiefs as they survived a second-half fightback by the NSW Waratahs to win 46-31 in Hamilton. The Chiefs looked to have the game sewn up when they led 32-3 lead early in the second spell only for a resurgent Waratahs to close the gap to 39-31 before Lowe scored for the third time just before full-time to put victory beyond doubt.

The Auckland Blues held off a dogged fightback from the Queensland Reds to claim a 34-29 victory in the first Super Rugby clash to take place in Samoa. The Blues raced to an early 12-0 lead but had to battle hard as the lead changed four times in a rollercoaster second-half. The ACT Brumbies clinched the Australian conference with a 32-3 bonus-point victory over the Melbourne Rebels in Canberra.

The Brumbies returned from their successful tour to South Africa and Argentina to outscore the hapless Rebels four tries to nil and open up a 14-point lead over the Waratahs. — AFP

SHOCKED LIONS DEDICATE TOUR TO LONDON VICTIMS

WHANGAREI: The British and Irish Lions rugby players expressed shock and sympathy yesterday for those killed and injured in the London terror attacks, and dedicated their remaining New Zealand tour matches to the victims.

News of the attacks filtered through to the Lions yesterday as they were attending an official welcome ceremony in New Zealand a day after they won their opening tour match 13-7 against the Provincial Barbarians side. "We've only just heard about the tragedies in London. We don't know any detail yet, we just heard about it coming out of the meeting house here. But the boys are very shocked," Lions manager John Spencer told journalists. "But can I just please express our sympathies with those who have been injured back home. This is a dreadful tragedy and our thoughts and prayers are certainly with those who have been injured-and their families. "We're four nations but we're one jersey, one team, and we'll all stand united here about the sentiments in London." Six people were killed, three attackers were shot dead by police and at least 20 others wounded following what police two "terrorist incidents" in London.

The attacks came two weeks after a suicide bomber killed 22 people at a concert in Manchester and just days before the United Kingdom general election on June 8.

Lions captain Sam Warburton said of the remaining nine matches in New Zealand: "We will dedicate to those who have been involved. "I guess we can play a small part in trying to cheer a majority of the nation up by trying to be successful over here. "We'll commit our performances and all our efforts to those involved recently in London." — AFP



MONACO: (L to R) South African former rugby player Percy Montgomery, Princess Charlene of Monaco, Prince Albert II of Monaco, and Charlene's brother Gareth Wittstock of South Africa, pose as they attend the arrival of the first "Riviera Water Bike Challenge", a water bike race between Nice and Monaco, in Monaco, yesterday. —AFP

BOXING

CANADIAN CHAMPION STEVENSON STOPS FONFARA IN SECOND ROUND

MONTREAL: Canadian champion Adonis Stevenson stopped challenger Andrzej Fonfara 28 seconds into the second round to retain his World Boxing Council world title on Saturday.

"I was very focused on him. I took my time and finished the job," said Stevenson. The 39-year-old easily won the rematch between the two light heavyweights as Poland's Fonfara barely survived the opening round at the Bell

Centre Arena in Montreal.

Fonfara's trainer Virgil Hunter stepped in and stopped the fight early in the second round because his boxer was taking too much punishment. "I caught him with my left. I knew he was coming so I took the punch," said Stevenson.

When Fonfara returned to his stool after the first round, he looked dazed and out of it. "He was hurt in first round," Hunter said. "He survived but when he

came back to the corner, he wasn't all the way there.

"I told him 'In the second round, don't even throw a punch, just get yourself back.' He got caught with a punch." It was a rematch of their action-packed meeting in 2014, when Fonfara sent Stevenson to the canvas but was knocked down twice himself as Stevenson won by scores of 115-110, 115-110 and 116-109.

On Saturday, Fonfara was the first to hit the canvas in the opening round. Stevenson hurt him with a hard left to the temple, which was followed quickly by the knockdown.

Later in the round, a helpless Fonfara had to be saved by the bell after Stevenson trapped him in the corner and was landing punches at will.

The 39-year-old champion now boasts a record of 29-1 with 24 knock-

outs. Fonfara, 29, who falls to 29-5 with 17 knockouts, was seeking a first world title. Fonfara, who lives in Chicago, said he will recover from this beating.

"He showed me tonight that he is the champ. I have to train and come back harder," he said. Stevenson has been talking about unifying the division, saying previously he might fight the winner of the upcoming bout between Sergey Kovalev and Andre Ward. — AFP



BALTIMORE: Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts, right, slides safely across home plate on a single by Xander Bogaerts as Baltimore Orioles' catcher Caleb Joseph, left, takes the throw in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, in Baltimore. — AP

BASEBALL

VOLQUEZ THROWS NO HITTER AS MARLINS BEAT DIAMONDBACKS

MIAMI: Edinson Volquez threw the sixth no-hitter in Marlins history, facing the minimum 27 batters and beating the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-0 on Saturday. Volquez (2-7) struck out 10 and the two baserunners who reached on walks were erased by double plays. He needed 98 pitches, the last of those striking out Chris Owings to complete the masterpiece. It was the Marlins' first no-hitter since Henderson Alvarez pitched one against Detroit on the final day of the 2013 regular season. It's the first no-hitter in the majors this season and the first time Arizona was no-hit since the Marlins' Anibal Sanchez threw one on Sept. 6, 2006. Volquez was nearly knocked out of the game after only three pitches, when he collided with Diamondbacks leadoff man Rey Fuentes as he covered first and rolled his ankle. But the 33-year-old righty from the Dominican Republic stayed in.

ASTROS 6, RANGERS 5

Carlos Beltran had three hits and drove in three runs as the Houston Astros extended their major league-best winning streak to nine in a row. Jose Altuve also had three hits for Houston, including a key solo homer to lead off the ninth. At 40-16, the Astros have the best record in the majors and their best start in franchise history. They are 14 games ahead in the AL West over two-time defending division champion Texas, which is 3-10 since a 10-game winning streak that is still the longest in the majors this season.

RED SOX 5, ORIOLES 2

David Price took a three-hitter into the eighth inning to earn his first win of the season while Hanley Ramirez homered and drove in three runs for the Boston Red Sox. Price (1-

0) allowed one run over seven-plus innings in his second start since coming off the disabled list with a strained left elbow. After belatedly launching his 2017 season with an uneven outing against the White Sox on Monday, Price looked every bit like a five-time All-Star against Baltimore. The left-hander gave up three hits, struck out seven and did not allow a runner past first base until Manny Machado led off the seventh with a home run. Craig Kimbrel gave up a ninth-inning run, but picked up his 16th save.

YANKEES 7, BLUE JAYS 0

Brett Gardner, Matt Holliday, Starlin Castro and Didi Gregorius all hit solo home runs in the eighth inning, leading Jordan Montgomery and the New York Yankees over the Blue Jays. The Yankees tied the franchise record with four homers in an inning. Gardner led it off with a home run and then with two outs, Holliday, Castro and Gregorius connected in succession. Jason Grilli became the first reliever in Blue Jays history to allow four homers in a single inning. This was the fourth time the Yankees have hit four homers in an inning - they last did it Oct. 1, 2012, against Boston. They first did it in 1977 at Toronto, with Cliff Johnson connecting twice and Lou Piniella and Thurman Munson once each. Montgomery (3-4) gave up three singles in six innings for his first win since May 6 against the Cubs. Joe Biagini (1-4) allowed three runs in a career-high seven innings.

CUBS 5, CARDINALS 3

Kyle Schwarber hit his first career grand slam in the bottom of the seventh inning to rally the Cubs to victory over the St. Louis Cardinals. Schwarber, who entered batting

.163 and was dropped to the ninth spot in the lineup, hit the first pitch of the at-bat from St. Louis starter Mike Leake (5-4) deep into the bleachers in left-center. Javier Baez also homered for Chicago, which has won two straight following a six-game losing streak. Hector Rondon (1-1) pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the win. Wade Davis got the final three outs for his 12th save. Yadier Molina homered and Jose Martinez had two RBIs for the Cardinals.

BRAVES 6, REDS 5, 12 INNINGS

Matt Adams hit his first career grand slam and connected again for a solo shot in the 12th inning to power the Atlanta Braves to a victory over the Cincinnati Reds. Adams' one-out homer off Blake Wood (0-4) saved the Braves after they blew a lead for the second day in a row. It was Adams' fourth career multi-homer game, his first since 2014. Jim Johnson (3-1) escaped a threat in the 11th and finished it off for the win, a day after he blew a lead in the ninth. The Reds rallied for a 3-2 lead in 10 innings on Friday night. The Braves won for only the second time in seven extra-inning games this season.

ATHLETICS 10, NATIONALS 4

Ryon Healy had two doubles and two homers while Jed Lowrie doubled twice and homered as the Athletics beat the Washington Nationals. A day after being outscored by 10 runs, the A's got off to a fast start as Healy and Lowrie each hit two-run homers in the bottom of the first inning off starter Joe Ross (2-2). Healy also hit a long solo shot in a three-run seventh inning in which the A's broke open a 7-4 game. It was Healy's first career multi-home run game and the four extra-base hits tied a franchise record accomplished by 16 others since 1913. Yonder Alonso hit a two-run homer - his 16th - earlier in the seventh. Adam Lind homered for the Nationals. Liam Hendriks (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings in relief to pick up the win.

ROYALS 12, INDIANS 5

Lorenzo Cain capped a six-run fifth inning with a two-run homer and Jason Hammel settled down after a shaky start as the Royals routed the Cleveland Indians. Whit Merrifield and Mike Moustakas had two-run doubles off Carlos Carrasco (5-3) during the Royals' big inning, helping them overcome a 3-0 hole and ensure a series win over their division rival. Hammel (2-6) gave up homers to Carlos Santana and Bradley Zimmer in the third, but he retired 15 of his next 17 batters before giving way to Mike Minor with two outs in the seventh. Hammel struck out seven without a walk for his first win since beating Cleveland on May 5.

PHILLIES 5, GIANTS 3

Ben Lively pitched seven strong innings in his major league debut while Odubel Herrera

drove in three runs in Philadelphia's four-run seventh as the Phillies held on against the San Francisco Giants. Tommy Joseph homered for the Phillies, who snapped a five-game losing streak while winning for just the seventh time in their last 33 games. Philadelphia avoided losing its 11th straight series, which hasn't happened since the 1941 club did it. Lively (1-0) became the first Phillies starter to earn a victory since Jeremy Hellickson on April 27 by allowing one run and four hits with three walks and no strikeouts.

METS 4, PIRATES 2

Neil Walker hit a two-run homer against his former team and the New York Mets also got long balls from Jay Bruce and Wilmer Flores in beating the Pittsburgh Pirates. Robert Gsellman (4-3) won his second consecutive start - likely his last before a move to the bullpen. The rookie right-hander tossed 5 1/3 effective innings before Fernando Salas escaped a first-and-third jam, and New York's shaky relief corps nailed one down for a change. Pittsburgh rookie Josh Bell homered for the second straight game and Jordy Mercer doubled twice among his three hits. But the Pirates stranded 12 runners, and rookie starter Tyler Glasnow (2-5) lost to the Mets for the second time in seven days.

TIGERS 10, WHITE SOX 1

Jordan Zimmermann tossed six solid innings as the Tigers used four home runs to power past the Chicago White Sox. Nicholas Castellanos and Alex Presley hit back-to-back homers in the second inning and Alex Avila and Justin Upton also homered for the Tigers, who have outscored Chicago 25-6 in the first two games of the weekend series. Zimmermann (5-4) won for the second time in six starts, allowing one run and seven hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Detroit has won four of five.

Miguel Gonzalez (4-6) lost his fifth straight road start, giving up six runs and 10 hits in six innings, including three of Detroit's homers. Tigers manager Brad Ausmus was ejected in the bottom of the first inning after he wasn't allowed to challenge a play at first base.

ROCKIES 10, PADRES 1

Nolan Arenado hit his 14th homer and Ian Desmond added a grand slam as the Colorado Rockies stopped the Padres' season-high, five-game winning streak. Tyler Chatwood (5-7) rebounded from his worst start of the season, allowing four hits over eight innings with eight strikeouts and one walk. Chatwood also had a pair of hits as the Rockies won for just the second time in six games. Jordan Lyles pitched a perfect ninth. In his previous outing, Chatwood gave up six runs over 4 1/3 innings in a loss to Seattle. Former Rockies righty Jhoulys Chacin (4-5) allowed four runs - three earned - and six hits in five innings, losing for the first time this year in five starts at home.

DODGERS 10, BREWERS 8

Chris Taylor hit a go-ahead grand slam off Carlos Torres in a five-run ninth inning as the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied late for the second straight day to beat the Brewers. Los Angeles led 4-3 in the seventh when Chris Hatcher walked the bases loaded and Josh Fields relieved. Travis Shaw drove Fields' third pitch over the fence in left-center, and Hernan Perez homered two pitches later for an 8-4 lead. The Dodgers loaded the bases with one out in the ninth against Torres (2-4). Corey Seager walked, and Yasmani Grandal hit a grounder to first baseman Jesus Aguilar, who threw to second trying for a forceout and hit Seager on the back for an error. Pinch-hitter Austin Barnes walked, Cody Bellinger walked to force in a run and Taylor homered off the batters' eye behind the center-field fence. —AP

MLB results/standings

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

American League				National League					
Eastern Division				Eastern Division					
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
NY Yankees	32	21	.604	-	Washington	34	20	.630	-
Boston	30	25	.545	3	NY Mets	24	30	.444	10
Baltimore	29	25	.537	3.5	Atlanta	23	30	.434	10.5
Tampa Bay	29	29	.500	5.5	Miami	23	31	.426	11
Toronto	27	29	.482	6.5	Philadelphia	18	35	.340	15.5
Central Division				Central Division					
Minnesota	28	24	.538	-	Milwaukee	29	27	.518	-
Cleveland	28	26	.519	1	Chicago Cubs	27	27	.500	1
Detroit	27	28	.491	2.5	St. Louis	26	27	.491	1.5
Kansas City	24	30	.444	5	Cincinnati	25	29	.463	3
Chicago White Sox	24	30	.444	5	Pittsburgh	25	31	.446	4
Western Division				Western Division					
Houston	40	16	.714	-	LA Dodgers	35	22	.614	-
LA Angels	29	30	.492	12.5	Colorado	35	23	.603	0.5
Seattle	27	30	.474	13.5	Arizona	34	24	.586	1.5
Texas	26	30	.464	14	San Francisco	23	34	.404	12
Oakland	24	31	.436	15.5	San Diego	23	34	.404	12



SEATTLE: Catcher Derek Norris #33 tags out Mike Zunino #3 of the Seattle Mariners after Zunino on a single by Ben Gamel #16 of the Seattle Mariners during the second inning of a game at Safeco Field on Saturday in Seattle, Washington. — AFP

ENGLAND CALL UP FINN AS WOAKES REPLACEMENT

LONDON: Steven Finn will replace injured fellow paceman Chris Woakes in England's Champions Trophy squad, the International Cricket Council confirmed yesterday. Woakes was ruled out of the rest of the 50-over tournament, which features the world's top eight one-day international

teams, with a side strain suffered while bowling just two overs at the start of England's opening Group A win over Bangladesh at the Oval on Thursday.

The experienced Finn, 28, will join the England squad ahead of their second match of the tournament, against New

Zealand in Cardiff on Tuesday. "The ICC has confirmed that the event technical committee of the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 has approved Steven Finn as a replacement player for Chris Woakes in the England squad for the tournament," said a brief statement from cricket's glob-

al governing body.

Finn, a veteran of 69 ODIs, last played for England as recently as Monday when, on his Lord's home ground, he featured in the final match of a one-day series against South Africa while Woakes was being rested with a thigh problem that

healed in time for the Champions Trophy.

Middlesex fast bowler Finn was left out of England's original squad for the tournament but could go straight into the XI to play New Zealand, if as happened at the Oval, they pick just the one specialist spinner. —AFP

WEST INDIES ROUT AFGHANS IN T20

BASSETTERRE: Another abject batting display by Afghanistan paved the way for the West Indies to complete a series-clinching 29-run win on the Duckworth Lewis System (DLS) in the rain-affected second fixture of the three-match T20 International series at Warner Park in St Kitts on Saturday.

Set a revised target of 123 after the hosts were limited to 112 for three in a match reduced to 15 overs per side, the Afghans were routed for just 93 off 13.3 overs with fast bowler Keshav Williams leading the demolition with figures of three for 11 to take the "Man of the Match" award.

A day after being restricted to 110 all out off 20 overs on the way to a six-wicket defeat, this effort did little to enhance the visitors' claims to be elevated to the ranks of the Test-playing nations.

They now face the prospect of being whitewashed in the T20 series going into the final match at the same venue on Monday and look set to suffer the same fate in the three One-Day Internationals which follow in St Lucia.

Karim Janat topscored with 20 as the wickets tumbled around him. As in the first match, much of Afghanistan's misery was self-inflicted through a series of poor shots compounded by a lack of understanding in the middle which saw two run outs contributing to the ignominious slide to defeat. At one stage they had crashed to 55 for eight before Janat and the last two in the batting line-up delayed the inevitable, the match concluding when West Indies captain Carlos Brathwaite took the catch that ended Janat's resistance and give Williams his best figures in T20 Internationals.

"I just give it everything on this pitch," said Williams after the match. "I just knew if I bowled with pace in the right areas success would come my way."

Brathwaite chipped in with two wickets and was especially pleased to complete a second consecutive win in challenging circumstances after the West Indies innings

was interrupted after 11 overs by heavy, sustained showers which held up play for almost two hours.

"It's difficult to be switching on and off when there are interruptions like that and I'm glad that we were able to stay focused through it all," he explained. "Now we have to keep in mind that the job isn't finished as yet because we want to get another win on Monday."

West Indies were 79 for two off 11 overs when the rains came with an intensity that raised fears of an abandonment. However they eventually relented and the hosts managed to get another 33 runs off the remaining four overs on the resumption.

After Brathwaite chose to bat first on winning the toss, openers Chadwick Walton and Evin Lewis sought to give their team a flying start with a succession of boundaries. Both got into the twenties before falling though.

Walton was caught at long-on off spinner Mohammad Nabi while Lewis pulled a short ball from medium-pace Janat to be taken at deep midwicket.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Marlon Samuels and Lendl Simmons were just getting into stride when the heavy showers swept across the ground and on the restart, Samuels departed to the bowling of Gulbadin Naib in the desperate rush for runs.

West Indies retained an unchanged 11 from the first match while Afghanistan made two changes to no avail. Noor Ali Zadran replaced Usman Ghani at the top of the batting order while Dawlat Zadran came into the final eleven at the expense of fellow seamer Shapoor Zadran.

"It is important for our development to have more matches against teams of this calibre," said visiting captain Asghar Stanikzai. "It's the only way we can improve and we hope to show a much improved performance in the final match of this series." — AFP

SCOREBOARD

BASSETTERRE, Saint Kitts and Nevis: Scoreboard of the rain-affected second fixture of a three-match T20 International series between West Indies and Afghanistan at Warner Park in St Kitts on Saturday. The match was reduced to 15 overs per side.

West Indies Innings		Afghanistan Innings	
C. Walton c Noor Ali Zadran b Nabi	29	G. Naib b Badree	12
E. Lewis c Naib b Janat	25	Noor Ali Zadran c Taylor b Williams	6
M. Samuels c Najibullah Zadrab b Naib22	2	A. Stanikzai c Simmons b Brathwaite	9
L. Simmons not out	17	S. Shenwari c wkpr Walton b Williams	0
C. Brathwaite not out	8		
Extras (b-2, lb-2, w-7)	11		
Total (3 wkts, 15 overs)	112		
Fall of wickets: 1-42 (Walton), 2-74 (Lewis), 3-97 (Samuels)			
Did not bat: J. Mohammed, R. Powell, S. Narine, J. Taylor, S. Badree, K. Williams			
Bowling: D. Zadran 3-0-33-0 (2w), K. Janat 3-0-19-1 (1w), A. Hamza 2-0-11-0, M. Nabi 2-0-21-1, R. Khan 3-0-14-0, G. Naib 2-0-10-1.			



BASSETTERRE: Mohammad Nabi (R) of Afghanistan is run out by Chadwick Walton (L) of West Indies during the 2nd T20i match between West Indies and Afghanistan at Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts, Saturday. — AFP



LONDON: South Africa's Imran Tahir (C) celebrates with teammates taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Asela Gunaratne for four runs during the ICC Champions Trophy match between South Africa and Sri Lanka at The Oval in London on Saturday. — AFP

CRICKET

TAHIR SPINS SOUTH AFRICA TO BIG WIN OVER SRI LANKA

LONDON: Leg-spinner Imran Tahir took four wickets as South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 96 runs to begin their Champions Trophy campaign in style in London on Saturday.

Defeat came with an added sting for Sri Lanka who were later found guilty of a slow over-rate offence by the ICC with their captain Upu Tharanga banned for their next two matches, and players fined.

Tahir finished with four for 27 in 8.3 overs after former captain Hashim Amla scored his 25th ODI century to set Sri Lanka a target of 300 runs. Sri Lanka were cruising along at 116 for two when Tahir was introduced to the attack in the 18th over and South Africa immediately got a firm grip on the game. Dinesh Chandimal took on one of South Africa's best fielders-A.B. de Villiers on a misfield and was run out by a direct hit. Three deliveries later, Chamara Kapugedera was foxed by a Tahir googly and was out leg before wicket without scoring.

Tharanga-captain for the day after Angelo Mathews failed a late fitness test on a calf muscle injury-too fell for the googly when he hit one straight to the deep cover fielder. He top scored with 57 runs. Sri Lanka never recovered after that and were shot out for 203 runs with still 8.3 overs remaining.

The ICC then took decisive action over the slow over-rate after the Sri Lankans took four hours and seven minutes to finish their overs during the South African innings.

ICC rules stipulate that teams should finish their 50 overs within three-and-a-half hours. Opener Niroshan Dickwella had given them a blistering start smashing 41 off 33 balls.

The openers added 69 runs in 50 deliveries and they were 87 for one at the end of ten overs

SCOREBOARD

LONDON: Completed scoreboard in the Champions Trophy Group B match between South Africa and Sri Lanka at The Oval on Saturday.

South Africa		Sri Lanka	
Hashim Amla run out (Mendis)	103	U. Tharanga c Miller b Tahir	57
Q. De Kock c Dickwella b Pradeep	23	K. Mendis c De Villiers b Morris	11
F. Du Plessis c Chandimal b Pradeep	75	D. Chandimal run out (De Villiers)	12
A.B. de Villiers c Kapugedera b Prasanna	4	C. Kapugedera lbw b Tahir	0
D. Miller c Prasanna b Lakmal	18	K. Perera not out	44
J.P. Duminy not out	38	A. Gunaratne c Parnell b Tahir	4
C. Morris run out (Tharanga)	20	S. Prasanna lbw b Morris	13
W. Parnell not out	7	S. Lakmal run out (Tahir)	0
Extras: (1lb, 10w)	11	L. Malinga b Rabada	1
Total: (for six wickets in 50 overs)	299	N. Pradeep c Duminy b Tahir	5
Did not bat: K. Rabada, M. Morkel, Imran Tahir.		Extras: (lb 6, w 8, nb 1)	15
Fall of wickets: 1-44 (De Kock), 2-189 (Du Plessis), 3-194 (De Villiers), 4-226 (Miller), 5-232 (Amla), 6-277 (Morris)		Total: (all out, 41.3 overs)	203
Bowling: Malinga 10-0-57-0 (5w), Lakmal 10-0-51-1 (2w), Pradeep 10-0-54-2 (1w), Gunaratne 10-0-64-0 (1w), Prasanna 10-0-72-1 (1w).		Fall of wickets: 1-69 (Dickwella), 2-94 (Mendis), 3-116 (Chandimal), 4-117 (Kapugedera), 5-146 (Tharanga), 6-155 (Gunaratne), 7-191 (Prasanna), 8-191 (Prasanna), Bowling: Rabada 8-1-46-1 (3 w) (1 nb), Parnell 10-0-54-0 (1 w), Morkel 6-0-31-0 (2 w), Morris 7-0-32-2 (1 w), Tahir 8.3-0-27-4, Duminy 2-0-7-0 (1 w).	
Sri Lanka		Result: South Africa won by 96 runs	
N. Dickwella c Parnell b Morkel	41	Man-of-the-Match: Imran Tahir (RSA)	

whereas South Africa were 32 for none at the same stage. The middle order failed to capitalize after a good start and they have to win their remaining two games against India and Pakistan to have any hopes of a semi-final berth.

Sri Lanka were excellent against South Africa's seamers, but the introduction of Tahir derailed their innings.

After being put into bat in overcast conditions, Amla consolidated for South Africa with his 25th ODI hundred and the fifth against Sri Lanka. He added 145 runs with Francois du Plessis, who contributed with 75 runs off 70

deliveries with six fours.

Amla was run out by a direct hit from Tharanga for a fine 103 that came off 115 deliveries with five fours and two sixes.

