

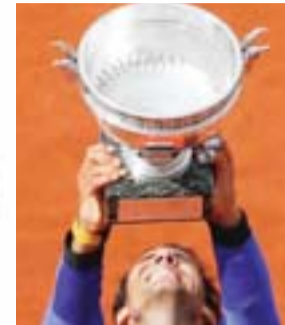
Kuwait strives to combat child labor



US' rallies against Islamic law draw counter-protests



Rafael Nadal wins 10th French Open



Imsak 03:03 Fajr 03:13 Shorook 04:48 Duhr 11:48 Asr 15:22 Maghrib 18:48 Isha 20:20

JIHADIST GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR ATTACKING US SOLDIERS

US TROOPS IN KUWAIT TARGETED BY ISLAMIC STATE



Min 32°
Max 49°
High Tide 02:29 & 12:38
Low Tide 07:23 & 20:25



SAY KIND WORDS

By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

The Noble Quran (2:83) instructs us to "Speak to people with "husna," which means goodness. It is to speak in a beautiful manner. Our tone should be soft, kind and gentle, not harsh and rude. Also, the meaning of our words should be good. Sometimes people say the truth but in a harsh way or speak well but with deceit or insult. Allah (to Whom belongs all might and majesty) tells us to speak with "husna" to everyone, and the best place to begin is our household - our parents, spouse, children and house helpers.

Allah (SWT) says in the Noble Quran what can be translated as: "So as mercy from Allah, [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude and harsh hearted, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him]." (Al Imraan 3: 159)

Allah (SWT) is so merciful to us that He gives us His bounties without measure, yet expects no benefits from us. Allah's mercy is 100 parts, and He sent one part to the earth. With that part, humans and other creatures show mercy to one another. Allah (SWT) has reserved with Him 99 parts of mercy to dispense in this world and the Hereafter. Just as you yearn for Allah's infinite mercy, you are duty-bound to show mercy to all the creatures of Allah (SWT), especially your children.

Continued on Page 13

CENTRAL CIRCLE EXECUTES MOST ADVANCED IVF CENTER IN KUWAIT

MINISTER INAUGURATES FERTILITY & MICROBIOLOGY UNIT



KUWAIT: Kuwait Health Minister Dr. Jamal Al-Harbi (right) is pictured with Central Circle CEO Dr. Ziad Al-Alyan yesterday.

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr. Jamal Al-Harbi inaugurated the fertility and microbiology unit at the maternity hospital yesterday. The Minister said that the new maternity hospital will be opened in 2021 with a 700-bed capacity. The unit had been built to

meet international standards. It includes six consultancy clinics and a fully equipped test tube baby lab. The Ministry of Health's project was designed and executed by Kuwaiti medical company Central Circle. (See Page 3)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Criminal Court yesterday handed a life term against an Egyptian truck driver who is a member of the Islamic State for attacking US soldiers, as the Court of Cassation confirmed tough jail terms against an eight-member IS cell. The court found Ibrahim Sulaiman, 28, guilty of trying to kill US soldiers stationed in the country after he rammed his truck into a car carrying three US soldiers in October.

The US Embassy in Kuwait described the incident as a "terrorist attack". The American soldiers escaped unhurt while the driver sustained minor injuries when his truck caught fire as a result of the collision. The Interior Ministry said after the incident that it found with Sulaiman a letter in which he pledges allegiance to the Islamic State. Police also found a belt and materials suspected to be explosives. The case will now go to the Court of Appeals.

In the meantime, the Court of Cassation, whose rulings are final, yesterday upheld a 20-year jail term on Fahad Farraj, the supposed leader of the Islamic State in Kuwait. The court also upheld 15-year jail terms against two others and 10-year jail terms against five more who together formed the so-called Jahra Daesh cell. The men were charged with fighting in Iraq and Syria under the Islamic State, raising funds for the group and training on the use of firearms in Kuwait.

The National Assembly Interior and Defense committee yesterday delayed until either end of this week or next week a probe into allegations that a large number of Kuwaiti citizenships could have been forged. The postponement came because Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, who was supposed to attend the meeting, had an urgent appointment with the Amir, head of the committee MP Askar Al-Enezi said.

He said the committee also studied the government proposed changes to the much criticized DNA testing law. The government is proposing that four sections will be affected by the DNA testing: criminals, dead bodies, relatives of missing people and those who voluntarily want the test, Askar said. He said the committee has asked the government for a number of explanations before taking a decision.

MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli asked the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor about the number of charity organizations in Kuwait and how many of them are allowed to collect donations. He also asked about the amount of donations collected by each organization over the past 20 years.



BEIRUT: Lebanese citizens, Orphans and Syrian refugees, gather around long Iftar tables to break their daytime fast, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, in Beirut Waterfront, Lebanon. Ajjalouna, a Lebanese charity organization, organized an Iftar, the meal to break the daily fast during Ramadan, for 5,400 people, the largest Muslim Iftar ever organized. The charity set the Guinness World Record for setting the largest table. — AP

GULF RESIDENTS ARE FREE TO STAY: QATAR

IRAN SENDS TONS OF FOOD TO QATAR

PRICE OF CIGARETTES DOUBLES IN SAUDI

RIYADH: The price of a pack of cigarettes doubled for Saudi Arabian smokers yesterday under first-time tax measures to help the kingdom cope with a drop in oil revenues. Residents of the world's biggest oil exporter long enjoyed a tax-free and heavily subsidized existence but a collapse in crude prices since 2014 sparked cutbacks and a search for new revenue. The "selective tax", effective from yesterday, raised the price of tobacco 100 percent, to between about 18 riyals (\$4.80/4.30 euros) and 24 riyals (\$6.40/5.70 euros) per pack.

The cost of energy drinks also doubled and the price of soft drinks rose 50 percent, according to the General Authority of Zakat and Income Tax. Cigarettes and fizzy drinks are popular in Saudi Arabia, where alcohol is banned. One smoker, Hamad Al-Ishewan, 33, told AFP the new tax won't affect his habit "even if it was 100 riyals for a pack". But at a shop in Riyadh's west, Naif al-Rashid, 25, said he has now sworn off energy drinks. "Raising the price of energy drinks is a good thing, because most of those who consume them are youngsters and that affects their health," Rashid said.

Saudi Arabia's implementation of the new tax follows an agreement among the six Gulf Cooperation Council nations, and is line with International Monetary Fund recommendations. GCC states also intend to introduce a value-added tax of five percent on certain goods in 2018. Since last year Saudi Arabia has pursued a wide-ranging social and economic reform plan to develop its industrial and investment base while boosting small- and medium-sized businesses. The effort aims to create more jobs for Saudis and reduce reliance on oil revenue.

After collapsed income from crude led to a record \$98 billion (87.5 billion euros) deficit in 2015, the kingdom cut subsidies on fuel and other utilities, delayed major infrastructure projects, and temporarily halted public service benefits.

These and other measures led to a much-improved fiscal performance in the first quarter of 2017, the government said. It reported a deficit in the first three months of 26 billion riyals (\$6.93 billion/6.19 billion euros), which would put the budget shortfall on course to be substantially lower than the \$53 billion (47.3 euros) initially projected. — AFP

DOHA: Qatar has said citizens of states that have cut ties with the emirate will be allowed to stay in the country despite measures against its own nationals. A statement carried on state media said Doha would "not take any measures against residents of Qatar who hold the nationalities of countries that severed diplomatic ties or lowered diplomatic representations with the state of Qatar, on the back of hostile and tendentious campaigns against the country".

It said Qatar was acting in "accordance with its firm beliefs and principles". The decision will affect more than 11,000 people from the Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain alone, according to official figures. Saudi Arabia and allies including the UAE and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties with Qatar on Monday, accusing it of supporting extremism. As well as cutting air, sea and land links with Qatar, the countries ordered its citizens to leave

within 14 days.

Amnesty International has said that the Gulf states opposed to Qatar were "toying" with people. "For potentially thousands of people across the Gulf, the effect of the steps imposed in the wake of this political dispute is suffering, heart-break and fear," said the human rights group has claimed. Figures from Doha's National Human Rights Committee show that 8,254 Saudi residents live in Qatar. There are 2,349 Bahrainis and 784 Emiratis in the country.

Meanwhile, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates signaled yesterday they may allow some Qataris to stay in their countries amid a diplomatic rift with the Gulf nation. Early yesterday, the three countries all issued statements urging mixed nationality families to call their respective interior ministries, which would take into consideration the "humanitarian circumstances" of their situation.

Continued on Page 13

GADDAFI'S SON SEIF FREED

TRIPOLI: Seif Al-Islam, the second son and heir apparent of the late deposed Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, is said to have been freed in Libya after more than five years in captivity. The Abu Bakr Al-Sadiq Brigade, a militia that controls the town of

Zintan in western Libya, said Seif Al-Islam was freed late on Friday, under an amnesty law promulgated by the parliament based in the country's east during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"He is now free and has left the city of Zintan," the group said in a statement on its Facebook page. There was no independent confirmation of Seif Al-Islam's release, which could spark further instability in a country already wracked by divisions and violence. Seif Al-Islam had been held in Zintan since November 2011, just days after his father was killed in a NATO-backed uprising against his decades-long rule. The Zintan militia, which opposes Libya's UN-backed government of National Accord (GNA) based in the capital, had refused to hand him over to authorities despite several legal cases.



Seif Al-Islam Gaddafi

Continued on Page 13



GAZA: Residents of Qatari-funded housing complex hold a banner with Arabic reading, 'we are all Qatar,' during demonstration in solidarity with Qatar in front of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani's mosque in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip. — AP



A child finally finds a buyer for his watermelon.



Two children trying to convince a driver to buy watermelons they are selling while another buyer examines the goods.



KUWAIT: A child is waiting in the hot weather for customers to buy watermelons. —KUNA



Children under the age of 15 are left on the street to sell watermelons.

KUWAIT STRIVES TO COMBAT CHILD LABOR

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait, through its government and non-government organizations, is intensifying efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of child labor. Kuwait is keen on protecting children against abuses and violations and to help enjoy their childhood and get their rights for education and healthcare. The government policies and strategies also take into account the physical, mental, psychological and social needs of children and meet them. The government focuses on providing children with world-class education to qualify them to be active members of society.

At regional and international forums, Kuwait stands out as a voice for children rights. It urges the international community to double efforts to implement international conventions on the protection of children's rights and prohibition of child labor.

On the occasion of the World Day against Child Labor, which falls on June 12, head of the national bureau for protection of children rights Dr Mona Al-Khawari said the constitution and laws prioritize childcare and protection.

Article 46 of the Kuwaiti Constitution ensures caring of children. It guarantees their rights especially to healthcare and education, especially as some foreign children work to fend for their families, she said adding that article 47 of the

Constitution also prohibits the employment of children under the age 15 years.

Khawari stated that the Constitution also stipulates that work should not endanger children health or deprive them from their right to education and obliges employers to insure and protect them. Laws also stipulate that underage workers should not work more than six hours a day and should have at one-hour rest time. They are not allowed to work between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am, she said.

Forced to work

Head of the national society for child protection Dr Siham Al-Furaih said that the society monitor the phenomenon of child labor in Kuwait. Some media figures have reached out to several working children to know the reason behind their work. They have found that those children, from foreigners and illegal residents, were forced by their parents to work, she said. Furaih noted that Law No. 21 of 2015 prohibits the deliberate exposure of the child to any physical or psychological abuse.

She said that the elimination of this phenomenon lies in the implementation of punitive measures against parents and employers who employ children. She calls for

providing aid to families going through difficult financial conditions to be able to pay for the education fees of children and not to force them to leave the school and search for work.

Director of the Juvenile Welfare Department Dr Jassem Al-Kandari said that his department cooperates with the Ministry of Interior to combat child labor in the country. The ministry of interior refers working children to the Juvenile Welfare Department to study their cases and why they work before the legal age, he said.

The department provides the necessary care for children such as food, shelter, health and education services and exert efforts to help improve the financial conditions of their families, he said. He added the department also file a report against those who employ children under the age of 15 years. As per provisions violators pay a fine and in case of reoccurrence legal action is taken against employers, he said.

Providing for their families

Meanwhile, 14-year-old boy Yusuf, illegal resident, said that the reason for his work under the burning sun was to provide for his family because he is the oldest of his broth-

ers and his father is unable to work. "I dropped out of school and worked to eke out a living for myself and my family," he said. Yusuf, who sells sweets on streets, said he has six brothers and he is the only source of income for his family. He pointed out that his earnings never exceed KD 15 a day. "I and my brothers were expelled from school due to inability to pay fees," he said. "My health is at risk all the time and I suffer from working long hours under the scorching sun."

Meanwhile, eight-year-old Ahmad, a Syrian boy, stated that he works to help his six-member family. Ahmad, who sells fruits on streets, earns less than KD 10 a day. He noted that he dropped out from school because his family could not pay the fees.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labor in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labor and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child laborers and what can be done to help them. —KUNA



KUWAIT: A member of the Shefa Kuwaiti team treats a young Syrian child. —KUNA



Head of the medical association treats an injured Syrian refugee.



Members of the Kuwaiti Shifa team operate on an injured Syrian refugee.



A Kuwaiti medical team member examines a child in Somalia.



A member of the Kuwaiti Shifa team operates on an injured Syrian refugee.



A Kuwait medical association team member takes part in treating casualties of war.

MEDICAL STAFF EAGER TO ACHIEVE KUWAIT'S 2035 VISION

KUWAIT: The medical staff in the country is eager to achieve Kuwait's 2035 vision through boosting the knowledge and skills of operatives and developing research in the field of medicine and healthcare. Thousands of medical students and doctors from Kuwait and foreign countries have benefited from studying in Kuwait, becoming an asset both locally and internationally. —KUNA

Legalese

NEW LAWS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmad

Although I usually receive questions from non-Kuwaitis (I have stopped using the word 'expat'), I received many questions from Kuwaitis this week regarding new laws. There are a few positive changes this year towards small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and Kuwaiti entrepreneurship as part of the New Kuwait plan. The Kuwait National Development Plan sets the nation's long-term development priorities. It is organized around five themes, or desired outcomes, and seven pillars, or areas of focus for investment and improvement. Although the changes will take a long time to be implemented, I am glad that we are seeing many positive changes already.

Termination indemnity

Question: There is a new law in Kuwait with regards to termination indemnity for Kuwaitis. Can you please explain more?

Fajer: Yes, but before I elaborate, I want to make one thing clear - Kuwaitis are entitled to termination indemnity too. Unfortunately, some Kuwaitis are of the idea that only non-nationals are entitled to end of service benefits and not Kuwaitis. Previously, companies deducted what they paid for Kuwaitis at the Public Institution For Social Security (PIFSS) from their indemnity. This has changed now - companies are no longer allowed to deduct any amounts paid towards PIFSS.

Food trucks

Question: My friend told me that food trucks are now legal in Kuwait - is this true? I have always seen food trucks in Kuwait though, so what is the difference?

Fajer: Yes, there are new bylaws that make licensing of food trucks legal. The biggest difference is now you do not need a physical location to operate a food truck. Although this will save rent for SMEs in the food and beverage industry, food trucks still need to pay some fees to operate.

Home businesses

Question: I read recently that now it is legal for home businesses to operate in Kuwait? Is this true?

Fajer: Yes, home businesses are now legal in Kuwait and will be issued a license to operate legally from houses/residential areas. The license will be issued from the Kuwait Business Center (KBC) after Eid (KBC is a one-stop center for issuing licenses). The center is located in Ashbilya and the staff there are extremely friendly and useful (from experience).

The license will only be for Kuwaitis over 21 years of age. Homeowners will need to provide permission - obviously (there is talk of whether the police or Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor are allowed to do checkups of the house for safety reasons). The license is mostly for services like designers, calligraphists, illustrators, photographers, Web and app developers, watchmakers, gardeners, technicians, event planners, translators, museums, and so on.

This is a big step for Kuwait and is going to make a huge difference. One thing though - there are a lot of food businesses in Kuwait operating from homes that will not be able to operate for health and safety reasons. I know many young people worked hard for this law to be implemented and lobbied for this law to come to life, and one of these lovely people was my dear friend who recently passed away - Ahmed Al-Gharabally. This just gives you hope to keep working hard in Kuwait to bring a difference to society.

Question: With the new home business law, can we still be registered as employees working from home?

Fajer: Yes, the new law will allow you to be registered under the Public Institution for Social Security and still have a retirement plan.

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



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi opened a new In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Center at the Maternity Hospital; one of the most advanced IVF centers in Kuwait. The Ministry of Health project was designed and executed by Kuwaiti medical company Central Circle. Minister Harbi, Central Circle's CEO Dr Ziad Al-Alyan and other officials attended the inauguration ceremony which took place at the Sabah Medical Zone yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

EXPERTS TO DETERMINE PRIVATE SCHOOLS' TUITION FEES: MINISTER

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammed Al-Fares said that financial experts will be consulted to determine private schools' tuition fees. Fares also denied any intentions to increase those fees and stressed that he asked undersecretary Dr Haitahm Al-Athari and assistant undersecretary for private education Dr Abdul Mohsen Al-Howailah to set the regulations of distributing land plots to be used as schools.

Competitiveness protection

Well-informed sources said that studies on amending the competitiveness protection body law are expected to start within a few days. On another concern, the sources said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) will announce forming a special follow up committee to rephrase all economic decisions and laws related to the

ministry's work. The sources added that the committee was founded upon instructions from minister Khaled Al-Roudhan with the aim of facilitating procedures and cut down the time needed for various transactions.

FATCA law

Financial establishments involved in the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) law will have to submit their second annual reports by the end of this June, said financial sources. The deferral made from June 30 to November 30 last year was exceptional and made upon a request made by Kuwait's finance ministry to the US treasury, the sources noted. The sources added that upon instructions from the US Internal Revenues Service (IRS), the finance ministry had updated its software using the FATCA XML Schema v2.0. Some financial establishments said that the ministry had updated its system without informing them and that

using the old software might have their reports rejected by the ministry system. Establishments subject to the law will have to submit reports about their financial and investments assets over KD 50,000 for individuals and KD 250,000 for companies.

Social aid

Indebted citizens who had unlawfully received social aids will have to pay those aids back, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs Hassan Kathem said. He added that a special team was formed to do a full inventory of the files at the family care unit in Ashbilya to calculate the unlawfully paid sums and report them to the financial affairs department to collect them. "The ministry received several requests to drop and write off those debts but they were all rejected because those are not the ministry's funds, they are public funds," he underlined.

KOC budget

Kuwait Oil Company's (KOC) operational budget for the current fiscal year (2017-2018) reached KD 1.592 billion with a KD 50 million increase compared to that of 2016-2017. The parliament's approval of the budgets of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries is a turning point in the sector's path towards achieving its strategic goals, including reaching the daily production of four million barrels per day by 2020.

New doctors

The Ministry of Health (MOH) urged the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to provide it with 500 vacancies in order to appoint new doctors to operate the new health facilities the ministry intends to open soon. Meanwhile, MOH is expected to deposit the wages of Kuwaiti and expatriate employees working for monthly payments in their bank accounts this week that is by June 15 at most.

Supermarkets						
Commodity	Week 6	Week 5	Week 4	Week 3	Week 2	Week 1
One kilogram of frozen chicken	KD 1.195	KD 1.250	KD 1.350	600 fils	KD 1.400	KD 1.400
One kilogram of fresh minced meat (beef)	KD 2.195	KD 2.250	KD 2.150	KD 2.150	KD 2.150	KD 2.150
One kilogram of local tomatoes	275 fils	225 fils	560 fils	500 fils	495 fils	495 fils
One kilogram of African lemons	255 fils	510 fils	790 fils	760 fils	775 fils	775 fils
One kilogram of local cucumbers	340 fils	375 fils	790 fils	295 fils	145 fils	145 fils
One liter of local milk (KDCow)	350 fils	315 fils	372 fils	315 fils	315 fils	315 fils
One carton of eggs (30 eggs per carton)	590 fils	590 fils	750 fils	750 fils	790 fils	790 fils

EGG PRICES DROP, BEEF'S ON THE RISE

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 drop in the price of eggs, while the beef price has increased.

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						
Commodity	Week 6	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 (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 3.250	KD 2.750	KD 2.750	KD 2.750	KD 3.000	KD 2.750
One kilogram of local tomatoes	450 fils	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	660 fils
One kilogram of local cucumbers	220 fils	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	430 fils
One carton of eggs (30 eggs per carton)	770 fils	850 fils	KD 1.100	KD 1.100	KD 1.100	KD 1.100

The Arab Open University - Kuwait

The Arab Open University in Kuwait announces the opening of admission for the First semester of the academic year 2017/2018.

Online Admission Period:-
The admission period will open from the 30th of May 2017, students may apply through www.aou.edu.kw.

Bachelor Majors Available:-

- Business Administration
- English Language & Literature
- Information Technology & Computing

Admission Conditions:-

1. High school percentage of 60% or 2.00 GPA or above.
2. Students with a lesser percentage or GPA may apply with the exception of having 4 years of work experience.
3. Required conditions for each major should be met.
4. Students should obtain a high school certificate in science in order to apply for the Information Technology & Computing major.

Graduates from AOU will obtain two bachelor degrees; one is locally accredited from AOU and the other one is accredited from OU in the UK.

E-mail: admission@aou.edu.kw

Operator: 24394400 Ext.: 4205/4252/4247/4249 Graduates: 4311/4251 Fax: 24394200

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ITHC HOSTS MEDIA GHABQA AT THE CONVENTION CENTER AND ROYAL SUITES

KUWAIT: The International Trade Holding Company (ITHC) that owns Movenpick Hotel Kuwait Free Zone, The Convention Center and Royal Suites and Inn & Go Kuwait Hotel Plaza, organized its annual Ramadan ghabga in The Convention Center and Royal Suites at Free Zone. The ghabga was attended by a number of media delegates, journalists, representatives from advertising agencies as well as bloggers and VIPs. Guests enjoyed the annual event and valued its unique decoration with authentic oriental and traditional vibes to reflect a genuine Ramadan theme. The company's management and marketing team welcomed all attendees including Ali Haddad, the Operations Manager, who expressed his sincere delight and

gratitude for the continuous support of the local media. He also wished them a Happy Ramadan and invited them to experience the true spirit of Ramadan and enjoy the distinctive, authentic Arabian hospitality. Moreover, guests cherished the Oriental music as well as the scrumptious Kuwaiti and Arabian dishes, Ramadan juices and mouth-watering Arabic sweets. Besides, many contests and games were held and lots of prizes and gifts were distributed to guests. At end of the event, the company's team thanked guests for their presence in the annual ghabga, where everyone had a truly unique experience and lived the spirit of the Holy Month, making ITHC's ghabga a night to remember.



KUWAIT

Heritage



This photo shows an old market in Kuwait, bustling with life as men, women and children dressed in traditional clothes walk by old buildings built from mud bricks. (Source: A total of commemorative printed images by the Ministry of Information, taken during the 1960s and 1970s. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Aella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)

ZAIN SHARES GERGEAN JOYS WITH AL-AMAL CHILDREN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, shared the joys of gergean in collaboration with Al-Amal club for children with cancer and blood disorders. The event, which was hosted at the Women's Cultural and Social Society headquarters at Khalidiya, witnessed the attendance of a large number of Zain volunteers, members of the Women's Cultural Society, as well as by young artist Homoud Al-Khudur and actor Shabaan Abbas.

The annual Al-Amal gergean celebration is one of the main pillars of Zain's extensive Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan, where the company aims at sharing the joys and blessings of Holy Month with different segments of the society. Zain's volunteers celebrated the special occasion with children and their families in an atmosphere filled with happiness and joy.

Zain's volunteers delighted the children and their families by distributing gergean and gifts while also organizing many other fun activities including a magic show, traditional dancing, and a face painting session. Zain believes in the importance of embracing the beautiful values of the Islamic religion as well as the noble traditions of the



Zain's team and Artist Homoud Al-Khudur with Al-Amal children.

Kuwaiti heritage, all year round and especially during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Zain affirmed that its social and CSSR campaign during the holy month of Ramadan includes an extensive array of initiatives and programs that focus on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily, as well as celebrating the true spirit the Holy month brings.

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.



STAY PATIENT AND CALM

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?

Self-control and anger management is one of the most important behaviors that can help improve life in Kuwait, according to 31-year-old Khaled. He responded to the question of on how he could improve this country as follows:

"Most people here are not patient and engage themselves in ill behaviors, mostly while doing paper works and driving during rush hours. This conduct gets even more rude and aggressive in Ramadan when people are fasting. When people fast, they act as if they were the only ones fasting. Silly situations anger them, expecting to be excused in the name of fasting. Being a nervous person myself, I get easily provoked, which is why I avoid going out while fasting. And I advise other people who get uneasy for silly reasons to rather stay at home during the day in Ramadan if they cannot calm themselves down. I believe that discipline and dealing well with people are important. Many people try to overtake impatiently, which is wrong and I am least interested in such mannerisms. If such situations were to happen before me, I would try to correct people who are at fault for not maintaining queues and breaking lines."

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

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Crime

Report

12-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN HIT-AND-RUN

KUWAIT: Capital detectives are looking for a person who ran over and killed a 12-year-old child in northwest Sulaibkhat and escaped. Paramedics who arrived to the scene with police in response to an emergency call said that the child succumbed to his injuries onsite. The body was recovered by the forensic department.

Suspected suicide

The body of a Nepalese woman was recovered by the coroner, after she allegedly committed suicide. Ahmadi prosecutor went to the scene to investigate whether the case was actually a suicide or homicide. The room where the housemaid lived inside her sponsor's house was locked from the inside and the door was broken. The dead woman's sponsor said he hired her several days before from an office in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

Thieves caught

Farwaniya detectives solved three cases of armed robbery in addition to a car theft, when three Egyptians caught an armed person in a Rihab co-op society branch with a hunting air rifle. The suspect told about his accomplice and confessed to three thefts in Farwaniya and Omariya co-op society branch, as well as an attempted robbery and stealing a car.

Harasser deported

A security source said Director General of Farwaniya Security Maj Gen Saleh Al-Enezi sent a memo to Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah asking for the deportation of an Arab man accused of harassment. The suspect was caught red handed touching sensitive parts of women, then apologized, claiming it was an accident. Citizens and expat women complained about the man who was caught while harassing an Arab woman.

Smuggling foiled

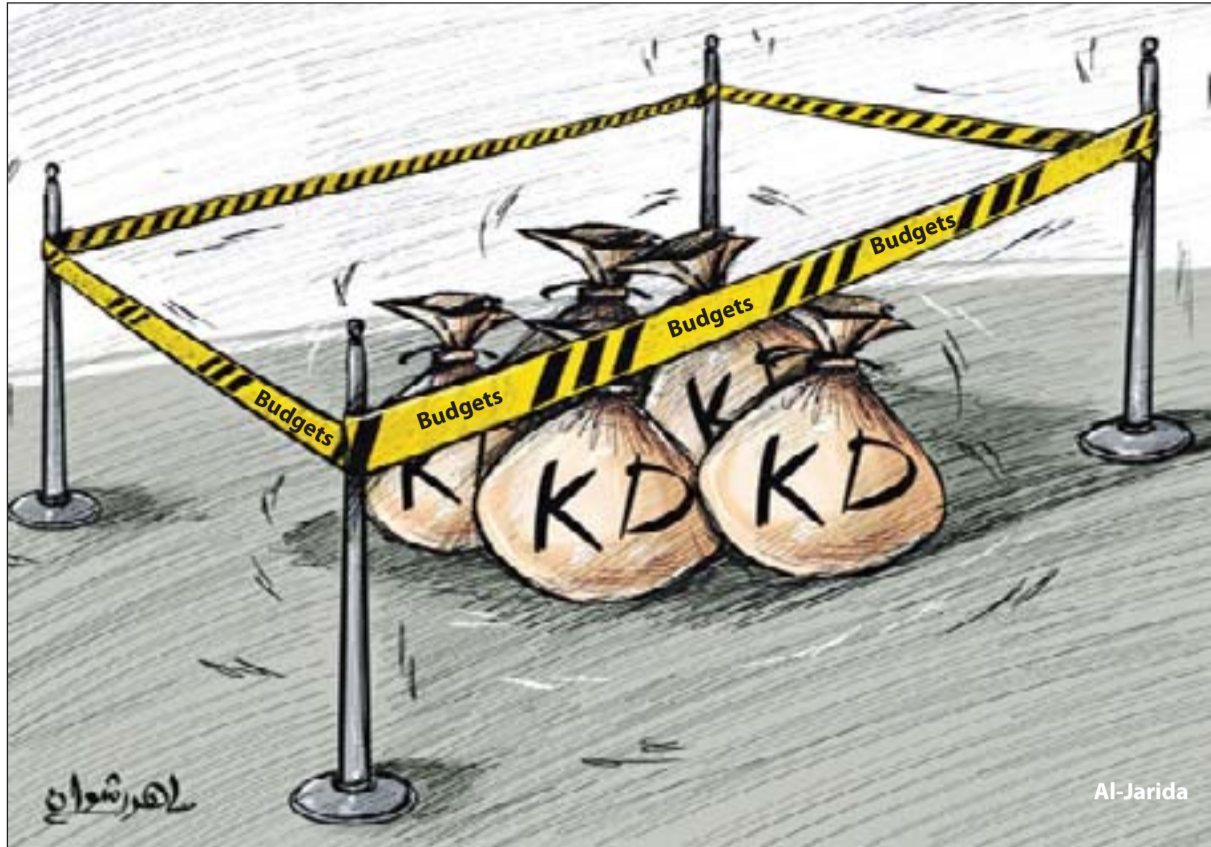
Customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 14,000 Captagon tablets that were hidden in the upper vent of a truck coming from Iraq. The estimated value of the tablets is around KD 32,000.

Fights

A Sudanese man suffered serious injuries and had to be admitted inside the intensive care unit following a fight in Wafra farms. Meanwhile, the person who caused the fight, a Ugandan national, was detained in Wafra police station. In another fight, a Bangladeshi man sustained a broken arm as police is looking for the suspect. Both cases were sent to concerned authorities.

Bootlegger held

Criminal detectives arrested a man who has been active in trading in imported liquor. Detectives received tips about a man trading in liquor, so they went to his address with a warrant to raid his house. They found there a large quantity of liquor, which he confessed belonged to him. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES

By Yousif Abdullah Al-Enezi

Driven by a strong wish to tune out of politics, the endless swamps of nagging around and the tension we feel because of general regional situations, I decided to resume my 'Journey of a thousand miles' through a quick review of the period between 1980 and 1984, during which I served as a counselor in Kuwait's embassy to Greece. Having a strong wish to explore some areas in that beautiful country, I visited the Corinth Canal area 40 miles from Athens. It was cut 90 meters deep in a mountain. It is 6.4 kilometers in length and only 21.4 meters wide at its base.

What a wonderful canal it is. It is actually a legend because the idea to build it started since the reign of Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar in the year 67 BC. However, the construction stopped after the latter's death until the 19th century when it resumed and the canal was built to become a touristic and cultural landmark telling much about the Greek civilization.

After enjoying that place which took us back in time, we carried on to Lower Trikala village located just below the mountain and drove down to Upper Trikala, which required using chains on our vehicle tires to be able to dive through thick snow. An hour later, we arrived to a calm village at the top of the mountain. It was surrounded by splendid indescribable landscaping. At that time, only 500 people lived in it. It has one church, one central market with a restaurant and a cafe where villagers of all ages met. I joined that wonderful group and had lunch with them.

On heading back to my vehicle, I found it completely surrounded with bags of various kinds of cheese, bread

and baskets of freshly picked fruits and vegetables. "This is but a humble gift from us," said an old man who approached me, but that humble present was too big to fit into my vehicle's trunk. In the period of 2003-2007, I headed towards our diplomatic mission in Jordan where time seemed to have flown by because the period was busy with constant work during the most important period of relations between the two countries.

Commencing my tenure, I visited the Dead Sea. On the way, there was a detour and a road blocked by barriers. On asking about it, my companion said that if we drove on straight we would reach Jerusalem and that this leg of the highway was blocked following the 1967 war.

This touched my feelings and reminded me of the time I spent in Qeba mosque in Medina, which was the first mosque built in Islam and where the Qibla then faced Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem before Almighty Allah ordered Muslims to face Mecca's Holy Mosque during prayers. I received an invitation from the Palestinian leadership to visit Al-Aqsa Mosque but did not go. We drove on to mount Nebo where a church was built on top and it is said that this church houses the grave of prophet Moses (PBUH), which is not so far confirmed.

The Dead Sea is a mixture of three Heavenly religions. On Mount Nebo, Prophet Moses (PBUH) and his people stood watching Jerusalem without being able to enter it. Prophet Jesus (PBUH) was baptized in River Jordan and Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) was taken overnight to the Aqsa Mosque and then to Heaven. —*Translated by Kuwait Times*

النجاح Al-Anbaa

IT IS ONLY GIRGIAN, STOP SHOWING OFF

By Yousif Abdul-Rahman

Girgian is one of the traditions we have inherited from our ancestors. It is known in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states including Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in different names. It is also well-known in Iraq, and for the people in the Ahwaz and Al-Ahsa regions. It is usually celebrated on the 13th, 14th and 15th day of Ramadan with special songs; boys and girls going from door to door in special traditional costumes singing to get treats of candies and mixed nuts, and sometimes some small coins (50 or 100 fils) hidden within the mixture.

It was a rather simple process which included some little fights, funny incidents, intimidation and kids snatching away each other's bags of girgian

Boys usually sing different songs than those sung by girls expressing wishes for long healthy lives for those in each house they visit. In ancient Kuwait, these groups used to move from Jebla (Qebala) to Sharq and vice versa. They sometimes went to Merqab. It was a rather simple process which included some little fights, funny incidents, intimidation and kids snatching away each other's bags of girgian. The entire scene was so impulsive, and clear of an exaggerations.

Gergean is a nice tradition we ought to protect and keep. It is loved by both citizens and residents. Unfortunately, this tradition is being followed with a great deal of exaggeration and show off. Some people overburden themselves to provide five-star gergean. They would have special boxes custom-made for them and fill them with the finest brands of chocolate, candy and nuts. Some even put some money or golden pounds in the box.

Many new things are happening during girgian where one sees Asian and African housemaids leading groups of kids dressed in the finest clothes and most expensive jewelry, which is too dangerous. Girgian is rather a simple process to bring joy to children without any exaggeration. It also has no origin in Islam and, thus, we should not overdo it. It would be more than enough to get a kid a girgian bag for only 750 fils and not KD 1,750 just to brag and show off.

—*Translated by Kuwait Times*



OOREDOO CELEBRATES GIRGIAN WITH KIDS IN HOSPITAL WARDS AS PART OF ITS YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, distributed girgian boxes on the children staying in hospital wards across Kuwait as part of its volunteer program activities over the weekend. The boxes were assembled by Ooredoo's volunteers and children during an event organized last Thursday at Discovery Mall during the

Heart2Heart initiative, and the boxes were distributed in different hospital wards throughout the weekend.

Ooredoo stated its pride in instilling values of selflessness and volunteering in children and youth who participated in the Heart2Heart initiative, especially during the holy month of Ramadan and the noble values it represents. The children have assembled hundreds of boxes during the event. The boxes will be distributed in different locations to children in hospitals and children of needy families.

Earlier this month, Ooredoo kicked off its Ramadan program of activities with distributing hundreds of meals to the needy workers across Kuwait City with Ooredoo's volunteer program truck. This is in addition to a distribution center in the company's Ramadan tent, located across the head office on Soor Street. The initiatives were executed by Ooredoo's own volunteer program members, led by the company's Corporate Communications department. Additionally, Ooredoo held an Iftar feast for the children of the Kuwait Down Syndrome Center and their parents and the attending staff as part of its community outreach and corporate social responsibility, sharing the festive spirits of the holy month. Ooredoo has previously collaborated with a number of entities in Kuwait, such as Abdullah Al Nouri institution to aid Syrian refugees in different part of the world, in addition its collaboration with the 'Kiswat Al Khair' campaign to distribute clothes for needy families during the holy month. Also Ooredoo representatives has conducted a visit to 'Yadawi' centre to give the volunteers a comprehensive idea about how to recycle waste, sort, and reuse it in manufacturing children toys to be donated to children in need. The program will include participation from similar groups.

Ooredoo reiterated its commitment to empowering youth and supporting groups that focus on volunteer work, and expressed its pride in partnering with reputable organizations throughout the month of Ramadan to encourage volunteer work. Empowering youth is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy.



WATANIYA AIRWAYS PARTICIPATES IN A CHARITY CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Wataniya Airways participated in a charity campaign launched during the holy month of Ramadan this year, and gathered private sector institutions including the National Bank of Kuwait, Bayan Dental Clinic and others. The 10-day campaign was organized in cooperation with the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) under the umbrella of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS).





Ukrainians cheer on first day of visa-free EU travel

US-BACKED SYRIA FORCE ADVANCES IN RAQQA, BATTLES FOR BASE

MAY WARNED OVER RISK TO IRISH PEACE

'DEAD WOMAN WALKING' RACES TO FORM GOVT • BORIS DENIES PLOT TO TOPPLE PM

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May suffered a further setback yesterday in her efforts to stay in power after Dublin warned that her plans to form an alliance with a Northern Irish party could upset the province's fragile peace. In a phone call, Irish premier Enda Kenny told May that forming a minority government reliant on the support of the hardline Protestant Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) could pose a "challenge" to the 1998 Good Friday peace accords.

The future of the proposed alliance had already been thrown into confusion late Saturday after May's office announced that an outline agreement had been struck, only to backtrack and say that talks were still ongoing. "The taoiseach (Kenny) indicated his concern that nothing should happen to put the Good Friday Agreement at risk and the challenge that this agreement will bring," an Irish government spokesman said.

London's neutrality is key to the delicate balance of power in Northern Ireland, which was once plagued by violence over Britain's control of the province. May responded that the DUP deal "would provide stability and certainty for the UK going forward", her office said. The 60-year-old is struggling to reassert her authority after losing her parliamentary majority in Thursday's snap election, just days before Brexit talks begin.



SONNING, Berkshire: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and her husband Philip leave after attending Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church yesterday. —AP

The Sunday newspapers carried reports that Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson was set to launch a bid to oust her, although he dismissed them as "tripe", insisting on Twitter: "I'm backing Theresa May." Former

Conservative party leaders have warned any immediate leadership challenge would be too disruptive, but most commentators believe May cannot survive in the long term. Former finance minister

George Osborne, who May sacked after taking office following the Brexit vote last June, said she was now a "dead woman walking".

With the new government set to present its legislative program to

parliament on June 19, the clock is ticking on efforts to bolster the Conservatives' position after they won just 318 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons. DUP leader Arlene Foster said there had been "very good discussions" so far on how her 10 MPs could support a Conservative minority government, and she would travel to London to meet May tomorrow.

Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said the government was not looking at a formal coalition but would seek assurances that the DUP would vote with May "on the big things" such as the budget, defense issues and Brexit. He stressed he did not share their ultra-conservative views on issues such as abortion and homosexuality, which have caused disquiet among many Conservatives. More than 600,000 people have signed a petition condemning the proposed alliance, saying it is a "dusting, desperate attempt to stay in power".

Foster has yet to set out her demands but her party wants an end to prosecutions of British soldiers who fought in Northern Ireland and an easing of restrictions on parades. Any concessions on these points are likely to antagonize the nationalist republican Sinn Fein, with whom the DUP shared power before their government collapsed earlier this year amid a breakdown in trust. "We will of course act in the national inter-

est and do what is right for the whole of the UK," Foster said.

Brexit talks on track

May has shown little public contrition for the electoral gamble that backfired but was forced to accept the resignations of her two closest aides - reportedly a requirement by cabinet colleagues for allowing her to stay in office. Fallon said the change in circumstances would require "a more collective approach" in government, but he also said he expected Conservative lawmakers to "rally behind" May when they meet early next week.

The prime minister spoke to German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday and confirmed she was ready to start Brexit talks "as planned in the next couple of weeks". The negotiations had been due to start around June 19. May began the two-year countdown to Britain's withdrawal on March 29, promising to take Britain out of Europe's single market in order to end mass migration from the continent.

But there is speculation she may now be forced to soften her approach, which had included a threat to walk away without a new trade deal in place. Fallon told the BBC the government wanted a "new partnership with Europe that is careful about the trade we already do with Europe, that comes to some agreement on the immigration that we can accept from Europe." —AFP

QATAR HIRES FORMER US ATTORNEY GENERAL

DUBAI: Qatar has paid \$2.5 million to the law firm of a former attorney general under US President George W. Bush to audit its efforts at stopping terrorism funding, a matter at the heart of the Gulf diplomatic crisis that erupted last week. John Ashcroft personally will lead his Washington-based firm's efforts "to evaluate, verify and as necessary, strengthen the client's anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing" compliance, according to documents filed to the US Justice Department.

Qatar hiring Ashcroft, who was attorney general during the Sept 11 attacks and then helped push through the Patriot Act, appeared aimed at appeasing the Gulf nations now trying to isolate it. Officials in Qatar, home to a major US military base, and Ashcroft's firm did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain,

Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates severed diplomatic ties with Qatar, the host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, and cut off land, sea and air routes to the tiny peninsular nation that relies on food imports. Its long-haul carrier Qatar Airways has also been affected.

At the heart of the dispute are the long-standing allegations linking Qatar to regional Islamist and militant groups. Qatar denies supporting terrorist organizations, but Western officials regularly have accused Qatar's government of allowing or even encouraging the funding of some Sunni extremists. Qatar also has hosted a leader of Hamas, the militant Islamic group ruling the Gaza Strip, as well as members of the Muslim Brotherhood, a Sunni Islamist group that Gulf nations consider a threat to their hereditary rule. —AP

QNET

QNET Supports BACCH Kuwait This Ramadan
Spreading Cheer This Holy Month

To spread the Spirit of Giving during the holy Month of Ramadan, top representatives/officials from prominent Asian direct-selling company QNET visited the premises of Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH) in Kuwait.

incorporates a mechanical seven-filter media Ultrafiltration (UF) system; meaning seven filter stages are combined into one single filter cartridge. Built with the latest innovative technology, the AirPure range provides you with safer and cleaner air.

Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice is the only hospice in the Middle East and one of the largest in the world, dedicated to children with life-threatening or life-limiting illness. Their aim is to improve the quality of life for children and their families from diagnosis and beyond by offering tailored services like end of life care and bereavement support.

"It is an honor for us to visit BACCH, we are so inspired by the story of the place and work they are doing to help these little children face their illness with a smiling face. We hope to be a tiny part of this and help bring a positive change to their lives through some of our life enhancing products- like AirPure and HomePure," said Khaled Diab, Regional General Manager, QNET MEHA.

QNET will be providing BACCH with some of their life enhancing products, the much acclaimed AirPure Air Purifiers and the 7 Stage Water Filtration System- HomePure. HomePure is a high-quality water filtration system that

QNET through its 'Absolute Living' Campaign has been promoting the importance of a healthy and holistic lifestyle amongst individuals and families.

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BOKO HARAM FOOD CRISIS: FARMERS CALL TO RETURN HOME

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria: Farmers and fishermen displaced by Boko Haram violence in northeast Nigeria want to return home, saying it will help ease chronic food shortages for the remote region's starving millions. Subsistence agriculture is a lifeline in the northeast but the eight-year Islamist insurgency has devastated activities, causing a desperate lack of food and sky-high prices.

Many farmers and fishermen have either been killed or fled to camps for the displaced, where they are dependent on food aid, or to live with friends and distant relatives. Aid agencies say a severe funding shortfall is affecting feeding programs, despite high levels of severe acute malnutrition and repeated warnings that famine is a possibility. The head of the Lake Chad fishermen's union, Labbo Tahir, said: "No amount of food aid can adequately feed us. The only way out of this unending starvation is for us to return home, grow our own food and rebuild our lives," he told AFP.

Ibrahim Mammadu used to grow rice and other crops but now works as a labourer on a tomato field near the Borno state capital Maiduguri for \$13 a month. The money is hardly enough to feed his family of five for a week. "If only I can return to my farm my hardship would be over and within a year I can grow enough food for my family," said the 35-year-old. "This is the only way I can end my dependency and poverty because farming is all I know."

Food basket

The freshwaters of Lake Chad and its fertile shores have made northern Borno the state's food basket. Government statistics say three districts on the Nigerian side of the lake - Marte, Kukawa and Ngala - provided a quarter of the country's annual wheat production of 90,000 tonnes in 2014. The Fisheries Society of Nigeria says some 300,000 tonnes of fish caught in the region represents about 12 percent of fish consumed nationwide.

