

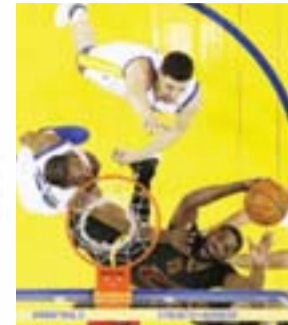
Kuwait marks anniversary of Mosque attack



Beyond kebabs: Turkish cuisine seeks a place at the table



Durant, Curry spark Warriors win; record win streak at 14



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KUWAIT GOVERNMENT SETS KD 75 AS MINIMUM WAGE

MPS URGE KUWAIT MEDIATION IN NEW GCC SPAT



BANDA ACEH: Indonesian Muslims pray at a mosque in Banda Aceh during the holy month of Ramadan. — AFP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh yesterday issued a decision setting the minimum monthly wage for workers in the private and oil sector at KD 75. This is the first time ever that Kuwait sets a minimum wage for laborers in the private sector. The move apparently comes in line with demands from international rights organizations.

The decision means that the lowest salary that can be given to laborers in the private sector should be KD 75. Laborers who are paid less than this salary can sue their employers. The measure comes after the Interior Ministry last year set a minimum wage of KD 60 for domestic helpers. The amount must be mentioned in the work contract. According to the minister's decision, the new wage limit applies to new or renewed work permits and contracts both in the private and oil sectors. Around 1.5 million people are working in the private sector, the overwhelming majority of them are expatriates.

In the meantime, MPs yesterday expressed deep sorrow at the developments among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members after Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, all GCC members, along with Egypt yesterday severed their diplomatic relations with GCC member Qatar. The lawmakers utilized the Assembly's special session to discuss budgets of government bodies and called for restraint among the GCC states and also called on Kuwait to mediate a peaceful solution between them.

MP Abdullah Al-Roumi said he was deeply concerned over the turn of events between the GCC states but added that he was confident in the wisdom of King Salman of Saudi Arabia and the Amir of Kuwait who will help resolve the crisis.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes Prince Khaled Bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Advisor of the Saudi King yesterday. — KUNA

AMIR LAUDS INTERIOR

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has expressed satisfaction at the Interior Ministry's successful clampdown on terrorist groups, but urged for greater readiness to foil plots aimed at undermining Kuwait's security. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, in a statement he made during a visit to the Interior Ministry headquarters, expressed felicitation on the blessed month and praised the significant security achievements made by the Ministry of Interior and its apparatuses recently.

His Highness the Amir, who was accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, singled out the crackdown on "elements with connections to terrorist groups." He also lauded the successful pre-emptive security operations that resulted in decreasing crimes. Addressing the officials attending the ceremony namely the Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, he highly appreciated the Ministry's campaigns to raise awareness of negative phenomena namely youth violence, narcotics and breaches of laws namely the traffic laws. — KUNA (See Page 5)



MODERATION

By Teresa Leshner

In these days of Ramadan, we refrain from eating in daylight, instead eating at night. Some people indulge excessively in food and drink all night long, which is counterproductive to the lessons of Ramadan. It is not so we can learn to turn our schedules upside down, but to learn to control our desires so that we can lead a pious and balanced life.

In the context of Ramadan, the Quran says "God intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you." (2:185) By behaving moderately after we break fast, we can benefit from the lessons of Ramadan throughout the year. Overall, Islam promotes a life of moderation and ease. God says in the Quran (2:143), "We have appointed you (Muslims) a moderate nation." This general statement can be applied specifically to consumption, which, if we consider our actual needs, should be little.

The Quran says, "And eat and drink but do not waste; certainly He does not like the extravagant." (7:31) Whether we cook at home or eat in restaurants, we should be moderate in consumption and avoid wasting food. So cook only what you will use, put on your plate only what you intend to eat, use leftovers for another meal, and ask for takeaway containers for leftover food at restaurants.

Moderation extends to other kinds of consumption as well, such as for clothes, perfumes, cars, phones, homes and vacations. The Quran sets the standard: "And those, who when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy, but hold a medium (way) between those (extremes)." (25:67) By practicing moderation, we engage in an easy-going lifestyle. When we are stingy, we suffer unnecessary hardship, and when we are extravagant, we squander resources and usually end up broke by the end of the month or in serious debt.

All matters of life need moderation: in relationships, in work, in play, in spending, even in religion. Allah said in the Quran that "He has not placed upon you in the religion any difficulty" (22:78). That is not to say that if we shouldn't strive to fulfill our obligations, even when they seem difficult, but that with the right attitude and approach, all the obligations are easy. For example, it is not difficult to wake up for dawn prayer if you go to bed well before midnight.

The basic requirements of faith are few, as outlined in the Quran: "And they were not commanded except to worship God, [being] sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give alms.

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QATAR IN DIPLOMATIC STORM



DOHA: Photo shows pigeons flying above the corniche in Doha. Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and Egypt cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting extremism, in the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years. — AFP

RIYADH: Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and Egypt yesterday cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting extremism, in the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years. Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Maldives joined Saudi Arabia and Egypt in severing relations with gas-rich Qatar, with Riyadh accusing Doha of supporting groups, including some backed by Iran, "that aim to destabilize the region".

Qatar reacted with fury, denying any support for extremists and accusing its Gulf neighbors of seeking to put the country under "guardianship". The crisis was likely to have wide-ranging consequences, not just for Qatar and its citizens but around the Middle East and for Western interests. Qatar hosts the largest US airbase in the region, which is crucial to operations against Islamic State group jihadists, and is set to host the 2022 football World Cup.

Yesterday's announcement came less than a month after US President Donald

Trump visited Saudi Arabia to cement ties with Riyadh and called for a united front among Muslim countries against extremism. It also followed weeks of rising tensions between Doha and its neighbors, including Qatari accusations of a concerted media campaign against it and the alleged hacking of the Qatar News Agency.

The Gulf states and Egypt said they were severing diplomatic ties and closing transport links with Qatar, which relies on imports from its neighbors. The Gulf states banned their citizens from traveling to Qatar and ordered Qatari citizens to leave within 14 days. Saudi Arabia also closed its borders with Qatar, effectively blocking food and other supplies exported by land to Qatar. Supermarkets were besieged by shoppers yesterday as many rushed to buy food, leaving shelves bare and resulting in queues up to 25-people deep at some major stores in central Doha.

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EX-WORKER KILLS 5, THEN HIMSELF

ORLANDO: A disgruntled former employee opened fire yesterday inside a Florida awning manufacturer, killing five workers before killing himself, authorities said. Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings described the shooter as a 45-year-old man who had been fired in April and had been previously accused of assaulting a co-worker. The attacker was not believed to be a member of any type of subversive or terrorist organization, he said. The man was not charged when he was accused of battering the co-worker in June 2014.

That co-worker was not among the victims yesterday, the sheriff said. Shelley Adams said her sister, Sheila McIntyre, called her from the company's bathroom during the shooting and was upset. She kept repeating "My boss is dead. My boss is dead," Adams said after state and federal law enforcement officers converged on the industrial park in Orlando. Police were called around 8 am by a woman who ran from the awning business, Fiamma Inc, saying the gunman had told her to leave.

She used the phone of a tile business across the street to call 911, said Yamaris Gomez, the tile store's owner. The sheriff said officers were dispatched within 45 seconds and arrived two minutes later. Special Agent Danny Banks of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said that while five people were killed, "seven others' lives were saved due to the quick actions of the officers who arrived on the scene today."

Banks and Orlando Mayor Teresa Jacobs both said the attack shows why people need to alert authorities if they learn of anything that could lead to violence. "If people see something that seems abnormal, they need to say something," the mayor said. Fiamma Inc calls itself one of the largest manufacturers of awnings for camper

vans, motor coaches and sports utility vehicles. Gov Rick Scott said he had been briefed by law enforcement and that he and his wife, Ann, "are praying for the families who lost loved ones today." "I ask all Floridians to pray for the families impacted by this senseless act of violence," he added. — AP



ORLANDO: Law enforcement and media respond to shooting at Fiamma in Orlando yesterday. — AP

TRUMP LASHES OUT AT LONDON MAYOR

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump for a second day lashed out at London's mayor on Twitter in the wake of a deadly terror attack in the city. Trump tweeted yesterday morning that London Mayor Sadiq Khan had offered a "pathetic excuse" and "had to think fast on his 'no reason to be alarmed' statement." Trump's tweet renews his mischaracterization of Khan's statement to London residents following a vehicle and knife attack that left seven people dead and dozens injured. The mayor had told London residents not to be concerned by a stepped-up police presence in the city after the incident.

In a Sunday tweet, Trump mischaracterized Khan's remarks by suggesting the mayor had said there was "no reason to be alarmed" about the attack itself. Khan's spokesman said he was too busy to respond to Trump's "ill-informed" tweet. Trump's latest missive at Khan was part of several yesterday morning tweets from the president. Trump also lashed out at his own Justice Department for seeking a "watered down" version of the travel ban he signed in March instead of a broader directive that was also blocked by the courts.

The war of words was the latest episode in a long simmering feud between Trump and Khan, a Muslim who was elected as London's mayor in May 2016. After his election last year, Khan tweeted criticism of then-candidate Trump's rhetoric, saying that his "ignorant view of Islam could make both our countries less safe.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Sayyed Ammar Al-Hakim. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the President of Iraq's Islamic Supreme Council Ammar Al-Hakim.

AMIR MEETS LEADER OF IRAQ'S ISLAMIC SUPREME COUNCIL

CROWN PRINCE AFFIRMS KUWAIT'S COMMITMENT TO IRAQI UNITY

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Sayyed Ammar Al-Hakim and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Later yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Hakim, and the two discussed the latest developments in Iraq as His Highness expressed optimism during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan that the efforts of the Iraqi leadership and other factions would contribute to the stability of Iraq. He also believed these efforts would do much to wipe out terror and help achieve national reconciliation.

Sheikh Nawaf went on to affirm Kuwait's commitment to Iraq's unity and its efforts to regain security and stability, achieve the aspirations of its people and regain its role in the region. The encounter was attended by Amiri Diwan advisor Mohammad Abdullah Abulhassan, Crown Prince's Diwan head of ceremonies and protocol Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and the Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and His



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the President of Iraq's Islamic Supreme Council Ammar Al-Hakim.

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Hakim and his delegation.

In other news, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-

Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well as visiting Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Dr Yousef A Al-Othaimen. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled later held talks with Othaimen which discussed the latest regional and international developments



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with the President of Iraq's Islamic Supreme Council Ammar Al-Hakim.

and the OIC's upcoming agenda. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received a written letter from Brazilian President Michel Temer focusing on bolstering ties on all possible domains.

The letter was handed by Brazilian Ambassador to Kuwait Norton de Andrade

Mello Rapesta to Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince met National Security Apparatus (NSA) Chairman Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



EXHIBITION MARKS 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF IMAM SADEQ MOSQUE TERROR ATTACK



KUWAIT: An exhibition opened yesterday to mark the anniversary of the terror attack which hit the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque two years ago on the ninth day of Ramadan. The exhibition contained photos documenting the heinous terror attack, images of people who have fallen, as well as the visits carried out by senior officials to the site of the bombing.

The photo exhibition also put on display the damage caused by the attack as well as the funeral ceremony and prayers held in the Grand Mosque. — KUNA



KUWAIT REMEMBERS AL-SADEQ MOSQUE SUICIDE BOMBING



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah speaks during the ceremony. — KUNA photos



Businessman Jawad Bukhamseen speaks during the ceremony.



Former assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior for public security affairs Abdulfattah Al-Ali

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis of all walks of life remembered the deadly terrorist attack on worshippers at Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque two years ago. As they commemorate those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack, Kuwaitis never forget that the tragic incident was as a symbol of the strength of their social fabric.

A ceremony was held Sunday and attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah to mark the second anniversary of the incident. They emphasized that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to the mosque after the attack was a relief to families and relatives of the victims.

"The second anniversary of the incident reminds us about the unforgettable stances of His Highness the Amir and noble Kuwaiti people who stood firm against those who wanted evil for their country," former minister of public works and former minister of state for municipal affairs Fadhel Safar said. He called on Kuwaiti people to stay as united as they were at the time of the incident.

Businessman Jawad Bukhamseen said that Kuwaitis' reaction to the incident gave the most remarkable examples of the heroic stand against those who sought to create chaos and instigate



Former minister of public works and former minister of state for municipal affairs Fadhel Safar

sedition. He recalled His Highness the Amir's wise reaction and notably his immediate presence at the scene. He reemphasized the importance of unity and solidarity among Kuwaiti people.

Last year, His Highness the Amir was keen to attend the reopening of Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque after renovation and to pray in it, he said, adding that the assault's anniversary has become a symbol of Kuwait's unity.

In his turn, head of Al-Baghlhi charity Ibrahim Al-Baghlhi echoed the same view. The incident of Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque is a symbol of national unity as it brought together all segments of society, he said. He went on to say that this day has embodied the national unity in words and deeds. Meanwhile, former assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior for public security affairs Abdulfattah Al-Ali said the tragic incident embodied the solidarity and unity among people of Kuwait. He stressed that the unity among all Kuwaitis is the driver of development in all fields.

Ali said that the incident brought together the Kuwaitis and proved their original strong unity in the face of adversities. He noted that this unity has foiled the malicious schemes of those who wanted evil for the country.



Mohammad Al-Khawaja, the son of martyr Jassem Al-Khawaja

Ahmad Al-Rifai, the son of the martyr Abdulhamid Al-Rifai, said that the anniversary of the bombing of Al-Sadeq Mosque has become a symbol of Kuwaitis' unity and solidarity to defend their country. Al-Rifai said that His Highness the Amir's visit to the site of the explosion was a gesture of humanity and fatherhood.

Mohammad Al-Khawaja, the son of martyr Jassem Al-Khawaja, said that the terrorist attack has showed Kuwait as one united family. He said that His Highness the Amir's speech following the incident had touched the hearts of families and relatives of the victims.

Hussein Abu Zaid, one of the victims of Al-Sadeq Mosque, said was wounded in the bombing and received treatment at the hospital for 15 days. Abu Zaid expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir describing him as the father of all Kuwaitis. His Highness the Amir's words were a cure for the wounds of the victims, he said, adding that he will teach his children and grandchildren His Highness' speech after the incident. A Saudi suicide bomber blew himself up at the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque in Kuwait City on June 26, 2015, corresponding with the ninth day of Ramadan, killing 26 worshippers and wounding 227 others. — KUNA

SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTION CONSIDERS AUDIT REMARKS

KUWAIT: The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) is seriously taking into consideration remarks made by the Audit Bureau and other State supervisory institutions, the Minister of Finance said. Anas Al-Saleh, also the Deputy Premier, made the assertion on Sunday as he emerged from a meeting of the parliamentary budgets and final accounts committee on turned-down budgets including that of the PIFSS.

"We are serious with respect to cooperating with the commission and the National Assembly to heed the remarks and tackle the flaws," he said, however, he indicated that some controversial matters could not be tackled because they were of a purely investment nature. Minister Saleh added that he presented the committee with the PIFSS replies to the remarks, including those related to decline of the institution's profits from KD 1.5 billion in the fiscal year 2014-2015 to KD 21 million in the fiscal year 2015-2016, "which we have alluded to international indexes."

The institution, in the end of the fiscal year that ended on March 31, posted earnings higher than those made in the fiscal year 2014-2015, "and this a good matter and we cannot assess performance of an investment institution independently from the markets."

On criticisms that the institution maintained the expenditures despite decline of the earnings, he explained that this was due to the fact that the investment spending is related to the value of the portfolios and not the proceeds thus the value of the portfolio has not changed.

As to lack of high academic qualifications of the expatriates who work at the institution, he said that their job is restricted to settlements and data entry. A special treasury has been set up to ensure solidity of the banks, he said. "There are no worries about the local banks because they are ensured by the government," he stressed.

Final accounts

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's budgets committee has endorsed the final accounts and the budgets of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS). It also approved the state budget,

but refused its final account. The KISR and PIFSS final accounts and budgets, previously rejected, were finally approved after the two relevant ministers vowed to settle the notices on them, head of the committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad told reporters after the meeting Sunday. The Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammed Al-Fares has vowed to remedy the irregularities and the notices on KISR. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has also explained the notices that were settled by the State Audit Bureau and the financial controllers on the PIFSS budget, as well as the measures to be taken to handle the rest of remarks, Abdulsamad added.

The committee discussed, voted on and approved the state budget, as the last in this parliamentary session. Yet, the state's final account was rejected. This is a message to the government to remedy the notices and the irregularities found in the budgets or final accounts of the ministries and other official bodies, he noted.

Budgets approved

Separately, the National Assembly gave the thumbs up yesterday to the Public Authority for Communications and Information Technology's budget for the fiscal year 2017/2018 and its final account for the year 2015/2016. During the voting process, 44 out of 48 MPs voted in favor of approving the budget and four voted against it, while 33 MPs voted to okay the Communication Authority's final account.

Moreover, the Communication Authority's expenditures for the fiscal year 2017-2018 amounted to KD 23 million, while revenues totaled out to be KD 68 million. Meanwhile, during the Cabinet's routine meeting on Sunday, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah spoke of "some notes regarding the Communication Authority's budget." The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs pointed out that it was "completely untrue" that the Communication Authority had been assigned the Fiber Optics project. He also underscored that a parliamentary committee tasked with studying government budgets will work to remedy any shortcomings detected. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting on Sunday. — KUNA

CABINET HAILS GAINING UNSC SEAT AS HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT

KUWAIT: The Cabinet, during the regular session held on Sunday, welcomed electing State of Kuwait to occupy a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term starting January 2018. This came during the session, held at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Minister of State of Cabinet Affairs and the Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah read the cabinet statement, saying the session kicked off with the First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefing the ministers about outcome of his participation in the latest UN General Assembly session for electing non-permanent members in the Security Council for 2018-2019. During the UNGA session, the State of Kuwait was elected to occupy a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for two years effective January 2018.

The Cabinet welcomed the election of the State of Kuwait, whereby gaining a non-permanent seat in the UNSC with a majority of votes amounting 188. The government praised this historic achievement which depicted the State of Kuwait's eminent international-regional status and the nations' confidence in its moderate and balanced policies, drawn up by His Highness the

Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah since independence. The State of Kuwait through this membership affirms its keenness on devoting care and concern for the Arab and Islamic causes, the Cabinet statement said. Kuwait, it added, will work with the other member states to activate the role of the UNSC for preserving international peace and security, alleviate tension and conflicts. Moreover in this respect, the ministers lauded great efforts that had been exerted by minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled and officials of the Foreign Ministry to make that grand accomplishment, also expressing appreciation for sisterly and friendly nations that supported Kuwait's nomination for the UNSC seat.

Financial status

Meanwhile, the executives were briefed by the Undersecretary Finance Minister Khalifa Musaed Hamadah and Managing Director of the Public Investment Authority Farouk Ali Bastaki about the State financial status (13/3/2017), pending submission to the National Assembly, based on the Constitutional Article 150.

The presentation tackled assets' comparisons with the previous fiscal year-represented by the state general reserves, the next generations' reserves, the oil reserves, the state transferrable assets, the state realty properties and the com-

pensations. It also addressed liabilities, namely the public treasury liabilities for the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), projected liabilities for development projects, the treasury bonds, realty loans' pardon, capital of the public housing institution, due liabilities according to the military armament law and end of service payments for non-Kuwaiti civil servants.

The ministers were assured about sound capitalization of the national economy, its crediting strength, reserves' solidity run by the Public Investment Authority, giving instructions to all relevant authorities to maintain the financial and economic reforms. They examined recommendations by the legal affairs committee with respect of a bill approving the treaty between the Kuwaiti Government and the NATO about establishing and operating the NATO regional center, as part of the Istanbul Initiative for Cooperation, as well as a bill approving the Paris Climatic Change Agreement. The two bills were endorsed by the Cabinet and referred to His Highness the Amir, pending submission to the parliament. The Cabinet examined recommendations by the draft decrees committee concerning accords between the Kuwaiti government and governments of a number of countries. The draft decrees were approved and referred to His Highness the Amir. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Turkish Deputy Minister of National Defense Suay Alpay. — KUNA photos

DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH TURKISH OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah discussed cooperation with Turkey's visiting Deputy Minister of National Defense Suay Alpay yesterday. The two discussed issues of mutual importance, particularly in relation to military aspects, and means to boost and develop these matters, according to a statement by Kuwait's Ministry of Defense.

Furthermore, the Turkish official delivered a handwritten letter from his Minister of National Defense Fikri Isik to Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled. The talks were held in the attendance of the Kuwaiti Armed

Forces' Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Abdallah Nawaf Al-Sabah, Director of Armament and Procurement Major General Ahmad Al-Ameeri and the Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Murat Tamer.

In other news, Kuwaiti Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah met with UK Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge to discuss bilateral ties. The two sides also discussed preparations for the upcoming meeting of the joint Kuwaiti-British steering group in London next July. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with UK Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge.

'DHAMAN NEEDS CONSTANT SUPPORT TO BE A SUCCESS'

KUWAIT: The Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Dhaman) project needs continuous support on all levels to be a success, considering the economic challenges and financial stability in the country, board chairman Mutlaq Al-Sane said on Sunday. Dhaman will always be keen on preserving the major role of the Health Ministry, he added. The company's assets have hit KD 118.8 million (\$388.4 million), Sane said, noting that all the used cash flow was in line with the company's strategic plan for the FY that ended on December 31. As a public shareholding company, Dhaman is preparing the necessary documents to

get enlisted at the Kuwaiti stock exchange (Boursa Kuwait) in line with the rules and systems in force, he said.

Meanwhile, company CEO Ahmad Al-Saleh said that Dhaman would spend KD 180 million (\$588.6 million) for infrastructure projects to promote its health services. He added that the company is looking into many of the medical investment opportunities available on the local market. Saleh noted that Dhaman and the Ministry of Health have formed a committee and tasked it with setting the basis and the regulations of the sustainable partnership between the two sides. — KUNA

CUCUMBER AND EGG PRICES DROP

Commodity	Co-ops				
	Week 5	Week 4	Week 3	Week 2	Week 1
One kilogram of fresh Saudi chicken	KD 1.760 (945 fils for frozen chicken)	KD 1.760 (945 fils for frozen chicken)	KD 1.760 (945 fils for frozen chicken)	KD 1.760 (KD 1.085 for frozen chicken)	KD 1.760
One kilogram of fresh minced meat (beef)	KD 2.750	KD 2.750	KD 2.750	KD 3.000	KD 2.750
One kilogram of local tomatoes	450 fils	420 fils	250 fils	550 fils	550 fils
One kilogram of African lemons	660 fils	660 fils	660 fils	660 fils	660 fils
One kilogram of local cucumbers	200 fils	650 fils	275 fils	100 fils	50 fils
One liter of local milk (KDCow)	430 fils	430 fils	430 fils	430 fils	430 fils
One carton of eggs (30 eggs per carton)	850 fils	KD 1.100	KD 1.100	KD 1.100	KD 1.100

Commodity	Supermarkets				
	Week 5	Week 4	Week 3	Week 2	Week 1
One kilogram of frozen chicken	KD 1.250	KD 1.350	600 fils	KD 1.400	KD 1.400
One kilogram of fresh minced meat (beef)	KD 2.250	KD 2.150	KD 2.150	KD 2.150	KD 2.150
One kilogram of local tomatoes	225 fils	560 fils	500 fils	495 fils	495 fils
One kilogram of African lemons	510 fils	790 fils	760 fils	775 fils	775 fils
One kilogram of local cucumbers	375 fils	790 fils	295 fils	145 fils	145 fils
One liter of local milk (KDCow)	315 fils	372 fils	315 fils	315 fils	315 fils
One carton of eggs (30 eggs per carton)	590 fils	750 fils	750 fils	790 fils	790 fils

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Last April, Kuwait Times started a campaign to investigate the price changes of some basic commodities. Starting a month prior to Ramadan, the weekly campaign runs through the holy month.

The survey compares the prices per kilo of five different kinds of commodities sold at co-

ops on a weekly basis. These items are the most popular, whose prices usually hike during Ramadan. This year we also added eggs, milk and frozen chicken to the earlier list of minced meat, chicken, tomatoes, lemons and cucumbers.

Comparing the price registered last week with the prices registered this week, we noticed a significant drop in the prices of cucumber and

eggs. Kuwait Times will be monitoring the prices of these products to check if any increases occur until the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Follow Kuwait Times next week to read our next report. Prices are the same in all co-ops for the same kind and brand of product, but may differ in other supermarkets. Also, co-ops hold weekly food festivals with discounts on fruits and vegetables.

CO-OPS UNION DECRIES ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE ITS REPUTATION

By Meshal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies (KUCCS) yesterday issued a statement in which it strongly condemned what it described as attempts to undermine the union's reputation. The statement also urged the information minister to take proper measures to undo the harm done and warned that the union might take legal action.

A report on Sunday had indicated that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) recently referred 15 co-op societies to the Public Prosecution over suspicion of manipulating the quantities of subsidized consumer goods. Notably, MCI started using a new system last year by which subsidized goods are only given through the new magnetized civil IDs, which helps having more control over the goods and make sure they were only given to citizens. MCI auditing showed that some branches had been cutting down citizens' shares of the goods actually given to them, while charging them for the whole share, the report charged.

Mutlaa City

The Mutlaa residents' committee stressed that the Turkish construction company's 270 new machinery equipment have been released by the customs department and allowed into Shuwaikh Port pending their transportation to Mutlaa City. The committee added that the second company working on the project will also start working on the site by surveying the land and preparing the laborers' dormitory.

Cooperation

Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi described cooperation with the World Bank as a role model to be followed by other ministries and government establishments. Manfouhi stressed keenness on making the World Bank witness the development that Kuwait Municipality is witnessing by putting an end to bureaucracy and red tape.

Further, Manfouhi said that according to the World Bank's annual report made about business environments in 190 countries, issuing a construction license in Kuwait has become one of the fastest worldwide, as licenses that used to take months to be issued are now issued within 24 hours only.



The National Bank of Kuwait Pediatric Hospital.

MINISTER AL-HARBI INAUGURATES STEM CELL UNIT AT NBK PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Jamal Al-Harbi inaugurated Sunday a unit for cancer treatment using stem cells for transplant at the National Bank of Kuwait Pediatric Hospital at Al-Sabah Medical Area in Shuwaikh.

Speaking at the inaugurating ceremony, Minister Al-Harbi pointed out that the unit was built on an area of 7,000 square meters at total cost of KD 7 million (roughly \$23 million). He lauded the unit as a great addition to the integrated healthcare system for cancer prevention and treatment among children.

Al-Harbi said the three-storey building includes nine outpatient clinics, an isolation unit, a six-room parenteral nutrition unit and three chemotherapy rooms. The stem cell unit will give patients two stem cells monthly at 48 cases per year, the minister said. He described the inauguration of

the stem cell unit a good step forward in the treatment of children blood diseases and cancer. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Jamal Al-Harbi (right) is honored during the ceremony.

Photo

of the day



This picture depicts Kuwait during the early post-oil discovery era: Newly-constructed homes surround a mosque in Kuwait City, replacing old mud houses that were removed to make way for concrete buildings connected with electricity and water. The low-income homes seen in the picture were built by the government and distributed to citizens. (Source: 'Kuwait, Miracle on the Desert' by David Cooke, New York, 1970. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher at the Ministry of Information)



Nedal Casanove

CYCLING FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

By Nawara Fattahova

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

Nedal Casanove is a 41-year-old French national who has lived in Kuwait for 10 years now. He has two main points that he is practicing and thinks may improve life in Kuwait, in addition to other ideas that will significantly improve the environment. He answered to the question of how he can improve this country as following:

"I use the vehicle less and go to work on my bicycle instead. I do this to reduce pollution and decrease traffic. I am trying to spread this among my coworkers. In fact, I use this way of transportation to reach the office even now in the summer, and it only takes me 10 minutes to reach my work place. None of my colleagues use this way of transportation, thus I think if there were real cycling roads in Kuwait, more people will use the bicycle. I think that traffic is one of the worst problems in Kuwait, and if more people used the bicycle, it would definitely improve traffic conditions.

"My second idea is clean eating and I mean consuming organic food especially from local farmers. If we encouraged local farmers through buying their products, this will motivate them to produce more organic products, which is better for our health. This will also improve local economy as we will import less with the increased local supplies which will affect the price in favor of the consumer.

"One of the things I would try to change is the Kuwait road rage and I believe one of the ways would be to build a train or metro network. That would considerably reduce traffic jams which occur every day. Another good side of it would be reducing pollution especially due to old vehicles, as low and middle class workers will not be obliged to drive to commute. Finally, that would most probably decrease the number of accidents by decreasing the number of vehicles and stress on drivers due to traffic.

"The other thing I would do is to push solar electricity production instead of oil burning central which I believe is already in the pipeline but still I would accelerate the process. This will decrease the pollution in Kuwait considerably. Furthermore, for a more sustainable development of the country, I believe the country should change its policy in terms of residency and ownership protectionism for Kuwaiti mothers and long term resident. A big chunk of this population revenue is transferred abroad due to the difficulty to own or to ensure a long-term residency in the country. This would benefit the GDP as well as high qualified population dedicated to Kuwait."

ZAIN SHARES RAMADAN IFTAR MEAL WITH CONTACT CENTER (107) AGENTS

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT RECOGNIZES THEIR EFFORTS DURING RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, shared the Ramadan iftar meal with its Contact Center (107) agents to recognize the efforts they exert during the holy month of Ramadan. The event witnessed the attendance of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan along with Chiefs and Directors from across the company's divisions.

This annual event comes under the umbrella of Zain's strategy to recognize and highlight the tireless efforts and hard work of its contact center agents, especially those who work around the clock all week long to provide the highest standards of customer service to Kuwait's largest family of subscribers.

Zain's executive management, headed by Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, was extremely keen on being present in the Contact Center (107) operations hall with the employees to share the blessings of the Holy Month of Ramadan with them. The company's Chiefs and Directors were keen on motivating the agents to highlight the most outstanding efforts that contribute to the excellent service quality Zain customers enjoy today.

Through such initiatives, Zain aims to encourage its employees to give their best by uplifting their spirits during the working hours of the holy month of Ramadan. The company believes that such recognition strengthens the workflow mechanism with-

in its workforces and ultimately results in providing better services to Zain customers.

Zain's executive management expressed their pride in the big role employees play in maintaining the leadership position the company enjoys in the Kuwaiti telecom market. The company believes that Human Resources is considered the powerhouse of any organization's success, and providing an ideal work environment for employees

is key to allowing them to discover new areas of creativity within themselves.

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



KUWAIT: The Voluntary Work Group distributed iftar meals to motorists on their way home before Maghreb Prayer's Azan. The campaign was carried out in cooperation with the Interior Ministry, and held in presence of Chairperson of the Voluntary Work Group Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: (From left) His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah speaks during the gathering.

MOI PERSONNEL DETERMINED TO CONFRONT EXTREME IDEOLOGIES: UNDERSECRETARY

KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior's (MoI) Undersecretary General Mahmoud Al-Dousari underlined that security personnel were determined to confront all threats emanating from extreme ideologies and terrorism.

Dousari, in a speech before His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his visit to the MoI's head-

quarters, said the ministry was following the instructions of His Highness the Amir to protect public order and boost rule of law, as well as coordinating with security and military institutions to confront extremism and terrorism with the objective of strengthening national unity.

The Interior Ministry, he added, was con-

tributing to promoting human rights and rights of the child. Dousari said the MoI's preventive security eliminated many terrorists and foiled many attacks.

The MoI's 2015-18 plan, he added, aimed at improving education and training, and providing a database related to crimes, and cooperated with security authorities in

Arab Gulf countries to boost capabilities of personnel.

His Highness the Amir was accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Head of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak 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, Sheikh Majed Al-Sabah, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah, Sheikh Duajj Fahad Al-Sabah and Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greets officials in attendance.



Senior Interior Ministry officials in attendance.



Interior Ministry officers attend the gathering.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other top state officials pose for a group photo with Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) staff. — Amiri Diwan photos

AMIR PLEASED WITH FIREFIGHTERS' DEVOTION

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has expressed deep satisfaction at the firemen efforts in saving lives and preserving properties. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Head of National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, visited headquarters of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), expressing congratulations on the holy month of Ramadan. "I begin my statement by praising your efforts for preserving souls and properties and dealing with dangerous accidents with utmost sincerity and devotion," he said, also lauding the firefighters' great sacrifices.

His Highness the Amir, who began his statement by addressing officials attending the ceremony, namely the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and the Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Khaled Al-Mekrad, the KFSD Director, affirmed his deep admiration towards the firemen for promoting safety procedures in accidents such as fires. Moreover, he lauded the department's recent inauguration of the first laboratory to analyze remains from fires and accidents' scenes.

Mekrad, in his speech, congratulated His Highness the Amir for Kuwait's mem-

bership in the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2018-19, which was a result of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's leadership. Mekrad, who highly appreciated His Highness the Amir's support of firefighters, said the visit was significant because it coincided with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the first fire station in State of Kuwait. He said 90 percent of fleet and equipment of the KFSD has been modernized and this process would reach the 100 percent mark by end of 2018. He added that development of human resources was happening in parallel with modernization of equipment.

KFSD, said Mekrad, has been keen on cooperating with military and civilian institutions on how to deal with crises and accidents, citing a protocol with Kuwait National Guard on using KFSD's vehicles and equipment. He said KFSD's preventive sector has been issuing permits for new buildings to facilitate their construction, and the directorate has been firm in penalizing all buildings failing to abide by safety and security conditions.

His Highness the Amir was accompanied by 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, Sheikh Majed Al-Sabah, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah, Sheikh Duajj Fahad Al-Sabah and Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah. — KUNA



(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 and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.



KFSD Director Khaled Al-Mekrad (left) presents a memento to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) as Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah looks on.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah pose with officials.

Crime

Report

BROTHERS BEAT UP 'MISBEHAVING' SISTER

KUWAIT: A divorced woman reported that her own brothers had beaten her up and kicked her out of their mother's house, said security sources. However, on summoning the brothers, they justified their actions by saying that they failed to put up with their sister's behavior. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Robbery at gunpoint

An Egyptian cashier working in an Omariya Co-op Society branch reported that a person wearing a woolen Bisht barged into the store waving a gun at his face, and robbed KD 550 cash from the cash box. A case was filed. Separately, an Egyptian man working for a charity organization reported that an unidentified robber smashed his vehicle's window and stole a box containing 32 copies of the Holy Quran. The man said that the robber probably thought the box contained something else.

Boy released

Following up the case of the young Egyptian who had been reported missing and found later on, security sources said that he was released after conducting proper investigations and making sure he was not affiliated to any terrorist groups and that he had only left the house because of some family problems.

Harasser caught

Following up the case where a young man chased a girl who had rejected him in a Salmiya Cafe, and caused her to collide with a cement barrier, security sources said that the suspect was arrested as the girl had provided with his vehicle registration number.

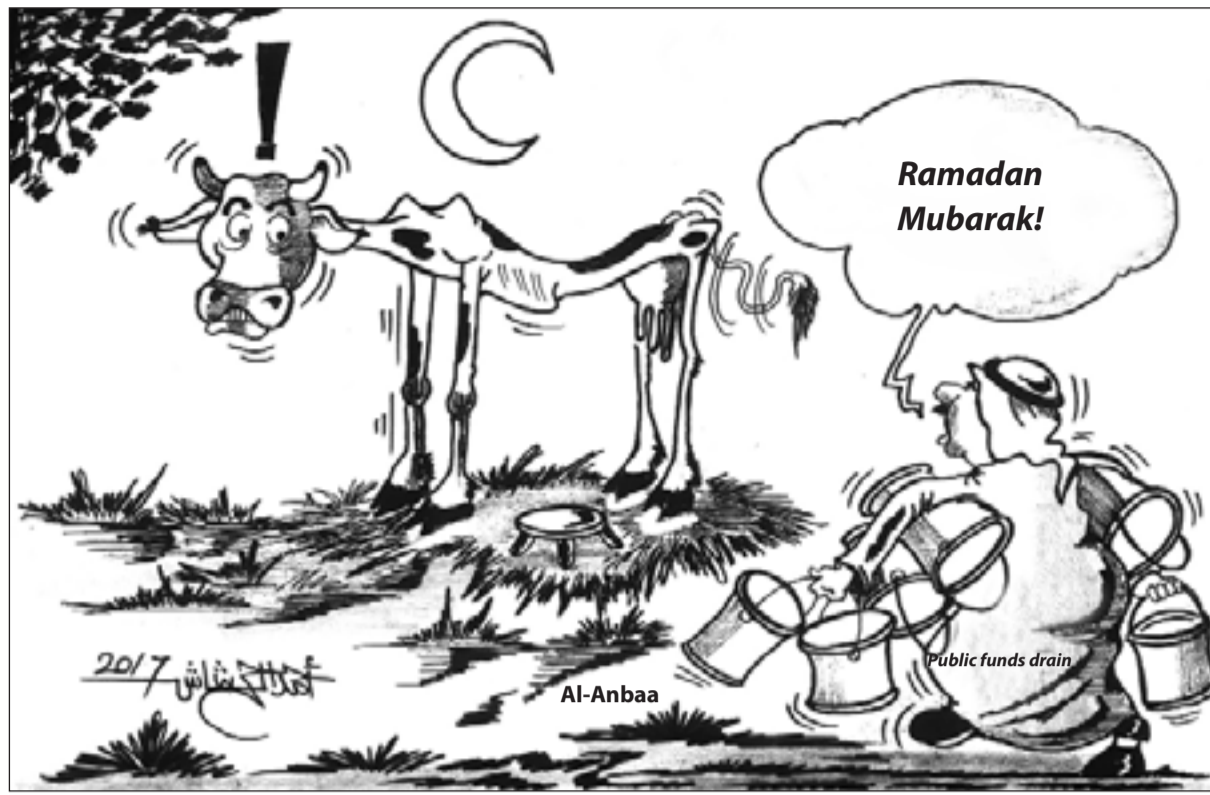
Suicide attempt

An Asian housemaid was rushed to the hospital when her sponsor found her in pain after she swallowed some detergents in an attempt to commit suicide. A case was filed for investigations.

'Terrible' results

A female citizen in her thirties filed a complaint against a plastic surgeon, noting that she had paid him to operate on her to make her slimmer and look better but the result was 'terrible'. The woman said that when she talked to the doctor, he showed her an affidavit she had signed asking the features she did not like.

— Translated from the Arabic press



Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

TWO COPS AND A WOMAN

By Saleh Al-Shayji

An Arab lady living in a Western country gets back home after work. She was busy doing some household errands when the doorbell rang. She was skeptical about the sudden knocker because she was not used to receiving anybody at this time of the hour. She approached the door with fear and checked through the peephole and saw two policemen. She was reassured at first, but soon enough got more worried about what she might have done to have cops come knocking at her door.

She opened the door. "Good morning Madam," said the two policemen with a smile, and she returned the greeting. "Is that your car parked by the house there, Madame?" asked one of the policemen. "Yes, it is mine," she answered. "Were you driving it twenty minutes ago on road number....?" he asked, and she said yes while still in shock and bewildered about the reason behind the question. "Are you alright, Madame?" he asked.

"Yes, I am, and as you can see, I have no com-

plaints," she said. "Are you sure you do not need any medical attention? Do you want us to call you an ambulance?" they said making her more anxious. "No I am perfectly alright but allow me to ask you," she said before they interrupted and asked her to hear them out before she asked, which was her right. "Well, the reason we are here is to make sure you are alright and help you if you need any assistance, and that is because you were caught on road camera crying while driving," they said.

"Yes, I was crying," she said. "Well, we are here to make sure you are alright and offer help if you need any and warn you of the danger of crying while driving," the policemen said. The woman thanked them as they walked away with a smile leaving her overwhelmed with a feeling of tranquility as she grew more confident that she had made the right decision by choosing to live in this Western country and preferred it on her own.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة Al-Jarida

THE PEARL

By Mohammed Al-Owaisi

The Famous Kuwaiti media icon, Mohammed Nasser Al-Sanousi presented a TV show in the beginning of the 1970s on Kuwait TV under the title of 'The Message'. In one episode, Sanoussi spoke about housemaids and described them as pearls because a maid is actually as precious, dear and indispensable as a pearl, especially in modern ages where women leave their houses to work, leaving household duties to maids who do very minute detail for them.

I recall an incident proving this. A mother of five; three girls and two boys was married to a rich man who brought her two housemaids, a cook and a driver to help her out at home. These many number of servants turned into a curse instead of a blessing. All family members completely depended on the domestic helpers. The eldest daughter got married and had to accompany her husband on a business trip to a European country, where the couple fought a lot because the wife knew nothing about household duties. She could not do the laundry, iron clothes, clean the apartment or tidy it up simply because she had not learnt that when she was young as her mother had wrongly brought her up to become an irresponsible person who only depended on maids without thinking about possible future problems that her children might face.

I wonder how many houses suffer from the same problem. I can say, most of the houses. However, the question I wish to direct to all mothers is this: Why don't mothers take care of their children since childhood, and bring them up to be responsible instead of depending on maids for everything? This will help them successfully manage their houses in the future without any problems and disputes that might eventually lead to a divorce.

I have a valuable advice for all mothers. The summer vacation is a golden opportunity to teach your boys and girls some self-reliance; to teach girls how to do household errands such as cooking, cleaning, washing, tidying and ironing; to teach boys how to buy groceries from a co-op society instead of staying up late and sleeping over till noon, which leads to obesity and laziness. Just remember that during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, most domestic laborers left and we managed to live without them for seven months. So, do you know what I mean?

— Translated by Kuwait Times

GULF BANK WELCOMES NEW RED ACCOUNT WINNERS TO HEAD OFFICE

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank was pleased to welcome the new winners of the fifth monthly red account draw on Wednesday, 31st May 2017, and present them with their Apple prizes. Al-Jazy Musaed Farah Al-Farhan Al-Nawayem, winner of the iPhone 7 Plus - red product, Malak Salamah Saod Al-Bathali, winner of the iPad Pro, and Bader Tareq Bader Fadhil, winner of the Apple Watch, all visited Gulf Bank Head Office where Manal Barakat, Manager of red and Nassour - Consumer Banking, and Aisha Al-Nasrallah, Relationship Officer, greeted them and handed them the prizes. Gulf Bank's red account draw was held in the bank's head office on Monday, May 22, 2017, under the supervi-

sion of Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Gulf Bank's red is an account for high school students, college and university students aged between 15 and 25. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on a monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances.

Each month, an iPhone 7 plus, an iPad Pro, and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners monthly and until January 2018. The next draw dates are announced as follows:

- July 13, 2017
- July 24, 2017
- August 21, 2017
- September 28, 2017
- October 23, 2017
- November 20, 2017
- January 11, 2018

In addition to the Apple prizes, students will have the opportunity to win a Fiat 500c -Model 2017 at the annual car draw, upon transferring their allowance! Also, movie tickets at all Cinescape theatres will be available for only KD2 seven days a week by simply being a red account holder; not to mention the exclusive offers from Edfa3ly, which is an international internet shopping services company. Gulf Bank invites all students to take part in its red account draws, as they might be the lucky winners for year 2017!

To take part in the red account draws, prospective customers can open an account at any one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer online using the Bank's App or through the bank's website at www.e-gulfbank.com, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805.



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank's representatives with one of the winners.

WARBA BANK TARGETS THE KUWAITI SOCIETY WITH EVENTS CENTERED ON INSPIRATION, CREATIVITY

KUWAIT: Warba Bank congratulates its customers and the entire Kuwaiti community on the holy month of Ramadan, the month of forgiveness and mercy. On this occasion, the bank offers a series of events inspired by the fact that it has built its way with perseverance and has become the distinguished bank that enjoys the trust of customers and shareholders alike. Since creativity is the characteristic of the Bank in all its operations, its activities for the month of Ramadan this year are marked by a spirit of creativity and inspiration aimed to guide the entire community to persevere and strive to achieve their aspirations, and to overcome all obstacles and difficulties.

and its bright future. The ad will be broadcast extensively through various media platforms including 'Shahid.net' and Warba Bank's social media channels, including its YouTube channel.

Mall 360

As a culmination of its mission, Warba Bank will meet its customers and all segments of the community in the middle of the holy month for three days in Mall 360, where its interactive booth will offer unique technologies in line with the Bank's objective to be a leading institution in digital progress. The Bank's three-day social activities are based on three pillars: innovation, motivation, and support. In the field of creativity, Warba Bank offers a series of videos during the day to the time of iftar telling success stories of a range of Kuwaiti creative persons. In the evening, in terms of support and motivation, the Bank hosts in its booth a number of Kuwaiti innovators to share their achievements and motivate them to achieve more successes, and to encourage young people to unceasingly and tirelessly move forward with their dreams. In its booth, the Bank also gives a number of social institutions the opportunity to communicate with visitors and highlight their achievements, including CAN Foundation that raises awareness about cancer.

Competition

In order to motivate the next generation to develop their mental and creative skills, the bank organizes an interactive competition for children visitors based on intelligence and ability to connect different elements to solve puzzles

on screen. In addition, the bank's social channels also feature a number of videos based on fasting tips provided by leading specialists, focusing on fasting ethics, dietary advice, and religious advice. This is in addition to a series of information and videos that shed light on Kuwaiti and international inventors whose achievements and creativity are worldwide recognized.

The bank's activities in Ramadan also include a series of activities for its employees who the bank deems as partners in its success and it is keen on sharing with them the teachings of the holy month that promote communion and mercy. In this context, the bank has a number of activities during the holy month which will enhance the relations between them. This includes a Ramadan ghabga (a Kuwaiti banquet) inspired by the Kuwaiti traditions, including generosity and hospitality, and a football tournament.

Through these activities during the holy month of Ramadan, the bank aims to disseminate a constructive social message inspired by its proven experience. It focuses on the importance of inspiration in transforming the dream into reality and that difficulties can be overcome by finding solutions as long as man is empowered by faith, ability, and patience, which are cornerstones in the teachings of Islam. Islam promotes perseverance and trust in the potential Allah bestowed on man. Inspired by its strife, the bank is keen on inspiring the Kuwaiti society and encouraging it to cling to innovation and creativity, especially as it is a banking institution that has emerged in this society, gained its confidence and owes it all kinds of support.



KUWAIT: A group photo taken during the signing ceremony.

KFAS RENEWS AGREEMENT WITH LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) signed an agreement at KFAS' headquarters last week renewing their successful long-term agreement (2007-2017) for another five years with an aim to provide opportunities for training and research organizations in Kuwait to better serve local needs.

The signing ceremony was attended by Professor Hussain Al-Ansari, President of Kuwait University, Dr Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD), and KFAS Director General, Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin, in addition to Professor Toby Dodge, Director of the Kuwait LSE Program.

On this occasion, Director of International Relations and Knowledge Management at KFAS, Dr Amani Al-Bedah stated that "KFAS has

created a new agreement modality that highlights the local benefit from international agreements and has worked hand-in-hand with LSE to ensure that there is mutual benefit from the 5-year renewal agreement, and that critical knowledge and skill are cultivated through this partnership."

In signing this agreement, KFAS aims to develop the research capacity in Kuwait through improving the quality of research produced in addition to supporting researchers and policy makers with the resources they need.

"The agreement has evolved over the last two years under the directorship of Professor Toby Dodge to genuinely serve the research needs of Kuwait" said Manager of International Programs at KFAS, Engineer Yousef Al-Mazeedi, "and has created valuable opportunities for debate and exchange of knowledge with local researchers, policy makers, and repre-

sentatives of the private sector." Mazeedi added that "looking ahead, the renewal agreement takes on a more directed local view and creates more research opportunities for local researchers focused on calls for joint research, fellowships as well as opportunities for Kuwait-based researchers from public and private universities to spend time at LSE, a dynamic program to engage the wider research community of LSE with Kuwaiti institutions that requires experts in specialized fields like Energy, Housing, Healthcare, Fiscal Policy, etc."

As a manifestation of KFAS' role in informing public policy, the renewal agreement will provide opportunities for KFAS to collaborate with the Kuwait Centre for Public Policy, both in terms of programs directed at capacity building and those directed at creating a body of knowledge suited for policy making.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) celebrated the graduation of batch 2 of customer service - communications center employees who underwent training at CBK Academy in Faiha.



It won't be from sea-to-sea; how long will wall be?

US, AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS WARN OF RETURNING FOREIGN FIGHTERS

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ST PETERSBURG, Russia: In this June 3, 2017 photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin talks with Megyn Kelly during an interview with NBC's "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly". — AP

PUTIN DISMISSES US INVOLVEMENT CLAIMS
 RUSSIAN PRESIDENT DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF KUSHNER PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON: Russian President Vladimir Putin says claims about Russian involvement in US elections are untrue, and says the United States actively interferes with elections in other countries. And he is dismissing as "a load of nonsense" the idea that Russia has damaging information on President Donald Trump. "I never met with him. We have a lot of Americans who visit us," Putin said in an interview with NBC's "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly." He added: "Do you think we're gathering compromising information on all of them right now or something? Are you all - have you all lost your senses over there?"