"It was an amazing innings by Hashim. He did really well to assess the conditions, and communicated well with us what kind of score is going to be good," South Africa captain A.B. de Villiers said. J.P. Duminy gave some impetus to the South African innings smashing 38 off 20 deliveries with five fours and a six. Duminy added 45 runs for the sixth wicket with Chris Morris (20). — AFP

SMITH URGES AUSTRALIA TO STEP ON THE GAS

LONDON: Steve Smith admits Australia have no margin for error as they look to kick start their Champions Trophy campaign against Bangladesh yesterday. Australia's bid to open the Champions Trophy group stage with a win were thwarted by heavy rain against New Zealand on Friday. Smith's side needed a revised target of 235 to win in 33 overs after Kane Williamson hit a century in New Zealand's 291 all out.

Australia were 53 for three off nine when the players left the field for the final time due to the bad weather in Birmingham. The teams took a point apiece, a result that most benefits Group A rivals England. England launched the tournament, which features the world's top eight one-day teams, with an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh at The Oval on Thursday.

Smith acknowledged his team now have to win their remaining group matches if they are to advance to the semi-finals.

"It's obviously not ideal for both sides to have a washout. So for us now it's just about making sure that we're playing each game like a final and winning the next two," Smith said.

"It's a pretty quick tournament. So you can't really afford a washout or a loss.

"You've got to turn it around quickly now and control what you can control." While Australia will be expected to take maximum points against Bangladesh at The Oval, history suggests Smith's side shouldn't underestimate their unheralded opponents. Australia were the victims of one of the all-time great upsets when Bangladesh beat them by five wickets in a one-day international in Cardiff in 2005.

For Australia to avoid another epic embar-

rassment, Smith needs far more accurate and penetrating spells from his bowlers.

Josh Hazlewood took six wickets against New Zealand, but fellow quicks Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins were much less impressive, managing just one wicket between them.

'KING' OF THE ROAD LEBRON NEEDS WIN AT GOLDEN STATE

OAKLAND: LeBron James has won a road game in an NBA record 29 consecutive playoff series and the Cleveland superstar must stretch that streak for the Cavaliers to defend their title. Golden State owns a home-court edge in the NBA Finals and opened the best-of-seven championship series with a 113-91 home triumph, although James will have another chance to win at Oakland in game two Sunday.

If "King" James and the Cavaliers don't take advantage at Oracle Arena, the Warriors will stretch their NBA playoff win streak record to 14 games and could become the first champions to run undefeated through the playoffs by winning Wednesday and Friday in Cleveland.

The 32-year-old playmaker has won a road game in 35 of 38 playoff series over his 12 NBA playoff campaigns, last failing to do so with Cleveland against Orlando in the 2009 Eastern Conference finals.

"He's a great player," Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue said. "Anytime you want to win a champi-

onship, you have to win on the road. And we understand that. With Golden State having home court the last three years, we know it's going to be tough. "You have to win on the road to be great."

James, who last month overtook Michael Jordan to become the NBA's all-time playoff scoring leader, was coached by current Warriors acting coach Mike Brown with the Cavaliers, who appreciates the streak and the longevity James has shown in reaching eight career NBA Finals, the last seven in a row.

"It just speaks volumes to who he is as a player. He's one of the greatest all time," Brown said. "When you have his ability, when you have his intelligence and feel and all that other stuff, you're able to lead your team in difficult situations and tough environments. And he's done that for many years. So you take your hat off to him." James is 3-4 in NBA Finals appearances but his teams, the Cavaliers and Miami from 2011 to 2014, are 1-7 in NBA Finals openers. — AFP

GOLF

MICKELSON TO MISS US OPEN FOR DAUGHTER'S GRADUATION

DUBLIN: Phil Mickelson says he will miss the US Open for the first time in 24 years to attend his oldest daughter's high school graduation in California.

Mickelson hasn't officially withdrawn from the US Open, which starts June 15 at Erin Hills in Wisconsin. But that's the same day as Amanda Mickelson's graduation from Pacific Ridge School, and he doesn't see any way he'll make a tee time. The US Open is the only major Mickelson has not won. He has not missed it since his first full year as a pro in 1993.

This is the same daughter who nearly caused Mickelson to miss the 1999 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2, where he carried a beeper with him and pledged to leave in the middle of the tournament

even if he were leading. Mickelson lost on a 15-foot par putt at the last hole to Payne Stewart. Amanda was born the next day.

And now she's graduating high school. "It's a tournament that I want to win the most," Mickelson said after his third round at the Memorial. "The only way to win is if you play and have a chance. But this is one of those moments where you look back on life and you just don't want to miss it. I'll be really glad that I was there and present."

He said Amanda is the school president and the valedictorian. She is going to Brown in the fall. The New York Times first reported that Mickelson did not plan on playing. The commencement is 10 a.m. PDT, and Mickelson has known

for months there could be a conflict. And there appears to be no way out. One reason not to withdraw immediately is the slim chance of a weather delay for the opening round, though that's a long shot.

Corey Pavin in 2005 left the US Open after his Thursday morning round, flew to California for his son's graduation that night and flew overnight back to Pinehurst No. 2 for his Friday afternoon round. "If there was even a two- or three-hour delay, I could very well make it," Mickelson said. "I'm always holding out hope. Again, as you look back on life, there are certain things you need to be there for."

That included Amanda's eighth-grade graduation in 2013. Mickelson,

who had done his course preparation at Merion in advance that year, was in California for the graduation on Wednesday, flew overnight and arrived in Philadelphia about 4 a.m. for his Thursday morning tee time, and nearly won the US Open.

He turns 47 this month and believes he'll have more chances. "I'll be able to play the next two years solidly before Sofia gets to graduate," Mickelson said of his second-oldest daughter. "Hopefully, that one won't conflict."

Mickelson shared his plans Saturday to give the USGA ample time to prepare when it announces the tee times later next week, and to let the first alternate know he'll most likely have a spot in the U.S. Open.

Mickelson said Amanda has always been supportive of his quest to win the U.S. Open, but "it's one of those things that you just show up. You just need to be there. It wasn't really something that we discussed because it really wasn't much of a decision."

The decision explains why Mickelson played Colonial last week for the first time since 2010, which would have meant four straight tournaments through the US Open. He also said last week he had no plans to go to Erin Hills, a course he had never seen, ahead of the US Open to prepare.

Now, he'll mostly likely be watching on television. "I'll actually really enjoy watching them get punished out there," Mickelson said. — AP

BALE ENDS SEASON ON GOOD NOTE, CELEBRATES TITLE AT HOME

CARDIFF: Gareth Bale's season ended on a good note. Bale didn't get to start in Saturday's Champions League final, but went on as a late substitute and got to celebrate the title in his hometown as Real Madrid beat Juventus 4-1 in Cardiff.

"To win at home is a dream come true," he said. "It's been a hard season and I've worked hard. At one point it didn't seem like I was going to make it to the final but I've worked tirelessly at home and this is the reward you get for all the hard work you've put in."

Bale struggled all season after enduring a series of injuries. The most significant injury was an ankle problem that forced him to undergo surgery in November. He was sidelined for nearly three months after that and struggled to regain his form.

Bale said ahead of the final that he was fully fit, but Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane opted to start with Francisco "Isco" Alarcon in his place.

But the hometown favorite finally entered the game in the 77th minute at the

Millennium Stadium, getting a standing ovation from the crowd.

Bale said he wasn't upset about not being in the starting lineup at kick off. "It's been a difficult season, so I understood the circumstances," he said. "I was happy I got on to play."

Madrid was already in control when Bale went on, but he nearly scored after a ball was crossed toward him inside the area.

Madrid won its 12th Champions League title, and third in four years, with two goals by Cristiano Ronaldo, one by Casemiro and another by Marco Asensio. Juventus, which lost the 2015 final to Real Madrid's archrival Barcelona, scored with Mario Mandzukic.

"We've made more history," Bale said. "I'm a very happy man to win the 12th and we'll enjoy this moment now." Bale scored one of Madrid's goals in the 2014 final, when it defeated Atletico Madrid 4-1 in extra time. He scored only nine goals for Madrid this season, with his last goal coming in a Spanish league game against Villarreal in February. — AP



CARDIFF: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after Real Madrid won the UEFA Champions League final football match between Juventus and Real Madrid at The Principality Stadium in Cardiff, south Wales, on Saturday. — AFP

SOCCER

RONALDO SILENCES MADRID CRITICS WITH THIRD CL TITLE IN 4 YEARS

CARDIFF: After another potent demonstration of Cristiano Ronaldo's enduring scoring prowess, surely no Real Madrid fan can contemplate criticizing him now.

Particularly after the world player of the year ensured Madrid pulled off one of soccer's hardest feats, becoming the first team to successfully defend their Champions League title. The fans who irritated Ronaldo so much ahead of Saturday's final due to their whistling were silenced in emphatic style with two goals in a 4-1 victory over Juventus that gave Madrid a record-extending 12th European crown.

"People don't have words to criticize," Ronaldo said, "because the numbers don't lie." They certainly don't after another incredible season, even at the age of 32. "My age is just a number," Ronaldo said. "I feel like a young boy."

At the end of the 25th season of the Champions League, Ronaldo is the first player to score in three of the competition's finals. And having lifted the European Cup once with Manchester United, Ronaldo has done it three times in four seasons with Madrid.

It's the latest piece of silverware in an incredible 12 months for the forward. It began with Ronaldo winning his first title with Portugal at the European Championship. Then came the Club World Cup with Real Madrid and the end of a five-year Spanish title drought before new highs were reached in the Champions League.

SUPREMACY

His career goal tally in club and international soccer now stands at 600. Ronaldo's first strike at Millennium Stadium was canceled out by Mario Mandzukic's exquisite 27th-minute hook shot. It was the only high point for Juventus on a night when the Italian champion was outclassed in its quest for a first European title in 21 years.

Madrid's supremacy was clear in the second half. After Casemiro put the Spanish champions back in front in the 61st, Ronaldo turned in the third at the near post inside three minutes, and Marco Asensio wrapped up the scoring in the 90th. Juventus conceded more goals on the night than it had on the journey to the final, having let in only three in the previous 12 games. "In the second half Real Madrid pushed the accelerator," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said, "and we remained too static and sat back too long." Madrid's attacking brilliance proved too hard for Juventus to contain, giving Zinedine Zidane his second Champions League title in 18 months of top-flight management.

"Zidane believes in us a lot," Ronaldo said. "He knows that we are a very good team and that is why we proved it in the second half."

Until now, no team since AC Milan in 1989 and 1990, when the cup was only a knockout competition, had won back-to-back titles.

Madrid had a lot to thank Keylor Navas for in the opening minutes. The goalkeeper blocked a header and strike from Gonzalo Higuain, and produced a one-handed save when Miralem Pjanic picked a gap through a crowd of defenders. One of the first things Navas' counterpart, Gianluigi Buffon, had to do was pick the ball out of his net. It was the culmination of a counterattack of breathtaking speed launched by Luka

Modric and Toni Kroos. Karim Benzema picked up possession and passed to Ronaldo. The world player of the year knocked the ball across to Dani Carvajal on the right flank before drifting into the penalty area to receive it back and beat Buffon.

INDIVIDUAL BRILLIANCE

But within seven minutes, Ronaldo was shaking

his head and scowling after seeing an equalizer of individual brilliance. Leonardo Bonucci's deep ball was brought down by Alex Sandro, who cut it back to Higuain in the penalty area. With his back to goal, Mandzukic received the chipped pass from Higuain and used his chest to control the ball before hooking it over his shoulder into the far top corner. — AP

BUFFON HAILS MADRID CLASS AFTER FINAL HEARTBREAK

CARDIFF: Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon magnanimously conceded Real Madrid's superior ability had made the difference after his side crashed to a 4-1 defeat in Saturday's Champions League final in Cardiff.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Madrid overwhelmed Juventus at the Principality Stadium to become the first team to retain the European Cup since AC Milan in 1990.

Italy great Buffon, 39, has now lost in three Champions League finals, after previous disappointments in 2003 and 2015, while Juve have lost in their last five European Cup finals, taking their tally of runner-up finishes to seven.

"We are disappointed," goalkeeper Buffon said in comments published on the website of European governing body UEFA. "We played very well in the first half. We thought we had enough to win the game. I cannot explain why we played like we did in the second half."

"Real Madrid deserved to win in the second half. They showed their class and the attitude needed to play in this kind of game."

Ronaldo's 20th-minute opener was cancelled out by a stupendous Mario Mandzukic goal, the Croatian chesting down Gonzalo Higuain's volleyed lay-off and arcing a sublime volley over Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas.

But Casemiro restored Madrid's lead just beyond the hour and further strikes from Ronaldo and substitute Marco Asensio sealed victory for Zinedine Zidane's side, European champions in three of the last four seasons.

TURIN THOUGHTS

"In the first half we played beautifully. In the second half we were too static," beaten manager Massimiliano Allegri told his post-match press conference.

"We managed to defend for 15 minutes. As you know, football can be a nightmare. (Miralem) Pjanic's shot was deflected wide, Casemiro's shot was deflected into the goal."

"We knew we were playing a really strong team. In the run-up to the final, it sounded like Juventus were favourites and were playing a team who'd reached the final by chance."

"The truth is that Real Madrid have many important players. If somebody wins the Ballon d'Or and scores so many goals, obviously it's a big advantage. The only criticism I could make is that after conceding the second goal, we should have stayed in the game."

Juve had been bidding to complete a Treble of Serie A, Coppa Italia and Champions

League successes and Allegri said they could still reflect on their season with pride.

"Let me congratulate my boys for what they've done this season," said Allegri, whose side were beaten 3-1 by Barcelona in the 2015 final in Berlin. "It's been an extraordinary season. We won Serie A and the Coppa Italia and reached the Champions League final. I have to thank them. It's important to reach finals. Unluckily, we didn't win it."

Allegri also spared a thought for the around 200 people who were injured when a bomb scare triggered panic among Juve fans watching the game on a big screen in the centre of Turin.

"We feel for what happened to the fans in Turin," he said. "We hope not too many people were injured and we hope they get better soon." — AFP



CARDIFF: Juventus' goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon leaves the pitch after the UEFA Champions League final football match between Juventus and Real Madrid at The Principality Stadium in Cardiff, south Wales, on Saturday. — AFP

ZINEDINE ZIDANE BACK AMONG THE IMMORTALS

CARDIFF: Feted as one of the finest talents of his generation, Zinedine Zidane has made the transition to management so smoothly that he has already eclipsed some of the game's most hallowed names just 17 months into his spell as Real Madrid boss. When Zidane's majestic strike flashed into the net to give Madrid victory in the 2002 Champions League final against Bayer Leverkusen, the French star must have believed he would never surpass that golden moment in Europe's top-tier tournament. Yet at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on Saturday, he joined the managerial immortals as Madrid's 4-1 rout of Juventus made him the first coach to win successive European Cups since the great Arrigo Sacchi of AC Milan in 1989 and 1990.

Not even Alex Ferguson, Jose Mourinho or Pep Guardiola has achieved that epic feat. "All the coaches you mentioned, they're great coaches. I don't want to say I'm very good because before I was scandalously bad and now I'm supposed to be the best," Zidane said modestly.

"I have the chance to be with this great squad. In the long run, everyone's been very important. For me that's the success." Madrid's impressive win rightly sparked praise for Cristiano Ronaldo's predatory brace. But it was Zidane who provided the inspiration for Madrid's first La Liga and Champions League double since 1958.

After taking the lead through Ronaldo, Madrid were rocked back on their heels by Mario Mandzukic's stunning overhead kick equaliser before the interval.

However, Zidane turned the tide in the space of a few words when he faced his uncertain players in the dressing room.

Imploring his stars to believe in themselves as much as he did in them, Zidane struck the right tone and eased their fears that the trophy may slip from their grasp.

Ronaldo admitted it was in those moments that the match was won. "Zidane gave us a very positive half-time team talk and told us he really believed in us," he said.

RELUCTANT HERO

With Zidane's words ringing in their ears,



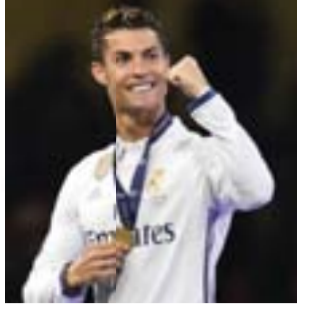
CARDIFF: Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane gestures on the touchline during the UEFA Champions League final football match between Juventus and Real Madrid at The Principality Stadium in Cardiff, south Wales, on Saturday. — AFP

Sports

Volquez throws no hitter as Marlins beat Diamondbacks



Ronaldo silences Madrid critics with third CL title in four years



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CRUSADERS BACK FROM THE BRINK TO STAY UNBEATEN

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PARIS: Spain's Rafael Nadal serves the ball to Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut during their tennis match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open yesterday in Paris. — AFP

NADAL INTO QUARTERS, WOZNIACKI TOPS EX-CHAMP

PARIS: Nine-time champion Rafael Nadal surged into the French Open quarter-finals for a record-equalling 11th time yesterday, while Caroline Wozniacki reached the last eight after ousting 2009 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Nadal continued his ruthless form at Roland Garros by dispatching Spanish 17th seed Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to match Roger Federer's mark of last-eight appearances in Paris.

The 14-time major winner is yet to drop a set, conceding just six games in the last two rounds as he strives to become the first man to win 10 titles at a single Grand Slam.

"I'm happy because Roberto is a very good player. It's very important for me to be in the quarter-finals one more time," said Nadal, who turned 31 on Saturday. Defending champion Novak Djokovic will also become an 11-time quarter-finalist in Paris if he defeats Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas later Sunday.

Japan's Kei Nishikori fought off a fierce five-set challenge from rising South Korean talent Hyeon Chung to clinch a place in the last 16. Eighth seed Nishikori led two sets to one but trailed by a double break at 3-0 down in the fourth set when rain halted play on Saturday. Chung forced the contest into a deciding set as play resumed on Sunday, but the world number 67 double faulted on match point to gift Nishikori a 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 0-6, 6-4 victory.

"I think the rain helps me a lot, because I was really down in the fourth set and mentally I wasn't ready," admitted Nishikori. "I knew I had to change something to beat him today, so I think I made some adjustments to make little better than yesterday."

It was the first third-round meeting between two Asian play-

ers at Roland Garros, with 2014 US Open finalist Nishikori going on to play Fernando Verdasco for a place in the quarter-finals.

Karen Khachanov will play Andy Murray in the fourth round after the giant Russian beat American 21st seed John Isner 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/3).

Wozniacki became the first woman through to the quarter-finals as the Danish 11th seed dumped out Kuznetsova 6-1, 4-6, 6-2. Wozniacki, who made her only other last-eight appearance at Roland Garros in 2010, will meet either Australia's Samantha Stosur or Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia for a semi-final place.

"Svetlana's a great player, especially on clay so I knew it wouldn't be easy," said Wozniacki, a two-time US Open runner-up.

Second seed Karolina Pliskova advanced to round four with a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Germany's Carina Witthoef.

Pliskova, who had won just twice in five previous French Open appearances before this year, will face Paraguay's Veronica Cepede Royg for a quarter-final spot.

World number 290 and qualifier Petra Martic reached the last 16 with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Latvian 17th seed Anastasija Sevastova. Croatia's Martic, a former top 50 player whose ranking slumped after a back injury sidelined her for 10 months, will face Ukraine's Elina Svitolina. "When I got injured, my only hope was that I would get a second chance so I can play some of my best tennis again," said Martic.

"I still can't believe that I'm sitting here." Fifth seed Svitolina downed Magda Linette of Poland 6-4, 7-5. — AFP



PARIS: Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki celebrates after winning against Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova during their tennis match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open yesterday in Paris. — AFP



NASHVILLE: Jake Guentzel #59 of the Pittsburgh Penguins battles for the puck with Pekka Rinne #35 of the Nashville Predators during the second period in Game Three of the 2017 NHL Stanley Cup Final at the Bridgestone Arena on Saturday in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

PESKY PREDATORS TRIM PENGUINS SERIES LEAD IN STANLEY CUP

NEW YORK: Roman Josi finished with three points and embattled netminder Pekke Rinne stopped 27 shots as the Nashville Predators routed Pittsburgh 5-1 Saturday to cut the Penguins lead to 2-1 in the Stanley Cup finals.

The 27-year-old Swiss Josi helped stake the Predators to a 3-1 lead at the end of the second period after Pittsburgh had opened the scoring in the first period at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.

These Stanley Cup playoffs are allowing Josi to step out of the shadows. Prior to this season his biggest claim to fame was that he was the defensive partner on the Predators of Canadian Olympic star Shea Weber, who was traded to Montreal in the offseason.

"He is as consistent a player as there is in the NHL," said Predators coach Peter Laviolette of Josi.

The Predators backed up a pre-game boast by defenceman P.K. Subban with their first win of the best-of-seven series in their opening home game of the finals. Subban had "guaranteed" a victory after the Predators lost the first two games in Pittsburgh by the combined score of 9-4.

Despite his bravado, though, Subban wasn't one of the big offensive contributors on Saturday as he finished with no points and three shots on goal.

Nashville used a balanced scoring attack in game

three as Josi, Mattias Ekholm, Frederick Gaudreau, Craig Smith and James Neal all scored. "I just thought the pucks were going our way," said Smith.

Rinne, who struggled in game two, was brilliant in game three as he improved to 8-1 in the 2017 playoffs with a goals against average of less than 2.00. Rinne was pulled from game two after giving up a couple of soft goals. Despite his off night, Laviolette said he didn't think twice about starting Finland's Rinne in game three.

"There was no decision. His game tonight was rock solid," he said. Jake Guentzel, with his 13th of the post-season, scored the lone Penguin goal.

Their intense, aggressive style in front of all-star goaltender Rinne, draws comparisons to the 2004 Calgary Flames who lost in seven games to the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Lightning's championship parade that year was dwarfed in size by the numbers involved in Calgary's runner-up parade. Nashville fans appear to be just as emotionally invested in their Predators, win-or-lose, as the Flames' fans were.

An estimated 50,000 Predator fans, watched by about 100 police officers, converged on the downtown area to celebrate.

"We are really proud to be part of it," said Rinne of the fans enthusiasm. — AFP

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Investors preparing for a quieter season

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Perry enjoys running an agency he vowed to kill

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NBK REPORT: THE LAST NAIL IN THE COFFIN

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BANGALORE: An Indian laborer works at a brick manufacturing factory situated on the outskirts of Bangalore. — AFP

ISRAEL STILL THROTTLING PALESTINIAN ECONOMY

50 YEARS ON, DECENT-PAYING JOBS REMAIN TERRITORIES SCARCE

SALFIT, West Bank: Fuad Maraita wakes up at 3:30 am in his hometown of Salfit in the Israeli-occupied West Bank lies in darkness. He drinks coffee, slings a bag with his lunch over his shoulder, gets on a minibus and starts the grueling journey to his job laying tiles at a construction site near Tel Aviv. Maraita, 62, is among tens of thousands of Palestinians who make the trek to Israel every day. Fifty years after Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, this army of laborers is one of the most visible signs of the occupation. Israeli control has held back the Palestinian economy, making decent-paying jobs in the territories scarce. Stripped of choices, Palestinians work in Israel, where their average pay is the minimum wage - still more than double what they would earn at home. They build homes, fix cars and serve food. Laying tiles in Israel has become a Maraita family tradition, passed down from Maraita's late father to him, his four brothers, and one of his sons. Salfit is just 30 miles from Tel Aviv, but Israeli travel restrictions keep him on the road for almost as much time each day as he spends working.

Maraita believes the occupation won't end anytime soon. "They (the Israelis) are not going anywhere," he said. This is part of a series of stories marking the 50 years since Israel took over the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in 1967. Some 125,000 Palestinians now work in Israel and in Jewish settlements in the West Bank. At peak times, a third of the West Bank's workforce was employed in Israel, whose high-tech-driven economy is about 15 times larger than the Palestinian one.

This lopsided relationship will loom large if President Donald Trump restarts Israeli-

unrest in the late 1980s, Israel began imposing security closures and a permit regime. After a second Palestinian uprising in 2000, Israel built the barrier to channels Palestinian traffic into Israel through crossings to detect potential Palestinian attackers. Palestinians say the barrier is also a land grab because for long stretches it runs in the West Bank, not on the pre-1967 frontier, slicing off about 10 percent of the land. Palestinians from Gaza have been banned from work in Israel since the 2007 takeover of Gaza by the Islamic militant Hamas.

Competitive trading
"Our economic problems can't wait," said senior Palestinian economist Mohammed Mustafa who discussed such demands with the Trump administration. Israel has proposed improvements of the current system, such as trying to reduce bottlenecks at Israeli-run crossings that Palestinians say prevent them from trading competitively. Michael Oren, the Israeli government official who raised such ideas in Washington, said fundamental change has to wait for peace talks. In the meantime, Palestinians should keep working in Israel, he said. "If there is stability, there is less terror. If there is less terror, this gives us, the diplomats, more space to negotiate."

Shortly after 5 am, Maraita reaches a crossing through Israel's West Bank separation barrier. Hundreds of laborers make their way through a maze of rails, turnstiles and a metal detector. They place their bags on an airport-style X-ray conveyor belt and press ID cards on a scanner. It's a Thursday, turnout is relatively light and Maraita gets through in 10 minutes. At the start of the work week, it can take much longer, he said. At first, there were no barriers. With the outbreak of Palestinian

unrest in the late 1980s, Israel began imposing security closures and a permit regime.