But Lake Chad is currently a Boko Haram hotspot

and economic activity has ground to a halt. A sales ban has exacerbated losses, as the military fears profits are funding insurgent activities. In recent weeks, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) donated 30 tonnes of early-maturing, pest-resistant seeds to Borno's farmers. But IITA coordinator Kamai Nkike said three consecutive rainy seasons have been missed and the current season, which began two weeks ago, is also likely to pass without crops being planted. "Farming in

northern Borno at the moment is practically impossible," said Nkike. "The farmers want to be on their own. They are not happy with food aid."

Funding crisis

The United Nations says nearly two million people are on the brink of famine in northeast Nigeria and some 5.2 million could need life-saving food aid between now and August. But only about a quarter of the \$1.05 billion needed to fund programs this

year has been received. WFP spokeswoman Elizabeth Bryant said the funding crisis was "coming at the very worst time, when the lean season will increase hunger and malnutrition".

Resources have been over-stretched by the recent return of some 12,000 refugees from Cameroon. The WFP planned to deliver food and nutritional assistance to about 1.3 million people in May, scaling up to reach 1.8 million this month. But lack of cash means targets have had to be revised.

"We've been forced to pare down those plans to reach the same 1.3 million target for June," Bryant wrote in an email. "We're now targeting the most vulnerable groups - the under twos, instead of the under-fives - for nutritional assistance, and we are distributing half-rations."

Security issues

Greater security will ultimately determine whether farmers and fishermen can return home and start helping the local economy to recover. Nigeria's government and military maintain that Boko Haram is a spent force but suicide bombings and deadly raids remain a constant threat. On May 20, jihadists killed six farmers as they worked in Amarwa village near Maiduguri. Five days later, four more were killed and two others abducted, again on the outskirts of the city. The attacks underlined the threat of violence even in areas supposedly liberated by a sustained counter-insurgency that has pushed out the jihadists from captured territory.

Mba Ali Kyari, who heads an association of herders of the Kuri cattle breed found around Lake Chad, said security was essential "so we can go back and continue our agricultural activities". The IITA's Nkike said that was unlikely because of insurgent activity in northern Borno but other parts of the state should be looked at. "For now focus on food production should be on southern Borno pending when enduring peace returns to the northern part and especially Lake Chad area," he said. —AFP



MAIDUGURI, Nigeria: Nigerian IDPs (Internal Displaced Persons) hold a placard reading "we need peace to survive" during the visit of Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo to the Bakassi IDPs camp on June 8, 2017. — AFP

FAMILIES SPLIT AS GULF CRISIS BECOMES HUMANITARIAN ISSUE

THOUSANDS OF 'KHALEEJIS' AFFECTED, FEAR STATELESSNESS

DOHA: Rashed Al-Jalaha, 22, has lived almost his whole life in Qatar, but he now faces the decision of whether to stay or return "home" to Bahrain. The aeronautical engineer student is one of thousands of "Khalaejis" - Gulf citizens - impacted by a diplomatic crisis which has split the region, and the human cost of which is just beginning to show. "The people have nothing to do with this, it's irrational," Rashed told AFP. "Home is where your heart is and I certainly believe Qatar is where my heart is. It's my home."

Rashed has only visited Bahrain four times in his life. He was born to a mixed couple: His father is Bahraini and his mother a Qatari but the couple split up when Rashed was six. The young Bahraini national has lived all of his life with his mother and two sisters in Doha. On Monday, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and other allies severed ties with Qatar, accusing it of backing terrorism, and imposed punitive measures. These include banning Qatar Airways from airspace and closing the country's only land border with Saudi Arabia. Gulf states also ordered Qataris out within 14 days as well as calling home their own citizens. The decisions threaten to break families apart in ways unimaginable in the Gulf where previously residents had the right to live, work and travel in any of the six energy-rich country they chose.

Amnesty International, long a critic of Doha over its treatment of migrant workers, has warned of "heartbreak and fear" suffered by ordi-

nary people caught in the diplomatic crossfire. "Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates are toying with the lives of thousands of Gulf residents as part of their dispute with Qatar, splitting up families and destroying people's livelihoods and education," the London-based rights group said.

Fearing statelessness

With the deep family, heritage and commercial links between the Gulf countries, tens of thousands of people are potentially affected. Many like Rashed are now facing tough choices. Rashed said if he stays in Qatar he could potentially lose his Bahraini citizenship and become "stateless". The law in Qatar does not allow mothers to grant nationality to their children "without exception, even if this would result in statelessness", according to the United Nations refugee agency. In Qatar alone there are 11,382 residents from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE, according to Doha's National Human Rights Committee. Almost 6,500 Qatari men and women are married to partners from those three countries. Committee chief Ali bin Samikh Al-Marri says the decision by the other countries represents an "unjust embargo which violates all international human rights" charters.

One Qatari mother who lives in Saudi Arabia is facing a particularly tough dilemma, according to Marri's committee. The woman has a child with special needs who holds Saudi nationality

and the mother has been told the youngster will not be allowed to leave the kingdom even though she must return to Qatar. A Saudi awaiting kidney surgery in Qatar has also been ordered home, the rights group said. Footage of a Saudi family being stopped at the border from attending a family funeral in Qatar has also been circulated widely on social media.

Saudi hotline

The humanitarian aspect of the row has caught the attention of those outside the Gulf. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has urged Saudi Arabia and its allies to ease their "blockade" of Qatar and warned of the "humanitarian consequences" of the measure. "We're seeing shortages of food, families are being forcibly separated, and children are being pulled out of school," he said. Saudi and Bahrain on Sunday announced they have established hotlines for those affected.

Riyadh said it was ordering "suitable measures" to help families with mixed citizenships but provided few details. Qatar has announced that residents from other Gulf countries, like Rashed and his sisters, can remain in Doha. But the threat of statelessness remains should Rashed fail to return to his father's country of Bahrain. "My mother... I have never seen her this worried and anxious," Rashed said. "She's a neurosurgeon. She does surgery for six to eight hours a day." — AFP

IRAN ARRESTS ALMOST 50 AFTER TEHRAN ATTACKS

LONDON: Iran has arrested almost 50 people in connection with twin attacks on Tehran that killed 17 people last week, officials said, as security forces stepped up efforts to crack down on suspected militants. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings and gun attacks on parliament and the mausoleum of the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, on Wednesday. Iran's intelligence minister Mahmoud Alavi said on Saturday night that 43 suspects had been arrested and operations to identify and crush more "terrorists cells" were under way.

Yesterday, the head of the justice department in Kordestan province in western Iran announced more arrests. "Six people who were certainly connected to Wednesday's terrorist attacks in Tehran were identified and arrested," Aliakbar Garousi was quoted as saying by the Fars news agency. Iran also said its security forces killed the mastermind of the attacks on Saturday. "The commander of this terrorist group was based in the border regions, but after the attacks left the country," Alavi was quoted as saying by state broadcaster IRIB on Sunday.

"However, with cooperation of (intelligence) services that are close to Iran, he paid the price of his crimes on Saturday and was killed by Iran's security forces and our friends in the other intelligence services," he said. Iran's intelligence ministry said on Thursday that

five of the gunmen and bombers were Iranian members of Islamic State who had fought in the militants' strongholds in Syria and Iraq.

Questions In Parliament

The attacks were the first claimed by Islamic State inside tightly controlled Shiite Iran, one of the powers leading the fight against the Sunni militants in the region. The Iranian lawmakers invited the intelligence minister, interior minister and also the deputy head of the Revolutionary Guards to the parliament to report on Sunday about the biggest security breach in the country in more than two decades.

"The ministers should explain how terrorists managed to reach the capital and hit two sensitive targets. We are not satisfied with the answers given so far," Asadullah Abbasi, a lawmaker was quoted as saying by judiciary's news agency, Mizan. Abbasi said the attacks were unprecedented since the killing of Iranian lawmakers in 1980s. In 1981, a bomb planted by an Iranian opposition group in Tehran killed 27 Iranian members of parliament and dozens of other officials.

In Wednesday's attacks no member of the parliament was killed as the attackers were unable to reach the main building. Iranian lawmakers said the intelligence minister had assured them that "all Islamic State elements have been eliminated" in the country. —Reuters

US-BACKED FORCE ADVANCES IN RAQQA, BATTLES FOR BASE

BEIRUT: US-backed Syrian fighters said they had seized a second district of Raqqa yesterday and launched a renewed assault on a base north of the city, as they pursued an offensive against the Islamic State group. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), who broke into Raqqa after announcing the start of a final assault on the city last week, said their fighters "liberated the neighbourhood of Al-Romaniya on the western front of Raqqa, after two days of continued clashes."

It was the first time the SDF was reported to have taken a western district of IS-held Raqqa, which its fighters are bearing down on from the east, west and north. The SDF previously seized control of the district of Al-Meshleb in the east. There was less progress though on the northern front of the battle, where the SDF had struggled

to capture the Division 17 military base and an adjacent sugar factory, used by IS to defend approaches into the city.

SDF fighters were battling yesterday to dislodge IS from the base, with backing from the US-led coalition bombing IS, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "Blasts could be heard throughout the night because of the exchange of fire between the two sides," the Britain-based monitoring group said. Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said IS had "heavily fortified" the base in anticipation of a ferocious SDF assault on it.

Originally a Syrian army base, Division 17 was seized by IS in 2014 as it took control of swathes of the wider Raqqa province. After its capture by the jihadists the same year, Raqqa city emerged

as a key hub for IS's operations in Syria, neighboring Iraq, and beyond.

Fears for civilians

The SDF - an Arab-Kurdish alliance formed in 2015 - spent seven months tightening the noose on Raqqa city before finally entering it this week. After seizing Al-Meshleb on Wednesday, SDF forces were using it as a launching pad for new operations, according to the Observatory. Al-Meshleb is one of the more built-up residential neighborhoods in the city's east, while most other districts nearby are made up of markets and small shops.

An estimated 300,000 civilians were believed to have been living under IS rule in Raqqa, including 80,000 displaced from other parts of Syria. Thousands have fled in recent months, and the UN humanitarian office estimates about 160,000 people remain in the city. Reports of civilian casualties among those still living inside have swelled in recent weeks. The Observatory said Sunday that coalition air strikes the previous day killed 24 civilians inside the city, up from an earlier toll of 13 people.

Abdel Rahman said the increased toll brought civilian deaths in coalition raids to a total of 58 since the battle for Raqqa city was launched on June 6. To back the assault on Raqqa, the US-led coalition has provided the SDF with air cover, special forces advisers, weapons, and equipment. The alliance first began bombing IS positions in Iraq in August 2014, and expanded its operations to Syria the following month.

In addition to heavy raids on Raqqa, the coalition also pounded the IS-held town of Al-Mayadeen in eastern Syria on Sunday, according to the Observatory. "Many of IS' second-tier leaders fled to Al-Mayadeen when the offensive for Raqqa started months ago," said Abdel Rahman. More than 320,000 people have been killed since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011 with demonstrations against President Bashar Al-Assad. It has since turned into complex, multi-front conflict pitting jihadists, rebel groups, government forces, and Kurdish fighters against each other. — AFP



JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives for the weekly cabinet meeting at his office yesterday. — AFP

NETANYAHU CALLS TO DISMANTLE UN PALESTINIAN REFUGEE AGENCY

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called yesterday for the dismantling of the U.N. agency that aids millions of Palestinian refugees, accusing it of anti-Israeli incitement and saying he had conveyed his message to the US ambassador to the United Nations. Adnan Abu Hasna, a Gaza-based spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said Netanyahu was pursuing a "fantasy". The United States, Israel's main ally, was the biggest donor to UNRWA last year, pledging \$368 million.

In public remarks to his cabinet at its weekly meeting, Netanyahu said UNRWA perpetuated, rather than solved, the Palestinian refugee problem and that anti-Israeli incitement was rife in its institutions, which includes schools. "It is time UNRWA be dismantled and merged with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees," Netanyahu said. Referring to a meeting he held in Jerusalem on Wednesday with Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the UN, Netanyahu said: "I told her it was time the United Nations re-examine UNRWA's existence."

UNRWA was established by the UN General Assembly in 1949 after hundreds

of thousands of Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in the 1948 war that followed Israel's creation. It says it currently aids five million registered Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. Chris Gunness, UNRWA's chief spokesman, said in an email to Reuters that only the General Assembly, by a majority vote, could change the agency's mandate. "In December 2016, UNRWA's mandate was extended for three years by the General Assembly by a large majority," he added.

Netanyahu made his comments two days after UNRWA said it had discovered part of a tunnel running under two of its schools in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. UNRWA said it had protested to Hamas, the Islamist group that rules the enclave and which had used a network of cross-border tunnels to launch attacks inside Israel in a 2014 war. UNRWA condemned the tunnel as a violation of neutrality. Hamas denied it was responsible for building it. Abu Hasna, speaking in Hebrew on Israel Radio, cautioned that if "UNRWA is gone" in the Gaza Strip, where its food, educational and health services are crucial, "two million people will turn into IS (Islamic State) supporters". — Reuters



AIN ISSA, Syria: A displaced Syrian child reacts at a temporary camp in this northern village on Saturday, where many people who fled the Islamic State (IS) group stronghold of Raqqa are taking shelter. — AFP

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AS MAY LICKS WOUNDS, CHARISMATIC SCOTTISH LEADER RISES

LONDON: A charismatic politician with a sense of humor who is respected even by her rivals, Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson was everything Prime Minister Theresa May was not on the campaign trail. After winning 13 seats in Scotland - 12 more than the previous tally - and denting nationalist First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's plans for independence, she is now an influential voice following Britain's general election. That is in contrast with May, who is scrambling to stay on by attempting to forge a deal with Northern Ireland's ultra-conservative Democratic Unionist Party to get the support of its 10 MPs after losing her majority.

The success of the Scottish Conservatives helped save May from total disaster and could now give 38-year-old Davidson a more prominent role in British politics. One example is Davidson's more moderate rhetoric on Brexit in largely pro-EU Scotland, which is at odds with May's stance until now and could herald a change of tack by the government. "I've always spoken about how I want an open, rather than a closed Brexit, and that puts freedoms at the heart of what it is that we achieve here," she said on Saturday as she showed off her 13 newly-minted MPs.

"That's freedom to trade and our economic



Ruth Davidson

to be involved in those discussions," Davidson said.

'Assurance' on gay rights'

The ultra-conservative DUP is opposed to gay marriage, and Davidson's support for gay rights also promises an awkward relationship with the party May must now rely on to be able to govern. Davidson said May had given her "a categorical assurance that in talking to the DUP that there would be no suggestion of any rollback on LGBT rights in the

growth that I think has huge primacy," she said - a different approach than that of May, who has said she wants Britain to leave the European single market and customs union. "We can look again at what we want to achieve as we leave the European Union, and I want

rest of the UK". She said she was also assured "that we would seek to use any influence we had to advance LGBT rights in Northern Ireland".

Davidson is engaged to her Irish partner Jen Wilson and is an outspoken advocate for gay marriage. Last summer she gave the annual pride lecture for Amnesty International in Northern Ireland. "I was probably the only unionist protestant who was marrying an Irish Catholic that they could find to advocate gay marriage," she said earlier. "I would dearly love to see equal marriage in Northern Ireland. The arguments that are being used against it now are exactly the same arguments that were used in Scotland and Ireland, but the sky hasn't fallen in."

'Hard road back'

Scottish Conservatives previously had just one MP in Scotland, prompting the joke from the still dominant but now badly bruised Scottish National Party that there were more pandas at Edinburgh zoo - two. The ebullient Davidson has turned a party once consigned to the scrapheap into a fighting force with her jovial media persona and forceful opposition to Sturgeon's hopes for independence.

Following Thursday's vote, Sturgeon admitted that

the independence issue had been a factor in her party's losses and that she would "listen to voters". Davidson on Friday declared independence hopes "dead". Scotland rejected independence by 55 percent in a 2014 referendum but the SNP went from strength to strength the following year. It won all but three of the 59 Scottish seats in the British parliament and swiftly laid plans for a second independence referendum. In this week's election, the party won just 35 seats.

Davidson can take much of the credit for that. Never shy of performing entertaining stunts or appearing on comedy programs, she shone as one of the most charismatic figures in an otherwise dour campaign. Davidson was elected the party's Scotland leader in 2011. She cemented her position in 2016 by leading the Conservatives to second place in the Scottish Parliament election, winning a quarter of the 129 seats in the Edinburgh-based legislature. Davidson cast her first vote as a teenager in 1997 - the year Tony Blair's New Labour ended 18 years of Conservative British rule. "I watched every single Conservative seat in Scotland fall, so I've waited a really long time for a comeback," she told AFP before the election. "If this proves to be that time then it will have been a really hard road back." — AFP

UKRAINIANS CHEER ON FIRST DAY OF VISA-FREE EU TRAVEL

POROSHENKO HAILS 'EXIT' FROM MOSCOW'S GRIP

KIEV: Ukrainians were yesterday celebrating the first day of visa-free access to the European Union, with thousands crossing the border as President Petro Poroshenko proclaimed a dramatic "exit" from Moscow's grip. The move is symbolic for Kiev, where a pro-EU revolt in 2014 toppled the previous Russia-backed government and was followed by Moscow's annexation of the Crimea peninsula sparking a protracted ongoing conflict with pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. "The visa-free regime for Ukraine has started! Glory to Europe! Glory to Ukraine!" Poroshenko tweeted early Sunday as many travellers started crossing the border and posting selfies.

Only those with biometric passports - containing a microchip with personal data, including fingerprints - can take advantage of the visa-free travel for the time being, for stays of up to 90 days every six months that don't include work. The exemption does not apply to Ireland or Britain, nor to Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, which are part of the EU's Schengen passport-free area despite not being members of the bloc.

Later yesterday, Poroshenko met with Slovak counterpart Andrej Kiska on the Slovak-Ukrainian border, unlocking a mock "door to the EU" painted like a Ukrainian passport. "We have waited so long for this," he said. "I am sure that

this day, June 11, will go down in the history of Ukraine as a final exit of our country from the Russian empire and its return to the family of European nations." "Welcome to Europe," Kiska told the crowd. "I want to call on you to continue carrying out reforms."

"Today we bring down the barrier between the people of Ukraine and the people of the European Union," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in a video address. "Ukraine has delivered reforms its citizens were asking for and we of the EU have kept our promise. This is what we call a win-win solution."

'It feels so good'

The EU approved the visa-free travel last month after long delays and Kiev's embattled reforms, fulfilling a key promise to cement ties with Kiev following the broad trade and political association agreement sealed in 2014. Kiev is now seeking to boost European integration with cheaper rail links and more low-cost air connections with EU cities, Poroshenko said Saturday. Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin cheered on Twitter after passengers on flights from Ukraine were able to enter Warsaw, Budapest, Frankfurt and other airports.

"#Bezviz (no visa) is just the beginning!" he wrote, himself crossing the border to Hungary and posting photos from the passport control area. By midday, thousands had crossed the border into EU countries, the foreign ministry's consular department wrote on Twitter. Only four people were denied entry. "I'm going abroad for the first time in a decade, and it feels so good," said Ukrainian Ulyana Golosyak who crossed the border to Poland from western Ukraine despite her husband accompanying her in case of complications. "He thought something could happen that I would be turned back and would need to be picked up," she told AFP. "I'm happy I can cross the border with this passport." — AFP



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (center) shakes hands with people during a ceremony on the Slovak-Ukrainian border not far from Ukrainian city of Uzhgorod to mark the first day of visa-free travel to Europe yesterday. —AFP

MACRON EYES VICTORY AS FRANCE ELECTS PARLIAMENT

PARIS: French voters went back to the polls yesterday for the first round of parliamentary elections that are predicted to give President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party a commanding majority. Macron has enjoyed a political honeymoon since he beat far-right candidate Marine Le Pen to become France's youngest-ever president on May 7, naming a cabinet that straddles the left-right divide and making assured appearances in meetings with US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

But the 39-year-old president has done only half the job. His *Republique en Marche* (Republic on the Move, REM) party, which he founded only 14 months ago, needs a clear majority in the National Assembly for him to push through the reforms he promised in his campaign. A host of opinion polls show that Macron's untested party could take 30 percent of the first-round vote, putting it on track to secure a landslide in next Sunday's second round.

The centre-right Republicans and the Socialists fear heavy losses after their candidates failed to reach the presidential run-off for the first time in France's postwar history. Some pre-

dictions indicate the REM could win around 400 seats in the 577-seat chamber thanks to voters seeking to give the new president a strong mandate. The party is already leading in 10 of the 11 French overseas constituencies, which held their first-round vote last weekend.

Yesterday, Macron, after shaking hands and posing for selfies with well-wishers, cast his ballot in the northern resort of Le Touquet where he and his 64-year-old wife Brigitte have a home. Few MPs are expected to be elected in the first round. If no candidate wins over 50 percent, the two top-placed contenders go into the second round - as does any candidate who garners at least 12.5 percent of registered voters. Polling stations in the largest cities were open until 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) with exit polls released immediately afterwards.

At midday, turnout among the some 47 million eligible voters was 19.24 percent, down from 21.06 percent at the same point in the 2012 legislative elections. More than 50,000 police were on patrol in a country still jittery after a wave of jihadist attacks that have killed more than 230 people since 2015. In the latest incident, a 40-year-old self-radicalized Algerian was

shot and wounded after he attacked a policeman with a hammer outside Paris's Notre Dame cathedral on Tuesday.

Political novices

The REM has named many candidates who have never held office in an attempt to bring new blood to French politics. They include Marie Sara, a retired bullfighter, who is taking on Gilbert Collard, a senior member of Le Pen's National Front in southern France. The Socialists' demise could come into sharp focus if its leader Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, 65, is ousted from his Paris seat by REM junior minister Mounir Mahjoubi, who is just 33.

Macron is also trying to usher in an era of "cleaner" politics, banning lawmakers from employing family members or performing consultancy work while in office. The measures follow the scandal that destroyed the presidential bid of Republicans candidate Francois Fillon, who has been charged over paying his wife Penelope and two of their children more than 900,000 (\$1 million) as his parliamentary assistants with little work to show for it. Fillon denies the charges. Two parties, Le Pen's National Front and the small centrist MoDem party, an REM ally, are under investigation over alleged expenses fraud at the European Parliament. One of Macron's ministers, Richard Ferrand, is also being probed over a property deal involving his wife.

'The only opposition'

Le Pen's party, meanwhile, looks set to struggle to win the 15 seats it would need to form a parliamentary group, a result that would be another deep disappointment after her defeat by Macron. But Le Pen told AFP this week in the northern town of Henin-Beaumont where she is bidding to win a seat that with other parties likely to agree to work with Macron, "we will be the only opposition force".

The radical-left France Insoumise (France Unbound) party of Jean-Luc Melenchon is also hoping to perform strongly and inflict more pain on the Socialists. Macron has urged voters to back his reform proposals including an overhaul of the rigid rules governing the job market, blamed by many economists for holding back growth. The president was economy minister in the Socialist government that began implementing the reforms last year, sparking mass demonstrations that lasted for months. — AFP



COLOGNE: In this photo taken from video yesterday, a EasyJet plane stands at Cologne-Bonn airport. — AP

NO EXPLOSIVES FOUND ON JET DIVERTED TO GERMANY

BERLIN: German police said yesterday that no explosives were found aboard a London-bound easyJet flight from Slovenia that was diverted to a west German airport after passengers overheard three men on board talking about "terrorist" activities. The three British men, aged 31, 38 and 48, remained in police custody yesterday as police continued to question them. Authorities said none of them was previously known to security services. The Airbus A319 flying from the Slovenian capital Ljubljana was diverted to Germany's Cologne-Bonn airport on Saturday, causing a major police operation and hours of air traffic chaos.

The pilot had diverted the flight after passengers told flight attendants "that several men were talking about terrorist activities," a police spokesman told AFP, without elaborating on the content of their discussion. Germany's Bild newspaper reported the men were heard using the word "bomb" or "explosive". After the plane landed in a secure area of Cologne-Bonn airport at about 6:00 pm (1600 GMT), federal police evacuated the 151 passengers down emergency slides.

They isolated a backpack belonging to the three suspects, which was later blown up outside the plane by bomb squad officers. The three men were handed over to police who questioned them "on suspicion they planned a serious crime against the state", the term used for terrorist attacks. Air traffic at the airport was interrupted between 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm with 10 flights diverted and 20 departures delayed. Cologne police searched the plane using sniffer dogs, but later gave the all-clear.

In a statement, the airline said the captain had diverted the flight "as a precaution to enable the aircraft to go through additional security checks in Cologne". "In compliance with the local authorities' guidance, passengers disembarked to allow additional security checks to be performed." "The safety of easyJet's passengers and crew is our highest priority," it said. Germany remains on high alert following several attacks there and in other European countries. Authorities the previous weekend evacuated Germany's biggest rock festival, the three-day "Rock am Ring", over fears of a possible terrorist threat, which proved unfounded. — AFP



An undated handout photo issued by the Metropolitan Police, London shows fake suicide belts worn by one of the London Bridge attackers. —AP

POLICE RELEASE PICS OF LONDON ATTACKERS' FAKE BOMB BELTS

LONDON: The London Bridge attackers wore fake suicide belts to create "maximum fear" as they carried out their rampage, police said yesterday. The Metropolitan Police released photographs of the blood-splattered belts, which were made from plastic water bottles wrapped in duct tape. Attackers Khuram Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba wore the belts when they mowed down pedestrians on London Bridge then stabbed people in nearby Borough Market on June 3. They killed eight people before being shot dead by police.

Police Commander Dean Haydon said the attackers may have worn the belts because they planned to take hostages, "or it might be that they saw it as protection from being shot themselves". Geoff Ho, a Sunday Express journalist who was stabbed and injured in the attack, described in the newspaper how he tried to stop the attackers entering a bar packed with people. Ho

said "their eyes were full of rage," and he feared they were about to blow themselves up. "I couldn't just attack," he wrote. "If I charged at them, maybe I could take out one or two. But one of those animals could detonate and kill us all."

Ho was stabbed in the throat by Butt. He credited his martial arts training with being able to fight off the attack enough to avoid being killed. Police are still appealing for witnesses as they piece together details of the attack. They say the attackers may have planned even worse carnage. Butt tried to rent a 7.5-ton box truck, but his payment was declined and he rented a smaller van instead. Police found petrol bombs and blowtorches in the van, which crashed on the bridge. Police are questioning six men over suspected links to the attackers, Pakistani-born British citizen Butt, Moroccan Redouane, and Zaghba, an Italian national of Moroccan descent. —AP



LE TOUQUET, France: French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte leave the voting booth at a polling station to vote during the first round of the French legislative election yesterday. —AFP

LESSONS IN POLICING IN EX-MURDER CAPITAL OF AMERICA



CAMDEN, New Jersey: Camden County Police Department officers (from left) Luis Sanchez, Jose Delvalle and Vidal Rivera are seen on a foot patrol on May 24, 2017. — AFP

CAMDEN, New Jersey: Camden was once the murder capital of America, crime was on a par with Honduras and the police force was peppered with corrupt officers in league with drug dealers. Then police reform and falling crime statistics turned it into a poster child for better policing as other US cities grappled with race riots and departments fended off allegations of racism over the deaths of unarmed black suspects. But with the Trump administration pulling back federal support for similar reforms elsewhere, and Camden still the most dangerous city in New Jersey, activists say its problems run too deep for policing alone to be the answer.

"They do what they gotta do. I give them that," says Marylyn Santiago, a 32-year-old mom of three on disability benefit nodding in the direction of three uniformed police patrolling her trash-strewn block. "It got better," she concedes. "Terrible" is how she still describes crime today. Camden is a small city of less than 80,000 people, across the Delaware River

from Philadelphia. Its crime statistics stood out on a per capita basis.

Overwhelmingly African American and Hispanic, an estimated 40 percent live in poverty. Today heroin and opioids are its biggest problem with 46 fatal overdoses so far in 2017 - compared to 29 in all of 2014. Change came four years ago, when the city force was disbanded and a new department organized. Officers were sacked, replacements hired and chief Scott Thomson flooded the southern New Jersey city with foot patrols. Operating on an annual budget of \$66 million, officers wear body cameras, street cameras were installed along with sensors that pinpoint gunshots in seconds.

'Professional at all times'

The results were immediate. The number of homicides - 67 in 2012 - fell to 33 in 2014 and just six so far this year, although it rose in 2016 to 44. Some believe there are still as many shootings, but that people die less often - at least

partly because police now "scoop and go" in rushing casualties straight to hospital themselves rather than waiting for ambulances to arrive. Complaints of excessive police force have also plummeted, down from 65 in 2014 to 31 in 2016 and just seven so far this year.

Patrol officers say they are welcomed by home owners and feared by drug dealers and criminals, many of whom have left or been thrown in jail. "Obviously the one thing to stress here is being professional at all times, no matter what," says 47-year-old police officer Luis Sanchez. Sanchez, whose mother lives in Camden, explains a philosophy in which police try to work more closely with the community, refrain from being overly aggressive but equally nothing is too small to be overlooked. "You let things go and it starts to build up," says Sanchez, though giving a ticket is not necessarily the answer. "The way we look at it, sometimes that person cannot buy that headlight, because guess what they live on a paycheck to paycheck." — AFP

US ATTORNEY GENERAL NEXT IN SPOTLIGHT OF SCANDAL

WASHINGTON: Jeff Sessions, a longtime senator until President Donald Trump picked him as US attorney general, heads to Congress this coming week when he will face a grilling about his Russian interactions. Sessions, among the earliest high-profile backers of Trump's election campaign, appears before his former colleagues Tuesday, days after explosive testimony by ousted FBI director James Comey, whose removal he recommended. Concerns have been raised about whether Sessions helped otherwise subvert the ongoing Russia-related investigations.

"This is going to prompt a lot of questions for him," the panel's top Democrat, Senator Patrick Leahy, told AFP of an appearance in which lawmakers will be eager to learn what role Sessions played in Comey's firing last month. The Senate Appropriations

the change. The intelligence panel "is the most appropriate forum for such matters, as it has been conducting an investigation and has access to relevant, classified information," he added.

With reports circulating that Trump had been clashing with his attorney general, and that Sessions had offered to resign, the White House on Tuesday declined to say whether the president maintained confidence in Sessions. And in a stunning moment of inside-the-Beltway intrigue, Comey dropped a bombshell about why he and other top FBI officials concluded that the attorney general was going to recuse himself from the probe. "We also were aware of facts that I can't discuss in an open setting that would make his continued engagement in a Russia-related investigation problematic," Comey said.

'Something big'

Although Sessions, a genteel 70-year-old from the southern state of Alabama who served 20 years in the Senate, backed Trump's campaign, he was also one of the first administration officials to fly into turbulence. During his January confirmation hearing he failed to disclose meetings he held with Russian officials. On March 1, The Washington Post reported that he met twice with the Russian ambassador, Sergey Kislyak, during the campaign. The following day, Sessions recused himself from the Russia probe, and several top Democrats, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, demanded he resign. Sessions refused.

He may also be under a cloud of suspicion after Comey, in his devastating testimony, suggested the attorney general may have failed to take appropriate steps to protect the FBI chief. At the conclusion of a Feb 14 meeting in the White House, Comey testified, Trump urged everyone else but Comey to leave the Oval Office, including Sessions. "My impression was, something big is about to happen," Comey said, as he recalled the encounter. "My sense was the attorney general knew he shouldn't be leaving," Comey added. When the two men were alone, the ex-FBI director said, Trump urged Comey to start the investigation into fired national security advisor Michael Flynn. — AFP



Jeff Sessions

Committee had called in the attorney general to testify about budget issues. But on Saturday, after senators made clear they would zero in on Sessions's connections to Russia, Sessions shifted his plan, opting to address the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"In light of reports regarding Mr. Comey's recent testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, it is important that I have an opportunity to address these matters," Sessions said in a letter announcing



HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania: Members of a counter-protest group against anti-sharia protesters march on a street on Saturday. — AP

RALLIES AGAINST SHARIA DRAW COUNTER-PROTESTS ACROSS US

DEMOS HELD IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES

SEATTLE: Demonstrators around the country rallied to protest Islamic law, saying it is incompatible with Western democracy. But many of the rallies drew even more raucous counter-protests by people who called such fears unfounded. The demonstrations were held in more than two dozen US cities, including Seattle, New York and Chicago. Hundreds of counter-protesters marched through downtown Seattle behind a large sign saying "Seattle stands with our Muslim neighbors". They marched to City Hall, where dozens of anti-sharia protesters rallied. Police used tear gas to disperse rowdy demonstrators and arrested three people.

In front of the Trump building in downtown Chicago, about 30 people demonstrated against Islamic law and in favor of President Donald Trump, shouting slogans and holding signs that read "Ban Sharia". About twice as many counter-protesters marshaled across the street. A similar scene played out in a park near a New York courthouse, where counter-protesters sounded air-horns and banged pots and pans in an effort to silence an anti-sharia rally. In St Paul, Minnesota, state troopers arrested

about a half-dozen people when scuffles broke out at the close of competing demonstrations at the state Capitol.

"The theme of today is drowning out racism," said New York counter-protester Tony Murphy, standing next to demonstrators with colorful earplugs. "The more racists get a platform, the more people get attacked." The rallies, held in more than two dozen US cities, were organized by ACT for America, which claims Islamic law is incompatible with Western democracy. The organization said it opposes discrimination and supports the rights of those subject to sharia. However, the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups, calls it the largest American anti-Muslim group.

"I don't believe Islam can peacefully co-exist with the Constitution," said Seattle anti-sharia demonstrator Aaron Bassford, 29. "We need unity in this country under no ideology and no banner except the Constitution of the United States of America." In Seattle, activists set up an "Ask an American Muslim" booth to give rally participants on either side a chance to speak with a Muslim. "American Muslims support the

American values and freedoms we all cherish," said Arsalan Bukhari, executive director of the state chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The marches come amid a rise in reports of anti-Muslim incidents in the US, including arson attacks and vandalism at mosques, harassment of women wearing Muslim head coverings and bullying of Muslim schoolchildren. In California, small but raucous demonstrations were held in a handful of cities, including San Bernardino, where a husband and wife inspired by the Islamic State group killed 14 people and wounded 22 in a 2015 shooting attack.

Clusters of protesters and counter-protesters gathered on four corners of an intersection at a memorial to the slain, yelling and waving American flags and posters proclaiming various causes. Anti-Islamic law demonstrators marched past the building where the shootings occurred. "There's an anti-Trump, a pro-Trump, anti-extremists, so there are a variety of messages here," San Bernardino police spokeswoman Eileen Hards said. "There are so many messages going on that I'm not sure who's who." — AP

BRAZIL GRAFT SCANDAL A 'FREE-FOR-ALL' FIGHT

RIO DE JANEIRO: Thought Brazil's corruption fight was ugly? Well, turns out the combatants might only be getting warmed up. Barely a year from the day he took over following the impeachment of his predecessor Dilma Rousseff, President Michel Temer is reeling from graft allegations. He won a solid victory Friday when a court threw out charges that his 2014 victory had relied on dirty money and decided against removing him from office. But that was just one battle in a wider power struggle shaking Latin America's biggest country. And things are getting shakier by the week.

Rio State university political scientist Mauricio Santoro calls the situation a political "vale tudo". That's Portuguese for anything goes or free-for-all. In Brazil "vale tudo" also happens to be the name of a brutal form of competitive fighting, a precursor to Mixed Martial Arts. Full contact, few rules: welcome to Brazilian politics.

President vs prosecutor

The seven judges in Friday's court decision agreed that the 2014 election was awash in undeclared donations and bribes. But a majority sided with court president Gilmar Mendes, who said maintaining stability was more important than punishing Temer. The problem is that there's little stability to maintain 14 months after Temer helped engineer the impeachment of Rousseff and took her place. He came into office promising to "pacify" Brazil and to rescue the recession-ravaged economy. Instead, a giant corruption probe named operation "Car Wash" swept over him and many of his allies.

In Temer's case, he's accused of agreeing to pay hush money and taking bribes. The opening of an investigation by Prosecutor General Rodrigo Janot

came close to bringing him down two weeks ago. But the conservative president has since dug in and on Friday he defied Janot in dramatic fashion by ignoring a deadline to supply a written deposition. Instead his lawyers branded the case "a comedy" and demanded it be closed.

President vs Supreme Court?

The standoff between Temer and his accusers took another remarkable twist when Veja, a weekly magazine known for sensational political scoops, claimed that the president was using the national spy agency to snoop on the Supreme Court justice in charge of "Car Wash" cases. The plan, Veja wrote Friday, quoting an unnamed presidential palace source, was to find compromising material that could be used against Justice Edson Fachin. The presidency quickly issued a denial.

However, on Saturday the Supreme Court's chief justice Carmen Lucia lashed out at the alleged plot, describing pressure against judges as "the practice of a dictatorship". Lucia warned of "legal, political and institutional consequences" if the report were proven true.

Corrupt Congress vs everyone?

Santoro says these exchanges are "the first shots in an all-out war between Temer, the Supreme Court and the prosecutor general". And the ultimate goal might be not just Temer's political survival but a weakening of the whole "Car Wash" operation. "Temer and his allies are arming for an even harder war... to put limits on 'Car Wash'," the respected Folha daily wrote Saturday. Temer will look for allies in odd places, starting with the scandal-plagued Congress, where some two thirds of all lawmakers face current or past troubles with the law. — AFP

IT'S COMPLICATED: PUERTO RICANS VOTE ON KNOTTY US RELATIONSHIP

SAN JUAN: To become a true US state, to choose independence or to maintain the status quo: Puerto Ricans yesterday mulled their political future in a non-binding referendum many have vowed to boycott. The Spanish-speaking US territory's referendum proposes "the immediate decolonization of Puerto Rico" - just as the bankrupt island is drowning in \$70 billion in debt. Its young governor, Ricardo Rossello, said that regardless of the crisis the referendum could not wait, repeating over the past several days in interviews and on Twitter that "the moment to vote for the decolonization has arrived!"

Rossello, 38, came to power in January on the promise that he would work to end a long "colonial" relationship with the United States and make the island the 51st state. The question of status is "fundamental" to breaking free from economic turmoil, said Christian Sobrino, chief economic advisor to the government. "It is because Puerto Rico is in an unequal relationship" with the US government that the bankrupt island's finances are now under a largely US-appointed control board, he told AFP.

A former Spanish colony taken over by the US at the end of the 19th century, Puerto Rico has enjoyed broad political autonomy since 1952 as a commonwealth or "free associated state". As American citizens, often proudly so, Puerto Ricans can freely enter the US - but don't have the right to vote for US presidents or elect representatives to Congress, even though US lawmakers have the ultimate say over the territory's affairs.

Many Puerto Ricans attribute the malaise plaguing the island to Washington's power over them. For decades the territory enjoyed a US federal tax exemption that attracted many

American companies to set up shop - but those breaks were ended in 2006, prompting firms to leave the island en masse.

An island divided

Beaten down by that loss in revenues and the global financial crisis, the island plunged into recession. But the so-called "Caribbean Greece" found easy relief in US municipal bond markets, where investors could get attractive tax-exempt bonds that provided ready cash but sank the

island deeper into debt. The bubble ultimately popped and, unable to repay creditors, Puerto Rico declared bankruptcy in early May - the largest ever by a local US government. Rossello has launched a drastic austerity regime to restore finances, but Washington still has the last word, via its oversight board. Many islanders see the US authority as an intolerable stranglehold, especially considering that President Donald Trump has several times argued against bailing out the distant territory. — AFP



SAN JUAN: A man rides his bicycle in front of a wall covered with campaign posters promoting Puerto Rico's statehood on June 9, 2017. — AFP

INDONESIA 'MILITANT MODERATES' FIGHT RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

JAKARTA: Clad in camouflage and armed only with their convictions, the paramilitary wing of Indonesia's biggest Muslim organization is on a campaign - to crush intolerance and defend the nation's inclusive brand of Islam. The "militant moderates" from the Nahdlatul Ulama, which boasts 45 million members, are on the march as worries grow over the rise of ultra-conservative forces in the world's most populous Muslim country. Hundreds of them swooped recently on a hotel hosting a meeting of a radical outfit, Hizb Ut-Tahrir, which wants to transform Indonesia into a "caliphate" run by sharia law.

They surrounded the building and forced an end to the meeting, before members were escorted away by police. Ninety percent of Indonesia's 255 million people are Muslim but the nation is home to substantial religious minorities and several faiths are officially recognized. It is these traditions that the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), which has existed for almost a century, is seeking to defend. It has been taking a more muscular approach by increasingly sending out its paramilitary wing Banser to take on the hardliners.

"My forefathers the clerics, as well as Christians and others, established this republic together," Banser's national commander, Alfa Isnaeni, told AFP. "We all need to defend this legacy." The NU says it has felt compelled

to step in and expand its activities in part due to the weakness of the government, which has long faced criticism for failing to crack down on ultra-conservatives.

Defending tolerance

There has been a growing number of attacks on minorities in Indonesia, from Muslim Shiites and Ahmadis to Christians, and concerns about intolerance surged after Jakarta's Christian governor was jailed for two years last month for blasphemy, in a case seen as politically motivated. Indonesia is not governed by Islamic law, with the exception of western Aceh province, and efforts by hardliners to transform the archipelago into a sharia-ruled state have gained no traction. There is little chance of this changing - a recent survey showed only one in 10 Indonesians support a caliphate - but the surge in intolerance has nevertheless caused jitters. Members of Banser, which has a force about two million strong, do not carry arms but rely on sheer force of numbers to get their message across. They confiscate banners and flags at rallies by headline groups and hand them over to the police, justifying their actions by saying they are preventing conservative forces from trampling the country's inclusive ideology. — AFP



SIDOARJO, Indonesia: This picture taken on Feb 3, 2017 shows members of the Banser Gerakan Pemuda Ansor, a paramilitary wing of Indonesia's biggest Muslim organization Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), during a roll call. — AFP



MARAWI: In this June 9, 2017 photo, Nasir Abdul (second right) and other evacuees look as a military helicopter passes by black smoke from burning houses outside a temporary evacuation center. — AP

IN FIGHT FOR PHILIPPINE CITY, A PAINFUL WINDOW ON WAR FEARS IS' VIOLENT IDEOLOGY GAINING Foothold

MARAWI, Philippines: From the third-storey window of a barren government office building he now squats in as a refugee, Nasir Abdul is watching his city being destroyed. Nearly every day for the past three weeks, the Philippine military has pounded the lakeside town of Marawi with rockets and bombs as it tries to wipe out militants linked to the Islamic State group in some of the fiercest urban combat this volatile region has seen in decades. And on nearly every one of those days, Abdul has stood at the window and watched, unable to turn away from the deadly spectacle unfolding just a kilometer and a half away.

As plumes of thick black smoke wafted above the city's minarets again Friday - a day of intense skirmishes in which the army lost 13 marines - Abdul stood transfixed with dozens of other displaced residents. Two helicopter gunships had just finished strafing the city, and now people were pointing toward a Vietnam-era attack aircraft circling overhead. The plane, an OV-10 Bronco, turned and dove straight down on the city center, firing off two bombs before suddenly pulling up its nose and spiraling away. Moments later, blasts shook the city and more smoke billowed skyward.

"It feels impossible that this is happening," the 45-year-old Abdul said, as the sound of gunfire crackled in the distance. When "I see the bombings, I can't help but cry. I can't help but think what's happening to my relatives, my family, my business, my house."

Three weeks after a new alliance of Islamist mil-

itants tried to seize this town in their boldest attack yet, large chunks of downtown have been reduced to ruins. Militants remain holed up in several pockets scattered around the city center, along with at least 100 civilians, including hostages the army says are being used as human shields. There is no electricity, and most of the town's 200,000 inhabitants have fled.

The military says the death toll includes at least 138 militants, 58 government troops and 29 civilians - among them a teenager shot Friday as he sheltered inside a Marawi mosque. But the fighting is so intense, it's impossible to fully recover bodies to get an accurate casualty toll. "It hurts to watch because we know people are dying with every bomb," Abdul said. "We know a lot of people are buried under that rubble."

The conflict in Marawi has raised fears that the Islamic State group's violent ideology is gaining a foothold in this country's restive southern islands, where Muslim separatists have fought for greater autonomy for decades. The military says militants are trying to establish a caliphate here, similar to one IS has attempted to create in the Middle East that stretches from the Syrian city of Raqqa to embattled Mosul, in Iraq. They believe 40 foreign fighters have participated in the fighting in Marawi, including Malaysians and Indonesians.