US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia meddled in the presidential election to hurt the bid of Democrat Hillary Clinton. Trump himself has been dogged by questions about any business dealings with Russia - he says he has none - as well as reports of a Russian dossier of damaging personal information. "Well, this is just another load of

nonsense," Putin said. "Where would we get this information from? Why, did we have some special relationship with him? We didn't have any relationship at all."

Putin again denied any Russian involvement in the US presidential election and any knowledge of Russian contacts with the Trump campaign. A special counsel appointed by the Justice Department and congressional committees are investigating. Former FBI Director James Comey, whom Trump fired after allegedly asking him to drop an investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn and his Russian contacts, is scheduled to testify Thursday before the Senate's intelligence committee. In the NBC interview, Putin was asked about reports of Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner's attempt to set up a secret communications channel with Russia. Putin said he knew nothing about it and that he had not discussed with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak any meeting with Kushner. "Had there been any-

thing significant he would have reported it to the minister. The minister would have reported it to me," Putin said. "There weren't even any reports. There's nothing to even talk about. There wasn't even any kind of specific discussion about sanctions or anything else. For me, this is just amazing. You created a sensation out of nothing." Putin suggested that skilled hackers anywhere, including the US, could shift the blame for hacking onto Russia. He also alleged that the US actively interferes with electoral campaigns of other countries. "Put your finger anywhere on a map of the world, and everywhere you will hear complaints that American officials are interfering in internal electoral processes," he said. As far as the findings of US intelligence agencies, Putin said, "They have been misled."

Comey testimony

As the Senate prepared for Comey's appearance, Trump appeared unlikely to try to

block him from testifying. The public hearing is expected to shed light on his private conversations with Trump in the weeks before his dismissal, including any discussion about the Flynn investigation. There's been no final decision as to whether Trump would invoke executive privilege, and the matter remains under discussion, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations. Trump is known to change his mind on major issues.

On Sunday, lawmakers from both parties urged Trump not to stand in the way of Comey's testimony. "Clearly, it would be very, very troubling if the president of the United States is interfering in investigations that affect potentially the president and his closest associates," said Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee.

Sen Roy Blunt, a Republican member of the intelligence committee, said Comey's testimony would be critical to address mounting ques-

tions about possible obstruction of justice. The Senate intelligence committee also has invited the top spy of the US and law enforcement officials to testify Wednesday at a hearing about the federal law governing foreign intelligence collection. Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe and deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein also are expected to testify.

For Thursday's hearing, Trump could invoke executive privilege by arguing that discussions with Comey pertained to national security and that he had an expectation of privacy in getting candid advice from top aides. But legal experts say Trump likely undermined those arguments because he publicly discussed the conversations in tweets and interviews. Trump's argument in favor of privilege also may be overcome because the investigation is focused on corruption and possible obstruction of justice. Warner spoke on CNN's "State of the Union" and CBS' "Face the Nation." Blunt appeared on "Fox News Sunday." — AP

TRUMP ASSAILS JUSTICE DEPT COURT STRATEGY ON TRAVEL BAN

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump lashed out at his own Justice Department Monday for seeking the Supreme Court's backing for a "watered down, politically correct version" of the travel ban he signed in March. In a series of early morning tweets, Trump urged the Justice Department to ask for an "expedited hearing" at the high court and seek a "much tougher version" of the order temporarily blocking entry to the US from a half-dozen majority Muslim countries. He called the courts, which have blocked two versions of the travel ban, "slow and political".

It's unclear whether the president has conveyed his requests to the Justice Department, which he oversees, in a forum other than Twitter. The president criticized the legal strategy in the wake of the vehicle and knife attack in London that left seven people dead and dozens injured. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack. Last week, the Justice Department formally asked the Supreme Court to let a ban on visitors from six mostly Muslim countries and refugees from around the world to be put in place. The high court also is being asked to uphold the constitutionality of the Trump travel policy, which lower courts have blocked because it shows anti-Muslim prejudice.

The directive that would go before the Supreme Court is a narrower version of the executive order the president signed during

his first week in office. The second order removed Iraq from the list of banned countries. An indefinite halt to entry from Syrian refugees was replaced by a temporary pause. Trump's criticism came a day after he said he would do whatever is necessary to protect the United States from a "vile enemy" that he said has waged war on innocents for too

long. "This bloodshed must end, this bloodshed will end," he vowed.

Trump was commenting Sunday evening on the vehicle and knife attack that killed at least seven people in London at the conclusion of a Sunday night fundraiser for Ford's Theater, scene of one of the most famous acts of bloodshed in American history: The assas-

ination of President Abraham Lincoln.

"America sends our thoughts and prayers and our deepest sympathies to the victims of this evil slaughter and we renew our resolve, stronger than ever before, to protect the United States and its allies from a vile enemy that has waged war on innocent life, and it's gone on too long," Trump said in an appearance at a Ford's Theater event, his first comments in public on the attack late Saturday in a busy section of London. He previously had commented via a series of Twitter posts Saturday. "As president, I will do what is necessary to prevent this threat from spreading to our shores and work every single day to protect the safety and security of our country, our communities and our people," he said. Trump said he had spoken with British Prime Minister Theresa May to express America's "unwavering support" and offer US assistance as the British government works to protect its citizens and bring the guilty to justice.

After more than 20 people were killed in a bomb attack last month at a concert in Manchester, England, Trump condemned the assault as the act of "evil losers" and called on nations to band together to fight terrorism. Earlier Sunday, Trump had criticized London's mayor after the mayor sought to reassure residents about a stepped-up police presence following the attack, the third in the country in past three months. — AP



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and US first lady Melania Trump leave after Ford's Theatre's annual fundraiser on Sunday. — AFP

LAWMAKERS ASK COURT TO NULLIFY MARTIAL LAW

MANILA: Philippine opposition lawmakers petitioned the Supreme Court yesterday to review and nullify President Rodrigo Duterte's imposition of martial law in the southern third of the country. The petition filed by six House lawmakers led by Rep. Edcel Lagman said there was no revolution or invasion where public safety required the declaration of martial law and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. It said the proclamation contained "fatal inaccuracies and falsities."

The petitioners said Congressional leaders and the majority of lawmakers allied with Duterte were derelict in their constitutional duty by refusing to convene a joint session of Congress to vote whether or not to revoke the martial law proclamation. Duterte made the declaration May 23 after extremists allied with the Islamic State group laid siege to Marawi city. The declaration lasts through mid-July but could be extended with the consent of Congress.

The martial law proclamation said the militants openly attempted to remove that part of the country from its allegiance to the Philippine government by taking over a hospital, establishing several checkpoints in the city, burning down certain government and private facilities, and flying the flag of the Islamic State group in several areas. But the petitioners said even the military admitted the conflict in Marawi was precipitated by troops' operation to neutralize or capture Isnilon Hapilon, a high-profile militant commander. They also said the claim that militants took over a hospital and Duterte's claim that a local police chief was decapitated both turned out to be wrong. "The President's proclamation of martial law in Mindanao has no sufficient factual basis as it is feebly based on mostly contrived and/or inaccurate facts, self-serving speculations, enumeration of distant occurrences and mere conclusions of fact and law on the purported existence of 'rebellion or invasion,'" the lawmakers said. — AP

US STATES MOVE TO EXPAND AGE KIDS MUST BE IN SCHOOL

LAS VEGAS: A dozen states are trying to keep children in school longer, from making kindergarten mandatory to raising the legal drop-out age. But it's not an easy sell. Nevada is among the states this year that have or are considering proposals to stretch the compulsory attendance age. A bill that would require children in Nevada to start school at age 5 was met with such resistance that it was amended to age 6. Current state law sets the age at 7. The proposal is likely to go nowhere, as the Nevada legislature was set to adjourn yesterday.

"If you're really concerned about kids dropping out, I don't think making kindergarten mandatory is really the heart of the issue," said Maggie England, who opposes the Nevada bill and wants to homeschool her three children. Supporters admit that it wouldn't have much of an impact on enrollment numbers - and therefore school budgets. State officials estimate that about 95 percent of 6-year-olds are already learning in a formal capacity. What's to be gained, then, said Nevada Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz, is the message that the state sometimes mocked as the "Mississippi of the West" is taking seriously its mission to turn things around in its glaringly

deficient schools.

"I believe every child deserves a fair and equal shot at the American dream and that starts with school," said Diaz, the bill sponsor who is also a Las Vegas-area teacher. "I just think it's going to be a philosophical argument and we're just going to have to agree to disagree. As a teacher, and as an assemblywoman who represents a very at-risk population, this is fundamental."

The conversation among advocates is often tinged with this kind of anxiety about economic disparity. Their debate is centered as a moral imperative, extolling research on the importance of access to education, particularly for poor and disadvantaged children. Lately, education access has also seen a heightened, urgent interest on the national stage, ranging from college tuition to daycare and pre-kindergarten. The compulsory school age issue gained peak momentum when then-President Barack Obama in his 2012 State of the Union address urged states to raise the dropout age to 18.

In the past decade, both Republican and Democrat lawmakers have pushed for changes that would stretch the compulsory school attendance age, in some

states requiring children to be in the classroom for as many as 13 years, from age 5 to 18. This year alone, at least six bills were proposed in Mississippi to expand the years that children must be in school. All of them have failed. Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, New Jersey, South Carolina, Montana, Mississippi and North Carolina also have considered the issue this year.

Nearly all states require free education to be offered by age 5, though in half the country, children don't have to start school until they're 6 years old. There's mandatory kindergarten in several states, while Pennsylvania and Washington don't require attendance until age 8. These state laws - some more than a century old - began as a tool to fight truancy. The status quo generally has been to allow teens to drop out at age 16.

Critics

The critics are advocates of homeschooling and limited-government who say that parents should have ultimate authority over their children, including when and how their kids are educated. Homeschoolers contend that the children who are not going to school are

likely in unstructured programs at home that aren't registered with the local school districts and that not every child is suited for a paper-and-pencil classroom confinement.

"I can appreciate it and I can appreciate the need for it, but if it's available, I don't see why it needs to be mandatory for people like me because you're taking away my rights," said England, the mom against the Nevada bill. England is planning to teach her children at home near Reno because she said she doesn't have confidence in the local school district. "Nevada is literally 50th in the country for school so I wouldn't say we're doing it right, right now," England said.

Grover "Russ" Whitehurst of the Brookings Institution's Center on Children and Families says the flaw in this movement is its emphasis on quantity, not quality, with lawmakers too frequently operating on their gut. The education policy expert says compulsory laws can produce some small effects but it's not quite the grand vision lawmakers push. His research has found that raising it to 18 doesn't actually increase the graduation rate. "It's intuitive in the sense that you would think if school does us any good, more of it would do us

even more good," Whitehurst said. "Nothing seems irrational. It's not that it's a bad thing to do. But if you expect to see graduation rates zooming, you'll likely be disappointed."

That seems to be the case in South Dakota, which has expanded the mandatory school age on both ends. In 2006 and 2007, lawmakers approved bills that made the compulsory age 5 to 18. The state's secretary of education, Melody Schopp, said the graduation rate is about the same but said the total number of dropouts is down. She said the law helped incentivize schools to create new career-focused programs to keep older teens engaged.

So while not everyone gets a diploma in four years, many of those who were likely to leave school with nothing are now getting GEDs or certifications to do other kinds of jobs. And she's also not bothered by the lack of measurable improvements academically for the younger children who have gone through the mandatory kindergarten programs. "Being fed and kept warm. School is where there is a caring adult," Schopp said. "There's other benefits you can't measure on an academic scale that are really important to me." — AP

IT WON'T BE FROM SEA-TO-SEA; HOW LONG WILL US WALL BE?

WASHINGTON: The White House insists that plans for US President Donald Trump's border wall are on track despite resistance from Congress. What it's not saying is how it envisions the wall these days. Trump's promise to build a "big beautiful wall" and have Mexico pay for it was a campaign rallying cry. It conjured images of an imposing structure spanning the 3,200 km of America's southern border, too tall and strong for foreigners to dare cross illegally.

But since Trump took office, his top aides have made clear that's not on their drawing boards. It won't be "from sea to shining sea," Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told lawmakers. So how long will it be? And how much of it will be a thick new wall as opposed to patching up existing fences and other measures? The answers aren't clear. A look at what is known about the state of the wall.

What candidate Trump said about the wall

From the start of his campaign, Trump said building a wall at the Mexican border and having Mexico pay for it was a priority. His campaign website said his administration would "begin working on an impenetrable physical wall on the southern border on day one." Trump never speci-

fied exactly what he wanted, but his words suggested a wall stretching from Brownsville, Texas, on the eastern end of the border, to San Diego at the western end. At times he suggested the wall would be at least 30 feet (9 m) high, even promising to add an extra 10 feet (3 m) after former Mexican President Vicente Fox used an expletive to say that Mexico wouldn't pay for the program.

What the administration says about the wall now

Days after taking office on Jan. 20, Trump signed an executive order calling for a "physical wall along the southern border." But the order didn't include specific details or say how it would be funded or how much it might cost. In recent months, leaders of the departments that will have the biggest roles in whatever is built have hedged their boss' campaign comments.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke acknowledged in March some of the complications a border-long wall would face. He said physical and geographic challenges would make building a wall "complex in some areas," including along parts of the Rio Grande and in a remote and mountainous national park in Texas. Officials from the Homeland Security Department, which is over-

seeing bids for the wall, have said repeatedly they don't know yet the length of the wall the administration will ultimately want to build or how much it will cost.

Kelly has said the administration wants to start by building at least 119 km of wall in Texas and near San Diego, though 23 km of that construction would be a replacement for fencing that's been in place for years. He has said new construction will be planned for areas where border officials say it's most needed. He told a Senate budget panel last month that some of the new construction may be a see-through fence, similar to barriers built by the Bush and Obama administrations.

Paying for the wall

Mexican officials have flatly rejected paying for the wall. US lawmakers haven't been enthusiastic about paying for it either. Trump's request for \$2.6 billion to start the work on an unspecified stretch of border wall was swiftly denied as Congress approved a spending package to keep the government running through the end of the current budget year in September. Instead lawmakers approved \$772 million for border security, including the upkeep and planned replacement of old stretches of border fencing, some built almost two decades ago. Still, the administration promoted this as major progress toward building the wall.

Trump's first full budget request, which would fund the government for the 2018 budget year, asks for \$1.6 billion to pay for roughly 95 km of new wall along two stretches of the border in South Texas and 23 km of wall to replace fencing near San Diego. It's unclear whether Congress will approve that request. Democrats and some Republicans have questioned the need for new barriers as arrests of people caught sneaking across the border fall to record lows.

Current construction

There is a flurry of construction going on at the Mexican border. To the naked eye, it looks like Trump's wall is underway. But it's not. The fencing being built along brief stretches of border in Sunland Park, New Mexico, and Naco, Arizona, is part of a long-planned effort to replace old chain-link fencing that in some cases is decades old. Later this summer, construction is expected to start on prototypes of new kinds of walls, both see-through and solid, in San Diego. — AP



TIJUANA, Mexico: A piece of art with a reflective surface hangs on the border fence as the "Tear Down This Wall" concert is held in Friendship Park on the Mexican side of the US-Mexico border on June 3, 2017. — AFP

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT LASHES OUT AHEAD OF COURT VERDICT

BRASILIA: President Michel Temer and Brazil's chief prosecutor were in open warfare yesterday on the eve of a court verdict that could lead to the scandal-plagued president's removal from office. The front pages of major newspapers were dominated by accusations made by Temer's lawyer that Prosecutor General Rodrigo Janot is pressuring the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to rule against Temer when it meets to deliver a verdict, starting today.

Temer has been hanging by a thread since the revelation of a secret audio in which he is allegedly heard giving his blessing to payment of hush money by a meat-packing tycoon to a top politician jailed for corruption. But starting today, he faces the separate, more immediate challenge of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, known as the TSE. The TSE is deciding whether abuse of power - principally the use of corrupt campaign money - fatally undermined the validity of the 2014 election in which Temer was reelected vice president with then president Dilma Rousseff.

When Rousseff was impeached last year, Temer took over. If the TSE judges Temer to have been responsible for abuses in 2014, the court could then annul the election results, throwing Brazil into even deeper political chaos. On Sunday, Temer's lawyer Gustavo Guedes claimed that Janot is leaning on the TSE "to pressure the court and find the president

guilty." "We are very worried that the prosecutor general of the republic is using all the apparatus that he has to attempt to pressure" the court, he told Folha newspaper.

The accusation ramped up the tension in the capital Brasilia ahead of the court hearing. The panel of seven judges is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Wednesday before reaching a verdict Thursday - unless an adjournment is called.

Converging crises

The TSE had previously been considered unlikely to declare Temer illegitimate. At most, the court was expected to put the blame for use of dirty campaign money exclusively

on Rousseff. Since she is already out of the picture - having been impeached for breaking government accounting rules in 2015 - the expectation was for the TSE ruling to allow Temer to finish his mandate through 2018. However, the eruption of the hush money allegations against Temer have led to hopes among his opponents that the TSE will seize the opportunity to bring him down.

Even if he survives the TSE, Temer still faces the intensifying corruption probe being led by Janot. Brasilia is swirling with rumors that Janot plans soon to release new secret audio recordings and other evidence compromising the president.

Janot's next step could also be to request formal charges against Temer, leading to a trial in the Supreme Court. Adding to that threat is the likelihood that more suspects in the corruption scandal will strike plea bargains with prosecutors and testify against him.

Chief among those potential new witnesses is a former Temer aide, Rodrigo Rocha Loures, who was caught with a suitcase containing 500,000 reais (\$152,000) of alleged bribe money. He was placed under arrest Saturday but has not yet signalled whether he will agree to cooperate with prosecutors. For now, Temer still has several escape routes. If found guilty by the TSE, he could appeal, potentially staying in office while the process plays out. And even if the Supreme Court accepts an indictment filed by Janot, two-thirds of the lower house of Congress, where Temer still retains significant support, would also have to approve the motion.

In the meantime, the economic austerity reforms that Temer has campaigned hard to push through Congress, calling them key to rescuing Brazil's economy after two years of recession, appear to be increasingly doomed. Eurasia Group consultants issued a note yesterday declaring Temer's chances of survival at 40 percent and the outlook for pension reforms "dire." "As such, we still bet that Temer won't finish his mandate," Eurasia Group said. — AFP



Michel Temer



TOLUCA, Mexico: Alfredo Del Mazo, Mexico state gubernatorial candidate for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, and his wife Fernanda Castillo greet supporters at the party's headquarters in the capital of Mexico state on Sunday. — AP

MEXICO RULING PARTY CLAIMS WIN IN STATE, RIVALS CRY FOUL

TOLUCA, Mexico: Mexico's ruling party narrowly held onto the governorship of the country's largest state Sunday, according to preliminary election results, but a fiery leftist hoping to ride the race to the presidency cried foul. The election in the state of Mexico, President Enrique Pena Nieto's home state, was closely watched as a bellwether ahead of presidential polls next year. It was a must-win race for Pena Nieto and the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which had to fend off a fierce challenge from an upstart leftist party, the National Regeneration Movement (Morena), and its founder, presidential hopeful Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

The PRI's candidate, Alfredo del Mazo, leads Lopez Obrador's protégée, Delfina Gomez, by about two percentage points, according to a rapid count released by the electoral authority. It said Del Mazo won between 32.75 and 33.59 percent of the vote, against a score of 30.73 to 31.53 percent for Gomez. It called the difference between them "statistically significant", with a confidence level of 95 percent, based on a sample of polling stations.

Battle looming?

Lopez Obrador immediately rejected the result. "According to our results, Delfina won," he said in a video posted online. "We will accept no fraud." He vowed to challenge the outcome, though he said his party would do so peacefully. Gomez echoed his rejection. "We won the election," she said. But Del Mazo was quick to deliver his victory speech, promising "a government of inclusion, of unity". The fight may be far from over, with street protests and court

challenges possible. Morena, which has never held a governorship, was never supposed to come this close in the key central state, which cups Mexico City. The PRI has ruled there for more than 80 years. But the campaign in the state of 16 million people turned into a chance for Mexicans to vent their long list of frustrations with the PRI, the party that has ruled the country for 76 of the past 88 years.

Del Mazo comes from a long line of former state governors, including not only his father and grandfather but also Pena Nieto, his cousin. To critics, that smacks of the nepotism and backroom deals they say dog the PRI, a broadly centrist party that has been plagued by corruption scandals, violent crime and a lackluster economy since Pena Nieto ushered it back to power in 2012. Del Mazo, 41, faced a radically different kind of candidate in Gomez, 54, a schoolteacher who played up her humble background as a construction worker's daughter.

'PRI not dead'

His apparent win shows that "the PRI is not dead", political analyst Fernando Dworak told AFP. But the party is still unlikely to win next year's presidential election, he added. Lopez Obrador remains "the candidate to beat" next year, said another analyst, historian Hector Aguilar Camin, in comments to Televisa TV. The firebrand populist, whose enemies say he would lead Mexico down the same path as Venezuela, has a history of fighting long after the voting is done. After his unsuccessful 2006 presidential bid, he proclaimed himself the "legitimate president" as his supporters camped out for weeks in central Mexico City. — AFP

NJ HOLDS GOV PRIMARIES UNDER SHADOW OF UNPOPULAR CHRISTIE

PRINCETON, New Jersey: New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is barred by state law from running for a third consecutive four-year term this year, but the unpopular former Republican presidential candidate remains a central figure in the campaign to replace him. Voters head to the polls today to choose Republican and Democratic nominees to succeed Christie, whose approval ratings have hit historic lows. He has been accused of spending too much time out of state during the 2016 presidential campaign and tarnished by the so-called Bridgegate lane closure scandal.

The lieutenant governor, Kim Guadagno, is the frontrunner in the primary election on the Republican side, while Phil Murphy, a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc executive who served as US ambassador to Germany under former President Barack Obama, holds a solid lead in polling among the Democrats. Guadagno, who won election as the state's first lieutenant governor alongside Christie in 2009, was Monmouth County's first elected female sheriff and, like Christie, served as a federal prosecutor.

With Christie absent frequently during the presidential campaign, Guadagno has already spent months as acting governor. But she has also faced criticism from her

opponents based on her association with the unpopular Republican incumbent. As a result, Guadagno, 58, has tried to execute a balancing act, distancing herself from Christie on some issues like his \$300 million proposal to renovate the aging statehouse in Trenton while taking credit for the state's low unemployment figures.

"In most situations where you have a second-in-command, that person will enjoy some incumbency advantage," said Brigid Callahan Harrison, a political science professor at Montclair University in New Jersey. "In fact, what we see is the exact opposite. His enormous unpopularity is an albatross around her candidacy." At a recent debate, Guadagno sparred with her main Republican rival, Assemblyman Jack Catterelli, over the latter's plan to hike taxes on millionaires. Guadagno has vowed not to raise any taxes.

Catterelli, 55, has criticized Christie, and by extension Guadagno, for the state's repeated credit rating downgrades in the face of budget problems. The latest Stockton University poll, released last week, gave Guadagno 37 percent support among primary voters, with Catterelli trailing at 18 percent. About a third of those polled, however, said they remained undecided. — Reuters

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CANDIDATES AIM TO RIDE MACRON WAVE TO PARLIAMENT

PARIS: The leaflets make no mention of the candidates' party, just a splash of color and pledges carefully calibrated to fit with those of the new centrist president. Welcome to campaigning in Emmanuel Macron's France, where moderates of the left and right are hitching their wagons to the new president's star in the hope of winning a seat in upcoming parliamen-

tary elections. "These days, what counts in a pot of yoghurt is the taste, not the label," said Pierre-Yves Bournazel, who is running for a seat in Paris for the conservative Republicans in the two-round vote taking place on Sunday and on June 18. Bournazel is campaigning in the Montmartre area to the north of the French capital, in the shadow of the hill-

top Sacre Coeur church that attracts crowds of tourists.

At 39 - the same age as Macron - Bournazel echoes the desire of France's youngest ever president "to promote new ideas and a new type of political behavior". His leaflets says he wants to help form a "presidential majority", meaning that although he is running on the Republicans ticket Bournazel would support many of Macron's reforms in parliament. His stance - that of dozens of candidates from the Republicans and rival Socialists - reflects the tectonic political shift engineered by Macron, which has left the two major post-war political groupings fighting for survival.

Riding Macron's coattails

Macron has dismissed the traditional left-right divide as old hat, saying the new faultline in French politics is between "progressives" and those opposed to change. To drive home that point he has given politicians from the Socialists and Republicans jobs in his new government, deepening the rift within the parties between those who oppose Macron and those seduced by his pragmatism. In Montmartre, Bournazel's main opponent - Socialist former labor minister Myriam El-Khomri - is also running as someone who would work "with Emmanuel Macron, for a (parliamentary) majority of progress".

The Socialist logo is tucked away at the

bottom of Khomri's campaign poster and the party's trademark rose has disappeared, replaced by a Macron-style blue slick. Explaining her position, the politician behind last year's highly contested reform of the labor code insists that while she is a "woman of the left" she also has "a real understanding of what a culture of compromise means".

The attempts by the candidates to ride on the coattails of the president and his fledgling *Republique En Marche* (Republic on the Move or REM) party has bemused some voters. "The most amazing thing is to see each of them explain to us that they are more 'En Marche' than the next person, when they have been part of their own parties for some time," said Olivier, 49, a Macron supporter in Montmartre.

Unblocking France

Khomri's reluctance to fly her own party's colors is understandable. The Socialists' presidential candidate, Benoît Hamon, scored a humiliating six percent and the former governing party has every reason to fear another rout in the parliamentary elections. Another 15 Socialist candidates are also running under the "presidential majority" banner, irking their party which has accused them of "opportunism".

Macron, who had never run for office until he became president, needs a majority in parliament if he is to implement his

ambitious reform agenda. Many of his rivals scoffed when the supremely confident former Rothschild banker vowed he and his fledgling party would blaze a new political trail. Yet having handed him the presidency in a May 7 runoff against far-right leader Marine Le Pen, voters are now changing their voting habits of a lifetime to back REM and its allies.

An Ipsos Steria survey of nearly 15,000 voters last week showed Macron's camp taking 31 percent in Sunday's first round of voting for the National Assembly, well ahead of the Republicans on 22 percent. Another poll showed him going on to win an outright majority of seats at the second round. REM is fielding candidates - many drawn from outside politics, including a former fighter pilot and female bullfighter - in almost every one of the 577 constituencies.

But in constituencies like Montmartre, where the frontrunners are supportive of the president's agenda, it has hung back. "We are seeing a new polarization of the French political landscape which is replacing the old left-right split in favor of a bloc which is more 'elite' and another that is more 'working-class'", political scientist Jerome Sainte-Marie said. "The most liberal candidates on the left and right see in Macron the solution to bogged-down reforms," he said. "This ideological coherence is where Macron's strength lies," he added. —AFP



PARIS: Former Labour minister and French leftwing Socialist Part (PS) candidate for the upcoming legislative elections in the 18th district of Paris, Myriam El-Khomri, gestures as she delivers a speech during a meeting with supporters of the *Republique En Marche* party on June 1, 2017. —AFP

TURKEY STANDS FIRM OVER BAN ON GERMAN VISITS TO INCIRLIK

BERLIN TO FIND ANOTHER LOCATION FOR ITS TROOPS

ANKARA: Turkey and Germany yesterday failed to reach an agreement over visits by German politicians to a key airbase used for raids against the Islamic State group in Syria, with Ankara standing firm on its ban. The Incirlik base in southern Turkey has been at the center of a dispute between the NATO allies since Ankara blocked a visit by German parliamentarians last month. "Right now it is possible to visit the NATO base in Konya (in

light of Turkey's decision, Gabriel said that Germany would soon start the process of finding another location for its troops. Berlin had previously indicated that it would move the personnel elsewhere in the region, most likely Jordan.

Gabriel said that he regretted Turkey's decision, adding that Ankara must understand "for domestic political reasons we will then need to transfer our soldiers". But he added there was not yet

of finding another base," he said. "I believe that we cannot solve the problem with Turkey now." Turkey justified preventing the German parliamentary group from visiting the base by accusing Berlin of having offered political asylum to Turkish nationals who took part in the July 2016 attempted coup.

'Conditions not ripe'

Cavusoglu said yesterday that Turkey had no problem with

shelter in friendly country Germany," he said, referring to a movement led by US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen, blamed by Ankara for orchestrating the failed coup.

Gabriel said asylum cases were handled by an independent German authority, and "in the end it is courts which decide, and not the government". Cavusoglu hinted that visits to Incirlik could be possible in the future if unspecified joint steps were taken, but that "Conditions are not ripe right now to visit Incirlik," he said. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim cancelled a planned meeting with Gabriel because of scheduling reasons, an official from the Turkish premier's office said. "The meeting could not take place time-wise," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

But Gabriel met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the presidential palace. Relations between Turkey and Germany have been tense since last July's failed coup but deteriorated over a referendum campaign this year to expand Erdogan's powers. Ties were strained further after Turkish authorities imprisoned a German-Turkish journalist with *Die Welt*, Deniz Yucel, on terror charges. Cavusoglu said that the accusations against Yucel were "not about journalism but terror," and that the "independent judiciary" was leading the investigation in the Yucel case.

Amid worsening relations, Erdogan has repeatedly accused German Chancellor Angela Merkel of "hiding terrorists" in Germany and claimed that Berlin was "not responding to 4,500 dossiers sent by Ankara on terror suspects. Turkey is an important country for Berlin, in part because of the roughly three million ethnic Turks in Germany after a "guest worker" program in the 1960s and 1970s. —AFP



ANKARA: German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel (left) and Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu shake hands before talks yesterday. —AP

central Turkey), not Incirlik," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said at a news conference with his German counterpart Sigmar Gabriel in Ankara.

Germany has 250 military personnel stationed at Incirlik flying Tornado surveillance missions over Syria and refuelling flights for partner nations battling IS militants. In

any decision or a concrete plan for the relocation of the German troops from Incirlik. Speaking later to journalists at the German embassy, Gabriel said Germany could not station its soldiers at a base where deputies were not able to visit them.

"Therefore, I think we will begin this week or next week the process

Germany, which is a major trade partner, adding: "If Germany takes one step forward toward us, we will always take two steps further." But he said that some facts could not be ignored, claiming that more than 400 Turkish diplomatic or official passport holders had sought asylum in Germany. "We would not like to see members of FETO take

CYPRUS LEADERS TO PUSH ON WITH REUNIFICATION TALKS

UNITED NATIONS: Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders agreed Sunday to return to the negotiating table later this month in a new bid to clinch a historic deal on reunifying the island. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the new round of talks following a four-hour dinner meeting with the two leaders at UN headquarters in New York. Guterres had invited Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart Mustafa Akinci to salvage a two-year diplomatic effort aimed at achieving a settlement in Cyprus.

Flanked by the two leaders, Guterres told reporters after the lengthy meeting that all three had "agreed on the need to reconvene the conference on Cyprus in June". No firm date was announced, but Guterres said he would consult with Britain, the European Union, Greece and Turkey on the timing. The UN-led talks hit a wall nine days ago after the sides failed to agree on the terms to advance the reunification talks toward a final summit.

The eastern Mediterranean island has been divided since 1974, when Turkish troops invaded its northern third in response to an Athens-inspired coup seek-

ing union with Greece. The Greek Cypriot side demanded that the withdrawal of Turkish troops be discussed at the conference in Geneva as part of security arrangements. But the Turkish Cypriots maintained

that the conference should focus on broader issues of power-sharing, property rights and territory for the creation of a new federation. Turkey maintains some 35,000 troops in the north of the island. —AFP



NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres makes a statement after hosting talks with Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci (left) and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades at the UN headquarters on Sunday. —AP



LONDON: Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick (second left) and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan (third right) are shown across London Bridge yesterday to see the site of the June 3 terror attack near Borough Market. —AFP

POLICE MAKE MORE ARRESTS OVER LONDON TERROR ATTACK

LONDON: Police carried out fresh raids and arrested "a number of people" yesterday after the Islamic State group claimed an attack by three men who mowed down and stabbed revellers in London, killing seven people before being shot dead by officers. Saturday night's rampage at a popular nightlife hub around London Bridge by men wearing fake suicide vests was the third deadly terror attack in Britain in less than three months and came only days before a general election.

"A number of people have been detained," police said in a statement after two early morning raids in east London, as commuters returned to the scene of the attacks after some security cordons were removed. "A very high priority for us is to try to understand whether they were working with anybody else," London police chief Cressida Dick told BBC television. Dick said police had seized "a huge amount of forensic material" after going through the van used in the attack "very, very carefully". "We will change and adapt to what appears to be a new reality for us," she said.

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Sunday blamed "evil" Islamist ideology and vowed to crackdown on extremist content online worldwide, warning that attackers were "copying one another". National campaigning for Thursday's general election resumed on Monday after a one-day suspension out of respect for the victims, who included 48 people treated in hospital for injuries. Of those, 21 are still in a critical condition. Police said on Sunday

they were holding 11 people, all arrested in raids on two addresses in Barking in suburban east London.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility. "A detachment of fighters from Islamic State carried out London attacks," said the Amaq news agency, which is affiliated with the militants. One Canadian national and one Frenchman were among the fatalities and seven French citizens were among the injured. No details have been released about the perpetrators, who were shot dead within eight minutes of the first call to the police. Eight officers fired an "unprecedented" 50 rounds at the three attackers, according to Mark Rowley, head of national counter-terrorism policing, who said that a bystander had also suffered a gunshot wound.

'Copying one another'

The prime minister said the attack was driven by the same "evil ideology of Islamist extremism" behind the May 22 Manchester suicide bombing that left 22 people dead, and the Westminster attack in March, which killed five. The assailants ran people over on London Bridge before lunging seemingly at random at the crowds gathered around 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. —AFP

QUESTIONS WHETHER ISRAEL CONSIDERED ATOMIC BLAST

JERUSALEM: Research suggesting Israel may have considered detonating an atomic device on the eve of the Six-Day War 50 years ago to deter its Arab neighbors sparked debate and denials yesterday. Israel's presumed status as the Middle East's sole nuclear-armed nation remains a highly taboo subject for the country, which neither confirms nor denies such capability. The foreign ministry declined to comment, but one minister who has also written a book on the Six-Day War dismissed the claim.

Research by Avner Cohen, a historian who specializes in Israel's nuclear program, sparked the debate coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, fought from June 5-10, 1967. The research was published yesterday on the website of the US-based Wilson Center think tank, whose work includes tracking nuclear proliferation. Findings were also published over the weekend in the *New York Times*.

Cohen's research includes interviews with

Yitzhak Yaakov, a retired Israeli brigadier general who had been head of weapons research and development. Yaakov, who died in 2013, told Cohen that in 1967 he came up with a plan called "Samson" or "Shimshon" in Hebrew that would involve detonating an "improvised" atomic device purely as a warning. Yaakov stressed that Israel had not yet developed a nuclear bomb. The plan called for it to be detonated atop a mountain in the eastern Sinai Peninsula some 20 km from the Abu Ageila Egyptian strategic military complex.

Cohen wrote that "a small paratroop force would have diverted the attention of the Egyptian army in the area to allow the team to prepare the nuclear demonstration upon an order from both the prime minister and the chief of staff".

The blast would have been seen "for many tens (of) kilometres throughout the Sinai and the Negev" desert, he wrote. "Look, it was so natural," a transcript on the Woodrow Center's website quoted Yaakov as saying. —AFP

AFGHAN ARMY FIGHTS ON AS US WEIGHS TROOP INCREASE

CHAPARHAR, Afghanistan: From his sandbagged command post outside the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, Brigadier General Mohammad Nasim Sangin says he needs more troops and equipment to beat the Taliban and hold on to ground his soldiers take. But one thing he does not want is foreign troops returning to frontline combat in Afghanistan. "We know our own country better and we can defeat our enemies ourselves," he says. "NATO can help Afghan forces with training, they can provide more equipment but we will recruit Afghans."

As US and NATO officials contemplate the way forward in Afghanistan, government soldiers face a resilient enemy and an array of problems from lack of equipment, poor leadership, political interference and chronic corruption. While high-profile attacks in the capital Kabul, such as the truck bomb that killed more than 80 people last week, grab headlines, a grinding conflict in the provinces is costing the lives of hundreds of soldiers and police a month.

A soldier since his teenage years with the anti-Soviet mujahideen in the 1980s, Sangin has been leading his brigade in a clearing operation to drive insurgent fighters out of Chaparhar, a district of

mud-walled compounds dotted with poppy fields ready for harvest. The occasional rattle of machine gun fire can be heard from the fighting a couple of kilometres away but he says the operation has gone well, with the district center now clear at the cost of only a handful of casualties. However, experience has shown that there is no certainty of holding on to the gains.

"We launch operations, we carry out searches and push the insurgents to the mountains. Later, I have to take my forces to other places for operations and as soon as we leave the area the insurgents return," he said. US officials are preparing plans that have been expected to see some 3,000-5,000 more military trainers sent to Afghanistan and fears have grown that this could be a prelude to the United States being sucked back into the war.

Overstretch

Sixteen years after the US-led campaign that ousted the Taliban, more than 13,000 foreign troops remain in Afghanistan, down from a peak of more than 100,000, but NATO officials have said repeatedly they will not resume the combat mission they ended in 2014. However, officials say plans are being considered

which would see more trainers at times move out of Corps headquarters down to brigade-level operations such as the one being carried out by Sangin's men in Chaparhar, increasing the likelihood of their being drawn into fighting.

Despite assurances from foreign and Afghan officials about progress in improving leadership and tackling corruption, security forces have struggled to contain the insurgency and now control no more than 60 percent of the country. Most of the issues the troops talk about - lack of reinforcements and equipment, endless tours of duty - are well known despite promises of improvement.

At the same time, security forces have suffered what the US Congressional watchdog SIGAR described as "shockingly high" casualties. Official figures are patchy but at least 807 soldiers and police were killed in the first six weeks of the year after 6,785 in the first 10 months of 2016. Privately, many officials say the real numbers are even higher. The heavy casualties have also contributed to the other persistent problem facing the army, maintaining the strength of the units doing the fighting. A third of the security forces' personnel does not re-enlist every year and the actual number of troops available for duty is far below

official totals, leaving front-line troops increasingly stretched.

"It was very dangerous and busy last year but this year, it's been busier," said Assadullah, a sergeant who, like many Afghans, goes by one name. "We were in Achin and when that operation we were in Torkham and now we're in Chaparhar without any break." "I haven't been home in seven months. I go from one position to another. We're tired but there's no alternative."

Questions

Even in Nangarhar, where Islamic State has established a foothold but is otherwise a relatively stable province, the army is conducting active operations in nine districts, compared with just three last year, officers said. In other parts of the country, like the opium-rich Taleban heartlands of Helmand and Kandahar in the south and Badakhshan and Kunduz in the north, the situation is much worse.

Although General Sangin and his commanders say morale is good among their men, several of whom have the red, black and green of the Afghan flag strapped jauntily around their magazine clips, it does not take much effort to hear other points of view. As well as high casualties and the relentless tempo of opera-

tions, morale is sapped by political corruption that persists despite President Ashraf Ghani's efforts to stamp it out, leading some soldiers to ask what they are fighting for.

In Chaparhar, where the poppy fields reach into the district center, powerful interests follow operations closely. "We are not fighting for the nation, we are fighting for a mafia," said one officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We'll arrest some insurgents during an operation and soon we get a call from powerful figures inside government to let them go. We are soldiers and we have to obey orders. But the next day, when we go to another operation, our soldiers do not fight the way they were fighting previously. They believe that this is a fight for no reason," the officer said.

It is hard to know how widespread such feelings are but soldiers have continued to fight and die in numbers that underline the resilience of the troops, however battered their morale. Despite the setbacks, they have held up. Sangin, a stocky, confident figure with thick black eyebrows and a salt and pepper beard says that after more than three decades, warfare has become a way of life. "I've always been at war. All the time. It hasn't been comfortable." —Reuters



SRINAGAR: Indian government forces search a car in central Srinagar yesterday. —AFP

INDIAN TROOPS IN KASHMIR KILL 4 'SUICIDE' ATTACKERS

SRINAGAR: Indian paramilitary forces killed four suspected suicide attackers who tried to storm their camp in the disputed Kashmir region early yesterday. The gunmen lobbed grenades and fired automatic weapons outside the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp in Indian-administered Kashmir before dawn, a spokesman said. "They tried to storm the camp but they were not even allowed to enter the gate," CRPF spokesman Bhuvish Choudhary told AFP.

Choudhary described the men as "heavily armed fidayeen", a term commonly used to mean suicide attacker in Kashmir. "All the four attackers were eliminated in a clean and wonderful operation. There were no injuries on our side," he added. Four assault rifles, grenades and other ammunition were recovered from the bodies of the slain attackers, whose identities were not known. No group has claimed the attack.

"They were carrying huge amounts of ammunition and did not appear to be locals," said director general of police, S P

Vaid. The foiled attack in the northern Sumbal area came amid renewed tension in Kashmir following the killing last month of a top rebel leader, which sparked fresh protests against Indian rule. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British rule in 1947, but both claim the territory in its entirety.

Rebel groups have since 1989 been fighting roughly 500,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the region, demanding independence or a merger with Pakistan. The fighting has left tens of thousands dead, most of them civilians. Dozens of local youths have joined the rebel ranks since last year when the killing of a popular rebel commander sparked wide-scale anti-India protests that left more than 100 civilians dead and thousands wounded. India regularly accuses Pakistan of arming and training rebels and sending them across the heavily militarized Line of Control (LoC) that divides the territory to attack its forces. Islamabad denies the allegations. —AFP

TENANTS PAYING 30¢ RENT OPPOSE REVAMP OF HOMES

MUMBAI CHAWLS SET TO BE REDEVELOPED

MUMBAI: Madhuri Dewar remembers her wedding in 1981 in the tenement building where she had lived all her life: Guests sat in the colorful tent in the courtyard, packed the corridor and squeezed into the one-room home she shared with her parents. Today, Dewar, 65, lives with her husband in the same room in a Bombay Development Directorate (BDD) "chawl" - a building divided into small rooms with shared toilets - in Naigaon in central Mumbai. Her two sons and their families live in two rooms across from her, and the families walk into each other's homes all day.

But after four generations, their way of life is under threat as city officials are set to redevelop the colonial-era BDD chawls in four locations in south and central Mumbai. "We have lived here for so many years. My family is here, all my neighbors are friends," said Dewar. "We would like to have bigger homes, become owners, but we do not know if our lives are going to be the same after the redevelopment, if we will all be together like we are now."

About a third of India's 1.25 billion population lives in cities, with the numbers rising every year as tens of thousands of people leave villages to seek better prospects. Up to 37 million households - a quarter of the country's urban population - live in informal housing including slums and chawls because of a critical shortage of affordable housing, according to social consultancy FSG.

Shared Courtyard

Mumbai's BDD chawls were built in the 1920s to house textile mill workers. Some were built as prisons, then converted into military barracks and low-cost housing for migrant laborers. More than 16,500 families live in the four BDD chawls spread across more than 93 acres of land in prime sites. They pay a monthly rent of about 18-20 rupees (about 30 US cents) each. The rooms, measuring 160 sq ft (15 sq m) each, have been modified by families over the years, some carving out a kitchen and a toilet as their means improved.

There is a shared open courtyard where children play and festivals and weddings are celebrated. In the corridors, washing is hung and children's bicycles parked. The chawls - in close proximity to offices, schools and public transport - are rare enclaves of affordable housing in a city with some of the most expensive real estate in the world. Plans to redevelop the chawls in the space-starved city have been made and shelved repeatedly over the years as governments changed and residents opposed the plans.

Now, the buildings are so dilapidated that they must be knocked down, officials say. "The buildings have outlived their life spans," said SD Lakhe, vice chairman of state agency Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA). "These people deserve safer, bigger homes with better amenities," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Random Cut-Off

India has a shortage of around 20 million urban homes, according to consultancy KPMG. In financial hub Mumbai, about 60 percent of the 18 million population live in crowded slums and other informal homes. States are rushing to meet a 'Housing for All' target by 2022, which aims to create 20 million new urban homes and 30 million rural homes. The plan for the BDD chawls is to give tenants two-bedroom flats measuring 500 sq ft (46 sq m) each in high-rise towers. A third of the land will be developed and sold commercially to help meet the project cost of more than \$1 billion.

Residents say MHADA reneged on a vow to let

them pick a developer, instead floating tenders without informing them. Also, only tenants who can prove they lived there before 1996 are eligible for a new flat. Anyone who owns property elsewhere in Mumbai is barred. Several residents' associations have filed petitions against MHADA's plans and have threatened to protest.

"MHADA did not take us into confidence and are going ahead without our consent. This is a violation of our rights," said Raju Waghmare, a spokesman for residents in the Naigaon chawl. "Everyone who lives here deserves a home; the cut-off date is random. And those who bought a property are being punished for prospering," said Waghmare, who estimates about half the residents may not be eligible under these conditions. Public hearings were held for chawl residents, and contracts were given to builders Larsen & Toubro and Shapoorji Pallonji following a "transparent and thorough" procedure, Lakhe said. A cut-off date is essential to ensure only legitimate tenants get new apartments, he said. —Reuters

INDIA LAUNCHES FRAUD PROBE INTO LEADING NEWS CHANNEL

NEW DELHI: Indian federal investigators launched a fraud probe yesterday into the founders of news channel NDTV, in a step the channel denounced as an attempt to muzzle free speech in the world's largest democracy. Two senior officials at the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it had registered a case against NDTV founders Prannoy Roy and his wife, Radhika Roy, for causing an alleged loss of 480 million rupees (\$7.45 million) to a bank.

The company refuted the allegations and accused the CBI of "concerted harassment of NDTV and its promoters based on the same old endless false accusations." "NDTV and its promoters will fight tirelessly against this witch-hunt by multiple agencies. We will not succumb to these attempts to blatantly undermine democracy and free speech in India," NDTV said in a statement.

The investigation comes at a time of often heated, polarizing debate in India's fiercely competitive TV news industry, where chan-

nels sometimes test the boundaries of responsible journalism and prime-time talk shows are often rowdy and contentious. Police conducted raids at Roy's residence in New Delhi and at two vacation homes. Neither of the couple were available for comment but NDTV presenter Srinivasan Jain said the "message is clear." "Any independent voices in media will be bullied and shut down. Black day," tweeted Jain.

The CBI said the investigation had no link to the editorial line of NDTV, India's oldest English-language all-news channel. "We have nothing against NDTV's news coverage... they are accused of a financial fraud and it's our duty to investigate," a senior CBI official said. India slipped by three places to 136th in this year's World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders, which highlighted concerns that Hindu nationalists were "trying to purge all manifestations of anti-national thought." —Reuters

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INDONESIAN FARMERS BEFRIEND SOIL TO PROTECT HARVESTS

PEMONGKONG, Indonesia: In early 2016, when fellow farmers were despairing over plummeting yields linked to a major drought, Hamdi was busy harvesting maize from his land. He got 5.6 tonnes instead of the usual 4 tonnes from his one-hectare plot, despite living in West Nusa Tenggara, one of Indonesia's driest provinces where agriculture is at the mercy of extreme weather such as that brought by the El Nino climate pattern.

"El Nino did not affect those practicing conservation agriculture, but those who weren't suffered a lot," the 38-year-old told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on a sunny afternoon in Pemongkong village on Lombok island. Hamdi, who goes by one name only, was among the first in his village to adopt the natural farming method in Oct 2015, just before El Nino hit. He was initially attracted by talk of possible savings because conservation agriculture requires less fertilizer, as well as less labor for weeding and preparing land.

But the greatest benefit so far has been its ability to help Hamdi weather the long drought. Lombok farmers who practiced conservation agriculture were

more resilient to the effects of El Nino, harvesting about 70 percent more than those using traditional methods, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). "Conservation agriculture is about renewing the life of the soil," said John Weatherson, an advisor to the FAO. "It's about stabilizing yield so when the shocks come, the farmers are sitting pretty."

The method has always been around, but rising pressures from a changing climate, growing population and shrinking arable land have prompted "a search for more sustainable, ecologically conscious practices," said Catherine Chan-Halbrecht, an expert on the issue at the University of Hawaii. In conservation agriculture, soil disturbance is kept to a minimum, using permanent planting holes fertilized with compost instead of chemicals. The soil surface is covered with crop residues as mulch, and farmers rotate crops or intercrop between cereals and legumes.

These practices help reduce erosion and water run-off, and increase soil fertility and crop yields, experts say. Pemongkong villagers, who have tried

the method for two planting seasons, say yields have risen. Alongside lower costs for fertilizers and labor, they have more money in their hands.

Better Diets

Conservation agriculture is being adopted in other places, including Siberia which has millions of hectares of degraded cropland and Canada, where crop rotation has added organic nitrogen to the soil and broken cycles of pests and diseases. In Indonesia, growing nutritious plants as cover crops has improved the diets of Pemongkong villagers, with many now eating long beans, soya beans and mung beans regularly. Saimah, 50, a rake-thin farmer whose two-hectare plot was affected by El Nino, used to have just one meal a day, but her crop yield has nearly doubled with conservation agriculture. "Now we eat eggs regularly and meat once a month. I can finally have savings," she said.