After a second Palestinian uprising in 2000, Israel built the barrier to channels Palestinian traffic into Israel through crossings to detect potential Palestinian attackers. Palestinians say the barrier is also a land grab because for long stretches it runs in the West Bank, not on the pre-1967 frontier, slicing off about 10 percent of the land. Palestinians from Gaza have been banned from work in Israel since the 2007 takeover of Gaza by the Islamic militant Hamas.

After emerging from the crossing, Maraita boards another bus, sitting behind his brother Ahd, 52. Some Israelis are pleasant, others racist, said Ahd, a tiler. "You have to endure it," he said. At 6 am, the bus arrives at a coffee shop in the Tel Aviv area. Maraita chats with other customers as he waits for his employer. One of the regulars, Israeli contractor Ariel Schneider, believes Palestinians don't need a state.

"We need to make sure they (Palestinians) have work and everything will be fine," he said. At 6:15 am, Maraita's employer picks him up. By the time Maraita gets to his job site, he will have traveled three hours. An interim economic agreement of the mid-1990s has turned bad, Palestinians say. Their economy contracted or stagnated as a result of conflict-related Israel closures. In the West Bank, youth unemployment reached 40 percent, and the figure for all ages is 18 percent.

Foreign aid

Palestinians say that if left to their own devices, they could create jobs and wean themselves off hundreds of millions of dollars a year in foreign aid. The Palestinian economy



WEST BANK: In this March 9, 2017 photo, Palestinian laborer Fuad Maraita arrives at a checkpoint near the West Bank village of Nilin. — AP

could grow by a third if they could access resources in so-called Area C, according to the World Bank. Some in Israel's government seek to annex Area C, and the government has accelerated settlement construction there.

Oren said the fate of Area C has to be decided in negotiations. In the meantime, Palestinians need to make their economy more competitive through technological advances, he said. Gaza, home to 2 million

Palestinians, is even worse off. The border blockade has prevented most exports. Unemployment has reached 42 percent. Among the young it's 60 percent. A Rand Corp. study said both sides would gain tens of billions of dollars from a peace deal. Even now, Israel's gains from the occupation, such as cheap labor, are outweighed by lost opportunities, such as exports to the Arab world, some economists said. — AFP

BARCELONA ENTERS BATTLE FOR LOW-COST, LONG-HAUL FLIGHTS

BARCELONA: The battle is on in Barcelona, Spain's popular Mediterranean city where two airlines have started competing for passengers in the emerging trend of low-cost, long-haul flights. The first flight operated by Level-a new carrier created by IAG, the parent company of British Airways and Spain's Iberia-took off Thursday from El Prat airport for Los Angeles. The airline also flies to San Francisco, Buenos Aires and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

Meanwhile Norwegian, a pioneer in cheap long-distance flights, begins Monday flights to New York, Los Angeles, Miami and San Francisco. The airline will make Barcelona its fifth hub for such flights after London, Paris, Bangkok and Amsterdam. Altogether, 22 low-cost transatlantic flights will take off every week from Barcelona, breaking into a market that until recently was the preserve of traditional major airlines. But with the emergence of a new and more fuel-efficient generation of aircraft and the collapse of oil prices, low cost carriers such as Norwegian and French Blue are increasingly operating transatlantic flights from European airports such as Paris or London.

'Well placed to work'

Barcelona, a huge tourist magnet, is well placed to ride on this new wave, given that it is Europe's number one hub for low-cost flights according to air trav-

el data company OAG. While it is still behind Madrid, the airport has seen passenger numbers leap 60 percent between 2009 and 2016. But until now, the flights that took off from Barcelona were almost solely short- or medium-haul.

"There was an anomaly in the market: Barcelona is a city with huge international profile... but long-distance flights weren't up to the task," said a spokesman for Norwegian, adding the company saw "a market opportunity" to develop cheap long-haul flights. John Grant, an OAG analyst, said Barcelona-a draw for tourists, including from cruise ships-was "well placed to work". "A large local market, inbound demand and low-cost airlines that will encourage passengers to connect through the airport will all support those low-cost long-haul services."

Level, for instance, "will take advantage of the fact that Vueling (the low-cost airline that is in the same IAG group) is very present on the market," said Philippe Berland, a transport consultant at Sia Partners. So passengers will for instance be able to board a Vueling flight from London to Barcelona, where they can change and take Level to the United States. Grant added that "geographically, Barcelona is very well located to serve connecting markets from perhaps Asia to Latin America, although these are in many cases currently quite small but will grow quickly with low-cost airlines present." — AFP

MUST-DO FOR CONGRESS: RAISE DEBT LIMIT, PASS SPENDING BILLS

WASHINGTON: Even members of his own party were quick to declare President Donald Trump's budget plan dead on arrival in Congress last month. And in fact, lawmakers are facing a burst of overdue budget-related work this summer. Most of what's on the budget agenda probably won't bear much resemblance to Trump's spending plan, which promised deep spending cuts on domestic programs, rapid economic growth, and a balanced federal ledger in a decade. Instead, they're confronting an increase in the government's borrowing cap, serious problems in advancing annual spending bills, and a smaller set of curbs on domestic benefit programs. A look at what's ahead:

Debt dilemma

Atop the absolute must-do list is raising that borrowing cap, or debt limit. Doing so would avert a disastrous, first-ever default on US obligations. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says Congress should vote to raise the debt limit before leaving Washington for its traditional August recess. Lawmakers once thought they had until the fall to act.

It would be the first increase of Trump's presidency, and responsibility for passing it falls chiefly upon the Republicans who control Congress. Some conservatives, including White House budget director Mick Mulvaney and the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, want difficult spending cuts paired with the higher cap. If those efforts fail, it's commonly assumed that GOP leaders would have to enlist support from Democrats to pass the legislation. Republicans secured sweeping spending cuts as the

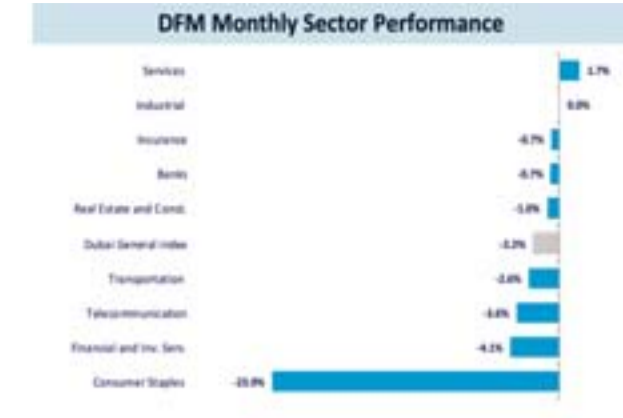
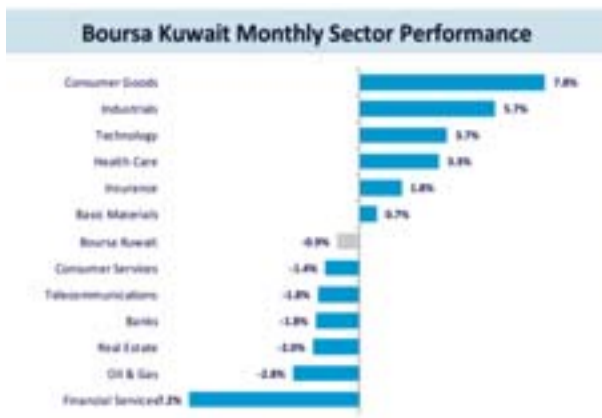
price for a 2011 debt deal with President Barack Obama. But Obama prevailed in demands for a "clean" debt increase in later rounds, most recently in late 2015. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and other top Democrats say they won't go along with a debt bill if Republicans press ahead with deficit-financed tax cuts for the wealthy. Mnuchin is using a set of accounting maneuvers to keep the government solvent for now.

Spending deadlock

Congress is way behind on the 12 annual spending bills covering the Pentagon and other federal agencies for the upcoming 2018 budget year. Work on those measures, totaling more than \$1.1 trillion, was supposed to begin last month, but Republicans have yet to even unite behind a plan of attack - much less execute it.

GOP leaders and the White House must sort through the demands of numerous competing factions, including defense hawks, defenders of domestic spending, and tea party lawmakers. At the same time, they must deal with Democrats, who retain great leverage because their support is needed to advance the legislation.

Trump and his allies generally agree on a big increase for the military, but disagree on corresponding cuts to domestic programs and foreign aid. Democrats are opposed to Trump's cuts - such as those aimed at the Environmental Protection Agency, foreign aid, grants for first responders, economic development and others - and are pressing for domestic increases. — AP



MARKET'S PROFIT SLIDE, INVESTORS PREPARING FOR A QUIETER SEASON

KAMCO GCC MARKETS MONTHLY REPORT

The slide in GCC markets continued during May-17 as investors cashed on before the Ramadan season. The decline was broad-based throughout the GCC as seen from the 0.7% decline in the S&P GCC index. Kuwait and Bahrain continue to be the only markets in the GCC with positive YTD-17 returns of 6.4% and 8.1%, respectively. GCC markets also took note of the result of the renewed oil accord. According to the agreement, OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers agreed to extend the combined 1.8 mb/d supply cut by a further nine months until March-18. This was, however, the base case expected by oil watchers as against expectations of larger cuts, which resulted in slide in oil prices. Nevertheless, the recent decline in oil inventories also suggest that the decline in oil price is exaggerated and with gradually rising oil demand, prices are expected to gain steam in the near term.

In a related development, after downgrading China for the first time in nearly 30 years, Moody's downgraded Qatar's long term debt rating by a notch to Aa3 with a Stable outlook highlighting the country's sharply rising external debt. At the same time, the agency upgraded the ratings outlook for UAE and Kuwait based on diversification and strong balance sheet, respectively.

Meanwhile, markets globally had a strong bull run during the month with the S&P 500 reaching new record high on the back of improving economic fundamentals. The MSCI World index also reached a new high after rising almost 2% during the month. Markets are now fully pricing in a rate hike in Fed's June policy meeting while the possibility of a third hike this year is also seeing increasing probability. KAMCO Research expects GCC markets to remain range-bound during June-17, which would see the full impact of the month of Ramadan further factoring in lack of any new catalyst. Trading activity is expected to remain subdued after seeing slight increase during May-17.

as against 43 gainers. Meanwhile, against a backdrop of GCC banking sector consolidation, KFH (-2.4%) is reportedly said to be in talks to buy Bahrain's Ahli United Bank along with its Kuwaiti unit to create Middle East's biggest Islamic lender with assets worth \$ 85 Bn. The talks are said to be in initial phase with both the parties declining to comment on the issue.

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

After managing to stay afloat for the past two months, the Tadawul All Share Index (TASI) fell 2% during May-17 to close below the 7,000 mark at 6,871.2 points. The index reached the lowest point since November-16 after OPEC and non-OPEC members agreed to extend the oil production cut agreement by a further nine months until March-18. The declines comes as the market was expecting higher cuts, which pushed prices to 5-week high level just before the OPEC meeting. The high correlation between oil price and the Saudi market also resulted in an 8% drop in the Energy index during the month.

The sectoral index performance also reflected negative trends with merely six indices reporting marginal gains during the month. The Capital goods index recorded the biggest drop of 13.9% during the month after all the constituent stocks declined. National Industrialization (Tasnee), the biggest stock in the index, witnessed the steepest drop of 18% during the month. The newly introduced REIT index, which now includes four stocks after the listing of Taleem REIT Fund, witnessed the second biggest monthly drop of 11.3% and this comes despite the newly listed REIT fund surging 21% by the end of the month after being heavily oversubscribed.

On the gainers side, the Retailing index topped monthly index gains with a surge of 4.1% on the back of 6% gain in shares of Jarir Marketing and 5.7% gain in shares of Fawaz Abdulaziz Al-Hokair. The gains in Jarir Marketing shares came after the company reported 26.5% increase in Q1-17 net profit on the back of strong smartphone sales. The Food & Beverage index also surged by 3.5% during the month on the back of 11% gains in shares of Almarai and 24.1% gains in shares of Ash Sharqiyah Development offsetting decline in most of the other stocks in the index. The large-cap Banking index witnessed flat performance during the month with 4 out of 12 banks reporting gains.

Meanwhile, after declining for the past two months, trading activity reversed to show a strong gain during May-17. Total monthly volume of shares traded surged 27.7% to reach 4.1 Bn shares as compared to 3.2 Bn shares during the previous month. Dar Al Arkan Real Estate topped the monthly volume chart with 1.4 Bn shares followed by Alinma Bank and Saudi Kayan with 572 Mn shares and 217 Mn shares, respectively. On the other hand, the monthly value traded increased at a much slower pace of 5.2% to reach SAR 64.7 Bn during May-17 as compared to SAR 61.5 Bn during April-17.

Dar Al Arkan Real Estate once again topped the chart with SAR 8.9 Bn worth of shares changing hands followed by Alinma Bank (SAR 8.2 Bn) and SABIC (SAR 7 Bn). The monthly gainers chart was topped by Ash Sharqiyah Development recording a gain of 24.1% followed by 21% gains for the recently listed Taleem REIT Fund. Jadwa REIT was third on the gainers chart after recording gains of 18.6%. The decliners side was topped by Al Sagr Cooperative Insurance that recorded a decline of 25% followed by Nama Chemicals and Medgulf with declines of 21.7% and 21.5%, respectively.

On the economic front, the Saudi CMA's efforts to open the market coupled with the developments on the listing of ARAMCO is garnering increasing interest in the financial services sector in the Kingdom. During the month, Qatar National Bank applied for an investment banking license in the Kingdom. This follows Citigroup securing a capital markets license last month and Credit Suisse mulling to enter the Kingdom. It was also reported that Goldman Sachs has applied to the regulator for a license to trade equities in the Kingdom.

ly. In the financials pack, Investment & Financial Services companies and the Banking sector declined by 6.1% and 3.1% respectively, while Energy names dropped by 4.3% over the same period. Index gainers sectorally were led by Services, which went up 8.3% as compared to the previous month, as Gulf Medical Projects jumped by 37% over the same period. The Industrials index also moved up by 2.7%, ascribed to gains from Gulf Pharmaceutical (+4.6%) and Arkan Building Materials (+6.0%).

In prominent Q1-17 earnings releases, developer Aldar reported revenue growth of 28% y-o-y to AED 1.58 Mn, driven by revenue recognition on developments under construction and land plot sales. Net profit during the quarter amounted to AED 641 Mn, down from AED 654 Mn in Q1-17. Total development sales value came in at AED 1 Bn, led by West

prospects, and a healthy banking system and an easing of contingent liability risk. Moody's further expects Abu Dhabi's fiscal deficit to come down to 2.0% of GDP in 2017 and 0.3% of GDP in 2018, and expect the government's debt burden to likely to reflect these declining deficits and stabilize at very low levels, below 8% of GDP by 2018.

Dubai Financial Market

DFM continued its declining trends from the previous three months into April-17 as well, and was the worst performing market in the GCC. For May-17, DFM was down by 2.2% and closed at 3339.37 points as sectoral trends were mostly skewed towards decliners. The Consumer Staples & Discretionary sector dropped significantly by 23.9% for the month of May-17, as Marka and DXB Entertainment pulled down the index, plunging by

Properties with value traded of AED 0.91 Bn. Market breadth was weak as well, as 8 stocks moved up while 31 stocks lost ground during the month of May-17.

Data for April-17 from Emirates NBD Economy Tracker index signaled a further improvement in overall business conditions across Dubai's private sector, signaling the fastest growth since February-2015. The indicator grew from 56.6 in March-17 to 57.7 in April-17. Output and new orders increased at a robust pace in April, with the indices at 62.6 and 63.2 respectively. The construction sector saw a sharp improvement in business conditions during the month as well, after lagging the other key sectors since the start of the year as the index grew more than 3 points to 57.9 in April, indicating the fastest rate of growth since March 2015. Employment (51.2) increased at a slightly faster rate than in March but jobs growth remains sluggish overall, particularly when compared with the rate of new work and output growth.

Boursa Kuwait

Weak trends in the GCC equity markets didn't spare Kuwait during May-17 as all the three benchmark indices declined. However, the decline in Kuwait was the smallest in the GCC with the price index seeing the smallest decline of 0.8%. The Weighted index also declined by 0.9%, but managed to remain above the 400 points mark to close the month at 404.5 points. The performance of large-cap stocks was relatively better as seen from the 0.4% decline in the Kuwait 15 index.

Within the index, Agility saw the biggest monthly gain of 15.1% followed by Americana at 11.3%. Shares of Agility surged after the company settled a US lawsuit that barred the company from bidding for Middle East US defense contracts. The company agreed to pay \$ 95 Mn in cash to settle the civil lawsuit that has now opened doors for potential government and commercial contracts that at one point accounted for almost 40% of the company's revenues. On the other hand, the gain in shares of Americana came after the company reported 10.1% increase in Q1-17 net profits that reached KD 16.7 Mn, although the company reported a decline in topline.

Trading activity on the exchange continued to slide during May-17, marking the fourth consecutive month of decline and reaching the lowest point in seven months. Total volume of shares traded more than halved to reach 2.7 Bn shares as compared to 5.9 Bn shares during the previous month on the back of almost 60% decline in average daily volumes. Similarly, monthly value traded also declined but at a slightly lower pace of 42% to reach KD 301 Mn as compared to KD 517 Mn during April-17.

The average daily value traded declined by almost 50% to KD 13.1 Mn as compared to KD 25.9 Mn during the previous month. On the volume chart, Ithmaar Bank was the most actively traded stock with a monthly volume of 182 Mn followed by Alimtiq Investment and Al Tameer Real Estate at 133 Mn shares and 127 Mn shares, respectively. On the monthly value chart, KFH topped the list with KD 30 Mn worth of shares traded during the month followed by NBK and Alimtiq Investment recording KD 24.5 Mn and KD 20.5 Mn in trades, respectively.

The monthly gainers chart was topped by Eyas for Higher & Technical Education recording a surge of 80% followed by Al Madar Finance and Alafco with gains of 68% and 22%, respectively. The decliner chart was topped by Al-Mal Investment that fell 26.8% followed by Al Rai Media and MENA Real Estate with declines of 24.7% and 23.4%, respectively. The monthly market breadth was strongly skewed towards decliners that included 107 stocks

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The ADX index slipped in line with other markets in the region, and was the second worst performing market in the region for the month of May-17, as oil price volatility weighed on GCC indices. The index was down 2.1% m-o-m in May-17 and closed at 4,427.30 points. Consumer Staples was the key laggard as the index plunged by over 8% as Aghya Group, Foodco Holding contributed to the decline with share price drops of 8.9% and 7.9% respectively.

Yas, land plot sales and Al Nareel. In the asset management business, Yas Mall maintained strong trading occupancy with 95% units trading, and residential and office portfolio occupancy remained at 90% and 95% respectively as at 31 Mar-17.

In the energy sector, Dana Gas reported Q1-17 gross revenues of \$ 118 Mn, up 44% from the Q1-16 figure of \$ 82 Mn. Q1-17 net profit was \$ 11 Mn, up 83% y-o-y from \$ 6 Mn in the same quarter of the previous year. Average production during the quarter in 2017 was 69,900 boepd, up 16% y-o-y (Q1 2016: 60,500 boepd), while the company mentioned that they were successful with cost reduction with Q1-17 and reduced operating expenditure by 23%.

Trading trends was mixed in May-17, as traded volumes dropped m-o-m by 4% while value traded improved by 10%. Total volumes traded to 1.49 Bn shares (April: 1.55 Bn) while value traded during May-17 improved to AED 3.6 Bn (April: AED 3.3 Bn). Gulf Medical Projects led the gainers list with a monthly return of 37%, followed by Emirates Driving and Fujairah Cement Industries, which went up 19.8% and 14.3%, respectively. Prominent decliners included Sharjah Cement with a monthly share price decline of 18.2%, followed by Sudan Telecom and Oman & Emirates Investment Holding, as they saw their stock prices erode by 18.0% & 17.4% respectively.

In ratings related action, Moody's changed the ratings outlook of Mubadala, International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) and Etisalat to stable from negative. At the same time, Moody's affirmed the Aa2 long-term issuer rating of Mubadala, the Aa2 long-term issuer rating of IPIC and the Aa3 long-term issuer rating of Etisalat. The ratings actions follow the recent change in rating outlook to stable from negative on both the Government of UAE and the Government of Abu Dhabi, as well as the affirmation of their Aa2 long-term issuer ratings.

The outlook was changed primarily due to the effective and broad reforms policy response to the lower oil price environment, the economy's growth

over 46% and almost 20% respectively for the month of May-17. Dubai Parks was punished mainly over football related concerns in the holiday season and going forward.

Financials and Investment Services index was amongst the main laggards as well, as the index plunged by 4.1% m-o-m in May-17, followed by Telecoms, which went down by 3.6% over the same period. The Services index was the only sector, which witnessed higher levels, and was up 1.7% m-o-m, led by Amanat Holdings, which went up by 3.6% m-o-m. The Industrial sector remain flat as compared to the previous month.

In prominent earnings, Emaar Properties reported Q1-17 revenues of AED 4,072 Bn, which increased by 15% y-o-y as recurring revenues from malls, hospitality, and entertainment and leisure businesses came in at AED 1,592 Bn and contributed to 39% of total group revenues. Revenues from international operations grew by 62% y-o-y to AED 806 Mn and contributed to 20% of group revenues. Net income came in at AED 1.4 Bn during the first quarter of this year as compared to AED 1.3 Bn in Q1-16. DSI reported Q1-17 revenues of AED 796 Mn, down 23% y-o-y. The company reported a net loss of AED 722 Mn due to the provisions and impairment charges undertaken in the quarter. Order Backlog stood at AED 7.3 Bn as of 31 Mar-17. The proposed share capital reduction of AED 992 Mn was approved.

Damac Properties was the top performing stock in the index for the month, as its share price surged by 18.7% in May-17. Al Salam Group followed along with Gulf Navigation, as their stock prices moved up by 18.4% and 16.9% respectively. On the other hand, shares of Marka, a company which featured in the gainers list last month, led the monthly losers chart as its share price declined by 46.2% m-o-m. DSI and DXB Entertainments followed with declines of 21.7% and 20.0% respectively for the month. Gulf Finance House (GFH) was the most actively traded stock yet again on the exchange as AED 0.92 Bn worth of stock was traded, followed by Emaar

Source: GCC Stock Exchanges, KAMCO Research

Source: GCC Stock Exchanges, KAMCO Research

Source: GCC Stock Exchanges, KAMCO Research

Source: GCC Stock Exchanges, KAMCO Research

MINNESOTA TO OPEN 22 MEETINGS ON DISPUTED ENBRIDGE PIPELINE

MINNEAPOLIS: Minnesota regulators are getting ready to open a series of 22 public meetings on an oil pipeline project that opponents have dubbed the next Dakota Access pipeline struggle. Enbridge Energy is seeking approval to replace its aging Line 3 pipeline across northern Minnesota. The meetings along the proposed route are meant to give the public a chance to comment on the draft environmental review for the project, which was released last month. The first two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, and a final decision from Minnesota isn't expected until next year. A look at some of the key issues:

The pipeline

Calgary, Alberta-based Enbridge built Line 3 in the 1960s to carry Canadian crude to its terminal in Superior, Wisconsin. It runs from Hardisty, Alberta, to Enbridge's terminal in Clearbrook in northwestern Minnesota, to Superior. Most of the US portion of the route is in Minnesota, though it also clips a corner of North Dakota. Enbridge proposed the \$7.5 billion replacement project because the deteriorating pipeline is now restricted to 390,000 barrels per day. The replacement would restore the original capacity of 760,000 barrels per day.

The company says the existing Line 3 is in an already crowded corridor. It says the best way to replace it is to follow the

existing path as far as Clearbrook, then take a new more southerly route to Superior. The draft review looks at the proposed route as well as four alternative paths but does not recommend one over the other. The new route would cut through Mississippi River headwaters region and the pristine lake country of northern Minnesota where Native Americans harvest wild rice and hold treaty rights.

The objections

Tribal groups say Enbridge's preferred route risks oil spills in sensitive areas, and the six Ojibwe bands in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe are preparing their own environmental impact statement. Environmental groups also oppose the project because Line 3 carries Canadian tar sands crude, which takes more energy to produce than conventional oil.

A leading opponent is Winona LaDuke, executive director of Honor the Earth, based on the White Earth Reservation. LaDuke depicts Line 3 as the next Dakota Access fight, and there are parallels in the ways that Native American concerns have fueled the opposition to both projects. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe considers Dakota Access a threat to its water supply. That pipeline began shipping oil for customers Thursday. Protests over Line 3 have been on a much smaller scale than

the protests over Dakota Access, which brought thousands of people to North Dakota and resulted in 761 arrests.

The arguments for line 3

Enbridge says Line 3 is a vital link in its system, and the replacement would help it continue to meet the demand for Canadian oil from refineries in Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere. The project is already fully approved in Canada and Wisconsin. Permits are pending in North Dakota. Line 3's supporters include the Jobs for Minnesotans coalition of business and labor groups, which tout the more than 1,500 construction and related jobs it would bring to the state, and the tax benefits.