The government has asked the US to provide intelligence and other technical support, and at least one American surveillance plane has flown in support of Philippine forces. Abdul said that while

people in Marawi support autonomy, few back the extremist militant groups who have grown notorious for carrying out kidnappings and beheadings. However, Lt Col Jo-ar Herrera, spokesman for the army's 1st Infantry Division, said the insurgents likely have "a lot of sympathizers, a lot of supporters in this area." The main group leading the siege, the Maute, has deep roots in the city - "in terms of relatives, in terms of connections, in terms of culture, heritage," he said.

Govt Caught Off Guard

The Maute, named after three militant brothers, staged a similar attack in November on nearby Butig, on the opposite side of Lake Lanao, which lasted six days. But the intensity of the latest assault, and the ability of the militants to hold out for so long, appears to have caught the government off guard. Herrera said insurgents had prepared for as much as a year, stocking secret caches in basements with food, weapons and ammunition. Rexson Tamano, who is sleeping on the floor of an outdoor hallway in the same provincial government building as Abdul, said he saw no suspicious activity and no sign an attack was imminent. When gunfire heralded the start of the siege on May 23, he called his pregnant wife on the other side of town to check in on her and their four children. "She said, 'Stay where you are, please don't come for us, it's too dangerous,'" Tamano recalled. He ran home anyway, but was stopped at a checkpoint manned by militants. — AP

THREE US SOLDIERS KILLED IN AFGHAN 'INSIDER ATTACK'

JALALABAD, Afghanistan: An Afghan commando who opened fire on American troops killed three of them and wounded another, US and Afghan officials said, in an insider attack that was claimed by the Taliban. The so-called "green-on-blue" attack on Saturday is the latest in a line of incidents where Afghan soldiers have turned their weapons on international forces they are working with. It also comes as the Taliban ramp up their campaign against the Western-backed government in Afghanistan, and as US President Donald Trump mulls sending more troops into the lengthy conflict.

Nangarhar provincial spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told AFP the Afghan commando had opened fire on US troops during an operation in the volatile Achin district. "The (Afghan) soldier was also killed in the return fire," he said. The Pentagon said the families of the three dead soldiers were being informed. "One US soldier was wounded and has been evacuated for medical treatment," a spokesman added. "This incident is under investigation."

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the deaths, saying the attack was carried out by an infiltrator. Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed on Twitter that four US soldiers were killed in the attack. The insurgents are known to exaggerate battlefield claims. Achin is also contested by militants of the Islamic State group. In April, the US military dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb ever used in combat on a complex of caves in Achin used by IS fighters.

The deployment of the so-called

Mother Of All Bombs killed dozens of militants but fighting in the area has continued. American troops have partnered with Afghan soldiers in raids against IS Khorasan, claiming the local offshoot of the militant group based in Iraq and Syria is steadily losing ground in Afghanistan.

Mistrust bred by errant air strikes

Green-on-blue attacks have been a major problem during NATO's long years fighting alongside Afghan forces. Western officials say most insider attacks stem from personal grudges and cultural misunderstandings rather than insurgent plots. Saturday's attack came just hours after an errant US air strike killed and wounded at least six Afghan policemen in southern Helmand province, in the latest "friendly fire" incident. Such strikes have bred deep mistrust between local and foreign forces.

Three US troops were wounded in March when an Afghan soldier opened fire in Helmand, in the first known insider attack on international forces this year. Similar incidents have also plagued Afghan troops, depleting morale and causing mistrust within security ranks. The latest killings come at a time of intensified violence and when the United States is considering sending more troops to Afghanistan. The Afghan conflict is the longest in American history, with US-led NATO troops at war there since 2001, after the ousting of the Taliban regime. US troops in Afghanistan number about 8,400 today, and there are another 5,000 from NATO allies, who mainly serve in a training and advisory capacity. — AFP



MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte salutes in front of a flag-draped casket of a slain marine shortly after the bodies of slain marines arrived from Marawi at a military base yesterday. — AFP

DUTERTE SAYS DIDN'T SEEK US SUPPORT IN CITY SIEGE

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines: President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he did not seek support from Washington to end the siege of a southern Philippines town by Islamist militants, a day after the United States said it was providing assistance at the request of the government. Duterte told a news conference in Cagayan de Oro City, about 100 km from the besieged town of Marawi, that he had "never approached America" for help. When asked about US support to fight the pro-Islamic State militants in Marawi City on the island of Mindanao, Duterte said he was "not aware of that until they arrived".

The cooperation between the longtime allies in the battle is significant because Duterte, who came to power a year ago, has taken a hostile stance towards Washington and has vowed to eject US military trainers and advisers from his country. It is unclear whether the pro-American military went over Duterte's head in seeking US help. The Philippines military said on Saturday US forces were providing technical assistance but had no "boots on the ground", confirming a statement from the US embassy in Manila which said the support had been requested by the government.

The seizure of Marawi on May 23 by hundreds of local and foreign fighters has alarmed Southeast Asian nations, which fear the ultra-radical group Islamic State is trying to establish a stronghold on

Mindanao that could threaten their region. The Pentagon, which has no permanent presence in the Philippines but for years has kept 50 to 100 special forces troops in the south of the country on rotational exercises, confirmed it was helping the Philippine military in Marawi.

It said in a statement on Saturday it was providing Philippine forces with security assistance and training in the areas of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. It said it had an additional 300 to 500 troops in the country to support regular training and activities, without giving further details. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said support included aerial surveillance and targeting, electronic eavesdropping, communications assistance and training. A US P-3 Orion surveillance plane was seen over the town on Friday.

'Our Soldiers are Pro-American'

Duterte, who declared martial law on Mindanao - an island the size of South Korea - after the Islamist fighters overran Marawi, said that under martial law he has authority over the defense department. He did not say the armed forces had gone over his head but noted that, because of years of training from the United States, "our soldiers are pro-American, that I cannot deny." Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement US forces were participating directly in combat operations, which is prohibited by Philippines law. — Reuters

LANKA MAKES FIRST ARREST OVER HATE CRIMES AGAINST MUSLIMS

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan police have arrested a key figure from an extremist Buddhist organization blamed for a series of hate crimes against Muslims that has drawn international censure. The 32-year-old man from the radical Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), or Buddhist Force, is the first suspect to be arrested in connection with arson attacks against Muslims that have stoked religious tensions. Police spokesman Priyantha Jayakody said investigations were continuing into 16 "major incidents" of arson since April that hit Muslim homes, businesses, mosques and a cemetery.

"We are taking a tough stand against such crimes," he told reporters. The man in custody was directly linked to at least four arson attacks in a Colombo suburb, police said. The unidentified individual had been remanded in custody pending further investigations. Police were criticized for failing to bring the radical Buddhist group to heel by capturing its fugitive ringleader Galagodaatte Gnanasara, as the minority Muslim community endured attacks with stones and petrol bombs.

Jayakody said the detained suspect is a close associate of Gnanasara, an extremist monk who



Galagodaatte Gnanasara

has gone underground since late May when police ordered he turn himself in for questioning. Four specialist teams were hunting the BBS mastermind, he added. In a video message released yesterday, a BBS spokesman denied the group was behind the anti-Muslim attacks but

accused the government of allowing Islamic extremism to flourish in the Buddhist-majority nation. "Within a decade or two, Buddhism will be under serious threat in Sri Lanka," spokesman Dilanthe Witanage said.

"If we want to resort to extremists, violence or terrorism, we have the power and the strength to do it. But we will never resort to such things." Witanage did not discuss the whereabouts of Gnanasara, who went into hiding after alleging there was a threat to his life. The BBS was accused of instigating religious riots in mid-2014 that left four people dead, but it escaped prosecution under the then-strongman president Mahinda Rajapakse.

Rajapakse's brother Gotabhaya, a former defence secretary, was said to be close to the group. The latest failure to arrest Gnanasara and stop a renewed outbreak of religious violence has seen the European Union and foreign envoys urge Sri Lanka to take action. The European Union delegation chief in Colombo, Tung-Lai Margue, has said it was crucial there was "no impunity for hate crimes" and that the perpetrators are swiftly brought to justice. — AFP

GADDAFI'S SON SEIF FREED

Continued from Page 1

Among them was an arrest warrant for Seif Al-Islam issued by the International Criminal Court in The Hague for alleged crimes against humanity related to the bloody repression of the uprising. In response to an email from AFP, Seif Al-Islam's lawyer at the ICC, Karim Khan, said: "I am not able to confirm or deny any matters at this moment in time." Previous reports of Seif Al-Islam's release have proven false. It was unclear why the Zintan group may have decided to release Seif Al-Islam now or what he may be planning. His mother and some of his siblings fled to Algeria after the revolution and eventually settled in Oman.

'Sword of Islam'

His release comes with the North African country still rocked by infighting, with authorities in the east, reportedly allied with the forces of powerful strongman Khalifa Haftar, refusing to recognize the Tripoli-based GNA. Some in the country have even started yearning for the Gaddafi years, when the oil-rich country was ruled by a deeply repressive regime but was also stable. Seif Al-Islam, 44, is the second of Gaddafi's eight children, the eldest son of his second wife Safiya.

The fluent English speaker, whose name means "sword of Islam", often appeared in the West as the public face of

his father's regime and was seen by many as a potential reformer. His reformist image vanished quickly however in the uprising against his father's 42-year dictatorship. Seif Al-Islam became the defiant face of the embattled regime, appearing on television or giving news conferences to warn that opposition forces would be crushed.

Seif Al-Islam and eight other Gaddafi-era figures, including spy master Abdullah al-Senussi, were sentenced to death by a Tripoli court in July 2015. In July 2016, Seif Al-Islam's lawyers claimed that their client had been released under an amnesty issued by the unrecognized authorities in the east of the country. But the GNA said the amnesty, enacted in April that year, could not apply to persons accused of crimes against humanity. Three of Gaddafi's seven sons died during the revolution. One son who survived, Saadi, is still on trial in Libya for his alleged involvement in the crackdown and killing of a former football coach.

The shockwaves created by the ouster and grizzly killing of Muammar Gaddafi by rebels in his home town of Sirte continue to ripple across the troubled country. Late last month, Tripoli was rocked by fierce clashes between forces loyal to the unity government and rival militias, with more than 50 members of the pro-GNA forces reported killed. Relying on militia support and pitted against the rival administration in the east, the GNA has struggled to assert its authority — AFP

SAY KIND WORDS

Continued from Page 1

In the spirit of mercy and "husna", we must be merciful when reforming the bad behavior of our children. If they persist in doing wrong, instead of cursing them, we should pray for them. Abdullah bin Amr bin Al-A's (Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) companion) narrated that the Messenger of Allah said, "Those who are merciful will be shown mercy by Allah (the Most Merciful). Therefore, treat those on earth with kindness and mercy, then Allah Who is in heaven will envelop you with His infinite mercy" (Saheeh Al-Ja'mei # 3,522).

Why would we curse our children when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) didn't even invoke Allah's curse on those who persecuted him. Abu Huraira (RA) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was asked to invoke Allah's curse upon the polytheists, whereupon he said, "I have not been sent as a curser, but rather sent as mercy" (Saheeh Muslim # 2,599). To curse a person means to invoke Allah (SWT) to expel him from His mercy. If Allah (SWT) can forgive someone who committed mountains of sins after sincere repentance, we should also forgive. And if Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) refused to curse, we should also refuse.

Abu Hurairah (RA) narrated that the Messenger of

Allah (PBUH) said, "Three supplications will be answered without doubt. The supplication of the oppressed, the invocation of the traveler, and the supplication of the parent against his son" (Saheeh At-Tirmidhi # 1,905). So even if you curse your child in a fit of anger, the curse may still go into effect. Alternatively, the curse may return to you. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "If a curse is unjust, it will return to the person who has cursed." (Abu Dawud, Adab 45).

Ibn Katheer said, "Due to Allah's unmatched forbearance and kindness towards His servants, He doesn't grant them their requests when they invoke His curse down upon themselves, wealth and property as well as their children while in distress and under the fit of anger. He doesn't honor their requests in such situations because He knows that deep down in their hearts they don't really intend to invoke such a curse. (Refer to At-Tayseer bisharh Al-Ja'mei As-Sagheer by Al-Munawi 1/950 and www.Islamweb.net, Fatwa number 136410.)

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GULF RESIDENTS ARE FREE TO STAY: QATAR

Continued from Page 1

In another development, Iran said it had sent tons of vegetables to Qatar, which has seen food imports threatened after its neighbors cut air, sea and land links with the country. Nearly a week after Saudi Arabia and several of its allies severed ties with Qatar in an unprecedented Gulf diplomatic crisis, there were no signs of the bitter dispute being resolved. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and others accused Qatar of supporting extremist groups, an assertion since backed by US President Donald Trump.

The crisis has raised deep concerns of instability in the region and on Sunday Kuwait's foreign minister said his country would continue efforts to mediate a solution to the crisis. Qatar strongly rejects the allegations and has said it is open to talks on ending the dispute, which also saw the three Gulf states order all Qatari citizens out of their countries within 14 days. Qatar said late on Saturday it would not retaliate with such measures of its own. A statement carried on Qatari state media said Doha would "not take any measures against residents of Qatar who hold the nationalities of countries that severed diplomatic ties... on the back of hostile and tendentious campaigns against the country".

No gas interruption

The decision will come as a relief to the more than 11,000 people from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain living in Qatar. Concerns have been raised for the impact of these measures on people who live in all the countries affected. "For potentially thousands of people across the Gulf, the effect of the steps imposed in the wake of this political dispute is suffering, heartbreak and fear," Amnesty International has said. Saudi Arabia said Sunday it was ordering "suitable measures" to help families with mixed citizenships but provided few details. Despite the unprecedented sanctions, Qatar says that its crucial exports of liquefied gas have not been interrupted.

"Qatar Petroleum... is conducting business as usual throughout all its upstream, midstream and downstream businesses and operations, and in all activities across all of QP's world-class facilities," a statement read. Gas has helped transform the tiny emirate into one of the richest countries in the world, fuelling its rise into a major regional player and helping fund huge infrastructure projects such as the 2022 football World Cup, which will be hosted by Qatar. On Thursday, Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said his country could last "forever" despite the sanctions.

Kuwait mediates

Qatar's rivals have also accused Doha of being too close to the Sunni Arab Gulf states' arch-rival-Iran-in claims that Doha has also denied. Iranians officials said on Sunday that tons of vegetables had been sent from Iran to Qatar since the measures were taken against it. Iran Air spokesman Shahrokh Noushabadi said five planes carrying around 90 tons of vegetables each had been sent to Qatar in recent days. "We will continue deliveries as long as there is demand," Noushabadi added, without saying if the deliver-



Foreign Minister of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani

ies were commercial exports or aid.

Three ships loaded with 350 tons of fruit and vegetables were also set to leave an Iranian port for Qatar, the Tasnim news agency quoted a local official as saying. Moscow has joined other nations in calling for a dialogue, after US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urged Saudi Arabia and its allies to ease their "blockade" of Qatar. Washington has sent mixed signals on the crisis, despite Qatar's position as a key ally and host to the largest US airbase in the region. While Tillerson and others have called for an easing of tensions, Trump on Friday said Qatar had "historically been a funder of terrorism at a very high level".

Kuwait, which has not joined its neighbors against Qatar, has been leading mediation efforts and yesterday Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleid Al-Sabah said that would continue. Kuwait's foreign minister said yesterday that Qatar was ready to listen to the concerns of other countries in the Gulf, state news agency KUNA reported, and that his country would continue its efforts to patch a rift within the Gulf.

"(Kuwait) affirms the readiness of the brothers in Qatar to understand the reality of the qualms and concerns of their brothers and to heed the noble endeavors to enhance security and stability," KUNA quoted the Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleid Al-Sabah as saying. "The state of Kuwait will not abandon its efforts and will continue its good will efforts to patch the rift and find a solution that will deal with the root cause of the causes of the dispute... in the brotherly relations," he added. — Agencies

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Focus

IRAN'S HARDLINERS
TO 'SETTLE SCORES'

By Parisa Hafezi

Iranians yearning for detente abroad and greater freedoms at home have handed President Hassan Rouhani a second term, but the hardline forces he defeated in elections on Friday will remain defiantly opposed to his plans. Rouhani built his resounding win in Friday's presidential election by promising more economic opportunities for Iran's youth, as well as social justice, individual freedoms and political tolerance.

He also picked a rare public fight with hardliners close to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, angrily criticising their favorite in the race, Ebrahim Raisi, a judge seen by reformists as representing the security state at its most fearsome. The Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), the country's most powerful security force, are unlikely to forget his attacks, which played to widespread frustration with a state that controls how Iranians speak, gather and dress. During one rally Rouhani referred to hardliners as "those who cut out tongues and sewed mouths shut." "Rouhani will face more pressure in his second term. The Revolutionary Guards and other deep state organizations will create more problems for him," said Meir Javedanfar, an Iranian-born Israeli lecturer on Iran at the Interdisciplinary Centre Herzliya in Israel.

"Since the 1979 revolution, whenever hardliners have lost a political battle, they have tried to settle scores." One way the Guards could re-assert their dominance at home would be to stoke more confrontation abroad, where they provide the shock troops for Iran's interventions in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East. "I would worry about the more confrontational policy of the IRGC in the Persian Gulf ... and more confrontational policy with the US and Saudi Arabia," said Javedanfar.

Collision course

Rouhani's allies say he still has the wherewithal to deliver progress. An insider from within the upper echelons of power, he has worked with the supreme leader Khamenei for decades. "As the economy is among Khamenei's top priorities, Khamenei will be obliged to give limited backing to Rouhani's liberal economic policy like the cautious support he gave to the nuclear deal," said an official, close to Rouhani's government.

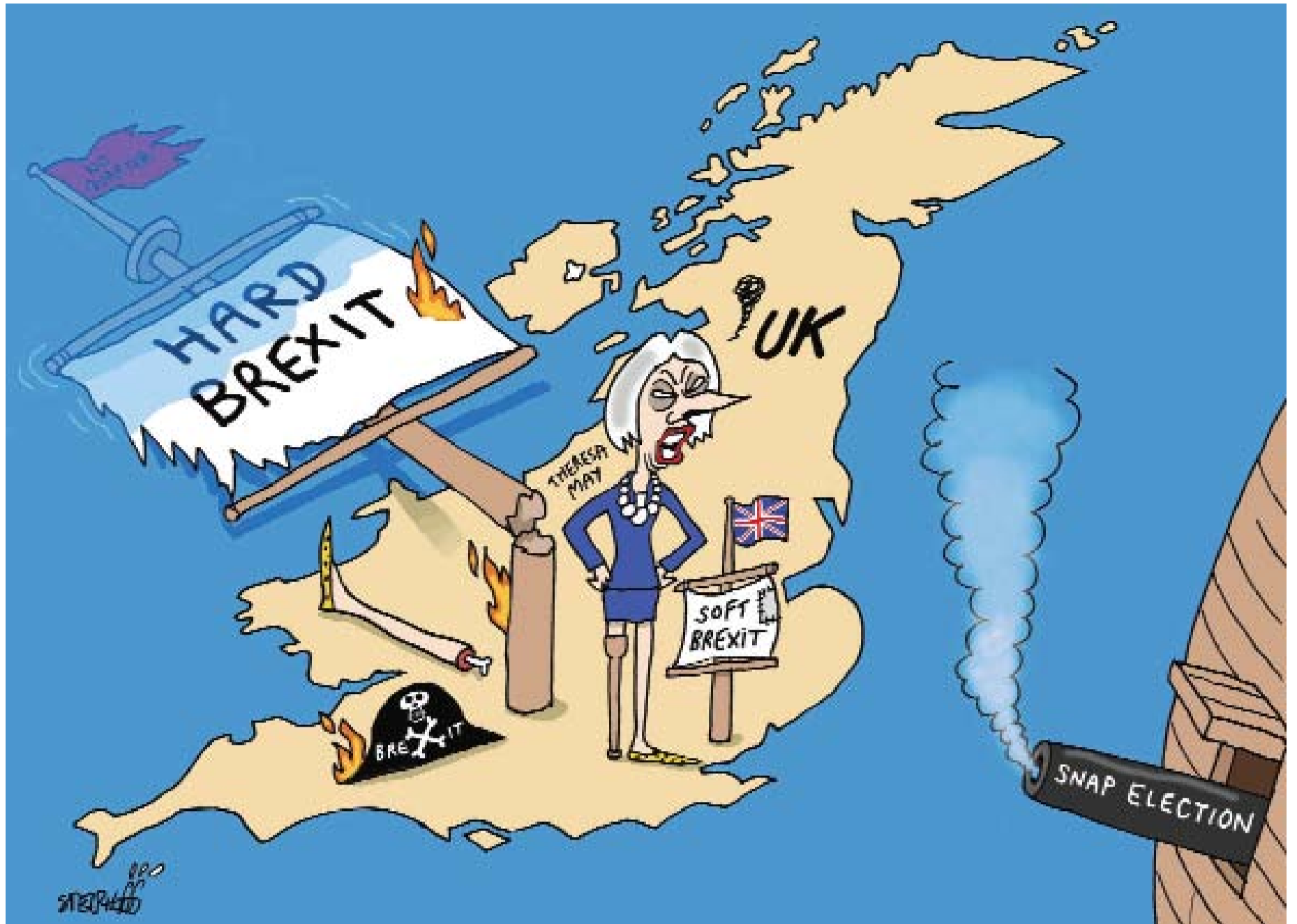
Rouhani, first elected in a landslide in 2013 on a promise to reduce Iran's diplomatic isolation, spent most of his political capital in his first term on a nuclear agreement with six powers that resulted in a lifting of most sanctions in return for curbs on Tehran's nuclear program. Domestic social reforms were largely ignored. But in his second term Rouhani will be under more pressure from his followers to deliver on changes at home. He has now contributed to that pressure himself by campaigning hard as a reformist, particularly in the final days.

"Clearly it's going to be difficult to back down on some of this stuff," said Abbas Milani, director of the Iranian Studies program at Stanford University. Milani noted "the challenges he gave to the IRGC" as well as promises to release reformist leaders held under house arrest. "All of these are going to put him on a confrontation path if not a collision course with the conservatives," he said. The internal power struggle in the Islamic Republic is not just a philosophical argument between reformists and hardliners, but a battle to preserve the dominance of a theocratic establishment with vested interests and privileges.

The Revolutionary Guards have an extensive business empire to protect, and believe opening up to the West could lead to regime change. Given the importance of the Guards to the clerical leadership, few Iranians harbor high hopes that Rouhani will fulfill all his promises. "Rouhani will likely be unwilling or unable to push back against hardliners.... Those who want real change ... will once again and most unfortunately be stuck between a rock and a hard place," said Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior Iran analyst at Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Still, the prospect of victory by Raisi, who was one of four judges in the 1980s that approved the death sentences of thousands of political prisoners, was enough to drive even doubtful Iranians out to vote for Rouhani in force. "Iranians are perhaps not overly optimistic that Rouhani can move the country forward, but at least he didn't want to drive the country backward," Karim Sadjadpour, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment who focuses on Iran said. — Reuters

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FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Emmanuel Macron's victory in May's presidential election was a political earthquake for France, and his one-year-old party is now keen to win a strong parliamentary majority to push through reforms. Here are key facts to know as voters went to the polls in the first round yesterday.

How it works

There are 577 seats up for grabs, including 11 who represent French citizens living overseas. Each constituency represents about 125,000 inhabitants. If no candidate wins over 50 percent in the first round, the two top-placed go into the second round on June 18 - as well as any other candidate who won the votes of more than 12.5 percent of the local electorate. A total of 7,882 candidates are standing nationwide in a process expected to see many fresh faces elected-not least because more than 200 outgoing lawmakers are not running for re-election. The average candidate's age is 48.5 years and more than 42 percent are women. In the outgoing parliament women represented only 26.9 percent of deputies, or 155 out of 577, which was itself a record.

High stakes

The media-savvy Macron is hoping to use the momentum from his presidential victory over seriously weakened traditional right and leftwing parties to build a large majority in parliament. With half of Republique En Marche (Republic on the Move, REM) candidates coming from civil society, he hopes notably to tackle reform of the traditionally thorny issue of labor law. If he fails to win an absolute majority — 289 out of 577 seats-it would complicate his job as president because he would have to build a coalition with right and left. The far-right National Front of his defeated presidential rival Marine Le Pen and the radical left

will both also be seeking to capitalize on the move away from established parties.

The Republicans

The party of ex-prime minister and scandal-wracked former presidential candidate Francois Fillon is hoping to take its revenge, even to impose a rightwing cohabitation on the centrist president. But with 50 of its lawmakers not standing again, it could lose more support to REM.

France Unbowed

The Communist-backed Jean-Luc Melenchon scored 19.6 percent in the first round of the presidential ballot. His France Insoumise (France Unbowed) movement is putting up candidates in 500 constituencies, and hopes to win at least 15 seats in the National Assembly to form a parliamentary group.

National Front

Weakened after the poorer-than-expected score by its leader Marine Le Pen in the presidential run-off against Macron (33.9 percent), the National Front nonetheless wants to present itself as the main opposition after she secured 10.7 million votes in May. The far-right party hopes to win at least in the 45 constituencies where Le Pen won more than 50 percent in the head-to-head on May 7. But it could be an uphill battle-especially after her niece Marion Marechal-Le Pen withdrew from political life, dealing the party a blow in its southern heartland.

Socialist Party

The left-wing party that formed the previous government needs to avoid all-out collapse. After a historically low score in the first round of the presidential election (6.3 percent for Benoit Hamon), the stakes could hardly be higher. Part of its electorate has left for Macron, others for Melenchon's party. Some are already bracing for another

bleak election night for a party which has long been one of the two mainstream forces in French politics. Veteran observers recall the debacle of 1993 which produced just 57 Socialist and allied deputies. — AFP



LE TOUQUET: French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron leaves a polling station in Le Touquet, northern France, after casting their ballots in the first round of the two-stage legislative elections yesterday. — AP

PRESIDENT TRUMP LOOKS INCREASINGLY ISOLATED

By James Oliphant

In the Trump White House, it's getting lonely at the top. President Donald Trump's fellow Republicans in Congress are showing signs of going their own way, both on politics and policy, determined to salvage what they can of their agenda on healthcare and tax reform in the wake of one of the most difficult weeks of any American presidency.

At the same time, Trump's failure to fill senior roles at federal agencies means he does not have a cadre of loyalists who can help rein in a bureaucracy that many in Trump's orbit believe are out to leak information intended to damage the president. That has worsened the isolation of the White House in a city that relies on friends and allies to shake off a crisis.

The result is problems on multiple fronts: a government whose bonds with Congress, federal agencies and the public look increasingly fractured; an ambitious but stalled program of reforms; and a president whose low approval ratings threaten his party's control of Congress in the 2018 midterm elections. Trump and his beleaguered staff, some White House aides told Reuters, feel besieged by a parade of negative stories and abandoned by fellow Republicans on Capitol Hill, as the furor over the firing of FBI Director James Comey and allegations that Trump tried to influence the probe into Russian meddling in last year's election show little sign of abating.

Since Tuesday, when leaked excerpts of a purported memo by Comey detailing his conversations with Trump were made public, few Republicans beyond the White House have rushed to the airwaves to push back against suggestions that the president may have obstructed justice in asking Comey to end the probe into the conduct of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. As the Russia probe entered a new phase on Wednesday with the appointment of former FBI Director Robert Mueller as special counsel in the investigation, a

move that will likely place the White House under even stronger scrutiny, some Republicans expressed surprise that the White House had not done more to recruit them to backstop the president.

"It's kind of funny. The answer is no," said Senator James Inhofe, a Republican from Oklahoma, when asked by Reuters whether the White House had reached out to him to come to Trump's defense. "I don't know anyone else that has been contacted." The White House did not respond to a request for comment on this story. Trump left on Friday for his first foreign trip as president. The 10-day trip will take him to Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Europe.

Staff vacancies

The administration has continued to struggle to fill the hundreds of open positions at senior levels of government that remain open, leaving the White House alone to grapple with one challenge after another. For example, the Justice Department still lacks senior officials in place to head up the

anti-trust, civil rights, criminal, and civil divisions, as well as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, according to its website. At the Department of Homeland Security, the chiefs of the US Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Transportation Security Administration, have yet to be confirmed.

And at the Department of Education, a sprawling bureaucracy of 4,400 employees with a \$68 billion budget, "all the key roles except for the secretary remain empty or filled with people in an acting capacity," said a Department of Education official. "Nobody knows when or if they will be filled anytime soon," said the official, who declined to be identified by name. The department did not respond to a request for comment. Trump has frequently complained that Senate Democrats have stalled the approval process for his nominees. But the White House has also been slower to send nominees to the Senate than previous administrations.



President Donald Trump and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price are seen in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. — AP

Many top State Department posts also remain vacant. One consequence, say several officials, is that department experts played little role in briefing Trump for his telephone call to Russian President Vladimir Putin or his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Ambassador Sergei Kislyak, where officials say he disclosed highly classified intelligence. State Department and intelligence officials say that as power is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few Trump loyalists in the White House, the roles of professional Foreign Service, intelligence and civil service officers have shrunk compared to past administrations.

For instance, said two US diplomats, no one from the State Department attended Trump's Feb 15 meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - a sharp contrast from past administrations which would typically staff such a high-profile meeting with high-level State Department officials. Asked for comment, the State Department would not address the circumstances of the meeting with the Russian officials in the Oval Office, but did speak to the efforts involving Netanyahu and the Middle East. "As the president has repeatedly noted, Middle East peace is a top priority for this administration," a department spokesperson said.

"This is an effort supported by both the White House and the State Department. Claims that the State Department has not been involved have no basis in facts." Overall, more than 500 of the 557 federal government positions requiring Senate confirmation remain vacant. Only 33 nominees have been confirmed, and only 57 other positions now have a nominee, according to the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Washington. A lack of communication from the White House left many Republicans on Capitol Hill frustrated as a sense of crisis mushroomed over the past week. One, Richard Burr, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, which is conducting its own Russia probe, publicly complained about the situation. — Reuters

FERRARI BOSS DENIES USING TEAM ORDERS

MONTREAL: Ferrari team boss Maurizio Arrivabene denied that the Italian team used any team orders at last month's Monaco Grand Prix where Sebastian Vettel triumphed after 'jumping' team-mate Kimi Raikkonen in the pit-stops. As Finn Raikkonen topped the times again in Friday's practice for Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix, Arrivabene faced reporters at a news conference where he stressed that Ferrari were focused on winning the constructors' title. "I always said that it's not that situation in the team," said Arrivabene. "We are looking forward to the championship. We do all our best for the Constructors' Championship and to be able to do well you need two drivers. "This is very important for the house-this is very important for Ferrari." He added: "I was very, very clear since the beginning of the season, about our rules of engagement. Our team is above everything, but we're not going in one direction or the other. —AFP



INFANTINO 'CONFIDENT' IN 2022 DESPITE QATAR CRISIS

LAUSANNE: FIFA is confident the diplomatic crisis sweeping Qatar will normalise and not threaten the 2022 World Cup, the organisation's president, Gianni Infantino, said in an interview published yesterday. "We are facing a diplomatic crisis," Infantino told Switzerland's Le Matin Dimanche newspaper. "I am confident the region will return to a normal situation." He told the paper FIFA was "closely watching the evolving situation and we are in regular contact with the highest authorities in Qatar." But he stressed that Qatar's World Cup was five years away. "Obviously, if football can offer a small contribution to improve the situation, I won't hesitate to offer my help," he said, while adding that FIFA should stay clear of "geopolitics." Saudi Arabia and allies including the UAE and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties with Qatar on Monday, accusing it of supporting extremism. The move triggered the most serious diplomatic flap to hit the region in years and experts have said it could impact the 2022 World Cup. Since being controversially chosen by FIFA in 2010 as the host, Qatar has maintained that it is a politically secure nation despite its location in a volatile region. —AFP

RONALDO 'FATHER TO TWINS WITH SURROGATE MUM'

LISBON: Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has become a father to twins with a surrogate mother, Portuguese media reported Saturday. Reports said the babies—a girl and boy named Eva and Mateo—were born on Thursday to a woman living on the US West Coast. The captain of Portugal's victorious Euro 2016 team had his first son Cristiano Junior in June 2010 — also reportedly with a surrogate mother, although he has never confirmed it. British tabloid The Sun had reported in March that the quadruple Ballon d'Or winner was expecting twins. The 32-year-old striker is currently dating Spanish model Georgina Rodriguez. The reports come after a twin-heavy week in the celebrity world, after George Clooney and his human rights lawyer wife Amal welcomed newborns Ella and Alexander. —AFP



RED-HOT THOMPSON CHASES CANADA WIN

TORONTO: Lexi Thompson closed in on her second victory of the season after firing a five-under-par 67 to grab a one-shot lead at the Manulife LPGA Classic in Cambridge, Ontario on Saturday.

Thompson, 22, who won last month's Kingsmill Championship in Virginia, reeled off five birdies and no bogeys in a flawless display at Whistle Bear Golf Club.

Thompson's round left her with a 54-hole aggregate 199 at 17 under, one clear of fellow American Lindy Duncan, who also shot a 67 on Saturday.

A further shot back from Duncan is Chun In-Gee of South Korea, who remained in the hunt with a 68.

Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn shot a blistering seven-under-par 65 to move into contention at 14 under, three off the lead, alongside Canada's Alena Sharp.

Thompson completed her round with a birdie on the last but said consistency had been the key to another solid display. "There was just more shot-making and

some pins were pretty difficult to get to," she said. "It was more just making pars and getting off the hole." Duncan meanwhile—who is 172 places behind world number four Thompson in the rankings—will be looking for a strong final round on Sunday as she aims to improve on her highest ever finish, a tie for 16th.

"Hit my driver well today, and I would say I've been hitting fairways and hitting greens and really rolling the putter well," Duncan said.

"When I have gotten in trouble, I've been able to get up and down for par. Those have been key up and downs." Duncan now faces the prospect of playing in the final group today for the first time in her professional career.

South Korea's Chun meanwhile will be hoping to mount a final round charge as she aims to improve on three second place finishes this season. The world number five posted five birdies before making bogey at the 17th. —AFP

BELLO CHIPS IN FOR SHARE OF LEAD AT ST JUDE CLASSIC

MIAMI: Spain's Rafa Cabrera Bello chipped in twice for birdies in a five-under-par 65 to grab a share of the lead at the FedEx St. Jude Classic in Memphis on Saturday. Cabrera Bello topped the leaderboard alongside Stewart Cink and Ben Crane after the third round and the 33-year-old from Gran Canaria is now in the hunt for his first USPGA Tour win.



MEMPHIS: Rafa Cabrera Bello celebrates after holing out on the third hole during the third round of the St. Jude Classic golf tournament Saturday, in Memphis, Tenn. — AP

"Obviously, those two chip-ins helped," said Cabrera Bello, who has won a total of five tournaments in his career, including two on the European Tour, after his round at TPC Southwind. "The one on the third hole (from 48 feet) was tough and the one on the fourth (from 33 feet) was tricky.

"I've been hitting the ball well and trusting my putting. The difference (on the PGA Tour) is that the courses are much different on the weekend than what you play on Tuesday and Wednesday. It's always changing." Cabrera Bello, Cink and Crane all stand at nine under 201 after 54 holes. Cink is looking for his first win since the 2009 Open at Turnberry. The veteran had opened up a two-stroke lead on the front nine before three bogeys on the home stretch saw him finish with a 69.

Five-time PGA Tour winner Crane meanwhile carded a blemish-free 68. One shot off the lead are Luke List and Chad Campbell, who both fired 66s to stay in a tie for fourth.

A further shot back is Kevin Chappell who shot a 68, with Matt Jones of Australia, who hit a 69. Chez Reavie, a co-leader through 36 holes, suffered an error-strewn round which featured a double-bogey and a two more bogeys on the front nine. Reavie finished with a 72 to finish alongside Chappell and Jones on seven under. Elsewhere Saturday, defending champion Daniel Berger shot a 66 to move to six under, three off the lead in a tie with David Hearn of Canada, Kim Whee of South Korea and former US Open champion Retief Goosen of South Africa. Five-time major winner Phil Mickelson, who has vowed to skip next week's US Open due to the high school graduation of his daughter, carded a bogey-double bogey finish for a 69 to be four adrift of the lead.

Another major winner, 2011 Masters champion and joint second round leader Charl Schwartzel, of South Africa, had a miserable day, shooting 74 to plummet down the field into a share of 13th. —AFP



DES MOINES: Brandt Jobe hits out of bunker onto the ninth green during the second round of the PGA Tour Champions Principal Charity Classic golf tournament, Saturday, in Des Moines, Iowa. — AP

GOLF

JOB AND DAY SHARE LEAD ENTER FINAL ROUND IN IOWA

DES MOINES: An unexpected pair of leaders emerged at the PGA Tour Champions event on Saturday, while favorite Bernhard Langer stumbled yet again at the Wakonda Club.

Brandt Jobe shot a 6-under 66 to take a share of the lead following the second round. Jobe and Glen Day were at 11-under 133.

Jobe, who has never won on the senior tour, had a double-bogey on the par-3 ninth hole before rallying with six consecutive birdies. "I've been playing well. I just haven't put everything together," Jobe said. "I kind of got of fortunate with my finish."

Day shot a 67 and birdied No. 18 to join Jobe atop the leaderboard Kevin Sutherland, who shared the first round lead with Day and Langer, the tour's money leader, was at 9-under. Kevin Flesch, Tom Lehman, Michael Bradley were three strokes back of Jobe and Day. Langer led a group at 7-under despite getting five birdies in the second round. Langer, who has already made nearly \$1.7 million this season, shot a second-round 71.

"I'm four behind, so that's a lot to make up," Langer said. "But it's happened before, so hopefully I will play better." Jobe, who has just two top-10s this season, misjudged his approach on the par-3 ninth hole - but he followed that by tying this season's tour mark for consecutive birdies.

"I got pretty mad. I actually hit the shot I wanted to hit. It was just absolutely the wrong club. A total misjudge," Jobe said of his miscue on No. 9. "Then I was just like 'Alright, start over.'"

Day, also winless on the senior tour, hit 33 of 36 greens in regulation and was the only golfer through two rounds without a bogey. Langer, seeking to become the first senior circuit golfer in seven years to win three consecutive starts, got off to a great start. He holed out from 80 yards on the fourth hole for a par-4 eagle that gave him the lead. But Langer - who had the second-worst round of his senior career at Wakonda in 2015, when he finished tied for 48th - stumbled with three straight bogeys to close out the front nine. Langer's approach on the par-3 No. 14 then got caught in the wind, stopping it far short of the green, and he had to settle for another bogey.

Lehman, who has been under par following all 11 of his rounds at Wakonda, notched five birdies on the back nine. Lehman has top-10 finishes in all five of his trips to Iowa, but he's never won in the state.

"I hit a lot of really good putts. Typically if you're hitting your line, it tends to build confidence. It's when you start missing your line consistently where you start to lose it," Lehman said. This is just the second PGA Tour Champions event for Flesch, who turned 50 late last month. Scott McCarron, who won his first PGA Tour Champions event in Iowa in 2016, was also at 7-under. —AP

MAN OVERBOARD AS KIWIS TAKE LEAD IN AMERICA'S CUP CHALLENGE

HAMILTON: Emirates Team New Zealand edged into an early lead in their America's Cup Challenger duel with Artemis Racing on a drama-filled day of racing Saturday that saw Swedish skipper Nathan Outteridge tossed overboard.

The Kiwis took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-nine series which will determine who challenges Oracle Team USA for the 35th America's Cup in Bermuda's Great Sound.

The New Zealanders won the opening race of the day before Artemis hit back with victory in the second.

But the Kiwis took a 2-1 lead by winning a dramatic third race which saw Artemis skipper Outteridge end up in the drink.

The 31-year-old Australian Olympic gold medalist fell out of his catamaran as he attempted to slide back into his seat from the opposite wing.

"I haven't seen the video yet but it looked like I got a little bit of a flick off the boat," Outteridge explained later. "These boats are turning so fast that we have to get quickly across and just as I was crossing the centre of the boat we straightened the turn, which had me sliding into the water."

"It's not the first time it's happened to myself or many other people and it won't be the last." With Outteridge missing it left Artemis facing an impossible challenge and they eased up to allow New Zealand, skippered by Peter Burling, to cruise home for the win. "We struggled a bit at the starts but we're learning a lot as we go," Burling said.

"We were happy to fight our way back into that last race. Before Nathan went off it was

shaping up to be a close battle."

FIRST BLOOD

The Kiwis had drawn first blood in the opening race of the day after recovering from a sluggish start to catch their Swedish rivals. Artemis timed their start to perfection to cross several lengths ahead of the Kiwis and built a comfortable lead at the first mark.

The New Zealanders closed the gap heading into the second gate and a crisp tack put them ahead as the two boats raced towards the third gate.

Artemis then incurred a penalty after straying into a boundary area to leave them trailing by an insurmountable margin, Emirates eventually coasting home by 47 seconds.

Race two meanwhile followed a similar pattern, with Artemis making the better start to edge into an early lead.

This time though Outteridge kept the Swedes out in front, with the Artemis boat up on its foils for the entire race and leading from start to finish.

Artemis had built a six-second lead at gate four and increased it steadily to lead by 19 seconds at the final mark.

From there it was only going to be one winner as Sweden surged across the finish line to level the series.

Artemis made another solid start in the third race of the day and appeared to have gained the upper hand before Outteridge's mishap scuppered their race. "It's disappointing, if I hadn't fallen off we could be leading 2-1," Outteridge said. The Challenger final resumes to with three more races. — AFP



HAMILTON: Artemis Racing team principle Iain Percy (L), skipper Nathan Outteridge and Emirates Team New Zealand skipper Peter Burling (R) look on at the pre-racing 'dock out show' during the 35th America's Cup, Louis Vuitton Challenger Playoffs finals in Hamilton, Bermuda on Saturday. — AFP

HORSE RACING

ORTIZ BROTHERS IN ARMS AS TAPWRIT WINS BELMONT STAKES

NEW YORK: Puerto Rican jockey Jose Ortiz guided Tapwrit to victory in the 149th Belmont Stakes here Saturday—a year after his elder brother triumphed in the prestigious US racing showpiece. Tapwrit, a 5-1 shot for the New York event which is the third leg of American racing's Triple Crown, stunned favorite Irish War Cry in the final stretch.

The horse trained by Todd Pletcher produced a perfectly timed late charge to surge clear and take the line honors and the \$800,000 first prize. Ortiz's victory came 12 months after Irad Ortiz Jr won the one-and-a-half mile classic on Creator.

Irado Ortiz Jr. was in the field again on Saturday, riding the Kentucky-based Looking at Lee trained by Steven Asmussen, but did not place. However the two brothers shared a hug in celebration at a family double as they galloped back to the paddock after the win. "It's unbelievable," Jose Ortiz said afterwards. "I can't explain, I'm very happy right now, very

happy for the owners who gave me the ride." Asked about what his win meant to his brother, Ortiz said: "He had his run today for his connections of course, but I'm sure he's happy for me just like I felt happy for him last year."

Victorious trainer Pletcher meanwhile was delighted at the performance of Ortiz and Tapwrit in upsetting the pre-race favorite. "Tapwrit was getting a beautiful trip," Pletcher said. "It was everything we talked about in the paddock before the race. "We were just hoping he had enough in the tank when it came to the crunch. It looked like Irish War Cry had something left, but in that last stretch (Tapwrit) really dug down deep," Pletcher added. Tapwrit had also benefited from the New York-based Pletcher's local knowledge.

"It's our home base so it's always an advantage," Pletcher acknowledged. Third place went to Patch with Gormley finishing fourth. —AFP

ESTONIA'S TANAK CELEBRATES DEBUT WIN IN SARDINIA

SASSARI: Ott Tanak celebrated his first world rally championship success yesterday, the Estonian driver seeing off the challenge of Jari-Matti Latvala to win the Rally of Italy in Sardinia. The 29-year-old, breaking his WRC duck at his 73rd attempt, eclipsed his Ford teammate and four-time world champion Sebastien

Ogier who could only manage fifth.

"I feel good. It was a very hard weekend but it's ended well," said Tanak. "There was pressure to win here. I hope it's the first of a long (winning) run." Tanak completed the 19 special stages with a 12.3sec lead over Latvala, and 1min 7.7sec clear of third-placed Hyundai driver Thierry

Neuville. Estonia's five previous WRC wins were delivered by Markko Martin in 2003-2004. Ogier trailed in almost three and a half minutes behind Tanak after the French rally ace's Sardinia jaunt was hampered by a puncture on Saturday.