Despite its benefits, the concept was alien to many farmers when the FAO introduced it in West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara, two eastern provinces with high food insecurity, low

rainfall and weak agricultural productivity, said Ageng Herniato, the agency's assistant representative in Indonesia.

"The biggest challenge we faced was changing their mindsets," Herniato said. Conventional farming requires heavy soil preparation and burning of unwanted biomass, which releases the carbon stored in it, contributing to climate change - none of which happens with conservation agriculture. The FAO partnered with the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development, and used demonstration plots to show farmers the new approach. It has now been taken up by nearly 13,000 farmers, and the FAO is working with the Indonesian government to incorporate it into national agricultural policy, the UN agency said.

Challenges

Yet challenges remain, especially because many farmers are so used to conventional practices. The FAO provided Pemongkong villagers with high-quality composite maize seeds produced through open pollination, which can be reused several times and perform better

during extreme weather conditions, said Herniato. Yet Hamdi, who enjoyed two successful planting seasons, has no seeds left. He sold them all, partly because the price of maize was so good, and partly because he was worried yields would fall if he continued to use composite seeds.

For the coming season, he plans to revert to hybrid seeds, which cost between 50,000 and 65,000 rupiah (\$3.76-\$4.89) per kilo. Farmers say about 30 kg are needed per hectare. "With hybrids, I know I will have to buy them every year and I will spend more money," he said. "But hybrids are easier to find in the market and more resistant to pests."

This highlights how much needs to be done for farmers to grasp the pros and cons of different seed varieties, said FAO advisor Weatherson, who practices conservation agriculture in Swaziland where he lives. Hybrid seeds have very high yield potential but require irrigation, or at least predictable rainfall and good fertilization, he said. "I think what the farmers need more than anything else is... to be given all the technical advice they need to be able to make informed decisions," he said. —Reuters

US, AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS WARN OF RETURNING FOREIGN FIGHTERS

TILLERSON TELLS CHINA TO 'STEP UP' ON N KOREA

SYDNEY: Top US and Australian officials warned yesterday that battle-hardened and angry foreign fighters may return to Southeast Asia from the Middle East and take up arms in their own countries. The warning follows the weekend terror attacks in London, which were claimed by the Islamic State group, and comes amid a growing jihadist threat in the Philippines. IS fighters will "come back with battlefield skills, they'll come back with hardened ideology, they'll come back angry, frustrated, and we need to be very aware of that," Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said.

She was speaking at an Australia-US ministerial summit also attended by Pentagon chief Jim

the agenda at yesterday's annual talks. Australian officials say they have prevented 12 terror attacks on home soil since 2014 with more than 60 people charged. In the Philippines, hundreds of civilians are trapped by fighting between the military and Islamist militants who have overrun the city of Marawi on the restive southern island of Mindanao. Separately, Tillerson said a decision on whether to send additional troops to try to stabilize the security crisis in Afghanistan was still under review.

North Korea

Meanwhile, Tillerson said China and other nations must strengthen efforts to curb North

militarizing islands in the South China Sea or failing to put appropriate pressure on North Korea." He said China and other regional partners should "step up" efforts to help solve the North Korea situation, because it presents a threat to the "entire world".

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea despite partial counter-claims from Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. It has rapidly built reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes. Tillerson reiterated US and Australian commitment to freedom of navigation in the South China Sea to "ensure unimpeded flow of lawful commerce in a rules-based order".

But reporters asked Tillerson if America was applying a double standard in telling countries to adhere to the international order while simultaneously pulling out of a trans-Pacific trade deal and the Paris climate accords - moves that prompted even longstanding allies to question whether America was retreating into isolationism. "That's why we're here, that's why we travel to the region, that's why we engage with our counterparts," Tillerson said, standing alongside Mattis, Bishop and Payne. We "travel to the region to meet with our counterparts and talk about all the issues that are important to them and hear from them concerns about where the (Trump) administration is positioned".

Responding to Tillerson's comments, China's foreign ministry urged "relevant countries" to support efforts by regional nations "to maintain peace and stability of the South China Sea, and play a constructive role in this regard rather than the opposite". Spokeswoman Hua Chunying, speaking at a regular Beijing briefing, also cited China's "enormous efforts" to reach a peaceful settlement of the North Korea nuclear issue.

'Remain united'

Addressing the situation in the Gulf, Tillerson called on countries there to stay united and work out their differences. "We certainly would encourage the parties to sit down together and address these differences," he said. "If there's any role that we can play in terms of helping them address those, we think it is important that the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) remain united." Riyadh cut diplomatic relations and closed borders with its neighbor Qatar to "protect its national security from the dangers of terrorism and extremism", the official Saudi Press Agency said.

Tillerson and Mattis both said they did not anticipate any impact on efforts by a US-led coalition to battle the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. The coalition currently conducts much of its operational planning and coordination from Al-Udeid air base in Qatar.

"I am confident there will be no implications coming out of this diplomatic situation at all, and I say that based on the commitment that each of these nations... have made to this fight," Mattis said. The US defense secretary blasted Iran for its "various destabilizing efforts" in the region, referring to Iranian support for Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and Tehran's involvement in the Yemen war. — Agencies



SYDNEY: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (second left), Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (left), US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis (right) and Australia's Defense Minister Marise Payne (second right) take a garden walk at Government House during the 2017 Australia-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) yesterday. —AFP

Mattis, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and his Australian counterpart Julie Bishop. Reacting to the London attacks, Mattis said: "We are united... in our resolve, even against an enemy that thinks by hurting us, that we scare us. Well, we don't scare." US President Donald Trump has instructed the Pentagon to "annihilate" IS to try to prevent foreign fighters from escaping and returning home as they lose ground in Iraq and Syria.

The aim is to encircle and kill as many militants as possible in place, rather than letting them exit a city and targeting them as they flee. This reflects an increasing urgent attempt to stop the fighters bringing their military expertise and ideology back to the West. "Before, we were shelling them from one town to another," Mattis said. "We now take the time... to make certain that foreign fighters do not stay to return to Paris, France, to Australia, to wherever they came from, and bring their message of hatred and their skills back to those places and attack innocent people."

The issue of countering terrorism was high on

Korea's nuclear weapons program, while also calling out Beijing over its South China Sea activities. America's top diplomat, speaking after talks in Sydney, also gave a brief response to the unfolding crisis in the Gulf, where Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt have all announced they are severing ties with gas-rich Qatar.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the United States has spent recent weeks trying to reassure allies it can maintain a tough line against China's "militarization" of the South China Sea while at the same time seeking help from Beijing. Trump - who frequently denounced China on the campaign trail - has turned to Beijing to help rein in ally North Korea's weapons program, prompting concern among Asian allies that America might go easy on the South China Sea territorial dispute.

"We desire productive relationships," Tillerson said after annual discussions with his Australian counterpart Julie Bishop in Sydney. "But we cannot allow China to use its economic power to buy its way out of other problems, whether it's



Evacuees from Marawi City rest at the Saguairan Townhall in Lanao del Sur on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. — AFP

MILITANTS IN PHILIPPINES CITY DUG IN FOR PROTRACTED BATTLE

MARAWI, Philippines: Islamist militants holed up in a southern Philippines town stocked weapons and food in mosques, tunnels and basements to prepare for a long siege, officials said yesterday as the battle for control of Marawi City came to the end of its second week. Their comments underlined the level of organization among fighters linked to the Islamic State group, whose ranks of several hundred included foreigners from Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Saudi Arabia, Chechnya and Morocco.

The battle for Marawi City has raised concerns that the ultra-radical Islamic State is building a Southeast Asia base on the island of Mindanao at the southern end of the Philippines. Parrying questions on why the fighters had been able to resist an onslaught from the Philippines army for so long, senior officers said the main problem was that 500-600 civilians were still trapped in the urban heart of the town.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte said on Saturday that Marawi City would be fully liberated within three days, but yesterday, officials were more circumspect on the timing and gave conflicting estimates of how many combatants were holding out. Major General Carlito Galvez, head of the military command in Western Mindanao region, said as many as 200 fighters from the Maute militant group and others were still inside the town, and had made preparations in advance for a drawn-out standoff. "In houses we take over, we see .50 calibre, .30 calibre, and the ammunitions are huge. And the Maute, even if they fight two months they will not starve here," he told a news conference about one kilometre from the fighting. "If you look at it, there are underground tunnels and basements that even a

500-pounder cannot destroy." He said that days before seizing Marawi City the militants placed supplies in mosques and madrasas, the religious schools of a town whose population of over 200,000 is overwhelmingly Muslim in a country where the majority of people are Christians.

Trapped Civilians Low on Food and Water

The area of the town occupied by the militants had shrunk to less than 10 percent, military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla told a news conference, adding that the army was pressing on to meet Duterte's deadline but it was not easy. "Complications have been coming out: the continued use of civilians, potential hostages that may still be in their hands, the use of places of worship ... and other factors that complicates the battle because of its urban terrain," he said.

Military choppers made combat sorties and machinegun fire rattled and smoke billowed in a neighborhood of the town on Monday, Reuters correspondents said. A four-hour ceasefire to evacuate residents was marred by gunfire on Sunday, leaving hundreds of civilians who had hoped to flee the fighting stuck in their homes. Padilla said that 1,467 civilians had been rescued so far, and the 500-600 still trapped were low on food and water. "There are places which we use as passageways to enemy territory - when we reach those areas, sometimes we see old people who are weak, cannot move on their own, because of lack of food," he said. A presidential spokesman said 120 militants have died in the battle, along with 38 government forces. The authorities have put the civilian death toll at between 20 and 38. — Reuters



YANGON: Reporters of The Voice Daily work in their newsroom at its office yesterday. —AP

MYANMAR JOURNALISTS ARRESTED OVER SATIRE

YANGON: Police in Myanmar have arrested a newspaper's chief editor and a columnist for allegedly defaming the military by publishing an article mocking its role in the country's efforts to reach a peace agreement with fractious minority groups, one of their lawyers said yesterday. The lawyer for The Voice Daily editor Kyaw Min Swe said that the two were not released after being called in for questioning Friday over a lawsuit filed by the military under the country's Telecommunications Law. A broadly defined offense under the law sets a prison term of up to three years for material judged defamatory that is transmitted over any telecommunications network, including online.

Free speech advocates have criticized the law, and several journalists said they

plan to wear armbands in protest of the arrests. The lawyer, Khin Maung Myint, said the trial of the editor and columnist Ko Ko Maung would begin Thursday. Article 66 (D) of the Telecommunications Law, which targets anyone "extorting, coercing, restraining wrongfully defaming, disturbing, causing undue influence or threatening to any person," had been used by the repressive former military government to punish its critics, particularly members of the country's pro-democracy movement.

To the surprise of many who expected a new era of freedom of expression, prosecutions have continued under the government of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose political party took power last year. — AP

AUSTRALIA POLICE KILL HOSTAGE-TAKER



MELBOURNE: An armed police officer walks at the scene in the bayside suburb of Brighton yesterday after a woman was held against her will in an apartment block. —AFP

SYDNEY: Australian police yesterday shot dead a man who had taken a woman hostage in a Melbourne apartment and said they were investigating whether the incident was terror-related. Police responding to reports of an explosion at the apartment block in the suburb of Brighton had earlier found the body of another man in the foyer. The siege ended when the suspect exited the apartment complex and opened fire. The woman escaped safely but three officers were injured by gunshots. Police returned fire and killed the man.

Authorities have yet to determine whether the incident in the affluent beach-side suburb was terrorism-related but Victoria state police said it was one line of inquiry. "We do have our counter-terrorism command working on it with our crime department investigators," deputy police commissioner Andrew Crisp told reporters yesterday night. "It's early days and it's one line of inquiry."

Australian officials are growing increasingly concerned at the threat of militant attacks. Officials say they have prevented 12 such attacks on home soil since the threat level was raised in Sept 2014, with 61 people charged. But four have gone ahead, including the murder of a Sydney police employee in 2015 by a 15-year-old boy. In the latest incident police responded to a phone call to emergency services, advising that a man had been killed and a hostage was being held. Witnesses recalled a frightening situation with multiple shots fired in the suburb.

"I got told there was an explosion around 4:00pm. I hung around for a while and I heard gunshots, about 10 shots, and we got told it was a hostage situation," local resident Will Reid told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "It was frightening: You wouldn't expect that in Brighton at all." The injuries to the police officers were not life-threatening. —AFP



MEDAN: Students sit in circles as they read the holy book of Quran during Ramadan at Ar-Raudlatul Hasanah Islamic boarding school in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. During Ramadan, the holiest month in Islamic calendar, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sex from dawn to dusk. — AP

TRUMP LASHES OUT AT LONDON MAYOR

Continued from Page 1

It risks alienating mainstream Muslims." Trump later challenged Khan to an IQ test during an interview on ITV. Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway on Monday condemned what she called the media's "obsession with covering everything he says on Twitter and very little of what he does as president."

In an appearance on NBC's "Today Show," Conway said people should pay attention to what the president is doing, saying people

in England had tried to inform authorities about the terrorists before the attacks happened. "If you're going to see something and say something, it has to be followed by, do something," she said.

"And this president is trying to do something to protect the people of this country," Trump said he had spoken with British Prime Minister Theresa May to express America's "unwavering support" and offer US assistance as the British government works to protect its citizens and bring the guilty to justice. British authorities say that have identified the three attackers but have not revealed that information publicly. — AP

KUWAIT GOVERNMENT SETS KD 75 AS MINIMUM...

Continued from Page 1

MP Waleed Al-Tabtabai said he was saddened with the developments among GCC states, adding that the Arab nation has two enemies: Israel and Iran. MP Abdulkarim Al-Kundari said Kuwait should not become a party in the conflict and instead should preserve unity with our Gulf brethren.

MP Ali Al-Deqbasi regretted that the divisions among the

GCC states is taking place on June 5, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Arab countries' defeat in the 1967 war against Israel. The lawmaker called for restraint. The Assembly then approved the budgets and final accounts of 10 government departments amid strong criticism of several bodies. Those bodies include Public Authority for Housing Welfare, the Fire Department, Kuwait University, Public Authority for Youth and others. The Assembly meets again today until Thursday to approve the state budget.

MODERATION

Continued from Page 1

And that is the correct religion." (98:5) Although we should strive to perfect our conduct, faith and attitudes, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) warned us against extremism when he said, "Ruined are those who insist on hardship in matters of religion. Ruined are those who insist on hardship in matters of religion. Ruined are those who insist on hardship in matters of religion." (Muslim) This is not an editorial error or typo - he actually repeated it three times.

Sometimes adhering to moderation feels like walking a tightrope, because it is easy to get off balance from the ele-

ments that push us in one direction or the other. But God offers us a handle by which we can remain on course: the Quran and the living example of His Prophet, Muhammad (PBUH). With these handholds, we will safely reach our goals.

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.

JIHADIST-LINKED TERROR ATTACKS ACROSS EUROPE

PARIS: A London terror attack claimed by the Islamic State group has left seven people dead and 48 wounded after men mowed down and stabbed revelers on Saturday night. It is the latest in a deadly series of strikes linked to radical Islamists against European targets in the last two years.

France has been hit the hardest, with 238 deaths since early 2015. The first attack comes on January 7, 2015 when two brothers who claim allegiance to Al-Qaeda gun down 12 people in an attack against the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo in Paris. The next day, a man linked to the Islamic State group (IS) shoots dead a policewoman in a Paris suburb.

He takes hostages in a Jewish supermarket near Paris the following day, killing four people. All three gunmen are killed by police. In April 2015, a woman is killed by a radical Islamist, in June a delivery firm boss is killed and then decapitated, and in August a man opens fire in the Thalys train between Amsterdam and Paris before he is overwhelmed by passengers. Two people are wounded. On November 13, 2015 France suffers its worst ever ter-

ror attack, when suicide bombers strike several targets, killing 130 people and wounding 350.

The sites include the Bataclan concert hall, bars and restaurants, and the Stade de France stadium just north of the capital. The IS group claims responsibility. In June 2016, a policeman and his companion are killed at their home west of Paris by a man who swears allegiance to IS. On July 14, the national holiday, a man rams a truck into a crowd in the Mediterranean resort of Nice, killing 86 people and wounding more than 400. He is shot dead by police. IS claims responsibility. Twelve days later, two jihadists slit a priest's throat in his church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, Normandy. They too are shot dead. IS claims that attack as well.

On March 22, 2016 suicide attacks claimed by IS kill 32 people and wound more than 340 at Brussels airport and Maelbeek metro station, near the European Union headquarters. On August 6, a machete-wielding man attacks two policewomen in Charleroi, southern Belgium, slicing the face of one before being shot dead by a third officer. The IS group claims responsibility. — AFP

QATAR IN DIPLOMATIC STORM

Continued from Page 1

The Qatar Stock Exchange tumbled eight percent on opening and eventually closed down 7.58 percent. Riyadh said in a statement its measures were the result of "gross violations committed by authorities in Qatar", accusing Doha of harboring "terrorist and sectarian groups that aim to destabilize the region."

Amir calls Qatar leader

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has urged Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to exercise self-restraint and refrain from steps that would escalate the tension. His Highness the Amir, in a phone call with the Qatari Emir, hoped Sheikh Tamim would give a chance to the efforts aimed at "containing the tension." His Highness the Amir reiterated importance of bolstering common Gulf action to serve the "interests of the GCC countries."

Flights cancelled

Economic consequences were already emerging, with UAE carriers Emirates, Etihad, flydubai and Air Arabia, as well as Saudi Airlines, announcing the suspension of all flights to and from Qatar as of today morning. Egypt said it would also suspend air links with Qatar from today and gave Doha's ambassador 48 hours to leave the country. Qatar Airways said it had suspended all flights to Saudi Arabia with immediate effect. The airline-one of the

region's busiest-also faced major potential problems after Saudi civil aviation authorities said the country's airspace would be closed to Qatari planes.

Speaking in Sydney, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he did not expect the announcement to have "any significant impact... on the unified fight against terrorism." He encouraged Qatar and its neighbors to "sit down together", adding that Washington was ready for "any role that we can play" in helping to overcome divisions. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also urged Qatar and its neighbors to talk. "Neighbors are permanent; geography can't be changed. Coercion is never the solution. Dialogue is imperative, especially during blessed Ramadan," Zarif tweeted, referring to the Muslim month of fasting.

'Unprecedented tensions'

The crisis is the worst to hit Gulf Arab nations since the creation in 1981 of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) grouping Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar. There was no immediate word from Kuwait and Oman yesterday on their ties with Qatar. Last week, the Qatari emir traveled to Kuwait to meet Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in what was widely seen as an attempt at mediation by the Kuwaitis. "This certainly represents an unprecedented uptick in tensions within the GCC," said Adam Baron, visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "Qatar has long had an independent streak that's led to resentment from its neighbors." — Agencies



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Focus

WILL ELECTION CALL
PROVE NIGHTMARE
FOR THERESA MAY?

By Florence Biedermann

When British Prime Minister Theresa May on April 18 called a snap general election, the smart money said she would be handed a crushing victory. May was deemed to have two massive advantages—the chance of portraying strong leadership for Brexit and, a rival, Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn, scorned by many voters as weak and fumbling. In such light, May was predicted to see her slender majority of 17 in the 650-seat House of Commons surge, quite possibly to triple figures.

But as the clock ticks down to polling day on Thursday, these expectations have become clouded by uncertainty. “She thought she was going to win comfortably, easily, and without much effort. She has been disabused of that,” said Iain Begg, a professor of politics at the London School of Economics (LSE). “She was expecting a very substantial increase in her majority. Anything short of 50 seats is going to look a very bad performance for her.” Campaign trail missteps and a better-than-expected performance by Corbyn have combined to melt May’s commanding lead.

‘Strong and stable’

Now, with just a few days of campaigning left, she may also face awkward questions about why Britain’s security services seem unable to thwart a string of terror attacks. In the past three months, three assaults in London and Manchester have killed 34 people and injured more than 200 others. On Sunday, pollster Survation gave the ruling party just a one point lead over Labor on June 4. Another poll, released a few days earlier by YouGov, even suggested the Conservatives could fall short of a majority and require the support of another party to govern—a so-called hung parliament.

As last year’s referendum on Britain’s EU membership showed, opinion polls can be hugely unreliable. Even so, talk of how Labor might be wiped out in some Brexit-backing seats has subsided, and some Conservative campaigners are saying candidates are struggling on the doorstep. May’s mantra of “strong and stable leadership” as Brexit looms has been the centerpiece of the Conservatives’ campaign. But the monolithic image has cracked in the face of an embarrassing policy U-turn and May’s starchy public manner.

‘Liar, Liar’

May backtracked on a manifesto policy on capping elderly social care, after a backlash from voters who feared they would have to sacrifice their wealth as they aged. The tabloids stingingly called it a “dementia tax.” “It has affected perceptions,” Paul Howell, a Conservative candidate in northeast England, admitted to AFP after the premier made a visit there last week. May has also come under fire for refusing to join a head-to-head debate with Corbyn—and when she does address the public directly, has been accused of offering only pat slogans.

She has sought to steer debate towards the question of who is best suited to get Britain through the arduous negotiations for Brexit. May likes to contrast her six years’ experience as interior minister with Corbyn’s lifetime of left-wing protest. But Brexit—for many a toxic and divisive issue—has featured far less in the campaign than might have been expected.

Instead, the biggest issues have been concerns about cuts to school funding and the overstretched National Health Service (NHS). Both heavily benefit Labor. Corbyn has promised a large increase in funding for public services, paid for by higher taxes for the rich and for businesses—an antidote to seven years of Conservative austerity. The state of the public services, and May’s U-turns, also feature heavily in a ska protest song, “Liar, Liar”, which reached number four in the UK charts on Friday.

‘Comfortable in his skin’

Just a few months ago, more of their supporters backed May as prime minister than Corbyn, a veteran socialist viewed as unelectable by a majority of his own Labor MPs. But he has put in a number of assured performances on television. “He has looked and sounded comfortable in his skin, in stark contrast to a prime minister who is brittle when she is not absent,” a Times columnist observed. He is a divisive leader, however, and some Labor candidates have said they are going out of their way not to mention his name to voters, stressing their own credentials. As the election appears increasingly to be a two-horse race, smaller parties are being squeezed out—except in Scotland, where the nationalist SNP is expected to retain most of the 56 out of 59 seats it won in 2015. The smaller Liberal Democrats look on course to make little progress, despite presenting themselves as the main anti-Brexit party. —AFP

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LONDON TERROR ATTACK: THE VICTIMS

By Robin Millard

Seven people were killed in Saturday’s terror attack in central London and 48 taken to hospital, including 21 people who were critically injured. Three attackers in a van veered into pedestrians on London Bridge before going on a stabbing rampage in Borough Market. They were shot dead by police. Those killed and wounded were from countries around the world. Here is what we know about the victims:

Canadian killed on bridge

Christine Archibald, a 30-year-old Canadian woman, died in her fiancé Tyler Ferguson’s arms after being hit by the van on London Bridge. “My baby brother lost the love of his life on the London Bridge,” Cassie Ferguson Rowe wrote on Facebook. “In a split second his entire life was ripped away from him. Hearing his painful sobs on the phone while he’s alone trying to deal with this tears me apart.” Newspapers said she was a charity worker. Archibald’s family said in a statement: “We grieve the loss of our beautiful, loving daughter and sister. She had room in her heart for everyone and believed strongly that every person was to be valued and respected. “She lived this belief, working in a shelter for the homeless until she moved to Europe to be with her fiancé. “She would have had no understanding of the callous cruelty that caused her death.”

French bistro worker

A Frenchman was killed in the attack, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said. The man has not yet been formally named by officials or his family. He had family links in the Brittany port town of Saint-Malo on the northwest French coast but was not from the town himself, local mayor Claude Renoult said. Local newspapers said the man lived in London and worked in Boro Bistro, a Breton-run restaurant in Borough Market. Flags in Saint-Malo are flying at half-mast.

Le Drian said that in addition seven French nationals were taken to hospital, four of whom were in a critical condition, while another French national was unaccounted for. “Heroic” officer, journalist among wounded - An off-duty,

unarmed London police officer who was having a drink after work rushed to help but is now in hospital in a serious condition, London police chief Cressida Dick said. “Without hesitation, wearing his normal clothes, he dived in and tried to assist and I’m afraid he was severely injured but utterly heroic,” she told BBC television.

A uniformed British Transport Police officer was one of the first on the scene after responding to calls for help from the public. He was stabbed in the face, head and leg and taken to hospital but his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening. A further two London police officers were wounded: A plain clothes officer received stitches to a head injury and a uniformed officer sustained an arm injury. Geoff Ho, a business editor at the Sunday Express newspaper, was outside the Southwark Tavern pub. He

tried to help a bouncer who was being attacked but was stabbed in the throat himself. The martial artist was wearing his British Lions shirt after watching the rugby match on television and was filmed being led away from the scene by a policeman, clutching his neck and with his shirt off. “Don’t know whether it was stupid or noble to jump in and break up the fight outside the Southwark Tavern, but two a****s trying to do over the lone bouncer on the door isn’t happening on my watch,” he wrote on Facebook. Sunday Express editor Martin Townsend said: “We are all hoping and praying for a speedy recovery.”

Oliver Dowling, 32, from Christchurch in New Zealand, was stabbed in the face, neck and stomach and his girlfriend was also injured, newspaper reports said. He was put into a coma for four hours of surgery. — AFP



LONDON: People leave flowers at a police cordon in the London Bridge area of London yesterday in tribute to victims of terror attack on London Bridge and the nearby Borough Market. —AFP

UK ELECTION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Robin Millard

Marred by two terror attacks during the campaign, Britain’s snap general election is set to go ahead on Thursday and will decide who shapes the United Kingdom’s future as it leaves the European Union. Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May, who came to power without a national vote last year after David Cameron’s resignation, called the election three years early after just one year in charge.

Why is the election important?

The vote will determine who gets to negotiate Britain’s departure from the EU over the next two years, and the strength of mandate that the government will have in parliament for five years. Britain’s new leader will also have to deal with the aftermath of a terror rampage in a night-life hub in London on Saturday night, the third Islamist attack in the country in less than three months. Britain takes a leading role in global anti-terror efforts and is a key member of the US-led coalition bombing Islamist State group positions in Iraq and Syria. It holds veto power at the United Nations, where it is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council along with China, France, Russia and the United States. It is a NATO member with a nuclear weapons deterrent, the world’s fifth-biggest economy by gross domestic product and a member of the G7 group of leading industrial powers and the wider G20.

How does election work?

There are 650 constituencies across the UK, meaning 326 MPs are needed for an absolute majority in parliament’s lower House of Commons. May had a slim working majority of 17 at the dissolution of the last parliament and called the election in a bid to strengthen her position going into

the Brexit talks. Each constituency is won on a first-past-the-post basis, meaning the candidate with the most votes in that seat becomes its MP. Despite the focus on the

party leaders, voters are not directly choosing their prime minister, only their local MP. A parliament is elected for a maximum of five years, meaning the next general elec-

tion must be held by June 2022 at the latest.

Voting

The polls are open from 7:00am (0600 GMT) until 10:00pm (2100 GMT) on June 8. British, Irish and Commonwealth residents aged 18 and over can vote, plus British citizens and Irish citizens from Northern Ireland living abroad who have been registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years. Citizens must register to vote and voting is not compulsory.

The options

The main parties across the whole of Britain are the Conservatives (centre-right), led by May, and Labour (left), led by Jeremy Corbyn, followed by the Liberal Democrats (centre-left), the UK Independence Party (populist) and the Greens (left). The Scottish Nationalists (left), Welsh nationalists Plaid Cymru (left) and four parties from Northern Ireland also won seats at the last general election in 2015. Polls suggest the Conservatives are on course for victory. However, Labor might be able to form a government with backing from smaller left-wing parties. The main issues are Brexit, terrorism, the state-run National Health Service, immigration and the economy, according to polls. Some 3,303 candidates are standing. A £500 deposit is required to stand, which is refunded if candidates get five percent of the votes cast.

What happens afterwards?

The vote-counting begins immediately after the polls close and by dawn on June 9 the picture of who has won should be clear. As soon as possible, the head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, asks the person most likely to command the confidence of the Commons to become prime minister and form and administration. This will typically be the leader of the largest party and would happen only once the likely nature of the government is clear. — AFP

WHAT THE POLLS SAY

With just a few days to go until Britain’s general election, opinion polls reveal the outcome could be a lot tighter than had been predicted when Prime Minister Theresa May announced the vote six weeks ago. Although surveys show the gap between the main two political parties narrowing, May’s position as prime minister seems secure.

What the polls say

May surprised the country in April by calling for the snap election, seeking to increase her majority before Britain enters into two years of grueling negotiations over its departure from the European Union. Polls initially supported her gamble, giving her Conservative Party a double-digit lead over its nearest rival, the main opposition Labour Party. However, the Conservatives’ advantage has eroded over the campaign, with pollster Survation giving the ruling party just a one point lead over Labour on June 4. Another poll, released a few days earlier by YouGov, even suggested the Conservatives could fall short of a majority, meaning they would need the support of another party to govern.

Can the polls be trusted?

Pollsters got the outcome of the last general election, held just two years ago, very wrong. In the months leading up to the May 2015 ballot, polls consistently put the Conservatives and Labor neck-and-

neck, suggesting neither party would be able to form a government alone. But the Conservatives, who had been in a coalition government with the smaller Liberal Democrat Party, secured a majority in the 650-seat House of Commons.

A year later, polls also failed to correctly predict the outcome of the Brexit referendum, expecting the “In” vote to win. “One of the things that happened in 2015 is that the polls underestimated the age difference in turnout,” John Curtice, professor of politics at Strathclyde University said. That underestimated Conservative support among older voters. Pollsters have therefore adjusted their methodologies by widening their pools of respondents, asking them more questions and weighing the result with high-quality academic research done since the last election, explained Curtice. Why are predictions so tough?

Part of the reason is Britain’s electoral system.

“There is no automatic relationship between votes cast at the national level and seats won,” because of the first-past-the-post constituency system, Curtice said. The system makes it especially difficult for smaller parties with support evenly spread nationally to increase their share of seats in parliament. But smaller parties whose support is concentrated in key constituencies—such as the Scottish Nationalist Party—can do very well. — AFP

BERDYCH SPLITS
WITH IVANISEVIC

PRAGUE: Tomas Berdych yesterday parted ways with coach Goran Ivanisevic, the former Wimbledon champion, in an effort to rescue his faltering career. Berdych, the Czech world number 14, only teamed up with Ivanisevic in August last year. However, a second round exit at the French Open prompted the 31-year-old to seek a new direction. "Goran and I will not be working together anymore," Berdych wrote on Facebook. "I enjoyed the ride and we will remain great friends." "Wish him all the best in the future and I am committed to go after my goals with current team," said Berdych, who bowed out of Roland Garros after a straight sets loss to Russian youngster Karen Khachanov. Ivanisevic previously coached fellow Croat Marin Cilic, a partnership which yielded the US Open title in 2014. And Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon finalist, hired Ivanisevic in August 2016 with a view to a first-ever Grand Slam title. He won the Shenzhen Open under Ivanisevic's guidance in October, but soon slipped out of the top ten for the first time in more than six years. —AFP



PREVIEW

COACH GATLAND URGES
LIONS TO GET CREATIVE

WELLINGTON: Coach Warren Gatland has given the British and Irish Lions free rein to express themselves under new captain Ken Owens as he seeks a much improved performance against the Auckland Blues tomorrow.

Gatland was not impressed by what he saw during the Lions' first fixture, a 13-7 win over a team of relatively unknown New Zealanders lumped together under a Provincial Barbarians banner.

The Blues, with eight All Blacks in their ranks, may be the weakest New Zealand Super Rugby side but they will be a more formidable opposition than the Barbarians.

Gatland, when he named his all-new line-up to play the Blues, said he was looking for players with "X-factor and that means an offload or something that is a little bit outside the box".

He has totally overhauled the starting XV from the Barbarians game, including giving the captaincy to a fit-again Wales hooker Owens.

While he said the Lions "need to be more clinical", Gatland rejected suggestions they will play to a set formula.

"What do you mean by one type of game?" he responded when asked if he had only one coaching style—the familiar Wales physical direct play.

"The message to the players is that we want to play positive rugby and move the ball and create chances," he said.

"The players have to back their ability. We don't want to be prescribed and play by numbers. They have been encouraged to demonstrate their level of skill and hopefully we can do that on Wednesday."

Wales pair Dan Biggar and Rhys Webb will fill the crucial halves roles, with Ireland fly-half Johnny Sexton an unimpressive

starter in Whangarei-on the bench.

"We have a few work-ons from last weekend and we know we need to be more clinical," Gatland said.

"We created some good opportunities against the Barbarians but didn't see them through and that is something we want to improve on." Owens was unavailable for the tour opener because of the ankle injury which also kept him out of the Scarlets' Pro12 final win against Munster last month.

But Gatland said he was fit to take over from tour captain Sam Warburton for what will be the Lions' first test against a Super Rugby team.

"We have stated from the off that we want to give every player a start in the first three games, and Wednesday is an opportunity for this set of players to show what they can do in a Lions jersey," Gatland said.

"We have made 15 changes to the starting XV and we are excited to see what this team is able to do against the Blues."

Jared Payne, a late scratcher from the Barbarians because of a thigh injury, will also start, partnering Ireland team-mate Robbie Henshaw in the centres.

Lions (15-1): Leigh Halfpenny (Wales); Jack Nowell (England), Jared Payne (Ireland), Robbie Henshaw (Ireland), Elliot Daly (England); Dan Biggar (Wales), Rhys Webb (Wales); CJ Stander (Ireland), Justin Tipuric (Wales), James Haskell (England); Courtney Lawes (England), Maro Itoje (England); Dan Cole (England), Ken Owens (captain, Wales), Jack McGrath (Ireland)

Replacements: Rory Best (Ireland), Joe Marler (England), Kyle Sinckler (England), Iain Henderson (Ireland), Peter O'Mahony (Ireland), Greig Laidlaw (Scotland), Johnny Sexton (Ireland), Liam Williams (Wales). —AFP

SCANDAL-HIT BWF DEPUTY
PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

KUALA LUMPUR: The Badminton World Federation's (BWF) deputy president has stepped down as he fights corruption allegations in his home country of Peru, a statement said yesterday. Gustavo Salazar Delgado, the sport's number two official behind president Poul-Erik Hoyer, asked to be "excused from his duties", the BWF said. "In his communication to BWF, Salazar indicated he would step aside for the time being so as not to cause any reputational or undue damage to the BWF while the investigation is in progress," the Kuala Lumpur-based body said. The BWF said the accusations against Salazar related to "personal business matters" and are entirely unrelated to badminton and Salazar's role as BWF deputy president". Various reports said Salazar, 52, was under investigation over a bribery and money-laundering case linked to Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht. Bribery scandals linked to Odebrecht have swept up scores of Brazilian politicians and span several Latin American countries. In April, a federal court in New York fined Odebrecht \$2.6 billion, part of what US authorities describe as one of the largest-ever corporate settlements for international bribery. —AFP

FC GOA NAME LOBERA
AS ZICO REPLACEMENT

MUMBAI: Indian Super League side FC Goa announced yesterday that unheralded Spaniard Sergio Lobera would replace Brazilian legend Zico as their new head coach. The ISL team said that 40-year-old Lobera, who recently coached Moroccan side Moghreb Tetouan, had signed a two-year deal and would take up his role in July. "I see FC Goa as the ideal step in my career and hope to achieve the best results for the club," Lobera said in the club's press release. In 2012 Lobera was briefly an assistant to the late Tito Vilanova at Spanish giants Barcelona before leaving to take charge of Las Palmas. Zico was head coach of Goa for the ISL's first three seasons before leaving at the end of the last campaign. The ISL is a franchise-based tournament whose club owners are largely Bollywood film stars and cricketers. The season takes place towards the end of the year and lasts around three months. —AFP



PARIS: Toulon's Daniel Johannes Vermeulen is tackled by Clermont's Arthur Iturria during the Top 14 final rugby match between Clermont Ferrand against Toulon at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, Sunday. — AP

RUGBY

CLERMONT WIN TOP 14 TO
PUT CHOKERS TAG TO BED

PARIS: Clermont finally held firm when it mattered most, beating Toulon 22-16 in Paris on Sunday to win the French Top 14 final. Having lost 11 of 12 previous finals, Clermont had earned the unwanted moniker of perennial "chokers". But Morgan Parra kicked 17 points as the favourites delivered for once after so many disappointments, including losing European Champions Cup finals to Toulon in 2013 and 2015, and Saracens earlier last month. Two years ago, they were also beaten Top 14 finalists by Stade Francais. "I'm proud, we've had some years of struggle but I'm proud of everyone—the players, the fans, none ever gave up," Parra told France Televisions. Coach Franck Azema added: "This team deserves it. On that last (Toulon) line-out, honestly, we thought we'd lose out again. "It was really tough but so good and intense that you quickly forget it." Having played scintillating first half rugby, without getting the reward their dominance deserved, Clermont doggedly held firm in the second period as Toulon, beaten finalists last year by Racing 92, came storming back. "Two years in a row where we come up short at the same stage—European Cup quarter-finals and league final, it's tough to swallow. We're going to have to pick ourselves up," admitted Toulon captain Guilhem Guirado. After an immaculately-respected minute's silence in memory of the victims of Saturday's London attack, Clermont made a blistering start and only a knock-on by captain Damien Chouly a yard from the line prevented them from opening their account early doors.

ZEST AND INTENSITY

Toulon were restricted to some desperate, last-ditch-and at times barely legal-defending with one Ma'a Nonu tackle resembling a shoulder charge. Under pressure, Toulon collapsed a scrum and Parra kicked a sixth minute penalty to give Clermont the lead.

On 10 minutes, Clermont held firm against a wave of battering Toulon attacks before Nick Abendanon ripped the ball from Romain Taofenua's grasp and the Jaunards launched a counter from deep inside their own 22. Damien Penaud did brilliantly with a mazy run to scamper 50 metres upfield before passing to Fijian wing Alivereti Raka, who hitch-kicked and side-stepped inside compatriot Josua Tuisova before strolling under the posts. Parra converted and added a second penalty to give the Vulcans a 13-0 lead.

Clermont were playing with a zest and intensity that Toulon simply couldn't manage but New Zealand great Nonu managed to stem the yellow tide with a crucial interception off Parra inside the Toulon 22. Barring an Anthony Belleau penalty, all the team in red could manage in attacking terms were some testing up-and-unders for full-back Abendanon. That was until a reckless high tackle from Clermont No.8 Fritz Lee knocked Australian full-back James O'Connor unconscious. Samoan Lee was perhaps a touch lucky to be shown only a yellow card but Clermont were soon made to pay.

South African prop Marcel van der Merwe made ground up the middle and quick ball spread wide allowed the bulldozing Tuisova to take revenge on Raka, flattening his countryman in contact and then holding off a double tackle from Penaud and Abendanon to touch down in the corner. Belleau's conversion from the flank brought Toulon back

to within three points but a Parra penalty made it 16-10 at the break. Clermont had scored a combined 59 points to 15 in the last two meetings between these sides but Toulon were a different proposition this time. It was a brutal game with Clermont locks Sitaleki Timani and Arthur Iturria both forced off following head knocks, leaving Fijian back rower Peceli Yato to come on in an unfamiliar position.

Belleau and Parra traded penalties and the former could have levelled the scores but saw two penalties hit the uprights.

Toulon's rugged, relentless power play was starting to wear down Clermont and a Francis Trinh-Duc penalty nine minutes from time had them back to within three points. But these were not the Clermont chokers of old and Parra responded immediately with a kick of his own before the yellow shirted warriors held out close to their own line as Toulon launched one last-ditch attack, but in vain. —AFP

TOULON FLOP GOROMARU
SET TO RETURN TO JAPAN

TOKYO: Japan's Rugby World Cup star Ayumu Goromaru will return to Japanese Top League side Yamaha Jubilo after a frustrating spell at French Top 14 club Toulon, the full-back said yesterday.

The 31-year-old, who played just a handful of games in France since making his Toulon debut last November, announced on his official website that his contract would begin on July 1.

"Unfortunately I wasn't able to achieve the results I wanted in France," said Goromaru. "After a year and a half challenging myself overseas I will return home and go into the season with refreshed spirits and a new attitude."

Goromaru shot to fame at the 2015 World Cup when Japan, then coached by current England boss Eddie Jones, won three matches, including an astonishing 34-32 shock over two-time champions South Africa in their opening game.

Japan's talisman moved to Australia to play Super Rugby for the Queensland Reds after impressing at the World Cup, but his season was prematurely cut short by a shoulder injury.

Goromaru enjoys a cult following back in Japan, where life-size statues of the player are sculpted, zoo animals are named after him and he has even been made a "ninja master".

Despite his celebrity status, however, Goromaru struggled in Super Rugby and also subsequently in France, departing with club president Mourad Boudjellal's comments ringing in his ears.

"We don't want him either," the outspoken businessman told RMC Sport. "We won't be keeping him, he doesn't want to stay." Current Japan coach Jamie Joseph has expressed his frustration at not having the likes of Goromaru playing in Japan.

The Brave Blossoms missed a step after their swashbuckling World Cup campaign, their momentum stalling because of delays in bringing in a successor to Jones.

When Joseph eventually took over, he complained that the team's blueprints for their dazzling run at the England tournament were lost and that he was forced to start from scratch.

Japan host the next World Cup in 2019, the first to take place in Asia. —AFP



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron, left, shakes hand with Clermont's Peceli Yato as he kneels before him the Top 14 final rugby match between Clermont Ferrand against Toulon at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, Sunday. — AP

WALLABIES 'READY FOR THE FIGHT'
TO RESTORE MORALE: CHEIKA

SYDNEY: Coach Michael Cheika has vowed the Wallabies will lift the spirits of the Australian game amid a demoralising Super Rugby campaign in this week's start to the international Test season.

Australian rugby is in the doldrums with its five franchises struggling and one, as yet unnamed, facing the axe when Super Rugby reverts to 15 teams next season from the current 18. New Zealand teams are currently unbeaten in their 23 Super Rugby matches against Australian opposition this year. Cheika said Sunday the Wallabies' first five Tests of 2017 were going to be "like Everest for us", but added that the players were ready for the fight.

Super Rugby takes a back seat for the next three weeks as the Wallabies take on Fiji, Scotland and Italy at home. Also ahead in August is the Bledisloe Cup, which Australia has not been able to win back from the All Blacks since 2002.

"These first five games of our season, the three June Tests and the two Bledisloe Cup matches, are going to be like an Everest for us," Cheika said on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Offsiders programme. "We've got to be fully prepared and

we've got to enjoy the challenge as well... and get stuck into it. "I'm a strong and passionate believer in rugby in this country. Yeah, there's some tough times on and off the field but it's what you get from those and how you respond." Cheika added that Australian rugby fans were looking to the Wallabies to put things right on the field.

"We've got to play with a certain attitude that says we're here for the fight," he said.

"The Australian team will be playing with no fear and having been well prepared to go out there and have that positive mindset."

While Cheika believed that Australia had "punched above our weight so far... even to be where we are now-third in the world", he wanted to set the team's sights even higher ahead of the 2019 World Cup in Japan.

"But maybe we've been satisfied at that level instead of going to the next step. You got to start believing and dreaming that. "For the next generation of players, that's the mindset we want to put in their head."

The Wallabies kick off their 2017 international campaign against Fiji in Melbourne on Saturday, followed by Tests against Scotland in Sydney on June 17 and Italy in Brisbane on June 24. —AFP



SAN DIEGO: Colorado Rockies' DJ LeMahieu, right, slides in late to home and is tagged out by San Diego Padres catcher Austin Hedges during the fourth inning of a baseball game Sunday, in San Diego. — AP

BASEBALL

ASTROS BEAT RANGERS TO REGISTER 10TH WIN IN A ROW

ARLINGTON: George Springer hit two of Houston's four home runs as the Astros matched their state rival for the longest winning streak in the major leagues this season at 10 games, beating the Texas Rangers 7-2 on Sunday. The Astros scored in all four innings pitched by Martin Perez (2-6) and tied a club record from 1989 with their 10th straight road win. Houston's first sweep of Texas since July 2014 dropped the Rangers to 3-11 since their 10-game streak. Defending AL West champion Texas (26-31) is 15 games behind the division-leading Astros, who have the major leagues' best record at 41-16 - and six wins in seven games against the Rangers.

TIGERS 7, WHITE SOX 4

Justin Upton hit a game-ending, three-run homer as Detroit overcame Justin Verlander's groin injury to beat the Chicago White Sox for a sweep of their weekend series. Nicholas Castellanos was hit by a pitch from David Robertson (3-2), and second baseman Yolmer Sanchez then misplayed a potential double-play ball and was only able to get Miguel Cabrera at first. J.D. Martinez was intentionally walked, and Upton hit his 11th homer. Martinez also connected for the Tigers, who have won four straight. Justin Wilson (3-1) pitched a scoreless inning. Todd Frazier led off the third with his eighth homer, lifting the White Sox to a 2-0 lead, and Verlander left after a four-pitch walk.

CUBS 7, CARDINALS 6

Ian Happ hit two homers before pinch

hitter Jon Jay drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh with a single as the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals to complete a three-game sweep. Happ staked Chicago to a 6-4 lead with a solo homer in the third and a three-run drive in the fourth against Michael Wacha. Jay, batting for reliever Pedro Strop (2-2), broke a 6-6 tie with his two-out single off Matt Bowman (1-2) in the seventh. Anthony Rizzo had three hits and scored the go-ahead run as the Cubs (28-27) moved back over .500 with their 10th home win in 12 games. Stephen Piscotty hit a three-run homer in the fourth off Kyle Hendricks. The Cardinals tied it with two in the sixth against Hector Rondon, only to lose for the eighth time in 11 games.

NATIONALS 11, ATHLETICS 10

Ryan Zimmerman hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, sending the Nationals to the victory. Matt Wieters and Michael Taylor added back-to-back homers off Frankie Montas during Washington's five-run ninth, helping the NL East leaders improve to 5-1 on their nine-game West Coast trip. But the Nationals nearly blew an 11-4 lead in the ninth, highlighting their continued trouble with closing out games. Koda Glover allowed the first five batters to reach before he was replaced by Shawn Kelley, who surrendered a grand slam by Matt Joyce with one out. Kelley then retired the next two batters for his fourth save in six tries. Chris Davis had three hits and two RBIs for Oakland, including his 17th homer.

BLUE JAYS 3, YANKEES 2

Justin Smoak hit a tying two-run homer off Luis Severino in the sixth inning while Josh Donaldson homered against Tyler Clippard (0-3) in the eighth as Toronto gained a four-game split despite going 0 for 24 in the series with runners in scoring position. Matt Holliday hit an RBI double in the fourth off Marcus Stroman and a run-scoring double-play grounder in the sixth. Joe Smith (2-0) struck out two in a perfect eighth and Roberto Osuna pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 13th save.

MARLINS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 5

A.J. Ellis hit a tiebreaking single on the 14th pitch of an at-bat against Archie Bradley in the seventh. Tyler Moore hit a three-run homer and Derek Dietrich had a pair of sacrifice flies for Miami, which finished an 8-2 homestand. Nick Wittgren (1-0) got two outs around a walk in the seventh. A.J. Ramos pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to remain perfect in eight save chances.

ROCKIES 3, PADRES 1

Jeff Hoffman cruised through seven innings for Colorado while Trevor Story had two hits and two RBIs. Hoffman (3-0) struck out nine after being called up from the minors to fill in for Tyler Anderson, sidelined by a left knee injury. The rookie right-hander allowed a run and San Diego's only three hits as Colorado took three of four in the series. Greg Holland pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 21st save in 21 chances, extending his franchise record for

consecutive conversions to start a season. Hunter Renfroe hit his 11th homer for San Diego and Jarred Cosart (0-2) allowed three runs and six hits in four-plus innings.

BRAVES 13, REDS 8

Ender Inciarte tied his career high with five hits and drove in a career-high five runs. Atlanta set a season high for runs. Danny Santana had four hits and three RBIs, including his first home run since being acquired from Minnesota on May 8 and Matt Adams homered for the third time in two games. Cincinnati lost for the fifth time in six games. Zack Cozart homered twice and drove in five runs but Amir Garrett (3-4) gave up nine runs and seven hits over 2 2/3 innings in his first start since May 23 after being sidelined with right hip inflammation.

PIRATES 11, METS 1

David Freese drove in three runs, including an RBI single. Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer, got three hits and scored three times to back rookie Trevor Williams (3-3), who gave up one run in a career-high seven innings. Freese and Francisco Cervelli each had three hits. The Pirates turned four double plays and took two of three at Citi Field, their first road series win since late April in Miami.

RED SOX 7, ORIOLES 3

Chris Sale (7-2) struck out nine in six innings to win his sixth straight decision as Boston split the four-game series. Andrew Benintendi had his first multihomer game. Boston broke a sixth-inning tie by scoring two unearned runs on a throwing error by catcher Francisco Pena, and Benintendi's second homer made it 6-3 in the seventh.