The meetings and next steps

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is hosting public meetings that begin tomorrow in Bagley and Grand Rapids and finish June 22 in Gully and Bemidji. Regulators will consider meeting testimony and written comments in shaping the final version of the environmental impact statement. That will be followed by more hearings in September and October. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will then decide whether to grant the certificate of need and route permit for the project. The commission is expected to hold hearings on those questions in November and make a final decision next April. —AP



In this May 12, 2014 file photo, Paul Stolen, a retired state biologist, shows some of the sensitive wetland areas near Minnesota's Itasca State Park. —AP



BOONE: Vice President Mike Pence arrives at an annual fundraiser for US Sen Joni Ernst, R-Iowa. —AP

PENCE BACKS TRUMP'S ECONOMIC EFFORTS DURING VISIT TO IOWA

DES MOINES: Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday reassured Iowa conservatives, some of them cool to Donald Trump, that the president will deliver on his campaign promises to boost the economy. Speaking at the annual fundraiser of Iowa Sen Joni Ernst, Pence told more than 1,400 Iowa Republicans that, thanks to Trump, "American businesses are growing again, they are investing in America again."

Pence promoted low unemployment and the economy's overall health, which he attributed to Trump's cancellation of regulations enacted under President Barack Obama. In particular, he described pulling out of the international climate agreement reached in Paris as a show of support for US workers. "President Donald Trump chose to put the forgotten men and women of America first," Pence said at the sun-drenched Central Iowa Expo in rural Boone, Iowa.

But Pence also pressured Iowa's Senate delegation not to relent on Trump's centerpiece campaign promise to replace the 2010 federal health care law, despite caution from Ernst and senior Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley that uprooting Obama's overhaul was unlikely in the Senate. "We've got more work to do," Pence said. "First and foremost, this summer, this Congress must come together and heed the president's leadership and we must repeal and replace Obama care."

Conservative agenda

Pence's work to solidify Republican support in Iowa, which Trump won in November by 9 percentage points, came amid caution from the state's influential Christian conservatives who have said Trump had more to prove to them. "I'm still waiting to see a conservative agenda put forward," Iowa Republican Kay Quirk, a retired nurse from the socially conservative northwest region of the state, said before Pence spoke. "I haven't given up hope by any means. But I'm still waiting."

Pence suggested Trump had made a good start and noted the confirmation of his nominee to the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch, a favorite of conservatives. Trump also "has stood for the sanctity of human life," Pence said. Trump's latest budget proposal would prohibit any funding for certain entities that provide abortions, including Planned Parenthood. Federal law already prohibits money for abortion.

Pence did not mention Trump's difficulties, including investigations over whether people associated with Trump

campaign or administration colluded with the Russians to influence the 2016 elections and over the president's firing of the man investigating the matter, former FBI Director James Comey. Mike Demastus, a pastor from Des Moines, pointed to Trump's announcement Thursday that he would keep, at least for now, the US Embassy in Israel in Tel Aviv. Trump promised during the campaign last year to move the embassy to Jerusalem, the place most closely associated with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

'Moral issues'

"When it comes to moral issues, he hasn't moved the needle one notch," Demastus said. It's not as if there is a revolt brewing within the Iowa GOP. Republicans control both houses of the Iowa Legislature, the governor's office, both US Senate seats and three of four House seats. And the vast majority of Iowa Republicans approve of the job Trump is doing. Surveys this year have shown Trump's job approval among Republicans around 85 percent, about the same as it is nationally.

But there's more potential meaning to that slice of Republicans who don't give Trump the nod in Iowa than in other states. Trump finished second to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in Iowa's leadoff presidential caucuses last year, and many of Cruz's supporters say they would back him again if he runs. A number of them, including Quirk, have scheduled a Cruz campaign reunion for this summer, and are planning to travel to

Texas to volunteer for his 2018 Senate campaign. Emerging national Republican figures also have been accepting invitations to meet Iowa party activists. Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton headlined a county GOP dinner in conservative western Iowa last month, though he firmly dismissed the idea that he was making plans to run in 2020. Nebraska Sen Ben Sasse, a frequent and vocal critic of Trump, plans to headline a central Iowa county Republican dinner in July.

Pence would seem to be the right validator for Trump in Iowa. Ninety percent of Iowa Republicans approved of the job Pence was doing in a February Des Moines Register Iowa Poll, 6 percentage points ahead of Trump. In November, Trump's campaign dispatched Pence to the state less than a week before the election. Then Indiana's governor and popular among social conservatives, he told Iowa Republicans during that eleven-hour visit, "It's time to come home." —AP

PERRY ENJOYS RUNNING AN AGENCY HE VOWED TO KILL

A STRONG DEFENDER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK

WASHINGTON: Rick Perry twice ran for president and appeared as a contestant on "Dancing with the Stars." But since becoming President Donald Trump's energy secretary, Perry has kept a low profile and rarely has been seen publicly around Washington. Comedian Hasan Minhaj joked at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner that Perry must be "sitting in a room full of plutonium waiting to become Spider-Man. That's just my hunch."

In truth, Perry has been busy but far away from the capital. He has toured Energy Department sites around the country, represented the Trump administration at meeting in Italy and pledged to investigate a tunnel collapse at a radioactive waste storage site in Washington State. Perry has visited a shuttered nuclear waste dump at Nevada's Yucca Mountain and cautiously began a year's long process to revive it. On Thursday, Perry embarked on a nine-day trip to Asia, where he planned to check on the progress made since a 2011 nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan, and reaffirm the US commitment to help decontaminate and decommission damaged nuclear reactors. Perry also was to represent the United States at a clean energy meeting in Beijing.

Time of his life

The former Texas governor says he's having the time of his life running an agency he once pledged to eliminate. Perry has emerged as a strong defender of the department's work, especially the 17 national labs that conduct cutting-edge research on everything from national security to renewable energy. "I'm telling you officially the coolest job I've ever had is being secretary of energy and it's because of these labs," the 67-year-old Perry told an audience last month at Idaho National Laboratory, one of several he has visited since taking office in March.

"If you work at a national lab you are making a difference," Perry said. The energy chief soon will have a chance to back up those words when he and other officials head to Capitol Hill to defend a budget proposal that slashes funding for science, renewable and energy efficiency.

Perry probably will be asked to defend Trump's decision to withdraw from the landmark Paris climate accord. Perry said Thursday that the US remains committed to clean energy and is confident officials can "drive economic growth and protect the environment at the same time." The administration has called for cutting the Office of Science, which includes 10 national labs, by 17 percent. The proposed budget would reduce spending for

National Laboratory in Tennessee. "Hopefully we will be able to make that argument to our friends in Congress that what DOE is involved with plays a vital role, not only in the security of America but the economic well-being of the country as we go forward," he said.

Energy lobbyist Frank Maisano said Perry's actions show instincts honed in his tenure as Texas's longest-serving governor. "He's trying to find out what he needs to

conditional role as a top driller for oil and natural gas, and emerged as the leading producer of wind power in the United States and a top 10 provider of solar power. Abigail Hopper, president and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association, said she had "a very positive conversation" with Perry at a meeting in April. "He was very interested in our technology and how it can be utilized," she said in an interview.



DALLAS: In this April 21, 2017 file photo, Energy Rick Perry speaks to reporters at an Earth Day display at Fair Park. —AP

renewable and nuclear energy, eliminate the popular Energy Star program to enhance efficiency and gut an agency that promotes research and development of advanced energy technologies.

'Not my first rodeo'

Perry, who served 14 years as Texas governor, likened the spending plan to an opening offer that he expects to see significantly changed in Congress. "I will remind you this is not my first rodeo when it comes to budgeting," he said during a recent tour of the Oak Ridge

find out - hearing about these issues from the front lines," Maisano said. While Perry will never match the scientific expertise of his most recent predecessors at the Energy Department, nuclear physicists Steven Chu and Ernest Moniz, his political skills may offset that knowledge gap, Maisano said.

During his Oak Ridge visit, Perry pledged to be "a strong advocate" for Oak Ridge and other labs. He has spoken out in favor of renewable energy such as wind and solar power, noting that while he was governor, Texas maintained its tra-

Perry also "knew exactly where Texas was in solar installation," Hopper said, No. 9 in the nation, compared with its top ranking among wind-producing states. Hopper, a former Interior Department official under President Barack Obama, said she and Perry did not discuss her federal service but did talk about how national labs can boost the solar industry. "It was good to make that connection between the research and how it translates into the marketplace," she said. "He gets it." — AP

GE PLANT RETIREES IN CANADA SEE HOPES FOR HEALTH CLAIMS

PETERBOROUGH: Marilyn Harding cries as she talks about her late husband and his death from pancreatic cancer five years after retiring from a three-decade career at the General Electric factory in her hometown. Harding, who spent nearly 40 years working at the plant until she retired in 2004, has also had cancer, as have many of her former colleagues. "Once we got out of there and retired, everyone started to get sick," she said.

For more than a decade, several hundred retirees from the hulking Peterborough plant, which produced engines for trains and ships among other things, have claimed illnesses linked to exposure to toxins inside the factory. Now, they may soon get the compensation they have sought from the provincial government. Ontario Labor Minister Kevin Flynn for the first time has publicly called on the worker's compensation board to "bring justice" to about 300 former workers whose health claims were previously denied.

"A number of people should have been treated better by the system," Flynn said afterward in an interview. His support followed release of a lengthy report conducted by researchers hired by the union representing workers at the plant that found exposure to more than 3,000 toxic

chemicals from 1945 to 2000 and significant health problems among former employees. It also came after an extensive series of reports by The Toronto Star on the range of illnesses suffered by former workers.

GE spokeswoman Kim Warburton said it is cooperating with the worker's compensation board, the agency that evaluates and pays claims. The company has not conceded that any illnesses were caused by working at the plant and says chemicals were used in what were believed to be safe ways at the time. "As more information became available about chemical use, GE, like other industrial companies, took action to reduce or eliminate their usage," Warburton said. "GE adhered to the health and safety practices that were appropriate for the time, and we have continually enhanced those practices as scientific research and best practices in industrial health and safety emerged."

Less litigious system

Workers in Ontario cannot sue their employers for workplace injuries and illness and must go through the board to seek compensation. Employers pay insurance premiums for injuries and illness. It's a less litigious sys-

tem than in the US, but the GE retirees say the system isn't working. Generations of Peterborough families worked in the 125-year-old GE plant. Founded by Thomas Edison, it was the city's biggest employer and one of the Canada's largest factories, with more than 6,500 workers during the 1960s.

It now has just 440 employees producing large motors for the mining and oil industries. Peterborough, a city of about 123,000 people 90 miles northeast of Toronto, seems these days more like a retirement community than a major manufacturing hub, with the hospital and a university the biggest employers. Harding started working at the plant in 1965 and did a number of jobs.

A denial letter from Workplace Safety and Insurance Board stipulates she didn't have enough exposure time to asbestos to qualify for compensation for her bladder cancer. "I worked in the plant 39 and three-quarter years. They credited me with six and three-quarter years that I worked around dangerous chemicals, so what happened to the other 34 years?" she said. "Did they change all the air in the plant and take the chemicals away? It was a wide-open plant. They said there were walls. There wasn't." —AP

CELEBRATE RAMADAN WITH TOYOTA AL-SAYER

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons one of the Al-Sayer Holding Companies have announced unbeatable offers for all Toyota models during the holy month of Ramadan. The Ramadan promotion for Toyota includes exciting benefits on all Toyota models, special deal on Camry GL Platinum, exclusive offers for teachers and fresh graduates and in addition to all of the above introducing first of its kind "express delivery service" of new cars for enhancing customer convenience and a rewarding customer experience.

Exciting benefits - Only at Toyota

The unmatched offer on all Toyota models includes zerodown payment, complimentary service package for 1 year or 20,000 KM, exclusive installment offer for all models, unique Ramadan complimentary gift, financial collaboration with leading banks, 5 years warranty. Ramadan is the season of giving, Al-Sayer and Toyota are offering many beneficial gifts along with the range of Toyota cars, not to mention one of the most attractive monthly payment options. Meanwhile the Ramadan special deal on Land Cruiser includes: golden comprehensive Insurance for one year, complimentary Service package for 2 years or



30,000 KM [whichever comes first/without brake parts], unique Ramadan Complimentary gift and 5 years warranty.

Introducing first of its kind - Express Delivery Service

This Ramadan Toyota Al-Sayer is also introducing first of its kind in Kuwait - Same Day Delivery

Service for new car customers. Find convenience like nowhere else, walk in to Al-Sayer Toyota showroom and experience the joy of driving away in a new Toyota. Conditions applied as follows: No outstanding traffic fines for the customer, applicable only on cash deals, facility is available for all models except commercial vehicles and bulk deals.

Dedicated offers to teachers

Recognizing the importance of Teachers as the backbone of any society Al-Sayer is introducing exclusive offer on three selected models including Land Cruiser, Prado or the Avalon that will do them proud. Upon presenting the teacher's ID benefits such as 3 months deferred payment, complimentary service package 1 year or 20000 KM as well as complimentary 1 year comprehensive insurance can be availed.

Exceptional deal on Camry

This Ramadan has exciting news for Camry lovers. The GL Platinum edition that comes with daylight running lights, rear spoiler, interior mood lights, tire compressor, 1 year/20000 KM service is coming with special Ramadan savings of KD 1080.

Graduation gift from Toyota

Al-Sayer is also bringing an exclusive offer for fresh graduates while buying Camry to benefit from: deferred payment for 3 months, complimentary service for 2 years or 30000 KM, KD 75 fuel card and a Ramadan gift and above all a chance to enter a raffle draw to win KD 4000 educational allowance for a period of 9 months.



LOS ANGELES: In this Thursday, Nov 17, 2016, file photo, Ron Cogan, editor and publisher of the Green Car Journal, right, and Steve Majoros, director of Chevrolet Marketing, pose together after the 2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV was announced the winner of the Green Car of the Year Award during the Los Angeles Auto Show. — AP

QUITTING PARIS LIKELY TO HAVE MUTED EFFECT IN INDUSTRIES

DALLAS: President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accord may have only limited immediate impact on many US companies, according to analysts. In part that is because the Paris agreement only went into effect last year, it's voluntary, and doesn't carry penalties for countries that fall short of emissions-cutting targets. "What you have is a president making a nonbinding withdrawal from a nonbinding agreement," said Kevin Book, an analyst with ClearView Energy Partners. "And that's not likely to change fundamentals very much at all."

Many big companies in industries such as autos and aviation have already committed to reducing emissions and are spending billions to do it. They aren't likely to change course. A study mentioned by Trump estimated that if the US meets its Paris goal for reducing carbon emissions it will cost 2.7 million US jobs by 2025. The study, commissioned by a pro-industry group, projected the sharpest declines in coal, cement, and iron and steel, and the loss of 440,000 manufacturing jobs. Coal and cement producers say the Paris accord would put them at a competitive disadvantage and that they too are taking steps to cut emissions.

Emission controls

The American Coal Council said more than 90 percent of US coal plants are equipped with advanced emissions controls, and that advances in technology will lead to further improvement. Cement makers say they use alternative fuels for

15 percent of their power needs. However, many economists think Paris would be roughly a trade-off - fewer jobs in polluting industries would be offset by more in renewable energy. The chief economist of business-research group The Conference Board said the potential number of jobs that might be created in fossil fuels is limited, while the potential for job growth in green technologies is much greater.

There are already more than twice as many US jobs in solar energy than coal, about 374,000 to 160,000, according to the Energy Department. Some corporations that had supported the Paris agreement were quick to signal that Trump's decision would not change their plans. "Our position on climate change has not changed ... we publicly advocate for climate action," said General Motors. The company reiterated its support for various climate pledges, and it boasted about its Chevrolet Bolt EV, an electric vehicle priced under \$30,000.

Rebecca Lindland, an executive analyst with Kelley Blue Book, said Trump's decision won't have an immediate impact on automakers, who had no specific targets to meet under the Paris agreement. Separately, the Trump administration is reviewing fuel-economy standards that were reaffirmed in the final days of President Barack Obama's tenure. A weakening of those standards might help sell more SUVs to US consumers, but automakers still have to design and build electric and other fuel-efficient cars to meet mileage standards in California, China, Europe and elsewhere, Lindland said.

Oil falling

Oil prices fell Friday on concern that the US exit from Paris could lead to increased production and a continuation of the glut of crude. Several large oil companies including Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell had urged Trump not to withdraw. In a statement, Exxon stressed that the accord included emissions-reduction pledges from China and India, developing countries that are major polluters. The company said the US is in good position to compete internationally because of an abundant natural gas supply.

New drilling methods have made gas cheaper, allowing it to replace coal in many US power plants. Now, Exxon and others are gearing up to export more liquefied natural gas. Exxon also faces pressure from shareholders, who voted this week for more disclosure about the impact of climate-change regulation on Exxon's business. Jason Bordoff, an energy-policy expert at Columbia University, said withdrawing from the Paris agreement would make no difference to the US energy outlook or economy.

"The outlook for US energy production will be determined far more by market conditions, like the price of oil and gas, than by scrapping the Obama-era environmental regulations," Bordoff said. The president's decision should have very little impact on airlines because it's still in their financial interest to fly cleaner - lower emissions are the result of burning less fuel. Airlines have been spending billions on new, more fuel-efficient planes - fuel is an airline's second-biggest expense after labor. — AP

NBK ORGANIZES SEMINAR FOR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait organized a ground breaking business seminar to promote small and medium business development in Kuwait. Attendees participated in a seminar on "How The Way You Think Can Make Or Break Your Business," conducted by life coach Sundus Al-Shayji, offering local small and medium business entrepreneurs an opportunity to envision their road to success and add strategic thinking and leadership skills to their repertoire of business acumen.

With the representation of key executives from the Kuwait National Fund, the seminar aimed to help SME entrepreneurs in Kuwait identify and manage various challenges that can hinder success. Held at the beautiful Dar Hamad, itself a local business success story, attendees were encouraged to expand their horizons by thinking 'outside the box.' "NBK greatly values the contribution made by local SME entrepreneurs to develop Kuwait's economy," noted Bader Al Ansari, Business Banking Team Manager, National Bank of Kuwait. "This is why we continue to provide first class opportunities for our business banking customers to grow their business with a strong, strategic vision through our various products and services."

Bader Al-Mutairi, Director for Public Relations and Communication at the Kuwait National Fund introduced attendees to the various levels of support that the KNF offers small and medium enterprises. He explained how they can obtain funding to support their business dreams, how the application process works as well as offered advice on best practices for SMEs in Kuwait.

Local business owners were invited to ask questions and discuss ideas related to developing a strategic vision for their companies with life coach Sundus Al-Shayji. NBK provides a full suite of business banking solutions for SME local business owners including direct client support with dedicated relationship officers. Business account holders can avail business banking credit cards designed to specifically provide the financial flexibility needed for today's highly competitive market. Other key services include employee payroll processing and online salary portal for managing employee salaries and perks in real time. NBK also offers business loans, trade finance, letters of credit and guarantee as well as merchant services including point of sale terminals and e-commerce options to facilitate SME clients in the market.



AL-TIJARI NAMES WINNERS OF NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw on 4th June 2017. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani. The winners of the Al-Najma Daily Draw are:-

Bamoun Mohammad Rajab Zadah
Yosef Dawoud Alnmer

Mostafa Ahmad Fouad Younis KD 7000/-
Fadel Mandani Abdulla Akbar KD 7000/-
Hmedan Bahel Melfi Al-Shammari

KD 7000/-
Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever - with the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

GULF BANK NAMED 'BEST RETAIL BANK IN KUWAIT'

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to announce that, for the second consecutive year, it won 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' award from The Banker Middle East, the region's leading banking industry magazine. The 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' award recognizes the Bank's outstanding performance in the retail sector and highlights its understanding of its customers' needs and its commitment to delivering superior services and products. The award was received by Basel Al Assad, Assistant General Manager for Consumer Banking - Branch Banking, during a ceremony held on earlier this month at Jumeirah Emirates Towers in Dubai, UAE.

Commenting on this new recognition, Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications said: "It is an honor to be recognized as the leading retail bank in Kuwait for the second consecutive year. This award is a testament to Gulf Bank's commitment to customer centricity. We realize customers have more choices than ever, so we are working to ensure we not only meet customers' needs, but also meet needs that customers might not even realize they have. In order to do this, we place great importance of having the right staff in place to deliver value to our customers." Al-Qatami continued: "I would like to thank the Gulf Bank team for their hard work and loyalty to the Bank. I would also like to thank Banker Middle East and its panel of distinguished judges for this endorsement of our efforts."

The Banker Middle East Awards are held each year to recognize businesses in the region that have excelled in providing exceptional levels of



customer service and innovation across a range of sectors, from basic banking products to high-end investment services. The awards were established to set the highest benchmarks for the industry. Every year, through a combination of in-depth analysis of financial statements and reader votes winners in various categories are selected. The nominees are selected by a panel of leading industry experts and eventual winners are decided by the more than 50,000 registered users of CPI Financial products and services.

Gulf Bank has received several other awards during 2017, recognizing various elements of

the Bank's work. These awards include: a Guinness World Records achievement for the 'Largest prize linked to a bank account payout in the world' for its Al Danah account prize of KD One Million; the 'Best Mobile Banking Experience in the Middle East' from Arabian Business Magazine; 'Best Digital Bank - Kuwait' from World Finance Magazine; the 'Best Training Plan - Kuwait' from the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program; and the 'Excellence in VIP Customer Service' award from the Kuwait Public Relations and Customer Service Awards.



BACCARAT TO BE ACQUIRED BY CHINESE INVESTMENT

PARIS: Centuries-old French crystal maker Baccarat said Friday it is being taken over by a Chinese investment fund in a deal that would allow it to accelerate its international expansion plans. Baccarat said in a statement that China's Fortune Fountain Capital had signed a commitment to acquire a stake of 88.8 percent in the company from US investment funds Starwood Capital Group and L Catterton.

Under the agreement, FFC will pay 222.70 euros per share, valuing Baccarat at around 185 million euros (\$207 million). That is below the closing price of Baccarat shares on Thursday of 259.90 euros and the current market valuation of 215 million euros. "If this transaction takes place, it would enable Baccarat to accelerate its strategic plans internationally, particularly in Asia and the Middle East, while support-

ing its growth in developed markets," Baccarat said.

Once the deal has been finalized, FFC plans to launch a public takeover offer for the remaining shares at the same price, but has no intention of delisting the shares from the Paris stock exchange, Baccarat continued. Baccarat, founded in 1764, said that FFC had committed to make "significant" investments in its core areas of activity. The new owners had also pledged to "maintain and centralize all production and employment and will honor the company's 250-year heritage," Baccarat said. Its current chief Daniela Riccardi would remain at the helm. The luxury maker of tableware, chandeliers and jewelry employs a workforce of around 500 and generated net profit of 2.2 million euros on sales of 148 million euros in 2016. — AFP



MICHIGAN: This file photo shows John Krafcik, CEO of Waymo at a press conference at the 2017 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan. —AFP

WAYMO TURNING TECH TALENT TO SELF-DRIVING TRUCKS

SAN FRANCISCO: Alphabet-owned Waymo is putting its autonomous driving expertise to work in trucking, in a new track for the unit formerly known as Google Car. Tests taking place currently at a private track in California are to be followed up by trying out rigs, with drivers ready to take the wheels, on roads in Arizona later this year, according to Waymo.

"We're taking our eight years of experience in building self-driving hardware and software and conducting a technical exploration into how our technology can integrate into a truck," a Waymo spokesperson told AFP Friday. The move ramps up Waymo's challenge to on-demand ride service Uber, which has been investing in technology for self-driving cars and trucks as part of its vision for the future of the San Francisco-based company.

Uber this week said that it fired engineer Anthony Levandowski, accused in a trade secrets suit involving files he purportedly purloined from Waymo before leaving to establish a start-up focused on self-driving trucks. The case stems from a lawsuit filed in February by Waymo claiming former manager Levandowski took a trove of technical data with him when he left to launch a competing venture that went on to become Otto and was later acquired by Uber.

Waymo argued in the lawsuit that a "calculated theft" of its technology netted Otto a buyout of more than \$500 million and enabled Uber to revive a stalled self-driving car program. US-based Tesla is also stepping up efforts in autonomous driving and is set to launch its first semi-truck in September. —AFP

WANNACRY MIGHT BE THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

The attack on 200,000 plus computers across more than 120 countries around the world by the WannaCry ransomware certainly got the attention of governments, media, consumers and law enforcement. But the actual impact could have been so much worse. Much ink is still being expended trying to determine who was responsible and what their motives were and many believe this might have been the act of inexperienced hackers who lost control of their creation.

Certainly, at the time of writing, none of the ransom has been collected from the bitcoin accounts victims were encouraged to send their money too. But while WannaCry could have been so much worse in impact, what is clear is that the base exploit code it uses was part of a batch stolen by Shadow Brokers in April 2017 from the US National Security Agency's (NSA) Equation Group and potentially last month's attack could be just the tip of the iceberg.