"It wasn't our best weekend in the championship, but what can you do? We

gave it a shot here, but it's a bit of a lottery with all the big pebbles," Ogier said.

Despite his failure to make an impact on the Mediterranean island Ogier retained his lead in the world drivers' standings. Neuville is now 18 points behind in second with a further 15 points back in third Tanak who said: "I'm going to

give it a go. "We've closed in on Sebastien, I don't see why we can't be in the mix." Aside from Tanak the other driver to enjoy his Sardinian stay was Finland's Esapekka Lappi who posted the best time in six of the stages. The WRC show moves on to Poland next for the eighth leg of the season at the end of the month.— AFP

WARBURTON RECALLED TO LEAD LIONS AGAINST HIGHLANDERS

WELLINGTON: Tour captain Sam Warburton will return from injury to lead a reorganized British and Irish Lions lineup in their fourth tour match on Wednesday against the Dunedin-based Highlanders.

Warburton, who missed the Lions' 12-3 win over the Crusaders, joins a starting 15 which contains only one player - backrower C.J. Stander - who took part in Saturday's match at Christchurch.

Having completed his objective of giving all 41 members of his touring side a chance to play in the first three matches on tour, coach Warren Gatland is now honing the test combination he hopes to play in next Saturday's match against the New Zealand Maori.

The team he named to face the Crusaders was close to test-strength but some selections remain to be decided. "At this stage of the tour everyone has had a start and as coaches we are happy that all the players have had a chance to put their hand up and perform in the Lions jersey," Gatland said. "Each game is a chance for individuals to shine but more importantly it's about a collective performance. We are building some momentum and we have improved with every game.

"We were obviously pleased with the win against the Crusaders, especially our defense and game management, but we know the Highlanders will be another massive test for us as a squad."

Warburton will captain the test lineup and his absence from the team that beat the Crusaders was a slight disruption to the selection process. Players selected for Wednesday's match such as the Ireland inside center Robbie Henshaw, Scotland wing Tommy Seymour, England lock Courtney Laws, Ireland hooker Rory Best and England prop Joe Marler still have selection claims to push.

New Zealand-born utility back Jared Payne will start at fullback Wednesday while tighthead Kyle Sinckler, who was impressive in the Lions' win over the Provincial Barbarians in their opening match, has another chance to shine.

Stander has been impressive in all of his outings on tour so far. Flanker James Haskell, who played several seasons for the Highlanders in Super Rugby, has been named to play on his former home ground.

Hard-working Wales lock Alun Wyn Jones, who led the Lions against the Crusaders in Warburton's absence, has been named on the bench as has England flyhalf Owen Farrell, who kicked all of the Lions' points in Christchurch.

Dan Biggar will start in the No. 10 jersey in a halves combination with Wales teammate Rhys Webb. The Dunedin-based Highlanders have selected only three current All Blacks in their lineup.

Flyhalf Lima Sopoaga, center Malakai Fekitoa and winger Waisake Naholo have been given dispensations by the All Blacks to play in the match as all are likely to be bench players at best in the first test at Auckland on June 24.

Former All Blacks hooker Liam Coltman is also included in the Highlanders' starting lineup but scrumhalf Aaron Smith and full-back Ben Smith, expected to start for the All Blacks against the Lions, are not available. Elliot Dixon, Ash Dixon, Joe Wheeler, Rob Thompson and Tom Franklin will miss the match because they are due to play for the New Zealand Maori against the Lions on Saturday.

"For some of these guys this will be the biggest rugby day of their careers," Highlanders assistant coach Scott McLeod said. "It is a special moment in any rugby player's life to play against the Lions. It's going to be a massive occasion."

Squads: British and Irish Lions: Jared Payne, Jack Nowell, Jonathan Joseph, Robbie Henshaw, Tommy Seymour, Dan Biggar, Rhys Webb; C.J. Stander, Sam Warburton (captain), James Haskell, Iain Henderson, Courtney Lawes, Kyle Sinckler, Rory Best, Joe Marler. Replacements: Ken Owens, Jack McGrath, Dan Cole, Alun Wyn Jones, Justin Tipuric, Greig Laidlaw, Owen Farrell, Elliot Daly.

Highlanders: Richard Buckman, Waisake Naholo, Malakai Fekitoa, Teihorangi Walden, Tevita Li, Lima Sopoaga, Kayne Hammington; Luke Whitelock (captain), Dillon Hunt, Gareth Evans, Jackson Hemopo, Alex Ainley, Siate Tokolahi, Liam Coltman, Daniel Lienert-Brown. Replacements:

Greg Pleasants-Tate, Aki Seiuli, Siosua Halanukonuka, Josh Dickson, Jimmy Lentjes, Josh Renton, Marty Banks, Patrick Osborne. — AP



FORT WORTH: Will Power, driver of the #12 Verizon Team Penske Chevrolet, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Verizon IndyCar Series Rainguard Water Sealers 600 at Texas Motor Speedway on Saturday in Fort Worth, Texas.—AFP

MOTOR RACING

POWER WINS WILD INDYCAR RACE AT TEXAS UNDER CAUTION

FORT WORTH: Will Power was trying to figure out how to hold off Scott Dixon for the lead as the two went side-by-side in the closing laps of the IndyCar race at Texas.

Instead, Dixon got taken out in one last crash to end a wild race at the repaved and reconfigured 1 1/2-mile track. Only eight of the 22-car field actually crossed the finish line Saturday night. Power, who led 180 of the 248 laps, won under caution after Dixon got wrecked by Takuma Sato, and finished ahead of Tony Kanaan, who other drivers and at least one owner blamed for a big crash earlier that led to a nearly 31-minute red flag.

"I guess I'm getting blamed for everything," Kanaan said. But the final caution came when Sato, driving the same car he won the Indianapolis 500 in two weeks ago and pushing for another win, got his left side slightly into the grass on the front stretch, with five laps to go. That sent him spinning, and also took out Dixon. It was the 31st career victory for Power, and his second this season.

"It was very intense," Power said. "I could see Dixon was able to pass me at the start/finish line. So, I was starting to think about what I was going to do there at the end." Simon Pagenaud was third, ahead of defending race champion Graham Rahal, who was coming of winning both races at Detroit last week to become the first IndyCar driver this season with multiple victories. Gabby Chaves finished fifth and Marco Andretti in sixth was the only other driver to finish all 248 laps at the 1 1/2-mile track. With a full moon looming over the track, the red flag came out after an accident involving eight other cars that was blamed on Kanaan, who recovered from the ensuing penalty for his runner-up finish.

James Hinchcliffe got loose on lap 154 after making contact with Kanaan, who appeared to move up the track into him. That put Hinchcliffe in the middle of three-wide and he made contact with his Schmidt Peterson Motorsports teammate Mikhail Aleshin.

WASN'T DRIVING SMART

While calling Kanaan someone he trusts on the track, Hinchcliffe said Kanaan drove from inside along the white line and up into him, and pushed him into Aleshin.

"He wasn't driving smart, or respectfully," Hinchcliffe said. That led to a spark-spraying chain reaction that took out both Dale Coyne Racing drivers, Tristan Vautier and Ed Jones, and sent driver-owner Ed Carpenter and his teammate JR Hildebrand to the garage. Carlos Munoz and Ryan-Hunter Reay were knocked out of the race. Carpenter, who took his repaired car back on track 12 laps down, also blamed Kanaan. Car owner Dale Coyne went up to the Kanaan's car while it was lined up on pit road during the red flag, then leaned into the cockpit and said something. After the race resumed, IndyCar penalized Kanaan for avoidable contact, holding him in his pit for 20 seconds during green-flag conditions.

All drivers involved in the crash were evaluated and released from the infield care center. IndyCar enforced two mandatory stops under caution after that for tire changes after no more than 30 laps on each set. There was blistering of some Firestone tires on the fresh pavement of the track, including Helio Castroneves wrecking out earlier in the night.

Polesitter Charlie Kimball and Alexander Rossi were already out of the race before then. Rossi, the 2016 Indy 500 winner as a rookie, spun and made hard contact with the wall after getting pinched between Dixon and Kanaan, then bouncing off both of the Chip Ganassi Racing cars while coming off the backstretch on lap 37.

During stops on the ensuing caution, Sato got pinned into the wall during a pit road collision that damaged the front wing of his car. Hinchcliffe got loose coming out of his pit, then swerved into Castroneves at the same time Sato was pulling out of the first stall.

Hinchcliffe was penalized for avoidable contact. Before the green flag came out again, polesitter Charlie Kimball's car was pushed to the

garage because of an oil leak and done.

Castroneves, a three-time Indianapolis 500 winner who was the runner-up to Sato this year, was running third behind Team Penske teammates Power and Pagenaud when his front right tire gave and his car veered into the wall coming out of the second turn on lap 91. Castroneves went hard into the wall and eventually came to rest on the inside of the third turn. — AP

RUGBY

ENGLAND TEST WINNER DENNY SOLOMONA PROVES JONES RIGHT

SAN JUAN: England coach Eddie Jones justified calling up New Zealand-born former Rugby League star Denny Solomon by saying he possessed the X factor. The 23-year-old debutant winger proved his handler right this weekend by scoring a superb try to give his adopted country a 38-34 triumph over Argentina in a first Test thriller.

With England trailing 34-31 and one minute left in western city San Juan, Jones must have been preparing for a second successive loss after a narrow defeat in Ireland last March.

Solomona, whose missed tackles after coming off the bench had led to two Pumas tries, knew it was now or never at a near-full 25,000-seat Estadio Bicentenario.

The 23-year-old from Auckland eluded one Argentine, then another, and a third before darting away from the cover defence to dot down between the posts. Outstanding fly-half George Ford, who missed only one of eight shots at goal and scored a try, converted to complete the scoring in an exciting seesaw struggle. "Denny committed two horrendous errors in defence, but made up with a brilliant try," was the reassuring message to the newcomer from Australia-born Jones.

"He is going to do plenty of defensive work before the second Test," the coach added after a match in which both teams scored four tries.

Since replacing Stuart Lancaster as England coach after the 2015 Rugby World Cup, Jones has won 18 of 19 Tests.

Victory was achieved with a run-on team

containing just four survivors from the side that started in Dublin, primarily due to British and Irish Lions call-ups.

The triumph thrilled Jones, who coached Japan to a stunning win over South Africa at the last Rugby World Cup.

"I thought it was an incredible game of rugby," he told reporters after England extended a winning streak against Argentina to seven matches. "For our guys to win was a tremendous effort. I think we had 10 new caps on the field at the finish.

"To show poise and stick to what we needed to do in the circumstances was an unbelievable effort from the young guys. "When you are playing a full-strength Argentina team, that is a great effort. I think it is one of the best team efforts I have been associated with."

Jones praised debutant flanker Tom Curry, at 18 the youngest player to start for England since 1927. "I thought young Curry did well. He made some errors but got on with it. That was the good thing about the team—they just got on with it. "We came here to win the series 2-0 and that is what we are going to do," vowed Jones. "The big thing for young players is being able to back it up. It is not easy to have one good performance, but good players back performances up." Argentine coach Daniel Hourcade must be encouraged that his team, who have battled playing as the Jaguares in Super Rugby this season, lifted their game dramatically. Santa Fe will host the second and final Test next Saturday. — AFP



SAN JUAN: England's scrum-half Danny Care (R) is tackled by Argentina's Los Pumas flanker Javier Ortega Desio during their Rugby Union test match at San Juan del Bicentenario stadium in San Juan, Argentina on Saturday. — AFP

SPRINGBOK LIONS HAILED AFTER PRESSURE-EASING WIN

JOHANNESBURG: Springboks Elton Jantjies, Ross Cronje, Malcolm Marx and Franco Mostert were praised yesterday in the South African media after a pressure-easing 37-14 Test victory over France.

The workmanlike success at Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria Saturday was only the second in nine internationals for coach Allister Coetzee.

There has been media speculation that a series loss to the French over three Tests would trigger the sacking of the 54-year-old handler.

After largely shunning players from the Golden Lions last year, despite them being the best of Super Rugby side from South Africa, Coetzee had a change of heart.

And City Press writer Simnikwe Xabanisa said the Coetzee u-turn paid off as fly-half Jantjies, scrum-half Cronje, hooker Marx and lock Mostert, all Lions, impressed. "Marx was pace and power personified, and showed a distributive side, giving the assist that put (centre Jesse) Kriel away for the opening try of the match," he wrote. "Jantjies kicked out once on the full early in the game, but after that he was his usual commanding self, directing traffic with authority.

"(Elton was) kicking well out of hand and at poles, kicking all his kicks at goal and standing his ground in defence. Xabanisa called the surprise selection of Mostert ahead of Western Stormers' Pieter-Steph du Toit a "masterstroke".

"This guy is simple—he makes his tackles, gets up off the floor quickly and avails himself for every carry. "Cronje was all composure with his distribution and capped his debut with a try. While the other debutants bristled with intent, they did not have quite the same influence."

City Press had several concerns about the Springboks, including defending in the wide areas and ball-carrying on attack.

"While their (defensive) structures were not exactly convincing out wide—where they were often breached—they made up for that with their attitude on the scramble.

"With the exception of the explosive Marx and forceful Siya Kolisi, they are still in the market for go-forward merchants and out-and-out strike runners."

Sunday Independent writer Jacques van der Westhuizen cautioned that the four-tries-to-two win does not mean the Springboks were impressive or the finished article. "They were far from it last night. They were simply a little better than their opponents," he wrote.

"The standout feature of the Boks performance was their impressive defensive display—they were put under serious pressure at times and stood up well. "(Winger) Raymond Rhule was excellent throughout in this department, while the exit kicking of Jantjies was also a feature of the performance." South Africa play France again next Saturday in Durban with the final Test on June 24 in Johannesburg. — AFP



PRETORIA: France captain and lock Yoann Maestri (L) and South Africa's lock Franco Mostert reach for the ball in a line out during the first rugby union Test match between South Africa and France at the Loftus Versfeld Arena in Pretoria on Saturday. — AFP

TWINS PITCHER NIK TURLEY FINALLY GETS CHANCE AT MLB DEBUT

SAN FRANCISCO: Nik Turley never considered it might be time to walk away from his major league dreams for good.

Nobody would have blamed him if he did, given his long, "bumpy" baseball journey that included 2016 stints in the Dominican Winter League and independent ball. "I never thought that was it," he said, matter-of-factly, while settling into his space in the Twins clubhouse Saturday. It will be Turley's time at last on Sunday, his major league debut for Minnesota at age 27 and in his 10th professional season - right at home in his native California, too.

While he would be thrilled to be pitching in any ballpark for this long-awaited moment, this is about as ideal a scenario as he could have scripted. And

he has a chance to help the Twins to a three-game sweep. "That's everyone's goal that picks up a baseball and a mitt when they're a kid," Turley said.

"The journey, it's been a long one, it feels like, it's been pretty bumpy, too. It's special, everything about it. I wouldn't change too much about it. I just believed in myself."

The big left-hander and former 50th-round draft pick by the Yankees will face his former San Francisco organization with family and friends flying in to watch him pitch at AT&T Park. Turley was signed as a minor league free agent last October and has pitched between Triple-A and Double-A this season, going 1-3 with a 2.05 ERA over 12 outings with 84 strikeouts and 15 walks.

Turley's parents were set to fly in from the Los Angeles area for what is expected to be more than a one-start stay in the big leagues.

"I think everybody that's around the game enjoys those stories when they come up," Minnesota manager Paul Molitor said. "For a guy to be drafted in a round that is now non-existent and to find his way onto a map with a couple of clubs, including 40-man stints, and then having to go through some things and fight his way back through independent ball, it was a good find for us, obviously."

The Twins discussed depth way back in spring training and Molitor had the chance to say a quick hello to Turley then. Yet the manager noted, "I don't think he was really on anybody's radar at

that point, but he put himself in a position by going out there and doing what he needs to do."

Molitor planned to talk to Turley and remind him not to put added pressure on himself, mentioning "the old Hoosiers moment," a reference to the basketball movie about a small-town Indiana team winning the state basketball championship. Giants starter Jeff Samardzija, who took a 3-2 loss to Minnesota on Saturday, credited Turley's perseverance.

"That's really impressive. Resiliency in this game is a very important attribute and I think as long as you know and have confidence in yourself that you have the skills to do it and you just need the time and need the practice, a lot of time these guys go and play a handful of

years in the minor leagues

or independent ball and something clicks," Samardzija said. "That's why this game's such a great game. It just takes a little bit of confidence and a little adjustment here or there and you can see a guy's career take off." Turley understood why he didn't get his chance to come up with the Giants in 2015, when he pitched at Triple-A Sacramento and Class A San Jose. He still knows some players with San Francisco and has fond memories of that year, his first time pitching in his home state since high school. "Their rotation was pretty stacked," Turley said. "They had a whole lot of talent. We had a lot of good players on our team, too. The opportunities didn't happen. Sometimes that happens." — AP



CHICAGO: Mark Reynolds #12 of the Colorado Rockies hits a home run against the Chicago Cubs during the fourth inning on Saturday at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

BASEBALL

ROCKIES BEAT CUBS FOR 7TH STRAIGHT WIN

CHICAGO: Mark Reynolds and Charlie Blackmon homered, rookie Jeff Hoffman pitched neatly into the seventh inning and the Colorado Rockies won their seventh straight game, beating the Chicago Cubs 9-1 Saturday. The Cubs lost their fourth in a row, dropping the World Series champions to 30-31. Reynolds had four hits, including his 17th homer, and Nolan Arenado had a three-run double during a five-run ninth inning. The Rockies, who have the best record in the NL, improved to 24-10 on the road. One of four rookies in the Rockies' rotation, the 24-year-old Hoffman (4-0) allowed one run and struck out eight in 6 1/3 innings. Four Colorado relievers kept Chicago scoreless the rest of the way. Cubs starter Eddie Butler (3-2) pitched five innings and gave up three runs on six hits in his first outing against his former team.

YANKEES 16, ORIOLES 3

Rookie Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 19th home run and New York connected five times in all, battering Chris Tillman and Baltimore for its fourth straight win. Starlin Castro, Gary Sanchez, Didi Gregorius and Matt Holliday also homered in New York's biggest offensive show this season. The first-place Yankees have outscored Boston and Baltimore, their closest competitors in the AL East, by 41-6 during their winning streak. Luis Severino (5-2) pitched seven sharp innings, giving up one run and two hits. He struck out eight walked two. Tillman (1-4) was tagged for nine runs in only 1 1/3 innings. He got two quick outs to

begin the first before Judge's homer began a six-run burst.

**METS 6, BRAVES 1, GAME 1
METS 8, BRAVES 1, GAME 2**

Steven Matz pitched seven impressive innings in his season debut, Jay Bruce hit a three-run homer and New York beat Atlanta to sweep a doubleheader. Yoenis Cespedes made a smashing return in the first game, hitting a grand slam to celebrate his return to the lineup following a six-week stint on the disabled list. Matz (1-0), appearing in a big league game for first time since last Aug. 14, gave up five hits, one run and one walk. The left-hander struck out two, holding the Braves scoreless until the seventh. Matt Wilser (0-1) gave up six hits, four runs and three walks in six innings in the second game. He struck out seven in making his first start of the season. Robert Gsellman (5-3) won his third straight start. He gave up three hits, two walks and struck out four in 6 2/3 scoreless innings. Sean Newcomb (0-1) lost in his major league debut despite allowing just one unearned run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked two.

RED SOX 11, TIGERS 3

Boston's Chris Sale outlasted Detroit's Justin Verlander to win his seventh straight decision in a matchup of big-name pitchers. Mitch Moreland's tiebreaking, two-run double sparked a three-run seventh inning and Boston added five more in the eighth for its

second straight late-inning win over the Tigers. The Red Sox have won 13 of 19. Sale (8-2) pitched seven solid innings, giving up three runs on nine hits, striking out seven without issuing a walk. Verlander was gone with high pitch count after five, allowing three runs and four walks with three strikeouts after leaving his previous start following two innings with a tight right groin. Detroit has lost four of five. With runners on first and second, Moreland doubled off the Green Monster against Warwick Saupold (1-1). Josh Rutledge added an RBI single.

DODGERS 5, REDS 4

Corey Seager delivered a run-scoring double in the bottom of the ninth to allow Los Angeles to overcome a three-run homer from Devin Mesoraco and earn a victory over Cincinnati. It was Seager's second double and it made a loser of reliever Drew Storen (1-2), who allowed two one-out singles in the ninth. Kenley Jansen (4-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the victory. The Dodgers built a 4-1 lead but saw it come undone when manager Dave Roberts replaced starter Alex Wood with two on and two outs in the sixth with reliever Josh Fields.

RANGERS 6, NATIONALS 3, 11 INNINGS

Robinson Chirinos nearly put Texas ahead during a ninth-inning rally that tied it, then hit a three-run homer in the 11th. Texas scored twice in the ninth to make it 3-all. Chirinos' bid for a tiebreaking sacrifice fly was thwarted by Washington right fielder Bryce Harper, who made a strong throw to nail a runner at the plate. Washington almost won it in the bottom of the ninth. With two outs, Trea Turner bunted with a man at third, but pinch-runner Wilmer Difo hesitated going home and was quickly tagged out. Pinch-hitter Joey Gallo doubled with two outs in the Texas 11th off Shawn Kelley (3-2). Following an intentional walk to Nomar Mazara, Chirinos drove a fastball just over the left-field wall. Keone Kela (3-1) went two innings as the below-.500 Rangers beat the NL East leaders for the second straight day.

ASTROS 3, ANGELS 1

Mike Fiers had another solid start and Brian McCann homered to lead Houston over Los Angeles. Fiers (4-2) allowed a season-low two hits and one run, which was unearned, in a season-high 7 1/3 innings, to get his third straight win after managing just one win in his first nine starts. Ken Giles walked one and struck out three in a scoreless ninth for his 16th save. McCann put Houston up 1-0 with his solo shot to right field off Ricky Nolasco (2-7) with one out in the second. That hit gave the Astros at least one homer in 18 straight games, which

ties a franchise record set in 2000.

**RAYS 6, ATHLETICS 5, GAME 1
ATHLETICS 7, RAYS 2, GAME 2**

Sean Manaea won his fifth consecutive start to help Oakland split a rare scheduled doubleheader with Tampa Bay. Tampa Bay won the opener on Evan Longoria's RBI single in the 10th inning that completed a 3-hour, 56-minute game. The split came in the majors' first scheduled doubleheader since 2011. Manaea (6-3) allowed two runs and six hits over seven innings. He was supported by home runs from Josh Phegley, Ryan Healy and Chad Pinder. Austin Pruitt (5-1) won in relief and Liam Hendriks (2-1) took the loss in the opener. Rays Game 2 starter Matt Andriese lasted one inning before departing with a groin strain, the same injury that put him on the 10-day disabled list May 31. Chih-Wei Hu (0-1) replaced Andriese and gave up one run - Phegley's shot in the second - over four innings.

WHITE SOX 5, INDIANS 3

David Holmberg allowed two runs in five innings for his first win in two years, Jose Abreu had an RBI single in a three-run first and Chicago defeated Cleveland. Holmberg (1-0) recorded his first victory since July 30, 2015 when he pitched for Cincinnati against Pittsburgh. The left-hander was making his third start and 11th appearance of the season. Josh Tomlin (3-8) allowed four runs - three earned - and nine hits in 2 2/3 innings as the Indians lost for the fifth time in seven games.

BLUE JAYS 4, MARINERS 2

Ezequiel Carrera led off the eighth inning with his fifth homer of the season to break a 2-all tie, Kendrys Morales and Justin Smoak each added long balls and Toronto beat Seattle. Morales' two-run shot in the fourth inning, his 12th of the season, stood as Toronto's only hit until the seventh. After Seattle pulled even at 2-all, Carrera drove a sinker from Tony Zych (2-2) that stayed in the middle of the plate deep to right field, generating a huge roar from the thousands of Toronto fans in town for the weekend series. Toronto starter Marcus Stroman (7-2) was outstanding, winning his sixth straight decision. Stroman allowed one earned run in seven innings, and it took the help of two errors on one play for Seattle to score its second run and pull even. Roberto Osuna pitched the ninth for his 15th save.

CARDINALS 7, PHILLIES 0

Carlos Martinez struck out 11 in a complete-game shutout and St. Louis beat Philadelphia. Martinez (5-5) allowed four hits and walked one in his first complete game and

first shutout of his career. Martinez's 101st pitch of the game was a 100 mph fastball that struck out Howie Kendrick for the second out in the ninth. Nick Pivetta (1-3), making his sixth career start, allowed four runs and four hits in five innings, with four walks and two strikeouts.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, BREWERS 2

Zack Godley allowed two hits over 6 2/3 innings, Brandon Drury hit the go-ahead two-run home run and Arizona beat Milwaukee. Rey Fuentes tripled and scored for the Diamondbacks, who had their nine-game home winning streak snapped in a loss to the Brewers on Friday. Godley (2-1) allowed two runs, struck out four, walked one and hit a batter. Fernando Rodney earned his 16th save in 19 tries. Junior Guerra (1-1) permitted three runs and five hits in six innings in a strong outing for Milwaukee.

PIRATES 7, MARLINS 6

Jordy Mercer hit a tying two-run triple in the eighth and John Jaso followed with a go-ahead double, lifting Pittsburgh over Miami. Mercer's drive to center off reliever David Phelps (2-3) scored Andrew McCutchen and Elias Diaz, then Mercer scored on Jaso's ground-rule double to right. Marlins star Giancarlo Stanton was hit by a pitch on the wrist in the first inning and left the game. The team said X-rays were negative and that Stanton is day-to-day with a bruised wrist. Daniel Hudson (1-2) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win. Felipe Rivero got four outs for his first save.

TWINS 3, GIANTS 2

Brian Dozier and Kennys Vargas hit home runs, leading Jose Berrios and Minnesota over San Francisco. Berrios (5-1) struck out eight over 5 1/3 innings to win his second straight start, both on this road trip. The right-hander escaped a bases-loaded jam in the third. After Denard Span's double and walks to Brandon Belt and Buster Posey, Berrios struck out Brandon Crawford and Hunter Pence. Brandon Kintzler, the Twins' third reliever, finished with a 1-2-3 ninth for his 17th save in 18 chances. Jeff Samardzija (2-8) struck out six and walked one over six innings.

ROYALS 12, PADRES 6

Lorenzo Cain hit two homers, including a grand slam that capped a nine-run rally in the eighth inning that sent Kansas City over San Diego. The Royals trailed 5-3 when Cain led off the eighth with an infield single. Eric Hosmer and Salvador Perez followed with home runs off Brad Hand (1-4) to put Kansas City ahead. Reliever Travis Wood (1-2) won in relief. — AP

MLB results/standings

LA Dodgers 5, Cincinnati 4; Arizona 3, Milwaukee 2; Toronto 4, Seattle 2; NY Yankees 16 Baltimore 3; Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 3; Boston 11, Detroit 3; Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 2; NY Mets 8, Atlanta 1; Kansas City 12, San Diego 6; Houston 3, LA Angels 1; Pittsburgh 7, Miami 6; Minnesota 3, San Francisco 2; Colorado 9, Chicago Cubs 1; St. Louis 7, Philadelphia 0;

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	38	23	.623
NY Yankees	36	23	.610	NY Mets	27	33	.450
Boston	34	27	.557	Miami	27	34	.443
Baltimore	31	29	.517	Atlanta	27	34	.443
Tampa Bay	33	32	.508	Philadelphia	21	39	.350
Toronto	30	32	.484	7.5			
Central Division				Central Division			
Minnesota	32	26	.552	Milwaukee	33	30	.52
Cleveland	30	29	.508	Chicago Cubs	30	31	.492
Detroit	29	32	.475	Cincinnati	29	32	.475
Kansas City	27	34	.443	St. Louis	28	32	.467
Chicago White Sox	26	34	.433	Pittsburgh	27	35	.435
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	44	19	.698	Colorado	41	23	.641
LA Angels	32	33	.492	LA Dodgers	38	25	.603
Seattle	31	32	.492	Arizona	38	26	.594
Texas	29	32	.475	San Francisco	25	39	.391
Oakland	27	35	.435	San Diego	24	39	.381

MELLOWER GREEN PLAYING THIS GAME FIVE AFTER 2016 BAN

OAKLAND: Golden State Warriors starting forward Draymond Green won't be stuck watching game five of the NBA Finals from the stadium next door this year. The outspoken 27-year-old will try to help the Warriors, who lead this year's best-of-seven series 3-1, defeat the defending champion Cleveland Cavaliers today in Oakland to capture the crown. Last year, the Warriors also led 3-1 but Green was banned from the pivotal matchup after striking Cleveland star LeBron James in the groin in game four.

The visiting Cavaliers won game five with Green watching on TV from a luxury box in the baseball stadium beside the arena, awaiting a celebration that

would never come. Cleveland won games six and seven to cap the greatest comeback in NBA Finals history and dethrone the Warriors.

A mellowed Green has learned the lessons from that frustration and while not above chatting to a referee, was whistled for fewer flagrant fouls this season. "I don't really carry it with me. I'm a firm believer in (stuff) happens," Green said. "I carried the lessons that I learned with me. It has put me in the position I am today. I feel better than I've ever felt emotionally. Just having my emotions in place than I've ever felt."

"So it's all things that happen bad aren't that bad, when you take a step

back and look at them. It's something that I learned from and will stick with me for the rest of my life."

And having a game five at home opens a chance at redemption and securing a crown with his work on the court. "We have a golden opportunity going home on Monday to close this thing out," Green said. "I've won one on the road. I want to see how it feels to win at home. We have to come out with some fire and try it get done."

"Thank God I get to play in game five." Green did get whistled for a technical foul in game four Friday for a flailing arm, what was momentarily thought to be an ejecting offense as a second tech-

nical. But the scorer recorded a technical foul on Warriors coach Steve Kerr as on Green so when it was discovered, Green was allowed to stay.

'CAN'T FOOL ME TWICE'

Such moments bring questions about Green's mental improvement, ones Green shrugged off earlier in the series. "You act like I'm just this troubled guy who's been in a bunch of trouble and can't control myself," Green said.

"I've just been playing basketball. And when you've got great teammates like I do who allow me to play with my emotions and be emotional when I'm talking to them, to use my emotions to

the better for us, it's easy.

"Not worrying about the officials and all that. I think everyone talks to officials. I talk to them. But going over the edge isn't going to win me a championship. I think I'm a pretty smart guy and I learned my lesson. So I went over the edge before-fool me once, you can't fool me twice." Green had 16 points and 14 rebounds in a losing cause in game four, when play became more physical than it had been in the series.

"We'll bounce back," Green said. "We never felt like we were out of the game. We continued to push. We were right there. A couple of shots drop, maybe the game turns. We'll be fine." — AFP



MADRID: In this May 8, 2017, file photo, Maria Sharapova hits a return to Eugenie Bouchard, of Canada, during a Madrid Open tennis tournament match in Madrid, Spain. Sharapova has pulled out of Wimbledon qualifying because of an injured left thigh. — AP

TENNIS

INJURED SHARAPOVA OUT OF WIMBLEDON

LONDON: Maria Sharapova withdrew from Wimbledon on Saturday after failing to recover from a thigh injury, dealing another blow to the superstar's bid to rebuild her career following a doping ban. The 30-year-old Russian, who was champion at the All England Club in 2004, was due to play in the qualifying event in the hope of making the main draw. "After an additional scan, the muscle tear that I sustained in Rome will unfortunately not allow me to compete in the grass court tournaments I was scheduled to play," she said in a statement.

"I will continue to work on my recovery and my next scheduled tournament is in Stanford from July 31."

The former world number one returned from a 15-month doping ban in April but has relied on wildcards to get into tournaments because her world ranking points expired while she was banned.

At the moment the five-time Grand Slam title winner is ranked at 178. She was initially banned for two years for using melatonin, with the penalty later reduced by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which ruled she was not an intentional doper. After her ban expired, Sharapova returned to competition in April at the Stuttgart Open, reaching the semi-finals, and progressed to the last 32 of the Madrid Open. She failed to earn a qualifying spot for the French Open and was then denied a wild card into the main draw by Roland Garros organisers despite being a two-time champion.

On the same day, she suffered the thigh injury which has now sidelined her from Wimbledon for a second successive season. Bruised by the Roland Garros snub, Sharapova decided not to request a Wimbledon wildcard, deciding instead to take her chances in three rounds of qualifying. She was still controversially handed a wildcard for the WTA grasscourt event in Birmingham later this month, a key warm-up for Wimbledon. But the injury she suffered in the Rome claycourt event in May has scuppered her plans, leaving her to probably hope for a wild card into the US Open, the season's final Grand Slam event.

She was champion in New York in 2006. "I want to thank the LTA (Britain's Lawn Tennis Association) for their amazing support on my return and providing me with a Birmingham wild card, a tournament which I hope many of you will be able to attend," Sharapova added in her statement.

"I look forward to meeting you there next year." Only two weeks ago, Wimbledon decided that the qualifying event, held at nearby Roehampton, would be broadcast for the first time. However, a spokeswoman for the All England Lawn Tennis Club, the tournament organisers, told AFP that this was one of several "long-planned" changes and not a decision made in response to the added interest in the event caused by Sharapova's presence.

Qualifying is also to be ticketed for the first time. — AFP

BASKETBALL

INTENSITY GROWS AS WARRIORS ON THE BRINK, CAVS ON EDGE

OAKLAND: Emotions are running high in the NBA Finals, with superstars LeBron James and Kevin Durant exchanging heated words while Golden State and Cleveland are locked in a familiar tension-packed position.

The Warriors lead defending champion Cleveland 3-1 in the best-of-seven series and can capture their second crown in three years by winning today before a home crowd.

But the Cavaliers staved off elimination by ripping Golden State 137-116 in game four, sinking a record 24 3-pointers and scoring the most points in any half (86) or quarter (49) in finals history. "That's part of who we are," James said. "We set a lot of records since we assembled this team the last couple years." Both sides know the history, the Warriors squandering a 3-1 series lead last year as the Cavaliers made the greatest comeback in finals history to win Cleveland's first major sports title in 52 years.

It's a bitter memory for the Warriors, who seek redemption. It's an encouraging one for the Cavaliers, trying to be the first team to rally from 3-0 down to win a playoff series. No finals team down 3-0 has even forced a seventh game since 1951. And it's all getting to be a bit much for James. "I don't like it. It causes too much stress," James said. "I'm stressed out. Keep doing this every year. We've just got some resilient guys." James and Durant received technical fouls in the third quarter after yelling at each other, two of seven technicals issued in the game, five in a raucous third quarter. "The game is supposed to be played physically," James said. "Both teams were wanting to put themselves in the record books and in basketball history. So try to do whatever it takes to win." Durant was concerned abundant foul calls were draining the passion from the moment.

"We weren't coming to blows. We were just talking. That's a part of basketball," Durant said. "It's like the aura of the game created trash talk. "I'm sure it's going to continue. There's nothing malicious. Emotions are what keeps this game alive." Altercations are nearing the point of getting out of hand, said Warriors forward Draymond Green, who missed last year's fifth finals game after a suspension for striking James in the groin. "I think it did a little bit (get out of hand)," Green said of game four. "The longer the series goes on, the more stuff like that happens."

'AREN'T GOING TO PUNK US'

Don't expect Cleveland forward Tristan



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James speaks early Saturday, in Cleveland after the Cavaliers defeated the Golden State Warriors 137-116 in Game 4 of basketball's NBA Finals. — AP

Thompson to back down either. "It's The Finals. Guys are going to talk," he said. "We're going to respond but they aren't going to punk us. Not me. Talk all you want but I'm definitely going to bark back. That's just how I'm built."

While it brings out fouls and anger, the energy also produces some of the trademark thrills the NBA Finals is known for.

"It's The Finals and everyone is heated. Everyone wants to win," Cavs guard J.R. Smith said. "All the energy is going to something positive. I would hope." With the chance go 16-0 in the playoffs and become the first NBA club with a perfect post-season run, Warriors guards Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson struggled.

But Curry shakes off similarities to last year, in part after adding Durant, who came from Oklahoma City last July in hopes of winning his first career title.

"Different team," Curry said. "Obviously we have haven't felt this feeling walking off the court with a loss in a while, but we've done a good job of bouncing back and being resilient

all year. "We need to play better, to have a better first punch in that first six minutes, to play with more force and aggressiveness and physicality. Going home is a good feeling, but it has to go with playing better."

'NOW WE HAVE TO CAPITALIZE'

James, in his seventh consecutive finals, has won at least one road game in 29 consecutive playoff series, but for the streak to continue, the Cavs must win today. "We have to be physical at the point of attack. We got to continue to move the ball, share the ball," James said. "We want to put ourselves in position to play another game."

The Warriors know all-too well how quickly 3-1 finals leads can vanish. "We felt great about last year up 3-1," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We're in a great spot and now we have to capitalize. But last year is last year, this year is this year." Cavs coach Tyrone Lue has the same approach he adopted last year. "We have to come back home," he said. "So we might as well come back with a win." — AFP

CRICKET

STOKES CAN 'GO THROUGH ROOF' AFTER DOWNING AUSTRALIA: MORGAN

BIRMINGHAM: Eoin Morgan said the potential of Ben Stokes is "through the roof" after having the best view in the house as the all-rounder's stunning century helped England knock Australia out of the Champions Trophy.

England, already through to the semi-finals of a tournament featuring the world's top eight one-day international sides, were reeling at 35 for three chasing a target of 278 at Edgbaston on Saturday. But in a match their arch-rivals had to win to join them in the last four, Stokes, with an ODI best 102 not out, and England captain Morgan (87) put on 159 for the fourth wicket at better than a run-a-ball.

By the time a second rain interruption saw the game called off, England were 240 for four off 40.2 overs and won by 40 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.

A previous rain break gave Morgan and Stokes time to assess their approach after a top-

order collapse threatened to undo England's earlier good work in restricting Australia to 277 for nine, with fast bowler Mark Wood taking an ODI best four for 33 and leg-spinner Adil Rashid four for 41. When the match resumed, Morgan hit boundaries off the first two balls he faced from Australia spearhead Mitchell Starc, part of a sequence of five fours in 11 balls. "We felt that the positive way was the best way," Morgan told reporters of the chat he'd had with Stokes shortly before the match got underway again.

"It managed to work, we did it in our own way." He added: "So I did what I do, and obviously Ben's very naturally aggressive and finds attacking quite easy."

'SMARTS'

Turning to fellow left-handed batsman Stokes, now one of the hottest properties in world cricket after an impressive debut season in

the Twenty20 Indian Premier League, Morgan said: "His potential is through the roof. He's always looking to influence the game-bat, ball, or even in the field."

"A lot of guys with potential like that, when things aren't going (their) way, back into a corner-but that's not Ben."

Australia captain Steve Smith, who skipped England in IPL franchise Rising Pune Supergiant, added: "I always thought he was a good player. He's an incredibly strong lad and hits the ball very hard. "I think he's probably developed some smarts... He's certainly a quality player, and he's in exceptional form at the moment."

For Australia, this result meant both they and New Zealand, the team they beat in 2015 ODI World Cup final, exited the Champions Trophy without winning a game.

Smith's men came into Saturday's match having suffered frustrating no result washouts in their previous Group A fixtures, with a combination of this result and Bangladesh's win over New Zealand on Friday taking the Tigers into the last four alongside England.

Aaron Finch (68) and Smith (56) both got out when well set, with Travis Head's unbeaten 71 insufficient to get Australia to a par score of 300. Smith denied a lack of time in the middle had been responsible for Australia's comprehensive defeat. "You say that we only had one hit, but that should be good enough for the players that we've got on our team," he insisted. "I thought we let ourselves down a little bit," added Smith, whose time in England has been overshadowed by an increasingly bitter contract dispute between Cricket Australia and their players.

"We got ourselves into a pretty good position early with the bat. But someone in the top four probably needed to go on and make a hundred." Meanwhile Smith lamented the "freebies" his bowlers has dished out to Morgan and Stokes during a "momentum shift" after the initial rain break. "When you're playing in a big tournament for your country, you need to step up and get the job done. "We just didn't turn up the way I would have liked after the (rain) break." — AFP



BIRMINGHAM: England's Ben Stokes celebrates reaching 100 during the ICC Champions Trophy match between England and Australia at Edgbaston in Birmingham, central England on Saturday. Australia made 277 for 9 off their 50 overs. — AFP

PREVIEW

PAKISTAN AND SRI LANKA SET FOR CHAMPIONS 'Q-FINAL'

CARDIFF: Pakistan and Sri Lanka head into their concluding group Champions Trophy group match knowing it's a virtual 'quarter-final' after producing two of the tournament's biggest upsets so far.

Monday's match in Cardiff has the look of a 'dead rubber' about it after Pakistan suffered a 124-run thrashing by arch-rivals and Champions Trophy title-holders India in their opening Group B match.

But now, in the words of Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews, the final round of fixtures in this pool are a "must-win game for all of us in the group".

Sri Lanka too suffered an almost as heavy a loss in going down by 96 runs to South Africa first up in a tournament featuring the world's top eight one-day international teams.

But Pakistan bounced back to beat top-ranked South Africa by 19 runs on Wednesday at Edgbaston—the ground where they had succumbed so to India just days earlier.

And 24 hours later, Sri Lanka had a winning return at the Oval courtesy of a stunning seven-wicket success against India.

Having conceded 319 for three against India, Pakistan restricted South Africa to 219 for eight.

After the spinners did the initial damage, paceman Hasan Ali took three for 24 in eight overs.

Babar Azam and Shoaib Malik then got Pakistan ahead of their required run-rate to secure a 19-run win under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method when rain stopped play with their side 119 for three off 27 overs. Trying to explain the turnaround in

his team's fortunes, Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed said: "We had a good bowling meeting."

"We took wickets. If you take wickets, every good team feels under pressure."

Pakistan were also inspired by playing in front of a partisan crowd, something they have rarely enjoyed since a 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore led to them playing most of their major matches overseas.

"That is a feeling we miss, not playing in Pakistan," said Sarfraz. "Maybe that was a difference, the crowd was supporting us and that's why the players were boosted."

Sri Lanka too did not lack for support at the Oval as they turned the tables on India in dramatic fashion.

Set 322 to win, Sri Lanka knocked off the runs with eight balls to spare thanks to contributions from Kusal Mendis (89), Danushka Gunathilaka (76) and all-rounder Mathews (52).

"It's one of the top wins, to beat India," said Mathews. "The bowlers did brilliantly to restrict India to 321. It was a very chaseable target."

"Not many people expected us to win and that took a lot of pressure off us."

Today's match is the only Group B fixture taking place in Cardiff. Pakistan do have some recent knowledge of the ground beaten England there by four wickets in a one-day international last year.

Left-arm spinner Imad Wasim starred with both bat and ball in that Cardiff clash and he will hope for more success upon on his return 'home'—he was born in the nearby town of Swansea. — AFP

NIGERIA, IVORY COAST, ZAMBIA SUFFER SHOCK LOSSES

ABUJA: Former African champions Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Zambia all lost at home Saturday on a day of upsets in the first qualifying round for the 2019 Cup of Nations.

Three-time champions Nigeria lost a competitive game against South Africa for the first time when they fell 2-0 in the southern Nigerian town of Uyo in Group E. While in Group H the Ivory Coast, who had vowed to win in memory of former team-mate Cheick Tiote, who collapsed and died in China this week, slumped 3-2 to fellow west Africans Guinea in

Bouake. Zambia, champions in 2012, fell 1-0 at home to a daring Mozambican side in Group K.

New South Africa coach Stuart Baxter labelled his team the underdogs going by their poor head-to-head record against Nigeria. But goals by Tokelo Rantie and substitute Percy Tau in the second half sunk the home team and the visitors were unlucky not to have scored more goals in the Group E clash.

"My young team tried their best, there was a mistake for the first goal and the second goal was a gift," admitted

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr. Libya top Group E after a 5-1 spanking of Seychelles on Friday in Cairo, Egypt.

In Bouake, the Elephants of Ivory Coast went down to Guinea despite a brace by Seydou Doumbia. Germany-based striker Naby Keita fired the winner for Guinea in the 79th minute.

Zambia also got off to a losing start on the road to Cameroon 2019 when they lost for the first time to Mozambique at home.

Stanley Ratifo grabbed the last-gasp match winner when he stabbed home a

low cross. Before then, Chipolopolo goalkeeper and captain Kennedy Mweene had to pull off a point-blank save to deny the visitors.