PHILLIES 9, GIANTS 7

Maikel Franco hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth off Derek Law (3-1) and Freddy Galvis homered from both sides of the plate. Odubel Herrera also went deep as Philadelphia earned its first series victory in six weeks. Brandon Crawford homered and

drove in four runs and Eduardo Nunez also connected for San Francisco, which has lost seven of 10.

BREWERS 3, DODGERS 0

Zach Davies (6-3) pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning while Eric Thames hit his 15th homer as Milwaukee averted a three-game series sweep. Corey Knebel struck out the side in the ninth around a walk for his fifth save. Kenta Maeda (4-3) threw 92 pitches in working just four innings, allowing two runs and two hits.

INDIANS 8, ROYALS 0

Roberto Perez and Daniel Robertson hit two-run doubles off Eric Skoglund (0-1) in the second inning before a 1-hour, 50-minute rain delay in the bottom half. Dan Otero (1-0) replaced Cleveland starter Trevor Bauer after the delay and allowed one hit over 2 1/3 innings to earn his first win since Sept. 22, when he also got the decision in relief against Kansas City. Jason Kipnis homered and drove in two for the Indians. Robertson finished with three RBIs.

TWINS 3, ANGELS 2

A video review overturned Ben Revere's stolen base and changed the call to a caught stealing for the final out with the replay determining he overslid second as shortstop Ehire Adrianza tagged him on his left foot. Miguel Sano hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the sixth Ricky Nolasco (2-6), who lost his fourth straight start. Revere's RBI single in the fourth off Jose Berrios (4-1) had given the Angels a 2-1 lead. Brandon Kintzler pitched the ninth for his 15th save

MARINERS 7, RAYS 1

Ariel Miranda (6-2) pitched a four-hitter, struck out a career-high nine and walked one in his first big league complete game as Seattle finished a series sweep. Nelson Cruz hit a two-run homer and Mike Zunino picked up two more RBIs in Seattle's seventh win in eight games. Jarrod Dyson also drove in two runs. — AP



MIAMI: Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman Daniel Descalso (3) leaps over Miami Marlins' Dee Gordon (9) after tagging the base for an out as he attempts a double play during the eighth inning of a baseball game, in Miami. — AP

MLB results/standings

Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 6; Colorado 3, San Diego 1; Seattle 7, Tampa Bay 1; Washington 11, Oakland 10; Minnesota 3, LA Angels 2; Houston 7, Texas 2; Cleveland 8, Kansas City 0; Milwaukee 3, LA Dodgers 0; Boston 7, Baltimore 3; Philadelphia 9, San Francisco 7; Miami 6, Arizona 5; Atlanta 13, Cincinnati 8; Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 4; Pittsburgh 11, NY Mets 1; Toronto 3, NY Yankees 2.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
NY Yankees	32	22	.593	-	Washington	35	20	.636	-
Boston	31	25	.554	2	Atlanta	24	30	.444	10.5
Baltimore	29	26	.527	3.5	NY Mets	24	31	.436	11
Tampa Bay	29	30	.492	5.5	Miami	24	31	.436	11
Toronto	28	29	.491	5.5	Philadelphia	19	35	.352	15.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Minnesota	29	24	.547	-	Milwaukee	30	27	.526	-
Cleveland	29	26	.527	1	Chicago Cubs	28	27	.509	1
Detroit	28	28	.500	2.5	St. Louis	26	28	.481	2.5
Kansas City	24	31	.436	6	Pittsburgh	26	31	.456	4
Chicago White Sox	24	31	.436	6	Cincinnati	25	30	.455	4
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	41	16	.719	-	Colorado	36	23	.610	-
LA Angels	29	31	.483	13.5	LA Dodgers	35	23	.603	0.5
Seattle	28	30	.483	13.5	Arizona	34	25	.576	2
Texas	26	31	.456	15	San Francisco	23	35	.397	12.5
Oakland	24	32	.429	16.5	San Diego	23	35	.397	12.5

WARNER SAYS 'NO CONTRACTS, CAN'T PLAY' IN CA DIG

SYDNEY: Vice-captain David Warner has attacked Cricket Australia's handling of a pay dispute and once again raised the spectre of an Ashes series boycott by players later this year. The feisty opener has not backed away from claims he made last month of a potential players' strike during the showpiece home series against England, starting in November. CA has threatened not to pay contracted players beyond the June 30 expiry of their current financial deal if they do not accept a new offer. But Warner has gone

on the front foot, claiming the governing body had prosecuted its argument primarily through media briefings. "If we are unemployed, we have no contracts, we can't play," he told Fairfax Media Monday in England at the Champions Trophy. "We are pretty sure that they will come to an agreement. But, as you know, we are going to be unemployed come July 1. So we have to wait and see." Warner said beyond "a couple of emails" CA management had not engaged with its contracted players.

"It is only what we hear in the media and that's how CA have been driving it the whole way," he said. "They have been using the media as a voice and we get the message from there." Warner again pledged his "full support" to fellow players and affirmed he is "100 per cent" behind the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA). "They are doing a great job for us," he said of the players' union's efforts in the dispute. "From a players' point of view, we are pretty vocal and upbeat," Warner added

that he remains hopeful a new Memorandum of Understanding can be struck between now and June 30. "It is a big thing that we could be unemployed, but from us, our job is to play cricket, focus on winning the (Champions Trophy) tournament and not let our country down," he said. CA is determined to scrap revenue-sharing after 20 years, saying more funds were needed for the game's grassroots, and that the offer it has on the table provided handsomely for players.

But the ACA is equally resolved to keep revenue-sharing, saying the system does not need fixing. With no end in sight to the impasse, the ACA has disclosed plans to form a new business to help male and female players directly negotiate sponsorship deals. Establishing "The Cricketers' Brand", designed to manage and commercialise player's intellectual property (IP) rights, was necessary due to "the uncertainty of all parties regarding IP matters should the players be unemployed post June 30," it recently said. —AFP

PREVIEW

STEVEN FINN EAGER TO SEIZE CHAMPIONS TROPHY CHANCE

BIRMINGHAM: England fast bowler Steven Finn hopes to make the most of his late call-up to Champions Trophy duty when the tournament hosts face New Zealand in Cardiff on Tuesday. Finn was left out of England's original squad for a tournament featuring the world's top eight one-day international teams. But the 28-year-old Middlesex quick was recalled Sunday after pace bowling all-rounder Chris Woakes broke down with a side strain after during England's opening eight-wicket win over Bangladesh at the Oval on Thursday. "It's always frustrating when you are left out of squads, but you have to roll with the punches," Finn told reporters in Cardiff on Sunday. "If you get too down-hearted it can affect you more. I just focused on keeping my head up and fighting my way back into the team."

He added: "It's obviously very sad for Chris Woakes, who is a good friend of mine, but I am glad that I've got the call."

Finn could well go straight into England's XI in Cardiff if, as happened against Bangladesh, they opt to play just the one spinner. He sealed his return to international duty on the back of taking two wickets in front of the selectors for the second-string England Lions in a 144-run win over South Africa A at Northampton on Saturday.

'PRESSURE'

"I knew James Whitaker and Mick Newell were there watching me," said Finn. "You feel that pressure, I suppose, knowing they're watching you to call you up for this game. But that is no different from every time I pull on an England or Lions shirt."

New Zealand endured a frustrating wicket in their Group A opener against Australia when seemingly well-placed for victory. "The nature of this tournament is that every game is basically knockout," said New Zealand captain Kane Williamson whose superb hundred was ultimately trumped by the rain.

"We played some good cricket and we can't control the weather, although it is a

little bit frustrating." England's Joe Root, another of the world's leading batsmen, made a century too in his first innings of the tournament against Bangladesh. But while the sometimes excitable Root can be goaded into error, Williamson rarely looks anything other than serene at the crease. "He's arguably the calmest man alive," said New Zealand seamer Trent Boult of Williamson.

"He gets more flustered on what to wear on a dinner date with his missus than he does on the field."

The last time these two sides met in a 50-over International Cricket Council event, New Zealand inflicted a humiliating eight-wicket defeat upon England in Wellington during the 2015 World Cup. Not content with dismissing England for 123, the Blackcaps raced to their target in a mere 12.2 overs, with then skipper Brendon McCullum hitting 77 off just 25 balls, including seven sixes.

One consolation for England is that McCullum has since retired from international cricket.

Today's match takes place against the backdrop of a terror attack in London on Saturday that killed seven people and injured dozens more. England pacemen Mark Wood and Liam Plunkett had to head down to Cardiff by bus after their cars were parked in a police exclusion zone near their London hotel.

Finn insisted England were determined to play on following terror attacks that have struck both Manchester and London in the past two weeks, amid security reassurance from the International Cricket Council. "We have been briefed on how we are going to be protected, so we're very comfortable that there is a ring of steel around us and everyone who is in the ground will be safe," said Finn.

"We are obviously sad about it, and send our condolences to those affected by it. It is a sorry state of affairs."

"But we will keep playing cricket and be defiant in the face of it and hope to put a smile on people's faces here today." — AFP



BIRMINGHAM: India's Yuvraj Singh bats during the ICC Champions Trophy match between India and Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England, Sunday. — AP

CRICKET

KOHLI AND YUVRAJ LEAD INDIA ROUT OF PAKISTAN

BIRMINGHAM: India captain Virat Kohli and Yuvraj Singh made Pakistan pay for fluffing catches with quickfire fifties as the holders launched their Champions Trophy title-defence with a 124-run thrashing of their arch-rivals at Edgbaston on Sunday. After India made 319 for three in 48 overs, the third rain stoppage of the match left Pakistan with a revised target of 289 in 41 overs when play resumed in bright sunshine.

But Pakistan, rarely up with the stiff run-rate, finished on 164, with injured last man Wahab Riaz unable to bat as India won with 44 balls to spare. Kohli, who on Saturday had dismissed reports of a rift with India coach Anil Kumble, was equally contemptuous of Pakistan's attack during a blistering innings of 81 not out off just 68 balls that included six fours and three sixes. Left-hander Yuvraj, named man-of-the-match for his game-changing innings, smashed a rapid 53 while helping Kohli add 93 for the third wicket in just 59 balls.

That was not the end of the run spree, with Hardik Pandya hitting sixes off the first three balls of left-arm spinner Imad Wasim's last over of the innings. India smashed 72 off their final four overs as Pakistan's attack wilted. Rohit Sharma (91) and Shikhar Dhawan (68) laid the platform for a big total with an opening stand of 136. "I got lucky and got dropped and I capitalised," said Yuvraj at the presentation ceremony. Meanwhile an admiring Kohli, one of the world's leading batsmen, said of Yuvraj: "I felt like a club batter next to him. He's a game changer with the bat."

Mohammad Amir was the pick of Pakistan's attack with none for 32 in 8.1 overs. But fellow left-arm fast bowler Wahab was hugely expensive, his wicketless 8.4 overs costing 87 runs.

Wahab's day was summed up when he was unable to complete his ninth over after falling awkwardly in his delivery stride. Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed said he had "no regrets" over his decision to field first.

'LOST THE PLOT'

"We were in control for 40 overs but we lost the plot in the last eight overs," the wicket-keeper added after what was the opening Group B match for both the Asian giants in a tournament featuring the world's top eight one-day international teams.

"The worrying thing for me, and it has been for a period of time, is we just do the basics wrong," said Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur. "We dropped simple catches, we don't run well enough between wickets," added the concerned South African after his first direct involvement in an India-Pakistan match, world cricket's most high-profile fixture. Before play, the teams officials and a crowd of 24,156 — a record for an Edgbaston ODI-observed a minute's silence for the victims of Saturday's London terror attack that

SCOREBOARD		
BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom: Completed scoreboard in the Group B Champions Trophy match between India and Pakistan at Edgbaston on Sunday:		
India		
R. Sharma run out (Babar Azam/Sarfraz Ahmed)	91	Babar Azam c Jadeja b Yadav
S. Dhawan c Azhar Ali b Shadab Khan	68	Mohammad Hafeez c Kumar b Jadeja
V. Kohli not out	81	Shoaib Malik run out (Jadeja)
Yuvraj Singh lbw b Hasan Ali	53	Sarfraz Ahmed c Dhoni b Pandya
H. Pandya not out	20	Imad Wasim c Jadhav b Pandya
Extras (lb2, w2, nb2)	6	Shadab Khan not out
Total (3 wks, 48 overs)	319	Mohammad Amir c Jadhav b Yadav
Did not bat: MS Dhoni, K Jadhav, R Jadeja, B Kumar, U Yadav, J Bumrah		Hasan Ali c Dhawan b Yadav
Fall of wickets: 1-136 (Dhawan), 2-192 (Sharma), 3-285 (Yuvraj)		Wahab Riaz absent hurt
Bowling: Amir 8.1-1-32-0; Wasim 9.1-0-66-0 (1w); Ali 10-0-70-1 (1nb); Riaz 8.4-0-87-0 (1nb, 1w); Shadab 10-0-52-1; Shoaib 2-0-10-0		Extras (lb2, w6)
		8
		Total (all out, 33.4 overs)
		164
		Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Shehzad), 2-61 (Babar), 3-91 (Azhar), 4-114 (Shoaib), 5-131 (Hafeez), 6-135 (Wasim), 7-151 (Sarfraz), 8-164 (Amir), 9-164 (Hasan)
		Bowling: Kumar 5-1-23-1 (2w); Yadav 7.4-1-30-3 (1w); Bumrah 5-0-23-0;
		Pandya 8-0-43-2 (3w); Jadeja 8-0-43-2;
		Result: India won by 124 runs (DLS method)
		Man-of-the-match: Yuvraj Singh (IND)
Pakistan (revised target: 289 in 41 overs)		
Azhar Ali c Pandya b Jadedja	50	
Ahmed Shehzad lbw b Kumar	12	

round at long-off, dropped the two-handed catch off Shadab. Hasan eventually had Yuvraj lbw on review but it was all too late. Kohli had made 43 when he was missed by substitute Fahim Ashraf who grassed a top-edged hook off Wahab. A blizzard of boundaries followed, with Kohli flat-batting Hasan down the ground for six to complete his fifty. Pakistan opener Azhar make exactly 50 before he was caught at deep square leg by Hardik Pandya off left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja to leave his side in trouble at 91 for three. No member of India's attack leaked runs the way Wahab had done, with paceman Umesh Yadav, who took three for 30 in 7.4 overs, ending the match when he dismissed Hasan for a duck. —AFP

Sharma was fortunate on 21 to edge Amir just beyond the grasp of diving slip Azhar Ali. Pakistan were donated a wicket, however, when Dhawan hoisted a full toss from teenage leg-spinner Shadab Khan straight to Azhar at deep midwicket. Sharma went 43 balls without a boundary in the face of tight Pakistan bowling before cover-driving and pulling Wahab for a four and a six off successive deliveries.

But eyeing what would have been his 11th ODI hundred, Sharma was run out when he just failed to beat Babar Azam's throw to Sarfraz after Kohli's call for one.

Sharma's 119-ball innings included two sixes and seven fours. Yuvraj should have been out for eight but Hasan Ali, sliding

PAKISTAN OVERHAUL URGED AFTER 'SHAMEFUL DEFEAT'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan faced calls for a total overhaul yesterday after slumping to a "shameful defeat" against arch-rivals India at the Champions Trophy in England.

The highly anticipated match at Edgbaston proved anti-climactic as Pakistan were thrashed by 124 runs, extending their winless streak against India to three years.

While Indian media rejoiced in the "Mother of all Mismatches", Pakistan newspapers held nothing back in their criticism. "Pakistan suffers shameful defeat at the hands of India in Champions Trophy, Green Shirts fail in every department," said Jang, Pakistan's highest-circulation newspaper.

Former captain Shahid Afridi was among several ex-players to call for a major shake-up in the wake of the humiliating defeat. "The gap between Indian and Pakistani teams is bigger than ever! India has evolved & we are way behind now," he said on his Twitter account. "We need to overhaul approach, mindset & work on improving our stagnating skills and play with clear minds." Hundreds of millions of fans in the cricket-mad neighbouring countries tuned in to watch Sunday's game. India's top four batsmen all scored half-cen-

turies-including captain Virat Kohli's 81 — before Pakistan, chasing a rain-revised target of 289 in 41 overs, stumbled to 164 in 33.4 overs. India have never lost to Pakistan in 11 World Cup and World Twenty20 meetings over the years. They have not succumbed since the Asia Cup in March 2014.

The Indian Express called the triumph the "Mother of all Mismatches", while The Times of India said it was an "Opening Statement" by the reigning title-holders.

The Hindu headlined with "India knocks the stuffing out of Pakistan", and said the recent cricketing rivalry between the two neighbours was "anything but competitive".

"India's batsmen pounded Pakistan into the ground," The Hindu article said. Cricket writer Osman Samiuddin slammed Pakistan's demoralising loss, suggesting they were not up to the challenge. "India arguably didn't get out of 3rd gear and still never looked like doing anything other than winning v v comfortably," he wrote on Twitter. Others used humour to cushion the blow. "Pakistan got its tactics wrong today imo, the way to stop India from getting to 300 was to bat first and be bowled out for 150," wrote social media user Haseeb Asif. —AFP



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan's Mohammad Amir winces in pain after an injury during the ICC Champions Trophy match between India and Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham. — AP

Champions Trophy table

BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom: Champions Trophy table after the Group B match between India and Pakistan at Edgbaston on Sunday (played, won, lost, tied, no result, points, net run-rate):									
Group A		Pakistan 1 0 1 0 0 0 -3.02							
England	1	1	0	0	0	2	+0.40		
Australia	1	0	0	0	1	1	n/a		
New Zealand	1	0	0	0	1	1	n/a		
Bangladesh	1	0	1	0	0	0	-0.40		
Results									
Jun 01, The Oval: England bt Bangladesh by 8 wks									
Jun 02, Edgbaston: Australia v New Zealand, no result									
Remaining Fixtures									
Jun 05: Australia v Bangladesh, The Oval (1230 GMT)									
Jun 06: England v New Zealand, Cardiff (0930 GMT)									
Jun 09: New Zealand v Bangladesh, Cardiff (0930 GMT)									
Jun 10: England v Australia, Edgbaston (0930 GMT)									
Group B									
India	1	1	0	0	0	2	+3.02		
South Africa	1	1	0	0	0	2	+1.92		
Sri Lanka	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.92		
Final									
Jun 18: The Oval (0930 GMT)									

OKLAHOMA BEAT OREGON 4-2 TO REACH SOFTBALL TITLE SERIES

OKLAHOMA CITY: The Women's College World Series dream matchup is set. Shay Knighten singled in two runs in the fifth inning to help defending champion Oklahoma beat Oregon 4-2 on Sunday in the semifinals. The Sooners (59-9) will play top-seeded Florida tonight to start the best-of-three championship series. The teams have combined to win the past four national titles, but are meeting for the first time in the championship series.

Oklahoma coach Patty Gasso has great respect for Florida's program. "They're good, well-coached, very complete team,"

she said. "Again, we're going to have to play really, really well, give all we've got, and we're looking forward to it." Paige Parker (26-5) earned the win and Paige Lowary got the save against Oregon.

The Ducks would have needed to beat Oklahoma twice on Sunday, and for a while, it looked like they might at least force a second game. Danica Mercado's two-run homer in the top of the fifth put the Ducks (54-8) up 2-0. Oregon's Megan Kleist (21-4), who earned a win and a save in elimination games Saturday, took a shutout into the fifth against Oklahoma

before unraveling. Oklahoma got its rally started when Lea Wodach reached on an error. She bunted, and though the ball was moving towards foul territory, Oregon catcher Gwen Sveik picked it up and made an errant throw to first. Wodach ended up on second.

Oregon coach Mike White thought the ball went into foul territory, and he thinks there should be a way to find out. "One thing I'd like to see going forward, and I think this tournament has really illustrated it, is the need for an instant replay, a need for the ability to make a challenge," White

said. "There's been so many games decided by some calls that could have gone - I think were incorrect calls to be quite frank, and that made a big difference. This game is played at a high speed. Umpires are human. You should have the ability to challenge a call." Pinch runner Raegan Rogers stepped in for Wodach and scored on a fielder's choice. Knighten then dropped the ball lightly into right field to score Nicole Mendes and Kelsey Arnold. Knighten had hoped to make better contact. "I'll take it," she said. "It worked. All I wanted to do was just put the ball in play, come into the

right side, and just give my team a chance to score." Nicole Pendley followed with a double to score Knighten and chase Kleist.

Lowary closed the deal with two perfect innings to claim her 10th save of the season. Now, Oklahoma, the No. 10 seed, has the chance to defend its title. The Sooners view themselves as underdogs. "They really are getting into their groove," Gasso said. "We've wasted about eight weeks of trying to figure this out, and I think we're making up for lost time, and they are relaxed, they're playing their best softball, they're having a blast. They don't want it to end." — AP

GOLF

DUFNER BOUNCES BACK TO WIN THE MEMORIAL

DUBLIN: Jason Dufner spent quality time on the practice range that played in a big role in his victory at the Memorial.

It had nothing to do with his swing. This was about beating balls to burn off the anger from a 5-over 77 in the third round that looked as though it might cost him the tournament. His pulse back to normal, which for Dufner means barely beating, he bounced back in a big way Sunday.

He stayed in the game during a wild stretch early, and then hit the ball so pure that he hit every green until the 18th and only once had a birdie putt over 12 feet. And then he capped off his 68 with a 30-foot par putt for a three-shot victory.

"Yesterday was not my best day," Dufner said. "But I had to get over it quick. It's a 72-hole tournament, there's a lot of things that can happen out there. I knew I was still in the mix."

The recap shows what an up-and-down week it was for Dufner. He set the 36-hole record at Muirfield Village on Friday and built a four-shot lead. The 77 on Saturday dropped him four shots behind. And he wound up winning by three shots over Rickie Fowler and Anirban Lahiri.

"It was important for me not to leave this golf course angry and upset," Dufner said. "I needed to leave it at the golf course yesterday, I felt like, and to move on. It would be best for me today. It wasn't something that I planned or that I thought about, it's just that's what I felt like I needed to do."

Dufner finished at 13-under 275 for his fifth PGA Tour victory, and he earned mentions with Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo. He joined Nicklaus as the only Ohio-born winners of the Memorial, the tournament Nicklaus created in 1976 and won twice. And not since Faldo in the 1989 Masters had anyone shot a 77 in the third round of a PGA Tour event and still gone on to win.

LARGEST PAYCHECK

He was happier about the first reference. "I'll always have a close place in my heart for this event, being a champion now," Dufner said. "It will be very special for me to look back and know that I'm part of an event that Mr. Nicklaus put on out here on the PGA Tour."

"I think he probably likes this one better than Augusta right now," Nicklaus said. "It's paying a little better," Dufner replied. He earned \$1,566,000, the largest paycheck of his career. Fowler, in prime position to force

a playoff on the 18th hole by making birdie, instead made bogey after Dufner ended it with his big par putt. Fowler shot 70 and tied for second with Lahiri, who closed with a 65 before both of the two rain delays that lasted a combined 2 1/2 hours.

Justin Thomas missed consecutive short birdie putts that stopped any momentum he had. Matt Kuchar fell back with three bogeys on the back nine. They finished another shot behind. Daniel Summerhays, who began the final round with a three-shot lead, began the back nine with two straight bogeys, and he finished with a double bogey for a 78 to tie for 10th.

Dufner got back into the mix quickly when Summerhays lost his three-shot lead after four holes. Over the next five hours because of the rain delays, four players had at least a share of the lead and seven players were in the hunt.

CLOSE TO PERFECT

Dufner had one stretch on the front nine of bogey-birdie-bogey-birdie-bogey. He played the front nine in even par, and then he came to life. He is better with the putter, though his strength remains his iron play, and it was close to perfect.

"I feel like if I wanted to have a chance to win today that I needed to hit it close," he said. He stuffed his approach on No. 10 to 4 feet and holed a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-3 12th.

After missing a pair of birdie chances in the 12-foot range on the next holes, he hit the par-5 15th in two and two-putted for birdie from 40 feet to take the lead.

Fowler fell back when he missed the 14th green long and took bogey, and then hit his fairway metal into the gallery on the 15th and failed to make birdie. Dufner gave himself a cushion on the 17th with his best drive of the day and a wedge to 3 feet.

He made it more exciting than he preferred on the 18th by driving into thick rough just short of the bunker, and hacking out into more rough. He put his third shot to just over 30 feet on the 18th. Fowler, who pulled his wedge left of the green, had Dufner go first to make sure Fowler would have needed to hole the birdie chip to have a chance. Dufner ended the suspense with a putt and a rare show of emotion, slamming down his fist. "I made the swings and couldn't convert and make the birdies," Fowler said. "But to see him make the putt on the last was cool." — AP



DUBLIN: Jack Nicklaus, right, hands Jason Dufner the trophy after Dufner won the Memorial golf tournament, Sunday, in Dublin, Ohio. — AP

ATHLETICS

S AFRICA'S VAN NIEKERK WINS 200M IN BOSTON

BOSTON: South Africa's Wayde Van Niekerk and Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas each captured their 200 metre races on the second day of a track and field event in Boston on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Van Niekerk, who is the reigning World and Olympic champion in the 400m, clocked a winning time of 19.84 on a temporary built track to beat runner-up BeeJay Lee (20.17) at the Boston Boost Games.

Because the competition was run on a straight line instead of the traditional curved track and field surface the time will

not be listed in 2017 International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) records. "I still have a lot of work ahead of me," said Van Niekerk, of Cape Town, who will run the 200m next weekend in Kingston, Jamaica. "But it is a positive result."

The reigning Olympic champion in the 400m, Miller-Uibo, won the women's 200m with a time of 21.76. She beat the American Natasha Hastings (22.50) and Kimberlyn Duncan (22.81). Miller-Uibo's time was also boosted because the race was run in a straight line. — AFP



BELLE ISLE: Graham Rahal holds the trophies from the IndyCar Detroit Grand Prix auto race doubleheader on Belle Isle, Sunday, in Detroit. Rahal completed a doubleheader sweep in the race to become IndyCar's first two-time winner this season. Rahal's Honda-power car finished 1.17 seconds ahead of Josef Newgarden's Chevrolet, a day after getting to the checkered flag six-plus seconds ahead of the competition. — AP

MOTOR RACING

RAHAL SWEEPS DETROIT GRAND PRIX DOUBLEHEADER

DETROIT: Graham Rahal is relishing a remarkable run - this weekend in the Motor City and over the last two-plus seasons. Rahal completed a doubleheader sweep at the Detroit Grand Prix on Sunday and became IndyCar's first two-time winner this season.

Driving for father and former racing star Bobby Rahal's Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing team, Rahal has six career victories, five in two-plus seasons during a stretch of success that followed a six-year winless streak. "Through the ups and downs of my career, when you get a chance to win a race, you never take it for granted," he said. "So, it's pretty special for me."

It looked like a given Rahal's Honda-power car was going to finish first easily, for the second straight race, until there was a single-file final restart with two laps to go in the 70-lap race. A red flag stopped the race for 18 minutes after 67 laps because Spencer Pigot's car had a mechanical failure.

The Ed Carpenter Racing driver got out of his smoke-filled car after a yellow flag came out because James Hinchcliff's car stalled.

That wasn't enough to let the competition close in on Rahal, who pulled away for victory on the Belle Isle course. He finished 1.17 seconds

ahead of Josef Newgarden's Chevrolet, a day after getting to the checkered flag six-plus seconds ahead of the competition.

"I couldn't pull anything too risky because I didn't have any grip on the tires," Newgarden said. Will Power of Team Penske was third Sunday, giving Chevy a better showing than on Saturday when Honda swept the podium near General Motors' world headquarters. "We didn't get the win, but it was a good showing," Power said. "Honda has definitely found something, but it's not reliable."

Rahal became the first to sweep in Detroit since it began hosting doubleheaders in 2013. He became the first to win two IndyCar races in a weekend since Scott Dixon pulled off the feat four years ago in Toronto.

His team won consecutive races for the first time since Kenny Brack drove pulled off the feat in Japan and at Milwaukee in 2001. Rahal, who is from New Albany, Ohio, became the first American to win in Detroit on Saturday since Michael Andretti in 1996. Indianapolis 500 winner Takuma Sato earned the pole earlier in the day and finished fourth with his Honda-powered car for Andretti Autosport.

POINTS RACE: Scott Dixon, with an injured left foot from his crash in last week's Indianapolis

500, finished sixth to stay atop the points list with 303 followed by Helio Castroneves (295), Sato (292), Simon Pagenaud (278), Newgarden (259) and Rahal (251) making quite a climb from No. 15 the standings at the start of the weekend.

CLIPPED

Castroneves finished ninth, ending a race that included one of his tires getting punctured by Marco Andretti's front wing. His winless streak extended to 52 races.

CONTRACT TALKS

The Detroit Grand Prix has one year left on its contract to hold the race on Belle Isle and event chairman Bud Denker said he is confident the deal will be extended until at least 2021.

"My expectation is that we'll be agreeing with the state over the next several months," he said. The open-wheel series shifts to Texas Motor Speedway, where Rahal is the defending champion, for a race under the lights Saturday night. Rahal beat James Hinchcliff last year by eight-thousandths of a second in the closest finish for an IndyCar race at Texas.

"I think it's going to be a crazy race once again," Rahal said. "It should be a track that will suit the Honda package very well." — AP

SWIMMING

PHELPS JOINS BOARD OF AUSSIE MENTAL

SYDNEY: Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time, yesterday joined the board of an Australian mental health company, a subject close to his heart after his struggles with depression and substance abuse.

The American, who won 28 Olympic medals, quit swimming last year and he said joining Medibio met his aim to raise awareness of mental health problems.

"I personally suffered from mental health challenges from my teenage years on, and only fairly recently after reaching a point of desperation-did I acquire the understanding, treatment, and support I needed, which has truly changed my life," he said.

"For me, self-awareness, from a mental health standpoint, is empowerment." Medibio has developed a test to help diagnose depression, chronic stress and other disorders, using circadian, sleep and other information such as blood pressure.

Phelps, who was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) when he was nine, is already an ambassador for the Child Mind Institute's #MyYoungerSelf social media campaign to help end the stigmas associated with mental health and learning disorders.

He isn't the only swimming great to suffer mental problems: Australia's Ian Thorpe has also struggled with depression, and received treatment in 2014 after being found disoriented on a Sydney street. Fellow Australian Grant Hackett also sought help this year-including from Phelps-after his arrest following a family bust-up, the latest in a series of unsavoury incidents involving the troubled star.

"I want to help others who are dealing with these challenges and make the process for them to take action easier and more understandable," Phelps said as part of Medibio's announcement to the stock market. Phelps is widely seen as the greatest swimmer ever to compete, but it came at a price.

After winning four gold medals and two silvers at the 2012 London Olympics, he revealed he was "haunted" by knowing he failed to prepare as well as he could have. A comeback in 2014 ground to a halt within months when his personal demons caught up with him and he was caught speeding while under the influence of alcohol. The incident launched him on a "brutal" personal journey that included a stint in rehab. — AFP



GOLD COAST: A file photo taken on August 24, 2017 shows Michael Phelps of the US reacting during the medal ceremony following the men's 100m butterfly final at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in Gold Coast. — AFP

ITALY'S COMEBACK KIDS STUN ZAMBIA TO REACH SEMIS

SEOUL: Italy recovered from going a goal and a man down to beat Zambia 3-2 in extra time and set up an Under-20 World Cup semi-final against England yesterday. Things looked bleak for the Azzurri, who had gone behind to Patson Daka's early goal, when Giuseppe Pezzella was sent off for a shove following a video review just before half-time.

But Riccardo Orsolini scored five minutes after the restart and even when Fashion Sakala struck in the 84th minute, substitute Federico Dimarco's 88th-minute free kick sent the game into extra time.

Kenneth Kalunga narrowly missed after skillfully juggling the ball past Italy's defence, before another Italian substitute, Luca Vido, headed the decisive

goal from a Dimarco corner in the 110th minute.

The late strike finally knocked out Zambia, who stunned Germany in the round of 16, and sent last year's U19 European finalists into a meeting with England, who downed Mexico 1-0.

Dominic Solanke, who is Liverpool-bound after coming through the ranks at Chelsea, scored just

after half-time but England had to survive a nervy finish when Josh Onomah received his second yellow card with 18 minutes left.

Thursday's other semi-final will be between Uruguay, who edged Portugal 5-4 on penalties, and Venezuela, who beat the United States 2-1 after extra time in another tight game on Sunday. — AFP

I WAS ASHAMED OVER MIAMI BEHAVIOUR, SAYS HALEP

PARIS: Simona Halep admitted yesterday she was "ashamed" that her on-court behaviour prompted respected coach Darren Cahill to call a temporary halt to their partnership.

Australian Cahill quit in frustration at the Romanian's negative demeanour after she surrendered winning positions to Britain's Johanna Konta in Miami in March. Cahill called it quits until the duo were reunited just in time for the build-up to the French Open where the 26-year-old reached the quarter-finals yesterday.

During the changeover before the final set in Miami, Cahill spent the best part of three minutes sitting next to Halep, desperately trying to coax her out of her negativity. "You can give up on yourself, but I'm not," said Cahill. It didn't work as Halep slipped to a dispiriting defeat. "I didn't like it when I saw the video (of the Cahill pep talk), I felt ashamed about what I did," said Halep.

"But now I'm happy that I can be positive on court, and I will never be negative like I was in Miami."

Halep said she had reached out to the 51-year-old Cahill who has worked with likes of Andre Agassi, Andy Murray and Ana Ivanovic in his time.

"He told me we will talk after Paris. But then he liked how I was in Fed Cup and then in Stuttgart," she explained. "So I think

when I finished Stuttgart, he said he had seen enough, and he's ready to come back.

"I asked him if he wants to come back before Madrid. He said yes, because I improved a lot, and he saw that I really wanted to change that. "Now I'm happy that I can be positive."

Halep, the third seed, made the quarter-finals at Roland Garros yesterday for the first time since 2014 when she went on to finish runner-up to Maria Sharapova.

She needed just an hour to coast to a 6-1, 6-1 win over Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro. It was her first win over Suarez Navarro on clay in six attempts. "I played my best match of the tournament. I served well and opened up the court," said Halep, who will become the new world number one if she wins the title on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Halep will tackle Ukraine's fifth seed Elina Svitolina for a semi-final place.

The two met in the Rome final on the eve of Roland Garros when Halep suffered an ankle injury which threatened her appearance in Paris.

Svitolina ended the dream run of world number 290 Petra Martic with a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 win. But Martic, who came through qualifying, threw away a golden chance to make the quarter-finals after leading 5-2 in the final set. — AFP



PARIS: Britain's Andy Murray returns the ball to Russia's Karen Khachanov during their tennis match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open yesterday in Paris. — AFP

TENNIS

EMOTIONAL MURRAY IN FRENCH OPEN Q-FINALS WITH 650TH WIN

PARIS: Andy Murray racked up his 650th career win to reach the French Open quarter-finals yesterday before paying an unscripted, emotional tribute to the victims of the London and Manchester terror attacks.

World number one Murray, the runner-up in Paris to Novak Djokovic in 2016, brushed aside Karen Khachanov of Russia 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. In his seventh Paris quarter-final, Murray will face either Japanese eighth seed Kei Nishikori or Spain's Fernando Verdasco.

However, instead of discussing the match in the traditional on-court TV interview, Murray took the microphone to remember the 29 people who died in the recent outrages in London and Manchester. "Obviously there was terrible tragedy in London and Manchester. Paris has had its problems too in recent years," said Murray. "I am sure everyone will join me... we share our thoughts and prayers with everyone who has been affected. "I appreciate everyone still coming out to support the tennis. I am grateful that I can still perform in front of everyone."

Women's title favourite and 2014 runner-up Simona Halep trounced Spain's Carla Suarez-Navarro 6-1, 6-1 to make the last eight without

dropping a set or breaking sweat.

Third seed Halep, who can become the new world number one if she wins the title, claimed her first win on clay in six attempts against the Spaniard. "I played my best match of the tournament. I served well and opened up the court," said Halep. The 25-year-old Halep will tackle Ukraine's fifth seed Elina Svitolina for a semi-final place. The two met in the Rome final on the eve of Roland Garros when Halep was beaten and suffered an ankle injury which threatened her appearance in Paris. "I still feel the ankle some times but I am able to run. I don't think about it during the points," added Halep.

MARTIC MAGICAL RUN ENDS

Svitolina reached the quarter-finals for the second time, ending the dream run of world number 290 Petra Martic with a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 win.

However, Martic, bidding to become only the 10th qualifier to make the last eight in Paris threw away a golden chance for victory. The 26-year-old led 5-2 in the final set before Svitolina rallied to race away with the last five games.

Later yesterday, Czech world number two Karolina Pliskova, also in the running to become

both a first time major winner and the new world number one, faces Veronica Cepede Royg in her last-16 tie.

Cepede Royg, ranked 97 in the world, is only the second Paraguayan to make the fourth round of a major. The only other was Rossana de los Rios in Paris 17 years ago.

Argentina's Paola Suarez was the last South American woman to reach a quarter-final at a Slam at Wimbledon in 2004. Before this year, Pliskova had never made it beyond the second round in Paris. However, she has not yet had to face a player ranked in the top 65 in this tournament. Yesterday's other last-16 clash sees an all-French battle between Alize Cornet and Caroline Garcia who are barely on speaking terms.

The two fell out after Garcia withdrew from the Fed Cup team earlier this year. "I think that the relationship is not very good," said 27-year-old Cornet. "I think she may have a grudge against us, so she's not ready to talk with me."

Cornet is playing in her 45th Slam but has yet to reach a quarter-final. In the remaining men's last-16 ties, third seed and 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka faces Gael Monfils of France while Marin Cilic tackles Kevin Anderson. — AFP

SOCCER

ADORING MADRID FANS DEMAND BALLON D'OR FOR HERO RONALDO

MADRID: Thousands of delirious Real Madrid fans called for Cristiano Ronaldo to win a fifth Ballon d'Or on Sunday as the Spanish giants paraded the Champions League trophy for a record 12th time. Ronaldo scored twice in Real's 4-1 thrashing of Juventus in Cardiff on Saturday as Madrid became the first side to retain the Champions League. Sporting a newly cropped haircut, Ronaldo was the star of a spectacular lights and firework show as 81,000 fans crammed into Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

"Cristiano Ballon d'Or," the Portuguese sang along with the fans as he was lifted into the air by his teammates.

Ronaldo is the hot favourite to win the annual award for the best player in the world for a fifth time that would see him equal Barcelona rival Lionel Messi's record as Real also beat out Barca to win La Liga. "The truth is it has been a spectacular season," added Ronaldo. It is the first time Madrid have won both La Liga and the Champions League in the same season for 59 years. "Thanks for the love you have shown since the first match," said Madrid captain Sergio Ramos.

"We knew this season was going to be different. "The team has worked hard from the first minute...we have done a marvellous double."

Earlier, overseen by strict security measures, the Madrid squad greeted local government dignitaries before parading the famous trophy in an open top bus around the Cibeles fountain in the city centre where thousands of fans had gathered. "The players have entered into the legend of Real Madrid and of football, as has our coach," said club president Florentino Perez, as he reserved special praise for Zinedine Zidane.

"He is the only one to win two consecutive Champions Leagues," added Perez.

"That is why he is already the best coach in the world." The Frenchman, who won the Champions League as a legendary player for Real between 2001 and 2006, has enjoyed spectacular success since taking his first role in senior management just 18 months ago.

"I want to thank all of you," Zidane told fans as chants of his name rang around the Bernabeu.

"This is what we are here for. It has been a spectacular year thanks to you and in the end we won the double." A third Champions League



MADRID: Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo jubilates during a celebration event held at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium after the team won the UEFA Champions League football match final. — AFP

win in four years has drawn comparisons to the great Real side that won the first five editions of the European Cup between 1955 and 1960.

"I feel like this is the best team in history," Alvaro Mora, a fan who had travelled over 500 kilometres from the southern city of Almeria to take in the celebrations, told AFP.

And like Real's performance on the pitch at the Principality Stadium as they tore the Italian champions apart with goals from Casemiro and

Marco Asensio adding to Ronaldo's double, there was no sign of the Madrid fans' tiring of success. "It is the best thing that could happen," said Colombian shop worker Jose Ordonez, 54, who took in the festivities with his two sons. "We promised to return and we have returned as champions," added Ramos as the squad visited the home of Madrid's local government and the city hall. "I hope to return many more times and that we can celebrate many more titles." — AFP



PARIS: Romania's Simona Halep eyes the ball as she plays against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro during their tennis match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open yesterday in Paris. — AFP

'REVENGE' NOT MLADENOVIC'S PLAN FOR BACSINSZKY REMATCH

PARIS: France's Kristina Mladenovic insists "revenge" is not fueling her desire to beat Switzerland's Tímea Bacsinszky when the pair clash in the quarter-finals at Roland Garros today.

Mladenovic accused Bacsinszky of gamesmanship after losing a tense three-set battle in February's Fed Cup first round, a tie Switzerland went on to win 4-1. But the French 13th seed said the anguish of that defeat would not factor into her approach as she looks to the reach last four of a Grand Slam for the first time.

"I don't see things like that. It's not, you know, because it's Tímea that I must get my revenge. That's not my mindset," said Mladenovic, who is through to the last eight at a major for just the second time.

"It would be a negative approach. I don't prepare my matches out of revenge. I want to go out there and win every match. "I'm going to go into this match, (thinking) it's a Grand Slam quarter-finals here in Roland Garros."

Bacsinszky drew the ire of her French rival in Geneva after seeking medical help for a knee injury during a critical passage midway through the deciding set.

When she returned, she took a 21-shot rally and claimed eight of the next nine points to seize control of the match.

A day earlier, world number 31 Bacsinszky had left the court during her win over Alize Cornet for treatment to a wasp sting on her elbow. But the Swiss, a Roland Garros semi-

finalist in 2015, showed no remorse for her actions after dumping out Venus Williams in Paris for the second year in a row.

"I'm totally comfortable with what I did and said during the Fed Cup," said Bacsinszky, seeded 30th at this year's French Open.

"I know that the two French players were very critical. I'm not quite sure why. It wasn't a wasp trick. I was really stung by a wasp.

"I had to manage the pain. At night my nose clogged up and my eyes went all puffy. I had to take anti-allergy medicine.

"And the medical timeout I took against Mladenovic on the second day, it showed on the videos. "That's why I really wanted to take no risks. (Laura) Siegemund, her knee went 10 days ago, and she was a potential winner, too," Bacsinszky blasted Mladenovic's assertion that the Swiss was renowned for bending the rules, but she was keen to move on from the incident.

"When she said that I was known for that sort of thing on the circuit, really? I think we should ask other players if that's what they think," Bacsinszky replied.

"People can think what they want. Of course, it's not so cool to lose a match. Sometimes you need to take a step back, a deep breath.

"Do I bear grudges? Not really," she added. "I feel comfortable with what I did. I feel comfortable what I said about people. So I think that's it, really." — AFP

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KOHLI AND YUVRAJ LEAD INDIA ROUT OF PAKISTAN

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OAKLAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson, center, is defended by Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green, right, and Klay Thompson during the second half in Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals Sunday, in Oakland, Calif. — AP

CURRY, DURANT LEAD WARRIORS TO 2-0 LEAD

OAKLAND: Stephen Curry dribbled every which way and ran a circle around LeBron James, then drove left through the paint and beat him to the rim for a right-handed layup over the star's outstretched arm in a move reminiscent of his recent MVP magic.

Steve Kerr got a front-row seat again for the show, delighted to be back on the bench witnessing those signature moments he has seen so many times before.

Kerr watched his Golden State Warriors grab a 2-0 lead in the NBA Finals by downing the Cleveland Cavaliers 132-113 Sunday night in another rout, returning to the sideline with a warm welcome from the sellout crowd after a six-week absence.

Their leader and reigning NBA Coach of the Year assuming his usual courtside seat, Curry received a special request from Kerr: "to play with passion and play with joy," Curry shared. "That's what everyone wants to see, some of the best players in the world go against each other," Klay Thompson said. "Steph made a great move, got by him and finished. That's what he does."

Curry and Kevin Durant tag-teamed the Warriors within two victories of another championship. Curry recorded his

first career postseason triple-double with 32 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, while Durant contributed 33 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and five blocks and is suddenly on the cusp of his first ring.

"It seemed like it's personal for both of them," Draymond Green said. "And you are talking two of the greatest players that we got in this world locked in the way they are, that's why we're up 2-0." Golden State improved to 14-0 this postseason and is trying to become the first group to go unbeaten all the way to a title.

James was equally spectacular with his own triple-double of 29 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds, but yet again didn't get nearly enough help to keep up with the Warriors' depth. Kevin Love had 27 points and Kyrie Irving 19.

TRIPLE-DOUBLE

James tied Magic Johnson for most NBA Finals triple-doubles with eight, and this marked the first time in NBA history more than one player had a triple-double in the same Finals game.

"I thought for the most part with the game plan that we had we tried to execute it as close as possible," James said.

"Much more physical today than we were in Game 1. And we forced them to 20 turnovers and they still beat us pretty good, so we've got to be much better, too."

Thompson emerged from a postseason-long shooting funk to score 22 points with four 3-pointers while playing more stellar defense and pulling down seven rebounds for the Warriors, who shot 18 for 43 from deep.

The best-of-seven series now shifts to Cleveland for two games, with Game 3 tomorrow. Kerr returned to the bench to a rousing ovation, waving to the fans while back on the sideline for the first time since Game 2 of the first round against Portland on April 19 because of pain issues stemming from complications after 2015 back surgery.

Curry provided Kerr more than a glimpse of his greatness from up close after the coach had been watching games from the locker room while speaking to his players beforehand and at halftime.

On that third-quarter drive, James had little help as Love got there late. "At that point I was a little bit more composed than earlier in that possession," Curry said. "I was just kind of like a chicken with my head cut off, just running circles." Curry wore his emotions for everybody to see,

willing the unblemished Warriors even when Cleveland went on a third-quarter run after that play.

Now, Golden State is headed to Northeast Ohio needing just two more - yet don't count on anybody considering this series close to done. The Warriors squandered a 3-1 lead to the Cavs a year ago to miss a repeat.

"Well, it's been a great run but none of that matters unless we can finish the job with this series," Kerr said. "Trust me, we know. It was 2-0 last year, we lost."

Curry made all 14 of his free throws. He and Durant combined for 66 points and 18 assists in the opener, then dominated again while the supporting cast shined.

Curry was upset by his eight turnovers as Cleveland vowed to put more pressure on the ball and keep Durant from driving and dunking untouched as he did so many times in Game 1.

It didn't matter in the end.

Having Kerr there sure did - the Warriors felt whole again. "We love his presence. We love his voice," Curry said. "And we're a full group when he's out here, so that means a lot." — AP

PREVIEW

UNBEATEN WARRIORS LIVING UP TO 'SUPERTEAM' LABEL

CLEVELAND: Two wins from completing the first unbeaten playoff championship run in NBA history, the Golden State Warriors are realizing the "Superteam" expectations they shouldered since signing Kevin Durant last July.

The Warriors ripped defending champion Cleveland 132-113 Sunday to seize a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals, which now shift to Cleveland for games tomorrow and Friday.

Golden State became the first club in NBA history to win 14 consecutive playoff games and the Warriors could be in the early years of a dynasty run to match legendary Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers teams. "They're the best I've ever seen," Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue said. "I mean, no other team has done this, right? And they constantly break records every year." The Warriors won their first title in 40 years in 2015, downing an injury-hit Cleveland squad, and won a record 73 regular-season games the following campaign. Golden State came within one win of a title repeat before LeBron James sparked the Cavaliers to the greatest comeback in NBA Finals history, rallying from 3-1 down to claim the 2016 crown.

The Warriors answered by signing former Most Valuable Player Durant, adding a powerful forward to 3-point sharpshooters Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry, a two-time NBA MVP, and top rebounder Draymond Green.

"You take one of the best teams that we had ever assembled last year, that we saw in the regular season and in the post-season, and then in the off-season you add a high-powered offensive talent like (Durant) and a great basketball IQ like that, that's what stands out," James said. "I've seen a lot of great teams and they rank right up there. They work well together. They have some guys that can actually lead a franchise without anybody else." Durant complements his teammates, his inside play giving them outside shots and their work opening room for him to attack.

"We all got better and we have worked well together throughout the season," Durant said. "One day it may be me, one day it may be Steph, Klay, Draymond. You never know who will come up and show up for us."

'TRY TO BUILD A DYNASTY'

Golden State won a league-best 67 games this season. Since the playoffs began, the Warriors have been unbeatable, sweeping Portland, San Antonio and Utah. Warriors reserve Andre Iguodala shrugs off the notion of needing an unbeaten title run.

"I don't really care about history too much. I try not to focus on that," he said. "Just handle business the way you're supposed to handle business and that's the way you make history."

"If you're trying to chase something, that kind of

deters what you're trying to do. So for us, it's just handling business." But make no mistake, beyond winning titles is a level of greatness the Warriors aspire to reach, a place among the all-time best.