Earlier in May 2017 CERT EU (The EU's Computer Emergency Response Team) reported on a worm identified in the wild which has reportedly spread using exploit code leaked by Shadow Brokers in a similar fashion to WannaCry. CERT EU referred to this malware as "BlueDoom", but its internal name was reportedly "EternalRocks". In addition to the EternalBlue Server Message Block (SMB) exploit used by WannaCry, EternalRocks has reportedly also employed at least three additional exploits

leaked by the Shadow Brokers: EternalChampion, EternalRomance and EternalSynergy as part of its propagation process. All three of these exploits were developed to target SMB remote code execution vulnerabilities in Windows XP, all of which were patched in Microsoft's Apr 2017 MS17-010 release.

However, unlike WannaCry, following a successful exploitation and subsequent deployment of the DOUBLEPULSAR backdoor on an infected machine the malware has reportedly not deployed any additional payload. Why no payload is being deployed is unclear but we can speculate that EternalRocks was likely intended to be used to establish a presence on a large number of machines in order to facilitate the deployment of second-stage payloads some-time later.

What that payload might be and what its function is are not clear and it remains to be seen how the actors responsible for developing this worm will exploit their access to infected machines. What is clear is that this development highlights that the Eternal suite of Equation Group exploits and other technical assets leaked by the Shadow Brokers will almost certainly continue to pose a threat beyond WannaCry. Users and organizations which have not already implemented the relevant Microsoft patches and mitigations on the back of EternalBlue are advised to do so quickly.



Rick Holland

BLOCKCHAIN SEEN AS TOOL IN FOOD SAFETY

BITCOIN ALLOWS TRANSACTING USING INDIVIDUAL CODES FOR GOODS

NEW YORK: The food industry is turning to the same technology used by virtual currencies to strengthen food safety and inventory management by tracking meats and crops from farm to table. Working with IBM, retail giant Wal-Mart Stores is testing the technology system on mangos in the United States and pork in China.

Blockchain, the underlying technology behind virtual currency bitcoin, is a digital system that allows counter parties to transact using individual codes for goods.

"I see a lot of potential to create what I call a digital and transparent food system," said Wal-Mart food safety vice president Frank Yiannas. The technology enables different parties in the supply chain to share details such as the date an animal was slaughtered or the weather conditions at harvest time. Data can be stored through a photograph on a smartphone that is transmitted onto a dedicated platform. The system also can counter fraud and mistaken deliveries, champions of the technology say.

"The advantage of blockchain is that the ledger is immediately updated and all the parties have access to the latest information," said Bill Fearnley, Jr. an expert at market

intelligence firm IDC. Supporters of blockchain are especially keen to address salmonella and other food safety problems that can cause health scares that weigh on corporate reputation and damage sales. The technology allows a more effi-

paper-based system. But blockchain "generally takes days to trace," Yiannas said. "The more accurately you can track food, the better."

Demand for transparency
The other great virtue of

British online startup Provenance used blockchain technology to test tuna caught in Indonesia to help corroborate claims the fish were responsibly caught.

The technology also has been embraced by companies in the jewelry business to fight the sale of so-called "conflict diamonds," which come from war-torn regions. "Our goal is to provide transparency at every step of a diamond's journey and ultimately re-shape the way we trade diamonds globally," said Leanne Kemp chief executive of Everledger, a British company that tracks diamonds from the mines to jewelry stores. But to completely function as a system, all the parties need to participate, Fearnley said.

Danish shipping giant Maersk estimates the technology could save billions of dollars by eliminating fraud and incorrect deliveries. It is testing the technology with container ships between Kenya and the Netherlands. But the transition will require investment. A refrigerated product raised in Africa and shipped to Europe requires at least 30 people with some 200 interactions among parties, including customs, taxes, and food safety oversight. —AFP



cient response if there is a problem, enabling companies to locate the source of an incident more quickly, Yiannas said.

He pointed to a 2006 case where it took hundreds of investigators and two weeks to identify the source of bad spinach under a

blockchain is enhanced transparency by letting consumers look up key information on where food comes from, an asset amid growing concerns about genetically-modified crops and artificial ingredients. That additional transparency also can help promote more desirable prac-

JAPAN LAUNCHES SATELLITE IN BID FOR SUPER ACCURATE GPS SYSTEM

TOKYO: Japan successfully launched a satellite Thursday as part of a broader effort to build a home-grown geolocation system that boosts the accuracy of car navigation systems and smartphone maps to mere centimeters. An H-IIA rocket blasted off Thursday morning from the Tanegashima space centre in southern Japan carrying the "Michibiki" No.2 satellite, which was later released into orbit. "The launch was a success," a Cabinet Office spokeswoman said.

Satellite geolocation systems, initially designed for the US military, now power countless civilian applications, from car navigation to internet browsing on mobile phones. Japan relies on the US-operated Global Positioning System (GPS). Thursday's launch was part of a broader plan to build a domestic version with four satellites focusing on the country and wider region.

The first satellite was put into orbit in 2010 and the third and fourth are to be launched by March 2018 to start the service. The Japan-built system will still need to operate in tandem with GPS. Though GPS is widely used in Japan, having supplementary satellites is important in a country where mountainous terrain and high buildings may interfere with its signals.

Michibiki, meaning guidance in Japanese, can cover the Asia-Oceania region and is intended for civilian use. "After we establish the four-satellite network, its use can expand into self-driving cars, agriculture, construction and other fields," Yosuke Tsuruho, a state minister in charge of space policy, told reporters, according to Jiji Press. Japan plans to boost the number of its satellites in orbit to seven by around 2023. —AFP



JAPAN: The H-IIA rocket blasts off from the Tanegashima space centre in Kagoshima Prefecture, southern Japan carrying the 'Michibiki' No.2 satellite. —AFP



QUALITY IS KING WITH CANON'S DSLRS, LENS

Canon Middle East, world leader in imaging solutions, has introduced two new DSLR cameras to the EOS family - the EOS 77D and EOS 800D. Combining leading imaging technologies, including a 24.2-megapixel APS-C CMOS sensor and DIGIC 7 processor, the EOS 77D offers high-end performance and full control and is ideal if you're looking to upgrade your kit and refine your skills, while the EOS 800D is great way to start your first DSLR journey. Alongside the cameras, Canon welcomes the EF-S 18-55mm f/4-5.6 IS STM - the smallest non-retractable DSLR kit lens of its focal range - as well as the Remote Controller BR-E1, perfect for remote capture with no line of sight up to 5m away.

Quality, detail and speed
With the same sensor technology found in the iconic EOS 80D and Canon's latest processor - DIGIC 7 - both cameras capture scenes in impressive quality, with richer detail, while being fast enough to ensure a crystal clear image. Boasting the world's fastest auto focus using Live View mode at an astonishing 0.03 seconds, the cameras deliver pin-sharp precision, and with the ability to shoot at six frames a second fast moving subjects are captured with ease.

For low light shots from sunrise to sunset, the cameras let you shoot up to ISO 25,600 - extendable to 51,200 - and capture every scene without struggle. For some shots, detail is everything, and with 45 cross-type AF points the cameras

focus quickly, track moving objects accurately, and capturing razor sharp images. Both cameras also include 7560-pixel RGB+IR metering to detect fine details such as skin tone and offer accurate exposure.

Take a bite out of Hollywood

You can capture an exceptional level of detail and smooth motion in movies as well as stills, catching fast moving subjects in Full HD 60p and HDR Movie Shooting. Whether it's safari, sport or sunny scenes on the beach, Dual Pixel CMOS AF tracks subjects as they move, focusing smoothly for professional-looking results. For shooting movies on the go 5-axis digital image stabilizer irons out camera movements when shooting

hand-held movies.

To help make the camera your own, the EOS 77D offers full control, with dual control wheels to adjust settings like aperture and shutter speed, and top panel LCD to help you see every setting. For less seasoned photographers, the EOS 800D's guided interface teaches you how camera settings work as you shoot, transforming your photography and helping you grow in skill.

Shoot, connect, share

NFC and Wi-Fi lets you simply share images and movies to compatible smart devices or a Canon Connect Station before editing and sharing with the world. For a constant connection, Bluetooth lets you turn on and browse

photos without having to take the camera from your bag, or operate it remotely via a smart device or the new Remote Controller BR-E1.

Extend your photography range

The new EF-S 18-55mm f/4-5.6 IS STM kit lens is an ideal lens to get started with and complements an all-rounder DSLR with the capability to shoot a wide range of pictures, from landscape to portraits. The smallest 1 in its class, the lens is packed with a 4-stop Image Stabilizer for steady low-light or full zoom shots, seven blade circular aperture for pleasing background blur in portraits. For video scenes Servo AF with near-silent STM is perfect for focusing without distracting noise.

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN, OR IN THE BRAIN?

PARIS: It's a tale as old as time. Meet someone you like, spend time together, get physical, settle down. This is a normal pattern for the hopelessly romantic prairie vole, a rare monogamist among mammals, whose tiny brain has now yielded a sneak peek into the neurobiology of partnering up. When choosing a mate for life, the decision-making part of the vole's brain, the prefrontal cortex, activates another area that controls how the creature experiences pleasure and reward, neuroscientists said.

Not only does the cortex switch on the reward centre, called the nucleus accumbens, but also controls how active it becomes, which in turn determines how quickly the rodent falls in love. Bonding in lab voles is measured by how soon they start

cuddling with a new partner, which they will most likely stick with for life. It is possible that the newly-discovered mechanism works by allowing a new partner's features, such as odor and sound, "to become stamped into the reward system (of the brain) so that the partner becomes rewarding," said study co-author Robert Liu of the Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

And the entire process is accelerated by sex. "We showed that the change in (brain) activity around the first mating event was correlated with how quickly animals began huddling," Liu told. The scientists sought to recreate this effect by stimulating female voles' cortical neurons with light while in the company of a potential male partner, but without

allowing them to copulate. It worked.

Remote control

The next day, light-stimulated voles showed a clear preference for their experimental partners than for strangers, to a similar degree than if they had intercourse. "By simply recreating the control by the cortex of the reward area when the female was near the male, we influenced how affectionately she acted towards him," Li said by email. "It's like remote control of the brain circuitry to influence pair bonding."

The research has implications for the study of human social behavior, and may aid treatment of conditions, such as autism or schizophrenia, which

prevent sufferers from forming social bonds, said the team. This could include stimulating communication between the two brain areas, for example, to allow afflicted people to experience the enjoyment normally gotten from spending time with loved ones.

"Pair bonding in voles likely shares many of the underlying neural mechanisms as falling in love in humans," said Liu. It was already known that similar parts of the reward system studied in voles light up when humans look at pictures of their romantic partners, smell their scent or hear their voice. "But, until now, we haven't known how the brain's reward system works to lead to those feelings," said Liu's colleague Elizabeth Amadei. — AFP



GERMANY: A bumblebee hovers past a red poppy flower on a field near Erisdorf, southern Germany. — AFP

FIRST UN TALKS TO SAVE OCEANS KICK OFFS TODAY

OCEAN CONFERENCE TO PRESERVE EARTH'S IMPORTANT RESOURCE

MIAMI: World leaders convene at UN headquarters next week for the first major bid to solve the toughest problems facing our oceans, from coral bleaching to plastic pollution, over-fishing and rising seas due to climate change. The Ocean Conference in New York June 5-9 attempts to rally nations big and small to make meaningful changes to preserve what is arguably the Earth's most important resource, experts say.

US President Donald Trump's recent decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord is expected to be a hot topic at the talks, which no high-ranking US officials are expected to attend. But despite Trump's decision Thursday to end US participation in the Paris deal, which drew worldwide condemnation, experts at the Pew Charitable Trust said the United States has been a part of crafting a broad "call to action," and is expected to sign it.

"We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean," says the three-page document, which also expresses alarm at the impact of climate change on the ocean. The call to action is expected to be signed and released some point during the week-long conference, which will bring government officials, ocean advocates and some heads of state to New York. The US pullout from Paris means other nations will lead the way at the UN talks, particularly small island nations that have the most to lose. "How can you worry about someone who is not in the room?" said Ambassador Ronny Jumeau, permanent representative to the United Nations

for Seychelles. "Look at who is here, who is sitting in the front row, and say, 'Now what are we going to do about this?'"

Ocean woes

The world just marked its three hottest years in modern times. And the oceans have absorbed about one third of the carbon dioxide released by human activities, protecting the planet from the full brunt of climate change. Melting glaciers and sea ice at the poles threatens swell sea level to the point of washing away entire islands and populated coastlines home to 37 percent of the planet's population in the coming decades. Just 20 inches of sea level rise could displace 1.2 million people from islands in the Caribbean Sea, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Recent studies have shown the troubling extent of plastic pollution, even in the most remote parts of the world. An uninhabited island in the south Pacific, Henderson Island, thousands of miles from civilization was recently shown to be piling up more than 3,500 pieces of plastic per day. Even year, more than eight million ton of plastic washes into the oceans, costing at least \$8 billion in damage to marine ecosystems and killing an estimated one million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and untold numbers of fish.

And famous coral reefs, such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef, are suffering from hot temperatures like never before in modern times, with mass bleaching and die-offs continuing unabated for the past two years. "Small island states cannot afford to be dismayed or feel down or

depressed about any of this," said Jumeau during a UN press conference. "We are reaching out to all the friends of the oceans that you can think of to meet the challenges that we face."

Call to action

Previous global meetings on problems facing the oceans have taken place, but the World Wildlife Fund's John Tanzer described this one as "historic" because the talks are under the auspices of the United Nations for the first time. "The reality is that oceans have been in steep decline for at least the last 50 or 60 years," Tanzer, global oceans lead at WWF, said. "Here we are in 2017, and it is impossible to talk of anywhere in the world's oceans as being pristine," he said. Specifically, nations will talk about how to meet the 2015 UN-adopted Sustainable Development Goal 14, to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources."

Targets include protecting at least 10 percent of coastal and marine environments by 2020, reducing ocean pollution and strengthening ways to fight illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. A recent report found that illegal fishing in the Pacific has reached a "staggering" value of up to \$740 million a year, with much of the problem blamed on fleets from the US, Asia and Europe which under-report their catches. Individual nations and advocacy groups are already announcing voluntary steps they will take to conserve oceans and protect marine life. Those pledges will be updated throughout the conference. — AFP

NEW APPROACHES AIM TO CALM ANXIETY IN CANCER PATIENTS

CHICAGO: Meditation, relaxation and psychological counseling are becoming important tools in the care of people with cancer, according to multiple clinical trials released at the world's largest conference on cancer. The research unveiled at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) conference is part of a new push by oncologists to focus on not just killing tumors, but boosting the morale and mental health of people who are reeling from the shock of being diagnosed with cancer.

For many women who survive a bout with cancer, the fear that it will return can be debilitating, and may interfere with work and family relationships. About 50 percent of all cancer survivors and 70 percent of young breast cancer survivors report moderate to high fear of recurrence, according to one study led by Jane Beith, a medical oncologist at the University of Sydney in Australia. She and colleagues developed an intervention called Conquer Fear, in which trained therapists met 222 patients for five one-hour to 90-minute-long sessions over 10 weeks. They talked about accepting uncertainty and teaching strategies to control worrying, as well as how to focus on life goals.

Stretching and meditation were also part of the treatment. "The reduction in fear of recurrence in the psychological intervention group was large enough to improve survivors' psychological and emotional wellbeing," said Beith. Using a 42-item questionnaire called Fear of Cancer Recurrence Inventory (FCRI), researchers found that the fear of cancer was reduced significantly in those who went through therapy by 18 points on average in the intervention group compared to 7.6 points in a control group that did not receive the same attention.

Talk therapy

Another study, carried out in Canada, showed that brief sessions of psychother-

apy could also benefit people with advanced cancer. A randomized clinical trial enrolled 305 patients late-stage cancer to study an intervention, called Managing Cancer And Living Meaningfully (CALM). After three months, 52 percent of patients who received CALM had a clinically important reduction in depressive symptoms, compared to 33 percent of patients who received usual care, researchers reported.

After a few months, patients who had undergone the therapy were more prepared for the end of life. "This brief talking therapy helps patients facing advanced cancer, and their loved ones, sustain what is meaningful in their life despite its limitations, and face the future," said lead study author Gary Rodin, head of the department of supportive care at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada. "It provides time and space for reflection on the threats and challenges associated with advanced cancer."

Online therapy

A third study examined the possibility of using the internet to deliver psychological help to cancer patients who may not be able to get it in person. Called the STREAM intervention, the eight-week program offered web-based stress management, in a program developed by oncologists and psychologists. Weekly topics included bodily reaction to stress, cognitive stress reduction, feelings, and social interactions.

A total of 129 cancer patients, mostly women with breast cancer, were randomized to either receive written and audio information and then complete exercises and questionnaires, or join a control group that did not go through the program. Those who completed STREAM reported a greater improvement in quality of life than patients in the control group, and less distress than before. — AFP



CHIBA, Japan: This photo shows a black lamb born to a white sheep at the Chiba Zoological Park in Chiba City outside Tokyo. — AFP

HUMANS, EVER-BIGGER EXTINCTION RISK TO ANIMALS

PARIS: An ever-expanding human population and exploding demand for food, water and living space, will place animals at "unprecedented" extinction risk in the next 50 years, experts warned Wednesday. Facing the highest level of threat are more than 360 species of large mammals in Africa, Asia and South America the most biodiverse regions of the world, said a review published in the journal Nature Insight.

But all is not lost, and a drastic change to human diets and farming methods could provide "healthy diets" for 10 billion people by 2060, while also preserving livable habitats for most remaining species, it concluded. "With foresight and timely action, these goals can be achieved." Successive waves of species extinctions have followed in the wake of modern humans' spread out of Africa to the rest of the world.

By 3,000 years ago, Earth had lost half of its terrestrial mammal mega-species, animals which weigh more than 44 kilograms and 15 percent of its birds. The human population at seven billion is now 25 times larger than it was then, and projected to add another four billion mouths to feed by century's end. Already, a quarter of mammal species and 13 percent of birds are threatened with extinction, said the review authors. "Extinction rates for birds, mammals and amphibians are similar at present to those of the five global mass-extinction events of the past 500 million years that probably resulted from meteorite impacts, massive volcanism and other cataclysmic forces," they wrote. One such event is thought to

have wiped out the dinosaurs. Hunting, culling and poaching imperils up to half of threatened bird and mammal species, said the paper.

Farm better, eat better

Designated protected areas now cover about 14 percent of Earth's land surface, yet biodiversity continues to decline worldwide. In parts of

Africa, for example, lion populations have fallen to 10 percent of their potential largely due to human encroachment. Between 1970 and 1998, bush meat consumption in Ghana led to a near 80-percent population decline in 41 mammal species. Threats to animal survival increase in step with a rise in human population and disposable income. — AFP

PREGNANCY NOT DANGEROUS FOR WOMEN WHO HAD BREAST CANCER

CHICAGO: Becoming pregnant after a diagnosis of breast cancer does not raise the risk of the cancer returning, said the largest study of its kind to date, released on Saturday at a major cancer conference. The study included 1,207 women under age 50 who had breast cancer that had not spread elsewhere in the body. Most of the women in the study had estrogen receptor (ER) positive cancer, a type in which the tumors are fueled by the hormone estrogen.

Some doctors have raised concerns that these women might face a higher risk of cancer recurrence if they were to become pregnant, due to hormonal changes during gestation. A total of 333 of the women became pregnant during the study, within an average of about

2.4 years following diagnosis and treatment. After a follow up of 10 years, researchers found "no difference in disease-free survival between women who became pregnant and those who did not, irrespective of ER status," said the report released at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting.

Pregnancy also showed surprising survival benefits for women who had survived ER-negative breast cancer, it said. These women had a 42 percent lower chance of dying than those who did not become pregnant. "Our findings confirm that pregnancy after breast cancer should not be discouraged, even for women with ER-positive cancer," said lead study author Matteo Lambertini, a medical oncologist at the Institute Jules Bordet in Brussels. — AFP

FACELESS FISH AMONG WEIRD DEEP SEA: AUSTRALIAN FINDS

SYDNEY: Faceless fish and other weird and wonderful creatures, many of them new species, have been hauled up from the deep waters off Australia during a scientific voyage studying parts of the ocean never explored before. The month-long journey off the country's eastern seaboard has been surveying life lurking in a dark and cold abyss that plunges four kilometers below the surface, using nets, sonar and deep-sea cameras.

Chief scientist on board "The Investigator" Tim O'Hara from Museums Victoria told, the search area was "the most unexplored environment on earth". Bright red spiky rock crabs, puffed-up coffin fish, blind sea spiders and deep sea eels have been collected since the scientists began their voyage from Launceston in Tasmania north towards the Coral Sea on May 15. They also came across an unusual faceless fish, which has only been recorded once before by the pioneering scientific crew of HMS Challenger off Papua New Guinea in 1873.

"It hasn't got any eyes or a visible nose and its mouth is underneath," O'Hara said from the ship. At such huge depths, it is so dark that creatures often have no eyes or produce their own light through bioluminescence, he added. Another find was carnivorous sponges that wield lethal spicules made of silicon, effectively glass. They get small crustaceans hooked on their Velcro-

like spines, to be slowly digested in-situ. This technique differs from most deep-sea sponges, which feed on bacteria and other single-celled organisms filtered from passing currents.

"We've got 27 scientists on board who are leaders in their fields and they tell me that around one-third of what we've found are new species," said O'Hara, with several thousand specimens so far retrieved and two weeks of the trip still to go. Life at such depths is one of crushing pressures, no light, little food and freezing temperatures, with animals that call it home evolving unique ways to survive. As food is scarce, they are usually small and move slowly. Many are jelly-like and spend their lives floating about, while others have ferocious spines and fangs and lie in wait until food comes to them.

Working in such an environment was challenging, O'Hara admitted, with each fishing expedition taking up to seven hours to deploy and retrieve the equipment and its eight kilometers of cable from the sea floor, given it is so far down. But the data gathered was helping to improve the understanding of Australia's deep-sea habitats, their biodiversity and the ecological processes that sustain them, O'Hara said. "This will assist in its conservation and management and help to protect it from the impacts of climate change, pollution and other human activity," he said. — AFP

SPACEX LAUNCHES 1ST RECYCLED SUPPLY SHIP



FLORIDA: This image provided by NASA shows the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with the Dragon spacecraft onboard, launching from pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. — AFP

CAPE CANAVERAL: SpaceX launched its first recycled cargo ship to the International Space Station yesterday, yet another milestone in its bid to drive down flight costs. After a two-day delay caused by thunderstorms, the unmanned Falcon rocket blasted off carrying a Dragon capsule that made a station delivery nearly three years ago. When this refurbished Dragon reaches the orbiting lab on tomorrow, it will be the first returning craft since NASA's now-retired shuttles.

The first-stage booster flown yesterday afternoon was brand new, and as is now the custom, returned to Cape Canaveral following liftoff for a successful vertical touchdown. "The Falcon has landed," SpaceX Mission Control declared from company headquarters in Hawthorne, California, and a cheer went up. The plan is to launch the booster again, instead of junking it in the ocean as so many other rocket makers do. Just

two months ago, SpaceX launched its first recycled booster on a satellite mission. Another flight featuring a reused booster is coming up later this month.

This Dragon capsule, meanwhile, came back for take two following a few modifications and much testing. Shortly before liftoff, a SpaceX vice president, Hans Koenigsmann, called the Dragon reflight "a pretty big deal." It's all part of the company's quest, he said, to lower the cost of access to space through reusability. "Overall a great day," Koenigsmann later told reporters. "Another wonderful launch," added NASA's Ven Feng, a station manager SpaceX chief Elon Musk tweeted early morning today. "It's starting to feel kinda normal to reuse rockets. Good. That's how it is for cars & airplanes and how it should be for rockets."

"The Dragon soaring yesterday has the same hull and most of the same parts from its 2014 flight. SpaceX installed a new heat shield and parachutes, among

a few other things, for the trip back to Earth at flight's end. The Dragon is the only supply ship capable of surviving re-entry; all the others burn up in the atmosphere. NASA's other supplier, Orbital ATK, will see its cargo carrier depart the 250-mile-high complex on Sunday, six weeks after arriving.

Besides the usual supplies, SpaceX's latest 6,000-pound shipment includes mice and flies for research, a new kind of roll-up solar panel and a neutron star detector. For now, SpaceX said savings are minimal because of all the inspections and tests performed on the already flown parts. NASA's space station program manager, Kirk Shireman, told reporters earlier in the week that SpaceX did a thorough job recertifying the Dragon and that the risk is not substantially more than if this were a capsule straight off the factory floor. He said the entire industry is interested in "this whole notion of reuse," first realized with the space shuttles. — AP

14 POISONED BY DEATH CAP MUSHROOMS IN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO: A new report says 14 people were poisoned after eating 'death cap' mushrooms last year in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Most recovered but three people needed liver transplants, including an 18-month-old girl who suffered permanent neurological damage, according to Friday's report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The poisonings occurred over two weeks last December. The report, compiled by

Northern California doctors, says the people ate toxic Amanita phalloides, or 'death cap' mushrooms collected from the wild. The mushrooms can be abundant in wet winter months. The report says they flourished after early rainfall followed by warmer weather. The report says people should be cautious when collecting or buying wild mushrooms and should let a mycologist, a mushroom expert, examine them before eating. — AP

FROZEN TUNA, STEAKS RECALLED AFTER TESTING POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS A VIRUS

OKLAHOMA CITY: Some imported frozen tuna cubes and steaks are being recalled after testing showed they could be contaminated with the hepatitis A virus. The US Food and Drug Administration says Hawaii-based Hilo Fish Company told the agency in May it had recalled yellow fin tuna that tested positive for the virus. Hilo says the fish was sourced from Sustainable Seafood Company in Vietnam and Santa Cruz Seafood Inc. in the Philippines.