Guinea-Bissau, shock qualifiers for the 2017 Cup of Nations, edged past Namibia thanks to a Jerson goal on 24 minutes in the other Group K fixture.

Cameroon and Malawi both won in Group B. Reigning champions Cameroon pipped Morocco 1-0 in Yaounde while Malawi beat the Comoros by the same scoreline in Blantyre.

In Group I, the Zebras of Botswana

lost 1-0 to Mauritania in front of their fans in Francistown after they failed to put away many chances.

This gutsy contest was decided on 78 minutes when substitute Abdoulaye Soudani controlled a long ball before firing past the Botswana goalkeeper.

Hosts Burkina Faso won the other Group I tie against Angola 3-1 with big striker Aristide Bance bagging a brace. Burundi beat South Sudan 3-0 in Group C with Mali fought back from a goal down to beat Gabon 2-1 in Bamako in the other group game. — AFP

LEWANDOWSKI HAT TRICK KEEPS POLAND ON COURSE FOR WCUP

WARSAW: Robert Lewandowski hit a hat trick and stretched his 11-game run of scoring in successive World Cup qualifiers as Poland consolidated its lead in Group E by beating Romania 3-1 on Saturday.

Lewandowski made no mistake from the penalty spot before the half-hour mark after he had been fouled by Cristian Sapunaru, then claimed his 10th goal of this campaign with a header from open play. He completed his hat trick with another penalty just after the hour, after Alin Tosca fouled Piotr Zielinski.

Bogdan Stancu pulled one back with a brilliant finish for Romania but Poland never looked likely to drop to its first defeat as it restored its six-point lead in the group. Lewandowski took his tally for this campaign to 11 goals, level with Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo.

Group winners from the nine groups qualify automatically for the 32-team World Cup in Russia, while the eight runners-up with the best records against the sides first, third, fourth and fifth in their groups go on to play-offs to decide the other four tournament places allocated to Europe.

KAZAKHSTAN 1, DENMARK 3

Denmark maintained its push for a play-off place with a comfortable win in Almaty, where the home captain Bauryzhan Islamkhan was sent off with a straight red card before the break. Nicolai Jorgensen opened the scoring for the Danes before

Islamkhan was sent off for a foul on William Kvist. Kazakhstan's task was made even harder early in the second half when Yuri Logvinenko conceded a penalty for a foul on Yussuf Poulsen.

Christian Eriksen duly scored from the spot, and though Islambek Kuat pulled one back on a counterattack, Danish substitute Kasper Dolberg ended any hopes of a comeback with his side's third.

Denmark stayed third, level on 10 points with Montenegro.

MONTENEGRO 4, ARMENIA 1

Montenegro captain Stevan Jovovic scored a hat trick and set up another goal to steer his side to an impressive win that keeps it in pole position for second place.

Jovovic got the hosts off to a great start when he set up Fatos Beciraj in the second minute, then made it 2-0 with low shot from edge of box and struck his second after the break.

Jovovic completed his hat trick with a brilliant scissors kick late on, before Ruslan Koryan scored a consolation of sorts for Armenia. Montenegro, which needed Danijel Petkovic to deny Marcos Pizzelli an equalizer after Beciraj scored, avenged its 3-2 defeat to Armenia in Yerevan last November.

Montenegro moved back ahead of Denmark on goal difference, while Armenia stayed fifth on six points, level with Romania in fourth on goal difference. — AP

DROGBA SCORES IN DEBUT WITH AMERICAN SIDE

SCOTTSDALE: It wasn't in front of tens of thousands at London's famed Stamford Bridge, nor the masses inside World Cup venues of years past. But Didier Drogba's presence on the pitch before a sellout crowd of 7,062 in 100-degree heat at an American second-division facility Saturday night still created a buzz.

Drogba, wearing No. 11 in red and the captain's armband, made his playing debut for USL side Phoenix Rising FC about two months after agreeing to join the club as player and part owner. He looked sharp from the start and rewarded the crowd and those watching around the world online with the game's opening goal in the 40th minute. Drogba headed a cross from teammate Amadou Dia into the net, the ball deflecting off the hands of Vancouver Whitecaps 2 goalkeeper Sean Melvin. The 39-year-old celebrated his first goal of the season by sprinting to a corner flag and basking in the embraces of his teammates.

He later assisted on what proved to be the winner, stealing the ball at midfield and passing to former Chelsea teammate Shaun Wright-Phillips for Rising's second goal in the 77th minute. Phoenix defeated the Canadian club 2-1 in a regular season league match.

"Nothing different," he said when asked about his debut compared to others. "The game is still the beautiful game and I want to enjoy it, and I was enjoying today, and that's the most important thing for me."

Phoenix has a team in every major American sports league except Major League Soccer, and every previous attempt at establishing and maintaining a professional club in the area has failed.

There is a different feeling with Phoenix Rising, and having a legend like Drogba intensifies the positive vibes among fans. The Ivory Coast native was first introduced to Phoenix soccer fans at halftime of a game on April 23, promising to help in the team's quest to become an MLS franchise.

That night, it was announced that Drogba needed several weeks to get himself into playing shape, and five missed games later, Drogba was ready. He played the full 90 minutes of the match.



PHOENIX: Didier Drogba #11 of Phoenix Rising FC dribbles by Ben McKendry #30 of Vancouver Whitecaps II in the second half of the match at Phoenix Rising Soccer Complex on Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona. The Phoenix Rising FC won 2-1. — AFP



KINGSTON: Usain Bolt (C) of Jamaica reacts after winning his final race in home country during the Racers Grand Prix at the national stadium in Kingston, Jamaica, on Saturday. Bolt partied with his devoted fans in an emotional farewell at the National Stadium on June 10 as he ran his final race on Jamaican soil. Bolt is retiring in August following the London World Championships. — AFP

ATHLETICS

BOLT SHAKES OFF NERVES TO WIN FINAL RACE ON JAMAICAN SOIL

KINGSTON: Usain Bolt partied with his devoted fans in an emotional farewell at the National Stadium on Saturday as the world's fastest man ran his final race on Jamaican soil. Bolt wanted to go out in a blaze of glory as he won the 100 metre "Salute to a Legend" race in front of a raucous crowd of 30,000 on the same track where he launched his international career at the world juniors in 2002. The 30-year-old Bolt leaped out of the blocks and cruised to victory in a time of 10.03, well below his world record time but good enough to beat a solid field.

"I don't think I have ever been that nervous to run the 100 metres," said Bolt, who is retiring in August following the World Championships. "Just the atmosphere and the people. The support they came out and gave me, it was really nerve-wracking." After the race the Bolt took a victory lap then returned to the track and the No. 5 lane where he kissed the finish line before flashing his signature lightning-bolt pose for the final time at home. "There is no words," Bolt said. "From world juniors to now I have always been getting great support from Jamaica."

"I never thought I would ever reach this height in track and field. My only aim was to be a 200 metre Olympic champion."

"I have done all I have done. Being a legend now is something big. But I couldn't have done it

without the support of my parents." The nine-time Olympic gold medalist Bolt did not run in the fastest 100 metre race of the evening, but his devoted fans didn't care. He ran in front of a sea of green and yellow clad Jamaican fans who showed their pride by dancing, waving flags and blowing vuvuzela horns while fireworks lit the sky. Bolt said the reception he received was larger and louder than he anticipated. "I never expected this. I knew it was going to be big but the stadium was jam-packed with people supporting me I appreciate that," he said. "To see everybody turn out shows that what I have done for the sport is a big deal to them."

Since this was his first race of 2017, Bolt said his biggest concern was just putting on a good show. The Jamaican speedster says his farewell season is more about saying thank you to his fans than trying to break his world records of 9.58 seconds in the 100 metres and 19.19 seconds in the 200 metres. Bolt was honoured during a 20 minute ceremony on the infield which was attended by his coach Glen Mills and Sebastian Coe, president of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

MAMMOTH CONTRIBUTION

Coe thanked Bolt saying, "Our words are modest but our thanks our mountainous."

SOCCER

ENGLAND DEFEAT VENEZUELA TO WIN U-20 WORLD CUP

SUWON: A first-half goal from Dominic Calvert-Lewin gave England a 1-0 win over Venezuela in the 2017 Under-20 World Cup final at Suwon World Cup Stadium yesterday and a first global title since 1966.

The Everton striker made the difference, though goalkeeper Freddie Woodman saved a second-half penalty from Adalberto Penaranda as the South Americans piled on the pressure in an open and entertaining clash in which both teams hit the woodwork.

England made most of the running in the first half though Venezuela looked dangerous in attacking areas. The European team had the first chance as Dominic Solanke took advantage of a defensive slip to enter the penalty area, but with just the goalkeeper to beat, the Liverpool striker did not make clean contact and shot against Wuilker Farinez's legs.

Ten minutes later, Ademola Lookman forced an acrobatic save from Farinez with a fierce drive from outside the area.

Venezuela came even closer moments later. Ronaldo Lucena's swerving free kick from more than 30 meters (33 yards) out swerved and beat a surprised Woodman, but bounced off the post.

Calvert-Lewin broke the deadlock 10 minutes before the break. The forward beat a defender to a free kick from Lewis Cook, had his first shot saved by Farinez and reacted quickly to put the rebound over the line from close range.

England, which arrived in South Korea without winning a game in this competition since 1997, was composed in possession in the first half but guilty of giving the ball away in the second. Six minutes into the second half, Venezuela, a country that has never appeared at the senior World Cup, should have drawn level. Sergio

Cordova looked certain to score a fifth goal of the tournament with the ball at his feet and just Woodman to beat but the goalkeeper came out quickly to block.

England then almost extended its lead out of nowhere. Josh Onomah's shot from well outside the area hit the crossbar before bouncing onto the goal line and away to safety. With 17 minutes remaining and Venezuela increasingly pushing forward, referee Bjorn Kuipers from the Netherlands pointed to the spot after Jake

"His contribution has been mammoth. A figure to all of us in his sport and I wish him the best of luck. "There is nowhere else I would rather be as president of IAAF than in this stadium with you tonight."

He said he plans to run the 100m at the London World Championships but he still has a lot of work to do to get ready. "My execution was bad and my start was poor," he said of Saturday's race. "It is my first race and I didn't expect anything spectacular. "I just wanted to come out here and put on a show for the crowd and thank them for the support."

In other events, Jamaica's Yohan Blake won the first 100 metre race of the evening as he clocked a 9.97 to hold off South Africa's Akani Simbine, who finished in 10 seconds flat. Bolt's time would have placed him third in Blake's heat.

South African Wayde Van Niekerk won the men's 200m with a world-leading time of 19.84 seconds. American Olympic gold medal winner Allyson Felix captured the women's 400 metres by finishing in a time of 50.52. British track star Mo Farah easily won the 3,000 metres running away from the pack to cross the finish line in a time of 7:41.20 while David Tarbei squeezed by fellow Kenyan and world record holder David Rudisha at the line to win the men's 800 metres in a time of 1:44.85. — AFP



SUWON: England's players celebrate with the trophy during the awards ceremony after winning the U-20 World Cup final football match between England and Venezuela in Suwon yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Power wins wild
IndyCar race at
Texas under caution



Bolt shakes off
nerves to win
final race on
Jamaican soil



MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017

ROCKIES BEAT CUBS FOR 7TH STRAIGHT WIN NADAL WINS 10TH FRENCH OPEN

Page 17



PARIS: Spain's Rafael Nadal, right, holds the trophy as he celebrates winning his tenth French Open title against Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka, left, in three sets, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1, during their men's final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France, yesterday. — AP

PARIS: His clay-court prowess as unassailable as ever, Rafael Nadal won his record 10th French Open title by dominating 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 in the final yesterday.

No other man or woman has won 10 championships at the same major in the Open era, which began in 1968. Call it a Perfect 10. The 31-year-old Nadal was overwhelmingly good from start to finish against Wawrinka - and over the past two weeks en route to La Decima, Spanish for "10th." Not only did Nadal win every set he played in the tournament, he dropped a total of only 35 games, the second fewest by any man on the way to any title at a Grand Slam tournament in the Open era with all matches being best-of-five-sets.

Along with improving to 10-0 in finals at Roland Garros, Nadal increased his career haul to 15 Grand Slam trophies, breaking a tie with Pete Sampras for second place in the history of men's tennis, behind only rival Roger Federer's 18.

It marked a stirring return to the top for Nadal at his preferred event and on his preferred surface: Over his career, he is 79-2 at the French Open and 102-2 in all best-of-five-set matches on clay. "I play my best at all events, but the feeling here is impossible to describe. It's impossible to compare it to another place," Nadal said. "The

nerves, the adrenaline, I feel on the court are impossible to compare to another feeling. This is the most important event in my career."

A year ago in Paris, Nadal surprisingly withdrew before the third round because of a wrist injury, making the announcement at a news conference while wearing a blue brace on his left arm and a look of resignation of his face. He couldn't bring himself to watch much of the rest of the 2016 French Open, he said, other than some doubles matches involving a good pal, and the singles final.

Finally back to full strength in the offseason, Nadal returned to work, reconstructing his forearm and redoubling his efforts to get back to his best.

Well, he sure proved to be precisely that Sunday, when the conditions were exactly to the liking of a guy who grew up on the island of Mallorca. The sun was shining, there was barely a trace of cloud in the bright blue sky and the temperature was about 85 degrees (30 Celsius).

Wawrinka is no slouch; he owns three major titles, including one from Roland Garros, and had never lost a Grand Slam final. But a five-set semifinal win Friday over No. 1-ranked Andy Murray must have taken something out of the 32-year-old from Switzerland, the oldest French

Open finalist since 1973. His shots didn't have their usual verve, his legs their usual spring.

After one point yesterday, Wawrinka bent over, leaning one arm on his racket and resting the other on a knee. When he netted a forehand to close a 14-stroke back-and-forth in the second set, he pounded his strings on his head several times. Later, he spiked his racket, then mangled it by breaking it over his knee, drawing a warning from the chair umpire.

Nadal has that way of wearing down opponents, physically and mentally. On this day, he was terrific. He won all 12 service games, made a mere 12 unforced errors, and won 94 total points to Wawrinka's 57.

When it ended, Nadal dropped to his back on the clay, then rose and briefly pulled his blue shirt over his face. He was again the champion, again unbeatable at the French Open. Nadal is no longer the 19-year-old he was when he won his first French Open title in his tournament debut in 2005, wearing long white pirate shorts, his flowing locks wrapped by a white headband, his sleeveless shirt revealing bulging biceps. The shorts are shorter, the hair more closely cropped, the shirt has sleeves. But his game? Somehow, better. — AP

RUTHLESS INDIA CRUISE INTO CHAMPIONS S-FINALS

LONDON: India swept into the Champions Trophy semi-finals and eliminated woeful South Africa as Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli inspired the holders' eight-wicket victory yesterday. Kohli's side avoided the embarrassment of an early exit as they survived a do or die showdown to advance from Group B in style. Having dismissed South Africa for 191, two-time champions India cruised home with 12 overs to spare at The Oval.

In-form opener Dhawan was the key figure with 78 from 83 balls, including 12 fours, while captain Kohli weighed in with a typically elegant 76. It was a nerveless performance from India, who had come under fire after failing to defend a total of 321 in their heavy defeat against Sri Lanka. India join England and Bangladesh in the semi-finals, with the remaining place in the last four going to the winner of today's Group B meeting between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Kohli's men will face Group A runners-up Bangladesh in Birmingham on Thursday as they bid to make the final for the fourth time. South Africa could have no complaints as they

limply departed the tournament after a second successive defeat.

They will need a far more determined effort to prosper when they face England in one-day and Test action shortly. Quinton de Kock's 53 was the only score of any substance from the spineless South Africans, who had three men run out in a wretched performance. AB De Villiers was especially culpable as he threw away his wicket for the third time in a miserable tournament for the South Africa captain. After the flurry of South African run outs, India were lucky not to follow suit at the start of their chase. Dhawan called for a single that was never on and David Miller narrowly missed the stumps with Rohit Sharma not even close to making his ground.

Sharma celebrated his escape by smashing a four and a six off successive balls from Kagiso Rabada.

Another aggressive shot from Sharma proved his downfall as a mistimed slog was caught behind by Quinton de Kock off Morne Morkel. Keen to avoid further costly mishaps,

India went conservative and scored only 37 from the first 10 overs.

But Kohli gradually began to take more risks and his pull to fine leg narrowly evaded the diving Morkel.

After driving Andile Phehlukwayo for a soaring six to reach 21, Kohli edged the same bowler towards Hashim Amla, but the slip fielder couldn't make a tough low catch.

With such a small target, India were never in danger of falling behind the run rate and Dhawan kept them on cruise control with some lusty blows off Imran Tahir.

Dhawan has been in fine form of late and he brought up his 29th ODI half century, and third in three matches, with a majestic four back down the ground. As the partnership between Dhawan and Kohli went past 100, it was clear there would be no late fightback from South Africa. Kohli hardly had to break sweat as he reached his 68th ODI fifty. By the time Dhawan was dismissed by Tahir, his side had reached 151 and the large Indian following in the capacity crowd were in party mood. — AFP

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GLOBAL FDI INFLOWS DROP IN 2016



DOHA: Customers are seen shopping at the Al-Meera market in the Qatari capital Doha on Saturday. — AFP

QATARI FOOD FACTORIES SEEK TO FILL GAP AMID CRISIS

IMPORT-DEPENDENT QATAR STILL VULNERABLE • LOCAL MEAT, DAIRY FACTORIES BOOST OUTPUT

DOHA: At a meat processing plant in Doha's sprawling industrial zone, masked workers toil through the night heaving boxes of raw chicken across a pristine factory floor. They have been working extra shifts since Monday when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other nations cut ties and severed all transport links with Qatar, prompting fears of food shortages in the import-dependent country.

The Saudi-led push to isolate Qatar by cutting diplomatic and trade ties over its alleged support for terrorism has choked food imports from key transit points in Saudi and the UAE and caused panic buying at shops early in the week. The spat has forced the tiny, gas-rich state to turn to other foreign exporters including Turkey and Iran but also to its own local food companies to keep supermarket shelves stacked.

In the meat plant on Saturday, workers hurried about feeding frozen chicken breasts imported from Brazil through shiny metal grinders and pushing them in trolleys into an adjacent room to be packaged.

"We've put two shifts instead of one and stopped exporting to concentrate production for the local market ... There are plans to treble production," said Ahmed al-Khalaf, chairman of International Projects Development Co., the parent company of Qatar Meat, in his office adjoining the plant.

Qatar Meat has been working to double its output of chicken, beef and lamb to 40 tons per day.

Khalaf says this is proof Qatar can survive without having to rely on neighbors who have shunned it.

Still dependent?

Khalaf's food businesses, which include the meat plant run by one of his sons and a farm that grows root vegetables, both felt the pinch when the UAE and Saudi shut their

borders. Up to 30 shipping containers of Khalaf's remain stranded at the Jebel Ali port in Dubai, a major business and transit hub for the region.

But by flying in goods directly from countries such as Turkey and using other ports in the Gulf including Salalah in Oman, the factory can cover its demand for raw material. "Some equipment is coming by aeroplane from abroad to double the capacity of the production line," Khalaf said.

Qatar, a small desert country, relies heavily on imports to feed its 2.7 million mostly foreign population and nearly half of Qatar's food comes across the border from Saudi Arabia.

Like many local businesses, Qatar Meat imports all the meat that it processes and packages. "The raw material - we bring it from outside," Khalaf said.

'We can supply Qatar'

Other Qatari companies are also sensing opportunity. In his dairy factory, Mohammed Al-Kuwari, 30, is working weekends during the holy month of Ramadan to oversee production.

"The situation is great! As you can see, there's lots of production and we have a big share in the market," he said as employees packaged yoghurts with the Rawa brand of his Gulf Food Production company. The factory is producing 20,000 litres of dairy products per day, up from 15,000 litres, he said. Gulf Food Production also relies heavily on import, including milk from France.

"It normally comes in by ship but soon maybe it will all come in by air for the same price," thanks to government support, he said. As for relations with Gulf neighbors, Khalaf says he is already looking elsewhere. "I'm leaving next week to make some other arrangements to bring from other countries" including Turkey, Azerbaijan and Ukraine, he said. — Reuters

EU MOBILE FIRMS BRACE FOR END OF ROAMING CHARGES

PARIS: Long an important source of revenue for telecom companies, roaming charges will be lifted in Europe starting June 15, raising pressure on operators in a tight market.

Roaming charges within and outside Europe account for an average of around five percent of sales for telephone operators in Europe, estimates Sylvain Chevallier of BearingPoint. But the impact of the new measure will differ for corporate and individual clients, he adds. On the Spanish market, subject to wide seasonal variations in business due to a reliance on tourism, Telefonica estimates the end of roaming charges in the EU will lead to a 1.2 percent drop in its sales this year.

But the change can hardly come as a shock for telecom operators, according to Victor Marcais of Roland Berger, who noted the plans have been in the works for several years and are "largely anticipated". "If the operators are not ready, it will be more their fault than anything else," said Dexter Thillien, analyst with BMI Research. "It has been very gradual."

Still, telephone operators are taking different approaches as they gear up for the change. In Italy, for example, Wind-Tre says it implemented the European requirements two months early, while its rival TIM said it would adhere to the new rules the day they come into effect. In France, Free expanded the reach of its roaming-charge-free zone in March, whereas Orange and Bouygues did away with the fees in May. A fourth company, SFR, is expected to follow suit on June 15.

It will be hard to tell exactly how much the move affects telecom operators since they no longer detail the revenues in their filings. The European Commission estimates the end of roaming fees will cost European telecom operators 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion).

The market generates 4.7 billion euros a year, according to European telecoms regulator BEREC. But the

share of revenues from roaming charges already significantly declined in recent years as charges for calls and text messages dropped 90 percent since 2007 and data charges declined 96 percent since 2012 under EU regulations. Data traffic, meanwhile, has grown 100-fold, according to the EU.

Bet on growth

But the telecoms business varies greatly from country to country, with Europe's southern countries relying heavily on tourism compared to their northern counterparts. "Southern countries like Portugal or Greece have a lot of temporary clients and fewer with longer-term plans, so revenues from roaming fees also helped finance the costs of reinforcing networks to help deal with seasonal peaks," said Isabelle Jegouzo, who represents the European Commission in France.

The wholesale market-business among operators was one of the main stumbling blocks in discussions as some operators were pushing for high prices while others sought to lower them.

"Unsurprisingly, the countries in the south wanted the highest prices whereas those in the north wanted the opposite. In the end, we got a typical European agreement, win-win, with no one completely winning but each one getting a bit," said Dexter Thillien at BMI Research.

The price per gigabyte was established at 7.70 euros, which is set to decline until 2022. Operators are allowed to apply surcharges-in accordance with local regulators-if losses linked to roaming surpass three percent of annual net profit. "As consumers grow accustomed to using data throughout Europe they will undoubtedly be inclined to do so outside Europe, which will compensate for some of the losses," said BearingPoint's Chevallier. — AFP

GREEK FAMILIES STRUGGLING AFTER SUCCESSIVE CUTS

ATHENS: In the living room of his small Athens flat, 40-year-old Dimitris Voutsinos scours the web for job ads - one of thousands struggling to cope as Greece's economic crisis endures.

"The key issue is uncertainty," says the former sound technician, who has been out of work for years and relies on his elderly mother's pension to make ends meet. There are thousands of Greeks like Voutsinos: unable to find steady work in the country's moribund labour market, they are forced to return to the nest or seek financial support from their parents, or both. "We're on monthly job contracts. Once that's over, you don't know if you'll find something else," says Voutsinos, who lost his main job a year before the crisis struck in 2010 and has only managed to find occasional short-term work in a call centre.

'Can't plan a life'

"You can't plan your own life, let alone think about starting a family," says Voutsinos. He lives across the hall from his mother, whose 750-euro (\$843) monthly pension has now become invaluable. "We cannot manage without the help of my mother, but this means she cannot afford to hire a caregiver," he adds, dejectedly mixing a cup of coffee. Voutsinos' Lithuanian wife, a graphic artist, says they should relocate to her country. But he is reluctant to leave his mother behind.

At over 22 percent, Greece has the European Union's highest rate of unemployment. At 1.3 children per couple, it also has one of the lowest fertility rates. And it also has a soaring emigration rate. Nearly 430,000 people aged 15 to 64 have left the country to seek work abroad since 2010,

according to Bank of Greece figures. Over 100,000 left in just 2013, at the height of the crisis. Overall, Greece has lost a quarter of its economic output in the last seven years.

With daily necessities now weighing heavily on the family budget, the psychological release of casual shopping is no longer an option for most, notes psychologist Yiannis Giastas. "Before the crisis, people could fight against depression through purchases and entertainment. (For many) those means are no longer available," Giastas says.

Despite soaring unemployment, successive governments have increased taxes and cut pensions in the last seven years to qualify for back-to-back bailouts from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. In May, under pressure from its creditors, the government slashed pensions again and cut tax breaks for 2019 and 2020, even for income just above the poverty level.

The ink was barely dry on these latest measures when the government on Friday passed yet another law, this time to freeze pensions by an additional year to 2023.

'Can't help'

Dimos Koumbouris, head of the association of Greek private sector pensioners, spent 40 years in the steel industry. His annual pension takings fell from 33,000 euros before the crisis to 16,000 today.

"We had planned to live our lives with a certain amount of money...we worked for this money...and now we live with (essentially) handouts," the father of two told AFP. For Ermolaos Linardos, a retired teacher, his pension reduction has reverberated on his son and five grandchildren. — AFP



BOESCHEPE, NORD, France: A woman uses her mobile phone in Boeschepe at the Franco-Belgian border. On June 15, 2017, mobile roaming charges will be abolished in the countries of the European Union. — AFP

GLOBAL FDI INFLOWS DROP IN 2016

KAMCO ECONOMIC REPORT

FDI Inflows (USD Mn)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-Y CAGR	Share in GCC FDI Inflows
GCC	29,384	27,189	24,290	23,854	14,811	17,911	-9.4%	2015 2016
Saudi Arabia	16,308	12,182	8,865	8,012	8,141	7,453	-14.5%	55.0% 41.6%
UAE	7,152	8,828	9,491	10,823	8,795	8,986	4.7%	59.4% 50.2%
Qatar	939	396	-840	1,040	1,071	774	-3.8%	7.2% 4.3%
Kuwait	3,259	2,873	1,434	953	293	275	-39.0%	2.0% 1.5%
Oman	1,628	1,365	1,612	1,506	-2,692	142	-38.6%	-18.2% 0.8%
Bahrain	98	1,545	3,729	1,519	-797	282	23.4%	-5.4% 1.6%

FDI Outflows (USD Mn)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-Y CAGR	Share in GCC FDI Outflows
GCC	26,791	16,919	39,907	14,376	32,303	26,746	-0.03%	2015 2016
Saudi Arabia	3,430	4,402	4,943	5,396	5,390	8,359	19.5%	16.7% 31.3%
UAE	2,178	2,536	8,828	11,736	16,692	15,711	48.5%	51.7% 58.7%
Qatar	10,109	1,840	8,021	6,748	4,023	7,902	-4.8%	12.5% 29.5%
Kuwait	10,773	6,741	16,648	-10,468	5,407	-6,258	-189.7%	16.7% -23.4%
Oman	1,222	884	934	1,358	294	862	-6.7%	0.9% 3.2%
Bahrain	-920	516	532	-394	497	170	-171.4%	1.5% 0.6%

FDI Inward Stock (USD Mn)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Share in GCC
GCC	343,405	370,779	391,588	414,124	427,512	444,804	2015 2016
Saudi Arabia	186,758	199,032	207,897	215,909	224,050	231,502	52.4% 52.0%
UAE	71,021	79,849	89,340	100,164	108,959	117,944	25.5% 26.5%
Qatar	31,502	31,898	31,058	32,098	33,169	33,943	7.8% 7.6%
Kuwait	15,176	18,144	16,097	15,733	14,604	14,260	3.4% 3.2%
Oman	16,615	17,980	19,592	21,098	18,406	18,548	4.3% 4.2%
Bahrain	22,332	23,875	27,604	29,122	28,324	28,606	6.6% 6.4%

FDI Outward Stock (USD Mn)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Share in GCC
GCC	160,094	169,045	198,433	220,432	257,627	299,341	2015 2016
Saudi Arabia	29,958	34,359	39,303	44,699	63,121	80,424	24.5% 26.9%
UAE	57,738	60,274	69,102	80,838	97,530	113,241	37.9% 37.8%
Qatar	22,653	24,494	32,515	39,263	43,287	51,189	16.8% 17.1%
Kuwait	32,250	31,023	37,153	34,310	31,577	31,342	12.3% 10.5%
Oman	4,018	4,903	5,836	7,194	7,488	8,350	2.9% 2.8%
Bahrain	13,476	13,992	14,524	14,128	14,625	14,795	5.7% 4.9%

KUWAIT: After winding up a three-year downturn in 2015, global FDI inflows once again declined in 2016, albeit marginally by 1.6 percent to reach \$1.75 Trillion highlighting weak economic growth and significant policy risks. The decline was mainly due to a steep decline of 14.1 percent in Developing Economies, primarily inflows in Asia which witnessed its first decline in five years of close to 15.5 percent. This decline was primarily on the back of the biggest year-on-year decline in FDI inflows towards China (including Hong Kong). FDI inflows to Europe also declined by 5.8 percent in 2016 after more than doubling in 2015.

Investment inflows in developed economies continued to grow during 2016, although at a much slower pace of 4.9 percent to reach \$1.03 trillion as compared to a growth of 75 percent in 2015. The growth was led by 9 percent higher FDI flows to North America (solely on the back of flows to US that increased by 12.3 percent as compared to a decline of 18.8 percent in Canada) that more than offset the aforementioned decline in FDI inflows to Europe. Meanwhile, after declining for the past seven consecutive years, FDI inflows to the GCC saw slight improvement in 2016 after seeing an increase of 21 percent to reach \$17.9 billion.

On the other hand, global FDI outflows witnessed a drop of 8.9 percent in 2016 after increasing by more than a quarter in 2015. The decline was led by drop in outflows from almost all major regions globally, except for Asia and the GCC. The global decline was due to 11 percent drop in flow emanating from Developed Economies, primarily from European Multi National Enterprises (MNEs) that recorded a drop of 22.7 percent during 2016. On the other hand, FDI outflows from the Asia Pacific region reached the highest level since 2008. This was primarily on the back of a surge in outflows from China which stood at \$183 billion in 2016, making it the second biggest overseas investor after US corporate M&As and individual property investments emanating from developing countries has led to this increase. Outflows from the GCC dropped 17.2 percent during 2016 to reach \$26.7 billion.

This year's World Investment Report highlights the importance of digital economy and how it is changing the world economies structurally and requires a shift in how legacy policies were designed. The need to bridge the digital divide, especially in developing economies, presents both challenges and opportunities. Technology has enabled cross border trades without the need of significant physical investment in the host market. The report suggests that this has serious implications on regulations governing investor behavior and necessitates to have a relook at these rules to keep up to date with this global phenomenon.

GCC economies

The GCC region continues to account for a minuscule portion of total global FDI inflows. The share of GCC in terms of FDI inflows increased slightly to 1.0 percent in 2016 from a 13-year low level of 0.8 percent in 2015. This increase reflected the 21 percent year-on-year increase in FDI inflows to the region reaching \$ 17.9 billion in 2016. This increase comes after seven straight years of decline

during which inward FDI reached the lowest level in eleven years, since 2005. Nevertheless, the progress in 2016 is a welcome sign as, all the individual countries in the region recorded positive investment flows during the year. UAE continued to attract the bulk of the FDI, accounting for half of the recorded flows, followed by Saudi Arabia at 41.6 percent. The rest of the GCC countries accounted for 8.2 percent of the flows to the region. Low oil prices continues to be one of the key reasons for the continued low inflow of FDI into the region. This is particularly true in the case of major oil exporters, including Saudi Arabia, whose FDI flows declined to 12-year low level of \$ 7.5 billion in 2016. On the other hand, diversification efforts in countries like UAE has resulted in elevated level of FDI despite weakness in oil prices and the related slowdown in the economy. In addition, political and geopolitical uncertainty in the overall West Asia region continue to affect the region's overall attractiveness to foreign capital.

UAE FDI growth

In terms of individual country contribution, UAE was the only country in the GCC that recorded a growth in FDI during 2016 to

the tune of \$191 million, while Oman and Bahrain recorded positive FDI's of \$142 million and \$282 million in 2016, respectively, after divestments by MNEs during 2015 that resulted in negative inflows for the year. In terms of FDI outflows, the share of GCC dropped from 2.0 percent in 2015 to 1.8 percent in 2016. Total FDI outflows during 2016 stood at \$26.7 billion, a decline of 17 percent as compared to \$32.3 billion during the previous year. The year-on-year drop was primarily due to divestments by Kuwait that resulted in negative FDI outflows of \$6.3 billion. Qatar, on the other hand, contributed the most during the year and recorded an increase of almost \$3.9 billion to reach total outflows of \$7.9 billion followed by Saudi Arabia, which recorded an increase of \$3.0 billion to reach a new high of \$8.4 billion. These increases were primarily related to the diversification efforts by these countries.

In terms of FDI inward stock in the GCC, Saudi Arabia continues to top the chart with a total stock of \$231 billion, an increase of 3.3 percent as compared to 2015, followed by UAE at \$117.9 billion. On the other hand, UAE is the biggest GCC investor abroad with the highest FDI outward stock of \$113 billion, an increase of 30 percent from 2015, fol-

lowed by Saudi Arabia at \$ 80.4 billion and Qatar at \$1.2 billion.

UAE tops overseas M&A purchases.

Total cross-border M&A transactions in the GCC continued to rise in 2016 with net sale transactions pegged at \$3.6 billion, almost double of the value in 2015, while value of net cross-border purchase transactions increased by 9 percent to \$18.7 billion in 2016, as compared to \$17.1 billion in 2015. Nevertheless, despite the increase, GCC's share in total global M&A transactions continues to be at one of the lowest historical levels. In terms of GCC as a seller in the transaction, the region's share in total global value stood at a marginal 0.4 percent, while as a purchaser, the region's share stood at 2.2 percent. Moreover, despite an increase in GCC purchases as mentioned above, the region's global share was the lowest in five years.

UAE took the crown from Qatar as the top GCC purchaser in 2016 with total M&A purchases worth \$11.6 billion followed by Qatar at \$ 6.6 Bn. UAE also witnessed the biggest year-on-year increase in 2016, thereby offsetting a decline recorded by other GCC economies. On the other hand, as a seller, Kuwait topped the chart with annual total

sale transactions worth \$2.8 billion in 2016, an increase of almost \$2 billion during the year that more than offset decline in other regions in the GCC.

Saudi tops greenfield FDI's destination

Total value of greenfield FDI projects abroad by GCC countries declined by 21 percent in 2016 to reach \$ 35.7 billion after almost doubling in the year before. The decline comes as the year-on-year increase in investment by Oman, UAE and Qatar (\$2.7 billion, \$1.9 billion and \$29 million, respectively) was more than offset by steep decline recorded in the rest of the GCC economies. The biggest decline was recorded in Saudi Arabia at \$7.1 billion followed by \$4.1 billion in Bahrain, while Oman recorded the biggest jump with an almost five-fold increase in investments in overseas greenfield FDI projects. On the other hand, external investment in greenfield FDI projects in the GCC increased by more than 50 percent in 2016 to reach \$30.8 billion. The increase was primarily on the back of 90 percent increase in investment in Saudi Arabia totaling \$11.8 billion followed by \$2.2 billion in Oman and \$1.1 billion in Kuwait. Qatar was the only country in the GCC that recorded a year-on-year decline during 2016.

Cautiously optimistic

Global investment is expected to see modest growth in 2017 and is estimated to reach \$ 1.8 Trillion followed by \$1.85 trillion in 2018. Growth in 2017 is expected to be driven by higher expected economic growth in key global economies further supported by a resumption of growth in trade and a recovery in corporate profits. Investment in developing economies is expected to increase by 10 percent in 2017, primarily in developing Asia, while developed economies are expected to hold steady. Investment in the MENA region is forecasted to remain flat as the positive effect of the increase in oil prices is offset by political and geopolitical uncertainty. Nevertheless, KAMCO Research expects positive investment growth in the GCC in the near term as the region makes a dedicated effort to open the economy to foreign investors. We believe that new regulations, well laid out strategic plans as well as an urgent need for diversification makes a positive case for an increase in investment in the region.

Value of cross-border M&As in the GCC

M&A Net Sales (USD Mn)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Share in GCC
GCC	1,288	3,420	950	1,339	1,909	3,558	2015 2016
Saudi Arabia	657	1,429	305	239	753	478	39.5% 13.4%
UAE	556	366	342	-186	189	88	9.9% 2.5%
Qatar	28	169	0	538	0	140	0.0% 3.9%
Kuwait	16	2,230	414	629	857	2,776	44.9% 78.0%
Oman	0	-774	0	0	110	53	5.8% 1.5%
Bahrain	30	0	-111	120	0	23	0.0% 0.7%

M&A Net Purchases (USD Mn)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Share in GCC
GCC	4,790	9,314	6,786	11,398	17,077	18,686	2015 2016
Saudi Arabia	107	294	520	-560	3,333	971	19.5% 5.2%
UAE	5,896	-207	2,102	8,238	5,870	11,572	34.4% 61.9%
Qatar	-790	7,971	3,594	4,421	8,838	6,588	51.8% 35.3%
Kuwait	2,078	376	258	1,403	729	365	4.3% 2.0%
Oman	222	354	-6	26	-1,044	-105	-6.1% -0.6%
Bahrain	-2,723	527	317	-2,131	-649	-705	-3.8% -3.8%

FDI Flows by Region

FDI Inflows (USD Mn)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-Y CAGR	Share in World FDI Inflows
World	1,591,146	1,592,598	1,443,230	1,323,863	1,774,001	1,746,423	1.9%	2015 2016
Developed Economies	824,293	856,979	684,260	563,330	984,105	1,032,373	4.6%	55.5% 59.1%
Europe	484,932	541,375	340,466	272,463	565,934	532,994	1.9%	31.9% 30.5%
North America	269,531	242,145	270,784	230,663	389,914	424,825	9.5%	22.0% 24.3%
US	229,862	199,034	201,393	171,601	348,402	391,104	11.2%	19.6% 22.4%
Developing Economies	687,511	670,998	674,658	703,780	752,329	646,030	-1.2%	42.4% 37.0%
Asia	425,657	401,177	421,500	460,316	523,641	442,665	0.8%	29.5% 25.3%
GCC	29,384	27,189	24,290	23,854	14,811	17,911	-9.4%	0.8% 1.0%

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.773
Indian Rupees	4.726
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Srilankani Rupees	1.984
Nepali Rupees	2.956
Singapore Dollar	220.860
Hongkong Dollar	39.992
Bangladesh Taka	3.751
Philippine Peso	6.151
Thai Baht	8.945

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.094
Qatari Riyal	83.523
Omani Riyal	789.761
Bahraini Dinar	807.490
UAE Dirham	82.795

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.726
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	126.360
Jordanian Dinar	428.630
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.026
Syrian Lira	2.167
Morocco Dirham	31.656

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.900
Euro	344.320
Sterling Pound	393.700
Canadian dollar	226.690
Turkish lira	87.130

Swiss Franc	317.220
Australian Dollar	230.660
US Dollar Buying	302.700

GOLD	
20 Gram	261.980
10 Gram	133.910
5 Gram	67.800

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 Baht	9.880
Turkish Lira	86.480

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.381745	0.391745
Czech Korune	0.005009	0.017009
Danish Krone	0.041841	0.046841
Euro	0.335718	0.344718
Norwegian Krone	0.031777	0.036977
Romanian Leu	0.084278	0.084278
Slovakia	0.009085	0.019085
Swedish Krona	0.030889	0.035889
Swiss Franc	0.307592	0.318592
Turkish Lira	0.080639	0.090939
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.221219	0.233219
New Zealand Dollar	0.213510	0.223010
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.220578	0.229576
Georgina Lari	0.137347	0.137347
US Dollars	0.300000	0.304400
US Dollars Mint	0.300500	0.304400
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003384	0.003968
Chinese Yuan	0.043282	0.046782
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037098	0.039848

Indian Rupee



SKODA ROLLS OUT EYE-CATCHING RAMADAN DEAL

KUWAIT: Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company, the exclusive dealer of SKODA in Kuwait, has put together amazing ownership packages for SKODA during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Sharing in the spirit of the Holy Month with the customers, buyers who purchase a SKODA Octavia during Ramadan, will drive away with a new car and a range of benefits, including free vehicle and license registration, free maintenance

for a year or up to 15,000km. The offer also comes with 3 years' free third party insurance and a free warranty for 3 years or up to 100,000km, whichever comes first. In addition, car buyers will benefit from a special Ramadan price of just KD 5,555.

"The Octavia is an outstanding, reliable model in the excellent SKODA range and, at this special time of the year, we took the opportunity to make

it easier and even more appealing to own one," stated Tarek Al-Shafie, General Manager of Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company. "Arranging registration and insurance can be time-consuming, so with this offer we have shouldered that burden, while the added benefit of the extended warranty gives that extra piece of mind. We know this will be popular with our loyal customers," he added. The Octavia is a practical sedan,

great for getting around the city but also smooth and effortless when cruising on the highway. It is roomy and functional with a great, confident look, thanks largely to an emphasis on horizontal lines. The Octavia is a leader in its class with a longer interior, measuring 1,782mm, resulting in more knee room (73mm) in the rear of the car.

The spacious, safe family car is available in a range of options.

RARE PROTEST IN SHANGHAI OVER PROPERTY RULE CHANGE

REPORTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA SCRUBBED BY CENSORS

SHANGHAI/BEIJING: Hundreds of demonstrators have marched through a shopping district in the Chinese city of Shanghai to protest against changes to housing regulations, in a rare show of public dissent in the financial hub.

Footage of the late Saturday protests shared on social media showed hundreds of demonstrators holding placards and shouting slogans while marching along Nanjing Road, a glitzy shopping strip in the city centre. One video seen by Reuters showed police setting up blockades and dragging a demonstrator away. Media carried no reports of the demonstrations, while mentions of the protests on social media were scrubbed by internet censors.

Shanghai police did not respond to requests for comment. Two witnesses told Reuters that about 10 of the protesters who were hoisting banners and appeared to be leading the demonstrations were taken away by police. "One whole side of the street in front of the Apple store was filled with people," said one nearby stall owner who declined to be identified, adding that the crowd gathered around 8 p.m. and dispersed by 10 p.m.

"The police came and took the leaders away." Protesters were angry about measures announced on May 17 by Shanghai's housing bureau to "clean-up and rectify" commercial office projects that had been converted into apartments to cater for residential needs, in a grey area property developers previously exploited by acquiring land at cheaper prices than residential-zoned land.

The government measures, part of a bid to keep property speculation and soaring real estate prices in check, required developers and buyers to rectify violations such as separately installed toilets and kitchens before they are able to be sold on, effectively rendering them

uninhabitable and worth a fraction of the purchase price.

Some homeowners felt aggrieved because they bought the apartments from developers off the plan, secured finance and locked themselves into a contract before being left stranded when the changes were announced.

Amid soaring prices, real estate purchases across Chinese cities often follow years of penny-pinching and the contribution of life savings from parents and grandparents. New property prices on average rose 26.5 per cent in Shanghai last year.

"They are shouting for their only home in Shanghai, bought by their whole family's savings through legal means," one person said of the protests in a Weibo post, which was later deleted. A total of 17 million square metres of projects are targeted by the campaign, the Shanghai government said on its social media account, of which 5 million square metres have been delivered to buyers.

A list of developments affected by the campaign published by the Shanghai government on May 18 included property giant Greenland's Fengshanghui development among four "typical" projects that needed rectification.

Protests, while still relatively rare in China, increasingly break out over contentious issues including the construction of garbage incinerators or pollution from factories near homes.

Meanwhile, Chinese social media users yesterday angrily criticized a Shanghai government crackdown on unauthorized real estate activity after images emerged online showing an apparent protest in the city over the restrictions. Pictures and video have circulated showing hundreds of people engaged in a tense stand-off with police, said to have taken place late Saturday night in a busy central Shanghai shop-

ping district. AFP was not able to confirm the online accounts of the demonstration or obtain comment from the city government. But authorities in the city, China's financial hub, have stoked anger among investors and homeowners with a new campaign launched last month to rein in the use of commercial-zoned real estate for residential purposes.