"For us, that's the goal, to try to build a dynasty and be great each and every time we step on the floor. That's all the motivation we need," Green said.

"It's not Kevin came here, you have to win the championship. That's the goal. He wants to be great... with that comes pressure from yourself more than anybody can ever put on you."

'Makes it look really easy'

Durant has taken a great team and perhaps made it one for the ages. "I knew he was a special talent," Thompson said. "It does surprise me, though, how effortless it looks for him. He makes it look really easy, and the stuff he does is incredibly hard. "His length, his versatility to guard five positions, his ability to rebound the ball and block shots-he does everything. He's a very complete player."

The Warriors, however, know from last year that no matter how momentum swings, it's not over until it's over. "We've been in this position before," said Thompson. "There are a lot of people who take it to the extreme, whether it's, 'Oh, the Cavs don't have a chance,' or 'The Warriors, it's over.' Can't listen to that. Got to shut it off." — AFP



OAKLAND: Steve Kerr of the Golden State Warriors speaks at a postgame press conference following their 132-113 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 2 of the 2017 NBA Finals at ORACLE Arena on Sunday in Oakland, California. — AFP

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Global markets remain upbeat, GCC flat

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Trump to push for \$1tn overhaul of roads and bridges

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A new range of irresistible accessories

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'AL-TIJARIA' LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE UNDER RAFAD CAMPAIGN

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KUWAIT: Kuwaiti traders follow the stock market at the Boursa Kuwait in Kuwait City yesterday. Boursa Kuwait ended yesterday's trading in the red zone. The benchmark fell by 26.82 points to settle at 6,803 points while the Weighted Index and KSX 15 indices went down by 3.22 and 9.55 points respectively. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

US FACTORY ORDERS SLIPPED IN APRIL

INVESTMENT WEAK, Q1 PRODUCTIVITY UNCHANGED

WASHINGTON: Orders to US factories fell in April for the first time in five months amid declining demand for heavy machinery, iron and steel, and commercial airplanes. A key category that tracks business investment was weak for a third month. Factory orders edged down 0.2 percent in April after a 1 percent increase in March, the Commerce Department said yesterday. It was the first decline since a 2.3 percent drop last November. A category that serves as a proxy for business investment posted a tiny 0.1 percent gain. Orders in this closely watched category had been flat in March.

The weakness in April was expected to be temporary, given hopes that manufacturing has started to bounce back in recent months from a prolonged slump last year. Orders for durable goods - items ranging from bicycles to battleships that are expected to last at least three years - dropped 0.8 percent in April. Demand for nondurable goods, a category that

covers such things as paper, chemicals and food, rose 0.4 percent in April. Orders for transportation equipment in April fell 1.4 percent, as a 0.6 percent rise in demand for motor vehicles was offset by a 9.1 percent drop in orders for commercial aircraft, a volatile category. Demand for machinery contracted 0.7 percent, reflecting a 16 percent plunge in demand for construction machinery. Orders for primary metals fell 0.7 percent, with demand for iron and steel down 2 percent.

Despite the April drop, American manufacturing has bounced back in recent months from a slump early last year. American manufacturing was hurt early last year and in late 2015 by cutbacks in the energy industry and a strong dollar that makes US products pricier overseas.

Labor costs down

US worker productivity was not as weak as initially thought in the first quarter, but the

persistently soft trend is an obstacle to faster economic growth. The Labor Department said on Monday nonfarm productivity, which measures hourly output per worker, was unchanged in the last quarter. It was previously reported to have declined at a 0.6 percent annualized pace.

The government also reported that the growth in labor costs at the start of the year was not as strong as reported in May, which could cast doubts on the tightening labor market's ability to unleash robust wage growth. The revision to first-quarter productivity was in line with economists' expectations. Productivity increased at an unrevised 1.8 percent pace in the fourth quarter.

US financial markets were little moved by the report. Compared to the first quarter of 2016, productivity grew at a 1.2 percent rate, pointing to some improvement.

Productivity has increased at an average annual rate of 0.6 percent over the last five

years, below its long-term rate of 2.1 percent from 1947 to 2016, indicating that the economy's potential rate of growth has declined.

That suggests the Trump administration could struggle to achieve its 3 percent annual gross domestic product growth target. The economy grew at a 1.2 percent pace in the first quarter. It grew 1.6 percent in 2016 and annual GDP growth has not exceeded 2.6 percent since the 2007-09 recession ended.

Economists blame low capital expenditure, which they say has resulted in a sharp drop in the capital-to-labor ratio, for the weakness in productivity. There are also perceptions that productivity is being inaccurately measured, especially on the information technology side. Companies have been hiring more workers to maintain output. First-quarter output per worker was revised up to a 1.7 percent growth rate from the previously reported 1.0 percent pace. The increase in output came as total

hours worked increased at an upwardly revised 1.7 percent rate. Hours worked were previously reported to have risen at a 1.6 percent rate in the first quarter. Unit labor costs, the price of labor per single unit of output, increased at a 2.2 percent pace in the first quarter instead of the previously reported 3.0 percent rate. Compared to the first quarter of 2016, unit labor costs rose at a 1.1 percent rate.

Fourth-quarter unit labor costs were revised down to show them declining at a 4.6 percent rate from the previously reported 1.3 percent pace of increase. Wage growth remains sluggish despite the unemployment rate being at a 16-year low of 4.3 percent. Hourly compensation increased at a 2.2 percent rate in the first quarter rather than the 2.4 percent pace reported in May.

Hourly compensation rose at a 2.3 percent rate from a year ago, down from the 3.9 percent pace estimated last month. — AP

SILK ROAD HUB OR TAX HAVEN?

CHINA'S NEW BORDER TRADE ZONE MAY BE LESS THAN IT SEEMS

HORGOS, China/KHORGOS, Kazakhstan: On the border of China and Kazakhstan, an international free trade zone has become a showpiece of Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road" Initiative to boost global trade and commerce by improving infrastructure and connectivity.

Chinese state media are filled with stories about the stunning success of Horgos, the youngest city of China's new Silk Road. Last month at China's Belt and Road Summit - its biggest diplomatic event of the year - promotional videos about Horgos' booming economy ran on a loop at the press centre.

But Chinese business owners and prospective investors who had recently visited the China-Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Center (ICBC), told Reuters they were disappointed by the disconnect between the hype and reality. Rather than the vibrant 21st Century trading post of Beijing's grand vision, Horgos is instead developing a reputation as China's very own tax haven.

"We were so unimpressed by what we saw that after looking around for three hours, we turned around and drove eight hours straight back to Urumqi," said a businessman from the capital of China's far

western region of Xinjiang, who only wanted to give his surname, Ma, due to the sensitivity of the topic. Several business owners

echoed complaints about poor design and low visitor numbers made by Ma, who visited Horgos to investigate the viability of

opening a high-end clubhouse. "You've got Kazakh farmers walking around with plastic bags full of cheap Chinese t-shirts and you want me to open a club for government officials and businessmen to meet inside the zone - which, by the way, you can't drive your car into and doesn't have any five-star hotels?" Ma said.

On the Chinese side of the border there are five malls selling cheap consumer goods, though traders complain there are not enough visitors. "Sometimes I'll sit here for a whole day and not make a single sale," said Ma Yinggui, 56, who has a market stall selling clothes. "Some Kazakhs are rich but most are poor. They come and haggle over a 20 yuan (\$2.93) t-shirt."

More than five years after the 5.3 sq km trade zone opened, much of the Kazakh side remains empty.

Only 25 of the 63 projects on the Kazakh side have investors, according to Ravil Budukov, ICBC press secretary on the Kazakh side. About 3-4,000 people enter from Kazakhstan each day and around 10,000 from China, he added.

The Xinjiang and Horgos governments declined to make officials available for comment to Reuters for this article. — Reuters



BEIJING: Restaurant workers carry a big pot out from a restaurant on the outskirts of Beijing yesterday. Recent indicators have pointed to slowing growth in the Asian economic giant as it grapples with weaker global demand, excess industrial capacity and a burgeoning debt problem. — AFP

KUWAIT PICKS EY TO VALUE STOCK EXCHANGE FOR POTENTIAL LISTING

KUWAIT: Kuwait has picked accounting firm EY to do a valuation of its stock exchange, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Sunday.

The country has been considering an initial public offering of its stock market for years, but political infighting and entrenched bureaucracy have held up the process. The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has asked EY to complete a valuation of Boursa Kuwait's assets and prepare a timetable for a listing, the sources said.

The CMA declined to comment when contacted by Reuters on Sunday. EY did not immediately respond to a request to comment. One of the sources said a committee that is awarding contract for the valuation of the exchange will meet this week.

Kuwait's stock market is one of the oldest in the Middle East region. Established officially in the early 1980s, it has shrunk in the past few years as dozens of companies have been delisted.

Under a law passed in 2010, the CMA is supposed to offer 50 percent of the shares to Kuwaiti citizens and 50 percent to ten companies already listed on the stock exchange. The exchange may, however, offer up to 44 percent of its shares to a company that has experience in operating bourses when it goes public, a senior government official told Reuters in 2015. Such a move would open the way for an international exchange operator such as Nasdaq OMX or Euronext to take a stake in one of the Middle East's oldest stock markets. — Reuters

GLOBAL MARKETS REMAIN UPBEAT, GCC FLAT

KUWAIT: May was a green month for most of the world, not including the GCC. Global equities ended the month on a positive note, up 1.9 percent. The MSCI Emerging Market Index also continued to perform well, up 2.8 percent. The FTSE 100 was the best performing, rallying to 4.4 percent. The British market reached an all-time high of 7,547.63 during the month. Other major markets ended the month with gains, whereas the GCC region was down 1.3 percent. Commodities had a relatively mixed performance for the month, with Gold unchanged at 0 percent and Brent down 2.8 percent.

US Manufacturing shrank slightly although remained above 50, with the ISM Manufacturing PMI for May coming in at 54.9, slightly higher than April's 54.8. The labor market continues to be healthy with Initial Jobless Claims at 248,000, higher than market expectations of 239,000. Durable Goods Orders fell 0.7 percent in April, its first decline in 2017. Housing Starts along with Building Permits also fell in April, down 2.6 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively. Retail Sales gained 0.4 percent in April, missing market expectations of a 0.6 percent gain. Existing Home Sales was

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NBK CAPITAL

down in April, coming in at 5.57m compared to March's 10-year high reading of 5.7m. Consumer Sentiment was at 97.1, slightly higher than April's 97.

US equities were up, closing the month with a gain of 1.2 percent, as measured by the S&P 500. The UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) was 56.7 for the month of May. The Consumer Price Index for April, YoY, was 2.7 percent compared to 2.3 percent in March. Retail sales increased 2.3 percent month-over-month in April, its biggest gain since January 2016. Consumer confidence fell to -5 in May from -7 in the previous month. The Eurozone Markit Manufacturing PMI for the month of May was 57, unchanged from last month. This is the highest reading since April 2011, as exports rose the most in over six years. The Markit Services PMI preliminary

reading fell to 56.2 in May from 56.4 in April. Consumer confidence increased to -3.3, its highest level in nearly a decade, after the election victory of pro-European centrist Macron. European equities rose in May by 0.8 percent, as measured by the Stoxx Europe 600.

Japan exports

Exports from Japan increased by 7.5 percent from a year earlier to JPY 6,329.2 billion in April 2017, compared to 12.0 percent last month. Imports for the same time-period were up 15.1 percent. The Nikkei Manufacturing PMI came in at 53.1 in May, slightly above the prior month's reading of 52.7; indicating manufacturing activity continues to expand. Housing starts were down year on year for the month of April at -1.9 percent compared to 0.2 percent for the month of April. Japanese equities were up in May, as measured by the Nikkei 225,

increasing 2.4 percent. Exports and Imports from China both rose in May, however not as much as a month earlier. Exports rose 8.0 percent from a year earlier, slowing from a 16.4 percent rise in March. Imports increased by 11.9 percent year-on-year to \$141.9 billion in April, after a 20.3 percent increase in the previous month. Overall, the country recorded a trade surplus in April of RMB 262.3b compared to RMB 164.3b in March. The Caixin Manufacturing PMI for the month of May was 49.6 compared to 50.3 in the previous month while the Non-Manufacturing PMI was slightly higher at 54.5 from 54.0 in April.

Chinese equities, as measured by the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index, reported a loss of -1.2 percent in May. The GCC equity markets were all red for the month of May, with MSCI GCC Index posting a loss of -1.3 percent. Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Saudi Arabia posted the largest losses, closing at -2.2 percent, -2.1 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively. Oman and Qatar both closed at -1.6 percent, while Kuwait had the least losses, shedding -0.9 percent. Within the MENA region, Egypt's equity market, as measured by the EGX 30 posted a gain of 7.3 percent.

WARBA BANK PICKS BENTALL KENNEDY AS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT ADVISOR IN US BANK ACQUIRES MANPOWERGROUP HQ IN WISCONSIN

KUWAIT: In line with its development strategy to position the bank as the Islamic Corporate and Investment Banking champion in Kuwait while reinforcing its international real-estate investment's program, Warba Bank is proud to announce that it has recently signed a partnership agreement with Bentall Kennedy, one of the largest global real estate investment advisors in the USA. By the terms of the agreement, Bentall Kennedy is to represent Warba Bank, as its real estate investment's advisor with a new US focused real estate investment mandate, and as co-investor. As part of this initiative, Warba bank has acquired the ManpowerGroup Headquarters, a 280,000-square foot office building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This investment is the first real estate transaction that Bentall Kennedy and Warba Bank have done in partnership.



Shaheen Hamed Al-Ghanem, Warba Bank's CEO

The purchase price of the property is \$66,500,000 which is 99 percent owned by Warba and 1 percent by Bentall Kennedy. Warba Bank's investment in this property is approximately \$29 million which is equivalent to KDB.8 million. This is expected to generate over 8 percent cash increase and IRR for Warba Bank after all expenses and taxes. About the bank's new partnership with Bentall Kennedy, Shaheen Hamed Al-Ghanem, Warba Bank's CEO said: "our partnership with Bentall Kennedy comes in-line with the bank's vigorous international real estate investment program and fulfils our

strategy which aims to diversify the income and grow the bank's investment's portfolio." Al-Ghanem further elaborated that Warba bank aims to expand its real-estate portfolio in USA vertical markets and is currently studying a number of opportunities guaranteed to provide rewarding incomes and complies with the bank's prime policy for investment and risk criteria.

He said: "the bank's Investment Banking Group is fully committed to make risk mitigated investments strictly following the investment policies and procedures with the target of generating secured long term returns for the bank and its investors."

The ManpowerGroup Headquarters is an institutionally maintained, Class A asset situated directly on the Milwaukee River in the Downtown West submarket of the city. The property is located one half mile north of the new Milwaukee Bucks arena, and adjacent to the broader \$1 billion

Wisconsin Entertainment District development. Boasting a modern design with elegant glass and masonry exterior, the office building was certified LEED Gold for its energy efficiency in 2007, and was awarded the Best New Development Office by the Business Journal Real Estate Awards in 2008. The company recently extended their headquarters lease through 2031.

Warba bank has recently acquired a newly constructed sole UK KIA vehicle imports/exports facility strategically located on Kiln Lane Industrial Estate, just one and a half miles from the docks at nearby Immingham, which receives imported vehicles from Korea to UK, and also from other manufacturing plants in Europe. The Ports of Immingham and Grimsby combined are the UK's largest ports by tonnage, handling up to 60 million tons, including nearly 20 million tons of oil and 10 million tons of coal per annum.

UK NEW CAR SALES FALL 8.5% IN MAY AHEAD OF ELECTION

LONDON: British new car registrations fell 8.5 percent last month, an industry body said yesterday, blaming the decline on the run-up to this week's national election and the effect of an April tax hike which boosted demand earlier in the year.

Car sales dropped to 186,265 vehicles in May, with a 14 percent slump in demand to consumers and a 5.3 percent drop in fleet business registrations, according to data from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

"We expected demand in the new car market to remain negative in May due to the pull-forward to March," SMMT Chief Executive Mike Hawes said, referring to a rise in vehicle excise duty which boosted demand before it came into effect in April.

"Added to this, the general election was always likely to give many pause for thought and affect purchasing patterns in the short term," he said. Demand for diesel continued to fall last month with demand down 20 percent, as a series of tax hikes in London and possible levies in other cities continued to dampen demand. —Reuters

WB SAYS TRADE, MANUFACTURING TO BOOST 2017 GLOBAL GROWTH

WASHINGTON: The World Bank on Sunday maintained its forecast that global growth will improve to 2.7 percent this year, citing a pickup in manufacturing and trade, improved market confidence and a recovery in commodity prices. The update of the multilateral development lender's Global Economic Prospects report marked the first time in several years that its June forecasts were not reduced from those published in January due to rising growth risks.

The World Bank's 2017 global growth forecast of 2.7 percent compares to its 2.4 percent estimate for 2016, a figure that was increased by a tenth of a percentage point since January.

The World Bank said advanced economies were showing signs of improvement, especially Japan and Europe, while the seven largest emerging markets - China, Brazil, Mexico, India, Indonesia, Turkey and Russia - were again helping to drive global growth.

"With a fragile but real recovery now under way, countries should seize this moment to undertake institutional and market reforms that can attract private investment to help sustain growth in the long term," World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said in a statement. The bank boosted its 2017 growth forecast for Japan by 0.6 percentage point since January to 1.5 percent, while the eurozone's forecast was increased by 0.2 percentage point to 1.7 percent. In both cases, a pickup

in exports and unconventional monetary easing are helping to support growth.

The World Bank said US growth also is improving but it shaved 0.1 percentage point off its forecast for 2017 to 2.1 percent after weak growth early in the year caused by a pullback in consumer spending it viewed as temporary. It slightly lifted its 2018 US growth forecast to 2.2 percent.

It left unchanged its forecast that China's growth would slow to 6.5 percent from 6.7 percent last year and predicted that commodity exporters Argentina, Brazil, Nigeria and Russia will see recessions end and positive growth resume this year.

But the World Bank warned that new trade restrictions could derail the recovery in trade that is benefiting many advanced and developing economies, citing actions being contemplated by the Trump administration. Such restrictions could fall disproportionately on China and other Asian economies, the bank said. "Significant disruption to China's exports would undermine its growth with large spillovers on the region," the bank said in the report. "Furthermore, trade-restricting measures in the United States could trigger retaliatory measures."

It said exports and investment in Mexico also could be negatively affected by the looming renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, causing spillovers to Central America as well. —Reuters



PYONGYANG: In a photo taken on Sunday, shoppers browse products on display at the Kwangbok, or 'liberation', department store in Pyongyang. —AFP

SOUTH KOREA UNVEILS \$10BN STIMULUS TO BOOST JOBS, WELFARE

SEOUL: South Korea launched yesterday a \$10 billion stimulus package to create jobs and bolster welfare programs in the country faced with slow growth and ageing population. The 11.2-trillion won plan is the first since Moon Jae-In was elected president of Asia's fourth-largest economy last month and the finance ministry said it will be mostly funded by tax revenue rather than issuing state bonds.

Under the proposals, Seoul will spend 4.2 trillion won to help create 110,000 jobs-including 71,000 in the public sector-while 7 trillion won will be set aside for welfare for the elderly, working mothers and low-income households.

Among the new jobs being targeted are firefighters, police, assistant teachers and social workers,

while young job seekers, small businesses and tech startups will also be helped. Financial assistance will be increased for women on maternity leave, more daycare centres and nursing homes for the elderly are to be opened, while businesses hiring more full-time workers are to be given extra funding.

"We launched this extra budget as the high unemployment rate among young South Koreans will not be solved without drastic measures," Park Chun-Sup, the ministry's chief of budget, told reporters. "There is a concern over a potential mass unemployment... we have nearly 1.2 million young, jobless people," he said. Decades of rapid growth saw the South rise from the ashes of the Korean War to become a member of the OECD group of leading economies, but expansion

has slowed more recently. Economic frustrations were among the factors that fuelled the mass anti-corruption protests that saw former president Park Geun-Hye impeached and arrested over corruption. Moon has described creating jobs, especially for the young, as a top policy priority. Unemployment among under-30s hit 11.2 percent in April, more than double the rate for the entire working population. South Korea's economic growth, which hit 2.8 percent in both 2015 and 2016, is expected to further slow to 2.6 percent this year, according to the central Bank of Korea. The country's birthrate is one of the world's lowest and has led to concerns about the burden of welfare funding for the ageing population. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.745
Indian Rupees	4.713
Pakistani Rupees	2.901
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.987
Nepali Rupees	2.958
Singapore Dollar	220.740
Hongkong Dollar	39.033
Bangladesh Taka	3.766
Philippine Peso	6.112
Thai Baht	8.947
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.227
Qatari Riyal	83.661
Omani Riyal	791.060
Bahraini Dinar	808.820
UAE Dirham	82.931
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.754
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.223
Tunisian Dinar	126.310
Jordanian Dinar	429.340
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.029
Syrian Lira	2.170
Morocco Dirham	31.708
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.400
Euro	342.150
Sterling Pound	391.610
Canadian dollar	226.990
Turkish lira	86.480

Swiss Franc	313.810
Australian Dollar	228.300
US Dollar Buying	303.200
GOLD	
20 Gram	257.510
10 Gram	131.680
5 Gram	66.680

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.900
Canadian Dolla	225.785
Sterling Pound	392.035
Euro	343.070
Swiss Frank	296.080
Bahrain Dinar	806.040
UAE Dirhams	83.135
Qatari Riyals	84.355
Saudi Riyals	81.935
Jordanian Dinar	428.454
Egyptian Pound	16.923
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.987
Indian Rupees	4.718
Pakistani Rupees	2.898
Bangladesh Taka	3.772
Philippines Peso	6.109
Cyprus pound	167.712
Japanese Yen	3.735
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.945
Malaysian Ringgit	71.750

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.135
Thai Bhat	9.880
Turkish Lira	86.480

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.385779	0.395779
Czech Korune	0.004998	0.016998
Danish Krone	0.041975	0.046975
Euro	0.337845	0.346845
Norwegian Krone	0.032067	0.037267
Romanian Leu	0.084167	0.084167
Slovakia	0.009067	0.019067
Swedish Krona	0.031179	0.036179
Swiss Franc	0.309625	0.320625
Turkish Lira	0.080771	0.091071
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.218341	0.230341
New Zealand Dollar	0.211100	0.220600
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.220028	0.22928
Georgina Lari	0.137166	0.137166
US Dollars	0.299600	0.304000
US Dollars Mint	0.300100	0.304000
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003378	0.003962
Chinese Yuan	0.043223	0.046723
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037046	0.039796

Indian Rupee	0.004160	0.004848
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002667	0.002847
Kenyan Shilling	0.003027	0.003027
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066877	0.072877
Nepalese Rupee	0.002985	0.003155
Pakistan Rupee	0.002709	0.002999
Philippine Peso	0.005989	0.006289
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.214597	0.224597
South African Rand	0.017755	0.026255
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001604	0.002184
Taiwan	0.009722	0.009902
Thai Baht	0.008576	0.009126
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799000	0.807500
Egyptian Pound	0.013962	0.019870
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000189	0.000249
Jordanian Dinar	0.422888	0.431988
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.00256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019728	0.043728
Nigerian Naira	0.001254	0.001889
Omani Riyal	0.782411	0.788091
Qatar Riyal	0.082607	0.084057
Saudi Riyal	0.079900	0.081200
Syrian Pound	0.001287	0.001507
Tunisian Dinar	0.121778	0.129778
Turkish Lira	0.080771	0.091071
UAE Dirhams	0.081261	0.082961
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067

TRUMP TO PUSH FOR \$1 TRILLION OVERHAUL OF ROADS AND BRIDGES

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is launching a major push for a \$1 trillion overhaul of the nation's roads and bridges, a key item on his agenda that's been stymied in Congress and overshadowed by White House controversies.

Trump plans a series of events this coming week to highlight his effort to modernize American infrastructure - the highway, waterway, electrical and airway systems on which the nation operates. His campaign for public and private funding for the projects is expected to run from the White House, where he'll speak about upgrading air traffic control, to Ohio on inland waterways and through meetings with mayors, governors and Transportation Department officials.

The Trump administration has struggled to gain traction on many of its economic policies. Job growth has slowed in recent months instead of accelerating as the president predicted. Trump has said he has tax legislation moving through Congress but his effort has been stalled and no bill has been written. His budget plan released during his foreign trip included math errors that enabled the White House to falsely claim that its tax plan would deliver both faster growth and a balanced budget.

Trump's agenda has been overshadowed by ongoing probes into whether Trump campaign officials or associates colluded with Russian officials to influence the 2016 election, as well as scrutiny over Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey - who is scheduled to testify on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

And other policies on the agenda,

such as health care and taxes, come first on a fast-closing legislative calendar. But modernizing the nation's infrastructure remains a challenge with broad public support.

Trump's push to revamp deteriorating roads, bridges, airports and railways aims to unlock economic growth and succeed in an area where his predecessor, former President Barack Obama, was repeatedly thwarted by a Republican-led Congress.

"It doesn't matter who you are, whether you are farmer in the Midwest, or a mother driving your kids to and from school, or a worker or a college kid flying back and forth to school, you're affected by infrastructure," said White House economic adviser Gary Cohn said in a conference call with reporters.

Cohn said the nation was "falling behind and the falling behind is affecting economic growth in the United States. The president wants to fix the problems and he doesn't want to push these liabilities into the future."

Key priority

Trump was set to outline his legislative principles for overhauling the air traffic control system, using a White House address to propose separating air traffic control operations from the Federal Aviation Administration, a key priority for US airlines.

The president plans to travel to Ohio on Wednesday to address ways of improving levees, dams and locks along inland waterways that are crucial to agricultural exports. His visit is expected to include a speech likely to touch on partnering with states and local governments.

Cohn said governors and mayors are scheduled to meet with Trump at the White House on Thursday for a listening session focused on the efficient use of tax dollars for infrastructure projects.

On Friday, Trump will visit the Transportation Department to discuss regulatory changes related to roads and railways. Trump has noted that the approval process for permits frequently can drag on for a decade and has pressed to shorten the length of the review process.

Trump's focus on infrastructure follows the government's monthly jobs report, which showed hiring slowing down in May. The economy has added an average of 121,000 jobs over the past three months, down from a monthly average of nearly 187,000 last year despite Trump's promotion of his economic prescriptions.

On infrastructure, the administration has pointed to plans for a package of tax breaks meant to help spur \$1 trillion in new spending on roads, bridges and other construction during the next decade. It also would drastically shorten project approval times. According to Trump's budget proposal, the funding would come from \$200 billion in tax breaks over nine years that would then - in theory - leverage \$1 trillion worth of construction.

A senior White House official has said the infrastructure plan might also incentivize local governments to sell their existing infrastructure to private firms. But Democrats have warned that the Trump budget reduces infrastructure spending elsewhere, including cuts to

Amtrak subsidies, the elimination of an infrastructure investment program started under Obama and a more than \$90 billion drop-off in congressional support for the Highway Trust Fund over 10 years.

Democrats have also been critical of Trump's interest in forging public-private partnerships instead of more traditional spending on infrastructure projects. At the same time, many conservative Republicans have been wary of the idea of a massive government investment.

And with Republicans in control of Congress, Democrats have shown little

appetite for working with the president as he faces inquiries into Russia and takes a combative approach overall, from Comey's firing to the withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement.

"If the obstructionists want to get together with me, let's make them non-obstructionists," Trump said Thursday, discussing his plans to exit the Paris climate pact. "We will all sit down and we will get back into the deal. And we'll make it good, and we won't be closing up our factories, and we won't be losing our jobs." —AP



BOULDER CITY: In this May 19, 2017 photo, a man works on the Southern Nevada portion of US Interstate 11 near Boulder City, Nevada. President Donald Trump is planning a major push next week to promote a \$1 trillion rebuilding of the nation's roads and bridges as his agenda has struggled in Congress and been overshadowed by White House controversies. —AP

KFH HOLDS 20 WORKSHOPS ON CUSTOMER PROTECTION IN 2017

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has organized over 20 workshops during the first half of 2017 to introduce and train various levels of administrative staff on the 'Customers Protection Guide' issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait to highlight general principles used to enhance customer protection in the banking sector.

In this regard, KFH's head of customer's complaints unit, Abdullatif Saad Al-Fadhli said that the workshops and training pro-



grams were attended by top officials and employees from various levels.

Al-Fadhli added that the guide includes very important set of regulations that had been previously issued by the Central Bank, making KFH up-to-date. These instructions are to introduce new measures to train employees as well as boost customers' awareness about the guide that was uploaded on KFH's website.



TOKYO: A woman looks at an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian stock markets were mixed yesterday following the London attack over the weekend and a private survey showing improvement in China's service sector. —AP

ECONOMISTS EXPECT SLOWER US GROWTH, SAYS SURVEY

US SERVICES FIRMS EXPANDED, BUT SLOWER PACE IN MAY

DETROIT: Forecasts for US economic growth are coming in slightly lower after a weak first quarter, according to a survey of business economists released yesterday.

The National Association for Business Economists says it's expecting gross domestic product growth of 2.2 percent this year and 2.4 percent in 2018. Those forecasts are down 0.1 percentage points from a survey in March. The survey is based on responses from 52 professional forecasters.

The gross domestic product - the broadest gauge of the economy - expanded in the January-March quarter at a 1.2 percent annual rate. That was better than initially forecast, but still weak. Unseasonably warm weather was one reason for the slow growth, since it limited spending on utilities.

Economists forecast GDP growth will rise 3.1 percent in the April-June period and 2.5 percent in the second half of the year. They're forecasting solid hiring and a low, 4.5-percent unemployment rate, which should help boost consumer spending. Inflation also is expected to remain in check.

Most of the economists surveyed believe President Donald Trump will enact an infrastructure plan and cut corporate and individual taxes before the end of 2018. That will have a positive impact on economic growth, but likely not until 2018, the survey said.

There are downside risks. Just

over one-third of the panelists say trade protectionism, a strong US dollar and higher interest rates could pose a risk to the economy in 2018. But 60 percent say there's more chance of an upside risk thanks to expected corporate tax reform, individual tax cuts and infrastructure spending. Nearly all the panelists - 95 percent - think the chance of a recession this year is 25 percent or less.

Services

US services companies expanded at a slightly slower pace in May compared with the previous month, a sign that modest economic growth is likely to continue. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, says its services index slipped last month to 56.9 from 57.5 in April. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion. Sales and new orders grew more

slowly, while a measure of employment showed companies stepped up hiring. Growth has likely picked up in the April-June quarter after a sluggish start to the year.

Americans are spending a bit more, which boosts services firms, such as retailers, restaurants and hotels. Economists forecast growth will reach an annual pace of 3 percent, up from just 1.2 percent in the January-March quarter. —AP



NEWPORT BEACH: Rock Cod fresh from the Pacific Ocean are sold at Dory's Fleet Fish Market in Newport Beach, California, early on Sunday. Once filled with many different types of fish, the increase in global overfishing has threatened the supply in the world's oceans and according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 90 percent of the world's fisheries are either being fully exploited, or are at risk of collapsing. —AFP

ELECTION JITTERS AND CONSUMER SQUEEZE HIT BRITISH SERVICES

LONDON: Britain's services sector grew less than expected and car sales dropped last month, as businesses and consumers put off big decisions before this week's national election, dampening expectations of a strong rebound from a weak first quarter.

British economic growth slowed to just 0.2 percent in the first three months of this year - the weakest among the world's top advanced economies - as the cost of the pound's fall following last year's Brexit vote caught up with consumers. Many economists have said they expect growth in the current quarter to partially rebound to around 0.4 or 0.5 percent, but some said that weakness in yesterday's services purchasing managers' index (PMI) made this less likely.

"The pullback in the services PMI in May from April's four-month high is a setback to widespread hopes that the economy's slowdown in the first quarter will be fleeting," said Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. Financial data company IHS Markit, which published the survey, said the services PMI hit a three-month low of 53.8 in May, down from 55.8 the month before and at the low end of forecasts in a Reuters poll of economists.

"Optimism about the year ahead is running below the long-run average, weighed down principally by concerns over Brexit, political uncertainty and weaker spending by households," IHS Markit economist Chris Williamson said. Separate figures from British car dealers and manufacturers showed new registrations last month were more than 8 percent lower than a year before. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said this reflected pre-election uncertainty, as well as tax rises that took effect in April.

There was little move in sterling after the data, which came as markets digested the impact of Saturday's van and knife attack on London Bridge, as well as opinion polls showing Prime Minister Theresa May's lead has continued to shorten.

Services drag down average

The large size of Britain's services industry means its decline outweighed last week's stronger-than-expected surveys for manufacturers and construction firms, dragging the all-sector index to its lowest since February as well. Britain was one of the fastest-growing major advanced economies last year, and since then the number of people in work has risen to a record high - a fact May has highlighted as she campaigns for re-election.

But the opposition Labor Party has hoped in on how wages are now rising more slowly than prices, after a pick-up in inflation driven largely by sterling's fall of more than 10 percent since last year's Brexit vote. The services PMI does not cover retailers, who suffered their worst quarter since 2010 in the first three months of the year, and appear to have struggled again last month after a brief respite in April.

The Bank of England has shown little interest in raising interest rates to tackle what it sees as a temporary spike in inflation this year to just under 3 percent, especially as it expects growth to slow next year as Brexit nears.

The services PMI suggested inflation may be starting to ease in the sector. Average prices charged rose at the slowest pace since November, while corporate costs grew at the slowest rate in eight months, despite a pick-up in salaries.

But new orders flowed in at the slowest pace since February. Some businesses said it was probably a temporary lull as customers delayed decisions until after the election. Others said there was heightened concern about the economic outlook as well as "intense competition" for new work due to squeezed consumer budgets. Also yesterday, Britain's main body for manufacturers revised up its forecast for growth in the sector to 1.3 percent this year from 1.0 percent, citing a stronger world economy, but said they expected this to slow to 0.5 percent next year as Brexit nears. —Reuters

US MULLS POSSIBLE SANCTIONS AGAINST VENEZUELA OIL SECTOR

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration is considering possible sanctions on Venezuela's vital energy sector, including state oil company PDVSA, senior White House officials said, in what would be a major escalation of US efforts to pressure the country's embattled leftist government amid a crackdown on the opposition.

The idea of striking at the core of Venezuela's economy, which relies on oil for some 95 percent of export revenues, has been discussed at high levels of the administration as part of a wide-ranging review of US options, but officials said it remains under debate and action is not imminent.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the United States could hit PDVSA as part of a "sectoral" sanctions package that would take aim at the OPEC nation's entire energy industry for the first time.

But they made clear that the administration is moving cautiously, mindful that if such an unprecedented step is taken it could deepen the country's economic and social crisis, in which millions suffer food shortages and soaring inflation. Two months of anti-government unrest has left more than 60 people dead. Another complicating factor would be the potential impact on oil shipments to the United States, for which Venezuela is the third largest oil supplier after Canada and Saudi Arabia. It accounted for 8 percent of US oil imports in March, according to US government figures.

"It's being considered," one of the officials told Reuters, saying aides to President Donald Trump have been tasked to have a recommendation on oil sector sanctions ready if needed.

"I don't think we're at a point to make a

decision on it. But all options are on the table. We want to see the bad actors held to account." The US deliberations on new sanctions come against the backdrop of the worst protests faced yet by socialist President Nicolas Maduro, who critics accuse of human rights abuses in a clampdown on the opposition.

Since Trump took office in January, he has stepped up targeted sanctions on Venezuela, including on the vice president, the chief judge and seven other Supreme Court justices. He has pressed the Organization of American States to do more to help resolve the crisis.

While Trump has taken a more active approach to Venezuela than his predecessor Barack Obama, he has so far stopped short of drastic economic moves that could hurt the Venezuelan people and give Maduro ammunition to accuse Washington of meddling.

The two administration officials said the United States is also prepared to impose further sanctions on senior officials it accuses of corruption, drug trafficking ties and involvement in what critics see as a campaign of political repression aimed at consolidating Maduro's rule.

But broad measures against the country's vital oil sector - for which the United States is the biggest customer - would significantly ratchet up Washington's response. The United States has imposed sectoral sanctions against Russia's energy, banking and defense industries over Moscow's involvement in Ukraine's separatist conflict. The officials declined to specify the mechanisms under consideration and said the timing of any decision would depend heavily on developments on the ground in Venezuela. —Reuters

For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea



Duplex & Triplex Villas 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms + Big Salon + Separate pool All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas



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GLOBAL MARKETS DROP AFTER LONDON ATTACKS

LONDON: World stock markets were mostly lower yesterday as traders reacted to the latest terror attacks in London that have come ahead of a British general election later this week.

Markets reacted also to Friday's poorly-received US jobs data and an escalating diplomatic crisis involving Qatar and Gulf neighbors. After opening slightly higher, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was down around 0.4 percent by mid-afternoon, compared with the close on Friday - as investors digest last week's soft US jobs report, another terror attack in London in the run up to the UK election and a (brief) jump in oil prices after a breakdown in Middle East diplomacy," said Jasper Lawler, senior market analyst at London Capital Group.

"Global equities are flat to negative as investors take risk off the table ahead of a busy week for politics and macroeconomics," said Accendo Markets analyst, Henry Croft.

Forex.com analyst Fawad Razaqada agreed. "It is going to be a big week for the markets this one, especially towards the end of it," he said, pointing to the British general election, the European Central Bank's policy meeting and testimony by former FBI Director James Comey in the United States. In the eurozone yesterday, the Paris CAC 40 was more than half a percent lower, while Frankfurt's DAX 30 index was shut for a German public holiday. Policy carried out more

raids and arrested "a number of people" yesterday after the Islamic State group claimed an attack by knife-wielding men who mowed down and stabbed revellers in London, killing seven people before being shot dead by police.

It comes as Prime Minister Theresa May seeks to keep her Conservative party in government and steer Britain through the Brexit process following the general election on Thursday.

Elsewhere yesterday, Asian stock markets began the week mostly lower as investors mulled the impact of the weekend terror attack that saw the pound lose ground.

"The pound is expected to remain volatile this week against the backdrop of the tragic

weekend events in London and the flakiness of the polls in predicting what the outcome of Thursday's general election vote is likely to be," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

'Ugly' jobs report

Occupying investors' minds was also a US employment report that showed wages growth and hiring coming in below expectations and testing confidence in the global economic outlook. "Ugly" best describes Friday's US employment report," said Stephen Innes, senior trader at Oanda. On commodity markets, oil prices were flat after a short rally, while gold hit a five-week high at \$1,282.16 an ounce thanks to its status as a haven investment. Daniel Hynes, an analyst in Sydney at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group, said the decision by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt to sever ties with Qatar, citing its support for terrorism, would have minimal impact on crude prices.

"On the face of it, it could present a risk, but I don't think there is too much in the Qatar situation," he told Bloomberg News. "Geopolitical risks haven't really been that influential in recent times and I don't think that will change too much."

Dollar edges up

The dollar edged up yesterday, but remained not far from the seven-month low it plumbed against a currency basket after disappointing US employment data prompted investors to pare back expectations of US Federal Reserve rate hikes.

The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, edged up 0.1 percent to 96.798, not far from Friday's nadir of 96.654, its lowest since Nov. 9. Sterling slipped, under pressure after the third terrorist attack in Britain in less than three months killed at least seven people on Saturday. The attack came days ahead of Thursday's UK election, in which polls show British Prime Minister Theresa May's lead over the opposition

Labour Party has narrowed but is still intact. US nonfarm payrolls rose by 138,000 in May, Labor Department data showed on Friday, suggesting the labor market was losing momentum despite the unemployment rate falling to a 16-year low of 4.3 percent. Economists polled by Reuters had predicted an increase of 185,000. While market participants still expect the US central bank to raise interest rates this month, many expect a more dovish course for the second half of this year.

"The pessimistic story of the jobs data should weigh on the dollar as the Fed is still expected to hike rates in June, but most market participants believe it won't hike for a long time after that, and maybe not in September or December," said Masashi Murata, currency strategist for Brown Brothers Harriman in Tokyo.

The dollar added 0.2 percent against the yen to 110.57 after brushing a two-week low of 110.25 earlier in the session, while the euro fell 0.2 percent to \$1.1265 after rising to a seven-month high of \$1.1285.

Slumping Treasury yields also weighed on the US dollar, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year note at 2.169 percent in Asian trading, not far from their Friday low of 2.144 percent, which was their lowest since Nov 10. Net long positions on the US dollar fell sharply in the latest week through May 30 to their lowest since September, according to calculations by Reuters and Commodity Futures Trading Commission data released on Friday.

At the same time, euro net long positions have risen to a more than six-year high, the CFTC data showed, in line with the improving eurozone economy. Sterling shed 0.2 percent to \$1.2868. "We're seeing some position-squaring ahead of the election now," said Kumiko Ishikawa, FX market analyst at Sony Financial Holdings in Tokyo. "The broader backdrop is that Brexit is going to have many minuses for the UK economy going forward, and these concerns will remain no matter what the short-term impact is," she said. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report							Global																		
Monday 05 June 2017							Global																		
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing				Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last	Change											
Price Index	▼ -26.82	6,803.20	6,830.02				SOKOLK	50	48.3	1,000,000	49,137	24	80	▼ -0.9											
Weighted Index	▼ -3.22	401.94	405.16				KRE	57	56	1,135,500	63,785	36	56	▼ -0.7											
KSX 15	▼ -0.55	906.79	916.34				URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	▼ 0.0											
Trades		Trades					Trades		Trades		Trades		Trades		Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last	Change		
MARIN	76	70	252,600	182,240	32	76	▲ 5.0	ALJAZIRA	75	73	357,641	26,318	12	73	▼ -1.0	ALJAZIRA	75	73	357,641	26,318	12	73	▼ -1.0		
IPO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	390	▼ 0.0	UNION	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	90	▼ 0.0	UNION	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▼ 0.0
NAFESCO	1,513	1,500	16,228	27,354	17	1,513	▼ -17.8	AAAYANRE	82	80	348,500	28,096	10	80	▼ -0.1	AAAYANRE	82	80	348,500	28,096	10	80	▼ -0.1		
ENERGIYH	41.4	41.4	500	21	1	41.4	▲ 0.5	AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	82	▼ 0.0	AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▼ 0.0	
GPI	37.5	36.7	604,850	22,355	27	37.0	▼ -0.6	ALAGARIA	37.0	30.3	90,503	2,981	4	35.0	▼ -2.0	ALAGARIA	37.0	30.3	90,503	2,981	4	35.0	▼ -2.0		
ASAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	87	▼ 0.0	MAZAYA	112	110	879,077	97,508	48	110	▼ -4.0	MAZAYA	112	110	879,077	97,508	48	110	▼ -4.0	
Oil & Gas		3,149,578	231,869	77	1034.42	▼ -2.80	ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	▼ 0.0	ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	11.0	▼ 0.0		
KFOUC	290	290	20,000	5,800	1	290	▼ -4.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▼ 0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▼ 0.0		
BPCO	580	574	7,000	4,030	2	580	▲ 2.0	TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	▼ 0.0	TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	▼ 0.0		
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	690	▼ 0.0	TAAMEER	33.7	32.6	57,500	1,927	4	33.7	▲ 0.7	TAAMEER	33.7	32.6	57,500	1,927	4	33.7	▲ 0.7	
ALQURAIN	337	336	42,841	14,417	6	337	▼ -3.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▼ 0.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▼ 0.0		
Basic Materials		69,841	24,247	8	1298.52	▼ -6.60	ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	▼ 0.0	ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	▼ 0.0			
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	490	▼ 0.0	ABYANR	22.8	21.8	3,179,959	70,607	58	22.1	▼ -0.6	ABYANR	22.8	21.8	3,179,959	70,607	58	22.1	▼ -0.6		
CABLE	420	415	15,350	6,446	4	420	▼ -0.0	MUNSHAAT	56	55	54,950	3,023	5	55	▼ -1.0	MUNSHAAT	56	55	54,950	3,023	5	55	▼ -1.0		
SHP	218	208	115,832	24,285	9	210	▼ -0.0	FIRSTDOUBAI	51	49.0	260,395	13,023	8	50	▼ -1.9	FIRSTDOUBAI	51	49.0	260,395	13,023	8	50	▼ -1.9		
PCEM	953	950	7,050	6,899	4	950	▼ -10.0	KBT	50	48.2	215,200	10,064	16	49.0	▲ 1.5	KBT	50	48.2	215,200	10,064	16	49.0	▲ 1.5		
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ 0.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	▼ 0.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	▼ 0.0		
MRC	100	85	3,430	310	23	99	▼ -1.0	MENA	23.5	23.5	8,000	188	2	23.5	▼ 0.0	MENA	23.5	23.5	8,000	188	2	23.5	▼ 0.0		
ACICO	276	276	1,323	365	1	276	▼ -4.0	ALMUDON	36.0	35.2	178,600	6,393	8	35.8	▼ -1.1	ALMUDON	36.0	35.2	178,600	6,393	8	35.8	▼ -1.1		
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▼ 0.0	MARAKEZ	43.5	43.5	100	4	1	43.5	▼ 0.0	MARAKEZ	43.5	43.5	100	4	1	43.5	▼ 0.0		
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	▼ 0.0	REMAL	67	66	381,000	25,313	25	67	▼ -0.1	REMAL	67	66	381,000	25,313	25	67	▼ -0.1		
NICBM	224	224	250	56	1	224	▲ 22.0	AWJ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	▼ 0.0	AWJ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	▼ 0.0		
EQUIPMENT	50	47.0	51,106	2,428	5	50	▼ 0.0	Real Estate	12,196,998	714,048	431	934.34	▼ -7.80	Real Estate	12,196,998	714,048	431	934.34	▼ -7.80						
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	125	▼ 0.0	KINV	95	92	42,599	3,942	8	93	▼ -0.5	KINV	95	92	42,599	3,942	8	93	▼ -0.5		
GYPSPUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▼ 0.0	FACIL	168	167	29,441	4,836	4	167	▼ -1.0	FACIL	168	167	29,441	4,836	4	167	▼ -1.0		
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▼ 0.0	IFA	37.0	34.6	640,930	22,511	26	35.0	▼ -2.7	IFA	37.0	34.6	640,930	22,511	26	35.0	▼ -2.7		
AQLT	742	725	1,367,660	1,001,419	132	725	▼ -18.0	NNV	105	104	382,819	39,813	13	104	▼ 0.0	NNV	105	104	382,819	39,813	13	104	▼ 0.0		
EDU	390	360	582,500	213,663	78	364	▼ -2.0	KPROJ	348	344	134,408	46,483	15	344	▼ -6.0	KPROJ	348	344	134,408	46,483	15	344	▼ -6.0		
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.0	▼ 0.0	COAST	40.1	40.0	322,312	12,899	8	40.1	▼ -1.2	COAST	40.1	40.0	322,312	12,899	8	40.1	▼ -1.2		
KGL	67	61	12,780	779	2	67	▲ 5.0	SECH	42.0	41.0	66,715	2,801	9	41.0	▼ -2.0	SECH	42.0	41.0	66,715	2,801	9	41.0	▼ -2.0		
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▼ 0.0	SGC	97	97	50	5	1	97	▼ 0.0	SGC	97	97	50	5	1	97	▼ 0.0		
HUMANSOFT	3,980	3,960	75,683	301,154	8	3,960	▼ -80.0	ARZAN	36.0	36.0	10	0	1	36.0	▼ -0.5	ARZAN	36.0	36.0	10	0	1	36.0	▼ -0.5		
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▼ 0.0	MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▼ 0.0	MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▼ 0.0		
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▼ 0.0	KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.5	▼ 0.0	KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.5	▼ 0.0		
MAYADEEN	28.0	27.4	300,710	8,317	13	28.0	▼ -1.0	ALAMAN	43.2	42.9	45,000	1,944	2	43.2	▲ 0.2	ALAMAN	43.2	42.9	45,000	1,944	2	43.2	▲ 0.2		
GGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	595	▼ 0.0	ALOLA	46.5	45.0	18,100	819	4	46.3	▼ -0.7	ALOLA	46.5	45.0	18,100	819	4	46.3	▼ -0.7		
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▼ 0.0	ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	15.0	▼ 0.0	ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	15.0	▼ 0.0		
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	850	▼ 0.0	ALHAI	39.9	37.0	70,045	2,732	15	39.0	▼ -2.0	ALHAI	39.9	37.0	70,045	2,732	15	39.0	▼ -2.0		
ALAFCO	305	300	24,300	7,312	6	304	▼ -1.0	AAAYAN	44.0	43.0	802,860	34,638	35	43.1	▼ -1.5	AAAYAN	44.0	43.0	802,860	34,638	35	43.1	▼ -1.5		
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▼ 0.0	BAYANINV	52	49.0	318,257	15,705	12	52	▼ 0.0	BAYANINV	52	49.0	318,257	15,705	12	52	▼ 0.0		
LOGISTICS	55	51	347,800	18,115	17	51	▼ -3.3	OSOUL	55	55	50,000	2,750	2	55	▼ 0.0	OSOUL	55	55	50,000	2,750					

MERCEDES-BENZ COLLECTION 2017

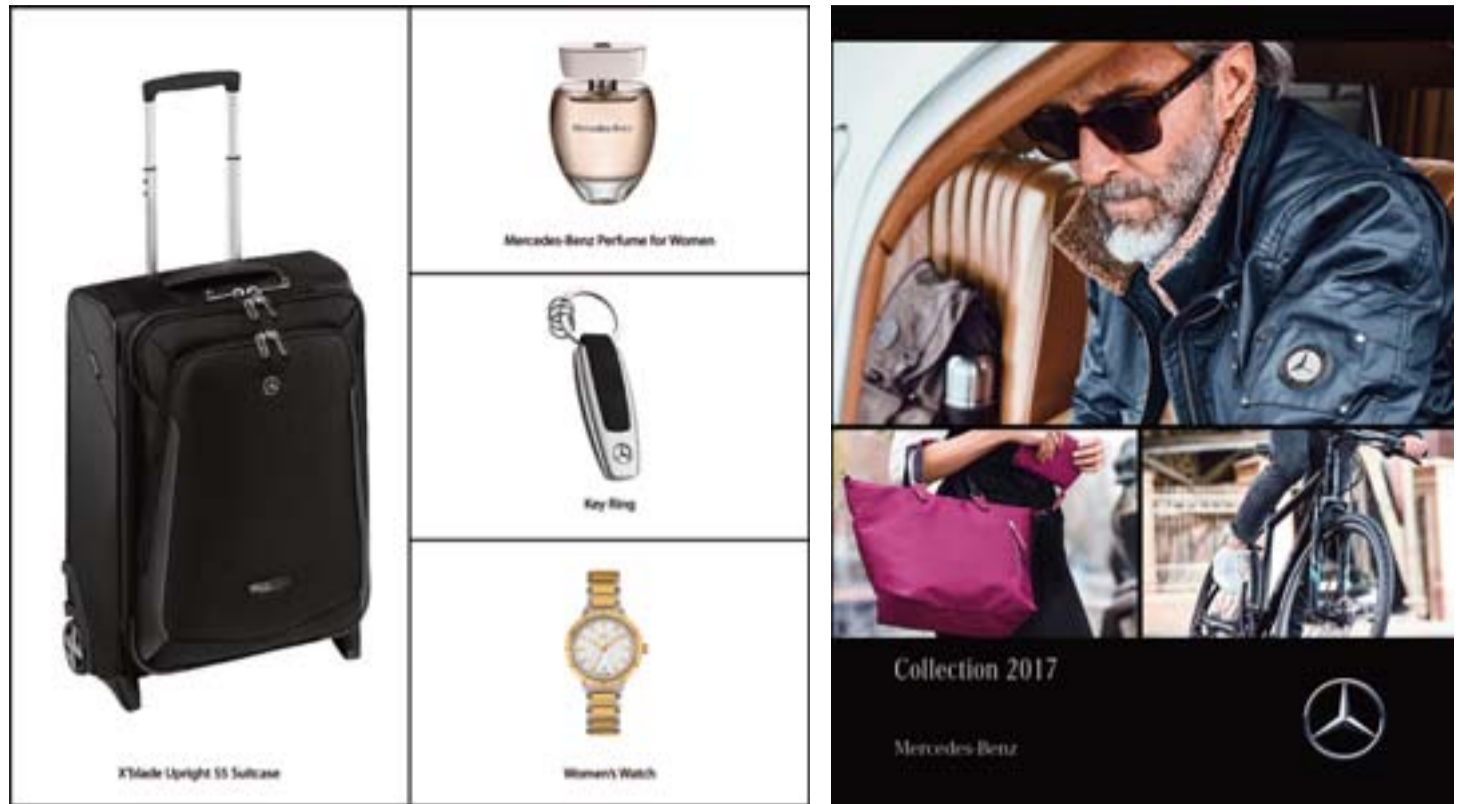
A NEW RANGE OF IRRESISTIBLE ACCESSORIES

KUWAIT: The new Mercedes-Benz 2017 Collection catalogue is out now and is available at Boutique and accessory locations of A R Albisher & Z Alkzemi Co Kuwait. The extensive range of top quality lifestyle collection and popular merchandise for both adults and children have also arrived. Showcasing the new items, the Mercedes-Benz collection catalogue displays over 500 products across 146 pages, with a wide variety of high quality watches, clothing, cufflinks, sunglasses, pens, sporting accessories, travel goods, key rings, gift ideas, AMG and Maybach equipment. The new selection also contains official replica products of race drivers, stylish Hugo Boss polo shirts, as well as the noble products of the Driver's Choice Collection from MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY.