Some products were distributed to retail locations and restaurants in California, Texas and Oklahoma. The FDA said there are no reports of illness have been linked to the fish. Hilo Fish Company's recalled products include 8-ounce steaks with label code 627152, and tuna cubes in 15-pound cases with label code 705342. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says hepatitis A is a liver disease that can be transmitted through food or skin-to-skin contact. — AP



VERMONT: In this photo, fly fishing volunteer fishing guide Gary North, foreground, helps Anne Hulse, rear, untangle her line as they fish in the Little River in Moscow, Vermont (inset: a fly fishing guide displays a box of flies during a fly fishing retreat). — AP photos

BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS GO FLY-FISHING FOR RECOVERY

MOSCOW: Spaced out up and down a stretch of the Little River, more than a dozen women stand in the moving water in overall waders casting fly rods, some for the first time. The women all breast cancer survivors in different stages of treatment and recovery are taking part in a free weekend fly-fishing retreat that offers them more than fishing. The event, held each spring by the nonprofit Casting for Recovery, covers the basics of fly-fishing while offering the women support, counseling, medical information and relaxation. Similar retreats are held throughout the country.

"It's been amazing," said Sue Cappucci, of Boscawen, New Hampshire, as she sat in a chair taking a break from fly-fishing last month. "The fly-fishing is definitely a great part of it, but I think the whole package, you know, meeting the women and just feeling the support," she said. "I haven't had a lot of support. It's hard to find a good support group, so this has been a good weekend for me." The program was found-

ed in Manchester, Vermont, in 1996 by a breast cancer surgeon and a female fly-fishing guide with the theory that the gentle motion of fly casting would be physically therapeutic for women who have had surgery or radiation.

Being in nature, on a river, in a beautiful setting with birds singing, also can be healing, said Sheila Reid, the program director for Casting for Recovery Vermont and New Hampshire. The women can take part in a medical discussion with volunteer medical and psychological staff covering topics the women want to learn about. On Saturday evening, they can participate in a support group. Topics may be about fear of cancer recurring, pain, body image, relationships, sexuality and other struggles. "They talk about their struggles and then they also talk about their joys in people that they've met, and where the path has taken them," said Barb Lynch, a clinical psychologist who volunteers on the retreats.

Some participants too weak to stand for long periods can fish from chairs. For Pam O'Neil, of

East Dorset, Vermont, it was one of the most relaxing and peaceful weekends she's had a long time, also one of the program's goals. "They covered everything that they could possibly cover as far as wellness and medical, as far as spirituality through fishing, and being able to relax," she said. Many of the volunteers are men whose wives, mothers, sisters or friends have had breast cancer, said Reid. Some of the women will open up to them and talk about things that they may not have talked about even with friends at home, she said.

"Every one of the experiences has stuck with me," said Rhey Plumley, who has volunteered for four years and whose mother died of breast cancer. "I treasure those moments and it's really nice that I can do that." As the women and volunteers dotted the Little River, word came over a walkie-talkie: One of the women had caught a small-mouthed bass up near the falls. "Somebody caught a fish. Somebody caught a fish," Reid said. "That's fantastic." — AP



HONOLULU: In file photo tuna caught by foreign fishermen aboard American boats are lined up at the Honolulu Fish Auction at Pier 38 in Honolulu. — AP

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CABBAGE ROLLS WITH SPICY VEGETABLES

Ingredients:

- 12 large leaves of white cabbage
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 onions or 300 g, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup pine seeds or 75 g
- 2 medium carrots or 200 g, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/4 cup raisins or 37 g
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 cubes Maggi Chicken Less Salt Stock Bouillon Cube
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 3 tablespoons fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 2 cups basmati rice, cooked
- 2 cups boiling water or 500 ml

or until soft and pliable. Drain, remove the hard stalk from the leaves and set them aside.

Warm olive oil in a large pan, cook onions, pine seeds and carrots over medium heat for 3-4 minutes. Add garlic, raisins, cumin powder, cinnamon powder, black pepper and 1 cube MAGGI Less Salt Chicken Stock and cook for another 2 minutes.

Add tomato paste, parsley, and rice and stir until well combined. Remove from heat and cool slightly.

Place 2 tablespoons of filling on the edge of one cabbage leaf. Fold in edges and roll into a large parcel.

Place cabbage parcels, flap side down in a deep ovenproof dish, combine the remaining MAGGI Less Salt Chicken Stock cubes with the boiling water and pour over the cabbage parcels, cover with foil and bake in a 180°C oven for 20-25 minutes.

Preparation:

Boil cabbage leaves in boiling water for 5 minutes



CHICKEN CACCIATORE

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup plain flour or 60 g
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 500 g skinned chicken breast fillets, cut into 2 cm cubes
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or 30 ml
- 1 medium onion or 100 g, finely chopped
- 1 small red bell pepper or 75 g, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 3 medium tomatoes or 400 g, diced
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar or 60 ml
- 1 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 cup water or 250 ml
- 2 cubes MAGGI Chicken Stock Bouillon Cube or 20 g
- 3 tablespoons capers in brine, drained
- 1 packet fettuccini pasta or 450 g
- 8 cups water or 2 liters
- 1 tablespoon olive oil or 15 ml
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, chopped

Preparation:

Combine Flour and Black Pepper and dust Chicken pieces.

Heat Vegetable Oil in a large sauce pan, fry Chicken pieces until golden brown. Remove and rest on kitchen paper for the excess oil to drain.

Using the same pan, saute Onions until soft, add Bell Peppers, Garlic, Tomato Paste and Turmeric and cook for 2-3 minutes.

Add diced Tomatoes, Balsamic Vinegar, dried Oregano, Water and MAGGI Chicken Stock and allow to simmer for 15 minutes.

Add Capers and return chicken to the pan and allow to cook for 20 minutes.

Cook Pasta in boiling Water until Aldente. Drain pasta, discard water, and return to empty pot. Add Olive oil to pasta and toss until all pasta is covered.

Place cooked pasta on a large platter, pour the sauce over and garnish with chopped Basil leaves.

POTATO AND RICE KIBBEH

Ingredients:

- 2 cups basmati rice or 400 g, washed
- 3 cups water or 750 ml
- 2 cubes MAGGI White Rice Seasoning
- 2 medium potatoes or 500 g, boiled and peeled

For the stuffing:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 medium onions or 250 g, chopped
- 1/2 kg minced lamb
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 2 cubes MAGGI Mutton Stock (Authentic Taste), crumbled
- 3 tablespoons pine seeds, toasted
- 2 tablespoons raisins
- 1/4 cup fresh dill or 20 g, finely chopped
- 2 cups vegetable oil, for deep frying

Preparation:

Place rice, water and MAGGI White rice Seasoning cubes in a pot. Stir constantly to boil then cover and cook over a low heat until rice is cooked. Remove and set aside to cool slightly.

Mash the potato and the rice until pure then cover and set aside.

Meanwhile, heat oil in a medium pot, add onion and cook until tender. Add minced lamb and cook until golden brown. Add curry powder, MAGGI Mutton Stock (Authentic Taste) cubes, pine seeds and raisins and stir until well combined. Remove pot from heat, mix in dill and leave to cool.

With wet hands, take medium sized pieces of the potato and rice mixture, form each portion into a ball shape, making a space in the center by pushing your finger through from one end.

Stuff with some meat mixture, close firmly to form a ball then flatten it slightly into small patties.

Fry kibbeh by batches in deep hot oil until golden brown.

Serve hot with green salad and yogurt.



ROTINI WITH ROASTED RED BELL PEPPERS



Ingredients:

- 4 medium red bell peppers or 200 g
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or 30 ml
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 4 medium spring onions or 50 g, sliced
- 1 cup water or 250 ml, hot
- 2 cubes MAGGI Chicken Stock Bouillon Cube or 20 g
- 1/2 cup cream
- 1 packet dried pasta or 450 g, (Rotini pasta)
- 8 cups water or 2 liters
- 3 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped

Preparation:

Brush Red Bell Peppers with Vegetable oil and grill in the oven or open fire until cooked and skin somewhat burnt. Cover in a bowl and allow to cool for 10 minutes.

Peel the skin from the Peppers, transfer to a food processor and process until smooth.

In a medium sauce pan, melt Butter, add Garlic and Spring Onions and sauté for 2-3 minutes. Add Hot Water, MAGGI Chicken Stock, cream and Pepper Pure and simmer on low heat for 5 minutes.

Cook Pasta in boiling Water until Aldente. Drain pasta, discard water, and return to empty pot.

Add sauce to pasta and toss until all pasta is covered.

Serve on a large platter with sprinkled fresh Basil Leaves.



Hawaii on a budget: penny pinching in paradise



Pink-hued sunsets over aquamarine waters, fascinating geological features and a vibrant mix of cultural and historical links to the rest of the world, Hawaii reigns supreme among tropical destinations. But paradise doesn't come without a price. As one of the world's most isolated archipelagos, just getting to the Aloha State can seem prohibitively expensive, not to mention the high costs of food (as much as 90 percent of which has to be imported to the islands), as well as activities and accommodation. But there are a variety of ways to help you say 'aloha' without breaking the bank.

Food

Pass on hotel breakfasts

When was the last time you heard someone say, 'Man, that hotel breakfast really hit the spot?' Mass-produced 'eggs' and drippy waffles are rarely satisfying, so skip this often-disappointing travel blunder in favor of Hawaiian breakfast staples like Portuguese sausage (often pork smoke-cured with banana leaves) with eggs or Hawaiian French toast, both of which can be found aplenty (and at lower prices) at local diners all over the islands.

Eat like a local

Locally grown guava, fresh seafood and coffee just a few steps from the source, the bounty of Hawaii is found in its local shops and farmers markets. Wallet-friendly 'ono grinds (Hawaiian for 'good eats') can be found, if you know where to look. Peruse fresh produce at a farmers market like KCC Saturday Farmers' Market, the largest in Honolulu and a great place to also pick up some souvenirs for the folks unlucky enough to stay home. Similarly, find a local fish market like Koloa Fish Market on Kauai for some fresh poke (marinated raw fish) or a traditional Hawaiian plate lunch (typically a meat dish and two sides).

Transportation

Limit the car rental period

While you might score a lower daily rate with a vacation-long car rental, limiting yourself to a one- or two-day car hire will keep costs under \$100. You'd be tossing money away by keeping that rental car in a lot while you lounge with a pool-side cocktail at the hotel anyway. Instead, consider planning an excursion or two and return the rental car when you won't be needing it. Many resorts will supplement car-less guests with complimentary shuttle services to local hotspots, and others offer discounted (and sometimes free) car rentals to guests. Travelers on O'ahu can take advantage of Hawaii's best public bus system, aptly named The Bus, which offers riders four days of unlimited travel for \$35.

Activities

Explore the outdoors

If the best things in life are free, then Hawaii truly is paradise. It doesn't cost anything to lounge on one of the world's finest beaches or to tackle the archipelago's adventurous hikes (bar-

ring any permit requirements). Save those greenbacks by experiencing a different shade of green with a hike through Koke'e State Park in Kauai or a snorkel in O'ahu's Hanauma Bay. Forget your gear? Don't worry, there are rental shops on all of the four largest islands, and snorkel equipment can be as cheap as \$6 per day.

Grab a few visitor magazines

While waiting for your luggage in arrivals, meander over to the display for those visitor brochures and magazines that seem to populate every luggage carousel hall in the world. These are usually packed with coupons and money-saving ideas. The four large islands are served by This Week, which provides up-to-date information on where to score big discounts, and Aloha Visitor Guides have four island-specific issues that provide coupons and specials. Most issues are available digitally, as well.

Opt for free entertainment

Skip the pricey luau in favor of free events like the Kuhio Beach Torch Lighting & Hula Show, held in Waikiki every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday night. Or get hands-on with some free classes in ukulele, lei-making and hula at Whalers Village on Maui. Grab a local paper or magazine for listings on other free events on the islands.

Accommodation

Consider your needs

Sure that ocean-view suite sounds nice, but how much time are you really going to be spending in your hotel room? Conversely, if you enjoy cooking at home, consider booking accommodation with a kitchenette. Budget hunters can often find good deals at bed and breakfasts, which can vary from spartan rooms-with-a-bed to luxuriously accented full houses. Rugged sleepers can opt for any one of Hawaii's campsites, which are dispersed through the national, state and county parks.

Where to stay

These budget or mid-range options are perfect for low-cost accommodations.

The Big Island: Well located in Hilo's historic downtown, Hilo Bay Hotel offers budget travelers inexpensive beds in a great location.

O'ahu: With kitchens in every studio and suite, the value to be had at Ilima Hotel is among the best in Honolulu. Ask for a room above the 10th floor for views of the Ko'olau Range and Ala Wai Canal.

Maui: Lahaina's best budget option is the Lahaina Inn, although the rooms suffer from small size and sparse decorations. Foodies will like the Lahaina Grill on the ground floor.

Kauai: Kauai Beach Resort's location in the middle of the East Shore makes it a prime base camp for mid-range travelers exploring both the North and South Shore's activities. Guests here sacrifice a swimmable beach for location and resort amenities at mid-range rates.

—www.lonelyplanet.com



CLASSIFIEDS



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

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

REQUIRED FILIPINA

With enough cooking and confectionery experience is required.

For inquiry call:

9 7 9 7 0 6 0 2

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available in Farwaniya block 6, street 107, opp Animal Health Department. For Indians, executive bachelor/ family/ working ladies. Contact: 66625901. (C 5316) 5-6-2017

SITUATION WANTED

Indian male Graduate having (29) years office work experience in Kuwait, knowing self commercial correspondence and all office procedures seeking job. Visa Article # 18. Contact : 99870387. Email: Thomas@bkghc.com (C5314) (28-5-2017)

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:14
Shorook:	04:48
Duhr:	11:46
Asr:	15:21
Maghrib:	18:45
Isha:	20:16



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

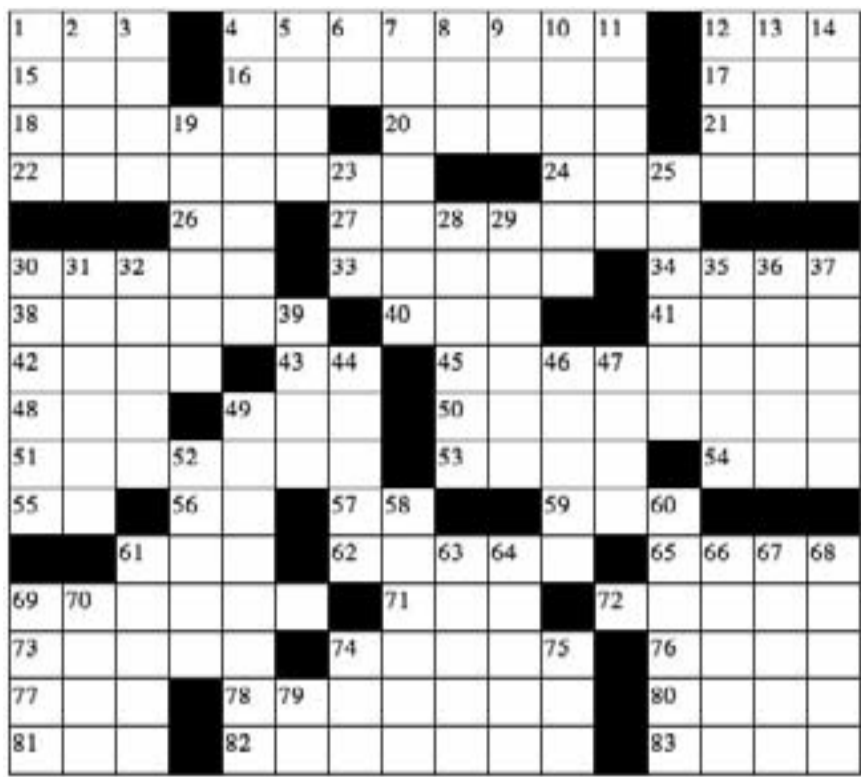
Arrival Flights on Monday 5/6/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05
IAW	157	Baghdad	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45
KAC	102	London	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
KAC	418	Manila	02:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:50
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50
BAW	157	London	06:05
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	13:40
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
KNE	535	Jeddah	14:05
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05

Departure Flights on Monday 5/6/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
IAW	158	Baghdad	00:40
PIA	206	Lahore	01:00
MSC	502	Alexandria	01:05
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
KAC	363	Colombo	01:55
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	417	Manila	04:20
JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
FEG	954	Asyut	05:55
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
YYY	201	AZI	07:00
KAC	167	Paris	07:15
KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:35
KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
KAC	161	Geneva	09:10
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
KAC	117	New York	09:15
KAC	165	Rome	09:20
KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
KAC	101	London	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
KAC	617	Doha	10:15
KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
JZR	1772	Jeddah	11:00
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
VIZ	201	IQA	12:00
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
AXB	890	Mangalore	12:05
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KNE	536	Jeddah	14:55
KNE	382	Taif	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	615	Bahrain	15:10
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
KAM	743	Dammam	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:25
SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
JZR	240	Amman	17:30
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
DLH	634	Doha	21:00
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
ETD	919	Bahrain/Abu Dhabi	22:00
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	411	Bangkok	23:35

CROSSWORD 1628



ACROSS
1. (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.

4. Sports that involve bodies of water.
12. A former monetary unit in Great Britain.
15. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
16. The rays of the sun.
17. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
18. Wool of the alpaca.
20. (of pop groups) Not affiliated with a major recording company n.
21. A young woman making her debut into society.
22. Having had the head cut off.
24. Any of various rich and elaborate cakes.
26. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.
27. (Lebanese) A finely chopped salad with tomatoes and parsley and mint and scallions and bulgur wheat.
30. (computer science) American Standard Code for Information Interchange.
33. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
34. Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).
38. Give pleasure to.
40. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
41. Ditch dug as a fortification and usually filled with water.
42. A roughly cylindrical that is vessel open at the top.
43. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
45. Any of various plants of the genus Sabbatia having usually pink cymose flowers.
48. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
50. Dependent on chance.
51. One who hates or loathes.
53. A milkshake made with malt powder.
54. The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
55. A unit of luminous flux equal to the amount of light given out through a solid angle of 1 steradian by a point source of 1 candela intensity radiating uniformly in all directions.
56. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
57. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
59. An associate degree in applied science.
62. A farewell remark.
65. A block of solid substance (such as soap or wax).
69. (Norse mythology) The heavenly dwelling of the Norse gods (the Aesir) and slain war heroes.
71. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
72. (of an arrow) Equipped with feathers.
73. A group of Plains Indians formerly living in what is now North and South Dakota and Nebraska and Kansas and Arkansas and Louisiana and Oklahoma and Texas.
76. Not very intelligent or interested in culture.
77. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
78. A shrub of the genus Carissa having fragrant white flowers and plumlike red to purple-black fruits.
80. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
81. The habitation of wild animals.

82. A room equipped for preparing meals.
83. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. Divulge information or secrets.
2. A large bundle bound for storage or transport.
3. A common venereal disease caused by the Treponema pallidum spirochete.
4. Type genus of the family Ascariidae.
5. One of four children born at the same time from the same pregnancy.
6. An organization of independent states to promote international peace and security.
7. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
8. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
9. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
10. Small tropical flea.
11. An advantageous purchase.
12. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
13. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
14. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
19. Of or belonging to an acium.
23. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
25. (Akkadian) Mother of the gods and consort of Apsu.
28. Any seed plant yielding balsam.
29. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
31. A downhill race over a winding course defined by upright poles.
32. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
35. The rotating armature of a motor or generator.
36. Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
37. A woman's close-fitting foundation garment.
39. Freedom from difficulty or hardship or effort.
44. Small genus of hairy herbs with yellow flowers.
46. A chain of more than 200 islands about 400 miles long in the western central Pacific Ocean.
47. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
49. Creeping European clover having white to pink flowers and bright green leaves.
52. A landlocked desert republic in north-central Africa.
58. A verse line with a dactyl followed by a spondee or trochee.
60. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
61. English psychologist who collaborated with I. A. Richards in designing Basic English (1889-1957).
63. Of or relating to or characteristic of Ireland or its people.
64. Having an irregularly notched or toothed margin as though gnawed.
66. Frogs, toads, tree toads.
67. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
68. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
70. Having wisdom that comes with age and experience.
74. The products of human creativity.
75. (British) Your grandmother.
79. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You like other people and they can tell. Others value you for your sense of discrimination and kindness. You will find yourself working with groups of people today-maybe a neighborhood watch program. Perhaps you will enlist other volunteers through your special way of appreciating others' time. Penetrating psychological insight is your gift. You will find it easy to listen to the ideas and thoughts of others. You are considerate, helpful and courteous. You enjoy communication in all its forms-spoken, written, via computers, etc. Put any reservations you may have today aside; you will be successful in whatever you set out to do. New beginnings and understandings are possible with old relationships. Positive end results happen!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a productive day, especially with group-related projects. You will receive a little boost through your friends today. Some sort of extra support or recognition is available. You may feel that it is important to keep the creative flow open. There is a fierce sense of loyalty for loved ones, and together you may enjoy all kinds of group sports as well as a variety of crafts. You can be protective and security-minded. You are very skilled at implementing change and improving existing circumstances. You may seek to understand and improve a difficult situation today by finding new but secure ways to understand the heart of a matter. There are many invitations coming and going from your house. You may take time to enjoy your loved ones this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a positive curiosity about human kind. Your instinctive orientation at this time is toward getting down to a new understanding of time schedules and needs of the group as well as needs of individuals. You may seek to understand and improve situations that involve relationships. Inventions, computers and electronics may be the tools you use to shuffle a budget around later this afternoon. For your own family, you may need a time sheet so everyone knows where the others in the family are located. You are enthusiastic when others want to be a part of the plan. It may be your turn to teach a class this evening and that could include a class in CPR or swimming or some other technique to make life safe. Some family members want to watch.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your ideas and images about the traditional and the environment around you make it easy for you to work with and teach others. You will understand and perform well with young people today. You seem to know what it takes to create a supportive environment. You handle words and tell stories with consummate skill and others love to hear you speak or entertain. You have a touch of magic about you. You may find yourself settling a dispute that, by any other means, could have become a real problem later this afternoon. You are fair-minded and aboveboard, always direct and honest in thought, and you use these talents today. Although you are normally more interested in eternal thoughts and broad landscapes, you manage to get the basics right away.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have more than just the gift of gab this weekend. Your words and ideas can transport and enchant listeners. Your imagination and sense of what connects all of life are felt in your speech and in the way you communicate. You love a good story and a sense of the mystical pervades every one you tell. You are at home in the world of myths and dreams. Your mind soars on wings of the imagination. You methodically go about putting your own dreams into practice this day. A little research may be fun, check out a travel destination and use your imagination. Close relationships take on more emotional importance. Feeling cared for and needed is comfortable, and it is fun to nurse and serve your loved one. New ideas of entertainment meet your approval.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Marriage and other close relationships give rise to great expectations, as a new cycle gets underway in your life. This is a time to enjoy the fun people and things that make you smile. You may be most happy in your surroundings these days and can do without the extras in life that others seem to think are necessities. You enjoy making do with the basics of life. Your love of simplicity is good for your checkbook as well as politics, and at this time you are able to bring out a sense of honesty in others. Religion, truth and the world of philosophy and ideas are calling you. You may find yourself involved in some intriguing subjects while conversing with friends later this afternoon. You exhibit your freedom-loving and independent nature.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are understanding and sensitive to the needs of others and may be asked to speak for a group. This could be at an awards dinner or wedding or simply to guide a party or group in a positive direction. You communicate in most positive ways, particularly concerning groups. This is a time during which you may discover new and different reasons or ways to enjoy and appreciate life. This afternoon you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home. Listening to the conversation of others, whether you are in a line or sitting on the floor with kids, there are fun conversations to hear. Later you may want to just relax and read or enjoy some form of passive entertainment-yoga or some type of meditation can be helpful.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Friends, family and young people occupy most of your day. Being appreciated and admired is fun and the people around you seem to appreciate the time you spend with them. You could receive some help or advice in the form of a real drive towards realizing some longtime dream or even an ambition you have wanted to achieve. This may mean someone has ideas or some information that would help you to change jobs, take a night class, and borrow some technical device to learn about video filming. People that are around you enjoy hearing your ideas and stories. You may even attract a crowd for a short while. You could carry the story telling a bit further and read for a gathering of children. You express love and love is contagious.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today may just be the day for travel... Probably not too far, but across town or another city from where you live. Finally, you have time for family and friends this day. You may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something completely different with your loved ones. Several directions may need planning or scheduling but you and your friends will enjoy the adventure. There may be a farmer's market, and a new model home addition, some volunteer work, and a monthly flea market area, etc. Lots of choices can be enjoyed during this one day and a picnic lunch may be in order before the third item on the list is approached. By the end of the day all of you will surely want some of that barbecue you smelled earlier in the afternoon.