Videos posted online showed a noisy crowd in excess of 1,000 people confronted by police, who had erected cordons to block their march on busy Nanjing East Road.

At least two people were seen being roughly dragged away by police. "An oppressive government drives the people to rebellion. The poor masses!" said one of many outraged postings on Weibo, China's tightly controlled answer to Twitter. "Once again, the government is doing things without considering the stance of the masses," said another.

Others accused censors of deleting their posts about the incident to whitewash it. "Weibo's staff are so efficient! The videos from Nanjing East Road have all been rendered harmonious," said a Weibo post in a dig at the ruling Communist Party, which frequently cites maintenance of social "harmony" as justification for snuffing out public protests.

The central government has taken a number of measures to cool down red-hot real estate markets amid fears of a potential crash that could affect the broader economy, which is already slowing. There has been a wave of commercial land being developed for residential purposes, a strategy that has thrived due to ambiguities in regulations.

But authorities launched a sudden crackdown, imperilling real estate projects that had been allowed to proceed, angering homeowners, developers and investors. — Agencies



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's landmark Petronas Twin towers are silhouetted as the sun sets over the Kuala Lumpur skyline yesterday. — AFP

US ALLOWED TO PROBE PRICES OF CANADA'S BOMBARDIER JETS

WASHINGTON: A government investigation will continue into whether Canada's Bombardier is selling airliners in the US at illegally subsidized prices, a claim that has raised trade tensions between the US and Canada.

Chicago-based Boeing accuses Bombardier of violating antidumping and anti-subsidy laws by selling planes at below fair prices.

On Friday, the US International Trade Commission voted 5-0 that there is enough evidence of harm to the US aviation industry to let the Commerce Department go ahead with its investigation.

The Commerce Department is expected to have final decisions over the next four months. It could impose duties on

Bombardier C Series jets that hold 100 to 150 passengers. Boeing argues that the new planes rely on illegal government subsidies, which allowed Bombardier to sell 75 jets to Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines at below-cost prices.

Bombardier said Friday that it was confident Boeing's claims will be rejected after more detailed review by US officials. Last month, Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland warned that Canada could cancel a planned \$2 billion purchase of 18 Boeing military jets over the dispute.

Boeing said "trade only works if everyone plays by the same rules," and it predicted that its business with Canada "will continue to thrive long after this commercial trade matter is resolved." — AP

EU'S BORDER DWELLERS CHEER AS ROAMING CHARGES END

MOUSCRON/TOURCOING, Belgium: The end of roaming fees in the EU is drawing loud cheers from mobile phone users, and nowhere more so than in borderlands where residents are always just a step away from involuntarily incurring hefty surcharges.

"The end of roaming is really great," said Kevin, who lives in the Belgian town of Mouscron, just 20 metres (yards) from the French border. "My in-laws live nearby in France and when I go to see them I always switch my mobile phone off to avoid surcharges," the 21-year-old told AFP.

Such radical measures will soon no longer be necessary, after the EU decided that, starting on June 15, telecom operators can no longer charge travelling phone users in the bloc more than they would in their home markets. Ludovic, who sells mobile phones in a nearby outlet run by the Orange operator, says worried clients often come to him with questions on the topic, "especially teenagers who are glued to their smartphones and use up a lot of data". Amine, an electrician who lives in Mouscron, regularly gets jobs across the border in the region of Lille, France's northern metropolis hugging the Belgian border.

Commuting between both countries inflated his phone bill to 280 euros (\$312) in April. "If the end of roaming charges means I get to pay less, then that's really super," he said.

When roaming is mentioned, tempers fray in Tourcoing, on the French side, as the failure of operators to exactly match up their networks' scope with the political border demands constant vigilance from users, driving them to distraction.

"When you're at the (local) Dron hospital, a few hundred metres from the border, you're already in the Belgian network," fumed Malika, a city employee.

"Here you often get caught up in the

Belgian network, they have strong antennae. And what's more, you can't get out again," said Nicole, who works for online travel agency Booking.com.

"So you always check that you're on the French network before making a call or sending a text," she says. Many others try to lock into their operator's network manually, but juggling between two country's

networks is always a struggle. "In border regions like ours you won't find anyone who thinks that this development is a bad thing," said Herve Ghyselen, owner of a small local transport company.

The EU Commission has pushed operators to reduce roaming charges for the past decade and won approval from the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament

two years ago to abolish them altogether. Starting on June 15, EU-based mobile phone subscribers will be able to use their phones in other bloc countries as if they were at home.

"This means the end of roaming charges as travellers have experienced them so far," the Commission said in the run-up to the change. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi rickshaw pullers make their way with commuters during a monsoon rain in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

TANZANIA SIGNS \$154M CONTRACT WITH CHINESE FIRM TO EXPAND MAIN PORT

DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzania's government signed a \$154 million contract on Saturday with the state-run China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) to expand the main port in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam. Tanzania is seeking financing for infrastructure projects as part of its plans to transform the country into a regional transport and trade hub.

Under the contract funded by a World Bank loan, CHEC, a subsidiary of the state-run China Communications Construction Co Ltd, will build a roll-on, roll-off (ro-ro) terminal and deepen and strengthen seven berths at Dar es Salaam port.

Tanzania hopes expansion of the port will increase container throughput to 28 million tons a year by 2020 from around 20 million tons currently. "Deepening and strengthening of the berths will allow big container ships to dock in Dar es Salaam. All these efforts are being done in order to increase competitiveness of the port," works, transport and communications minister Makame Mbarawa said at the signing of the contract.

East Africa's second-biggest economy wants to profit from its long coastline and upgrade its rickety railways and roads to serve the growing economies in the landlocked heart of Africa. Big gas finds in Tanzania and oil discoveries in Kenya and Uganda have turned East Africa into an exploration hotspot for oil firms, but transport infrastructure in those countries has suffered from decades of under-investment.

Tanzania said in January it will receive a \$305 million loan from the World Bank to expand its main port, where congestion and inefficiencies are hampering service delivery.

The port, whose main rival is the bigger but also congested port of Mombasa in Kenya, acts as a trade gateway for landlocked African states such as Zambia, Rwanda, Malawi, Burundi and Uganda, as well as the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The World Bank said in a 2014 report that inefficiencies at Dar es Salaam port were costing Tanzania and its neighbors up to \$2.6 billion a year. Chinese President Xi Jinping announced plans to plough \$60 billion into African development projects at a summit in Johannesburg in 2015, saying it would boost agriculture, build roads, ports and railways and cancel some debt. — Reuters

US FED TO RAISE RATES DESPITE SLUGGISH ECONOMIC DATA

WASHINGTON: For the second time this year, the US central bank appears poised to raise interest rates despite fresh signs the world's largest economy is not in peak condition. The recent soft numbers on the economy may have weakened the case for an increase in the benchmark lending rate by the Federal Reserve, which begins a two-day meeting on tomorrow to review monetary policy.

But the Fed is widely expected to stick to its guns, having built up expectations that it will tighten monetary policy at this meeting, although further rate hikes this year are now in doubt. At the policy meeting last month, the central bank left rates unchanged at

between 0.75 and one percent, and policymakers said they would wait to see whether evidence supported another rate hike. But they also said first-quarter sluggishness was "likely to be transitory" and that a rate hike would likely be appropriate "soon." This has prompted criticism that the policymakers' forecasts are flawed and they are not basing decisions on the data, as they pledged to do.

"They seem to be more committed to just getting back to some version of normal than following the numbers," Jared Bernstein, economic advisor to former Vice President Joe Biden, told AFP. "It's a little puzzling since Chair (Janet) Yellen and others

have said they're going to be data-dependent."

Weak data

Since the May Fed meeting, the picture has not grown much brighter, especially in the key areas the central bank watches: employment and inflation. Government data have shown clear signs of flagging job growth and a shrinking work force, with average job creation in the March-May period down 40 percent from the prior three months.

Inflation moved even further from the Fed's two percent target in April, with the Fed's preferred inflation measure at 1.7 per-

cent for the latest 12 months. And, while first-quarter GDP growth was revised upwards by a sharp 0.5 points to 1.2 percent, this is still no better than sluggish. Given the weak data, the Fed's persistent belief the sun will come out tomorrow, and inflation will stabilize at two percent in the medium term, has drawn sharp criticism from some quarters.

Economists J Bradford DeLong and Narayana Kocherlakota, a former president of the Minneapolis Fed known for advocating a cautious approach to raising rates, each accused the Fed in recent days of persistently overstating the strength of the US economy and inflation.

"Elementary mathematics dictates that credible forecasts should at least overestimate half the time and underestimate half the time," DeLong wrote, saying the Fed has overestimated the economy for 11 years in a row, making them less reliable than a coin toss. Even with the growing doubts, as of Friday, futures markets still were forecasting a better-than-99-percent chance of an increase at this week's Fed meeting. But they are now evenly split on the prospects for another rate increase by the end of the year. Previously, analysts were betting on another hike in September.

Some economists, however, say the economy can tolerate higher rates, as they remain low by historical standards. Mickey Levy of Berenberg Capital Markets points to falling long-term interest rates and rising equities prices, with the S&P 500 up eight percent since the start of the year.



Federal Reserve Chairperson Janet Yellen

'Hikes are not costless'

"Even though the soft inflation may give the Fed pause, the significant easing in financial conditions gives them more room to continue to 'tighten' policy," Levy wrote in a research note. And Joseph Gagnon, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told AFP the slowing job creation may in fact be a sign of full employment.

"Some people have been saying it's a little weak. I actually read it the opposite way," he said. "It's actually more hawkish because there is less ability for the labor force to grow."

Bernstein, however, said raising for the sake of raising, or to avoid having to cut rates too suddenly down the road, is not justified. "You're either data-driven or you're not. You either have evidence of price pressures or you don't," he said. "These rate hikes are not costless," he added. "Working people need a hot economy if they're going to get ahead and so tapping the breaks doesn't help them." — AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report				Global			
Sunday 11 June 2017							
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing				
Price Index	▼ -28.88	6,754.54	6,783.42				
Weighted Index	▼ -2.30	397.93	400.23				
KSX 15	▼ -6.55	900.22	906.77				
				Volume	23,428,490		
				Value (KWD)	5,793,502		
				Number of Trades	1,438		
Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	88	74	8100	470	18	74	▼ -1.0
IPO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	345	▼ -0.0
NAFESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,499	▼ -0.0
ENERGYH	37.0	36.0	53,000	1,951	3	37.0	▼ -4.4
GPI	38.0	37.2	16,778	625	4	38.0	▲ 0.9
ASAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▼ -0.0
Oil & Gas				75,878	3,046	25	1028.13 ▼ -6.70
KFOUC	290	290	40,731	13,262	5	295	▼ -3.0
BPCO	582	582	30,000	17,460	1	582	▲ 2.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	▼ -0.0
ALQURAN	338	336	66,572	22,563	11	336	▼ -4.0
Basic Materials				142,703	53,285	17	1302.51 ▼ -7.50
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	▼ -0.0
CABLE	419	415	2,501	1,038	2	419	▼ -0.0
SHP	208	207	138,900	28,892	24	207	▼ -2.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	945	▼ -0.0
PAPER	280	280	12,200	3,415	2	280	▼ -10.0
MRC	90	90	52	5	1	90	▼ -0.0
ACICO	265	260	88,920	23,141	11	260	▼ -16.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▼ -0.0
KBMAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	▼ -0.0
NICBM	190	190	10,084	1,918	1	190	▼ -0.0
EQUIPMENT	51	51	40,000	2,020	2	51	▲ 2.3
NGCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108	▼ -0.0
GYPISUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▼ -0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57	▼ -0.0
AQLY	736	722	701,644	510,034	86	725	▼ -8.0
EDU	355	341	72,630	25,012	16	355	▼ -10.0
CLEANING	45.0	44.0	19,900	891	5	44.8	▲ 2.8
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▼ -0.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	168	▼ -0.0
HUMANSOFT	3,900	3,900	125,284	488,608	48	3,900	▼ -0.0
NAFIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▼ -0.0
GFC	75	75	2,288,741	170,740	44	75	▲ 12.4
MAYADEEN	27.5	27.0	136,953	3,699	7	27.0	▼ -0.5
GGC	590	570	7,250	4,153	3	590	▲ 10.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▼ -0.0
UPAC	740	740	1	1	1	740	▼ -90.0
ALFACO	319	304	1,837,590	510,852	260	308	▲ 8.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▼ -0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▼ -0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▼ -0.0
GCEM	74	74	10,000	740	2	74	▼ -2.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▼ -0.0
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▼ -0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▼ -0.0
SPEC	88	84	208,970	17,554	10	88	▼ -2.0
Industrials				5,501,886	1,792,740	525	1792.44 ▼ -20.70
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	▼ -0.0
CATTL	225	224	18,287	4,109	2	225	▼ -0.0
DANAH	78	72	31,000	2,246	3	78	▲ 3.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,700	▼ -0.0
Consumer Goods				49,287	6,355	5	1134.26 ▲ 7.50
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	378	▼ -0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▼ -0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	240	▼ -0.0
Health Care				0	0	0	1528.57 ▼ -6.00
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,290	▼ -0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▼ -0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▼ -0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	▼ -0.0
EYAS	1,198	1,190	2,500	2,991	2	1,198	▲ 11
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▼ -0.0
OULAFUEL	119	118	247,732	29,330	7	119	▼ -1
MUNTAAZAHAT	78	78	25,825	2,014	2	78	▲ 1
JAZEERA	458	378	76,900	34,931	17	458	▼ -11
SOOR	117	117	6,230	729	1	117	▼ -0.0
FUTUREXO	106	106	4,606	488	1	106	▼ -4
ALRAI	120	118	17,867	2,060	4	119	▼ -1
ZMAH	51	47.0	70,800	3,372	4	51	▲ 1
Mazzan	915	913	99,072	90,566	5	915	▲ 1
Consumer Services				591,332	166,482	43	1121.64 ▼ -1.10
ZAIN	417	408	1,071,324	441,732	69	410	▼ -7
OOREDOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,200	▼ -0.0
HITSTELEC	42.5	41.0	1,965,130	80,815	36	41.9	▲ 2
VIVA	822	820	51,606	42,376	17	820	▼ -10
Telecommunications				3,088,060	864,924	122	900.61 ▼ -1.10
NBK	670	668	1,140,530	753,456	52	668	▼ -7
GBK	238	236	117,000	27,690	2	238	▲ 1
CBK	323	322	3,667	1,181	2	323	▼ -8
ARBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	▼ -0.0
ALMUTAHED	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	435	▼ -0.0
KIB	244	244	70,000	17,080	3	244	▼ -1
BURIG	320	320	41,380	13,235	4	320	▼ -1
KFIN	483	480	2,044,131	963,612	90	481	▼ -3
BOUBIYAN	408	408	204,918	83,202	14	408	▼ -2
AUB	212	208	1,268,300	265,787	50	210	▼ -0.0
ITHMR	45.0	44.0	416,385	18,401	15	44.5	▲ 1
WARISBANK	246	242	201,843	49,407	40	246	▲ 3
Banks				8,507,934	2,223,148	368	909.71 ▼ -1.20
KINS	262	248	27,100	6,744	4	262	▼ -0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	▼ -0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	495	▼ -0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	▼ -0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▼ -0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▼ -0.0
WETHAQ	57	57	89,095	5,078	1	57	▲ 3.0
BKINWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▼ -0.0
Insurance				116,195	11,823	5	1063.93 ▲ 11.70
				Volume	23,428,490		
				Value (KWD)	5,793,502		
				Number of Trades	1,438		
Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOLK	48.5	47.0	76,000	36,451	13	47.0	▼ -2.4
KRE	56	54	194,000	10,561	9	56	▼ -0.0
URC	85	85	1,000	85	1	85	▼ -0.0
NRE	111	106	519,051	56,033	24	108	▼ -2.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▼ -0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360	▼ -0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	168	▼ -0.0
MASSALEH	39.0	36.8	40,100	1,468	3	36.8	▼ -4.4
ARABREC	32.4	32.4	3,085	100	1	32.4	▼ -9.5
ERESCO	37.5	37.5	63,610	2,385	3	37.5	▼ -4.2
MABANEE	709	761	528,467	403,963	83	767	▼ -12.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	▼ -0.0
INVESTORS	22.5	22.1	1,048,359	23,400	25	22.5	▲ 0.1
IRC	32.5	29.0	44,001	1,294	3	31.0	▼ -1.5
ALTUJARIA	74	73	130,040	9,494	5	74	▼ -0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	▼ -0.0
AAYANRE	82	80	90,050	7,272	6	82	▲ 0.9
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▼ -0.0
ALAGARIA	32.0	30.5	53,457	1,653	6	31.0	▼ -4.0
MAZAYA	111	110	180,100	19,811	10	110	▼ -1.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	▼ -0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▼ -0.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	▼ -0.0
TAAMEER	32.6	32.6	7,000	228	1		

HUNG PARLIAMENT IN UK COMPLICATES BREXIT

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: Last week, UK Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative party lost its parliamentary majority in the highly awaited general election. The result had caught the market off guard, as investors expected Theresa May to increase her majority in parliament, to strengthen her position ahead of crucial Brexit talks. The Sterling fell sharply as the outcome of the election fueled more confusion about the UK's political situation and the upcoming Brexit negotiations.

Furthermore, with less than two weeks for Brexit negotiations, the British government will have less domestic support to negotiate the Brexit process. On the other side, political turmoil in Britain is a gloomy scenario for EU leaders who want to press ahead quickly with Brexit talks as the current situation might prompt the UK to postpone talks until a coalition is formed.

In Europe, the single currency has been gaining upside momentum since the start of the year, leading to expectations of a change in tone from the ECB. Markets expectations were disappointed on Thursday when the ECB refrained from mentioning the pace of tapering their accommodative policies.

On the currency front, the dollar index began the week on a downward trend after the yield on 10-year US Treasuries fell to 2.13%, the lowest since November 10. The lower yield is attributed to political tension in the Middle East, uncertainties over UK election and most importantly the outcome of former FBI director James Comey. However, the index recovered as Comey's testimony did not provide any major revelations that can lead to an impeachment of US President Donald Trump. The DXY opened at 96.76 on Monday and rose to the highest since May 31st at 97.48.

The single currency was trading in a tight range at the start of last week, as markets were cautious ahead of Super Thursday and no major economic data was released. All that changed after Draghi's conservative comments and inflation forecasts were revised lower, the EURUSD began its sharp descent. The pair started the weekly session at 1.1276 and ended on Friday at 1.1192.

The pound sterling was firm versus the US dollar at the beginning of the week and rose to the highest level since May 25 at 1.2977. On Thursday night after the election results the pair dropped from 1.2962 to 1.2704 and continued its depreciation onto Friday's session to a low of 1.2632, the lowest since April 18. Sterling recovered some of its losses amid announcements that UK Prime Minister would form a government with the support of the Democratic Unionist Party. The news helped the currency, as investors hoped that the potential formation of a Conservative-DUP coalition could help the UK avoid a hard Brexit.

In the commodities complex, the precious metal was near 7 months high of \$1,296.00 on Wednesday as global political uncertainties drove up the demand for safe haven assets. The ECB meeting and Comey's testimony on Thursday were a non-event, causing the price of gold to depreciate. The yellow metal ended the week at \$1,265.90.

US job openings

In the US, the number of job openings in April rose to the highest level since the survey began in December 2000, however employers may be having trouble finding qualified applicants as the labor market tightens. Total job vacancies increased 6.04 million from 5.8 million in March, and was higher than forecasted. The number of employees who voluntarily leave their jobs, eased slightly to 2.1 percent in April, but remains near 10-year highs. The data supports the Fed to raise interest rates next month.

Weak orders

In May, economic activity in the non-manufacturing sector remained in expansionary mode since 2009, although the index fell by 0.6

vehicles and parts manufacturers fell by 1,500 jobs in May. This may hurt production in the coming months.

Draghi's dovishness

In its latest policy setting discussion, the European Central Bank closed the door on further interest rate cuts, while refrained from discussing about tapering process. The bank did not address any policy changes, while lowering inflation projections. The ECB predicts inflation at just 1.5 percent this year, down from the earlier forecast of 1.7 percent and would barely rise to 1.6 percent in 2019.

The main issue is inflation, which remains weak. Unemployment rate is on a downward trend, but wages are stable as many individuals take part-time or lower wage jobs.



points coming at 56.9. The latest data remains solid in respect to historical figures. Business activity dipped 1.7 percent and new orders were down 5.5 percent. On the positive side, employment soared 6.4 percent to 57.8, showing growth for the 39th consecutive month. ISM stated that 17 of 18 sectors reported growth in May. Looking at the state of non-manufacturing sector since the beginning of 2017 the data was better than anticipated.

Growth in US factory orders have been declining for 3 months consecutively and posted its first contraction in April since November 2016. In the month of April, factory orders slipped -0.2 percent from 1 percent in March. The weakness in manufacturing products is attributed to orders for durable goods declining by 0.8 percent for the month.

Machinery orders posted its biggest drop of 0.7 percent since October, while mining, oil-field and gas field machinery orders fell 8.3 percent month on month. However, on a yearly basis factory orders were up 4.4 percent from a year ago. Looking at auto sales demand, which have softened from last year and the government reported that employment at motor

Draghi stated inflation indicators "have yet to show convincing signs of a pickup." On the updated economic projections, the bank expects growth to expand 1.9 percent this year, up 0.1 percent from the previous estimation. It also increased its growth projection for 2018 to 1.8 percent from 1.7 percent, and for 2019 to 1.7 percent from 1.6 percent. The ECB president also expressed more confidence in the economy.

Overall, markets were expecting a more hawkish stance from the ECB, while Draghi tone was ever so cautiously towards monetary tightening. The central bank's main job is to control inflation. As long as price growth remains subdued, the bank will feel obligated to keep supporting the economy.

European momentum

The Eurozone economy seems to be tilting to the upside since the beginning of the year as economic growth continues to accelerate at the fastest pace in 6 years. According to IHS Markit, the Composite Output Index posted a reading of 56.8 in May and was unchanged from the preceding month. The data was sup-

ported by strong growth of incoming new business and orders; brightening Europe's one year future output to the highest level since data for this series were first collected in July 2012. Germany and France's output growth is currently around 72 months high.

In the service sector, Europe's rate of progress remained nearly unchanged in May at 56.3 with Spain recording the steepest rate of expansion of 57.3. The continuous improving condition in the service sector was reflected positively on business confidence, which hit an 85-month high in May. Robust figures of new orders across Europe's largest economies has encouraged job creation, with France's pace of job creation accelerating to the highest since August 2011. The latest PMI readings indicate the Eurozone is enjoying a strong second quarter, consistent with GDP rising at a 0.7 percent rate.

Despite the positive outlook for the German economy, factory orders fell in April as demand from overseas tumbled 3.4 percent and orders from non-Eurozone areas plunged 4.8 percent. However, the indicator is known to be volatile and the drop will not be enough dampen Europe's largest economy. The German economy has been robust so far this year, expanding at a 0.6 percent at the start of the year and above the eurozone average. Unemployment is at a record low and falling, while business confidence is at the highest level since 1991. The Bundesbank expects the economy will continue to expand at a robust pace in the coming months, supported by foreign and domestic demand.

UK's economy

Industrial sector grew slightly for the first time this year, after falling in each of the previous three months. The sector grew 0.2 percent in April, coming in below expectations of a 0.8 percent increase. The slight expansion was driven by an increase in energy production and stronger factory output. The slowdown in the economy in the first quarter was sharper than previously thought. Britain's economic slowdown in the first three months of 2017 made it the worst performer among the G7 nations.

Britain's service sector slowed in May as business activity rose at weakest pace since February. The slow growth in the sector is attributed to lower growth in new orders and weak consumer spending. However, IHS Markit stated they perhaps exaggerated the pessimistic mood because the slowdown in the growth of new orders was partly due to companies delaying decision-making ahead of the election.

The service index fell from a four month high of 55.8 to 53.8. Overall, weaker data since the start of 2017 shows how vulnerable the sector can be under pressure amid political uncertainty. Since the vote to leave the European Union, British citizens have been impacted by high inflation and low wage growth, translating into lower living standards. The service sector accounts 80 percent of UK's economic activity, which is highly sensitive towards consumer spending.

China's yearly trade balance

The Chinese economy defied expectations in May after Moody's downgraded its credit for the first time in 30 years as the country's financial strength will weaken in coming years due to slower growth and debt continues to rise in a period higher funding costs. The Chinese trade balance widened \$2.76 billion in May to \$40.81 billion, but came in below expectations of \$46.32 billion. On a yearly basis, the deficit shrank around \$4 billion as exports rose less than imports. Exports and imports rose 8 percent and 11.9 percent respectively.

The World Trade Organization expects global merchandise trade to grow 2.4 percent, from last year's 1.3 percent and predicts the Chinese economy to expand moderately in the second quarter. Overall, the economy may witness some difficulties as the government is looking to de-risk the banking system and to control debt and housing risks.

Mixed Chinese inflation

Prices paid by producers were subdued for a third consecutive month in May, indicating an economic cool down as profits are squeezed by weak domestic demand and rising financing costs. The downward pressure on PPI was also affected by lower commodity prices. On a yearly basis, producer prices were elevated by 5.5 percent in May, down from April's 6.4 percent.

Falling producer prices in China could be a problem for major central banks globally as they try to reach their inflation target. Markets expect China's economy to cool in the months ahead, with the latest factory activity figures also suggesting a gradual slowdown. On the other hand, consumer inflation jumped to a four-month high of 1.5, from 1.2 percent in April. Inflation is currently well below the government's target of around 3 percent for the year of 2017.

Japans GDP revised lower

Japan's economy expanded at a slower rate than previously anticipated by the Cabinet Office. The final annualized value of goods and services produced in Q1 2017 was downgraded from 2.2 percent to 1 percent. The state of the economy was weighed down by a drop in oil inventories, raw materials and a slower pace of growth in private consumption. On a quarterly period, GDP grew 0.3 percent compared with the first estimate of 0.5 percent.

Even with the lower growth, the economy has recorded its longest sustained run of growth in more than a decade, with five quarters of continuous economic expansion. Although, the continuous expansion has not translated into higher wages and the BoJ is far from reaching its 2 percent inflation target. The latest data may prolong Japan's loose monetary policy.

*Kuwait
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30340
The USDKWD opened at 0.30340 yesterday morning.*

MEXICO SUGAR DEAL HARD TO SWALLOW FOR LAST US CANDY CANE MAKER

NEW YORK: For the last US-based manufacturer of the red and white striped candy cane that is a ubiquitous North American holiday season treat, the sugar supply deal struck between Mexico and Washington is anything but sweet.

The competitors of Ohio-based Spangler Candy Co have, over the years, moved their plants south to Mexico and beyond to gain unfettered access to the cheaper sugar supplies there. That was part of a shift in manufacturing out of the United States that President Donald Trump has vowed to reverse.

Spangler's Chief Executive Officer Kirk Vashaw has kept the candy cane industry alive in the United States at his plant in Ohio, where his firm churns out 200 million candy canes a year.

But the new sugar supply deal will make things tougher still for Spangler, as an agreed rise in the minimum price for Mexican sugar will drive up Spangler's raw material cost. "To be honest, I'm just very disappointed that the Trump administration didn't do more to level the playing field, which is something they promised over and over again to do for the American worker," Vashaw said in a phone interview with Reuters.

"This was an opportunity to do that, and they didn't." The firm is one of a wide range of food producers, drinks makers and cereal manufacturers across the country that will see sugar input costs higher by about \$1 billion above government support prices, according to the Sweetener Users Association.

Many of those companies, who oppose the government's support for the sugar industry, will have to consider whether to pass that rise in costs on to consumers. The additional cost is a fraction of the value of the packaged food industry, estimated at around \$373 billion in 2016, according to data provider Euromonitor International. Food and beverage firms such as Hershey Co, General Mills Inc, JM Smucker Co, Mondelez International Inc will be impacted because they are all companies for which sugar is a key raw material.

Hershey said in a statement that it was aware the agreement had the potential to increase sugar prices in the long term. Both Hershey and Mondelez referred Reuters to the Sweeteners Users Association, which in a statement

described the pact as a "stealth price increase." General Mills and Coca-Cola Co declined to comment. PepsiCo Inc, Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc and Mars Inc did not respond to request for comment.

"This is putting America second," said Jeanne Shaheen, a Democratic senator from New Hampshire, where Swiss chocolate maker Lindt & Sprngli has its US headquarters. "It's a bad deal for American families and businesses that will raise costs for consumers and threaten jobs in sugar-using industries."

Shaheen is a long-time critic of the sugar program and has pushed for changes. US sugar companies - which process beet and cane before selling it to food and beverage industries - got better terms out of the deal and yet will not be impacted by the price rise.

Refiners were insulated from the impact of the higher raw sugar price by a greater increase in the minimum prices for refined sugar in this week's agreement, so will simply charge the companies and consumers that buy their sugar more.

The US sugar industry had asked for better terms after complaining the previous deal with Mexico squeezed refinery margins and starved them of supplies.

Cozy deal

The new deal revised the previous 2014 pact and aimed to end years of dispute between the two countries. Larger sugar refiners will benefit the most, as the new terms make it harder for smaller competitors to import sugar from Mexico, which is the top foreign sugar supplier to the United States.

That means the smaller sugar buyers will have to pay more for their supplies. Access to the 11 million-ton annual US sugar market is coveted by sugar exporters as price of the sweetener in the world's largest economy is higher than elsewhere. The market is protected by the government, prices are guaranteed and imports are rationed.

The combined impact of those measures means that US sugar buyers will pay about 60 percent more than global benchmark prices. For Spangler, which makes Dum Dum lollipops as well, the rise in prices for Mexican sugar will translate to an around 8 percent rise in what it pays, estimates Vashaw. — Reuters

FEAR OF LOSING BLUEBERRY GROWERS AS PRICES DROP

PORTLAND, Maine: Members of Maine's agriculture industry and state government fear the possibility of losing blueberry growers due to a depression in prices that has made growing the beloved crop a less reliable way to make a living.

Wild blueberries are a Maine tradition on par with lobsters and lighthouses, but prices to farmers have plunged from nearly a dollar a pound (0.45 kilogram) in 2011 to around 25 to 30 cents per pound (0.45 kilogram) last year. The number of farmers and acreages is holding steady, but other measures show a decline in effort on farms, state officials said. For example, bees are imported to Maine to pollinate blueberry fields, and the number of beehives coming into the state declined by about 20 percent from 2015 to 2016, said David Yarborough, a horticulture professor at the University of Maine.

Industry members said they are likely looking at another year of low prices, and some farmers are using less of their fields in anticipation of a tough summer. "These are challenging times for the blueberry industry," said Homer Woodward, vice president of Jasper Wyman & Son, one of the Maine blueberry industry's major players. "Everyone is trying to rethink their farm management plan."

Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican, has submitted a state budget proposal that would use \$2.5 million in state money to market agricultural products such as blueberries. He and others have said the state needs to find new buyers for the blueberries to try to spur demand and buoy prices. State officials say wild blueberry growers in Washington and Hancock counties, the heart of blueberry country, are seeing annual losses of \$70 million.

One of the reasons for the drop in prices and profits is a multi-year boom in harvest that has led to surplus. The US Department of Agriculture stepped in last year and allotted up to \$13 million to buy surplus Maine blueberries and help stabilize prices. But excess supply remains.

Competition

Another problem is that Canada also produces wild blueberries and it's difficult for Maine companies to compete with the country economically because of the weak Canadian dollar. Wild blueberries are not as common in stores as the fatter cultivated blueberries, but fans of the fruit tout its unique flavor profile and higher level of antioxidants. About 99 percent of the crop is frozen, and it is widely used as a food ingredient, such as in smoothies.

Canada and Maine, the US's sole significant wild blueberry state, have both churned out high levels of the crop in recent years,



Picker Erika Nicolas Garcia, 18, fills her pail at a blueberry farm near Hillsboro.

Yarborough said. The two jurisdictions produced 400 million pounds (181.44 million kilograms) of wild blueberries last year, Yarborough said. The norm is around 250 million pounds (113.4 million kilograms), he said. Regardless of the size of this summer's crop, prices are unlikely to surge back to higher levels quickly, Yarborough added.



"This particular situation isn't going to resolve itself in a year or two, it might take longer," he said.

The drop in prices to farmers hasn't trickled down to retail customers yet, except in the form of occasional sales and coupons, Woodward said. He said growers and processors are hoping the state's push to more aggressively market the blueberries will attract new interest outside the state.

State Agriculture Commissioner Walt Whitcomb said the state hopes to market blueberries more aggressively overseas and increase efforts to get Maine blueberries into more U.S. schools. The school push has yielded some results, as more Maine blueberries were sold to schools in April than in all of 2016. Nancy McBrady, executive director of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine, said new consumers are what the Maine blueberry industry needs the most. "There is a real possibility that some growers might exit the business entirely," she said, "which is a real tragedy because this is a 150-year-old industry in the state." — AP



NEW RACE-WINNING FORD GT: RACING TO THE FUTURE

HOW FORD CREATED GT SUPERCAR TO TEST TECHNOLOGIES FOR TOMORROW'S VEHICLES

KUWAIT: In creating the all-new high performance Ford GT, the pioneers behind the supercar designed it not only to win races but also to serve as a test bed for new technologies and ideas for future vehicles across Ford's vehicle lineup.

"When we began work on the all-new Ford GT in 2013, the team had three goals," said Raj Nair, Ford executive vice president of Product Development and chief technical officer. "The first was to use it as a training ground for our engineers as we develop future engine technology and stretch our understanding of aerodynamics. Then, to push the boundaries of advanced material usage, such as lightweight carbon fibre. Finally, we set out to win the Le Mans 24 Hours, referred to by many as the ultimate test of endurance and efficiency."

At the same time the team was developing the GT, Ford combined several of its performance teams - Ford SVT, Team RS, Ford Racing, performance vehicle parts and merchandise licencing - into a single group called Ford Performance.

"Without this kind of integrated teamwork and combined organization, it would have been impossible to deliver the all-new Ford GT in its current form," said Dave Pericak, global director, Ford Performance. "This kind of collaboration was critical to not only bringing Ford GT back to life but for experimenting with the kind of innovations needed to create the ultimate supercar."

GT has proven power to inspire. The 2005 Ford GT, for instance, featured a lightweight aluminium alloy body that helped reduce weight to improve performance. Lessons learned from its production led to the innovative use of high-strength aluminium alloy in today's Ford F-Series pickup trucks and the all-new Ford Expedition full-size SUV - shedding hundreds of pounds of weight, while also improving capability, performance and fuel efficiency.

Putting the dynamic in aerodynamics

While GT looks fast standing still, the team optimized every shape to make it as aerodynamic as possible. A key goal was to reduce drag and optimize downforce - which helps give the supercar stability and grip on the track while

accelerating, cornering and braking. GT's aerodynamics change on demand to meet varying driving conditions, thanks to moveable elements around the body, including special ducts in the front, and a large deployable wing.

The flaps open and close depending on whether GT's wing is up or down, so the car remains aerodynamically balanced from front to back at all speeds. When the wing is up, the ducts close to increase downforce; when the wing is down, the ducts open to decrease downforce.

The supercar's wing includes all-new Ford technology - a patent pending design that changes the shape of the airfoil for maximum efficiency when fully deployed. The unique design also includes a small gurney flap which, when combined with the shape change, results in a 14 per cent improvement in overall efficiency.

Even the engine helps GT's aerodynamics. The compact six-cylinder design of the car's EcoBoost engine allowed the team to taper its fuselage to more efficient dimensions than a larger V8 would have allowed. In addition, the low placement of the engine's turbochargers and outboard placement of the turbo intercoolers ahead of the rear wheels help to taper the fuselage around the engine.

The GT's aerodynamics produce positive downforce in all conditions. At high ride height, the downforce has a balance of 30 per cent front. In low ride height, the downforce balance is maintained at 29 per cent front.

Slimming down

Carbon fibre is an important new element that helps GT deliver both weight savings and sleek body shapes in ways not possible with steel or aluminium.

Working with partners, including Multimatic and DowAksa, Ford is developing new ways to enable faster, high-volume production of carbon fibre parts.

For example, GT's iconic flying buttresses that extend from the roof to the rear fenders wouldn't be possible in steel or aluminium because of the limitations of conventional metal stamping. Yet, carbon fibre can be shaped into complex geometric designs because it's cut to a specific shape as a cloth and strengthened by curing at a high temperature.

Fuelling the GT engine - and beyond

Ford GT's 3.5-litre EcoBoost engine is the company's most powerful EcoBoost ever, delivering 647 horsepower. It was developed alongside the GT race engine and the 3.5-litre EcoBoost engine used in the F-150 Raptor high-performance off-road pickup, which shares almost 60 per cent of its parts with GT's engine.

For instance, during racing, the test engine's crankshafts in the Daytona Prototype were cracking under gruelling conditions. With little time to get ready for the Sebring endurance race that year, the team made a key decision to substitute the Daytona prototype's race crankshaft with a pre-production F-150 Raptor crankshaft. The Daytona prototype won its first race at Sebring that year.

"We pushed the engine's limits beyond what we might consider in traditional development programs, which is important as we continue to advance EcoBoost technology as a centerpiece of the company's global lineup," said Bob Fascetti, Ford vice president, powertrain engineering.

The team also created innovative anti-lag turbo technology that can help maximize the GT's ability to power out of corners. This technology works by keeping the throttle open when the driver is not stepping on the gas pedal. The fuel injectors are off but turbo speed and boost are maintained for faster engine response and acceleration as soon as they hit the gas.

Further improving engine performance, GT features an all-new port and direct dual fuel-injection setup to enhance engine response. The engine is paired with a responsive seven-speed dual-clutch transaxle for nearly instantaneous gear changes and exceptional driver control.

Get low

"All of the weight savings and engine advancements served a singular purpose - creating the fastest, most-efficient Ford GT ever," Pericak said. "Once that was achieved, we reinvested some of those weight savings in truly innovative technology that made the car even faster and more fun to drive."

That includes GT's hydraulic suspension, which changes

ride height with a turn of the knob, which adjusts drive modes. The suspension lowers the supercar from normal mode into track mode - a 50 millimetre or nearly two-inch difference the driver can see and feel. Track mode raises the wing and closes the front splitter ducts for optimal downforce for spirited, closed-course driving.

When the GT changes modes from high to low ride height, changes in spring rates, matching damper settings, and active aerodynamics, come together to create two unique cars in one. Another feature of the hydraulic suspension - front-lift mode - helps GT clear speed-bumps and driveways. The driver can raise the front of the car on demand at speeds below 40 km/h. The system automatically returns to normal lower ride height when it reaches 40 km/h.

Tech for all

GT's role as a technology test bed is evident throughout the supercar, with some innovations, such as carbon fibre lightweighting, serving as longer-term possibilities, while others are hitting showrooms soon. For example, all-digital dashboard technology, similar to that in the supercar, is available in the 2018 Mustang, and is coming to additional new Ford vehicles.

Additionally, the company's push into customized driving modes that help customers fit a vehicle's performance to specific conditions is expanding rapidly. Ford GT's track mode, also offered in Mustang and other performance models, helps enthusiasts maximize racing performance, while the all-new F-150 Raptor features Baja off-road mode.

As new Ford GTs continue to roll into owner driveways, other Ford customers can expect to find a little bit of the supercar in their future vehicles as well.

To get more information on the Ford line-up, please visit the Alghanim Auto New Vehicle Showroom in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, opposite from the Classical Car Museum and Sirbb Circuit. Working hours during the holy month of Ramadan are Saturday to Thursday from 9nm to 4pm, and from 8 pm till 12 am midnight, and 8pm till 12am midnight on Fridays.



AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:
Majed Rahi Qasem Al-Khaldi — KD 7000, Ashraf Hasan Saleh Saleh — KD 7000, Wasaf Abbas Mohammed — KD 7000, Khadeja Ghulom Mohammed Khaja — KD 7000, Mariam Soud Al-Ajmi — KD 7000/.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

- The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account
- Daily draw to win KD 7000
- Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000
- 1ST QUARTER — KD 100,000, 2ND QUARTER — KD 150,000, 3RD QUARTER — KD 200,000, 4TH QUARTER — KD 250,000.
- With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes
- * Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- * Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- * Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.
- Additional features
- * ATM card
- * Issue a credit card against your account
- * Obtain all CBK banking services
- You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.



HUAWEI STAFF DISTRIBUTE RAMADAN BASKETS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DU

DUBAI: Embodying the spirit of the UAE's Year of Giving, and in line with the company's efforts to give back to the society, Huawei employees volunteered to take part in the du's Mawaed Al-Rahman initiative. The initiative, which is organized for the 9th consecutive year in partnership with Tarahum, seeks to provision and distribute Ramadan baskets on less privileged individuals and families during the holy month of Ramadan.

Contributing to this noble initiative, Huawei delegated 100 of its employees to distribute over 350 Ramadan baskets, and demonstrate the company's commitment to the Year of Giving.

"Huawei prides itself of being an integral part of all communities in which it works, and naturally we are part of the rich traditions in this region. Ramadan is a valuable time for all of us, a time for reflection and spiritual development, and of course a time for giving and compassion," said

David Wang, CEO, Huawei Tech, UAE. "The holy month is a perfect opportunity to highlight these values, and work with our partners and other stakeholders in the UAE to spread the spirit of Ramadan on all people. We are very pleased to have been a part of it during the UAE's Year of Giving," he added.

Mr. Wang also commended du for building this platform that allows others to take part in this social work. He also thanked Huawei staff for their commitment in fulfilling this initiative.

Mawaed Al-Rahman has been a leading Ramadan initiative from du since 2008, and has so far distributed more than 500,000 Ramadan baskets on less privileged UAE residents. Using reusable, environmentally friendly packaging, the baskets include 12 items of Iftar and Suhoor essentials. Each year, volunteers prepare 16,000 baskets, and distribute to more than 3,000 families.

Huawei is a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider. Our aim is to enrich life and improve efficiency through a better connected world, acting as a responsible corporate citizen, innovative enabler for the information society, and collaborative contributor to the industry. Driven by customer-centric innovation and open partnerships, Huawei has established an end-to-end ICT solutions portfolio that gives customers competitive advantages in telecom and enterprise networks, devices and cloud computing. Huawei's 170,000 employees worldwide are committed to creating maximum value for telecom operators, enterprises and consumers. Our innovative ICT solutions, products and services are used in more than 170 countries and regions, serving over one-third of the world's population. Founded in 1987, Huawei is a private company fully owned by its employees.

AI GETS SO-SO GRADE IN CHINA UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM

BEIJING: An AI machine has taken the math section of China's annual university entrance exam, finishing it faster than students but with a below average grade. The artificial intelligence machine, a tall black box containing 11 servers placed in the centre of a test room took two versions of the exam on Wednesday in Chengdu, Sichuan province. The machine, called AI-MATHS, scored 105 out of 150 in 22 minutes. Students have two hours to complete the test, the official Xinhua news agency reported. It then spent 10 minutes on another version and scored 100. Beijing liberal art students who took

the math exam last year scored an average of 109. Exam questions and the AI machine's answers were both shown on a big screen while three people kept score. The AI was developed in 2014 by a Chengdu-based company, Zhunxingyunxue Technology, using big data, artificial intelligence and natural language recognition technologies from Tsinghua University. "I hope next year the machine can improve its performance on logical reasoning and computer algorithms and score over 130," Lin Hui, the company's CEO, was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

"This is not a make-or-break test for a robot. The aim is to train artificial intelligence to learn the way humans reason and deal with numbers," Lin said. The machine took only one of the four subjects in the crucially important entrance examination, the other three being Chinese, a foreign language and one comprehensive test in either liberal arts or science. While AI is faster with numbers than humans, it struggles with language. "For example, the robot had a hard time understanding the words 'students' and 'teachers' on the test and failed to understand the question, so it scored zero for that question," Lin said.

The test was the latest attempt to show how AI technology can perform in comparison to the human brain. Last year, the Google-owned computer algorithm AlphaGo became the first computer program to beat an elite player in a full match of the ancient Chinese game of Go. AlphaGo won again last month, crushing the world's top player, Ke Jie of China, in a three-game sweep. AlphaGo's feats have fuelled visions of AI that can not only perform pre-programmed tasks, but help humanity look at complex scientific, technical and medical mysteries in new ways. —AFP

NEW MIMICAST REPORT DETECTS 400% INCREASE IN IMPERSONATION ATTACKS

DUBAI: Mimecast Limited (NASDAQ: MIME), a leading email and data security company, yesterday announced the most recent quarterly release of the Mimecast Email Security Risk Assessment (ESRA), a test which measures the effectiveness of email security systems currently in use by thousands of organizations globally. In its second quarterly assessment, Mimecast found that both known and unknown attacks, as well as spam, are continuing to get through incumbent email security systems. In addition to of particular concern, are emails that contain no malware, and instead rely on duping recipients into responding to a request that usually involves sending the attacker money or highly monetizable data. These points were addressed in a January 2017 commissioned Forrester Consulting study titled, Closing the Cloud Security Email Gap, which recommended that organizations engage with a trusted third-party security vendor to more effectively close the gap with their email security.