Among other things, the 2017 catalogue features the all new noble automatic wristwatches: "MB Classic" and "MB Sportive Young GMT", both made of solid stainless steel. The Classic wristwatch has an outward-arched dial with elements inspired by the dashboard of the historic 500K model. The Sportive Young GMT wristwatch has a black dial with several unique levels, as well as an imitation of the rhombic optics of the current S-Class interior. Bracelets made from black and blue Swarovski Crystals also offer a fitting accessory for the style-conscious woman.

Mercedes-Benz is a brand of uncompromising quality which extends across its full range of products, from the road to the boutique. The new additions to the Boutique and Accessories collection offers customers and fans of Mercedes-Benz, a chance to extend their love for the brand whether buying for themselves or as a perfect gift for their loved ones.

Customers can visit the main Boutique and Accessory corner in Shuwaikh service centre from Sat-Thu 8 am to 2 pm during the holy month of Ramadan.



SEOUL: South Korean President Moon Jae-in points to a bulletin board which offers a quick summary of current conditions in the country's employment market and highlights the emphasis the new president and his government place on creating jobs, at the presidential Blue House in Seoul. —AP

MARKAZ: MENA MARKETS TUMBLE IN LINE WITH OIL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently released its Monthly Market Research report. In this report, Markaz examines and analyzes the performance of equity markets in the MENA region as well as the global equity markets for the month of May 2017.

MENA markets, with the exception of Egypt closed in the red for the month of May. Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia and Qatar markets shed 2.2 percent, 2.1 percent, 2 percent and 1.6 percent respectively. Middle East funds pulled out of the UAE markets in view of soft real estate activity and tight liquidity prevailing causing the Dubai and Abu Dhabi markets to decline. Despite positive events such as Trump's visit and MSCI announcing that the inclusion of



Saudi Arabia into emerging markets would happen sooner, fragile outlook on oil turned investors bearish. Kuwait price index and weighted index lost 0.8 percent and 0.9 percent respectively. Egypt was the only bourse in MENA region to gain 5.6 percent last month, as foreign institutional investors welcomed the central bank's efforts to curtail inflation and increased their investments.

Value traded and volumes in May reflected a negative mood, with volume traded, dropping by 35 percent while the turnover in the market declined by 7.2 percent. All MENA markets, barring Qatar and Egypt, witnessed fall in liquidity. Kuwait saw a 75 percent fall in liquidity while it declined by 22 percent in Dubai. Liquidity declines are common in the MENA bourses, especially due to poor trading activity in the month of Ramadan. In terms of valuation, P/E of Morocco (18.9x), Qatar (14.33x), and Kuwait (14.22x) markets were at premium, while the markets of Dubai and Bahrain (9.3x), and Egypt (9x) were the discount markets in the MENA region.

Many blue chips were in the red in May, while companies such as DP World, Kuwait Food Company and Mashraf Al-Rayhan gained 12.5 percent, 11.3 percent and 6 percent respectively.

tively, DP world is expected to expand its operations to countries such as Russia. It has already obtained permission for the container operation of Santos port in Brazil. Expansionary activities improved investor sentiment over the prospects of the company. Among companies that lost, Ezzan Holding plunged by 27.5 percent followed by Kuwait Projects Company that dipped 15.7 percent last month. Ezzan holding's shareholders have given preliminary approval for the company's plans for delisting leading to the selling pressure in the market.

Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia - Deals, Diplomacy and investor confidence

It was indeed beneficial to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia that Mr. Donald Trump made it the choice of his maiden international visit. The visit and the volume of deals signed has put to rest some of the anxieties related to his ascent to power. Trump's visit has surely added feed to the diversification, especially through various deals signed in defense and infrastructure arena.

Deals worth \$110bn were signed, mostly relating to defense. These deals will become effective in the near future as most of them have been already approved. Defense spending forms the bedrock of the visit and deals signed. In a scenario of uncertainties in oil prices and geopolitical tensions, Trump's visit provided fresh assurance on ensuring security in the region and exploring US-Saudi business opportunities. Investors are confident over future business, especially in technology and defense sector, much needed for the Saudi economy now.

Oil market review

Brent crude declined by 2.7 percent in May 2017 declining to \$50.31 compared to \$51.73 at the end of April 2017. OPEC and non-OPEC members decided to extend the current production cuts for a period of nine months up to March 2018. Increasing supplies from the US shale producers and announcement made by US to sell oil in plans to reduce its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) led to the continuing fall in oil prices. Libya's oil production has risen to 827,000 bpd in the beginning of May adding to the supply glut in the market.

YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ENJOYING SUMMER IN AND AROUND LONDON

THE LONDON LOW-DOWN

KUWAIT: Celebrated around the world for its diverse arts and culture, cutting-edge fashion, and iconic landmarks, London can often be a maze for travellers choosing what to do in and around the United Kingdom capital. British Airways, who proudly calls the bustling city of London home, is offering return fares starting from as little as KD124, and a few highlights to make the most of the Great British Summer.

From historic sporting events and music festivals, to palaces and magical attractions, London and the surrounding counties provide the perfect reason for a holiday this summer, whether it be a family vacation, or long weekend getaway. British Airways' crew have put together a list of dates you need to mark in your calendar, and activities to add to your travel must-do list:

Royal Ascot 2017: Tuesday, 21 June - Saturday, 24 June

The Royal Ascot is unarguably the UK's most expensive horse race, attracting the world's finest racehorses to compete for more than GBP 6.58 million in prize money. New this year, visitors can now enjoy the best of British summer and racing with the roll out of The Village Enclosure priced at GBP 67. This addition includes pop up and alfresco dining, adult beverage bars, fine dining restaurants and an unmissable atmosphere with live music all day long.

Henley Royal Regatta: Wednesday, 28 June - Sunday, 2 July

The highlight of the British summer and the ultimate social event in the June calendar, the Henley Royal Regatta is the world's most popular rowing race of its kind. Dating back to 1839, the crowds of sporting enthusiasts and English socialites flock to the banks of the River Thames to support rowing teams competing for the grand titles. There are strict dress codes in place for the exclusive areas such as the Stewards' Enclosure, which require ladies to wear a hat and a formal dress below the knee, and gentlemen are expected to wear blazers and ties, often reflecting the universities they've rowed for. The five-day event is accompanied by plenty of afternoon tea and traditional British fares.

Wimbledon Championships 2017: Monday, July 3 - Sunday, July 16

The Wimbledon Championships is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, and is widely considered the most prestigious. Since the first Championships in 1877, Wimbledon has grown from its roots as a garden-party event to a Grand Slam tournament. The only one of its kind held on a grass surface, Wimbledon

continues to honour many long-standing traditions not least, a royal patronage and eating strawberries and cream.

British Summer Time - Kings of Leon: Thursday 6 July

The 'Barclaycard presents British Summer Time Hyde Park' is an annual music festival that takes place over two weekends at London's Hyde Park. Possibly one of the most famous parks anywhere in the

from Friday 30 June through to Sunday 9 July.

Notting Hill Carnival: Sunday, 27 August - Monday, 28 August 2017

One of Europe's biggest street parties offers visitors a myriad of colour across the two-days, with a daily carnival parade, stunning floats and creatively costumed dancers weaving their way through the streets of London. You will find it hard not to move along to the

can go behind-the-scenes of the widely popular Harry Potter film series, located at the Studios and see where all the magic began. Walk into authentic sets and experience for yourself the charm and spirit that brought the characters to life. The Studio Cafe offers a popular British tradition, afternoon tea, along with freshly prepared food and baked items.

Formula 1 Rolex British Grand Prix: Friday, 14 July - Sunday, 16 July

One for the motor heads and those who love to party, the weekend long Grand Prix is a must-attend event on the international F1 calendar, with tickets starting from GBP 60. Hailed as one of the fastest circuits in the world by F1 drivers, the Silverstone circuit attracts serious car enthusiasts and the creme of the F1 community for a truly great annual sporting event. Visitors can make the most of the motoring championship and camp out over the weekend if they have



three-day tickets to the Grand Prix. The camping grounds are adjacent to and within 150m of Club Corner at the South of the circuit with facilities including toilets, showers and shops.

A touch of royalty all summer long - Buckingham Palace opens to the public

The British monarchy is the most iconic royal family internationally, with its heritage and legacy having a strong resonance with many countries globally. If you're looking to step into centuries of history and visit the London residence of the world's longest-reigning living monarch, then book your tour of Buckingham Palace. One of the few active royal palaces, the tour of the Queen's official London residence covers some of its most lavish State Rooms, the Throne Room, the Gardens, priceless works of art by some of history's finest painters such as Rembrandt, gifts given to the Queen and more.

A full timetable of British Airways' flights to London and beyond is available online here where customers can find the lowest fares and book, pay and check-in online for their flights.



world, today under the British Summer Time Hyde Park event, some of the biggest names in music have performed there including the likes of the Rolling Stones and Bon Jovi. The line-up for 2017 includes a list of impressive acts including the Kings of Leon, Green Day and showcasing a mix of genres - Justin Bieber on 2 July. The festival runs

rhythmic Caribbean beats that fill the air, or fall in love with mouth-watering food drawing inspiration from as all corners of the Caribbean.

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter

On for a limited time, here's one for the family - adults and children

TRADING BLUES? IT'S JUST ANOTHER KICK IN THE VOLATILITY: ANALYSTS

LONDON: Executives at some of the world's biggest banks are warning that challenging market conditions could lead to a fall in second quarter trading revenues, with much of the blame being laid at a familiar door: low volatility.

JP Morgan chief financial officer Marianne Lake, Bank of America chief executive Brian Moynihan and Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman all said last week that Q2 trading revenue is on course to fall by 10-15 percent.

Banks generally find it harder to make money when volatility is low because it lessens their ability to take advantage of big price swings, so it's often a valid, if convenient, explanation.

The trouble is, it doesn't fully bear scrutiny. There are

several reasons why volatility across many markets is at its lowest in years and in some cases, decades.

Among them are structural shifts following last decade's global financial crisis, such as healthier bank balance sheets, lower leverage, tighter regulation and oceans of central bank liquidity that have compressed yields, returns and spreads.

Other factors steady-if-unspectacular global growth, and more sophisticated hedging strategies whereby investors minimize their exposure to volatility by simultaneously buying and selling options.

And there are several well-documented reasons behind the erosion of banks' trading income over the same period-

automation, tighter spreads, increased regulation limiting their trading activities, and, yes, low volatility. But revenue can rise when volatility falls, and vice versa, which raises the question of whether weak trading performance is too easily blamed on "bad" volatility.

The FICC of it

In the first quarter of this year, revenues from fixed income, currency and commodity (FICC) trading at the world's top 12 banks rose 19 percent, to \$21.4 billion from \$17.9 billion a year earlier, according to industry analysis firm coalition. That was despite a widespread fall in volatility. One-month implied volatility in US Treasuries averaged

68 percent in Q1, down from 75 percent in the same period last year, while average one-month implied euro/dollar volatility fell to 8.9 percent from 9.7 percent.

The comparison between the April-June quarters of 2014 and 2015 shows the opposite phenomenon. Average one-month implied Treasury volatility in Q2 2014 was a post-crisis low of 58 percent, jumping to an average 85 percent a year later. Similarly, one-month implied euro/dollar volatility averaged just 5.5 percent in Q2 2014 only to more than double to 12.7 percent in Q2 2015.

Yet FICC revenues at the top 12 banks tracked by Coalition fell 12 percent in Q2 2015 from a year earlier, to \$16.1 billion from \$18.2 billion. —Reuters

'AL-TIJARIA' LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE UNDER ONGOING RAFAD CAMPAIGN BEGIN THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN WITH CHARITY

KUWAIT: The Rafad campaign is a non-profit organization, which was setup in April 2016 as part of The Commercial Real Estate Company 'We Care' - Corporate Social Responsibility program. Under this successful campaign, a new initiative was launched keeping in mind the theme and spirit of the Holy month of Ramadan. The initiative focused on preparing food packages with various assortments of food inside and distributing them to the needy families in different areas around Kuwait.

To support and encourage this noble

cause, Al-Tijaria received participation from various volunteers groups, employees of the company and its subsidiary companies to prepare food boxes and distribute it to the needy families.

Rawan Adnan - Manager - Marketing & Leasing Dept stated that this initiative comes along with the leading role the company plays in its 'We Care - Corporate Social Responsibility' and in line with Al-Tijaria's policy of maintaining the principles of corporate governance and encouraging the youth and people of Kuwait to participate

in such initiatives and play an active role in giving back to the country and its society by doing various such charity work.

The Rafad campaign since its inception in 2016, has solely focused on its objective of distributing food on weekly basis to various areas in Kuwait where the people are in need of food. The food distributed, is freshly prepared from Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait and is of the highest quality.

Rafad is considered one of the main noble campaigns that comes in line with The Commercial Real Estate Company policies of



servicing the community and contributing towards building a better future. Following these footsteps, the company recently launched "Plant a Tree in My Country" campaign which highlighted and raised awareness of saving the environment and planting as many trees as possible. The campaign was launched by planting more than 500 trees in Boulevard. "Shining Hope" festival is also another initiative under 'we care' which is held annually and is organized by the company to support and promote the talents and ideas of special needs children.



AL MULLA EXCHANGE PROVIDES IFTAR MEALS DURING RAMADAN



KUWAIT: Celebrating the spirit of giving during Ramadan, Al Mulla Exchange continued with their tradition of providing Iftar meals during their entire holy month.

The distribution of the meals is slotted at various locations across Kuwait and is given mostly outside Al Mulla Exchange branches. Speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Joshi, General Manager of Al Mulla International said "The Holy month of Ramadan personifies the act of care. Al Mulla Exchange has distributed Iftar meals every year and we believe that this is beyond just a corporate

social responsibility on which mostly companies portray. We believe that our activities resonates well with the needy and also convey that human kindness is the most significant gift that can be given."

With 72 branches and growing, Al Mulla Exchange stands tall in the plethora of Exchange companies established in Kuwait. Innovation, technological superiority, customer service and continuous marketing activities are the hall marks by which they attained the top slot in the hugely competitive Kuwait money exchange market.

THE 2017 NISSAN GT-R: POLISHED TO PERFECTION

DUBAI: Nissan GT-R, a legendary supercar, is known for its mastery at every touch point. The craftsmanship that goes into the making of the Nissan GT-R is done with utmost precision, as each part is built and finished meticulously.

Aside from the engine that is built by a Takumi (a master craftsman), another area that is perfected by the hands of a Takumi is the polishing process. The process requires the Takumi to inspect, check and then polish the coat to perfection.

This new video introduces the craftsmanship behind the Nissan GT-R Coloring & Polishing processes. Notes to Editor: In Japan, the term takumi is used to describe a master craftsman who has perfected his skills over years of painstaking work and dedication. It is reserved for those who are at the very top of their profession. At Nissan's expansive engine factory in Yokohama, five men have been

designated as takumi. They are the sole assemblers of the engines that power one of the most heralded sports cars in automotive history - the Nissan GT-R.

Nissan is a global full-line vehicle manufacturer that sells more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. In fiscal year 2015, the company sold more than 5.4 million vehicles globally, generating revenue of 12.2 trillion yen. Nissan engineers, manufacturers and markets the world's best-selling all-electric vehicle in history, the Nissan LEAF. Nissan's global headquarters in Yokohama, Japan manages operations in six regions: ASEAN & Oceania; Africa, Middle East & India; China; Europe; Latin America and North America. Nissan has been partnered with French manufacturer Renault since 1999 and Mitsubishi Motors since 2016 under the Renault-Nissan Alliance.

ECB EXPECTED TO TAKE MORE BENIGN VIEW OF ECONOMY

LONDON: German benchmark government bond yields nudged up yesterday but did not venture far from one-month lows, with bond investors confident that the European Central Bank will this week only take baby steps towards unwinding its extraordinary stimulus.

The ECB, which meets on Thursday, is set to take a more benign view of the economy and will even discuss dropping some of its pledges to ramp up stimulus if needed, sources with direct knowledge of the discussions told Reuters last week. An improving economy and some fading of euro zone political risks following French presidential elections in April and May have boosted speculation about a scaling back or "tapering" of the ECB's massive asset-purchase scheme in coming months.

But with the ECB expected to strike a cautious tone because of doubts around inflation, bond investors seem largely unruffled. Data last week showed inflation in the euro area slowed to 1.4 percent year-on-year in May, from 1.9 percent in April. The ECB targets inflation of just below 2 percent. "My reading of what the market is pricing in at the moment is that there will

be a change in language but one that has been well telegraphed by the ECB," said Antoine Bouvet, a rates strategist at Mizuho.

"ECB policymakers have gone out of their way to stress that this will not be a prelude to an early unwinding of policy, so the ECB is still in easing mode until the end of the year and that is supportive for bond spreads and duration."

Germany's benchmark 10-year bond or Bund yield was up 2 basis points at 0.29 percent and within sight of one-month lows hit last week, while short-dated bond yields remain deep in negative territory.

Tradeweb data released yesterday showed the share of euro zone government debt with yields below zero has risen to its highest level so far this year.

Money market pricing meanwhile suggests investors are not anticipating a rate hike within the next year. "The data, especially the inflation numbers, have not been strong enough to suggest a hawkish tone from the ECB this week," said Orlando Green, European fixed income strategist at Credit Agricole. "They are likely to leave things as balanced as possible." — Reuters

MASHREQ BANK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

'MOST PROGRESSIVE BANK THAT ENABLES POSSIBILITIES THROUGH INNOVATION'

DUBAI: Mashreq Bank, the UAE's oldest privately owned bank, celebrate its 50 year anniversary in Kuwait in the attendance of Rahma Husain Al-Zaabi, the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait, with clients, partners and key industry leaders in JW Marriott Kuwait. With 50 years of achievements, the bank is the regional leader when it comes to product and service innovation and customer service.

Mashreq Bank, originally called Bank of Oman, was formed by a decree from Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al-Maktoum in 1966, and formally opened on 1st May 1967. With the strong encouragement of His Highness Sheikh Rashid, Mashreq Bank has reached many milestones since then.

Mashreq's first branch in Kuwait was inaugurated in November 2009, in line with the strong relationship and cooperation between the GCC countries. In 2009, Mashreq's CEO Abdul Aziz Al-Ghurair affirmed that Kuwait has one of the most successful and sophisticated banking systems in the GCC and holds strategic importance within the overall

expansion plans for Mashreq. Today, Mashreq ranks number 25 on the Forbes Top 100 Arab Companies 2016 list. The World Finance Banking Awards also named Mashreq the Best Digital Bank. It has also won Gallup Great Workplace award for the 4th year in a row, with only 37 companies worldwide winning the award.

To mark the 50 year anniversary, Mashreq launched a new Vision to guide the next 50 years of the bank's journey. Its Vision is to be the region's most progressive bank, enabling innovative possibilities for its clients, colleagues and communities.

Commenting on the 50 year anniversary of the bank, Abdul Aziz Al-Ghurair, Chief Executive Officer of Mashreq, said: "We have achieved many milestones in the past 50 years, but today is truly exciting. The launch of our new vision will undeniably drive the bank forward. Looking ahead, our underlying strategy is to continue to digitize the bank, make customer experience seamless, personalized and omni-channel, and lead into the future where

banking goes entirely branchless. With 85% of Mashreq is retail customer transactions happening digitally, it is critical that we continue to develop new, innovative products and services that capitalizes on this growing trend."

"To deliver on this promise, we will continue to innovate. Innovation has been deeply embedded in the DNA of Mashreq throughout the last 50 years, and it will continue to be core to our strategy moving forward. Having introduced many products, first to the market which are now considered the industry standard - such as the credit card, ATM and mobile banking app - I know we will only continue to further develop the sector. Through innovation, strong financial performance, and high levels of customer service, we will find ways to make possible."

Mashreq Kuwait branch has participated in the financing of several mega projects, namely Kuwait University, Al-Zour South Power Station, and the Kuwait Clean Fuel project.

SOBHA HARTLAND ADOPTS SMART TECHNOLOGIES, GREEN CITY NORMS



KUWAIT: Sobha Group, the leading premium real estate developer has adopted the norms of sustainability and green city standards within Sobha Hartland - the only fully integrated freehold community on the Dubai Water Canal. The resort-style luxury housing project, encompasses 8 million square feet of freehold community in Mohamed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum City and is a \$4 bn mixed-use development strategically located in the heart of Dubai.

Surrounded by 2.4 million square feet (30 percent) of greenery and set along the Dubai Water Canal, Sobha Hartland encompass a limited collection of ultra-contemporary villas, townhouses, modern mid & high-rise apartments. The development offers a range of luxury products catering to both individuals and families alike looking for the ideal homes in Dubai. The development has commenced with the launch of Hartland Greens, Hartland Townhouses and Hartland Estates.

Each offering in Sobha Hartland are Smart Home enabled. The Hartland Estates villas are inbuilt with infrastructure required to make your villa fully automated. - all controls of the villa like AC, Light, music, curtains can be controlled by

an iPad. The villas also offer full variable lighting option wherein; an end-user can choose the scene setting in each room by either using full brightness or minimum dim lighting.

Both investors and end-users looking at investing in Sobha Hartland will also have added options to avail of L-shaped villas which provide maximum privacy from neighboring units with spacious private gardens and large decks and pool.

Clear glass is used in all the villas where the Visual Light Transmission (VLT) percentage is higher to maintain the inflow of natural light inside but at the same time also helps in blocking the heat. VLT refers to the amount of visible light that passes through a glazing system, in this case the glass panels used in the villa. 70 percent of phase 1 & 2 in Sobha Hartland have been sold out. The development will provide both investors and end-users with natural panoramic views, world-class amenities and Dubai's top



**PNC Menon,
Chairman Sobha Group**

attractions like the Burj Khalifa, Meydan Mall, Downtown etc are just 3km away. The community also includes a country club, two international schools (one of which is now operational), three boutique hotels, premium restaurants, retail outlets and leisure activities.

Phase 3 of the project will be launched shortly. To get a first-hand experience of large, lavish and spacious homes, our lavish show apartment and villas are ready and available for viewing at the Hartland Sales gallery.

PNC Menon, Founder and Chairman, Sobha Group, said, "With a legacy of 41 years in the region the brand is synonymous to quality and this propels us to introduce higher standard of living and smarter technologies in our homes. As one of the greenest projects in Dubai, Sobha Hartland also has a unique advantage of having a residential development surrounded in a green forest setting right in the heart of the city."



SYSTEM AIMS TO RECREATE MOUNTAIN CLIMBS IN GYM

HANOVER: After spending time in Switzerland studying and hiking in the Alps, Dartmouth assistant professor Emily Whiting wanted to relive those climbs back home. Upon her return to the United States, she and a group of colleagues contemplated how they might recreate the climbs indoors. Using 3-D modeling and digital fabrication, the team developed a system that replicates the hardest stretches of climb, so that it can be practiced on indoor climbing walls.

In a presentation at a human computer interaction conference last month, the team demonstrated how they replicated a climb in Rumney, New Hampshire, and a sandstone crag near St. George in Utah. Fellow postdoctoral scholar Ladislav Kavan, who is now at the University of Utah, did the work out of Utah while Whiting was in New Hampshire. The two, along with their team, also wanted to address problems that vex many seasoned climbers - the challenges of mastering a route that might be a world away or one that might be too fragile to practice on.

"What if you could take the experience of climbing places like these monuments but not climb the physical thing, actually bring it home to your local gym," Whiting said. "You would

still have the physical experience of climbing it without causing the erosion and damage to the location. There is also the aspect of accessibility, like if this is some place in Thailand or some remote location and you want to train for the route."

3-D reconstruction

Whiting and her colleagues first did a 3-D reconstruction of a wall using hundreds of photos at different angles. Then, they combined that with video showing the climber's movements. That data helped the researchers identify the key parts of the climb, allowing them to create fabricated holds which were then attached to a climbing wall. "When you are climbing it, you're grasping onto small portions of it and so we wanted to determine where rock climbers actually grabbing onto the rock face," she said.

There are plenty of tools in climbing gyms to practice, including the campus board, a series of slats that hang on a wall at various angles so that climbers can practice strength training. And a few years back, Matyas Luzan replicated a tough stretch of a climb in Germany - he crafted the holds from wood and varnished them to feel like the rocks. The system that Whiting and Kavan, now at the University of Utah, came up

with might be seen as an extension of Luzan's efforts.

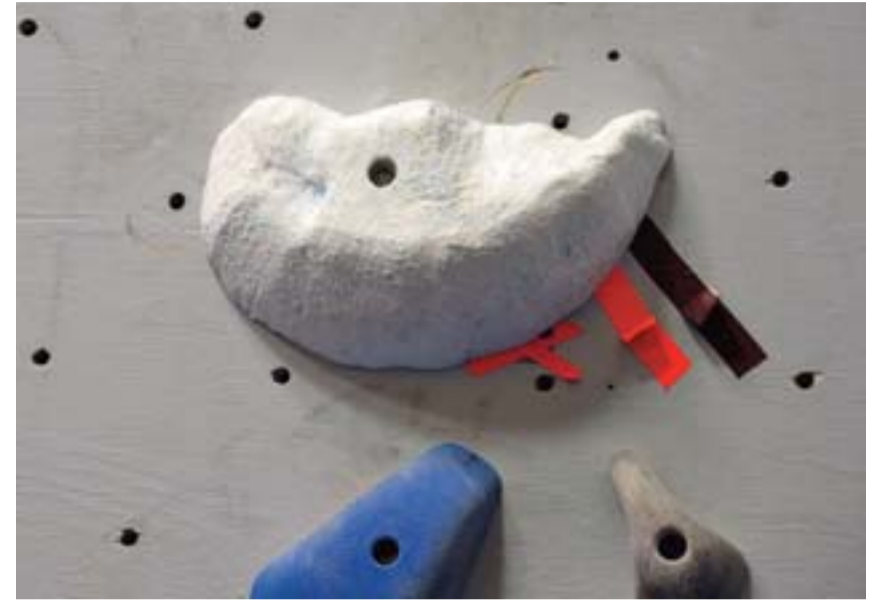
Eventually, the researchers envision a system that could one day ingest photos and video. A database of outdoor climbs could then be created, from which holds could be manufactured and available to climbing gyms. They also want to improve the texture of the holds so they feel more like the actual rocks. And there is the visual component - which Whiting hopes one day could be solved by adding virtual reality or projecting images of the climb to a wall.

The climbers that have given the new system a try say their outdoor ascent matched their experience indoors. "I was kind of blown away at just how precisely the body movements on the indoor climb recreated the outdoor movements," said Billy Braasch, a Dartmouth grad student and climber who participated in the study. But while Braasch said this could serve as a good practice tool, he acknowledged it might not be for everyone.

"One aspect of climbing that I really love is traveling to a new place and exploring new terrain," he said. "There is something special about being in a new place and testing yourself against a new climb." Mike Morin, the Northeast

regional director of the climbing group Access Fund, who was not involved in the study, also said the system has potential. Climbers might find it "novel" to challenge themselves on iconic routes - or even those closer to home. "If

you're a climber in Boston working on the route at Rumney mentioned in the study, you'd probably be pretty psyched to be able work on the movements of the climb during a training session at your local climbing gym," he said.—AP



NEW HAMPSHIRE: This photo provided by Dartmouth College shows fabricated holds mounted on a climbing wall in Hanover, New Hampshire.—AP

NEW SMART SPEAKER EXPECTED AS APPLE KICKS OFF CONFERENCE

SPEAKER TO SERVE AS A BUTLER AND FOR LISTENING TO MUSIC

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple appears poised to unveil a voice-activated, internet-connected speaker that would create a new digital pipeline into people's homes. Tapping Apple's Siri digital assistant, such a speaker is expected to serve as a butler as well as an outlet for listening to music. If the speculation pans out, the speaker would be Apple's first new product since its smartwatch in 2015. And it would mark an effort by Apple to catch up with Amazon and Google.

An early glimpse at updates to iPhone and Mac software has become a tradition at Apple's annual conference for app developers, which began yesterday in San Jose, California. But Apple occasionally also uses the event to introduce new devices and services and upgrades to existing products. Amazon introduced the Echo speaker, featuring its Alexa assistant, in 2015. Google followed with its Home speaker, featuring its plain-named Assistant, last year.

Both speakers can respond to voice requests for the news, weather and tasks such as turning on the lights. More than 35 million people in the US are expected to use a voice-activated speaker at least once a month this year, more than doubling from last year, according to the research firm eMarketer. "There is so much momentum building around these speakers that it would be difficult for Apple not to come out with one," said industry analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy.

Lack of breakthrough device

Amazon just unveiled a version of Echo with a camera, touch-screen display and video-calling capabilities. The new Echo Show goes on sale on June 28 for \$230. Google, meanwhile, previewed new speaker features such as hands-free phone calling during its software conference last month. Microsoft also has announced its own speaker with Samsung's Harman business; it will use

Microsoft's Cortana digital assistant. That leaves Apple. Although it was the first smartphone maker to come out with a digital assistant when Siri debuted in 2011, it hasn't had a stand-alone assistant.

For Apple, having one would further broaden the role that its software, services and gadgets play in people's lives. It wouldn't be the first time that Apple hopped on the bandwagon of a technology product popularized by a competitor. For instance, Apple initially resisted enlarging the size of iPhone's screen despite strong sales for larger-display phones made by Samsung and other rivals. But the company relented, and Apple's larger phones have become hot commodities as more people have embraced having a bigger display to look

at pictures and watch video on the devices. Although Siri would likely be a centerpiece of a smart speaker from Apple, Moorhead said the device's design, colors and acoustics will also likely be focal points because the company has a long history of making elegantly designed products. The lack of a breakthrough device has periodically raised concerns that Apple has become too dependent on the iPhone and supported the theory that the company lost its knack for innovation when its co-founder Steve Jobs died of cancer in 2011. Although Apple Watch has emerged as the leader in its technological niche, it hasn't become a smash hit like the iPhone or the iPad - at least until tablet sales started declining.

On the software front, RBC Capital

analyst Amit Daryanani expects the iOS 11 - the next operating system for Apple's iPhones and iPads - to get an overhaul that will accommodate the anticipated removal of the home button from the 10th anniversary model of the iPhone due out later this year. The next iOS may also have new features designed for artificial intelligence, the application of computers that learn and understand things like humans. Apple also may introduce its next Mac computer, along with the next operating system powering the machine. Software updates are also expected for Apple's smartwatch and TV box for streaming online video. Daryanani said Apple may also announce an iPad Pro with a faster processor in an attempt to revive its long-slumping tablet sales.—AP



NEW YORK: In this file photo, a person stands near the Apple logo at the company's store in Grand Central Terminal, in New York.—AP



WARSAW: Taxi drivers block the streets of Warsaw to protest against ride sharing app Uber and competitors in Warsaw yesterday. Traditional cab operators argue that the app represents unfair competition because Uber drivers can dodge the rules and restrictions that regulate professionals.—AFP

POLISH TAXI DRIVERS PROTEST AGAINST UBER

WARSAW: Two thousand Polish taxi drivers yesterday snarled traffic in the capital Warsaw by driving at a snail's pace to protest against competitors including the controversial ride-sharing app Uber. Traditional cab operators argue that the app represents unfair competition because Uber drivers can dodge the rules and restrictions that regulate professionals. Blaring horns and flying small red-and-white national flags, the taxis inched through Warsaw at around 10 kilometers an hour blocking the city centre and major thoroughfares.

Organizers said that around 2,000 drivers took part in Warsaw and hundreds joined in several other cities across the country. Uber began operating in Poland in 2014. "We want the government to respond to the illegal activities of some in the transport sector," said Jaroslaw Iglowski, a representative of the Warsaw taxi union.

Iglowski insists that Uber and other drivers fail to comply with laws requiring

taxi drivers to use cash registers and undergo psychological tests to obtain licenses. Poland's competition authority UOKiK said last month that it found no grounds to sanction Uber and other operators for alleged breaches of competition rules or consumer rights. Uber has become one of Silicon Valley's biggest venture-funded startups and has expanded its ride-sharing services to dozens of countries.

It does not employ drivers or own vehicles, but instead relies on private contractors with their own cars, allowing them to run their own businesses. The app claims it is a service provider, connecting passengers with these freelance drivers directly and cheaply. But critics and competitors around the globe say this allows it to flout costly regulations such as stringent licensing requirements for taxi drivers, who undergo hundreds of hours of training. Thousands of Spanish taxis went on strike in Madrid and Barcelona last week to protest against Uber and similar ride-hailing company Cabify.—AFP

INTERNET EXTREMISM AND HOW TO COMBAT IT

DETROIT: In the wake of Britain's third major attack in three months, Prime Minister Theresa May called on governments to form international agreements to prevent the spread of extremism online. Here's a look at extremism on the web, what's being done to stop it and what could come next.

Q. What are technology companies doing to make sure extremist videos and other terrorist content doesn't spread across the internet?

A. Internet companies use technology plus teams of human reviewers to flag and remove posts from people who engage in extremist activity or express support for terrorism. Google, for example, says it employs thousands of people to fight abuse on its platforms. Google's YouTube service removes any video that has hateful content or incites violence, and its software prevents the video from ever being reposted.

YouTube says it removed 92 million videos in 2015; 1 percent were removed for terrorism or hate speech violations. Facebook, Microsoft, Google and Twitter teamed up late last year to create a shared industry database of unique digital fingerprints for images and videos that are produced by or support extremist organizations. Those fingerprints help the companies identify and remove extremist content. After the attack on Westminster Bridge in London in March, tech companies also agreed to form a joint group to accelerate anti-terrorism efforts.

Twitter says in the last six months of 2016, it suspended a total of 376,890 accounts for violations related to the promotion of extremism. Three-quarters of those were found through

Twitter's internal tools; just 2 percent were taken down because of government requests, the company says. Facebook says it alerts law enforcement if it sees a threat of an imminent attack or harm to someone. It also seeks out potential extremist accounts by tracing the "friends" of an account that has been removed for terrorism.

Q. Why are technology companies clashing with governments over extremist communications?

A. Since Edward Snowden's 2013 disclosures about National Security Agency surveillance, several tech companies have started encrypting - that is, scrambling them to thwart spies - instant messages and other data so tightly that even the companies can't read them. Governments are not happy about that. After the 2015 mass shooting in San Bernardino, California, and again after the Westminster Bridge attack, the US and UK governments sought access to encrypted messages exchanged by extremists who carried out the attacks.

Apple and Facebook's WhatsApp refused, noting that they didn't hold the keys needed to unscramble such messages. Both governments eventually found other ways to get the information they wanted. Some in government - including former FBI Director James Comey and Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California - have argued that the inability to access encrypted data is a threat to security. Feinstein has introduced a bill to force companies to give the government so-called "backdoor" access to encrypted data so that investigators could read messages on these services.—AP

ISOLATION BY THE WEST FUELS A TECH STARTUP BOOM IN IRAN

TEHRAN: Mostafa Meisami has given up on the farming life, trading his old job raising cattle for a better-paying gig ferrying commuters through the notoriously traffic-clogged streets of the Iranian capital Tehran. The 38-year-old father-to-be plies his trade in a brand-new, locally assembled Chinese hatchback, scrolling for fares using an app on his Samsung smartphone. Yes, even in Iran, there's an app for that - and quite a few other things too.

The Islamic Republic remains in many ways cut off economically from the rest of the world. Big-name Western brands shun the market for fear of violating sanctions that remain in place even after the country's landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. That means no KFC - just local upstarts like "Iran Fried Chicken" - or credit and ATM cards connected to global banking networks. Visitors to the country must carry in thick wads of dollars.

Many popular social-networking sites like Facebook are blocked by government censors. Order from Amazon or call an Uber? Forget about it. In their place, a surprisingly active tech startup scene has sprung up. It's driven by a growing number of Iranian millennials who see their country of 80 million people not as an isolated outcast but as a market ripe with opportunity. Among the fastest-growing companies in the digital transformation is Snapp, the ride-hailing app Meisami uses.

Premium car rides

He estimates he makes more than \$900 working in a good month, pulling in a much larger cut per fare than he would driving for a traditional taxi-style car service. His hours are long - 12 hours a day most days a week - but he likes being able to pick when and where he works. "This opened a door to people like me who had financial problems," he said.

Launched in 2014, Snapp operates a sleek Uber-like app that runs off of Google Maps and has a launch page featuring the Tehran skyline.

It boasts 100,000 drivers and has carried more than 5 million passengers on some 50 million rides, according to its enthusiastic CEO, Sharam Shahkar, 32. He's among the older employees in the company's northern Tehran headquarters, where bearded hipsters and fashionable young women in loose-fitting hijabs squeeze their laptops into a cramped workspace while builders across the hall rush to double the office space. It looks like a tech startup anywhere in the world, except for the Iranian flag in the corner. Shahkar speaks in tech buzzwords like "onboarding" for the process of running background checks and training new drivers, and sees the company as a long-term solution for Tehran's nightmare traffic and parking woes. "Our vision is to make it so convenient, so affordable that people will no longer have incentive to own a personal vehicle," he said. In addition to its basic service, Snapp offers premium rides in nicer cars as well as female-driven vehicles for women and families. It recently expanded to the nearby suburb of Karaj and the central city of Isfahan, and is considering rolling out a motorcycle delivery service.

The company says it undercuts taxi prices by 30 to 50 percent - a consumer-friendly move that has rankled the old guard. In February, dozens of local taxi drivers angry over the competition gathered outside parliament and chanted "American Snapp should be destroyed" in an effort to link it wrongly to Iran's arch enemy, the US. A formal request by the taxi association that authorities shut down Snapp and a smaller competitor known as Tap30 were ultimately rejected. The taxi federation has responded by launching a ride-hailing app of its own.

Snapp

Snapp is owned by the Iran Internet Group, which has emerged as one of the leaders in the country's startup scene. It is backed by telecom IranCell, which state-linked investors have stakes in, as well as South African telecom MTN. Its other businesses include a food-ordering app called Zoodfood and a hotel booking site known as Pintapin - a useful service in a country that most booking portals don't touch. The company's online shopping site Bamilo competes against Iran's biggest e-commerce site, Digikala, which ranks behind only Google and a local sports portal as Iran's third most-visited website, according to web traffic data site Alexa.

Like Amazon, the sites sell everything from laptops and cellphones to clothes, kitchen supplies and cosmetics. But there are subtle differences too. Both sites are currently running promotions for the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, for example. Digikala even sells cars, including a 2017 Lexus hybrid SUV on offer for more than \$90,000. And Iranians would not accept having their purchases left unceremoniously on the doorstep like in the US. They expect hand-to-hand delivery, said Afshan Samani, Bamilo's chief product officer.

Samani did graduate work in Sweden and Canada, but decided to return to her native Iran because she said she loves a challenge - and smelled opportunity. "I noticed how kind of cultivated the environment is. It's ready," she said. "The huge difference I see right now is people say that 'I want to do something.'" Figures released by Iran's central bank last month showed that online shopping jumped 34 percent and accounted for sales of more than \$370 billion during the last Persian year, which ends in March.—AP

YELLOWSTONE PARK WINNING AGAINST NON-NATIVE FISH

CODY, Wyoming: Researchers trying to preserve native cutthroat trout in Yellowstone National Park say they are on track to eliminate non-native fish from Yellowstone Lake in about a decade. The National Park Service is trying to get rid of lake trout, which were discovered in Yellowstone Lake in 1994, the Cody Enterprise reported. Lake trout is a voracious species that

feeds on cutthroats. "They're a wonderful fish, but they just don't belong here," said Phil Doepke, a fisheries biologist who has been part of the cutthroat-trout conservation effort for 14 seasons.

Computer modeling indicates the lake trout population will collapse within 10 years, said Todd Koel, the park's senior fisheries biologist. "Lake

trout are in decline, but it doesn't happen overnight," he said. Researchers use nets to remove lake trout. They have removed 2.6 million pounds since 1996, including more than 366,000 pounds last year. They also locate and destroy lake trout eggs at spawn sites. Biologists are finding more efficient ways to remove lake trout every season, Koel said. They now implant trans-

mitters in individual lake trout, called Judas fish, and release them to study their patterns.

"The Judas fish lead us to their friends, and then we kill them," Koel said. Small aircraft search for the transmitter-equipped fish, covering the entire 22-mile lake in about two hours, far faster than boats. "I'm hopeful we can shift completely to flights to find fish soon,"

Koel said. Recreational anglers also help. The fishing season opened in late May, and anglers can catch as many lake trout as they like - and they're not allowed to throw any back. "Catch them, kill them and eat them," Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said. More than 50,000 visitors buy the required Yellowstone fishing permit each year.—AP

EARLY REPORTING OF CANCER SYMPTOMS BOOST SURVIVAL

CHICAGO: If you're being treated for cancer, speak up about any side effects. A study that had patients use home computers to report symptoms like nausea and fatigue surprisingly improved survival - by almost half a year, longer than many new cancer drugs do. The online tool was intended as a quick and easy way for people to regularly report complications rather than trying to call their doctors or waiting until the next appointment. Researchers had hoped to improve quality of life but got a bonus in longer survival.

"I was floored by the results," said the study leader, Dr. Ethan Basch. "We are proactively catching things early" with online reporting. Patients were able to stick with treatment longer because their side effects were quickly addressed, he said. People shouldn't assume that symptoms are an unavoidable part of cancer care, said Dr. Richard Schilsky, chief medical officer of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. "You want to be able to reach your provider as early and as easily as possible," because a sign like shortness of breath may mean treatment isn't working and needs to be changed, he said.

The study was featured at the cancer group's annual meeting in Chicago on Sunday and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Earlier studies suggest that doctors miss about half of patients' symptoms. "Much of this happens between visits when patients are out of sight and out of mind," said Basch, a researcher at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Sometimes patients just put up with a problem until their next exam. "The spouse will say, 'My husband was laid up in bed, exhausted or in pain,' and I'll say 'Why didn't you call me?'" Basch said. The study tested whether the online tool could catch problems sooner. It involved 766 people being treated

for various types of advanced cancers at Sloan Kettering. Some were given usual care and the rest, the online symptom tool.

Patients were as old as 91, and 22 percent has less than a high school education, but using a computer proved easy. "The older patients really grabbed onto it very quickly," Basch said. The online group was asked to report symptoms at least once a week - sooner if they had a problem - and given a list of common ones such as appetite loss, constipation, cough, diarrhea, shortness of breath, fatigue, hot flashes, nausea or pain.

Doctors saw these reports at office visits, and nurses got email alerts when patients reported severe or worsening problems. "Almost 80 percent of the time, the nurses responded immediately," calling in medicines for nausea, pain or other problems, Basch said. Six months later, health-related quality of life had improved for more of those in the online group and they made fewer trips to an emergency room. They also were able to stay on chemotherapy longer - eight months versus six, on average.

Median survival in the online group was 31 months versus 26 months for the others. A larger study will now test the online reporting system nationwide. A colon cancer patient, 53-year-old James Sylvester of New York, is using a version of the one tested in the study to report any problems to his doctors at Sloan Kettering. He hasn't had many side effects, but a rash led to referral to a dermatologist to see if it was related to his cancer medicine.

"The main benefit is they go holistically all over your body" with the list, asking about things that folks may not realize could be due to cancer, such as a rash or trouble with balance, he said. "Some of the things you might not tell your doctor, or you might forget," Sylvester said. The tool ensures the doctor has that information ahead of time, "so when you have that face time, it's more focused."—AP



SRIHARIKOTA: The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) communication satellite GSAT-19, carried onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-mark III), launches at Sriharikota yesterday.—AFP

INDIA SHOWS OFF SPACE PROWESS WITH LAUNCH OF MEGA-ROCKET

MISSION TAKES INDIA CLOSER TO NEXT GENERATION LAUNCH VEHICLE

NEW DELHI: India yesterday successfully launched its most powerful home-produced rocket, another milestone for its indigenous space program which one day hopes to put a human into orbit. The 43-metre rocket hurtled into a clear sky at 5.28 pm (1158 GMT) from the southern island of Sriharikota, one of two sites used by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to launch satellites. Scientists hugged each other and cheered as the 640-tonne rocket lifted off.

"The GSLV - MKIII D1/GSAT-19 mission takes India closer to the next generation launch vehicle and satellite capability," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on his Twitter account. "The nation is proud!" The rocket boasts a powerful engine that has been developed in India over many years. Program managers hope to reduce reliance on European engines that have propelled some of India's spacecraft in the past.