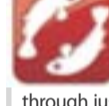
Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are a real guide or pathfinder for others and your sense of truth and direction is very clear. You already know the way to accomplish things and solve problems and you need no education to succeed. Your analytical powers are superb and you enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. You could find some deep discussions with your loved ones concerning career choices. It may be time to review and update your resume or to help someone with his or her resume. Relationships, whether they are partnerships, personal ones or the social scene, are very important now and can have a very decided influence on other areas of your life. You may find that a more impersonal attitude is the key for today. Emotional challenges are short-lived.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You cherish whatever is different and out of the ordinary. Your friends and surroundings-everything around you-must be unconventional to the point of being controversial. You are not interested in what others think-this independence is your passion. The way you show affection may also be unusual and your partners are certainly nonconformist. You set a high value on being different. You may have a tendency to avoid sensitive subjects and to take refuge in duties and responsibilities rather than face issues that might disturb you. This could be bad or good, depending on your abilities to work through problems. Later today you have an opportunity to interact with open-minded people. Enjoy an evening walk with your loved one.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any situation that may occur. Good advice from a guide or older person may be expected-you are patient. Your sense of humor is showing today and it is stimulating just being with you. You may be attending a lecture this afternoon. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Obtaining and exchanging good information is important to you. This evening you are more involved with neighbors. You are very painstaking when it comes to partnerships, lovers-relationships of all kinds. You tend toward long-lasting friendships and your loyalty shows.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Computer Jargon 1

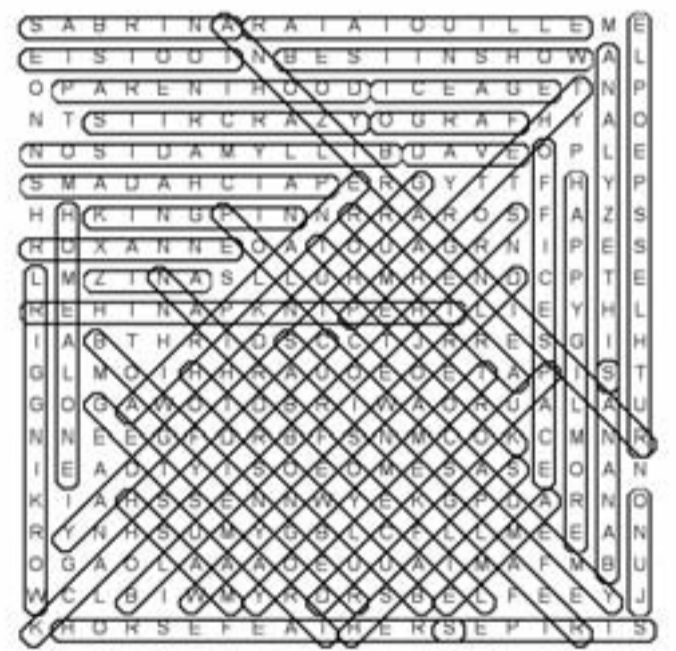
Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word.



- APPLICATION, BACKUP, BINARY, BLUETOOTH, BOOT, BYTE, CHAT, CLICK, COOKIE, CURSOR, DATA, DEFRAGMENT, DIRECTORY, DISK DRIVE, DOS, DRAG, EMAIL, ENCRYPTION, FILE, FIREWALL, FOLDER, GIF, GOOGLE, HTML, ICON, INTERNET, JAVASCRIPT, KEYPAL, LCD, LOGIN, MEMORY, MONITOR, MOUSE, NANOSECOND, NETWORK, PARTITION, PASTE, PDF, PIXEL, POWER SUPPLY, PROGRAMMER, UNIX, ROUTER, SAVE AS, SCANNER, SECURITY, SHAREWARE, SOFTWARE, SPAM, TASKBAR, THUMBNAIL, LOGIN, ROUTER, WALLPAPER, WIRELESS

Yesterday's Solution

Comedy Movies 2



- ASPLANE, ANALYZE THIS, ANZ, ARTHUR, BANANAS, BEST IN SHOW, BILLY MADISON, BLUES BROTHERS, BOWLING, BULWORTH, CADDYSHACK, DAVE, QUICK SOUP, EMMA, FARGO, GET SMART, GROUNDHOG DAY, HAPPY GILMORE, HOME ALONE, HORSE FEATHERS, ICE AGE, KINGPIN, LIFE OF BRIAN, MASH, OFFICE SPACE, PARENTHOOD, PATCHY ADAMS, POLICE ACADEMY, RAISING ARIZONA, RATATOUILLE, REAL GENIUS, ROXANNE, RUTHLESS PEOPLE, SABRINA, SPLASH, STIR CRAZY, STRIPES, THE SERK, THE PINK PANTHER, THE TRAMP, TOMMY BOY, TROTSIE, WAYNES WORLD, WORKING GIRL

The hidden movie title is: MONTY PYTHON'S THE MEANING OF LIFE

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries
and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



**PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY**

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

**INTERNATIONAL
CALLS**



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

**STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 04/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 42 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 38 km/h
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 38 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	hot	hot + high clouds	very hot	very hot + raising dust over some areas
Min Temp °C	26	27	29	30
Max Temp °C	44	46	47	48
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to north westerly	north westerly to northerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 35	08 - 32	08 - 30	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	30		40	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22		42	
ABDALY	24		41	
BUBYAN	25		40	
JAHRA	26		42	
FAILAKA ISLAND	26		40	
SALMIYAH	30		37	
AHMADI	31		38	
JAL ALIYAH	24		39	
QAROH ISLAND	29		34	
UMH AL-MARADEH	29		33	
MUWASIB	26		37	
WAFRA	25		39	
SALMIY	22		39	
MUTRIBA	22		41	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	40
Min Temp (°C)	27
Max Rel Hum (%)	28
Min Rel Hum (%)	09
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	53 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise 04:48
Sunset 18:45

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:14
Sunrise	04:48
Zuhr	11:46
Aer	15:21
Sunset	18:45
Isha	20:16



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Plastic Surgeons Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 Family Doctor Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 Psychiatrists Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 Gynaecologists & Obstetricians DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 General Surgeons Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 Internists, Chest & Heart Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Paediatricians Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarooof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 Dentists Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 Neurologists Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 Gastrologists Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	Endocrinologist Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 Physiotherapists & VD Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. MUSAED FARAJ KHAHEES 22666288 Rheumatologists: Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 Internist, Chest & Heart DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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The xx perform stunning set at Barcelona's Primavera Sound 2017

The xx performed a stunning headline set at Primavera Sound in Barcelona on Friday. The electronic-indie trio from south London are in the middle of a massive tour and took to the stage last night at the Parc del Forum to perform a number of their new dance hits from their latest album 'I See You', and a series of fan favorite tracks from their breakout record 'xx' and follow up LP 'Coexist'. Despite being on the road in the US and Europe since January, bassist Oliver Sim admitted he was "nervous" in front of the huge crowd and told music goers: "Do you know what, I'm very nervous, I don't know why, it's only because I care." The xx - which also includes songwriter Jamie Smith and guitarist Romy Madley Croft - brought their magnificent stage production to the industrial site, including their rainbow spectacle of lights and revolving metallic columns used during their 'Night & Day' tour. Singers Romy and Oliver opened the set with old favorites 'Crystalized', 'Islands',



and 'Infinity, and slowed the pace midway, with tracks 'Replica' and 'Performance'. The group ended their energetic performance with a mini DJ set from Jamie XX - who is also known as Jamie XX - which kicked off with 'Shelter' before delighting fans with their 2017 hit 'On Hold' and Jamie's solo effort 'Loud Places'. Other acts to perform at the 17th addition of Primavera Sound were Solange, Bon Iver, Slayer, and Aphex Twin on Thursday. Red Bull TV presenter Will Best - who will continue to host the platform's live stream of the festival at redbull.tv/primavera-sound tonight from 9pm CEST - praised the Spanish music extravaganza for bringing together artists and their fans from different genres of music. Speaking to Bang Showbiz, he said: "When Solange was doing her amazing soul, future R'n'B stuff, to Bon Iver doing his thing and then Slayer, and then Aphex Twin, this festival definitely brings people together."



Rita Ora: I approach my aspirations 'like a man'



Rita Ora approaches her ambitions "like a man". The 26-year-old star has previously spoken about her long-term aspiration of building her own empire - but Rita has admitted that, unlike Tyra Banks, her co-star on 'America's Next Top Model', she isn't able to multi-task. Asked about her ambitions, Rita shared: "I just really want to make something so that I can retire and be all right. You know what I mean? My parents have always been really futuristic humans, always thinking about the future. And we were just raised like that. I didn't know what I meant by empire when I was just starting out. I didn't know. "I did 'America's Next Top Model' and Tyra, she created an empire. I really respect people who do that because it just makes you look really multi-tasking, you know? I mean, to be honest, I can't even pass my driving test, let alone start an empire. I'm like a man: I focus on one thing. No offence. I've got a bit of an Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder about this." Ultimately, Rita admitted that her central aspiration is to please her parents, Vera and Besnik. Rita's family left Kosovo for political reasons and relocated to London in the early 90s, where she subsequently developed her singing talents. Speaking to #legend, Rita said: "I've become obsessed with creating something because I've got a family and all that. My parents, I want them to be happy."



Frank Iero jealous of Gerard Way's vocals

Frank Iero has joked that he has "nothing but hatred" for his "talented" former bandmate Gerard Way. The 35-year-old rocker now fronts his own solo project Frank Iero and the Patience and admits he's jealous of how the 'Helena' singer, 40, could smoke and drink and still pull off a blinding vocal performance at their My Chemical Romance shows. When asked if he has more respect for the emo rock band's former frontman now he is a singer, he confessed to BANG Showbiz: "Oh yeah, well you know what you do but then at the same time you realize that like that he never warmed up or did anything, he just smoked cigarettes and drank coffee all goddamn day and he could sing like that, like wow man. Like to have a voice like that I have nothing but hatred for people that are that talented." Frank says he never aspired to be a frontman as he could think of nothing worse than having to orchestrate a crowd. Asked if it was something he'd wanted to do for a long time, he said: "I never wanted to. Never in a million years like you couldn't have paid me enough to be our frontman. To be the one like when all the music stops and somebody and you have to talk. Like that sounds terrible. Ask people, like hundreds of people in a crowd if they feel OK tonight, like nah that doesn't sound like fun."

Niall Horan inspired by Irish roots

Niall Horan has been inspired by his roots on his new album. The 'Slow Hands' hitmaker - who hails from Mullingar in Ireland - is set to release his debut solo record later this year and revealed that there are definite Irish influences on the album. He told Tmrw magazine: "I was recording a song a couple of weeks ago, and it's kind of got a Damien Rice feel to it. "The producer said to me afterwards 'You have no idea how Irish you sound, when you hear this!' "He played it back to me and I was like 'JESUS! I sound Irish there! There's a lot of that stuff on it." Niall, 23, also joked that fans will think he is an "emotional wreck" when they hear the record but he insisted it's not all inspired by personal experiences. He said: "When you listen to it, you'll probably just think I was an emotional wreck. "There's some really personal stuff on it. It sounds really stalker-ish, but the way I write is that I could be sitting on a train and see a couple talking to each other and I'd think of a concept around the way that they look at each other or whatever. "I don't write all of the time from personal experience - sometimes I have concepts." Meanwhile, Niall recently insisted that he would drop his solo career in a heartbeat to join his One Direction bandmates, Harry Styles, Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson, again. He said: "I told my managers from the start: When One Direction comes knocking, fook what I'm doing. I don't give a s**t if I sold out arenas or won Grammys. I wouldn't be doing this if it wasn't for that."



Katy Perry announces UK and European tour dates



Katy Perry has announced the details of the UK and European legs of her 'Witness' tour. The 32-year-old pop star is poised to release her much-anticipated fifth studio album on June 9 and Katy has revealed, via her Instagram and Twitter pages, that she is to extend 'Witness: The Tour' to include gigs in a host of European countries, starting in Cologne, Germany, on May 23. Subsequently, the 'Chained To The Rhythm' hitmaker will perform in Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Scotland, before she closes her tour on June 25 with a show at Newcastle's Metro Radio Arena. Alongside a promotional video for her tour, Katy wrote on Twitter: "HELLO, HALLO, CIAO, BONJOUR! I can't wait to [see] you, UK/Europe! Tickets on sale Friday 9 June (sic)" In total, Katy will play six gigs in England across six different cities, between June 14, when she will perform at London's O2 Arena, and the end of her tour. Before then, Katy is to perform at Ariana Grande's One Love Manchester concert on yesterday which is being staged in aid of the victims of the recent terrorist attack at Manchester Arena. The star-studded event at Emirates Old Trafford will also feature performances from the likes of Take That, Niall Horan, Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber, with Ariana poised to take a central role on her return to the city.



Zara Larsson cried over Beyonce

Zara Larsson cried when she met Beyonce. The 19-year-old singer did her best to "play it cool" when she met her idol backstage at a concert in Sweden, but her emotions got the better of her. Asked who her hero is, Zara said: "Beyonce. I met her after a concert in Stockholm in 2013. I tried to play it cool but I just cried. She was very sweet about it." The 'So Good' singer is also a big fan of Rihanna. She said: "I never skip] 'Work' by Rihanna. It gets in your head for the rest of the day." Zara is proud of her outspoken views but she admits she regrets some of the opinions she held when she was younger. She confessed to Grazia magazine: "I used to run a blog that I started when I was 12 or 13. There are some things out there I wish I'd never written. I was so anti-feminist back then, I thought it was super-lame. "But at the same time, I'm glad it's there, it proves people grow up and change." The Swedish star recently admitted she doesn't care if her strong opinions damage her career. She said: "I have an impact, and I think if I can, you know, enlighten someone or change someone's mind, then I think I did a great thing. I am not really concerned about how it will affect my career. "I think that some things are more important than my career. And, I just can't shut up! I am very vocal about everything. Who I am on social media is definitely who I am as a person." And Zara is very vocal on social media and likes to comment on current affairs and issues that affect everybody. She added: "I really look for things that are happening right now, things that are trending on Twitter that spark some kind of frustration in me, I guess. "Like I see some injustice or inequality going on ... obviously in America, since Trump, or in Poland when they were debating about making abortion illegal - there are so many different places. "It's not like I wake up and everything is just great, and everything is equal, and I'm like, 'I'm going to be a mad b***h today, that's not really what it's about."

Grande re-releases One Last Time to raise money for Manchester victims

Ariana Grande has re-released 'One Last Time' to raise money for the victims of the Manchester terror attack. The 'Into You' hitmaker had just finished performing in the north-west city in England a couple of weeks ago when there was an explosion in the foyer of the venue, killing 22 people and leaving over 100 injured. And now the 23-year-old singer has re-listed her song on iTunes to help raise money for the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund. A message posted alongside the new single reads: "Some of the world's biggest pop stars - including Justin Bieber, Coldplay, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Pharrell Williams, Take That, Niall Horan, Little Mix, Robbie Williams and Black Eyed Peas - join forces for Ariana Grande's One Love Manchester concert to support those affected by the tragic events of May 22. "Stand united with Manchester: download Ariana's 'One Last Time' and watch the concert live on Apple Music. All proceeds from each sale of the track featured on the page will be donated to the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund in coordination with the British Red Cross." It comes after Ariana - who is in Manchester to headline the One Love benefit concert at Emirates Old Trafford cricket ground yesterday - visited some of her injured fans at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. One fan, 10-year-old Jaden Farrell-Mann, who suffered fractures to both of her legs and has a number of shrapnel wounds, was overjoyed at seeing her idol. Her mother said: "Jaden was just sat there watching TV and she walked in. She was absolutely amazed. It was a complete surprise. She has a big smile anyway but it got even bigger, Ariana gave her a hug and a kiss, she was in awe. It was absolutely fantastic to see, she was so happy." Whilst her father Peter wrote on Facebook: "This means more to us than all the amazing things people have done this week. So happy she came I could burst. Never seen Jaden so happy; even cried again myself."



Birdy to preview new song at Glastonbury?

Birdy may treat her fans to a new song at Glastonbury. The 'Skinny Love' hitmaker - whose real name is Jasmine van den Bogaerde - has been tucked away at her family home in Hampshire, South West England writing songs for her fourth studio album and if she gets one ready in time for the festival in Somerset, where she is playing the Avalon Stage this month, she may debut one of them. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, she said: "Maybe, I've been thinking about it. It depends if they are ready or not. I am so looking forward to it because I've never played before." The 21-year-old singer says her new music is sounding "soulful". On how her follow-up to 2016's 'Beautiful Lies' is coming along, she said: "My music is going in a soulful direction. "I've moved back home to the countryside and I've just been writing a lot for the new album. "I haven't finished anything yet I am just trying to get it together." Birdy teamed up with American Express(r) to perform an exclusive, acoustic set, underneath the iconic courtyard location of London's Summer Series at Somerset House music festival where she will be performing on 12 July.



Patty Jenkins' heart sank when Gal Gadot was cast in Wonder Woman

Patty Jenkins says her "heart sank" when Gal Gadot was first cast as Wonder Woman. The 45-year-old filmmaker admits she was gutted when she found out the part had already been cast without her consultation but was thrilled when she saw Gal in action. She told *Playboy* magazine: "I remember when I read in the news that Wonder Woman had been cast and my heart sank. I had been talking to the studio for so long about doing it and I was like well 'that's that'. I'm sure we wouldn't have made the same choice. 'Frankly, I think they did a better job than I could have because I don't know that I would have scoured the earth as hard to find her. I don't know that I would've looked internationally. I would have just looked for an American girl.' And Patty previously admitted she is "amazed" by how little changed from the first cut of 'Wonder Woman' to the finished movie. She added: "You know, it's not like a long journey didn't happen but what amazes me is how little has actually changed from the first cut other than tightening ... little changes to the final battle, that was really it. 'I think that what I ended up finding about the final battle was I was hitting emotional points for Diana that I really wanted to hit but I felt a craving for some other kinds of emotional gratification and engagement that we tried to accentuate even more. 'I think what you learn is rhythm, tone, humor where the jokes are happening but in our case, I just now can finally say all this. We didn't cut one scene in this movie nor did we change the order of one scene in this movie from the script that we went in shooting with."



ARETHA FRANKLIN REVEALS DETAILS OF HER NEW ALBUM

Aretha Franklin hopes to release her new album in January. The 75-year-old icon is currently working on a new record, and despite her advancing years, Aretha's zest for making songs remains as strong as ever. She shared: "I'm working on a couple of things. I think there will be about 10 [songs] on it, maybe 11, but I'm thinking 10." Aretha also revealed that her new album will feature collaborations with the likes of Sir Elton John, Lionel Richie and Stevie Wonder. Previewing her new record, the 'Natural Woman' hitmaker told *Billboard*: "Lionel's working on his piece, Stevie's working on his piece; they're both originals." Aretha previously admitted she is "winding" down her on-stage career due to her age. But the Grammy Award-winning star has insisted she would love to continue to tour if she were able to. Aretha explained: "After 54 years of travelling and flying and all of that can be very tiring, and even the tour bus takes a lot out of you. 'I'm not happy; I'll put it like that. I'm not happy, exactly, about not doing something that you've been doing for 54 years that you really, really love. But there's a warranty on everything. Nothing lasts forever.' Despite this, Aretha admitted to having other ambitions beyond her music career. Speaking in reference to her touring schedule, she explained: "I just won't be travelling the way I used to or doing anything like I used to in terms of concerts. 'It used to be five or six; I'll only be doing one, maybe two - and maybe none. But I have other things I want to do. There's a lot going on."

Chopra's conscious movie choices

Priyanka Chopra is "very conscious" about picking movie roles that "break stereotypes". The 'Baywatch' star wants to improve how the industry treats women of all races and uses her own roles to break down stereotypes created by the film industry. She said: "I felt like this was my first English language film - I'm an Indian girl, would I be able to translate that? Is the world ready for a girl who looks like this to be a mainstream villain in a mainstream global movie? 'I used to get a little worried about that, but I've seen so much love and acceptance from at least both parts that I've played ['Baywatch' and 'Quantico'] and they've both been very mainstream, so it's been a very conscious decision on my end to play parts which break stereotypes of what someone like me should play. 'I really do think that people are put in boxes and we've created so many divisions between us of what someone should be and what someone looks like and what they should be doing that we completely forget that

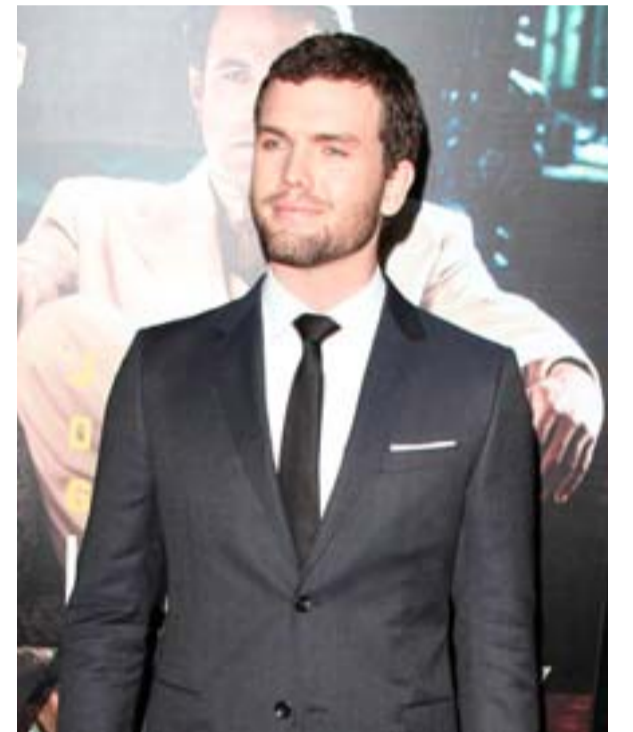
art transcends borders, art transcends language." And the 34-year-old actress liked playing the villainous Victoria Leeds in 'Baywatch'. Speaking to *BUILD* in London, she added: "I tried to keep her ethnically ambiguous because I thought it would be cool for her to just be a woman of the world who's playing ball in a man's world - and she's ambitious. There's a little bit of a back story where she says in a scene, 'My brother was given the family business because he's a boy even though I have the business acumen, and that resonates with so many people around the world. 'Being a villain in a comedy is actually really difficult because it could be over the top! The budgets of American movies are pretty much triple the movies that I've ever done, but the demographics that Indian movies enjoy are global and it's so wonderful to see that sort of transition of audiences happening, where people of Indian audiences or people who enjoy Indian movies are now maybe seeing me in my American work."



Rita Ora's mother loves the Fifty Shades movies



Rita Ora's mother loves the 'Fifty Shades' movie franchise. The 26-year-old star appears in 'Fifty Shades of Grey' and 'Fifty Shades Darker', both of which are based on the erotic novels of author E.L. James - and Rita has revealed that her mother Vera is a big fan of the steamy films. The blonde beauty, who plays the part of Christian Grey's sister, Mia, in the money-spinning franchise, shared: "She loves it. She went to go see them with my dad and my little brother. Mum loves those films. She's already asking, 'When's the next one?'" Vera is a trained psychiatrist who hails from Albania, but when she made the switch to the UK as a refugee in the early 90s, her qualifications didn't transcend the border. As a result, she had to start her life from "scratch", according to Rita, who has admitted to being inspired by her mother's resilience in the face of so much adversity. Rita told *#legend*: "She had to start from scratch. And she was beating breast cancer while she was studying. She'd go through chemo and still study. It was 10 years ago. 'She's just in the best place ever and has gone through some s**t. She's my favorite person. I can talk about her all day. I see her as often as I can and, trust me, she stays in touch."



Lonely Austin Swift found refuge in movies

Austin Swift turned to acting because he was an outsider in high school. The 25-year-old brother of Taylor Swift - who has had roles in 'Live by Night' and 'I.T.', admitted that weighing 250lbs as a teenager left him virtually friendless and he turned to movies to get through some tough teen years. He explained to *Vanity Fair*: "I didn't have a lot of friends. I would go to the movies, and Daniel Craig was my friend, and Christian Bale was my friend, and Clive Owen was my friend, and Viggo Mortensen was my friend." And although Taylor, 27, knew from a young age that she wanted to be a singer, it took Austin a little longer to find his own path. He said: "She found singing, and I knew from very early on that that was her direction. She was never going to quit; that was her thing, that was her life ... and I was always a little bit, you know, doing this, doing that." While he has not followed his sister into the music business, Austin has learned a great deal from her. He said: "Something I learned myself, and learned through watching her, is respect. You just respect everyone's time, everyone that you're working with. They're all there, it's all their lives, and you need to put the work in to be worth that." Earlier this year, it was revealed that Austin has been offered a guest slot in season two of 'Still The King' alongside Billy Ray Cyrus, who plays scandal-ridden Elvis impersonator Vernon Brownmule, aka 'Burnin' Vernon'. Taylor's brother will star as Tyler, the manager of Nashville's premiere music venue The Bluebird Café and he'll share the screen with Hollywood veteran Richard Dreyfus' niece Natalie Dreyfus, who reprises her role from series one Leia. Austin is steadily building his acting career, having graduated from Notre Dame's prestigious Department of Film, Television and Theater in 2015.