In comparison to the data initially reported in the February 2017 ESRA, the number of impersonation attacks detected this quarter rose more than 400 percent quarter over quarter. Impersonation attacks consist of social engineering heavy emails that attempt to impersonate a trusted party such as a C-level executive, employee or business partner. This simple method of attack is being exploited at an alarming rate as it can be used to dupe recipients into initiating wire-transfers and sending back other sensitive data leading to significant financial loss - as evidenced by widely publicized recent attacks. In fact, a public service announcement issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) stated that between October 2013

and December 2016 business email compromise scams resulted in a total loss of more than \$5.3 billion US dollars. Between January 2015 and December 2016 alone, there was a 2,370% increase in identified exposed losses.

This latest ESRA reflects findings from inspecting the inbound email for more than 44,000 users over a cumulative 287 days received by participating organizations. In aggregate to date more than 40 million emails have been inspected by Mimecast, all of which had already passed through the incumbent email security vendor or cloud email service in use by each organization. The ESRA test uncovered almost 9 million pieces of spam, 8,318 dangerous file types, 1,669 known and 487 unknown malware attachments and 8,605 impersonation attacks. The data reinforces the concerning reality that the industry must work towards a higher standard of email security, as 90 percent of attacks start with email. In general, organizations everywhere are struggling with prolific ransomware attacks, like Locky.

"Cybercriminals are constantly adapting their attack methods. For instance, this latest ESRA analysis reflects how impersonation attacks are getting through existing email security defenses at an alarming rate. If a CISO isn't reviewing its current email security solution on a 12-18 month basis, they may be surprised at what threats are now getting into employees' inboxes," said Ed Jennings, chief operating officer at Mimecast. "At the same time, email security providers need to ensure they're doing their due diligence to protect customers from new attacks, whether they be advanced or simple. The Mimecast ESRA results show a clear need for the security industry to come together in the fight against email-borne threats."



LOS ANGELES: Actress Janina Gavankar introduces 'Star Wars Battlefront 2' during the Electronic Arts EA Play event at the Hollywood Palladium. — AFP

FANS IN FOCUS AT MAJOR E3 VIDEO GAME TRADE SHOW

'BATTLEFIELD 1', 'STAR WARS', 'FIFA' IN SPOTLIGHT

SAN FRANCISCO: Video game giant Electronic Arts yesterday courted fans with titles such as "Star Wars Battlefront" and snatched the spotlight ahead of a major industry trade show in Los Angeles. Gamers who have become stars on YouTube for streamed play or commentary joined EA executives in the Hollywood Palladium to provide world premier glimpses into eagerly awaited games. The event kicked off a three-day "fan fest" where people can get tastes of coming games. EA Live will end on the eve of the official start of the historically trade-only Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3).

"There is a lot of interest in the industry to speak more directly to the gamer," Sony Interactive Entertainment worldwide studios chairman Shawn Layden told. E3 took the unusual step this year of making about 15,000 tickets available at \$149 each for fans to explore the show floor and attend panels. EA held the first of a series of press events by console and game makers in the days leading up to E3. Games showed off included blockbuster shooter "Battlefield" and a sequel to a "Star Wars Battlefront" game that met with criticism after its release about two years ago. "We got a lot of feedback; a lot of it positive and a lot of it constructive," EA chief executive Andrew Wilson quipped on stage. "That is a euphemism for not as positive."

Endless play

EA provided a glimpse at what appeared to be a new science fiction shooter work titled "Anthem" from BioWare and a character driven, buddy prison break game called "A Way Out" that can only be played cooperatively with a friend. EA's fan-fest comes as the video game industry flourishes and shifts to cultivating ongoing relationships with players instead of simply selling them blockbuster games in packages or as digital downloads. Historically an event exclusively for the industry, E3 appeared to be adapting to the trend of game makers building ongoing relationships with players in online communities. "E3 is evolving to try to bring in people who are not involved in the industry, who are fans," said Ted Pollak, senior video game industry analyst at Jon Peddie Research.

Netflix-style games

Hot trends at E3 next week will include the rise of streaming games, to be played subscription-style as a service or to be watched as spectator sports on the booming eSports stage. Amazon-owned Twitch and Google's YouTube are once again at E3, streaming announcements, game trailers, interviews and other game-content to viewers around the world. Microsoft just launched a subscription service for Xbox, letting players pay

a monthly fee for access to a library of video games for its console.

People who already subscribe to an Xbox Gold service can pay an extra \$10 monthly for the new "Game Pass." Sony makes video games available as part of a subscription service for PlayStation consoles. "Most important for the console space at the moment is the concept of games as a service," said NPD video games analyst Mat Piscatella. "Games are now designed around keeping people engaged for years."

Dueling consoles

E3 will once again be an arena for competing consoles from Microsoft, Nintendo and Sony to battle it out. Sony PlayStation 4 has dominated the market, while Nintendo's recently-launched Switch has been a hit, with fans snapping up the console and a "Legend of Zelda" game that has become a must-play title. Microsoft is to spotlight a muscular new Xbox model, referred to in development as "Scorpio," at a special E3 press event yesterday. PS4 and Xbox One are both performing better in the market than their respective predecessors, and Nintendo "is back in a big way" with Switch, according to Piscatella. Meanwhile, the personal computer has quietly become the most played and money-generating platform for games, according to analysts. —AFP



CAMBRIDGE: Apple CEO Tim Cook holds up a T-shirt with equations equaling M, I, and T, given to him by MIT President L Rafael Reif in his office before the commencement exercises at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. —AP

TECH WITHOUT VALUES IS WORTHLESS: APPLE CEO

CAMBRIDGE: Science is worthless if it isn't motivated by basic human values and the desire to help people, Apple CEO Tim Cook told graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Friday, urging them to use their powers for good. In a commencement address, Cook, who as Apple's chief executive since 2011 has overseen the rollout of the iPhone 7 and the Apple Watch, said the company is constantly looking for ways to combine tech with a sense of humanity and compassion. "Whatever you do in your life, and whatever we do at Apple, we must infuse it with the humanity that we are born with," said Cook, who previously served as chief operating officer and headed the Macintosh division.

"That responsibility is immense. But so is the opportunity," he said. Cook said Apple wants to make products that help people. As examples, he cited iPhone technology that can help a blind athlete run a marathon and an iPad that connects an autistic child to the

world around them. "When you keep people at the center of what you do, it can impact," he said. Cook said he isn't worried about artificial intelligence giving computers the ability to think like humans. "I'm more concerned about people thinking like computers without values or compassion or concern for the consequences," he said. "That is what we need you to help us guard against."

Because if science is a search in the darkness, then the humanities are a candle that shows us where we have been and the danger that lies ahead. Cook also urged graduates to resist becoming cynical. "The internet enabled so much and empowered so many, but it can also be a place where basic rules of decency are suspended and pettiness and negativity thrive," he said. "Don't let that noise knock you off course. Don't get caught up in the trivial aspects of life. Don't listen to trolls, and don't become one. Measure impact in humanity; not in the likes, but the lives you touch and the people you serve." —AP

SOCIAL MEDIA BACK IN ETHIOPIA AFTER BLOCK

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia re-activated cell-phone data services and unexpectedly allowed access to social media sites that had been blocked since a wave of anti-government protests last year, a government spokesman said on Thursday. Africa's second most-populous country shut down internet access even to diplomatic installations last week in a move the government said was necessary to keep students from being distracted during annual exams.

Deputy communications minister Zadiq Abraha confirmed the lifting of the ban but declined to say why social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, which have been blocked for months, are now freely accessible. "This is an open country and everything is open," Zadiq said. Ethiopia had restored

broadband internet access over the weekend and allowed the African Union headquarters and the UN's Economic Commission for Africa to get back online shortly after the initial shutdown last week.

Mobile phone data networks - which the majority of businesses and people rely on to get online - only returned around noon on Thursday, an AFP journalist witnessed. Social media was also accessible, unlike before the shutdown. Ethiopia last year restricted access to Facebook, Twitter and other sites after the country was rocked by anti-government protests that left hundreds dead and resulted in more than 11,000 arrests. The government has blamed dissidents for inciting the protests via social media postings. —AFP

COMPETITION FOR OFFSHORE WIND RAMPS UP IN MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON: Massachusetts' bid to become the nation's leader in offshore wind power is ramping up. The state's electric utilities, National Grid, Eversource and Unitil, are slated to release by June 30 their requirements for projects seeking to develop the state's first ocean-based wind farm. That sets in motion an ambitious effort to put Massachusetts ahead of states like New York, New Jersey and Maryland also seeking to establish their presence in the nascent US industry. Here's a primer on where things stand:

New energy law

A state law passed last year to boost Massachusetts' use of renewable energy outlines the process for developing offshore wind power. The law calls for generating at least 1,600 megawatts of power, roughly enough electricity to power 750,000 homes annually, from offshore wind by 2027. To accomplish this, the utilities are required to secure long-term contracts with wind farm developers in at least two phases: a bid request this June and another in 2019. The law also calls for generating up to 1,200 additional megawatts from other clean energy sources, including hydropower, onshore wind power and solar power by 2027.

Key players

At least three companies have expressed interest in the bid: Rhode Island's Deepwater Wind, Denmark's DONG Energy and Vineyard Wind of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Those three have already taken the key step of securing federal leases to develop offshore wind farms miles off the coasts of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, where the state is focusing its offshore wind efforts. Each firm comes with its industry bonafides.

Deepwater Wind opened the nation's first offshore wind farm off Block Island last year, a five-turbine project generating 30 MW. DONG Energy has installed hundreds of turbines in waters off

Europe and has partnered with Eversource on its Massachusetts venture. And Vineyard Wind is partly owned by Portland, Oregon renewable energy developer Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners of Denmark.

Rough draft

The utilities in concert with state agencies have been developing their bid requirements for months. The most recent draft calls for proposals generating between 400 to 800 megawatts of power and outlined key dates, including a December deadline for submitting applications and a May 2018 deadline for picking a winner or winners. But the utilities have also sought input from offshore wind companies and other stake-

holders, so it remains to be seen if those specifics are further tweaked.

Size matters?

As the utilities have drafted their bid requirements, there's been some debate about the right size for the wind farms. DONG Energy argues that larger projects generating up to 800 megawatts provide "efficiencies of scale" that would lead to lower electricity costs for ratepayers. Vineyard Wind believes the more practical approach is developing four projects of 400 megawatts each. And Deepwater Wind has argued for a range of projects of varying sizes. "We think a more gradual approach makes the most sense," said Jeffrey Grybowski, Deepwater Wind's CEO. "You need to walk before you run." —AP



BERLIN: A microchip implant self-installation kit is seen at a press preview of the Wear-it Festival in Berlin on June 8, 2017. The Wear It Festival takes place on June 8 and 9, 2017 in Berlin and shows the potentials of wearables with focus on the development of new products allying fashion and digital items. — AFP

REPUBLICANS ARE TAKING A BIG POLITICAL RISK ON HEALTH CARE

WASHINGTON: Republicans are taking a big political risk on health care. They're trying to scale back major benefit programs being used by millions of people. And they're trying to do it even though much of the public is leery of drastic changes, and there's no support outside the GOP. It's not stopping them. After seven years attacking former President Barack Obama's health care law, Republicans are finally in control of the entire government and say they have to deliver now. Yet they're not talking much about the trade-offs that come with sweeping changes, not to mention estimates that millions more people could be uninsured.

"I don't think anything of this consequence has ever been passed in the entitlement arena," said Jim Capretta, a health policy expert with American Enterprise Institute, a business-oriented think tank. "It's a piece of legislation that would be high-

ly consequential." Unprecedented "is a perfectly fair characterization," said Lanhee Chen, who was policy adviser to former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney. Like Capretta, Chen agrees with the general direction congressional Republicans are taking, if not all the specifics. Senate Republicans are winnowing down policy options in search of 51 votes to advance House-passed legislation this summer. Some of the central issues in the GOP's health care gamble:

Historic shift

Health care programs usually grow faster than other government services. Republicans want to break that decadeslong trend, although they'd leave Medicare largely untouched for now. The talk is all about repealing the 2010 Affordable Care Act. But the GOP's American Health Care Act would have lasting impact on Medicaid, the federal-state program covering about 70 million low-income and disabled people, including many elderly nursing home residents. Republicans would phase out richer financing that the Obama-era law provides states that expand Medicaid to cover low-income adults. More significantly, the GOP would limit future federal spending for the broader program. Medicaid has been an open-ended entitlement, with the feds matching part of what every state spends, about 60 percent on average.

The House-passed GOP bill would cut \$834 billion from projected federal Medicaid spending over a decade, leading to a reduction of about 17 percent in people covered by the program, according to the Congressional Budget Office. "There is no capacity at the state level to pick up the slack if the federal government withdraws its commitment," Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., said at a recent budget hearing. Some Republican govern-

nors also question the plan. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said Medicaid can be more efficiently managed by the states, and that open-ended federal financing doesn't necessarily mean improved health for beneficiaries.

Goals and objectives

In addition to reducing federal health spending, Republicans want to lower premiums for those who buy their own health insurance, an estimated 20 million people. About half receive subsidies under the Obama law, but the rest pay full freight and many have seen steep premium increases stemming from changes under that law. "Across America, premiums are skyrocketing, insurers are fleeing, and the American people are paying much more for much worse coverage," President Donald Trump said recently in Cincinnati. —AP



KENYA: An ivory statue, right, lies on top of pyres of ivory as they are set on fire in Nairobi National Park. —AP

US WAR VETERAN FIGHTING TO SAVE AFRICA'S ELEPHANTS

'IT RESEMBLES A WAR IN ANYTHING BUT NAME'

NAIROBI: A decorated US war veteran with two decades' experience in military intelligence, Lt Col Faye Cuevas spent half her career providing intelligence support to US counter-insurgencies in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. Now she is using her expertise to fight a different kind of conflict: the war on wildlife poaching. Calling herself "the accidental conservationist," Cuevas, an air force officer and a trained lawyer originally from Le Center, Minnesota, is not your typical wildlife enthusiast. She is determined to use her skills, honed in conflicts all over the world, to help save the planet's remaining wild elephants.

"If you start to really untangle how poaching happens how poachers are armed, how they're connected into larger networks and how those networks can move ivory and horn on a global scale, who protects them? Who provides logistics? It resembles a war in anything but name," Cuevas said. In the US Air Force, Cuevas worked on America's controversial drone program, collecting intelligence on individuals and organizations identified as threats. "Getting left of boom" was the term used to predict and prevent the next bomb attack.

Cuevas can pinpoint the moment she realized that she wanted to fight poaching. "The first time that I saw an elephant in the wild was in Amboseli National Park here in Kenya two years ago," she said. "It was life-changing." "At the current rate of elephant decline, my 6-year-old daughter won't have an

opportunity to see an elephant in the wild before she's old enough to vote," she said. "Which just is unacceptable to me, because if that is the case then we have nothing to blame that on but human apathy and greed."

10 homesteads

"She realized that she could use the 'left of boom' concept to help wildlife rangers get 'left of kill.' Enter tenBoma or '10 homesteads' which uses technology to pull together diverse sources of information, from rangers to conservation groups. She analyzes the data to 'create value in information in ways that it rises to the level of intelligence.' Together with the US-based International Fund for Animal Welfare, Cuevas introduced a smart phone-based software app that allows rangers and field investigators to enter and share information immediately, rather than write it up in reports at the end of a day's patrolling. "The Kenya Wildlife Service and other many conservation groups are doing fantastic conservation work," Cuevas said.

"However, the reality is that there are other challenges from a cyber perspective, from a global criminal network perspective that really necessitate security approaches integrated into conservation strategies." The number of Africa's savannah elephants had dropped to about 350,000 by 2014 because of poaching, according to a recent study. Wildlife crime is worth \$10 billion to \$20 billion a year globally, according to Interpol. Kenya, a major source country for traf-

ficking in elephant ivory and rhino horn, has strongly supported a total ban on both for decades. The government's Kenya Wildlife Service is working closely with Cuevas.

"There's excitement in the team because we've seen the results" of Cuevas' work, said David Karanja, senior warden in the wildlife service's intelligence department. TenBoma is currently being tested in the Tsavo Conservation Area, which covers over 42,000 sq kilometers encompassing two of Kenya's biggest national parks. The huge, fenced area is notoriously difficult to patrol, but it has seen a decline in elephant poaching in recent years. The proportion of elephants in the Tsavo area that died from poaching dropped by 11 percent in 2016, according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

That is largely due to long-running efforts by non-profit groups working with the Kenya Wildlife Service in the area. Supporters of tenBoma hope the app will improve that trend even more. There are plans to expand the concept into other conservation areas, perhaps even to other continents. After a year of running tenBoma from Washington, Cuevas has moved her family to Kenya's capital, Nairobi, to be closer to her work - and to her goal of defeating wildlife crime networks. "It is a war that we have not won, but I would say it is a war that we are winning," Cuevas said. "And if we can continue with the same momentum, we can ultimately win the war." — AFP

MOROCCAN FOSSIL REARRANGES HOMO SAPIENS FAMILY TREE

PARIS: This week's unveiling of the oldest-known Homo sapiens remains has painted an excitingly chaotic picture of what Earth was like 300,000 years ago—bustling with hominin species that included a very early version of our own, experts say. The story of human evolution, this shows, does not follow a straight line from monkey to ape-man to architect. Rather than emerging from a single "Garden of Eden" 200,000 years ago before spreading throughout Africa and the world, early modern humans were already scattered across the Mother Continent a hundred millennia earlier.

Even then, homo sapiens were living in distinct groupings that met occasionally, trading technology and genes. They also rubbed shoulders with rival Homo species, which may have included their own direct ancestor, according to analysis of the sensational findings. Africa, at the time, would have resembled "a kind of human zoo," said Jean-Jacques Hublin of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, who led the research on five human fossils from Jebel Irhoud in Morocco. "We are moving further and further away from this linear vision of human evolution with a succession of species, one replacing the other," he said. "There were probably several groups of hominins existing, overlapping in time... and having, I would say, complex relationships." Two studies published in the journal Nature on Wednesday, extended our species' recorded existence by a third, from 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, and torpedoed the long-held theory that we emerged from an East African "cradle of humankind."

"The origin of our species likely involved numerous populations spread across Africa with periodic gene flow between them," said Matthew Skinner of the University of Kent's School of Anthropology, who did not take part in the study. For Lawrence Barham of the University of Liverpool, the dating of the Moroccan site helps us to see our species more clearly in time and in space. The previous oldest Homo sapiens remains ever found, in Ethiopia, were 195,000 years old.

"An earlier date of 300,000 years is significant from the perspective of human evolution in Africa itself, where Homo sapiens may have co-existed with at least two other species—Homo heidelbergensis and Homo naledi," Barham commented.

Who taught whom?

Many scientists hypothesize that the large-brained H. heidelbergensis was the common ancestor from which H. sapiens and our cousins the Neanderthals split around half-a-million years ago. Contemporary H. naledi had a smaller brain and retained some ape-like features—it likely climbed trees as well as made tools. Now the question arises: did these different African species compete?

"Or did each have its own niche enabling them to coexist?" asked Barham. Another unknown is when our species started encountering members of Homo groups from further afield—Neanderthals from Europe and Denisovans in Asia, for example. The new findings, Barham said, "raises the possibility that there may have been even earlier movements of Homo sapiens out of Africa." The consensus today is that our species left Africa about 80,000-100,000 years ago. At the time that Hublin's ancient Moroccans were hunting and cooking gazelle and zebra meat not far from modern-day Marrakesh, Africa was a very different place—easier to navigate on foot. For long periods between 330,000 and 300,000 years ago, the desert was replaced by a greener, more hospitable landscape.

According to the research team, the discovery means that Homo sapiens—not members of a rival or ancestor species—were the ones who left behind Middle Stone Age hand tools that have since been unearthed all over Africa. As our species was previously thought to be much younger, it was not considered plausible that they could have made these implements. For Barham, the new dates will revive a theory that Neanderthals learnt tool-making from Homo sapiens, not the other way round. —AFP



ROMANIA: A bear receives sweets from a shop owner on the outskirts of Brasov, Romania. —AP

PROTECTIVE MOTHER BEAR CUTS OFF DRACULA'S CASTLE

BUCHAREST: While Dracula's legend usually fails to scare tourists away from the blood-sucking vampire's 15th century castle, a large, furry and protective mother bear has had more success. Romanian authorities have declared Poenari Castle off limits after visitors climbing the 1,480 steps up to the ruins had close shaves with the animal and her three cubs. "The environment ministry has given us the green light for the four bears to be captured and moved else-

where," local official Emilian Dragnea said in a statement. "But we still have to decide where to remove them to," he said. Police blamed tourists for leaving food which attracts the animals. Poenari Castle was built by Prince Vlad "The Impaler" Tepes, the inspiration for Bram Stoker's 1897 gothic novel "Dracula". The bigger tourist attraction however is Bran Castle in Transylvania. Romania is home to around 6,000 brown bears, 60 percent of the European population. —AFP

MONTANA TO SWITCH HOW IT COUNTS WOLVES IN THE STATE



WYOMING: In this Jan 26, 2002 file photo, a tour bus stops to let a wolf cross the road in Yellowstone National Park. — AP

HELENA: Montana wildlife officials say the way they count wolves is too expensive and falls far short of an actual population estimate, so they plan to switch to a model that uses information gathered from hunters. However, wildlife advocates say wolf numbers are declining and the switch could threaten the species' survival. They worry the data is too unreliable to be used to manage the population. The change, expected within the next three years after improvements to the model, will be cheaper than the annual wolf counts conducted now and provide a more accurate estimate of the total population, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials said.

"Back in the late '90s, early 2000s, we could count every wolf in the state," wildlife biologist Bob Inman said. "As populations increased into the 700 to 1,000 range, we physically can't do that anymore." The model, which uses hunter sightings to help map areas occupied by wolves, typically puts wolf numbers much higher than the annual minimum counts. Ranchers and hunters in the state have contended for years that the wolf population is too high and threatens livestock and elk populations. Wolf advocates say hunting and trapping has led to a decline in wolf numbers in recent years, and the model could obscure the threat the predators are facing.

"If the numbers that are going in are going to be bad, the numbers going out are going to be bad," said Marc Cooke of the advocacy group Wolves of the Rockies. "I'm very leery of it." He said he distrusts hunters' reporting because of their

anti-wolf bias and that state wildlife officials pay too much deference to those hunters. "There's a trust gap being developed between the department and wildlife enthusiasts," he said. Congress lifted protections for wolves in Montana and Idaho in 2011, but the US Fish and Wildlife Service continued to oversee how those states managed their populations for five years to ensure that hunting and trapping did not drive down the predators' numbers again. A judge lifted federal protections for wolves in Wyoming in April.

Patch Occupancy Model

In Montana, six Fish, Wildlife and Parks specialists now verify by sight all the wolves they can to make sure there is more than the minimum required 150 individual wolves and 15 breeding pairs. That means scouring wolf territory year-round on the ground and in the air, an expensive job that became even pricier last year when federal funding ended. The state has relied primarily on those annual minimum counts, but it also has been using the Patch Occupancy Model since 2007. The model uses data from hunter sightings and runs a formula with variables such as territory and pack size to come up with a population estimate. The estimates from the model are typically much higher than the minimum wolf counts. For example, the model estimated there were 892 wolves in Montana in 2014, 61 percent higher than the minimum count of 554 that year. The model's population estimates for 2015 and 2016 won't be available until this summer, Inman said. —AP

RHINO KILLS HUNGARIAN ECOLOGIST IN RWANDA

KIGALI, Rwanda: A wildlife official says a Hungarian ecologist has been killed by a rhinoceros in Rwanda's Akagera National Park while tracking animals there. Peter Fearnhead, CEO of African Parks in Rwanda, told that Krisztian Gyongyi had been instrumental in supporting the reintroduction of black rhinos into the park. Gyongyi had been training rangers

how to track and protect the rhinos. At least 18 Eastern black rhinos returned to Rwanda last month from South Africa, a decade after the last such animal was sighted in the East African country. More than 50 black rhinos lived in Akagera park in the 1970s, but they were hunted down by poachers until they disappeared. —AP

PLASTICS REMAIN THE MAJOR SOURCE OF OCEAN POLLUTION

THE HAGUE: Plastic that is dumped in rivers and then ends up in the world's oceans is one of the major sources of marine pollution, a new study said this week, with Asian waterways the main culprits. Researchers at The Ocean Cleanup, a Dutch foundation developing new technologies for ridding the oceans of plastic, say rivers carry an estimated 1.15-2.41 million tons of plastic into the sea every year, an amount that need between 48,000 to over 100,000 dump trucks to carry it away. Their latest study, published in Nature Communications journal Wednesday, added that

two-thirds of the pollution comes from the 20 most polluting rivers, the overwhelming majority in Asia with the Yangtze River in China topping the list. The Yangtze, the world's third-longest river, "is the largest contributing catchment", dumping some 330,000 tons of plastic into the East China Sea. This is followed by the Ganges River in India and a combination of the Xi, Dong and Zhujiang Rivers in China as well as four Indonesian rivers: The Brantas, Solo, Serayu and Progo. The rest of the world shared the remaining 14 percent of plastic pollution via rivers, The Ocean Cleanup

researchers said. "Most of this river plastic input is coming from Asia, which emphasizes the need to focus on monitoring and mitigation efforts in Asian countries with rapid economic development and poor waste management," they said. The researchers however issued a disclaimer saying "there is very little data to document these assumptions and thoroughly verify the validity of our model." "Yet, the relatively high concentrations of ocean plastic found at the surface of the North Pacific Ocean where buoyant plastics originating from Asia can accumulate, suggest that our assumptions

are plausible," they said. The study comes against the backdrop of the UN's first ocean conference opening in Miami today, where plastic pollution was singled out as particularly harmful. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres cited a recent study that showed plastic could outweigh fish in 2050 if nothing is done. Every year, more than eight million tons of plastic ends up in the ocean, costing at least \$8 billion in damage to marine ecosystems and killing an estimated one million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and untold numbers of fish. —AFP

DYING OF HEAT: INDIA'S RISING TEMPERATURES ARE DEADLY

NEW DELHI: India is now two and a half times more likely to experience a deadly heat wave than a half century ago, and all it took was an increase in the average temperature of just 0.5 degrees Celsius, a new study shows. The findings are sobering considering that the world is on track for far more warming. For the last two weeks much of Asia has been gripped by a heat wave, with a record high of 53.5 degrees C set in the southwest Pakistani city of Turbat on May 28, the world's hottest-ever temperature recorded for the month of May. Temperatures in the Indian capital of New Delhi have soared beyond 44 degrees C.

Even if countries are able to meet the Paris Agreement goals in curbing climate-warming carbon emissions, that would still only limit the global temperature rise to an estimated 2 degrees C. US President Donald Trump's recent pledge to exit the Paris treaty won't help. "It's getting hotter, and of course more heat waves are going to kill more people," said climatologist Omid Mazdiyasn of the University of California, Irvine, who led an international team of scientists in analyzing a half century of data from the Indian Meteorological Department on temperature, heat waves and heat-related mortality.

three or four days, in 1985-2009 compared with the previous 25-year period.

It's harder to estimate how deadly future warming might be. There is no historical data for heat wave mortality at those peak temperatures, and death tolls could increase sharply as it gets even hotter. "The general public may think that a 1 or 2 degree temperature rise is not that significant, but our results show that even small changes can result in more heat waves and more death," said Amir AghaKouchak, another climatologist at UC Irvine and a co-author of the report. Scientists have warned for years that climate change will make heat waves more intense, more frequent and longer lasting.

"It stands to reason there would be more dire health impacts with more severe heat waves, and this paper provides a key quantification of those impacts for one region of the world," said climate scientist Gerald Meehl of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who was not involved in the study. The same methodology can be applied in any region to get a sense of how vulnerable a country or population might be, the authors said.

No access to electricity

They accounted for India's fast-rising population and income levels in the analysis, to make sure neither affected the results. In the case of income, they found an even stronger correlation between heat waves and deaths among those who are poor. That's bad news as India is already seeing new deadly highs. Last year in May, India recorded a record 52.4 degrees C, in the western city of Jaisalmer. The vast majority of India's 1.25 billion people are poor and have few options as temperatures hit sweltering levels, drying forests and riverbeds and wiping out farm animals. They are unlikely to have air conditioners, up to 25 percent still have no access to electricity. —AP

100 deaths

"We knew there was going to be an impact, but we didn't expect it to be this big," he said. Their study, published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances, shows that, while India's average temperatures rose by more than 0.5 degrees C, between 1960 and 2009, the probability of India experiencing a massive heat-related mortality event, defined by more than 100 deaths, shot up by 146 percent. The study also found that the number of heat wave days increased by 25 percent across most of India. Areas in the south and west experienced 50 percent more heat wave events, or periods of extreme heat lasting more than



JULIETTE: In this June 3, 2017 file photo, the coal-fired Plant Scherer, one of the nation's top carbon dioxide emitters, stands in the distance. — AP

TRUMP WAGES HIS BATTLE AGAINST REGULATIONS, NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

PRESIDENT'S BELIEFS REMAIN A MYSTERY

WASHINGTON: While President Donald Trump's beliefs about global warming remain something of a mystery, his actions make one thing clear: He doesn't consider it a problem for the federal government to solve. Trump's recent decision to pull out of the Paris climate deal was just his latest rapid-fire move to weaken or dismantle federal initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, which scientists say are heating the planet to levels that could have disastrous consequences.

Trump is waging war against efforts to curb US dependence on fossil fuels. He's done that through executive orders targeting climate change programs and regulations, massive proposed spending cuts and key appointments such as Scott Pruitt as chief of the Environmental Protection Agency. To what degree Trump will succeed remains to be seen. Despite the fanfare of his Paris announcement, including a pledge that his administration will halt all work on it, formally removing the US from the accord could take more than three years.

Rescinding the Clean Power Plan, President Barack Obama's signature measure to curb emissions from coal-fired power plants, likely would require three years. Trump's budget, which would slash funding for climate research and assistance to cities preparing for weather-related calamities, needs approval from Congress, where resistance is strong. Still, the sharp change in course is being felt in ways large and small, down to the scrubbing of climate change information from federal agency websites. Environmentalists are predictably outraged. Even some Republicans are taken aback.

World Wildlife Fund

"This is a repudiation of 45 years of steady improvement in the enforcement and rigor of laws to protect the environment in the US," said William K Reilly, who led the EPA under President George HW Bush and is chairman emeritus of the World Wildlife Fund. Trump's administration reversed Obama's moratorium on leasing federal lands for coal mining, joined with Congress to kill protections of streams from coal mining waste, stopped tracking the federal government's carbon emissions and withdrew a requirement for more emissions data from oil and gas facilities. A rollback of automobile fuel-economy standards is under consideration. His proposed 2018 budget would cut climate and energy research spending in numerous agencies, including a two-thirds reduction at EPA.

Trump is hardly the first president accused of favoring businesses over the environment. His belief in easing the regulatory burden on them is firmly in the Republican mainstream. What sets him apart is his zealotry and public dismissiveness of the scientific evidence showing the Earth is warming and man-made carbon emissions are largely to blame. "This is more extreme than any previous Republican president, this is their old set of sentiments on steroids," said David Doniger, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"There's no orderly, reasonable inquiry into whether something makes sense and should be left in place." At one point, Trump labeled global warming a "hoax" concocted by the Chinese to gain an economic edge over the US. Aides recently have sidestepped questions

about whether he accepts the widely held scientific view about climate change. A White House statement issued this past week in response to questions from The Associated Press did not specify whether Trump believes the planet has been steadily warming, or say to what extent human activity such as burning of fossil fuels is responsible.

"The president believes that the climate is always changing, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. Pollutants are part of that equation," the statement said. "The Trump administration is laser focused on clean water and clean air but also on better jobs for more and more Americans," it added. "America cannot stand by and have the rest of the world take our wealth and tax dollars to clean up their own environment while American businesses and American families suffer the consequences in the form of lost jobs and a diminished quality of life."

Record-setting temperatures

Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, who led the administration's EPA transition team, said Trump and key advisers don't necessarily reject climate science but don't believe the threat "should be placed in the list of the top 50 things we should be worried about." Frustrated climate researchers say the opposite is true. They point to record-setting high temperatures, melting glaciers, rising sea levels and increasingly violent storms, trends that models suggest will only worsen. But attacks on such findings from climate change doubters have taken their toll. —AP



NEW DELHI: In this May 24, 2017 photo, an Indian family sleeps on a rooftop on the outskirts of New Delhi. — AFP

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KOC RECOGNITION AWARDS CEREMONY AT ACK

The Alumni and Career Placement Center at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) organized a Recognition Awards Ceremony for Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) on ACK campus. The objective of the event was to recognize and celebrate the great success of KOC's Information Exhibition held at ACK campus in November, 2016. During the awarding ceremony, ACK Management handed tokens of appreciation to the participating Staff in the Expo 2016, who joined from 20 various departments.

The KOC Expo was an excellent learning opportunity for ACK students and alumni to obtain valuable information about KOC and its departments, which will help them in their future career decisions; in addition, it was a great networking platform to meet KOC staff in person and receive guidance and information about their graduation projects.

The Manager of the Alumni and Career Placement Center at ACK, Dr Zeina Nehme, commented on the event saying: "I would like to thank the Higher Management of KOC and each Staff member who contributed to the success of the KOC Expo. We are looking forward for future successful collaborations."



CIS TO HOLD SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENT

Center for India Studies (CIS), is a Kuwait based, independent, select think tank group, formed with the collaborative efforts of prominent Intellectuals and nationalistic thinkers from the Indian community, living in Kuwait. In connection with World Environment day Celebration CIS Kuwait is organizing a seminar cum event PRAGATHI on 16th June 2016 @ Sopanam Hall Farwaniya with the motto Reduce, Reuse & Recycle focus on protecting our rich environmental heritage with concerns on the imminent dangers of environment destruction. Eminent speakers will showcase the need for environment conservation highlighting traditional Indian conservation methods with ways of connecting people to nature. Painting exhibition by Sunil Pookode showcasing colors of nature, poetry recitation and free distribution of indoor plants are the other major attractions of the event.

FAITH CAPITAL AND JUSTCLEAN HOST GRAND GHABQA EVENT

With the presence of 50 partners /laundries, local media and huge crowd; Faith Capital Holding and JustClean hosted a Ramadan Ghabqa at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa to announce the launch of their brand new and innovative start-up venture, JustClean. Mohammed Jaffer, Deputy Chairman & CEO of Faith Capital Holding along with Athbi & Nouri Al Enezi, Founders of JustClean, extend a warm welcome to all their enterprising partners, esteemed members of the press and honoured guests.

Masbagti (now re-branded as JustClean) is the brainchild of brothers Athbi and Nouri Alenezi. They came up with the concept of leveraging technology and the 'App' economy to create an e-marketplace for a low-tech industry like laundry. Masbagti was a first and one-of-its-kind

service in Kuwait. It was conceptualized on the potential and need for such a marketplace and is positioned as revolutionizing the individual's daily laundry cycle through technology. The app connects several laundry service providers across the country with people who require their services thereby creating a truly local e-marketplace for laundry business in Kuwait.

Faith Capital Holding, a Kuwait based venture capital fund that focuses on young, e-commerce businesses in the GCC, recognized the innovative start-up and strategically acquired Maspegiti, early last month. Here's how the JustClean will help you with your laundry. As a first time user, you can download the App from either App Store or Playstore. The app has a highly intuitive UI and is extremely easy to use. Customers can place their order in just 3 clicks.

Customers have the option to choose Laundry Bag (where the laundry will add the items) and Enter items (where the user gets to add the items him/herself). Once you schedule order, your clothes can be picked-up within 1 hour. JustClean offers its customers two convenient delivery options: Normal delivery within 24 hours or Fast Service with a 4-hour delivery timeline. You can choose your deliver schedule at the time of placing your order. Apart from regular laundry, JustClean also takes care of special items like carpets, wedding dresses and other delicate fabrics that require special care. Customers have the option of choosing their service from the biggest list of laundries in Kuwait where each laundry has their own price list. There is no added service charge for using the extremely convenient service.

ABBAS BOWAIR TO HOST GHABQA



Writer, Abdullh Abbas Bowair will hold a special reception and Ghabqa on June 16, 2017 at Andalus Ballroom, the Crowne Plaza Hotel to celebrate signing his new book about HH the Amir speeches in English.

The ceremony will also include a special honoring to the martyrs families, a movie about HH the Amir and HH's birthday anniversary on the same day, poetry and folkloric songs.



YARMOUK COOP CELEBRATES GIRGIAN

Yarmouk cooperative society celebrated the annual girgian in the presence of its chairman Mohammad Hassan Al-Fares, Yarmouk Mayor Abdelaziz Al-Mushari and board members. The celebration comes as part of Kuwait's popular heritage that continued through the years and represents an important part of holy Ramadan activities. The event was celebrated in the presence of Q8 Future band led by presenter Ahmad Al-Ali with Jassim Al-Shimmari and Shouq in a surprise show for children.



HARVEST: ICSK SENIOR'S FIELDS YIELD HOPE

"Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come." The future will either be green or not exist at all. How's that? The truth lies at the heart of humankind's most pressing challenge, namely, to learn to live in harmony with Mother Earth on a genuinely viable basis. Working towards this noble cause, students and staff of ICSK, under the aegis of school's Nature Club on the premises of the school had planted large number of saplings of different species over the barren patches of the school campus.

The saplings were planted by the students in the periphery of the school and in the ground adjacent to the school. Students worked in the mud, dug holes, planted saplings, and in general, connected with Mother Earth and formed a new bond with her. The Indian Community School(Senior) Kuwait fraternity

witnessed an extraordinary assembly on 25th May 2017. It was an inspiring event when the nature club of the school harvested varieties of vegetables which were cultivated by the vibrant members of Nature club. Irrefutably, this gave an impetus to the student community of the magnitude of consuming organic food that is free from chemicals.

The vivacious students and enthusiastic staff of the school came forward with zest to participate in the auction to acquire the fresh produce gathered from ICSK garden. Dr V Binumon - the Principal, ICSK Senior - expressed his eagerness to expand the club for the new academic year and also appreciated the incredible effort of the members of Nature Club headed by Mrs Indira Radhakrishnan and Mrs Geethakumari. The whole amount collected from the auction was contributed to charity to fund cancer patients residing in Kuwait.