The GSLV Mk III rocket carried a satellite weighing more than three tons into a high orbit above Earth, a landmark achievement as India had struggled to match the heavier payloads of other space giants. "This is an important

moment in India's space technology, to launch an indigenous heavy rocket," Ajay Lele from the Delhi-based Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses said. "Communication satellites are quite heavy and we were (only) able to send up to two tons previously. This is a double quantum jump for India." The launch is another feather in the cap for scientists at ISRO, who won Asia's race to Mars in 2014 when an Indian spacecraft reached the Red Planet on a shoestring budget. That feat burnished India's reputation as a reliable low-cost option for space exploration, with its \$73 million price tag drastically undercutting NASA's Maven Mars \$671-million mission. ISRO is also mulling the idea of missions to Jupiter and Venus.

Reaching for the stars

India is vying for a larger slice of the booming commercial satellite business as phone, internet and other companies seek expanded and more high-end communications. In February India put a record 104 satellites in orbit from a single rocket, surpassing Russia which launched 39 satellites in one mission in

June 2014. The rocket's main cargo on that occasion was a 714-kilogram satellite for Earth observation but it was also loaded with 103 smaller "nano satellites", nearly all from other countries.

Although India has successfully launched lighter satellites in recent years, this latest rocket is capable of carrying a massive four-ton payload into high orbit-twice the capacity of its predecessor, ISRO says. The space agency tested a less-developed version of the rocket in December 2014 while the cryogenic engine was still in the testing phase. It carried an unmanned crew capsule which separated from the rocket and splashed down in the Bay of Bengal off India's east coast 20 minutes after liftoff.

The Indian-made capsule was designed to carry up to three astronauts but ISRO said it would take at least another seven years to reach the point where a crew could be put into space. India wants to become the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to put astronauts into orbit but its manned spaceflight program has experienced multiple stops and starts.—AFP

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DON'T SUPPORT TRUMP'S CLEANEST CLAIM

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said the United States "will continue to be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth" as he announced a US pullout from an international accord designed to curb climate change. But facts muddy that claim. Data show that the US is among the dirtiest countries when it comes to heat-trapping carbon pollution. One nation that has cleaner air in nearly every way is Sweden. "The US is well behind other countries in having the cleanest and most sustainable environment," University of Michigan environmental scientist Rosina Bierbaum said in an email.

The US emits more carbon dioxide than any other nation except China. In 2014, the US spewed 237 times more carbon dioxide into the air than Sweden, according to figures by the US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory. "On pretty much any climate-related indicator, the US will not look good," said Glen Peters, a Norwegian climate scientist who is part of the Global Carbon Project that ranks worldwide emissions. The US is No. 2 in per person carbon dioxide pollution, behind Luxembourg, among 35 developed nations plus China, India and Brazil, Energy Department data show.

That's 19.1 tons of carbon dioxide per year for the average American, compared with 4.9 tons for the average Swede. Taking into account economics, the US ranks 10th highest in carbon pollution per gross domestic product behind China, India, Russia, Estonia, Poland, South Korea, the Czech Republic, Mexico and Turkey, according to the International Energy Agency. The US spews almost five times more carbon dioxide per dollar in the economy than Sweden. Because carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for more than a century, scientists and regulators say it's more

important to look at historical emissions.

Since 1870, the US has produced about one-quarter of the world's carbon dioxide - twice as much as China - and that makes it the biggest polluter in the world by far, Peters said. In some traditional air pollution measurements, the United States is cleaner than most nations, said William K. Reilly, who headed the US Environmental Protection Agency under Republican President George H W Bush. But "when the problem he is dealing with is carbon dioxide, we are notably not better than the rest of the world," said Reilly, adding that Trump is "just wrong."

The US is better than most of the world when it comes to dangerous soot or fine particles. Among industrialized countries, the US tied for sixth cleanest, according to the Health Effects Institute. It's also tied for sixth smoggiest in the world with Turkey, according to the institute. "There are a number of countries that have cleaner air in terms of major industrial nations. We are certainly in the top core," said Dan Greenbaum, the group's president. "Clearly, countries like China and India are much, much worse than we are."

The US leads in helping people fight for a clean environment by having laws and procedures that allow citizens to sue to enforce pollution protections and get information, said Princeton University climate scientist and international affairs professor Michael Oppenheimer. Other countries are far ahead of the US in cleaner energy, especially Germany, which on occasion is fueled fully by renewables, Oppenheimer said. Reilly, the former EPA head, recalled how the US took environmental leadership 25 years ago this month as it became the first industrial country to ratify the first climate treaty. "Now we turn the page," Reilly said. "We'll see where it goes."—AP

2 LIONS FREED FROM CIRCUSES, ARE POACHED IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: In 2016, 33 lions freed from circuses in Peru and Colombia were transported to South Africa to live out their days in a wildlife refuge. Last week, poachers broke into the sanctuary, killing two of the big cats. The killing of the male lions named Josy and Liso occurred at the Emoya Big Cat Sanctuary, which had portrayed the lion airlift as a compassionate gesture that alleviated the suffering of animals held in cages and subjected to beatings and other mistreatment.

The incursion highlighted how brazen poachers can infiltrate places like Emoya, which said it has 24-hour security and armed patrols and has taken additional measures to protect its property in Vaalwater, in northern South Africa. Forensic experts have visited the sanctuary, which is currently closed to visitors and volunteers. South African police and anti-poaching units are investigating, said Animal Defenders International, a group that worked on the lion transfer from South America.

The group said it is considering the offer of a reward for information leading to conviction, and that the other lions might even be evacuated pending security upgrades. No details about the possible motive for the lion killings were provided. In January, poachers cut through fences at another animal park in South Africa and decapitated and chopped the paws off three male lions, possibly for use in traditional healing rituals. While lion parts have long been used in some African cultures, conservationists have raised concerns that poachers are increasingly targeting lions because of demand in some Asian countries.

African lion bones are a relatively recent substitute in tonics for the bones of Asian tigers, whose numbers were depleted by poachers. Lion teeth and claws are known to have value as trinkets. The transfer of the lions to Emoya had no conservationist value because the animals, which were in poor condition, had been held in captivity and could not live in the wild. The former circus lions are provided with game meat and water in large enclosures.

Rapunzel, one of the 33 lions, died of a botulism toxin at Emoya in June 2016, a little over a month after the airlift from South America, according to the sanctuary's website. "Animals are normally resistant to this kind of bacterial toxin but rescue lions that have suffered a lifetime of malnutrition and abuse can sadly remain vulnerable to diseases despite rehabilitation efforts," the sanctuary said. Animal Defenders International said one of the two elderly lions killed last week had suffered brain damage from head blows in the circus.—AP



PAJU: In this file photo, a girl uses binoculars to watch the North side at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom, which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, South Korea.—AP

NORTH KOREA REJECTS SOUTH KOREA GROUP'S OFFER FOR MALARIA HELP

SEOUL: A South Korean civic group said yesterday that North Korea has rejected its offer to provide anti-malaria supplies to protest Seoul's support of fresh UN sanctions on the country. The rejection could complicate efforts by South Korea's new liberal President Moon Jae-in to try to expand civilian exchanges with North Korea as a way to improve strained bilateral ties. All major cooperation programs between the rivals remain stalled amid an international standoff over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

In late May, Moon's government allowed the Seoul-based Korean Sharing Movement to contact North Korea. It was South Korea's first approval of cross-border civilian exchanges since January 2016. The civic group subsequently exchanged emails with North Korea and was supposed to deliver anti-malaria items such as insecticides, diagnostic reagent kits and mosquito repellent to North Korea this week, according to group official Hong Sang-young.

But North Korea told his organization yesterday that it won't allow the visit because of UN sanctions adopted last week that Seoul has vowed to implement, Hong

said. Despite the lack of South Korean assistance, North Korea has in recent years reported declining cases of malaria thanks largely to anti-malaria aid programs by international organizations. According to World Health Organization records, North Korea had 21,850 malaria cases in 2012, but 7,010 cases in 2015.

The UN Security Council voted unanimously Friday to add 15 individuals and four entities linked to North Korea's nuclear and missile programs to a UN sanctions blacklist. Its unclear if and how much the new UN sanctions would sting North Korea, which is already under multiple rounds of UN and other international sanctions. Since Moon's May 10 inauguration, North Korea has test-fired three ballistic missiles in an apparent show of its resolve to expand its weapons arsenals to cope with what it calls US hostility.

Moon's government has said it will evaluate expanding civilian exchanges with North Korea, while sternly dealing with its missile and other weapons tests. North Korea is pushing hard to build a nuclear-tipped missile that can reach the continental United States.—AP



NEW HAMPSHIRE: In this file photo, a plume of steam billows from the coal-fired Merrimack Station in Bow, New Hampshire.—AP

ANTIBACTERIAL RESISTANCE POSES MAJOR CHALLENGES IN MIDDLE EAST HOSPITALS

DUBAI: In the Middle East, MRSA can pose major challenges to healthcare systems due to commonly used antibiotics losing their effectiveness and certain safety issues and thereby limiting their use. MRSA has become an endemic in this region, and the burden and the difficulty in detecting imported strains are increasing. There is also an increasing risk of domestic and global transmission. MRSA in particular, has become a challenging healthcare problem leading to increased morbidity and mortality, and becoming a burden on healthcare systems and costs.

Dr Ashraf El Houfi, Consultant ICU Dubai Hospital, Examiner for The Royal College of Physicians, Lecturer in Dubai Medical College and Chairman of The Infection Control Committee Dubai Hospital commented saying "When an infection occurs, patients typically receive an antibiotic to kill the bacteria. However, over the past few decades, bacterial resistance to commonly used antibiotics has increased considerably.

The gram-positive bacterium *Staphylococcus Aureus* is the primary causative pathogen in skin and soft tissue infections. Acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections are complex and difficult-to-treat infections and can be associated with increased morbidity and mortality if not treated appropriately."

He continued to say, "Complicated skin infections can progress extremely rapidly in severity and so patients require prompt diagnosis and initiation of treatment is essential. Globally, approximately one in every five patients do not receive appropriate antibiotic therapy for MRSA skin infections." MRSA can spread rapidly among people having close contact with infected people. Also through indirect contact by touching objects i.e., towels, sheets, wound dressings, clothes, and equipment contaminated by the infected skin of a person with MRSA.

Further, patients in hospitals are more likely to contract an MRSA infection since the pathogen is often spread by healthcare staff due to insufficient

hygiene measures. It is crucial that certain hygiene rules are followed, particularly in the healthcare environment. This is one of the measures which the spread and infection rates of MRSA can be reduced. Therefore, it is essential that certain hygiene rules are followed, particularly in the healthcare environment. Simple measures such as hand washing with soap, and/or using an alcohol based hand rub, wearing gloves and a gown can help to prevent the spread of infection.

Enhancing infection prevention and control programs to contain healthcare acquired MRSA is important for both hospitals and community areas, along with appropriate measures designed to limit the spread and reduce the threat of MRSA carriage and infections. On the other hand Dr. Ayman AbdulAziz Ali head of ICU Department in Sharjah University Hospital said "Antibiotic stewardship is crucial to help contain the further development of the observed resistance and to help in preserving



Dr Phil Smits



Dr Ashraf El Houfi

antibiotics as future therapeutic resources. It is critical for countries in this region to establish both national and international initiatives to develop better measurements designed to limit and control the spread of infections."

Within the region, Bayer Middle East has a long standing commitment and ongoing dedication to contribute to the fight against increasing antibacterial resistance, in order to ensure that physicians have effective therapies available

and continue to treat patients. As a result of antibiotics becoming a scarce resource, both physicians and patients must use them carefully in order to maintain their usefulness. This is the time now, where the need for policies and regulations for antibiotic use at the country level must be developed as well, promoting the appropriate use of antibiotics, and increasing the awareness for both clinicians and the public on the rational and appropriate use of antibiotics.

WASTED GREEN POWER TESTS CHINA'S ENERGY LEADERSHIP

BEIJING: China's scramble to curb pollution has made it the world leader in renewable energy development, yet increasing amounts of that green power have gone unused as the country struggles to integrate wind and solar farms into an outdated and balkanized electricity network dominated by coal. The problem threatens to slow China's progress in clearing its air and controlling the greenhouse gas emissions that make it the top contributor to climate change.

It also could hamper any desire among Chinese leaders to fill the leadership gap left by President Donald Trump's move to withdraw the US from the Paris climate accord. As energy ministers from around the globe gather in Beijing this week to promote renewables, China's difficulty maximizing its green resources reflects the challenges they face over how best to transition to cleaner electricity. "They installed too much too fast," said Qiao Liming, China director for the Global Wind Energy Council.

"A real market should allow electricity to flow between two provinces. That is currently lacking" in China, she said. Thousands of new wind turbines and solar panels were installed in China's remote provinces over the past several years as the country's leaders sought to alleviate choking urban smog without slowing economic expansion. China now has more renewable power capacity than any other nation.

Two nagging problems have dampened that success, however, according to industry representatives and outside observers: China's sprawling power grid has been unable to handle the influx of new electricity from wind and solar, while some provincial officials have retained a preference for coal. In western China's Gansu province, 43 percent of energy from wind went unused in 2016, a phenomenon known in the energy industry as "curtailment." In the neighboring Xinjiang region, the curtailment figure was 38 percent and in northeast China's Jilin province it was 30 percent.

The nationwide figure, 17 percent, was described by Qiao's organization as "shockingly high" after increasing for several years in a row. The problem has shown some signs of improvement this year, according to the China Electricity Council. Power demand in general increased in the first

quarter, giving a boost to renewables after the economy regained momentum from 2016's slowdown.

However, experts say wasted energy will continue to be a drag on Chinese renewable power potential until the country's electrical grid is modernized and provincial officials end their preference for coal, which provides almost two-thirds of the country's energy. The problem is worst in winter, when many coal plants provide electricity for the power grid and send out excess heat to keep homes and businesses warm.

That's led provincial officials to keep coal plants running - and to reject available wind-generated electricity - despite pressure from the central government to use more renewables, said Lu Xi, a professor at Tsinghua University's School of Environment in Beijing. "On paper they express quite clear attitudes to promote renewables, but in reality they promote coal interests," said Frank Yu, a renewables specialist with the consulting firm Wood Mackenzie.

To help address the issue, China's National Energy Administration has pushed for more wind turbines to be installed closer to Beijing and coastal cities, where demand is highest. That should allow renewable energy to bypass part of the dated transmission system that's been blamed for impeding its use. It also would give more populated provinces a greater stake in making sure renewables get used. In a separate effort, at this week's energy ministers meeting in Beijing, Chinese officials are expected to launch a campaign to make its power supply system more flexible. The goal is to create a power grid that can more easily absorb the highs and lows associated with weather-dependent wind and solar electricity, said Christian Zinglersen, the head of the Clean Energy Ministerial, which is hosting the meeting. Still, the problem of electricity going unused could get worse before it gets better, said Liutong Zhang, a senior manager with the Lantau Group, a Hong Kong-based energy consulting firm.

More solar and wind is planned in Chinese provinces that already have more power-generating capacity than they use. Additional coal plants also are slated to come online, Zhang said. China's difficulties, while more pronounced than in other countries, are not unique. —AP



MYANMAR: This file photo shows a vendor, left, attempting to sell a chunk of dried elephant skin and an ivory tusk at a traditional medicine shop in the sprawling grounds of Golden Rock pagoda in Mount Kyaikhteeyoe, a major religious pilgrimage site for Myanmar Buddhists.—AFP

SKIN CURE FAD DRIVING MYANMAR ELEPHANT POACHING SURGE: WWF

YANGON: Myanmar's wild elephants are being poached in record numbers with at least 20 killed this year due to surging demand for their hide, WWF said yesterday, warning the species is facing a "crisis". Hunters are increasingly targeting mothers and calves, using poisoned arrows to inflict a slow and agonizing death before stripping them of their skin, the wildlife group said. At least 20 elephant corpses have been found stripped of their skin in two sites the wildlife NGO monitors so far in 2017 — more than are usually killed in a whole year.

Global wildlife law enforcement specialist Rohit Singh said poaching at the Bago Yoma and the Irrawaddy Delta sites, both in the south, had reached crisis point. "If the current trend continues then you're going to lose the wild elephant population (in these areas) in the next 1-2 years,"

he said. "The sex ratio was already screwed up so any more pressure on young or breeding females will have serious, serious implications." Elephant skin has become one of the latest animal products to be touted by some as having medical properties, although there is no scientific support for those claims.

WWF estimates there are 1,400-2,000 elephants roaming wild in Myanmar, thought to be the second-largest population in Southeast Asia after Thailand. But their numbers have dwindled as Myanmar has emerged as a key hub in the \$20 billion a year global wildlife trafficking trade. Myanmar's government said in January that elephant poaching has jumped tenfold in recent years, driven by growing demand for skin and body parts used in traditional medicine.

AFP reporters who visited a wildlife market

hidden behind Myanmar's famed "Golden Rock" pilgrimage site earlier this year saw chunks of the hide on sale for a few dollars a square inch. Vendors promised that a paste made of its ash and coconut oil would cure eczema, while ground up elephant teeth would smooth and whiten skin. But experts say the majority of elephant products go to feed neighboring China's insatiable taste for exotic animals.

Much of the trade runs through the country's lawless eastern periphery, controlled by a sophisticated criminal network who are thought to be armed and funded by powerful "kingpins" in China. "It's organized crime, so we are dealing with organized criminal gangs," said Singh, adding that WWF was working with local communities and government to try to clamp down on poaching.—AFP

CLINIC PAGE



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INDIGENOUS ATMOSPHERE AT THE TENT OF THE SHERATON KUWAIT



The coral ballroom at the Sheraton Kuwait hotel is decorated with the finest decorations for the holy month of Ramadan with its charming designs and historic interior style reflecting the greater Maghreb, boasting a distinctive atmosphere to welcome you for iftar, ghabqas and suhour in a traditional Ramadan ambience. Our chefs are keen to prepare a variety of dishes for an experience not to be forgotten.

A rich buffet with a variety of delicacies from around the world including salads, appetizers and main dishes, delicious shawarma and many types of sambossek, kebbe and jumbo shrimps, a corner for refreshing drinks like jallab and tamer aldin and many others, in addition to a health soups corner specially prepared for iftar and suhour, and distinctive kind of sweets and beverages. A dedicated smoking area has been set up and inspired by the meetings of friends and family. The Sheraton Kuwait hotel's tent boasts its pioneers of families, friends and business people to offer its luxurious services mixed with loud tunes offering a distinctive and pleasant atmosphere.



ACK, KFAS HOST SPHERE



On May 3, 2017 the second Symposia of Private Higher Education; Road to Excellence (SPHERE) was convened in the premises of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The one day symposium was held under the Patronage of the Secretary General of the Private Universities Council (PUC) and wasco-organized and sponsored by the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The Proceedings included an opening session in which representatives of PUC, KFAS and ACK participated. Dr Waleed Al-Kandari the Deputy of the Secretary General at the PUC highlighted that the PUC has taken a number of steps to encourage the private universities to enhance their research and development activities. Dr Adnan Shihab Eldin in his address asked the private universities to link their research and development plans with national plans. Furthermore, the Chairperson of the Symposium Dr Mohammed Al-Rumaihi emphasized that the private universities should have an active role in research through cooperation with the national stakeholders and international partners. Four "Technical" sessions where keynote presentations were discussed. Their topics were: Research and Development in Private Universities in the GCC, presented by Prof Hilal Al-Hanai, secretary General of The

Research Council of Oman. Best Practices in promoting Research and Development in private Universities, presented by Prof. George Najjar, Provost-Lebanese American University. Role of Research and Development in supporting excellence in higher education, presented by Prof. Abeer Al-Bawab, General Director of the Scientific Research Support Fund (SRSF) in Jordan. Market-Driven Research and Development, Presented by Prof. Abdalla Al-Najjar, Chairman-Arab Science & Technology Foundation, UAE. The sessions were chaired by: Prof. Tariq Aldowaisan, Prof. Moudi Al-Humoud, Prof Mustafa Marefi; and Prof Esam AlAwadhi respectively. At the beginning of each session the Chairperson of the session gave an introduction for a few minutes followed by 20 minutes for the speaker and 25 minutes for comments from the floor. A final discussion session composed of the main speakers was conducted by Prof. Adnan Badran, Chancellor of University of Petra and Chairman of the board of Trustees of University of Jordan. The scholars contributing to the symposium were affiliated to public and private universities and colleges. In addition, a good number of participants came from national research and development centers and agencies. At the closing, the participants expressed appreciation for the joint event and urged ACK and KFAS to continue this endeavor.

ARPAN, KUWAIT HOLDS FAREWELL MEETING

Arpan, Kuwait hosted a farewell meeting in honor of P A Menon who is leaving Kuwait for good after serving in the country for 40 years. He has been working in the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) as chief accountant. Menon, currently the Advisory Board Chairman of Arpan, is the founder member of the association. He has also served Arpan as its president. The meeting was presided over by Arpan president Suresh K P while General Secretary Rafi Padiyath wel-

comed the gathering. In addition to the Arpan members, Menon's associates in the erstwhile organizations OMWA and UMA, friends and well-wishers attended the farewell meeting. The speakers, while elucidating the multifaceted qualities of Menon as an expat social activist, listed the contributions he made in the Indian socio-cultural arena in Kuwait, particularly in promoting Indian culture and heritage in the country. They also spoke about his impeccable leadership qualities and the

philanthropic services he rendered to the society. Those delivered felicitation speeches included Mohan Iyer, Krishnan K Pillai, Ganesh, Mahadevan Iyer, Sam C Vilanilam, Rajan Daniel, Sam Painummoodu, S A Labba, Shivadas Mullassery, Joy Mudakkatt, Manoj Mavelikkara, Binu P G, Sajeev (Sarathi), Saji Janardhanan (KALA Kuwait), Subbaraman A R, Rajeshwari Subbaraman and Sajeev K Peter. Anil Attva coordinated the function while Venkatakrishnan delivered a vote of thanks.



GREETINGS



Khalid Fawzi received greetings and best wishes on the birth of his grandson Fares. Congratulations to him and his family.

Merna Gergis Shaker completed her high school with flying colors achieving a 93.3 percent of the total marks in the science section. Merna attributed her outstanding performance to hard work and persistence. She stressed that time management and organization were major factors since day one. She also stressed that both her family, namely her mother, and her school helped her by providing the ideal atmosphere for studying.





—Photos by Joseph Shagra

IWG HOLDS GHABQA

By Faten Omar

The International Women's Group (IWG) held a Ghabqa to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan with the members of the Group at Crowne Plaza Hotel on Sunday. The group celebrates occasions all over the year, to introduce the cultures all over and give the opportunity to let its member know about Girgian, Ghabqa and Ramadan in Kuwait, as well as traditional Kuwaiti food consumed during Ramadan.

During the event, former President of IWG, Elena Solomatina, the spouse of the Russian Ambassador to Kuwait said, "IWG spent more than 25 years of their lives to be what we are today." She announced the end of the activities of the International Woman Group for this year where the members elect Dr Heba Barakat, wife of HE the Egyptian ambassador to be the new president of IWG.

The new president of the International Women Group, Dr. Barakat expressed her happi-

ness to present IWG and appreciated the effort of the former president Elena "Elena organized a variety of workshops that introduced our members to many cultures. I accepted this position because she will be in my side, to put me and the rest of members in the right track," she said.

Barakat asked all the IWG members to give ideas and suggestions to make the group great and shine up. For his part, Ambassador of Guyana to Kuwait, Shamir Ally thanked and honored former President of IWG Solomatina and Narjes Al-Shatti, Board Member of the International Women's Group for their effort in creating IWG with their leadership skills.

The ambassador added "Me and My wife appreciate what you have done and still doing for all the IWG members who present different cultures and religions." The event featured a fashion show by IWG members. Also Egyptian performance "skirt dance," which is an Egyptian tanoura traditional dance and a belly dancing show by marionette a puppet controlled from above using strings.



OSN MOVIES ACTION

01:45 Hudson Hawk
03:45 King Arthur
06:00 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
08:00 Apocalypse Pompeii
09:30 Hudson Hawk
11:15 King Arthur
13:30 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.
15:30 Big Game
17:15 Hitting The Apex
19:45 7500
21:15 Lucy
22:45 San Andreas

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Wildest Islands
01:40 Wildest Islands
02:35 Wildest Islands
03:25 Wildest Islands
04:15 Wildest Islands
05:02 Wildest Islands
05:49 River Monsters
06:36 Going Ape
07:00 Going Ape
07:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
08:15 Wildest Africa
09:10 Wildest Islands
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
11:55 Animal Cops Miami
12:50 Wildest Africa
13:45 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
14:40 Wildest Islands
15:35 Tanked
16:30 River Monsters
17:25 Biggest And Baddest
18:20 Lone Star Law
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Preposterous Pets
21:05 Biggest And Baddest
22:00 Lone Star Law
22:55 The Lion Queen
23:50 River Monsters

BBC FIRST

00:10 EastEnders
00:40 Unforgotten
01:30 Blackout
02:20 Southcliffe
03:15 Ripper Street
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders

05:55 Catch A Contractor
06:50 Framework
07:40 Hungry Investors
08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
09:20 Lip Sync Battle
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Bondi Ink
11:00 Framework
11:50 Catch A Contractor
12:40 Disaster Date
13:05 Disaster Date
13:30 Lip Sync Battle
13:55 Lip Sync Battle
14:20 Bondi Ink
15:10 Framework
16:00 Tattoo Disasters
16:30 Tattoo Disasters
16:55 Disaster Date
17:25 Disaster Date
17:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:15 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:39 Impractical Jokers
19:03 Disaster Date
19:27 Bondi Ink
20:13 Tattoo Disasters
20:37 Tattoo Disasters
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Frankentoo
22:00 Frankentoo
22:25 The Jim Gaffigan Show
22:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show
23:15 Lip Sync Battle
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

00:05 What Happened Next?
00:30 Nextworld
01:20 Nextworld
02:10 Storm Chasers
03:00 Storm Chasers
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Ultimate Survival
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
07:50 K9 Cops
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 K9 Cops
12:50 Ultimate Survival
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Storm Chasers
14:30 Kenny The Shark

02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:25 Sofia The First
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 PJ Masks
08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Goldie & Bear
09:35 The Lion Guard
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Little Mermaid
11:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
11:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:15 Gummi Bears
12:40 Miles From Tomorrow
13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unavailable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 PJ Masks
15:55 Sofia The First
16:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:05 Miles From Tomorrow
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
21:00 Gummi Bears
21:25 Sofia The First
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Little Mermaid
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopdidoo

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 Heavy Rescue

19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Plank
21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
22:35 Booster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

00:00 Second Wives Club
00:55 Botched
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 So Cosmo
06:55 El News
07:25 So Cosmo
08:20 So Cosmo
09:15 So Cosmo
10:10 El News
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 El News
15:30 Celebrity Style Story
16:00 Second Wives Club
17:00 Second Wives Club
18:00 Second Wives Club
19:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Botched
23:00 El News
23:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

food network

00:00 Kids BBQ Championship
01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
02:00 Dinner At Tiffani's
02:30 Dinner At Tiffani's
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Kids BBQ Championship
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Bake With Anna Olson
10:30 Bake With Anna Olson
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Restaurant: Impossible
21:00 Mystery Diners
21:30 Mystery Diners
22:00 The Big Eat - Middle East
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv HD CHOICE

00:10 Alphabetical
01:00 Emmerdale
02:00 Emmerdale
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
03:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Animals - India
04:20 Surprise Surprise
05:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
06:10 Alphabetical
07:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
08:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Animals - India
09:00 Surprise Surprise
10:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
10:55 Alphabetical
11:50 Who's Doing The Dishes?
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Alphabetical
15:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:00 Jekyll And Hyde
16:55 Shoot The Messenger
17:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh

18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
21:00 Jekyll And Hyde
21:55 Shoot The Messenger
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

HD HISTORY

00:20 Ice Road Truckers
01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Pawn Stars South Africa
02:00 Storage Wars Miami
02:25 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Leepu And Pitbull
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Swamp People
13:30 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Leepu And Pitbull
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Pawn Stars
18:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
18:30 Storage Wars Miami
18:55 Storage Wars Miami
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
21:50 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen
22:40 Ultimate Soldier Challenge
23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

00:15 The Game Chef
01:10 Glamour Puds
01:40 The Food Files
02:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:35 Poh & Co.
03:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
03:55 Glamour Puds
04:25 Eat: The Story Of Food
05:20 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
05:45 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
06:15 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
07:10 The Food Files
07:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
08:05 Poh & Co.
08:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:25 Glamour Puds
09:55 Eat: The Story Of Food
10:50 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
11:15 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
11:45 Poh & Co.
12:10 A Is For Apple
13:05 Food School
13:35 The Food Files
14:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
14:30 Poh & Co.
14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:50 Eat: The Story Of Food
16:45 Glamour Puds
17:15 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
17:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
18:10 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
19:05 Eat: The Story Of Food
20:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:30 Glamour Puds
21:00 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
21:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
22:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
22:55 Food School
23:20 The Food Files
23:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
01:00 Genius
02:00 Brain Games
02:30 Brain Games
03:00 Monster Fish
04:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
05:00 Time Scanners
06:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
07:00 Border Wars



HOW DO YOU KNOW ON OSN MOVIES HD

08:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
09:00 Time Scanners
10:00 Scam City
11:00 Lawless Island
12:00 Primal Survivor
13:00 Science Of Stupid
13:30 Street Heat: High Speed Justice
15:00 Border Wars
16:00 Scam City
17:00 Lawless Island
18:00 Primal Survivor
19:00 Border Wars
20:00 Scam City
20:50 Lawless Island
21:40 Primal Survivor
22:30 Border Wars
23:20 Science Of Stupid
23:45 Science Of Stupid
00:45 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
02:30 How Do You Know
04:45 Eight Men Out
07:00 The Legend Of Zorro
09:15 Finding Forrester
11:30 Rocky
13:30 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
15:15 The Horse Whisperer
18:15 Ghostbusters II
20:00 The Walk
22:00 Rocky II

OSN MOVIES HD

00:45 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
02:30 How Do You Know
04:45 Eight Men Out
07:00 The Legend Of Zorro
09:15 Finding Forrester
11:30 Rocky
13:30 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
15:15 The Horse Whisperer
18:15 Ghostbusters II
20:00 The Walk
22:00 Rocky II

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Animal Fight Club 4.5
01:10 Wild Case Files
02:00 Attack Of The Big Cats
02:50 Hunter Hunted
03:45 Survive The Wild
04:40 Animals Of The Year
05:35 Attack Of The Big Cats
06:30 Hunter Hunted
07:25 Survive The Wild
08:20 Animals Of The Year
09:15 World's Weirdest
10:10 Animal Underworld
11:05 Savage Kingdom
12:00 Sharks Of Lost Island
12:55 Future Cat
13:50 Hunter Hunted
14:45 Survive The Wild
15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
16:35 World's Weirdest
17:30 Man V. Monster
18:25 Savage Kingdom
19:20 Survive The Wild
20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
21:00 World's Weirdest
21:50 Man V. Monster
22:40 Savage Kingdom
23:30 Sharks Of Lost Island

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

00:30 Up
02:10 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
03:25 Cars
05:25 Up
07:05 D3: The Mighty Ducks
08:50 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
10:05 Home On The Range
11:20 Cars
13:15 Finding Nemo
15:00 Meet The Robinsons
16:40 Ratatouille
18:35 House Arrest
20:30 Marvel's Iron Man & Captain America: Heroes United
21:45 Meet The Robinsons
23:25 House Arrest

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:30 Tank Girl
02:15 Hit By Lightning
03:45 Yost Hosers
05:15 7 Chinese Brothers
06:45 Kicking And Screaming
08:30 Yoga Hosers
10:00 7 Chinese Brothers
11:30 Kicking And Screaming
13:15 Camp Nowhere
15:00 Crazy On The Outside
16:45 Fan Girl
18:30 Lovesick
20:00 Ediv
22:00 Gentlemen Broncos
23:30 Bill

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:15 Wuthering Heights
03:00 Foreverland
04:30 Ed Wood
06:45 A Country Called Home
08:15 The Yellow Handkerchief
10:00 Wuthering Heights
11:45 Ed Wood
14:00 A Perfect Day
15:45 Experimenter
17:30 Before I Disappear
19:15 Unbroken
21:30 Swing Kids
23:30 Experimenter

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

00:45 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
02:30 The Nutcracker Sweet
04:15 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow

Discovery Science

00:30 Curiosity: Can You Live Forever?
01:20 Curiosity: Can You Live Forever?
02:10 Mythbusters
03:00 How Do They Do It?
03:55 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
04:45 Mythbusters
05:40 How Do They Do It?
06:35 Food Factory
07:30 Curiosity: Can You Live Forever?
08:25 Mythbusters
09:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:15 Mythbusters
11:10 How Do They Do It?
12:05 Food Factory
13:00 Curiosity: How Does Life Begin?
13:55 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
14:50 Mythbusters
15:45 How Do They Do It?
16:40 Food Factory
17:35 Curiosity: Can You Live Forever?
18:30 Mythbusters
19:25 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
20:20 Mythbusters
21:15 How Do They Do It?
22:10 Food Factory
23:05 Curiosity: How Does Life Begin?
24:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
25:00 Mythbusters
26:00 How Do They Do It?
27:00 Food Factory
28:00 Curiosity: Can You Live Forever?
29:00 Mythbusters
30:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

TLC HD

03:15 Say Yes To The Dress
03:35 Cake Boss
04:20 Little People, Big World
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:50 Cake Boss
07:15 Cake Boss

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

07:40 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
08:30 Little People, Big World
09:20 Outrageous Kid Parties
09:45 Outrageous Kid Parties
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress
11:00 Cake Boss
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
12:40 Cake Boss
13:05 Cake Boss
13:30 Sweet 15: Quinceañera
14:20 Little People, Big World
15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:00 Little People, Big World
16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Ugly House To Lovely House
17:40 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 My Kid's Obsession
19:20 Cake Boss
19:45 Cake Boss
20:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
21:00 7 Little Johnstons
21:50 Married By Mum And Dad
22:40 Return To Amish
23:30 7 Little Johnstons

travel channel

00:00 Expedition Unknown
01:00 Robson Green Grand Slam Fishing
02:00 Dangerous Planes: Airshow
03:00 Road Rivals
03:30 Road Rivals
04:00 Expedition Unknown
05:00 Mysteries At The Museum
06:00 Road Rivals
06:30 Road Rivals



BIG GAME ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Father Brown
07:55 New Tricks
08:45 The Musketeers
09:40 Father Brown
10:35 Doctors
11:05 EastEnders
11:35 New Tricks
12:30 The Musketeers
13:25 Father Brown
14:20 Doctors
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 New Tricks
16:15 The Musketeers
17:10 Father Brown
18:05 Casually
19:05 New Tricks
20:00 The Collection
21:00 Rillington Place
22:00 Silent Witness
23:00 Silent Witness

ID

00:30 Alaska Haunting
01:20 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
02:10 Who Killed Jane Doe?
03:00 Killing Richard Glossip
03:48 The Accused, Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...
04:36 Murder Chose Me
05:24 Murder Book
06:12 Blood Relatives
07:00 Young, Hot & Crooked
07:25 Young, Hot & Crooked
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 Blood Relatives
09:30 Heartbreakers
10:20 Love The Way You Lie
11:10 I Am Homicide
12:00 Young, Hot & Crooked
12:25 Young, Hot & Crooked
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 Blood Relatives
14:30 Heartbreakers
15:20 Love The Way You Lie
16:10 Nightmare Next Door
17:00 The Locator
17:25 The Locator
17:50 I Almost Got Away With It
18:40 California Investigator
19:05 California Investigator
19:30 Deadly Affairs
20:20 Southern Fried Homicide
21:10 Betrayed
22:00 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
22:50 Killing Richard Glossip
23:40 Murder Chose Me

02:00 Fukushima: On The Frontline With Joel Lambert
02:50 What On Earth?
03:40 Misfit Garage
04:30 Garage Gold
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers
06:50 Street Outlaws
07:40 Misfit Garage
08:30 What On Earth?
09:20 Garage Gold
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Fast N' Loud
11:25 Diesel Brothers
12:15 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
13:05 How Do They Do It?
13:30 Garage Gold
13:55 Garage Gold
14:20 Gold Rush
15:10 What On Earth?
16:00 Gold Divers
16:50 Misfit Garage
17:40 Street Outlaws
18:30 How Do They Do It?
18:55 How Do They Do It?
19:20 What On Earth?
20:10 Garage Gold
20:35 Garage Gold
21:00 Gold Divers
21:50 Shipwreck Men
22:40 Outback Truckers
23:30 Misfit Garage

XHD

06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
07:15 Milo Murphy's Law
07:25 Danger Mouse
07:40 Supa Strikas
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Counterfeit Cat
09:00 Lab Rats
09:25 Lab Rats
09:50 Future-Worm!
10:20 Pair Of Kings
10:45 Pair Of Kings
11:10 Danger Mouse
11:35 Supa Strikas
12:00 Supa Strikas
12:30 Gravity Falls
12:55 Aneddroids
13:20 Atomic Puppet
13:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Mighty Med
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Mighty Med
19:00 Atomic Puppet



A PERFECT DAY ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

crime & investigation network

Crime & Investigation Network
00:00 The Haunting Of...
01:00 Paranormal State
02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
03:00 Campus Killer: Santa Barbara
04:00 The Haunting Of...
05:00 Paranormal State
06:00 The First 48
07:00 My Crazy Ex
08:00 Evil Up Close
09:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 It Takes A Killer
12:00 It Takes A Killer
12:30 It Takes A Killer
13:00 My Crazy Ex
14:00 Evil Up Close
15:00 Homicide Hunter
16:00 Crime Stories
17:00 It Takes A Killer
17:30 It Takes A Killer
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 Evil Up Close
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Cold Case Files
23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
Comedy Central

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Disaster Date
00:30 Disaster Date
00:55 Tosh.0
01:20 Tosh.0
01:45 Lip Sync Battle
02:10 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Framework
04:15 Sweat Inc.
05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On

Disney Junior

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

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

Time	Movie/Program	Time	Movie/Program	Time	Movie/Program
9:45 PM	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie (Re-Release)	10:15 PM	360°-3 AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:30 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
11:15 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:45 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:00 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
		1:15 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:30 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
9:30 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	10:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1 THE EXCEPTION	10:00 PM	THE EXCEPTION
11:00 PM	THE EXCEPTION	12:30 AM	Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	12:15 AM	Abu Shanab (Re-Release)
1:15 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)			9:45 PM	FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus"
9:45 PM	FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus"			12:30 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
12:30 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:30 PM	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie		
		11:00 PM	Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)		
		1:00 AM	Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)	9:45 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
10:00 PM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD			11:15 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
12:30 AM	Mantaqh Mahzourah (Re-Release)			12:45 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
9:45 PM	MUHALAB-1 Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	9:45 PM	AL-KOUT.3	10:15 PM	Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)
12:05 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:45 PM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 AM	
9:30 PM	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	9:30 PM	AL-KOUT.4	9:30 PM	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie
11:00 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:30 PM	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	11:00 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
12:30 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)		Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)	1:00 AM	Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)
10:00 PM	THE EXCEPTION	10:00 PM	BAIRAQ-1	9:45 PM	MINIONS (Re Release)
12:15 AM	Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)	12:05 AM	MINIONS (Re Release)	11:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY
10:00 PM	SACHIN: A BILLION DREAMS -Hindi	10:30 PM	BAIRAQ-2	10:00 PM	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie
12:45 AM	Mantaqh Mahzourah (Re-Release)	9:45 PM	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	11:30 PM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL
9:30 PM	MINIONS (Re Release)	10:15 PM	BAIRAQ-3	9:30 PM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD
11:30 PM	ALIEN: COVENANT	12:45 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:05 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
9:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY	9:45 PM	PLAZA	9:30 PM	GODHA -Malayalam
10:30 PM	FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus"	9:45 PM	SACHIN: A BILLION DREAMS -Hindi	12:05 AM	SACHIN: A BILLION DREAMS -Hindi
9:45 PM	HERE ALONE	12:30 AM	LAILA	10:00 PM	MINIONS (Re Release)
10:15 PM	ALIEN: COVENANT		MINIONS (Re Release)	12:05 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
12:45 AM	Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)		
9:45 PM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD			9:30 PM	GODHA -Malayalam
12:30 AM	THE EXCEPTION			12:05 AM	GODHA -Malayalam

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Subhash Vishnu Andraz S/o Vishnu Andraz, holder of Indian Passport No. J2750368 & Civil ID No. 284010806937 has changed my name to Subhash Vishnu Murganokar, before father name Vishnu Mulgaonkar the new name Vishnu Murganokar, hereinafter in all my dealings and docu-

ment, I will be known by name of Subhash Vishnu Murganokar. (C 5317) 6-6-2017

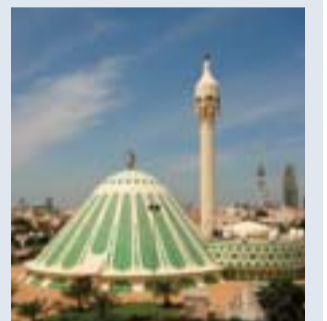
ACCOMMODATION

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

Get your news any way you want it

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:14
Shorook:	04:48
Duhr:	11:47
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 Tuesday 6/6/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 6/6/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
IAW	157	Baghdad	00:30	KNE	536	Jeddah	14:55
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	00:45	KAC	615	Bahrain	15:10
KAC	102	London	00:55	QTR	8512	Doha	15:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	JAD	302	Amman	15:40
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	563	Amman	5:40
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	701	Taif	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	FDK	802	Damascus	
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	18:35
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
AAG	142	Sharjah	08:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	NIA	0162	Cairo	23:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	795	Madinah	23:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
KNE	529	Jeddah	13:40	QTR	083	Doha	23:20
				PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
				KAC	411	Bangkok	23:35

CROSSWORD 1629



ACROSS

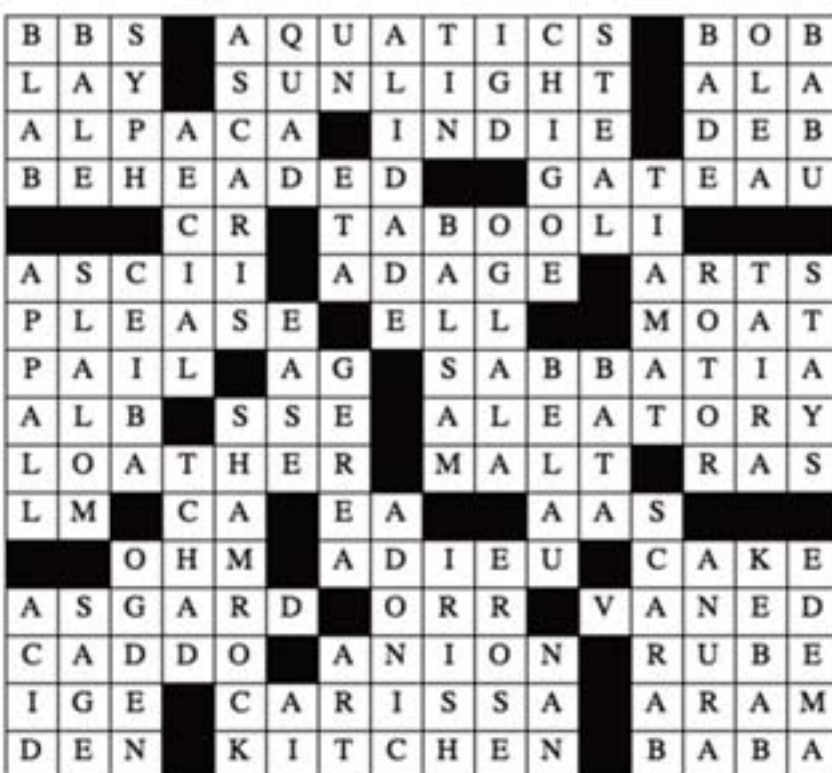
1. The compass point that is one point south of due east.
4. United States linguist (born in Russia) noted for his description of the universals of phonology (1896-1982).
12. (folklore) Fairies that are somewhat mischievous.
15. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
16. Pertaining to filberts or hazelnuts.
17. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
18. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
19. A battle in World War I (1916).
20. Food mixtures either arranged on a plate or tossed and served with a moist dressing.
22. An inland sea in northwestern Turkey.
24. A milkshake with egg in it.
26. The noise made by a short puff of steam (as from an engine).
28. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
29. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
34. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
35. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
37. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
40. Pasture grass of plains of South America and western North America.
42. Large-footed short-winged birds of Australasia.
45. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
47. God of wealth and love.
48. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
50. Coffee with the caffeine removed.
53. Having come or been brought to a conclusion.
54. Inquire about.
56. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
57. Suggestive of the supernatural.
58. One of two pieces of armor plate hanging from the fauld to protect the upper thighs.
63. Type genus of the Ustilaginaceae.
69. A full skirt with a gathered waistband.
70. Large ornamental tropical American tree with bipinnate leaves and globose clusters of flowers with crimson stamens and sweet-pulp seed pods eaten by cattle.
73. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
74. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
75. Octopuses and paper nautilus.
77. A republic in central Europe.
78. Informal abbreviation of 'representative'.
79. A great raja.
80. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.

DOWN

1. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
2. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
3. A member of the Himalayan people living in Nepal and Tibet who are famous for their skill as mountaineers.
4. Of or relating to or characteristic of Java or its inhabitants.

5. Prevent the occurrence of.
6. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
7. (used especially of persons) Having lived for a relatively long time or attained a specific age.
8. Tall grass with smooth bluish leaf sheaths grown for hay in the United States.
9. An inactive volcano in the Andes in central Ecuador.
10. In operation or operational.
11. A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
12. A republic in southeastern Europe on the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.
13. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc) to enter or escape.
14. A golf shot that curves to the right for a right-handed golfer.
21. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
23. A woman of refinement.
25. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
27. A bivalent and trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
30. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
31. A flexible container with a single opening.
32. A shifty deceptive person.
33. Tired to the point of exhaustion.
36. The airforce of Great Britain.
38. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
39. Dry white Italian wine from Verona.
41. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
43. Avoid or try to avoid, as of duties, questions and issues.
44. The cardinal number that is the sum of four and one.
46. Mostly freshwater protozoa.
49. A bowl-shaped vessel.
51. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
52. A heavy ductile magnetic metallic element.
55. Not often.
59. A line spoken by an actor to the audience but not intended for others on the stage.
60. Of or relating to or caused by streptococci.
61. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
62. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
64. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
65. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
66. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
67. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
68. An enclosure made of wire or metal bars in which birds or animals are kept.
71. The month following March and preceding May.
72. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand.
76. The fifth day of the week.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Work seems intense today but you possess a powerful, persistent drive and are a hard, steady worker. Some people find you deep, with a sense of mystery. You are willing to do work today that others would not go near, quietly putting an end to some difficult problems. Later today you might be helping others to learn technical techniques so that you will eventually not be so overburdened. You are able to direct others in your business and this may lead to a leadership position. You busy yourself this afternoon in some project that you had been putting off for some time. You will be creating a new form or format for presentation to some very important people. Some people may wonder how the business could ever get along without you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are friendly and encouraging today. You somehow manage to find a creative environment or the creative in any environment, so as to provide the most beneficial area in which to work or play. Others want to join you in this project. You have a built-in sense of what the public wants and can always come up with just the right image. You find it easy to work with the emotions and feelings of others and with great imagination. You are great with kids and big on animals, sports and the outdoors. You are an instant umbrella of warmth, friendship and self-expression. Clear decisions affecting others could be made easily at this time. These are the attitudes and circumstances in which you find yourself teaching others.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are lots of energy and action this day. Your dreams and imaginings keep bumping into the real and the actual. You quickly pick up on what is expected of you, and you are accountable. You are learning to plan ahead as you see your goals begin to develop. You do the best you can in every situation that you experience. It takes judgment to make the choices that best benefit a situation. Consider this: your powers of perception are particularly sharp at this time, and you would do well now to work out the details of any plans that you have previously made. This evening, you may feel focused and even a bit radiant. You are either entertaining company or being entertained yourself tonight. The snacks are low calorie and nutritional-good for you!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may realize that you may have been stagnating lately. There are opportunities today to rise above the mundane. Saying or writing with style comes naturally as you seek to write a program or progress report. It may seem that you are always writing technical material, and just now there is a desire for variety with some of your work. You may find yourself at a used book store reading all types of subjects. You may even find yourself involved with two books at once. Increasing your vocabulary expertise can be a fun ongoing activity, and you could find a friend to join you. Your ability to discriminate real breakthroughs and to spot new trends makes you able to work in areas at the very fringe of technology these days-more technology to write.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Before work begins this morning, conversations with co-workers could be in the religious realm or at least, spiritual. You have little interest in spirituality that is rampant these days. You could probably bring imagination and religious understanding to physical and scientific studies. Opportunity for further thought regarding the spirit trends to crop up during the day-you are open to new ways of thinking. Continued success on the career level may point to your abandoning some of your dreams. This afternoon, family matters tend to take precedence and you may have to help a young person to understand the word-concentration. You may even think of some fun exercise or game to play with the kids that will help with concentration.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You enjoy working hard and being organized and you exercise skill and discipline in anything that affects your career and reputation. You have the perfect combination to be in a management position at this time. If you think you are ready, this time may be best for pushing through any changes you may want to make in your career. You have good insight into all social activities that are around you and if you are not careful, you may find yourself involved in many club or social group responsibilities. You like to facilitate, compromise and otherwise show your talents-like a coat of many colors. New and creative projects help you to change that feeling of being in a rut. Chatting with neighbors or siblings this evening will help you to relax.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

An emphasis on discipline with regard to work and health is a keynote of the cycle now dawning in your life. Procedures, scheduling, details: you may become weak in some areas unless you take steps to correct any deficiencies. Deficiencies may only be when you fail to meet a deadline. You can do this... You will be pleased with your progress. Otherwise, you will have to run faster just to avoid falling behind. A desire for variety marks this phase and this especially applies to romantic experience and artistic taste. The latter tend to focus on literature and poetry. Communication with distant family members is possible this afternoon. A sociable, congenial, slightly frivolous orientation sets in this evening. A social involvement can be enjoyable.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a good time for promoting yourself and for letting others know what you have to offer. Right now, the key to career moves involves attending to nagging details-whatever you have neglected before. This is a time during which you may be able to move ahead with your ambition and your general life's purpose. You would make an excellent teacher of philosophy or religion-you cannot help but communicate these subjects to others and enchant all who come to know you. Your understanding of the unity behind appearances, along with the ability to put these thoughts into words, is a rare and valuable gift. You would make a good director, photographer, choreographer, etc. You like working with mental images.