— Bang Showbiz

Cruise reveals Top Gun sequel title

The 'Top Gun' sequel will be called 'Top Gun: Maverick'. Tom Cruise - who played Lt. Pete Mitchell aka Maverick in the 1986 movie and will return for the sequel - revealed the title to *Access Hollywood*, adding "you don't need a number in all sequel titles". Tom also revealed the movie will be similar to the original, explaining: "Aviators are back, the need for speed. We're going to have big, fast machines. It's going to be a competition film, like the first one ... but a progression for Maverick." The original 'Top Gun' movie was directed by the late Tony Scott - who died in 2012 - and also starred Kelly McGillis, Val Kilmer, Anthony Edwards, and Tom Skerritt. In the movie, Cruise plays a cocky aspiring pilot who falls



in love with the beautiful instructor Charlie Blackwood, played by McGillis. It was recently revealed that Joseph Kosinski is being tipped to direct the 'Top Gun' sequel, after having previously worked with lead actor Cruise when he directed 'Oblivion' in 2013. According to *Variety* magazine, Joseph has yet to receive the official offer from Tom - who reportedly met with other directors whilst filming for 'Mission: Impossible 6' - but the filmmaker is believed to be out in front after Tom was impressed with his vision for the sequel. Meanwhile,

Justin Marks was recently linked to the film as the screenwriter behind the sequel which reportedly explores drone technology and the end of the dogfighting era that the original film brought to life. Speculation about a follow-up to the classic movie have been circulating since 2008, when it was reported Hollywood bosses were keen to resurrect the feature. A source said at the time: "The idea is Maverick is at the Top Gun school as an instructor - and this time it is he who has to deal with a cocky new female pilot."

Chris Pine took ego check

Chris Pine had to "come to terms with" Gal Gadot having a more "badass" role than him in 'Wonder Woman'. The hunky actor plays Steve Trevor, the love interest to the actress' titular character and while he had a "good time" working with the 32-year-old beauty, he joked it was a blow to the ego to have fewer action scenes or stunts than his co-star. He said: "I thought she was great, and we all had a good time. 'Quite honestly, she had all this wire work and stuff and I really like guns and jumping and getting hit and brawling. 'She saves me, and sometimes I save her. But she's definitely way more badass than I am, and my little man ego had to come to terms with that fast.' The 36-year-old actor admitted it was "nice" not to have the lead role in a film and the pressure that comes with having to "carry" a project, and insisted it doesn't bother him whether or not he has top billing. Asked if he is co-lead or a supporting character, he told *SFX* magazine: "I don't know. I mean, the movie is called 'Wonder Woman', so it's definitely Gal's show and she does a tremendous job leading it. 'And yeah, I'm there to basically fall in love with her and to go on this journey that she leads to essentially save the world. 'There was definitely a nice diminishing of responsibilities [rather than] to have to carry something. 'I really have no problem with where I am on the call sheet."



Schumer stops Hawn being perfect



Amy Schumer brings "real" to Goldie Hawn's life. The 'Snatched' star developed such a close bond with her 'Snatched' co-star, she claims she is now "winning" over the veteran actress' daughter Kate Hudson and believes she stops her friend from having everything too "perfect". She said: "I'm pretty confident I'm winning in the daughter stakes. Kate is too pretty, too perfect - Goldie needs some real in her life. 'Everything is too perfect, Kurt [Russell, her partner] is too perfect, her beautiful sons are too perfect, her grandkids... she needs a disappointment, a troubled daughter to balance it all out. 'I'm edging Kate out and I think I'm winning.' Amy was overjoyed to persuade Goldie out of retirement for the movie because she has always been a fan

of the 71-year-old star. She said: "I love her. I have loved her forever. I love her more than a person could love someone without being sexual with them. And that's not out of the question. Things are about to get very weird... 'She's the greatest movie star of all time. I've seen her moves a hundred times. She's not an icon to me, she is the icon." And the 'Trainwreck' actress was pleased the 'Housewife' star treated her as an "equal" on their movie. She added to *heat* magazine: "To be in a room with her and have her listen to my ideas, and be so receptive and really give me this voice and freedom to collaborate with her, because Goldie Hawn doesn't have to listen to me. But she did, she made me feel like an equal. That was really, really nice."

Phoenix brings new dimension to rock show at festival



A fan holds up a sign as Phoenix performs onstage.



Phoenix perform onstage during 2017 Governors Ball Music Festival at Randall's Island on June 3, 2017 in New York City. — AFP photos

Rocking out under an imposing mirror, Phoenix took its music into a second dimension Saturday as the band headlined New York's Governors Ball festival. A week ahead of the release of its disco-infused, Italian-inspired sixth album, Phoenix invested in an innovative yet elegantly simple stage design with a giant mirror slanted inward at 45 degrees. The effect, at the close of a pristine June day, was to create a duplicate stage, with the rockers visible both as they played on stage and again in mirror image above them.

Frontman Thomas Mars at times lay down



Laurent Mazzalai of Phoenix performs on stage.



Thomas Mars of Phoenix performs during 2017 Governors Ball Music Festival.

on stage hidden, only to appear to the crowd on the mirror-serving almost the inverse of Pink Floyd's isolating Wall, one of the most legendary metaphors in rock stage design. Phoenix, longtime underground artists in Paris, catapulted to the world stage in 2009

with the album "Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix" which came with infectious dance-rock hits such as "Lisztomania," "Ti Amo," which is Phoenix's first album in four years and comes out on June 9, takes as its motif Italy, or at least a fantasized version of the country with feel-

good beats and lyricism about steamy nights and ice cream. As Phoenix played the album's track "Fior di Latte," the mirror appeared to be covered in pink syrup. At other times, the mirror flashed a kaleidoscope of colors and slides of a waterfall and Rome's Trevi Fountain. Guitarist Christian Mazzalai in a recent interview with AFP said Phoenix had spent long hours designing the stage and voiced delight at returning to the road after more than a year of writing and recording. Mars closed the set by surfing far into the crowd and then rolling back over fans' outstretched hands. Phoenix then bid farewell, fireworks went off overhead and the walkout music was from Italian singing great Ornella Vanoni.

Childish Gambino hints at farewell

Governors Ball, founded in 2011 as the first of New York's growing number of summer festivals, took place under unusually tight security with National Guard members and heavily armed police out in force at exits to the venue on the city's compact Randall's Island. The three-day festival comes less than two weeks after a suicide bomber killed 22 people at the end of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester and as London was hit by another attack.

Other leading draws Saturday included Childish Gambino, who stunned an adoring crowd by hinting at retirement once he finish-

es his next album. "I'll see you for the last Gambino album," said the artist, after declaring that Governors Ball would be his sole show of 2017. Music is a side career for Childish Gambino—otherwise known as actor Donald Glover, a star of television series "Atlanta" and "Community," who will appear in an upcoming "Star Wars" film. While often described as a hip-hop artist, Childish Gambino has built a style of modern soul driven by his wide-ranging singing voice. In December he released his third album, "Awaken, My Love!" full of R&B rhythms and vocal shifts on songs such as "Redbone," about an unfaithful partner.

The festival also heard classic hip-hop from the Wu-Tang Clan, the New York-bred collective who exactly 20 years earlier released its best-selling album "Wu-Tang Forever." RZA, generally considered the leader of the crew of around 10 rappers, boasted of the group's success in a set that turned into a mosh pit among fans mostly too young to have been listening to the Wu-Tang Clan in 1997. Elsewhere, Mark Ronson—the veteran producer who became a star on his own with the 2014 mega-hit "Uptown Funk"—teased a new song he said he was working on with Australian artist Kevin Parker.

The driving dance track came unexpectedly in a set in which Ronson served as DJ, putting on everything from Michael Jackson to Jefferson Airplane. — AFP

Palestinian filmmaker, Farah Nabulsi, invited to UN in New York to screen her films

Farah Nabulsi, the filmmaker and the daughter of Palestinians living in diaspora, has yesterday screened her three short films in the trustee council chambers at the United Nations in New York, where she also addressed attendees, by invitation from Ambassador Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations. The three short films that were screened earlier on 1st June, included "Today They Took My Son", which focuses on a mother coping with her young child being taken away by a military system. This imprisonment which involves cruel and inhumane treatment is sadly something which happens to more than 700 Palestinian children a year. Farah's recently released film "Oceans of Injustice" will also be shown.



The films were introduced by Farah and shown to ambassadors and dignitaries from all over the world. This event is particularly poignant, as this month, June 2017, marks the 50th anniversary of the Israeli military occupation. Ambassador Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, said: "We are honored to share Farah's work with the United Nations community as it reflects some of the immense suffering, injustice and oppression endured by the Palestinian people under decades of Israel's brutal foreign military occupation."

Farah Nabulsi said: "I had always thought I understood the injustices suffered by my people. However, witnessing it first-hand during a visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories changed me in a deep and overwhelming way and I instinctively knew that offering sympathy and the occasional charity was no longer enough. "Over the past century, the Palestinians have suffered oceans of injustice and when you visit Occupied Palestine you truly come to understand the depth and breadth of how deliberate, systematic and institutionalized the occupation really is."

You come to recognize what is happening and has been happening for decades is, at its essence, a settler colonial enterprise. I hope my films are able to give the audience even just a glimpse into the very real humiliation, pain and suffering experienced by Palestinian men, women and children every day at the hands of that ideology." In 2016 Farah founded Native Liberty, a not-for-profit Media Production company, and Oceansofinjustice.com, an online educational platform, that together aim to re-humanize the Palestinians and draw attention to the injustices they face. Farah continues to showcase her groundbreaking work at film festivals, universities and events around the world.

Orlando's not the only hot spot: Theme park fun around US

Orlando, Florida, often gets the spotlight when it comes to theme parks. This year is no exception with the openings of Disney World's Pandora-World of Avatar and Universal's Volcano Bay water park. But plenty of new attractions are opening elsewhere, from interactive rides that offer different experiences each time you go, to new parks in Alabama and North Carolina.

Disneyland

Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California, has one of the biggest theme park openings this season with Guardians of the Galaxy: Mission BREAKOUT! Riders take part in an adventure to free the Guardian superheroes, who have been captured. Multiple scenarios for resolving the story means it's a little different each time you ride.

SeaWorld

SeaWorld, which has weathered criticism and declining attendance related to its orca programs, is launching new attractions in San Diego, replacing a theatrical-style whale show with a more educational experience called Orca Encounter. The show will have a three-story digital screen presenting graphics and information along with live whales. SeaWorld San Diego also opens Electric Ocean on park pathways after dark, with light displays of glowing sea creatures and live performers.

Also new: Ocean Explorer, with multiple aquariums, rides and digital technology. Its marquee ride, Submarine Quest, offers riders individualized experiences, while Tentacle Twirl flies guests in chairs suspended from jellyfish tentacles. SeaWorld San Antonio in June opens a multilaunch roller coaster, Wave Breaker: The Rescue Coaster, with jet ski-style cars racing over water to rescue animals in distress.

New parks in the south

The Park at OWA is tentatively scheduled to open mid-July in Foley near Alabama's Gulf Coast beaches. Its 21 rides include Rollin' Thunder coaster, much anticipated by thrill ride fans. H2OBX, a \$46 million water park, is expected to open on North Carolina's Outer Banks in June with more than 20 water slides, pools and attractions, including Deep Six Adventure Lagoon with climbing walls, an obstacle course and balance pads.

Six flags

Justice League: Battle for Metropolis, an immersive action dark ride, has guests joining forces with superheroes at Six Flags Over Georgia in Austell; Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, California; and Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, New Jersey. A 4-D free-fly roller coaster called The Joker debuts at Six Flags New England, Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington and Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois.



This undated image provided by Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, shows an artist's rendering of Point Plummet, a six-story body slide that's part of a new 18-acre water park called Cedar Point Shores. — AP photos

From Hollywood to Dollywood

Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles debuts Nighttime Lights at Hogwarts Castle in late June. The colorful display, accompanied by music, will illuminate Hogwarts' four houses, Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff and Slytherin, at Universal's Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Drop Line, a drop tower at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, is a free-fall experience more than 20 stories above Dollywood's Timber Canyon.

The ride's gondola spins around the tower for a bird's-eye view of the Great Smoky Mountains. Also new: Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Adventure Dinner and Show, with

Parton's music and characters drawn from her childhood stories.

Sandusky, Ohio

Cedar Point has a new 18-acre water park, Cedar Point Shores, on Lake Erie's shores, recalling the park's origins as a beach resort. Attractions include Point Plummet, a six-story body slide with riders in individual pods. Portside Plunge offers inner tube rides, first in an enclosed area, then down hills before hitting a pool. For young children, there's Lakeslide Landing and Lemmy's Lagoon.

Also in Sandusky, the Kalahari Resort water park debuts five attractions this summer: the Stingray raft slide, Sahara Sidewinder

slide, Tornado Alley funnels, Serengeti Spinner body slide and Extreme Rush, which drops riders into a loop and then a pool.

Elsewhere

Seaside Heights, New Jersey, has a new roller coaster called Hydros to replace a coaster that was left partially submerged in the ocean after Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The new coaster was built safely inland above the beach rather than out over the water. In Pennsylvania, Dorney Park in Allentown debuts the circular ride Kaleidoscope and the live show "Cirque Imagine."

Hersheypark in Hershey opens Hershey Triple Tower with three drop towers of different heights and thrill levels. Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, will debut the underground Haunted Mine Drop. Legoland California Resort in Carlsbad, California, has a new "Star Wars" display featuring lights, sound effects, animation and six scenes from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

In Williamsburg, Virginia, at Busch Gardens' New France village, InvadR is the park's first wooden coaster with nine airtime hills, a wooded terrain and an underground tunnel. At the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Shockwave offers motorcycle-style seats around a spinning disc on a curling track, and Typhoon swings riders upside-down on two spinning arms over the boardwalk. New at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, California: Sol Spin, with six spinning arms, and two water park rides: The Wedge, a family raft ride, and Shore Break with six water slides, including chambers that launch riders into a near-vertical drop through curves, loops, a flume and tube slides. — AP



This rendering provided by SeaWorld San Diego shows Orca Encounter, a new attraction that replaces the theme park's theatrical-style whale show with a more educational experience.



A monument to the now closed jazz club at the Rossonian Hotel informs visitors of the once celebrated spot in Denver's Five Points neighborhood that played host to Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong in Denver, Colo. — AP photos



A man walks into Cervantes' Other Side, a historic music venue in Denver's Five Points neighborhood that once played host to Duke Ellington and James Brown in Denver, Colo.

Denver's Harlem of the West legacy endures amid change

The neighborhood was once called "The Harlem of the West." It's a place where Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington and Miles Davis performed to packed rooms not far from the snowcapped Rocky Mountains. For years, the area served as a haven for black residents who couldn't find housing elsewhere in the American West. But the historic black neighborhood of Denver's Five Points now faces the encroachment of gentrification with new breweries and coffee shops near the buildings that once housed jazz clubs and black-owned businesses.

Still, visitors can experience the character and history of Five Points despite the changes and fears that the community's African-American identity may be endangered. Five Points is located on the northeast side of Downtown Denver. Its name comes from an intersection of streets and a streetcar stop. The area became a hot spot in the 1920s for black

families who were kept out of other Denver neighborhoods. Black-owned tailor shops, restaurants, jazz clubs, voting rights headquarters and real estate companies dotted the streets of Five Points, creating one of the most vibrant African-American communities west of the Mississippi River.

African-American communities

But as the 1960s civil rights movement made it easier for black performers, writers and entrepreneurs to work and live outside African-American communities, neighborhoods around the country like Five Points began to fade. Today, a simple drive or rail ride can take you to the heart of Five Points from Downtown Denver. Visitors can start at Sonny Lawson Park and walk around the softball field where the white writer Jack Kerouac famously worked on "On The Road" and tried to capture the spirit of the bebop movement as he saw it



Brother Jeff's Cultural Center in Denver's Five Points neighborhood is shown with images of African American historical figures like Malcolm X and Tupac Shakur.

in Five Points. As in Kerouac's Beatnik era, homeless campers still rest next to the softball field, and some are eager to tell you Kerouac legends that have been passed down for generations.

The Black American West Museum, 3091 California St, tells little-known stories of black cowboys, miners and other early African-American settlers in the West. The museum's hours are limited (Friday-Saturday, 10 am -2 pm) but its artifacts and photos are worth seeking out. On Welton Street, visitors can stop by the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library where genealogy groups gather to investigate family history. The library has an art/exhibit gallery and a reference collection that covers a variety of African-American topics. It also serves as a community gathering place.

Down the street, one can stroll to the Roxy Theatre and Cervantes Masterpiece & the Other Side music venues. They once hosted jazz legends but now showcase hip hop. In a sign of the times, between the historic venues sits the Denver Kush Club, a recreational marijuana shop (it's legal in Colorado). Across the street sits the now-closed jazz club at the Rossonian Hotel, where Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong performed. A poster of Holiday and information about the Rossonian's history hangs on the building's brick exterior.

Sporting goods

Throughout Five Points are markers with black and white photos letting visitors know the significance of each location. You will learn how Leroy Smith, a Pullman porter, brought back the latest rhythm and blues records to

Five Points and created a novelty store that sold albums and sporting goods. He became a promoter who represented the likes of Count Basie and Cassius Clay, better known as Muhammad Ali.

You also will learn how Pullman porters formed a union hall and got involved in the civil rights movement. Wellington Webb Jr, the son of one of those Pullman porters, would eventually become Denver's first black mayor. "We had it all," reads another marker showing photographs of thriving businesses and Ford Model Ts. Other markers describe the area's first black lawyer and how residents navigated segregation.

Denver's Five Points isn't the only historically black enclave changed by population shifts and revitalization. In New York, neighborhoods like Harlem and Brooklyn's Fort Greene have lost black residents as rents have risen. Seminal black-owned landmarks, like Harlem's Lenox Lounge, have shuttered. Activists in Houston's Freeman's Town have worked to prevent brick streets laid by former slaves from being uprooted despite development pressures.

On the other hand, some of Five Points' new businesses are opening in storefronts that have long sat empty, and they're making an effort to recognize the neighborhood's roots. The 715 Club, founded by the son of a Pullman porter at the corner of Welton and 26th, had been closed for years before a 2016 reopening. "We are a neighborhood bar in the heart of 5 Points trying to preserve a piece of Welton history," the new owners say on their Facebook page.

Austin Wiley helped open Spangalang Brewery in a former Five Points DMV office in 2015. Wiley and the brewery's other owners opted to reflect Five Points' history with a jazz theme. The brewery's name, Spangalang, for example, is the term used to describe the bread-and-butter jazz cymbal rhythm. Beer names like "Birth of the Cool" and "Hop Colossus" are homages to Miles Davis and Sonny Rollins. "It's the right thing to do," Wiley said. "We are coming into this neighborhood, and we have to be respectful." — AP



Austin Wiley, right, owner of Spangalang Brewery, talks to patrons at the bar in Denver's Five Points neighborhood.



Participants of the so called 'Victorian Picnic' stand behind photographers during the Wave Gothic Festival (WGT) in Leipzig, Germany, Friday, June 2, 2017. Approximately 20,000 goths and other dark subculture fans such as cyber goths, metal heads, steampunks, neo-Victorians, dark romantics, dark electro, industrial, medieval and fetish fans are expected to attend the world's largest gothic and 'dark' culture festival until June 5, 2017. — AP



Germany Wave Gothic Festival





A Kuwaiti vendor displays dates at a market in downtown Kuwait City on June 3, 2017, during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan. Ramadan is sacred to Muslims because it is during that month that tradition says the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The fast is one of the five main religious obligations under Islam. More than 1.5 billion Muslims around the world will mark the month, during which believers abstain from eating, drinking, smoking and having sex from dawn until sunset. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Gallery owner alleges major US Western art sale defamed him



This photo provided by the Autry Museum of the American West, shows an early 1900s Gelatin silver print of Iowa-born artist Frank Tenney Johnson.



This May 15, 2017 photo shows the exterior of the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe, N.M. — AP photos



In this photo, chief curator Amy Scott pauses for photos with a painting titled "First Streak of Dawn" by Frank Tenney Johnson at the Autry Museum of the American West, in Los Angeles.

With Western American art long dismissed as unworthy of the fine art world, few collectors would have even cared 25 years ago if an early 20th century oil painting of cowboys or Indians on the frontier was authentic or not. Now, the owner of galleries in New Mexico and New York City is suing one of the world's largest Western American art auctions, a Nevada gallery and others for defamation, accusing them of falsely claiming a \$1 million painting he sold is a fake.

Gerald P. Peters of Santa Fe seeks unspecified damages from Peter Stremmel Galleries of Reno, the Coeur D'Alene Art Auction of Nevada and auction partner Mark Overby of Hayden, Idaho. The defendants' lawyers say the claims have no legal basis. They filed motions in federal court in Reno last week to dismiss the suit. The high-society legal battle offers a glimpse into the high-stakes Western art market that's evolved from California to Manhattan, with many millions of dollars in sales of paintings, sculptures and pottery annually.

"It wasn't really until the late 1980s or mid-to early-1990s that a lot of art historians and museums began to start taking Western American art seriously," said Amy Scott, chief curator of the Autry Museum of Western Art founded in Los Angeles in 1988. The lawsuit centers on "The Rain and the Sun," which Peters says is the work of Iowa-born Frank Tenney Johnson (1874-1939), a one-time illustrator for Field and Stream magazine who became famous for his oil paintings of nighttime frontier scenes.

Remarkable depth and color

Peters sold it years ago for \$750,000 as part of a trade with other artwork to R.D. Hubbard, a well-known Western art collector, business tycoon and horse-track owner. Peters says he took back the painting from Hubbard last year after Stremmel, of Reno, repeatedly insisted it was a forgery. In its current tainted state, the painting is worthless, his lawsuit says. "Word travels quickly within this small community when a work of art is called a fake," the suit says. "It is hard, if not impossible, to unring that bell." Peters should know. He was at the center of an unrelated forgery caper 30 years ago and ended up refunding \$5 million to a Kansas City, Missouri, museum after a series of watercolors that were purported to be the work of Georgia O'Keefe turned out to be fakes.

In this case, he insists the work is that of Johnson, dubbed the "master of moonlight" for his nocturne paintings known for their remarkable depth and color. Court documents don't include an image of the painting, and Peters' lawyers declined to describe it to The Associated Press. But Johnson almost exclusively painted scenes of cowboys, Native Americans and their horses. More than a dozen have sold at Nevada's massive annual Coeur D'Alene Auction, most recently "Cowboys Roping the Bear" for \$965,250 in 2012. In 2008, when the auction sold a record \$36.8 million worth of art, Johnson's "The Sheriff's Posse" went for nearly \$1.1 million.

Less famous than Frederic Remington and Charles Russell, Johnson is of special interest

because he worked with Hollywood studios to create backdrops after he moved to Los Angeles in the 1920s when the Western movie genre was being invented, said Scott, of the Autry Museum. Hubbard founded the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso, New Mexico, in 1992 and is a former chairman of the board of the Pinnacle Entertainment Group, a Las Vegas-based casino holding company. Before this dustup, Peters said, he and Hubbard traded art worth millions and were friends and neighbors at Hubbard's Palm Desert, California, golf development.

The painting's authenticity

That started to change in 2013 when Hubbard sent Stremmel images of art he wanted to sell at the Coeur D'Alene Auction, and Stremmel replied one was "not, in fact, by Frank Tenney Johnson." A Hubbard associate sent a clearer image, but according to the lawsuit, Stremmel responded in an email, "We wouldn't touch it for our auction." Beyond a signature that looked "labored," nothing about the painting suggested it was Johnson's, he wrote. "I really hope he (Hubbard) didn't pay a lot for it." After another email exchange,

Stremmel said he wanted to modify his statements because he hadn't seen the painting firsthand, the lawsuit said. "Our position is that this painting would not be acceptable for the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction. Let's leave it at that," Stremmel wrote in November 2015.

Days later, a Hubbard Museum lawyer demanded Peters' gallery buy it back. The embarrassing allegation was an insult to Peters' reputation, according to the suit filed April 28. Peters said he reaffirmed the painting's authenticity but agreed to exchange it for another to "preserve a valued friendship and business relationship." But the men haven't done business since. Lawyers for Stremmel and Overby, his auction partner, said there's no evidence anyone has been defamed and no way Peters can prove he's been harmed.

"If they can prove the painting is authentic, then they will not have suffered any damages," Reno lawyer Mark Gunderson wrote in a May 22 motion to dismiss. Colette Loll, founder of the Washington-based consulting firm Art Fraud Insights, said lawsuits over forgeries are rare. But in criminal cases, prosecutors carry a "very heavy burden" to prove a work is fake, and judges and juries often have difficulty sorting out the claims, Loll said.

"You can have experts on each side, and one says it's real and one says it's not," said Loll, who has trained U.S. Homeland Security agents in forgery investigations. "A lot of experts are afraid to even testify at such a trial because they're afraid they could face their own litigation." — AP



A parked car sits in front of the Stremmel Gallery, south of downtown Reno.