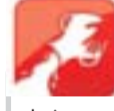
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities demand you tend to business and forget your friends for the moment. This is one of the best times to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong-all the cycles are working in your favor. Your career seems to get the support you need and this is one area of life that runs smoothly. You seem to understand what the public wants and mass marketing could be a natural for you. This is also a time when you may marry or take on a new role in the community or with other people. Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself, especially when negotiating. Enjoy cooking a new recipe tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Independence on the part of people or events somehow challenges your authority today. Also, the forces of change assert themselves now and again, managing to overrule and overturn whatever you have managed to secure. Observing others, you will find that some people just naturally deal well with upheavals and adjustments-yet others may find much difficulty. You have great discipline and may find it enjoyable to teach young people how to solve difficulties they may uncover. You can demonstrate a good sensitivity and understanding about the needs of others. You know just the right words that will communicate positive messages. This could involve political issues. If not community politics, possibly club politics.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Opportunities may go against your own sense of responsibility. Career choices may require that you temporarily neglect the home. This is a tough call, and some compromise is perhaps the best way to a workable solution. This is a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward in your career decisions. You are driven when it comes to fulfilling your ambitions and carving out a career. There is no lack of energy or drive here, and nothing can stand in your way. Everything is poured into making the right moves-the correct decisions. You are outgoing, enthusiastic and always diplomatic-everybody's favorite. Politics or some other public career seems inevitable. Some experienced politician may tutor you in this process if that is what you want.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You enjoy working with whatever is psychological-the hidden, vulnerable, sensitive areas of the mind and self. You can handle material that is sensitive or taboo without batting an eye. This interest in all that is psychological makes you an excellent teacher. You also have a natural grasp for writing and after you worked with research, reports and projects, you may decide to go in a different direction. The different direction is what today is about. Where could you apply your talents and be the happiest your drive in the area of psychology, meditation, renewals of direction or perhaps, concentration on a focus to improve, may mean an advice column. If you are not with a mate, this may be a time you will meet someone very special.

WORD SEARCH

Computer Jargon 2

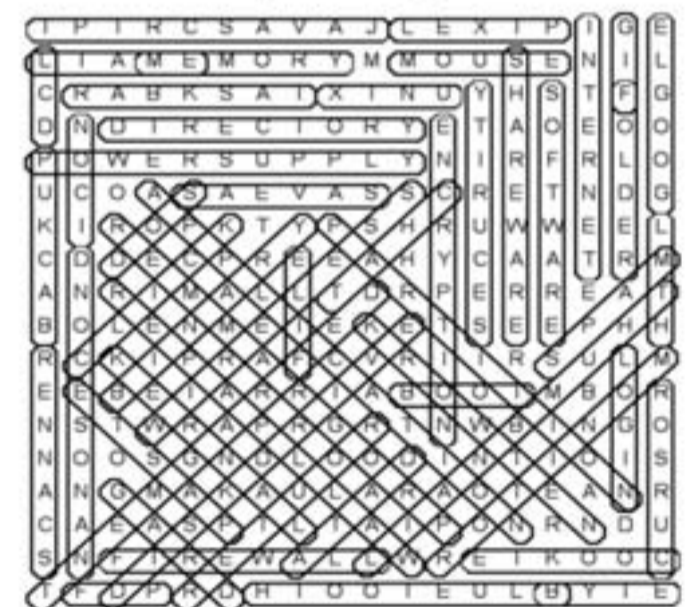
Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional computer word.



- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| ASCII | DISK | HARDWARE | PASSWORD | SOUNDCARD |
| BANDWIDTH | DOCUMENT | INPUT | PCI | SPYWARE |
| BIOS | DOWNLOAD | JAVA | PERIPHERAL | TERAFLOP |
| BUG | DRIVER | JPEG | PORT | TRAJAN HORSE |
| CACHE | EMOTICON | KEYBOARD | PRINTER | UPLOAD |
| CHIP | ETHERNET | LINUX | REBOOT | USB |
| COPY | FAQ | MENU | RESOLUTION | USERNAME |
| CPU | FIREWIRE | MODEM | SAVE | VIRUS |
| CRASH | FONT | MULTIMEDIA | SCROLL | WEB BROWSER |
| CYBERSPACE | FREEWARE | NETTIQUETTE | SERVER | WINDOWS |
| DATABASE | GIGABYTE | OPEN | SMILEY | ZIP FILE |
| DESKTOP | HACKER | | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Computer Jargon 1



- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| APPLICATION | DEFRAGMENT | GOOGLE | NANOSECOND | SCANNER |
| BACKUP | DIRECTORY | HTML | NETWORK | SECURITY |
| BINARY | DISK DRIVE | ICON | PARTITION | SHAREWARE |
| BLUETOOTH | DOS | INTERNET | PASTE | SOFTWARE |
| BOOT | DRAG | JAVASCRIPT | PDF | SPAM |
| BYTE | EMAIL | KERNAL | PIXEL | TASKBAR |
| CHAT | ENCRYPTION | LCD | POWER SUPPLY | THUMBNAIL |
| CLICK | FILE | LOGIN | PROGRAMMER | UNIX |
| COOKIE | FIREWALL | MEMORY | ROUTER | WALLPAPER |
| CURSOR | FOLDER | MONITOR | SAVE AS | WIRELESS |
| DATA | GIF | MOUSE | | |

The hidden word is: MOTHERBOARD

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
Qadisiya	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 Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya 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
Antiga	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



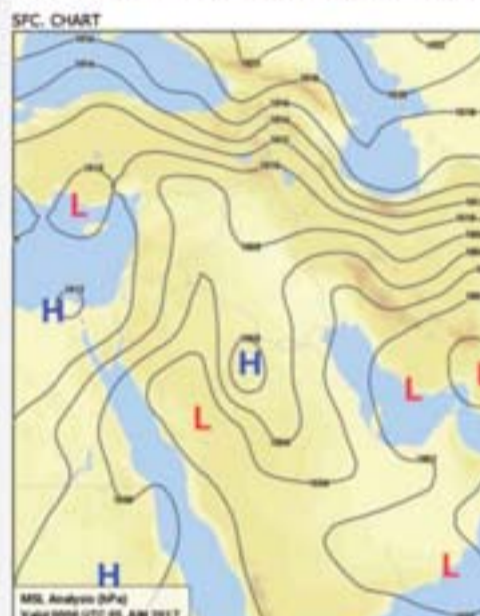
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 05/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 44 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h .
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h .



	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	Hot	Very hot	Hot + with a chance for rising dust over open areas	Hot + causing rising dust
Min Temp °C	29	28	29	28
Max Temp °C	45	47	46	46
Wind Direction	northerly westerly to variable	northerly westerly to variable	northerly westerly	northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	08 - 28	15 - 40	15 - 42

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	30		43
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30		44
ABDALY	25		43
BUBYAN	26		42
JAHRA	29		44
FAILAKA ISLAND	28		41
SALMIYAH	30		41
AHMADI	32		39
JAL ALIYAH	26		43
QAROH ISLAND	29		36
UMH AL-MARADEH	29		37
MUWAISIB	28		42
WAFRA	28		43
SALMIY	23		42
MUTRIBA	26		44

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	42
Min Temp (°C)	22
Max Rel Hum (%)	23
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	04:48
Sunset	18:45

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:14
Sunrise	04:48
Zuhr	11:46
Aar	15:21
Sunset	18:45
Isha	20:16



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
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
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadab	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
Dr. Adrian 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	
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	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	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. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah 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 Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR. Mohammed 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	

GOSSIP

Lorde apologizes to fans after Free Press Summer Fest cancelled

Lorde's performance at Free Press Summer Fest was cancelled after flash flooding. The 'Green Light' hitmaker took to Twitter to apologize to her fans who were waiting to see her at the event in Houston, Texas after the festival got called off due to the extreme weather conditions. She wrote on the social media site: "FPSF, I'm so sorry but they've cancelled the day due to this apocalypse-style weather which means we can't play for you tonight ... crying shame because me Charli and Tove had cooked up a cover of Umbrella by Rihanna for you lol (sic)" Charli XCX's performance was also cancelled due to the weather. She added

in her own tweet: "Just been told that my set at FPSF has been pulled coz of the thunderstorm... I'm so sorry guys. Gonna go cry outside Beyoncé's house now :((sic)" The cancellation of the festival was announced in a statement on the event's website. They wrote: "In planning FPSF, patron experience and safety is paramount. Festival organizers, in agreement with the Houston Police Department, Houston Fire Department, and the Mayor's Office of Special Events, are announcing that FPSF has been cancelled for the remainder of the evening. With intense weather systems continuing and a flash flood warning issued by the National

Weather Service, Eleanor Tinsley Park is unsafe for the event to continue. Refunds of 50% of the base ticket price will be refunded for any tickets purchased with a credit card within the next 7-10 business days. Ticketholders who purchased tickets with cash at the FPSF Box Office will need to contact Front Gate Tickets and provide their wristband print ID to request their refund at support.frontgatetickets.com within the next 30 days. Ticketholders who purchased tickets on June 4, will receive a full refund."



Sean Paul collaborating with Shakira

Sean Paul is collaborating with Shakira. The 'She Doesn't Mind' hitmaker has revealed he has teamed up with the 40-year-old singer for a song called 'Mad Love'. He said: "I got something kind of more poppy coming in a little while, with Shakira. The song's called 'Mad Love', it's about being mad and having love, it's more sexy. It's not about love, it's the sexiness." And Sean says it is a "dream come true" to work with the 'Hips Don't Lie' singer as they have been wanting to work together for a while. He added: "We've always wanted to work together, and I was like, 'Yo, I've always wanted to work with you!' She was like, 'I've always wanted to work with you too!' And I was like, 'No, I've always been told that you're busy!' And she's like, 'I've always been told that you're busy!' It's a dream come true for me, I've been wanting to work with her [for a while]." Meanwhile, the 44-year-old rapper went on to slam other artists for not "paying homage" to

the genre when they release Dancehall tracks. Speaking to Alex and Andrea on KISS FM, he shared: "I don't think any of these people are paying homage by doing Dancehall, but there are also young kids who don't know about me, and they don't know that Dancehall is a thing. When they hear that song, they'll be like, 'Oh, that's so and so's new song! That's so and so's new music.' I wish people would say, 'This is my dancehall single.' Because if I just decide to do a country and western single, Sean Paul singing about my woes, I would say this is my country single. It's not a beef, I can't be angry, that just means that our music has grown huge, and that people are seeing vibes in it. Artists want to catch a good vibe and sell records. They know that people are gonna rock with it, right now it's the flavor of the month."



Liam Gallagher wants Oasis reunion

Liam Gallagher would like to see an Oasis reunion happen. The 44-year-old musician admits he "misses" his brother Noel, the band and the fans but he insists he doesn't want his sibling to be the one who orchestrates it and says the chance of a reunion is in "the lap of the gods". He said: "No contact. I can't see it [a reunion] happening. Never say never, I guess, but at the moment, if I get up and running on this solo thing, it certainly won't happen for a bit. Because there have been plenty of times that it could have happened and it should have happened and it didn't. I'd like it to happen, because I miss him and I miss the band and I miss the fans and I miss singing them songs. But it's in the lap of the gods, not Noel Gallagher, as much as he'd like to think he's a bit of a god, but he ain't ... Cos I've seen him coming for years. He thought that I was going to be down and out, and then he'd turn

round and say, 'Sorry about this, lads, but I'm going to have to put my wicked solo career on hold because I need to help my brother out. But I ain't poor. I'm still standing. No. It ain't happening, mate. When I think about it, being in a band with him bores the death out of me. He's changed, as a person. He's not someone I want to be in a band with. He's part of the establishment.' And the 'Don't Look Back in Anger' hitmaker is gearing up to release his debut solo album. Asked what fans can expect, he told The Observer: "It's all been done before, my record. I hope I'm just doing it a little bit better. I'm not reinventing the wheel, I'm just giving it a new polish. Good songs, great vocals, good words ... I hope people enjoy it, don't scratch their heads too much."



Alex Kurtzman says Bride of Frankenstein script is brilliant

Alex Kurtzman says the script for 'Bride of Frankenstein' is "brilliant". The writer and director of 'The Mummy' reboot is working alongside scriptwriter David Koepp on the next installment of the Dark Universe - which is set to follow the Tom Cruise reboot - and Kurtzman says the structure of the script is "very unique". Speaking to Den of Geek, he said: "David Koepp wrote a brilliant script. A brilliant script with a very unique structure and a central relationship that I think is gonna be relatable to a lot of people while also being very true to what I believe people love about 'Bride'. Here's the

weird thing about 'Bride of Frankenstein'. It is one of the weirdest movies you'll ever see in your life. It is such a strange film. What amazes me is that the bride doesn't show up until, what, the last ten minutes of the film? "Doesn't say anything, rejects Frankenstein, he pulls a lever and the building explodes and that's the end of it. There's almost no screen time with her. And yet everybody remembers the iconic look, the hair, who she was. Articles have been written, there's Halloween costumes. It's an enduring character because there's something mysterious about her and that look and the idea that she was created

to serve another man. Which is gonna be an interesting thing to tackle in this day and age." 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales' star Javier Bardem will play Frankenstein in the movie. The MonsterVerse sees the studio revisit the creature features which made Universal's name, beginning in the 1920s with Lon Chaney's 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' and 'The Phantom of the Opera'. The Dark Universe was started by core creatives Kurtzman and Chris Morgan, who directed and produced 'The Mummy' reboot. 'Bride of Frankenstein' is set for a February 2019 release.

Charli XCX: Female pop is in a good place

Charli XCX feels female pop music is in "such a good place". The 'Break The Rules' hitmaker thinks it is a great time for women in music and believes herself and fellow singer/songwriter Sia are "pushing the boundaries of pop". She told news.com.au: "I feel like we are very similar in the sense each of us write a lot of songs for other people. I feel like we all are pushing the boundaries of pop in our own ways. I feel pop music, especially female pop music has been in such a good place for about the last five years. The most innovative artists and writers are women." Meanwhile, Charli previously revealed her new album is a "big pop party album to get f***ed up to". She said: "On my previous record, I was really annoyed at the music industry and felt like I had something to prove. After that, I didn't feel I had anything to prove anymore. Also one of my favorite hobbies is partying, and I realized that I never actually made a party album. I never made an album that I would want to hear at a club. It was very indulgent in that sense because I just wanted to make an album that I could get f***ed up to. It's the soundtrack to night nights." And fans of the 'Boom Clap' singer may have to wait until next year to hear Charli's follow-up to 2014's 'Sucker'. She recently said: "I finished my album in the middle of last year and I'm probably not even going to release it until next year now, because I want to release a lot of other music before, that isn't totally linked to the album. For me personally, I don't think albums are the end goal anymore for musicians. Continuously releasing music really suits the way that I work as a songwriter and as an artist."



Prince musical in the works to honor late star

A Prince musical is set to tour the UK in honor of the late star. The 'I Wanna Be Your Lover' hitmaker tragically passed away in April 2016 from a fentanyl overdose at the age of 57, and now a musical - named 'Purple Rain' after the star's hit single and album of the same name - based on his greatest hits is in the works. The creators behind the Michael Jackson themed musical 'Thriller Live' are the creative minds behind the show, and is set to showcase Prince's most famous work including tracks such as 'Raspberry Beret', 'Kiss', 'When Doves Cry', and 'Little Red Corvette'. Director Gary Lloyd said in a statement: "Prince's music and constant reinvention is legendary, so to get the opportunity to bring that and all his colorful characters to the theatrical stage is a dream. There is also a real appetite for live music shows that showcase the musicians as part of the performance. Prince was all about this. Prince was a consummate, theatrical artist, but in our show his music is the star. There will be so much for audiences to enjoy whether they're fans of musical theatre, Prince, or both. 'Purple Rain' is a fast-paced, music lover's night out that will tease, surprise and excite audiences in the same way he did." The cast of the show will be made up of 26 actors, who will tour the UK in 2018, starting in Bromley on February 1 before making their way to dates in Manchester, Plymouth, Birmingham, Blackpool, Edinburgh, Hull, Ipswich, and Belfast. Meanwhile, the late star was recently honored with a speech delivered by his sister Tyka Nelson at the American Music Awards in November. She said: "Prince defied the odds. A black teen from Minneapolis with a goal to electrify the world, he had the courage to be different. With his vision [and] God-given talent, he is still one of the world's most respected and loved artists. What he told me was that he wanted to be known as the world's most prolific songwriter. And with 984 titles to his credit and counting, he has done just that. In the words of Prince: 'With love, honor and respect for every living thing in the universe, separation ceases, and we all become one being, singing one song.'"

Childish Gambino hints next album will be last

Childish Gambino has hinted his next album will be his last. The 'Redbone' hitmaker excited fans over the weekend when he performed a rare live set at Governors Ball Music Festival in New York City but the crowd were in for a shock when he subtly let slip at the end of his gig that he won't be doing any more music once he's dropped his next record. Addressing the crowd, he said: "You're in my heart. I'll see you for the last Gambino album." The 33-year-old rapper - whose real name is Donald Glover - dropped his last album in December 2016 so fans may have to wait a little while before they see the next LP. However, he's sure to go out with a bang as it's believed he's already working on a duet with Chance The Rapper. Although fans are no doubt devastated about the possibility of his next album being his last, it's not hard to see why as he's just been cast as Simba in 'The Lion King' remake. Director Jon Favreau shared a



picture of Donald on Twitter and wrote: "I just can't wait to be king. #Simba." Last year, Disney confirmed the 1994 movie will be given a live-action reboot and Jon - who helmed the 2016 remake of 'The Jungle Book' - said is "excited" about the project.

Terry Gilliam finishes The Man Who Killed Don Quixote

Terry Gilliam has finished filming 'The Man Who Killed Don Quixote' after 17 years. The 'Time Bandits' director originally started making the movie back in 1998 but due to financial issues, the film was put on halt and Gilliam attempted to try and restart production but despite failing to get it off the ground, the director has now confirmed the film is complete. Writing on social media, Gilliam said: "Sorry for the long silence. I've been busy packing the truck and am now heading home. After 17 years, we have completed the shoot of THE MAN WHO KILLED DON



QUIXOTE. Muchas gracias to all the team and believes. QUIXOTE VIVE! (sic) Many actors who were part of the original line up dropped out mid-production including the late John Hurt, who was replaced by 'Monty Python' star Michael Palin in the project. The troubled production, which faced technical issues, weather problems and nervous backers, even inspired a documentary 'Lost in La Mancha' to be made about the film and it wasn't until Amazon stepped in to help that Gilliam was finally able to finish the movie. In 2016, it was revealed that 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' star Adam Driver has joined the cast of the movie, based on the novel 'Don Quixote' by Miguel de Cervantes. He is set to play Toby, an arrogant man who has long waved goodbye to his young, idealistic dream of making films. He unexpectedly comes across a copy of his student film about Quixote and decides to visit the village where it was set. What he finds there horrifies him, as his work has changed the village and he meets a man who now believes he is Don Quixote himself.

GOSSIP

Dan Aykroyd slams Paul Feig

Dan Aykroyd has slammed Paul Feig for crippling any chance of a new 'Ghostbusters' movie. The 64-year-old actor has previously praised the filmmaker's 2016 all-female reboot of the franchise, but has now hit out at the filmmaker for spending too much money on the project, accusing him of unnecessarily costing the production millions of dollars in reshoots. Speaking on 'Sunday Brunch', he said: "I was really happy with the movie, but it cost too much. And Sony does not like to lose money. "It made a lot of money around the world but it just cost too much, making it economically not feasible to do another

one. "The director, he spent too much on it. "He didn't shoot scenes we suggested to him, several scenes that were going to be needed, and he said, 'No, we don't need them,' and then we tested the movie and they needed them and he had to go back-about \$30 to \$40 million in re-shoots. "So, yeah, he will not be back on the Sony lot anytime soon." But Dan - who starred in the original 'Ghostbusters' and had a cameo in the remake - also took the time to praise the cast of the reboot. He said: "The girls are great in it. Kate McKinnon, Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig - what a wonderful, wonderful players they are - and

Leslie Jones." The movie cost a reported \$144 million - plus marketing - to make, and it earned almost \$240 million at the global box office. Sony confirmed the reshoots had taken place, but insisted their cost was a tenth of what Dan had claimed. The told Entertainment Weekly: "The budget and additional visual effects shoots were previously reported, and the studio had an incredible relationship with the director who was first rate."



Neill Blomkamp says Alien 5 is dead

Neill Blomkamp confirms 'Alien 5' is "totally dead". It was previously reported Blomkamp was to produce and direct another installment of the sci-fi saga but after the franchise's creator Sir Ridley Scott said it is unlikely to ever come to fruition as there wasn't even a script for the story, the director has admitted he is "sad" to know the movie is unlikely to happen. Speaking to The Verge, Blomkamp said: "I think it's totally dead, yes. "That would be an accurate assumption at this point. It's sad. I spent a long time working on that and I feel like it was really pretty awesome. "But politically, the way it's gone now and the way that it all is - it's just not going to live." Back in 2015, concept art images were released by Blomkamp on his social media pages which sparked excitement for the fans of the franchise however the film now doesn't look like it will be going ahead. Speaking to AlloCine magazine in May, Scott said: "I don't think it will ever see the light of day. There was never a script. Just an idea that evolved from a dozen or so pages. "I had to participate as producer but it didn't go farther because Fox decided it didn't want to do it. "As far I was concerned, I had already done 'Prometheus' and I was working on 'Alien: Covenant.'" Although Scott has revealed 'Alien 5' won't be going ahead, he has revealed earlier this year he has already written the next part of his prequel series which is rumored to be four films in total. The director also reassured fans he will not be closing down the franchise any time soon. Despite 'Alien 5' not going ahead, Blomkamp does plan on making a sequel to his 2009 hit 'District 9'. He said: "With 'District 9', I plan on making another film in that world. "To go back and work with WETA and make the film would be cool but anything that pre-exists like that may not be the best for whatever we're trying here."

Wonder Woman 2 to be set in America

The 'Wonder Woman' sequel will take place in America. The first installment of the latest DC Extended Universe franchise only hit cinema screens last week, but director Patty Jenkins already knows exactly what's going to happen in the sequel, including where in the world she'd like the story to be set. She said: "The story will take place in the US, which I think is right. She's Wonder Woman. She's got to come to America. It's time." And the director also gushed about getting to work with her "dream cast" in the movie - which includes lead star Gal Gadot alongside Chris Pine - and said she's pleased with her work on the female led superhero feature because she "believes in it". She added: "I'm not a big obligation person when it comes to art. You want to do a movie like this because you believe in it. Then I had this revelation in the middle of the night: this is your dream cast, you've created a character that you love

and you can say anything you want in the world right now." Although Patty admits she feels no obligation to return to the franchise as the director for the sequel, she admits 'Wonder Woman 2' will be "its own great movie", and she would love to be involved in the "beautiful story". She told Entertainment Weekly: "Then I realized that 'Wonder Woman 2' is its own great movie. I made Wonder Woman. Now I want to make 'Wonder Woman 2'. It's a beautiful story to tell, an important time to tell it and with people that I love." Meanwhile, it was claimed last month by a Twitter user who attended a promotional event in Shanghai that Zack Snyder - who has directed other DCEU features such as the upcoming ensemble movie 'Justice League' - had told the audience that Warner Bros. had already started planning the 'Wonder Woman' sequel.



Bingle loves concealers with a 'cakey formula'

Lara Bingle loves wearing concealer with a "cakey formula". The 29-year-old model - who is now known as Lara Worthington after she married actor Sam Worthington in 2014 - has admitted she doesn't wear "much" make-up but when she does she opts for "quite natural" cosmetics because she prefers a minimalist aesthetic and will smother her under-eye area in a lot of the skin-coloured product to ensure the product lasts. Speaking to Byrdie Beauty about her appearance and style hacks, the blonde-haired icon said: "I like a cakey formula to really cover things. "Quite natural but not too natural. I love products that are multipurpose and that I can use in more than one way ... My look day to day is very minimal, with maybe a little bit more for night. Most of the time I don't wear much make-up." And the star believes as she has matured she doesn't

need to wear many beauty products, and instead focuses on her skincare regime and making her complexion look radiant. She explained: "Since I've gotten older, I feel I don't need as much. I think skin is the most important thing as then you don't have to wear much make-up, so I try and focus on that. I prioritize things like always taking off my make-up and wearing sunscreen." And Lara - who has two-year-old son Rocket with her spouse - avoids using conditioner when she washes her hair because it makes her golden locks look "too nice", although she is forced to apply the product to her tresses when her hair is knotty. She explained: "I don't really use conditioner - it makes my hair too nice - but sometimes I take it because you have to if your hair gets knotty."



John Galliano's home has been burgled

John Galliano's home has reportedly been burgled. The 56-year-old fashion designer is believed to have had his Paris home broken into on Friday night or the early hours of Saturday morning, and it has been reported a number of his personal possessions were stolen during the horrific ordeal. French newspaper Aujourd'hui has reported. However, it is not yet known whether the creative mastermind was present during the break-in. It is believed the mogul's photograph of the late actress Marilyn Monroe, which was one of the last remaining photographs of the 'Some Like It Hot' star and is worth almost £45,000, was taken in the break-in. John has been at the helm of a number of prestigious fashion houses after he was hired as the creative director of Givenchy in 1995, including Dior and his eponymous brand. John is now the creative director of Maison Margiela, which is a position he acquired in 2014, and the brand is honored to have the "incredible couturier" on board the company and bring his "poetry and magic" to the label. Speaking previously, photographers Luigi and Lango wrote: "THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MAISON MARGIELA. THE UNCONSCIOUS GLAMOUR We are so honored for this stellar collaboration with the incredible couturier JOHN GALLIANO @jgalliano who orchestrated this amazing story with poetry and magic for Maison Margiela @maisonmargiela - an exclusive for @industriemag @luigiandlango @luigimurenu @stephane_marais_official @lexyroche @yalebreslin @paulbarga@theodieu #unconsciousbeauty#madamelepeigeon #unconsciousglamour#luigiandlango (sic)." And John is proud to be at the helm of the designer brand because he believes there is "so much love and support" at the fashion house. Speaking previously, he said: "There's just so much love and support here ... and I kind of need to go step by step and get my confidence back."



DAVID DELFIN HAS DIED



David Delfino has tragically died at 46 years old. The Spanish designer - who was born in Ronda - passed away on Saturday after enduring an ongoing battle with brain cancer, WWD.com has reported. David - whose full name is Diego David Domínguez González - is believed to have died in Madrid, where he had launched his eponymous brand DavidDelfino, which he co-founded in 2001. And touching tributes have come flooding in following the sad news, which has seen the star praised as the "one of the charismatic and creative fashion designers" in the country. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy voiced his condolences to David's family in a heartfelt letter, which has been published on the Spanish government's website. The statement read: "[David] was one of the most charismatic and creative fashion designers in Spain. "[David] leaves an incomparable legacy." And Spanish actor Antonio Banderas has also spoken out about David's death, in which he stated the "whole Miami fashion week" will mourn the mogul. The 56-year-old 'The Mask of Zorro' star shared an image of David on his official Facebook account, with the caption: "Toda la Miami Fashion Week llora la muerte del diseñador malagueño David Delfino. Hasta siempre paisano. DEP. (sic)." And the post translates to: "The Whole Miami fashion week mourns the death of the designer Malagueño David Dolphin. Until forever homeboy, Dep. (sic)." David made waves in the fashion industry especially in 2002 with his controversial Pasarela Cibeles fashion show, which saw him hide the models' faces by making them wear hoods with nooses tied around their necks as part of a protest against the Afghanistan war. The entrepreneur later went on to bag L'Oréal Best Collection and the National Fashion Prize during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Madrid, Spain.

Anna Sui reveals her essential beauty products

Anna Sui will never leave the house without applying red lipstick. The 52-year-old fashion designer has admitted she cannot go anywhere until she has applied two of her essential cosmetic products to her face, and she has credited her bold make-up aesthetic, as well as her block fringe, as her "signature look". Speaking about her beauty essentials to Stella magazine, the creative mastermind said: "I set my alarm for 6am but I always wake before then. I like to be the first person in the office so I can clear my head before meetings begin. "I then put on eyeliner and red lipstick (I never leave home without these)." And the entrepreneur has urged others to experiment with their appearance until they discover a unique look of their own. She said: "Don't be afraid of creating signature look. I'm known for my fringe, red lip and eyeliner." However, Anna will not wear high heels to work because she has hinted they are a restricting form of footwear and other shoes can be more freeing. She explained: "Don't wear heels to the office. You discover a new freedom when you wear trainers or flat boots." Anna has revealed she will only carry around a small handbag, to fit the bare necessities in. The mogul - who launched her eponymous fashion house in 1981 - said: "Keep your handbag simple. Mine is lunchbox-sized and fits everything I need." Anna boasts a closet that resembles the iconic furniture in 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', and when she has a free weekend she enjoys nothing more than tidying her wardrobes. She said "I've an armoire in my dressing room that I picked up at Chelsea Market, which looks deceptively small but it could give Narnia a run for its money. "Some weekends I'll just stay at home. There's nothing I love more than devoting a day to tidying my many wardrobes."



Cruise's style is 'elegant with a sexy, masculine edge'

Tom Cruise's style is "elegant with a sexy, masculine edge", according to stylists Nicole and Wendi Ferreira. The 54-year-old actor's fashion sense has been described as unique in comparison to other actors the style gurus have worked with, because he is "very classic" and likes to pay close attention to the "minute details". Speaking about the dark-haired hunk, Nicole - who has been working as a double act with her sibling since 2005 - said: "I would describe Tom's style as elegant ... with a sexy, masculine edge. It's very classic. He's very much all about details, and there's minute details, but they matter. It sets him apart and makes it outstanding. "He's very in tune with how he's supposed to look; he has a definite idea of what he wants to convey." And the 'Mummy' hunk - who has children Suri, 11, with his former partner Katie Holmes, Isabella, 24, and Connor, 22, with ex-wife Nicole Kidman - has to have his suits custom made prior to star studded events because he thinks tailoring is "important", although this means the fashion pair have to begin to organize Tom's outfit months in advance of any ceremony he is due to attend. Speaking about the five foot five inches star's specific requirements, Nicole said: "A lot of what he wears is made-to-measure because of how important tailoring is." Although Wendi and Nicole have only been working with the 'Jerry Maguire' icon for the last two years, they were familiar with the way he dressed and his appearance prior to collaborating with him, but still had to do extensive research on how his wardrobe choices have changed over time. Wendi explained to GQ.com: "We grew up watching him, so it was a lot of research ... looking at how his style has evolved and pulling images that screamed 'Tom Cruise' to us. Then we did a concise pull of things we want to see him in." — Bang Showbiz

MUSIC



In this photograph released by One Love Manchester US musicians will.i.am, apl.de.ap, Ariana Grande and Taboo perform at the One Love Manchester benefit concert for the families of the victims of the May 22, Manchester terror attack, at Emirates Old Trafford in Greater Manchester. — AP/AFP photos



UK musician Chris Martin and US musician Ariana Grande perform on stage.

MUSIC STARS UNITE IN MANCHESTER AS FANS FACE DOWN FEARS



Ariana Grande and Miley Cyrus perform on stage.

Cheers drowned out tears in Manchester on Sunday as Ariana Grande was joined by fellow music stars for a charity concert where fans vowed to face down fears of terrorism after two deadly attacks in Britain. "Let the world hear your resilience," Pharrell Williams told a sell-out crowd of 50,000 who had gathered to remember victims of a May 22 suicide bomb attack on Grande's concert in the city. The hastily-organized "One Love Manchester" event became one of the biggest single gatherings of musical talent this year, as stars lined-up for the concert dedicated to the 22 people killed and 116 injured, many of them children.

Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry, Robbie Williams, Take That, Liam Gallagher, and Little Mix were among those who hit the stage, as fans held "We stand together" and "For our angels" signs. Mumford & Sons frontman Marcus Mumford opened the show after the crowd fell silent for a minute. Less than 24 hours before the concert got underway, Britain was rocked by another terrorist attack, in central London, in which seven people were killed and 48 injured. Grande tweeted "Praying for London" while her manager Scooter Braun said the concert would go ahead "with greater purpose".

Dancing police officers

Fans flocked to the Old Trafford cricket ground for the show, many of them with tears rolling down their cheeks during the performances. In one heartfelt moment, Grande was joined on stage by children from a local school, some of whom were at the targeted Manchester Arena concert, as the group performed her hit song "My Everything". Grande and Coldplay's Chris Martin performed "Don't look back in anger", the track by Manchester Britpop band Oasis which crowds sang during vigils in the days following the bombing. Additional security measures were put in place for the concert, with police warning that everyone would be searched. But there was also a jovial atmosphere, as police officers and security guards danced with music fans.

Revelers dressed for the occasion, with many wearing tops featuring a bee — a symbol for Manchester — and slogans expressing their love for the city. "We're here to show our support to Manchester more than anything. These people aren't going to dampen our spirits," said 34-year-old Abdullah Mala. His eight-year-old daughter Hannah had left the Grande concert just before the deadly bombing and said she was "happy to be back" to see some of pop's biggest names.

'Overcome the fear'

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to a fund set up to help the victims' families. Rachel Jea, 32, said she was at Grande's previous Manchester concert and felt it was important to attend Sunday's show to regain trust after the bombing. "Our grandparents went through world wars so that we could live in freedom and now it's starting again. It just shouldn't be like this," she told AFP.

Her nine-year-old daughter Scarlet adopted a defiant tone, telling others not to be afraid. "We need to try and find a way to overcome the fear. I'm really happy to come tonight, it is good for Ariana, it wasn't her fault what happened." Grande, who described herself as "broken" following the May 22 bombing, had immediately returned to the US, interrupting her Dangerous Woman world tour and later promising to return for the charity concert.

On Friday the 23-year-old singer made a surprise visit to injured fans being treated at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Sunday's concert was held on the eve of the first funeral of Manchester attack victims. The coffin of Eilidh MacLeod, a 14-year-old victim of the bombing, was flown to the Scottish island of Barra and carried across a beach by mourners on Sunday ahead of the funeral.

'Unscrupulous applications'

Those who had attended Grande's May 22 concert were offered free tickets to the Sunday show, while the 35,000 tickets put up for sale on Thursday at £40 each (\$51, 46



Ariana Grande, left, and Miley Cyrus perform on stage.

euros) sold out in minutes. "Over 10,000 unscrupulous applications", however, were made for free tickets, Ticketmaster said, with people applying despite not having attended the original concert.

Others tried to resell their tickets on eBay for £1,200. The online auction platform has since then pledged to immediately remove any item "which profits in any way from the tragedy in Manchester". The BBC, Twitter, Apple, YouTube and MTV streamed the concert live, making it available to viewers in 180 countries. — AFP



Ariana Grande, left, and Miley Cyrus perform on stage.



Howard Donald, from left, Gary Barlow and Mark Owen from the band Take That perform on stage.



Canadian musician Justin Bieber performs on stage.



UK musician Chris Martin performs on stage.



Women wearing I Love MCR T-shirts arrive at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground ahead of the One Love Manchester tribute concert in Manchester on June 4, 2017.



Katy Perry, left, perform on stage.



Robbie Williams perform on stage.



Liam Gallagher, left, and Chris Martin perform on stage.

FEATURES



John Simpson, left, project director of exhibitions for The Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum, paints a mural based on artwork in the Dr Seuss book "Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?" on a wall at the museum, in Springfield, Mass. — AP photos



Cortney Thibodeau paints a mural based on artwork from the Dr Seuss book "Oh, The Things You Can Think!" at The Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum.



John Simpson, left, project director of exhibitions for The Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum, and his wife Kay Simpson, right, president of Springfield Museums, unwrap a statue of the "Cat in the Hat," at the museum.



A man walks past a mural with the character "Sam-I-Am" from the Dr Seuss book "Green Eggs and Ham" at The Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum.



People walk near an entrance to The Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum.



Photo a mural that features Theodor Seuss Geisel, left, also known by his pen name Dr Seuss, rests on a wall near an entrance at The Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum.

Oh the Places You'll Go! **Dr Seuss** museum opens its doors

From the squiggly, pink handrails outside the entrance to the front hall decorated with scenes from "And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street" - a real street just blocks away - the new Amazing World of Dr Seuss museum says "You're off to Great Places!" Walking into to the museum opening to the public Saturday in the author and illustrator's hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts, is like walking into one of his beloved children's books.

The museum dedicated to Theodor Geisel - who under the pen name Dr Seuss wrote and illustrated dozens of rhyming children's books including "The Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham" - features interactive exhibits, artwork never before displayed publicly and explains how his childhood experiences in the city about 90 miles (145 kilometers) west of Boston shaped his work.

"He would absolutely be at ease here," said Leagrey Dimond, one of Geisel's stepdaughters (He didn't have any biological children). "And to know that he's going to be here permanently, safe, protected, that people who want to know more are going to make this trip here to see him, it's perfect." Examples of Geisel's early advertising work and World War II-era propaganda and political illustrations that critics consider racist are conspicuously absent, but that's because the museum is aimed primarily at children, said Kay Simpson, president of the Springfield Museums complex.

The organization has in the past hosted exhibits of Geisel's wartime work, she said. Kids are definitely the focus of the first floor of the museum, created in conjunction with Dr Seuss Enterprises, the family company that protects Geisel's legacy. It features games and climbable statues of Horton, the stack of turtles from "Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories" and Thing 1 and Thing 2 from "The Cat in the Hat." "This museum is about visitors encountering the creatures that sprang out from Ted Geisel's imagination - Horton, the Cat in the Hat, the Lorax, Sam I Am - that got kids excited about reading, which was really his preoccupation later on in his career," Simpson said.

Visitors are taken through Geisel's boyhood bedroom, his grandparents' bakery and brewery and different rooms painted in brilliant blues and radiant reds, and decorated in almost fanatical detail with scenes from the books. The museum's second floor has a more intimate feeling with the actual furnishings and assorted knick-knacks from Geisel's studio from the La Jolla, California, home where he lived until his death in 1991 at age 87. Even his collection of 117 bowties is on display.

Stereotypes and caricatures

But by not referencing Geisel's wartime work, which often stereotyped the Japanese, the museum is telling only half the story, said Katie Ishizuka, who has written on Geisel's work. "They don't acknowledge the full picture of him or they try to minimize that or sweep it under the rug,"

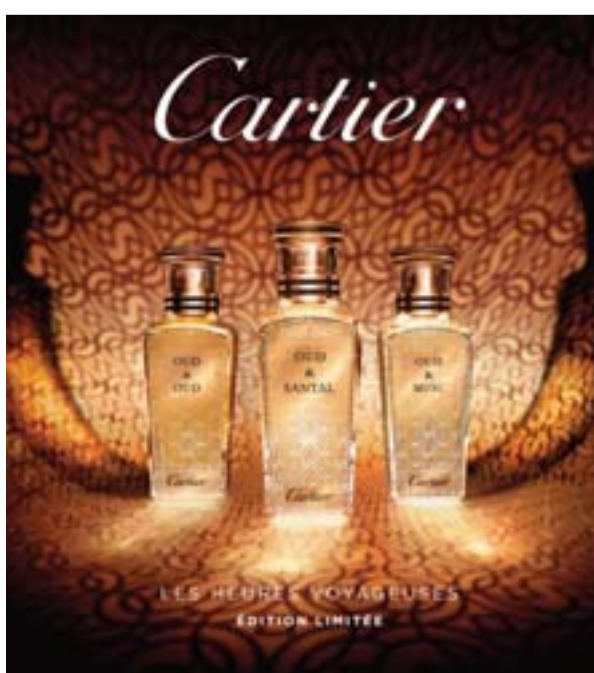
said Ishizuka, director of The Conscious Kid Library, which lends what she says are more diverse and appropriate books for young readers. Even in his children's books, characters of color are subservient or secondary to the white characters, or depicted as stereotypes and caricatures, she said. Dimond never heard a prejudiced word out of Geisel, she said, and knows he had some regrets about the wartime work.



A tray of pen nibs and memorabilia once belonging to author and artist Theodor Seuss Geisel, also known by his pen name Dr Seuss, is displayed at The Amazing World of Dr Seuss Museum.

"If there is criticism of Ted, it has its place," she said. "I would never try to, and he would not want any of us to try to hide away anything he did. I know that he changed with the times." Richard Minear, a professor emeritus of Japanese history at the University of Massachusetts, who wrote "Dr Seuss Goes to War" about his political illustrations, says Geisel certainly had a blind spot on race, but it's not fair to judge his entire career on that work.

"He matured and he developed a whole lot from those early years," Minear said, noting that "Horton Hears a Who!" was an allegory about post-war Japan and the nation's relationship with the US. The museum is expected to draw about 100,000 visitors annually and along with a \$1 billion casino scheduled to open in 2018, is part of the Springfield's economic renaissance, Mayor Domenic Sarno said. Geisel belongs in his hometown, the mayor said. "Any other city in the country would be salivating to have a museum for a world-renowned author like Dr Seuss," he said. — AP



LES HEURES VOYAGEUSES: THE CREATIVE TIES BETWEEN CARTIER AND THE ORIENT

These exclusive dainty miniatures serve as a shimmering showcase to the most iconic scents of the collection: Oud & Oud, Oud & Santal and Oud & Musc. The Moucharaby patterned damask that envelops the bottles honors the creative ties between Cartier and the Orient, whose myths and icons were reinterpreted by the jeweler in the Art Deco period. Today these aesthetic influences once again intertwine, each a little richer for the exchange. True Cartier elegance is referenced as the design of a geometric

motif brooch dating from 1909 is married with the magic and twinkling charms of the Orient.

To nurture the grand tradition of dispatching art de vivre to the four corners of the globe, this olfactory triptych is stowed in a travel presentation case specially designed by Cartier. Les Heures Voyageuses limited editions: Oud & Oud, Oud & Santal and Oud & Musc Cartier Fragrances. Moucharaby bottle, 45 ml.



Lifestyle

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A Palestinian plays with fire crackers as he celebrates the Muslim holy month of Ramadan at the town of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, on June 2, 2017. — AFP

Beyond kebabs: Turkish cuisine seeks place at the table

'In our country, everything is available throughout the four seasons'

In a bid to banish stereotypes of late-night greasy fast food, Turkish chefs are trying to burnish their image by showcasing the culinary riches the country has to offer. A new breed of cooks has shaken up the Istanbul food scene with an innovative approach to Turkish cooking, while others are on a mission to show there is more to the nation's cuisine than the perhaps notorious, doner kebab. For many outside the country, Turkish food brings to mind images of pitta bread stuffed with shavings of meat roasted on a vertical spit, usually consumed after a heavy night of drinking.

The doner was brought to western Europe by the Turkish diaspora, especially those in Germany where additions like salad and mayonnaise have made it a heavier meal than in Turkey. But did you ever try karniyarik, a dish of split aubergines with a meat filling, or cilbir-poached eggs in garlic yoghurt? Ever heard of tulum, a traditional cheese ripened in a goat's skin, or a dessert called cezerye-caramelized carrot with coconut? "Turkish cuisine is largely known abroad through doner and kebab," says Defne Ertan Tuysuzoglu, Turkey director of Le Cordon Bleu, an international culinary academy, which started in Paris and now has campuses all over the world. "Turkish cuisine is not well known," agrees Aylin Yazicioglu, executive chef at Istanbul's Nicole Restaurant. "The food that comes to mind when people talk about Turkey is, unfortunately, all bad examples. "We see this changing slowly. We'll do our best to change it."

'Rustic and different'

At Nicole, diners are offered a multicourse tasting menu of local products aimed at showing off the best that Turkish cuisine has to offer. "I believe that in a world geared towards the 'local', we've started to understand the value of our cuisine.



A man is seen serving Kebab in Istanbul.

"We've started to realize the value of our products," says Yazicioglu. "In our country, everything is available throughout the four seasons." Turkish food, she says, has much to offer and needs to promote its greatest assets, such as olive oil. But to truly change perceptions, more work is required. "I can say there's been a movement but it would be very strong to talk about a revolution. The conditions are not yet ripe for a revolution," she says. Arnaud De Clercq, who has taught at the Istanbul branch of Le Cordon Bleu for the past two years and has worked in Michelin star restaurants in France, described Turkish cuisine as "very rustic" with its focus on sauces, ragouts and stews. "It is close to the traditional French cuisine: beef bourguignon, veal blanquette, lamb navarin-all this you can find here, but a bit different."

Ottoman appetizers

He singled out Turkish meze, the selection of small dishes served as an appetizer at the start of a meal. "When the Ottoman Empire expanded, it also spread its kitchen," he said.

"You can find Turkish meze in all regions, in all countries and each country adapted it to its own taste, like in Lebanon, in Syria or in Jordan." Turkish chef Serkan Bozkurt from the Chef's Table Culinary Academy, an Istanbul-based cooking school, said perceptions about Turkish cuisine were changing. Today, he said, Turkish restaurants and cafes were blossoming in Europe, with chains like the bakery Simit Sarayi and the Kahve Dunyasi coffee shop opening up in London and other places.

Cheese-lovers' paradise

Despite the somewhat limited perception of Turkish food overseas, the cuisine has a wide variety of regional differences, with specialties from the western Aegean differing sharply from those in the eastern Black Sea region. Antakya in the southeast has a rich culinary heritage inspired by Aleppo in Syria, while specialties on the Black Sea include dishes such as muhlama, an unusual fondue made with cornflour, butter and cheese. In a huge country, which spans 784,000 square kilometers (300,000 square miles) -- an area bigger than Germany, Poland and Austria together-the cooking styles are very varied, from the herbs and vegetables used in the Aegean, to the meat-dominated specialties of the east, Bozkurt said. Its cheeses alone are likely to impress-Turkey has dozens of varieties, which differ sharply from region to region, he said. "I always say if a week-long cheese tour was organized in Turkey with trips to its seven regions, people would get dizzy!" "Turkish cuisine is not confined to meat and kebab," he said. — AFP

Bizarre News

Teenager pens Yale essay on love of pizza

A teenager secured a place at Yale University after writing an essay on how much she loves Papa John's pizza. Carolina Williams, 18, applied for the Ivy League university and during the process she had to write an essay on 'something that you love to do' and the teenager immediately thought of the greasy cheesy grub, the Mirror Online reports. But it wasn't just her adoration for the pizza chain that got her the spot at Yale - which has an admissions rate of just 6.7 percent for the class of 2021. But it played a significant role in her winning the place.



Tesco to bring in delivery robots

Tesco has announced they will start delivering groceries by robot rather than a truck. After a successful trial, the supermarket delivered a shopping order using a six-wheeled robot, according to the Daily Star. The 4mph battery-powered robots can carry items within a three-mile radius of stores or delivery hubs and customers can track its progress. Each robot is equipped with GPS technology which help it navigate where it's going. However, the introduction of the robots could make delivery drivers redundant.



Mother breaks neck again after laughing at joke

A mother has broken her neck for the second time after she laughed at a friend's joke. Monique Jeffrey, from Australia, was lying in her bed in 2012 when she sneezed which jolted her neck forward and caused the vertebrae to collapse. After spending 14 weeks in a halo brace, the mother-of-one made a full recovery however five years later Monique, 33, was at work and felt a pain in her neck. She thought her neck was unstable and when she was in the staff room she laughed at a colleagues joke and it happened again. Doctors have been left baffled at her injuries, according to the Metro newspaper, and now Monique is recovering from her injuries yet again.



Aylin Yazicioglu, the chef-proprietor of the Nicole restaurant works in Istanbul.



A picture shows a dish by Aylin Yazicioglu, the chef-proprietor of the Nicole restaurant in Istanbul. — AFP photos