JORDANIAN STUDENTS HONORED IN CEREMONY

The Jordanian Engineers Union (Kuwait branch) with the collaboration of the Jordanian embassy organized an honoring ceremony on Saturday for the outstanding Jordanian students who have graduated from high school in the academic year 2016-2017. The ceremony was attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed Al-Kayed, Dr Hamed Sadeq head of Al-Ahliya Amman University and the head of Jordanian Engineers Union and other senior officials from both Kuwait embassy in Jordan and the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait. The event was sponsored by Al-Ahliya Amman University and was attended by a large number of students and their families.—Photos by Joseph Shagra



AM MOVIES ACTION

- 01:15 Beverly Hills Cop 3
03:15 Real Steel
05:30 Insurgent
07:30 Road Wars
09:15 Real Steel
11:30 Beverly Hills Cop 3
13:15 Insurgent
15:15 Tracers
17:00 The Call Up
18:45 Code Of Silence
20:30 Gone In Sixty Seconds
22:30 Judge Dredd

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 The Lion Queen
01:40 The Lion Queen
02:35 The Lion Queen
03:25 The Lion Queen
04:15 The Lion Queen
05:02 The Lion Queen
05:49 River Monsters
06:36 Gorilla School
07:00 Gorilla School
07:25 Preposterous Pets
08:15 Wildest Africa
09:10 The Lion Queen
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Preposterous Pets
11:55 America's Cutest Pets
12:50 Wildest Africa
13:45 River Monsters
14:40 The Lion Queen
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Monster Croc Invasion
17:25 Animal Cops Houston
18:20 Lone Star Law
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Preposterous Pets
21:05 Animal Cops Houston
22:00 Lone Star Law
22:55 The Lion Queen
23:50 Monster Croc Invasion

BBC FIRST

- 00:10 EastEnders
00:40 Unforgotten
01:30 Whitechapel
02:20 Ripper Street
03:15 Ripper Street
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 The Musketeers

- 05:55 Catch A Contractor
06:20 Catch A Contractor
06:50 Framework
07:40 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 Lip Sync Battle
08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
09:20 Sweat Inc.
10:10 Bondi Ink
11:00 Life Or Debt
11:50 Catch A Contractor
12:15 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 Frankentalk
22:00 Frankentalk
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
02:10 Storm Chasers
03:50 Ultimate Survival
06:20 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
12:00 Ultimate Survival
12:50 How It's Made
13:40 Storm Chasers
14:30 Kenny The Shark
14:55 Bear Grylls Survival School
15:20 K9 Cops
16:10 Nextworld
17:00 Quax
17:25 Quax

- 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
08:40 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 Unbungalivable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
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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
02:00 Life After: Chernobyl
02:50 What On Earth?
03:40 Misfit Garage

- 20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
22:35 Boyster
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
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

- 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
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
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: Fast Feasts
09:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
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: Fast Feasts
13:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
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 CHOICE

- 00:10 Alphabetical
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 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

HISTORY HD

- 00:20 Ice Road Truckers
01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Pawn Stars South Africa
02:00 Storage Wars Miami
02:25 Storage Wars Texas
02:50 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
07:15 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 Texas
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
21:50 Sean Bean On Waterloo
22:40 Ultimate Soldier Challenge
23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:15 Cesar's Heecrut: Asia
00:45 Cesar's Heecrut: Asia
01:10 Food School
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
03:30 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 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
06:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
06:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
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
09:00 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 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
11:45 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
12:10 A Is For Apple
12:40 A Is For Apple
13:05 Food School
13:35 The Food Files
14:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
14:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:25 Street Food Around The World
15:50 Eat: The Story Of Food
16:45 Glamour Puds
17:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
17:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
18:10 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
18:35 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
19:05 Street Food Around The World
19:30 Glamour Puds
20:00 Eat: The Story Of Food
21:00 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
21:30 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
22:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
22:25 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
03:00 Brain Games
03:30 Monster Fish
04:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
05:00 Time Scanners
06:00 Science Of Stupid
06:30 Science Of Stupid
07:00 Border Wars
08:00 Street Heat: High Speed Justice
09:00 Time Scanners
10:00 Scam City



INVICTUS ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 11:00 Lawless Island
12:00 Primal Survivor
13:00 Science Of Stupid
13:30 Science Of Stupid
14:00 Breakthrough
15:00 Border Wars
16:00 Scam City
17:00 Lawless Island
18:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
19:00 Border Wars
20:00 Scam City
20:50 Lawless Island
21:40 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
22:30 Border Wars
23:20 Science Of Stupid
23:45 Science Of Stupid

AM MOVIES HD

- 00:00 Dracula Untold
01:45 People Like Us
03:45 The Bad News Bears
05:45 Jurassic World
08:00 Reign Over Me
10:15 Air Force One
12:30 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
14:15 Jurassic World
16:30 Blown Away
18:30 Invictus
20:45 Barely Lethal
22:30 Con Air

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:05 Food Factory
01:45 How Do They Do It?
03:48 Mythbusters
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Speed Junkie
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 NASA's Unexplained Files
09:50 Strip The Cosmos
10:38 Mythbusters: The Search
11:26 Speed Junkie
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 NASA's Unexplained Files
13:50 Strip The Cosmos
14:38 Speed Junkie
15:26 Mythbusters: The Search
16:14 NASA's Unexplained Files
17:02 Strip The Cosmos
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 Food Factory
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Weird Or What?
20:20 NASA's Unexplained Files
21:10 Cosmic Collisions
22:00 Weird Or What?
22:50 Race To Escape
23:40 Mythbusters

TLC HD

- 00:20 She's In Charge
01:10 Coach Charming
02:00 Cake Boss
02:50 Say Yes To The Dress
03:35 Cake Boss
04:20 Little People, Big World
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...
06:50 Cake Boss
07:15 Cake Boss
07:40 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
08:30 Little People, Big World
08:55 Little People, Big World
09:20 Ugly House To Lovely House
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress
10:35 Say Yes To The Dress
11:00 Cake Boss
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...
12:40 Cake Boss
13:05 Cake Boss
13:30 Sweet 15: Quincea?era
14:20 Separated At Birth
15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:00 Little People, Big World
16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Suddenly Rich
17:40 Say Yes To The Dress
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 Sweet 15: Quincea?era
19:20 Cake Boss
19:45 Cake Boss
20:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...
21:00 7 Little Johnstons
21:25 Say Yes To The Dress
21:50 Married By Mum And Dad
22:40 Return To Amish
23:30 7 Little Johnstons
23:55 Say Yes To The Dress

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Animal Fight Club 4.5
01:10 Wild Case Files
02:00 Future Cat
02:50 Hunter Hunted
03:45 Survive The Wild
04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
05:35 Future Cat
06:30 Hunter Hunted
07:25 Survive The Wild
08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
09:15 World's Weirdest
10:10 Man V. Monster
11:05 Savage Kingdom
12:00 Shark Island
12:55 Lion Warrior
13:50 Hunter Hunted
14:45 Extreme Animals
15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
16:35 World's Weirdest
17:30 Safari Brothers
18:25 Savage Kingdom
19:20 Extreme Animals
20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
21:00 World's Weirdest
21:50 Safari Brothers
22:40 Savage Kingdom
23:30 Shark Island

AM MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:20 Little Women
03:20 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
04:45 The Incredibles
06:40 The Good Dinosaur
08:15 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
09:40 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
11:25 The Incredibles
13:20 A Bug's Life
14:00 The Boxrolls
16:40 Secretariat
18:40 Hocus Pocus
20:20 The Dog Lover
22:05 The Boxrolls
23:45 A Bug's Life

AM MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:15 It's Complicated
03:15 Mr. Deeds
05:00 Miss You Already
06:45 Liberal Arts
08:30 Mr. Deeds
10:15 Miss You Already
12:00 Liberal Arts
13:45 Cheech & Chong's The Corsican Brothers
15:15 Other Plans
16:45 Accidental Love
18:30 Fun Size
20:00 The Longest Yard
22:00 Spy

AM MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:00 Land Of Mine
02:45 Love & Mercy
04:45 Selma
07:00 Batkid Begins
08:30 Love & Mercy
10:30 Land Of Mine
12:15 Selma
14:30 Grand Central
16:15 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
18:30 The Wave
20:15 Brooklyn
22:15 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete

AM MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:15 Big Baby
02:45 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods
04:30 Savva
06:00 Blue Elephant 2
07:45 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
09:30 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
11:00 Albert
12:45 Big Baby
14:15 Egon And Donci

AM MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:15 It's Complicated
03:15 Mr. Deeds
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- 01:00 Land Of Mine
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AM MOVIES HD KIDS

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09:30 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
11:00 Albert
12:45 Big Baby
14:15 Egon And Donci



REAL STEEL ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Casualty
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 Casualty
19:05 New Tricks
20:00 Rillington Place
21:00 Orphan Black
21:50 Spooks
22:45 Spooks
23:35 Casualty

- 17:50 Dirty Jobs
18:40 What Happened Next?
19:05 What Happened Next?
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
22:00 Dirty Jobs
22:50 What Happened Next?
23:15 What Happened Next?
23:40 Ultimate Survival

ID

- 00:30 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:20 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
02:10 Who Killed Jane Doe?
03:00 Killing Richard Glossip
03:48 Grave Secrets
04:36 Murder Chose Me
05:24 Murder Book
06:12 Blood Relatives
07:00 The Locator
07:25 The Locator
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 California Investigator
09:05 California Investigator
09:30 Deadly Affairs
10:20 Southern Fried Homicide
11:10 I Am Homicide
12:00 The Locator
12:25 The Locator
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 California Investigator
14:30 Deadly Affairs
15:20 Southern Fried Homicide
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 Adnan Syed: Innocent Or Guilty?
23:40 Murder Chose Me

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
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo

- 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

XD

- 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 Ametroids
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: Bionic Island
15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
00:55 Zou
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
19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4



THE WAVE ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO THURSDAY (08/06/2017 TO 15/06/2017)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
10:00 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	10:00 PM	Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	9:30 PM	Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)
12:15 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:30 PM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	11:45 PM	Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)
	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	1:00 AM			
9:30 PM	MARINA-1	9:30 PM	AVENUES-8	10:15 PM	BAIRAQ-1
12:30 AM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	12:15 AM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	12:30 AM	MINIONS (Re Release)
	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD		Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)		THE BOSS BABY
9:45 PM	MARINA-2	9:45 PM	AVENUES-9	9:45 PM	BAIRAQ-2
11:45 PM	Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	12:30 AM	RAABTA (Hindi)	12:45 AM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL
	Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)		THE EXCEPTION		DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL
9:30 PM	MARINA-3	10:00 PM	360°- 1	9:45 PM	BAIRAQ-3
11:45 PM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	12:05 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 AM	RAABTA (Hindi)
	Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)		KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
9:45 PM	AVENUES-1	9:30 PM	360°- 2	10:15 PM	PLAZA
12:45 AM	YO-KAI WATCH: The Movie	11:30 PM	Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	12:45 AM	CIA: Comrade in America (Malayalam)
	ALIEN: COVENANT		ALIEN: COVENANT		RAABTA (Hindi)
10:00 PM	AVENUES-2	10:00 PM	360°- 3	9:45 PM	LAILA
12:15 AM	MINIONS(Re Release)-3D-4DX	12:05 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:15 PM	Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)
	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (3D-4DX)		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)		KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD
			Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	12:45 AM	
9:30 PM	AVENUES-3	10:30 PM	AL-KOUT.1	9:30 PM	AJIAL.1
12:30 AM	THE BOSS BABY	12:30 AM	Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	12:15 AM	CIA: Comrade in America (Malayalam)
	HERE ALONE		Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)		CIA: Comrade in America (Malayalam)
10:30 PM	AVENUES-4	10:15 PM	AL-KOUT.2	11:45 PM	AJIAL.2
12:30 AM	ALIEN: COVENANT	12:45 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:45 PM	CIA: Comrade in America (Malayalam)
	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:15 PM	AJIAL.3
9:45 PM	AVENUES-5	9:45 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:45 AM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
12:15 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:15 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)		
	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL				
9:30 PM	AVENUES-6	10:00 PM	AL-KOUT.3	10:15 PM	AJIAL.4
12:30 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:30 PM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	12:30 AM	RAABTA (Hindi)
	Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)		KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD		RAABTA (Hindi)

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation For Filipino Bachelor ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulf-mart. Available on June 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 (12-6-2016)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ajay S/o Lokesh Attavar, holder of Indian Passport No: Z3585684 & Civil ID No: 288051103654 has changed my name to Ajay Lokesh Attavar hereinafter in all my dealing and documents. (C 5320) 11-6-2017



Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:13
Shorook: 04:48
Duhr: 11:48
Asr: 15:22
Maghrib: 18:48
Isha: 20:20



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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 12/6/2017				Departure Flights on Monday 12/6/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	KAC	512	Mashhad	14:25
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	KAC	692	Jeddah	14:45
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	788	Muscat	14:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	ETD	303	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	OMA	645	Abu Dhabi	15:05
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	562	Muscat	15:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	502	Amman	15:25
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	ABY	127	Beirut	15:25
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	UAE	857	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SAW	705	Dubai	15:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	RJA	640	Damascus	15:50
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	FDK	801	Amman	16:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	FDB	051	Damascus	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1072	Dubai	16:15
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	JZR	535	Doha	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	118	Cairo	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	1773	New York	16:25
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	NIA	361	Jeddah	16:35
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	542	Alexandria	16:50
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	SVA	510	Cairo	17:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	GFA	215	Riyadh	17:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	JZR	777	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	177	Jeddah	17:35
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	QTR	1080	Dubai	17:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	MSR	620	Doha	18:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	AZQ	4565	Cairo	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	217	GYP	19:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	744	Bahrain	19:05
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	ABY	123	Dammam	19:05
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	154	Sharjah	19:20
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	616	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC	674	Bahrain	19:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	776	Dubai	19:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	FDB	057	Riyadh	19:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	620	Dubai	19:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	OMA	647	Doha	19:50
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KNE	381	Muscat	20:05
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	DLH	634	Taif	20:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	MEA	402	Frankfurt	20:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	662	Beirut	20:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	QTR	1088	Abu Dhabi	20:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD	910	Doha	20:35
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KAC	166	Abu Dhabi	20:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	168	Rome	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	168	Paris	21:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	KAC	564	Amman	21:50
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	QTR	1082	Jeddah	21:55
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	ETD	309	Doha	22:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
KNE	529	Jeddah	13:40	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	162	Geneva	22:25
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	BBC	143	Dhaka	22:30
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	JZR	241	Amman	22:55
KAC	364	Colombo	14:15	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
KAC	352	Kochi	14:20	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
KAC	618	Doha	14:20	THY	764	Istanbul	23:45
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00	KAC	512	Mashhad	14:25
KAC	382	Taif	15:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	619	Doha	16:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
KAC	743	Dammam	16:00	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Dhabi	16:20	ETD	304	Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:25	KAC	563	Amman	16:25
KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
SAW	706	Damascus	16:55	SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
RJA	641	Amman	16:55	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
JZR	266	Beirut	17:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	283	Dhaka	17:25	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:25
JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	240	Amman	17:30	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	357	Kochi	17:40	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	381	Delhi	17:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
QTR	1081	Doha	19:15	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
MSR	621	airo	19:30	MSR	621	airo	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	058	Dubai	20:30	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
AZQ	4566	L76GYD	21:00	AZQ	4566	L76GYD	21:00
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
DLH	634	Doha	21:00	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
OMA	648	Muscat	21:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	

CROSSWORD 1634



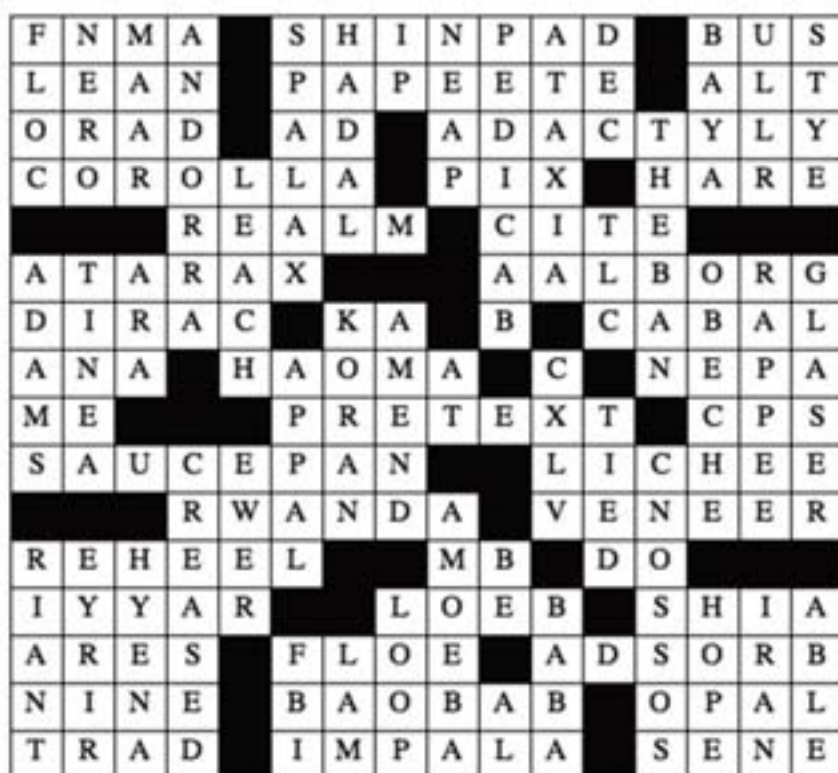
ACROSS

- The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
- The act of emitting.
- A person active in party politics.
- Informal terms for the mouth.
- Showing a natural aptitude for something.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- (of fabric or clothing) Having been given a faded (weathered) appearance by artificial means.
- Being one hundred more than three hundred.
- Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
- Floor covering consisting of a piece of thick heavy fabric (usually with nap or pile).
- To a considerable degree.
- Lower in esteem.
- (Norse mythology) The primeval giant slain by Odin and his brothers and from whose body they created the world.
- Chipmunks of eastern North America.
- (of reproduction) Not involving the fusion of male and female gametes reproduction.
- A small pendant fleshy lobe at the back of the soft palate.
- Wild or domesticated South American cud-chewing animal related to camels but smaller and lacking a hump.
- (often followed by 'of') A large number or amount or extent.
- A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
- Administration of a nutritionally adequate solution through a catheter into the vena cava.
- Someone who cuts and delivers ice.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Forced to turn and face attackers.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- In an idle manner.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- An associate degree in applied science.
- The compass point that is one point east of due south.
- The capital and largest city of Equatorial Guinea on the island of Bioko in the Gulf of Guinea.
- A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
- Pygmy marmosets.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of the Jews or their culture or religion.
- Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Characterized by friendship and good will.
- (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.
- A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
- Not treated with lead.
- The habitation of wild animals.

DOWN

- Monotypic genus of palms of Australasia.
- An aggressive remark directed at a person like a missile and intended to have a telling effect.
- A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
- The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).
- Blockage of the intestine (especially the ileum) that prevents the contents of the intestine from passing to the lower bowel.
- Grasslike or rushlike plant growing in wet places having solid stems, narrow grasslike leaves and spikelets of inconspicuous flowers.
- A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
- Unable to relax or be still.
- Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
- A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A beautiful and graceful girl.
- A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
- A polite name for any woman.
- An implement consisting of handle with a free swinging stick at the end.
- Trade name for an oral contraceptive containing estradiol and norgestrel.
- Metal or plastic sheath over the end of a shoelace or ribbon.
- The cry made by sheep.
- Long-legged web-footed black-and-white shorebird with slender upward-curving bill.
- In a softened tone.
- Small beads made from polished shells and formerly used as money by native Americans.
- Mated sexually.
- Urge or force (a person) to an action.
- A rich sweet made of flavored sugar and often combined with fruit or nuts.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- Type genus of the Anatidae.
- An unwholesome atmosphere.
- Relating to or demonstrating acapnia.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A shoulder firearm with a long barrel and a rifled bore.
- An appliance that allows an object (such as a ship's compass) to remain horizontal even as its support tips.
- A metallic element of the rare earth group.
- Of or belonging to an aecium.
- The passage between the back of the mouth and the pharynx.
- Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- Using the voice.
- Visionary British poet (1757-1827).
- Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
- A Bantu language spoken in southern Zaire.
- The highest level or degree attainable.
- A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
- A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
- A state in midwestern United States.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Family members may want to talk to you about family business matters. It would be wise to listen and take notes. This is nothing serious-just preventative measures for future safety and a good feeling of completion and belonging. Break up the sober moment and open up the discussion to praise and encouragement for others. Some may think you are older than you are, for you can step in and offer wonderful advice and insight. You may even enjoy the thought of being older and probably treat authority, the elderly and your teachers with great respect. Life seems to be working with rather than against you so do not hold back. This may include anything from repairs on the house to some serious hobby involvement. Whistle!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day may be the beginning of a long dreamy time when you find it easy to lose yourself in one flight of fancy or another. Normally clear in your thinking, ideas temporarily become fuzzy, and it is hard to be logical or consistent. Let yourself dream today. Work will go well but it is the quiet moments that make thinking difficult. A little writing may help. Busy yourself in new projects that show your bent for beautification, perhaps planting a vegetable garden or putting in a fish tank. This would be a great time to treat your kids or the neighbor's kids to a visit to the zoo. Perhaps you will enjoy a good book or movie later today. Consider the stars tonight. Being more closely involved with another person may well become your highest priority.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may have the opportunity to play the role of guardian angel or mentor to someone in need today. You can demonstrate a great deal of understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others and you are in a good position to communicate and promote a healing. A very young relative might not want to wait on the next vacation to enjoy those children's books that you have accumulated over the years. Consider mailing a few fun books so they can receive something special in the mail. They will love whatever you send because you thought of them. Breakthrough thinking is available today and may come through your immediate surroundings, home and environment-your support system. You will receive monetary rewards today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

In a word, it is your emotions and inner strength that holds your innermost self together. Your feelings are not just important-they are central to knowing more about you. A strong devotional nature becomes apparent to anyone who takes time to know you. Everything else is centered upon this inner drive and energy. The search for a mate and marriage in particular are crucial for you. Communication with those in a place of worship is possible, enjoyable and uplifting at this time. You are driven to unite and find out what togetherness means. Cleaning, health-awareness, shopping and cooperation from each member of the family or from friends make your day move along easily. Someone will join you today in your fitness program or they will help you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There will be less of an impulse now for recognition. There is a growing need to enjoy some quality time this day. Perhaps you like to listen to teaching tapes or a hobby has taken up space in your creative sector. This time will be less outward and may call for a change of action. This is not a time of outreach and not necessarily the best point to start any great projects. There is introspection, and you may find yourself letting go of plans and projects started in a more outward phase. You may take an interest in your own psyche, religion and spiritual ideas. You take in new impressions. With all of this desire for productive time alone, you will still find time to enjoy your friends from time to time, especially today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could find that you are appreciated and valued for your feelings and your ability to get things done. You can always find the resources you require, plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. You have an inner vision and you are able to understand the true picture. This often finds you working as a go-between with others. Today you might use your special gift for spanning the generation gap by bringing older and younger people together. Your wisdom can be shared as you may find yourself involved in settling disputes. Because you love animals so very much, this evening may become your special time to work in finding homes for lost animals. You may talk with the new owners and help with food and training issues that may be frustrating.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Interaction with others is the focus of this day. Neighbors, friends and family members may take on more importance. Outdoor activity through, perhaps, a tour of a nearby park, zoo or group garage or yard sale can be enjoyed by many. You have a lot of energy and tend to be impatient with those who slow your pace-careful. You soak up what you need to see quickly and are ready to go forward with new experiences. You could be awed as you may find yourself unexpectedly involved with some influential individuals. This may be a great time to suggest a future meeting that will give you time to communicate some of your ideas. Keep your composure and you will do fine. Many of your friends wish they had thought of your ideas; you are spontaneous.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will often find yourself choosing between comfort and progress. Progress is occasionally comfortable, but only when you are looking at where you have been. Today you choose to improve or enhance your surroundings with trees, flowers and perhaps a vegetable garden. Designate a little area for the younger members of the family and you could help teach the importance of helping things grow. Perhaps radishes and onions will be on your table this summer. This afternoon you may decide to watch a car race, participate in team sports or enjoy some trendy pastime with a friend. Your sense of mission makes for impulsive, sometimes rash, but always brave actions. A restful evening will help you be prepared for the busy week ahead.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Increasing inner confidence helps you emerge from a long period of doubt. Finances are better and you can now pay more attention to the needs you have been pushing aside. There is much to accomplish today. Perhaps some repair work or catch-up work needs your attention. You push hard and much energy can be wasted if you do not stop to plan for the end result you want to achieve. You seem to choose friends that plan well, and today would be a good time to toss around a few ideas with them. This afternoon you can balance all this hard work with some fun activity. You will be pleased to discover that somebody who opposed you in the past is now more understanding of your viewpoint. It is most important to set aside time for family tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Immediate needs are where your attention is today. Shopping and tending to chores are high on your to-do list. You have learned to prioritize and this is good. You have the patience that is necessary for helping friends this afternoon. This could mean a move or perhaps watching the kids while the parents tend to some difficult project. You are good at communicating and conveying yourself to others. You have a lot of energy and come across as assertive and in control of whatever is set before you now. You pursue your obligations with much emotion and obvious enthusiasm. You are conventional when it comes to your needs and surroundings. Small and less are okay with you. Take it easy and be good to yourself tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A lazy morning may consist of updating a scrapbook or photograph album. A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins now emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. Family, home and relatives play big parts in your life. This mood may promote a frenzy of phone calls to out-of-touch loved ones or friends. You want to belong on a private, intimate and personal level. A hobby is most fun when it is shared, and that is where a friend might find you this afternoon, playing with a hobby. You may enjoy some time in a park with a friend later today. Helping others is what you do best; you attract more people to you than you believe possible. Others learn from your diplomatic ways. You are wise to listen first and ask questions later.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You always seem to say just what you mean. You will be right-on when it comes to questions of feelings-you may be more interested in matters of psychology, different cultures and history. You can find support from all sides when it comes to any sort of mental activity. A new game or an interesting movie may be the goal for the afternoon. You communicate with accomplished skill and it is stimulating just being with you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your ambitions go hand-in-hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. The evening has romantic possibilities-a time you may look back on fondly.

WORD SEARCH

Elvis

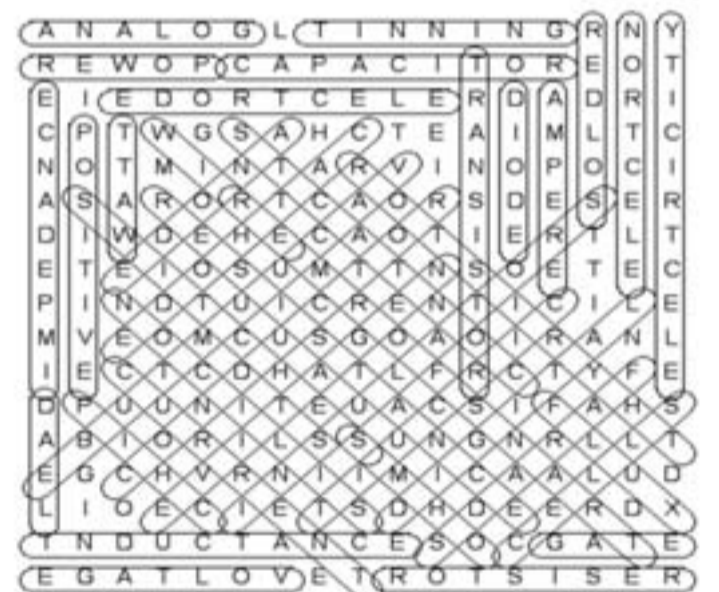
Find and circle all of the words, names, songs, and movies that have to do with Elvis. The remaining letters spell a line from an Elvis song.



- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| AARON | GOOD LUCK CHARM | LITTLE SISTER | STUCK ON YOU |
| ALL SHOOK UP | GOSPEL | LOVE ME TENDER | SUN RECORDS |
| BLUE HAWAII | GRACELAND | MEMPHIS | SURRENDER |
| BURNING LOVE | GYRATING | ONE NIGHT | SUSPICIOUS MINDS |
| CLAMBAKE | HEARTBREAK HOTEL | PRISCILLA | THE KING |
| COLONEL PARKER | HOUND DOG | RCA | TOO MUCH TUPELO |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | IN THE GHETTO | RETURN TO SENDER | U.S. ARMY |
| DRAFTED | JAILHOUSE ROCK | ROCKABILLY | VERNON |
| G.I. BLUES | KENTUCKY RAIN | ROUSTABOUT | VIVA LAS VEGAS |
| GIRL HAPPY | KING CREOLE | SHE'S NOT YOU | |
| GLAAYS | LISA MARIE | | |

Yesterday's Solution

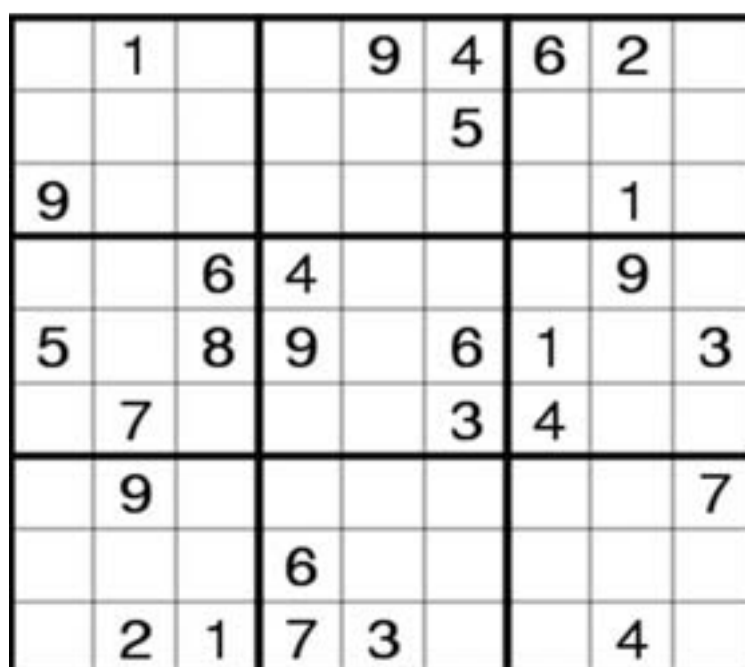
Electronics



- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| AMPERE | CURRENT | INDUCTANCE | SOLDER |
| ANALOG | DIGITAL | INSULATORS | SWITCHES |
| ANODE | DIODE | LEAD | THYRISTOR |
| CAPACITOR | ELECTRICITY | NEGATIVE | TINNING |
| CATHODE | ELECTRODE | OHMS | TRANSFORMER |
| CELLS | ELECTRON | POSITIVE | TRANSISTOR |
| CHIP | FARADS | POWER | VACUUM TUBE |
| CIRCUIT | FLUX | RESISTANCE | VOLTAGE |
| CONDUCTOR | GATE | RESISTOR | WATT |
| CONTACTS | IMPEDANCE | SILICON | WIRE |

The hidden item is: LIGHT EMITTING DIODE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel 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
Denmark	0045	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

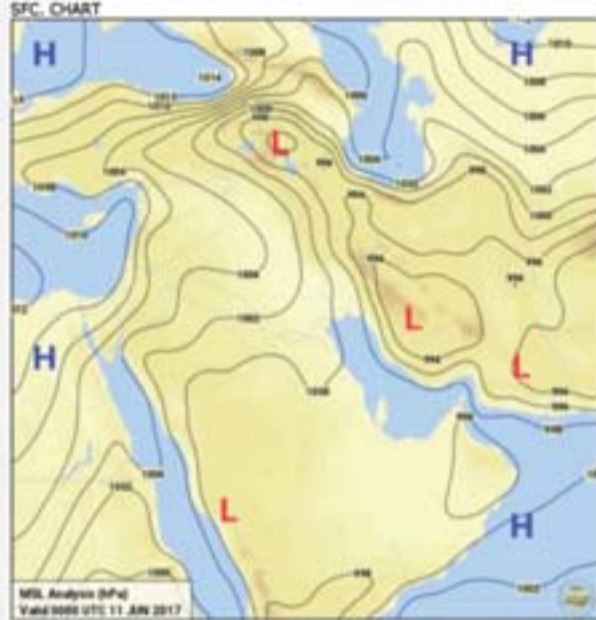


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 11/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr
Max Temperature 49 °C

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h .
By Night : Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h .



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Very hot + with a chance for blowing dust	Very hot	Very hot	Very hot
Min Temp °C	30	31	30	29
Max Temp °C	49	49	48	47
Wind Direction	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly to variable
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	08 - 26	08 - 35	06 - 26

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	37		46	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28		49	
ABDALY	30		50	
BUBYAN	29		48	
JAHRA	32		49	
FAJLAKA ISLAND	29		45	
SALMIYAH	39		41	
AHMADI	36		42	
JAL ALIYAH	31		49	
QAROH ISLAND	30		38	
UMM AL-MARADEM	31		39	
NUWAISIB	30		44	
WAFRA	29		48	
SALMIY	30		47	
MUTRIBA	29		50	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	29
Max Rel Hum (%)	22
Min Rel Hum (%)	06
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	57 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:48
Sunset	18:47

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:13
Sunrise	04:48
Zuhr	11:47
Aer	15:21
Sunset	18:47
Isha	20:19



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	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 Eyadah	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

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	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 Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581		
Psychiatrists			
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047		
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0		
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians			
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		
General Surgeons			
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044		
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148		
Internists, Chest & Heart			
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939		
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300		
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004		
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515		
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446		
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3		

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:	Internist, Chest & Heart	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330		
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888		
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924		
Physiotherapists & VD			
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291		
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288		
Rheumatologists:			
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060		
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290		
Internist, Chest & Heart			
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210		
Consultant Cardiologist			
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC			
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667		
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555		
Inaya German Medical Center			
Te: 2575077			
Fax: 25723123			

GOSSIP

RAG'N'BONE MAN DROVE FERRY TO FESTIVAL

Rag'n'Bone Man steered his own ferry to the Isle of Wight festival. The 'Human' singer took the stage at the prestigious event over the weekend, and made sure he arrived from mainland England in style. Speaking backstage to Absolute Radio's Pete Donaldson, he said: "They let me steer the ferry pretty much all the way here. You just hold this massive steering wheel and make sure you hold it steady and that's pretty much it." The 32-year-old singer - whose real name is Rory Graham - performed a homecoming show at the Great Escape festival in Brighton last month and admitted it was a "massive buzz" to get out on stage in front of his loved ones. He said: "It was a massive buzz to be honest. Yeah, I like, any home show we have done is always a buzz because you get to see friends and family and there is a whole bunch of people there who've come from

home and stuff. "But yeah it's just the atmosphere. It's crazy. You know, playing Brighton Dome it's like a real prestigious venue, we had a fantastic time." The 'Skin' singer has a hectic festival season ahead, and though his friends are always keen to join him backstage, he's been trying to explain it isn't as glamorous as they might think. He said: "To be honest the backstage is never really as good as people make out. "I always get my friends and family say, 'Oh, can we come backstage?' And you're like, 'You do realize it's just a box room maybe with some fruit and a bottle of spirit and a couple of warm beers and basically loads of people sitting on their phone?'"



Shaun Ryder

wanted to
be a rapper

Shaun Ryder always wanted to be a rapper. The Black Grape frontman felt it was "effeminate" to be a singer and admits the indie sound of his group Happy Mondays would have been very different if he'd gone in the direction he wanted. He said: "Singing, to us growing up, was quite effeminate. It was one thing singing hymns, but to be an actual singer was like, oo-er. "You could say, 'Well, you weren't technically a singer, like Dylan or Rotten weren't - then it's different, right? But I never wanted to be a singer, more like a rapper. The only reason the Mondays didn't go in that direction was because white dudes didn't do that in 1982, know what I mean? "So we had to adapt into an indie-ish sort of thing, but in my own head, I was a rapping Bob Dylan." The 'Kelly's Heroes' hitmaker is working with Black Grape again this year, but admitted he was initially planning to reform Happy Mondays until it proved too difficult to arrange. He said: "There's six people in that band, including Rowetta, so getting anything together with them is slightly harder than just with me and [Kemit] here, so that's why it turned into a Black Grape album." But percussionist Bez - a member of both bands - isn't involved in the reunion for "business" reasons. Shaun explained: "Why pay top dollar for the Mondays, if you can have Shaun and Bez for cheaper in Black Grape? "So that's how it is now, you're not having Shaun and Bez unless it's on television or it's in Happy Mondays." And the former 'I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!' star has a plan in mind to promote his new record He told Q magazine: "I can't talk too much about it but I've just been offered two different reality shows, which would mean going out on primetime TV every night of the week, and what have I got coming out? A new Black Grape album."



Olly Murs

planning music break

Olly Murs is planning to take a short break from music. The 'You Don't Know Love' hitmaker is looking forward to spending time with his family and friends and having fun for the rest of this year, so he won't be rushing into the studio to record a new album. He said: "I've done seven albums in seven years. I'll do another album when it feels right. Sometimes in this job, you forget you have to enjoy what you're doing, so this year is all about me enjoying it and not worrying about what people think. "I'm going to have some 'me' time, keep myself busy, spend more time with my friends and family, and have more life experiences. "That's why I went to the States - I took two of my best mates for my birthday for two weeks. We went to California and had a fantastic trip. It wasn't drinking and partying every night, we went hiking, did a boot camp and went to a theme park. But don't worry, it wasn't cocoa and early nights the whole time." The 33-year-old singer has been single since splitting from Francesca Thomas in 2015, and though he'd like to meet someone eventually, he's currently enjoying having the time to look after himself. He told Closer magazine: "I'd be lying if I didn't say it was quite nice to be single and focus on myself, but there are times when I'm at home and think it would be good to have someone here with me. "It's still difficult at times and I miss what I don't have. But it is what it is. It's all about meeting and dating the wrong ones until you find the right one. That's my motto. I will continue to just be me and try to meet the right one."

No Saturdays reunion yet

Mollie King insists The Saturdays won't reunite for a "couple of years". The 'Issues' hitmakers - comprising Mollie, Vanessa White, Rochelle Humes, Frankie Bridge and Una Healy - have been on hiatus since 2015, but there are still no plans for them to reunite, and they will only do so when they are all on board. Mollie said: "It would need to be all five of us. You never know what's going to happen, so watch this space. "It would be fun to do in a couple of years' time." Since going on hiatus, Mollie, Vanessa and Una have all launched solo careers, while Rochelle has moved into presenting and Frankie enjoyed a stint on 'Strictly Come Dancing'. But Mollie insists there is no competition between them and they are all supportive of one another. Asked if things are competitive, she said:

"Oh God no, not at all. We're all so supportive of each other. We've been through so much with one another. "Me and the girls are still very much a band, so we haven't split up or anything. It's just about supporting each other on our different journeys and it's so nice to be close to them." For now, Mollie is looking forward to releasing her "girly anthem" at some point this summer. She told Look magazine: "I'm currently recording. My single will be out towards the end of summer so I haven't been able to take any holidays until I know the exact release date. "It's an upbeat one - a girly anthem that you can blast out of your car or dance to on a night out."

Big Boi's
musical rebirth

Big Boi's new album feels like a "rebirth". The Outkast rapper is gearing up for the release of 'Boomiverse' and loves the fact he's never been afraid to experiment or try something new. He said: "Life's about evolution. Always try to reinvent yourself, in a natural way. "I'm always trying to find a new sound, new flows. "Taking risks is the most important thing to me. I truly feel like my new record is a rebirth - it really feels like all bets are off." The 42-year-old musician - whose real name is Antwan Patton - has collaborated with a number of different artists throughout his career and likened the process to making a "stew" because it requires a variety of qualities from everyone involved. He said: "Learn to compromise. I've learned this from collaborating with other people. It's a good thing. "Sometimes two minds are better than one. You get different perspectives, you can look at things from all angles and build off someone else's energy. "It's like making a pot of stew. Someone is cutting up the celery, someone the carrots, the paprika, the pepper... When you want to make that special blend, you can only do it with the right ingredients." Though Big Boi doesn't believe in coincidences, a collaboration with Snoop Dogg on his new album came about purely by chance. He told Q magazine: "I don't believe in coincidences. All the energy you put into the universe comes back to you, so don't do something that's forced. "A perfect example of being organic was working with Snoop. When I first recorded the album, on the first song I worked on, I thought, 'Snoop would sound so good on here.' "Then just as I was about to turn the album in he did a listening party at my studio. It was organized at the last minute so I had to be somewhere else, but my engineer called me and said, 'Snoop is here and wants to do a song with you.' "I got him to play that first track and Snoop went, 'I'm not leaving until I've finished this one.'"

LAWRENCE FINE AFTER
PLANE FORCED TO MAKE
EMERGENCY LANDING

Jennifer Lawrence is fine after her plane was forced to make an emergency landing. The 'Silver Linings Playbook' actress was reportedly travelling from Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday when one of the engines failed at 31,000 feet. The pilots made an emergency landing, but while in the middle of the unscheduled stop, the other engine failed. Fortunately, the private plane landed safely in Buffalo, New York, and was greeted by multiple emergency vehicles, and a spokesperson for the 26-year-old actress - who had been in Kentucky visiting family - confirmed to E! News that she was unhurt. Jennifer recently admitted she can be socially awkward and gets "really overwhelmed" at parties because there are so many people. She said: "I get really overwhelmed by the amount of people, then I find two people and I imprison them and I trap them and I'm like 'It's you and me... "One year for the Oscars, I think it was the 'American Hustle' year, I juice cleansed and then got really, really wasted. Then something was smoking and then I barfed, at Guy Oseary's house. I vomited, cheers Guy. I remember going up to Ellen Page and saying, 'I need to get in my car,' and she was like, 'Not my problem.' And I was like, 'Take me home Ellen!' "And the 'Hunger Games' star - who is thought to be dating director Darren Aronofsky - previously admitted she "works very hard" to keep her life private. She explained: "You might think you know me, but when you approach me you're a total stranger to me and I'm scared. [I get] very protective of my space. It took me a long time to be able to do that. "If I'm eating dinner and somebody comes up and a flash goes off from someone's iPhone camera, I am really rude to that person. Then other people at the restaurant will see and be like, 'Oh, damn, I don't want to do that.' Privacy is a full-time job and I work very hard at it."

Liam Payne taking
tips from Cheryl

Liam Payne gets Cheryl Tweedy to "check" his performances. The 'Strip That Down' singer thinks his girlfriend has an "amazing" stage presence so is only too happy to take tips from her before he gets out in front of his fans. Speaking at the Capital Summertime Ball in London on Saturday he told The Sun Online: "I had her come in, I had the whole family come in and watch my performance and she's really funny and we were just in my room upstairs performing but I like her to check things because she's amazing. "She's an amazing performer and if there's a dance move she'll be like 'Yeah, can you do this a bit more like this way' she gets into it, it's a lot of fun. It's nice to have someone who's a pro at home to tell you." As he prepares to launch his debut solo album, the 23-year-old singer has already found his youngest fan, 11-week-old son Bear. He said: "There was a song of mine that I was going through my album this morning, picking up songs and seeing ones I still like, and there's a little 'woohoo' in one of the songs and he was literally laughing his head off, he loved it." Meanwhile, Liam was happy to see his One Direction bandmate Niall Horan perform at the Summertime Ball, and praised the 'Slow Hands' singer for his appearance at Ariana Grande's charity concert last weekend, which was staged to raise money for the victims of the bomb attack at her show in Manchester last month. He said: "It's great to see him. He's different with his different hair. I haven't seen him in a while but I've watched his progression and how he's doing at the moment. I watched him play at the Ariana gig which I thought was an amazing thing everyone did. Hats off to him, it was such an important cause as well."

Gomez doesn't
know 'where to go'
with new music

Selena Gomez doesn't know "where she wants to go" with her music. The 24-year-old singer has said she's got enough material to make up an album after spending "a year" in the studio, but claims she isn't sure what to do with the pieces she's recorded as they all sound "different". She said: "I've been in the studio for a year. So I can technically say I have an album, but I don't know where I want to go with it because of how different everything sounds." The 'Bad Liar' hitmaker is currently setting up each song "to be a single", because she's unsure how to tie all the tracks together. She continued: "I'm not just saying that because I feel like, 'Oh, that's exciting!' Every song I'm setting up to be a single is just completely separate from each other and I love that. So, I don't know where it's gonna go, but I can say I have an album because it's a lot of music." But Selena insists she won't leave albums behind forever, as she says her fan base who will buy her records deserve "special things". Speaking with Carson Daly on 97.1 AMP Radio on Thursday, Selena said: "I appreciate albums. I get it. I know how much music is changing, but you know, I've still got my fan base that I want to special things too, music that deserves to be listened to that maybe won't be on the radio. It will just be for them." Meanwhile, Selena previously admitted her music is "evolving", and said her new material will mark a change from her 2015 album 'Revival', which featured hits such as 'Hands to Myself' and 'Same Old Love'. She said: "It's an evolution and I know it's different and I just wanted it to sound like something I've never done before."



GOSSIP

ANTHONY HOPKINS UNSURE OF TRANSFORMERS PLOT

Sir Anthony Hopkins "doesn't quite get" 'Transformers: The Last Knight'. The 79-year-old actor has joined the franchise as Sir Edmund Burton, who devoted his life to the study of ancestries of humans and Transformers, and though he had a "terrific time" making the movie, he wasn't really sure about the "complicated" plot. He said: "You're not going to ask me to explain the plot are you? Because it's so very complicated and there's the whole mythology of four previous films that come into play. I have to admit, I don't quite get all of it. "All I know is I play a highly educated, eccentric English lord. I had a terrific time making it. Mark Wahlberg was wonderful to work with, the locations were excellent (Northumberland, Norway, Arizona, the Isle of Skye and Stonehenge) and I showed up, put my costume on, said my lines and stayed out of trouble. That's all I ever do. It beats working for a living." The veteran actor has never shied away from making popcorn blockbusters, after his father Richard advised him to go where the money was when he was a stage actor in his 20s. He recalled to Event magazine: "And he was right. He told me to go to

Hollywood like Richard Burton and make some cash. That's why I came to Los Angeles all those years ago [in the mid-Seventies] and I fell in love with the sunshine - it's a great place to make a good living." And when he first got to Hollywood, Anthony accepted any roles he was offered, and acknowledges they weren't all particularly good. He said: "As Michael Caine says, you make bad films till you become famous and then you can afford to make good ones." While his most famous role was as Hannibal Lecter in 'Silence Of The Lambs', Anthony insists it wasn't his greatest performance. He said: "No, no, definitely not. I learned my lines, showed up and was herded into my glass box. It was a good role but for me my best performances have been in 'Remains Of The Day', 'Nixon' and 'The World's Fastest Indian', not 'Silence Of The Lambs'." "The best thing about that film was that it got me back out of the theatre. I'd done six months and the boredom had kicked in."



Holliday Grainger's selective roles

Holliday Grainger is "more selective" about the roles she chooses. The 'My Cousin Rachel' star likes to do a variety of different things as an actress but is much more specific with what she does, the older she gets. She said: "I'm getting more selective, the more I do. As an actor, you want to do a variety of things, but first and foremost, it's the script, the quality of the script and the part. "If the script is great and it's a part that I believe and I believe the world, that's rarer than you think. It's always a project that I want to be involved in, if it's a world that I believe. As an actor, when you're put into a world that you believe, you're given the freedom to do what you want with the character." And the 29-year-old actress enjoyed working with Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin and Iain Glen on the movie. She added: "It was great! When we did the dinner party scenes, Roger would throw out to people, 'Oh, tell this story,' or 'Sing this song.' It was a very fun family atmosphere 'cause that's the atmosphere that Rachel was trying to create and people were on a level pretending they were in. Everyone wants people to think it's normal when it's not. The depth of the emotions is always restrained, so the atmosphere on set was always fun." Grainger is also starring in a television show based around J.K. Rowling's Cormoran Strike novels and felt lucky to work with the author on developing her role. She told Collider.com: "Yeah, [J.K. Rowling] would come to all of the read-throughs and she was quite involved with watching all of the footage and giving feedback. "It was great to be a part of a world that she has created. J.K. Rowling has created worlds that we all know and love."



Crow wants Pink Panther Theme played at funeral

Sheryl Crow wants the 'Pink Panther Theme' played at her funeral. The 55-year-old singer has quipped that she would love to the soundtrack to the 1963 movie to be played when she is laid to rest before admitting that hymn 'Morning Has Broken' would be a more suitable choice. Asked what song she wants played at her funeral, she said: "I vacillate between 'Morning Has Broken' and 'The Pink Panther Theme' - that song is hilarious. But 'Morning Has Broken' is so hopeful and sweet and uplifting." And the 'If It Makes You Happy' hitmaker admits she is not a big fan of karaoke but has confessed that the one time she did do it, she sang her own song. She added: "I don't do karaoke. The only time I've ever done karaoke was to my own song! It was in Detroit and it was with the guy I wrote it with, Kid Rock. I don't think that constitutes karaoke - I think that constitutes drunken performing in a bar of your own music." Meanwhile, Sheryl admits she has trouble listen to Coldplay's 'Yellow' as it reminds her of a previous bad relationship. She told the new issue of NME magazine: "I can't really listen to 'Yellow', believe it or not, and I love Coldplay. "It was really popular at a time I was in a really bad relationship and it immediately makes me want to throw up! I'm sorry, Chris and Coldplay - I love you guys!"

Zhang Ziyi for Godzilla: King of the Monsters

Zhang Ziyi has joined 'Godzilla: King of the Monsters'. The 38-year-old actress has signed up to star in the hotly-anticipated movie and will also have a further feature in Warner Bros. Monsterverse, joining Kyle Chandler, Vera Farmiga and Millie Bobby Brown, who have already been announced to star in the flick. Plot details are being kept under wraps but it has been revealed that the upcoming movie will be set many years after the events of the original film. Michael Dougherty will direct whilst Dougherty and Zach Shields penned the script. Ziyi's character has been described as "a key figure in the covert, creature-cataloging Monarch organization", who is also expected to make an appearance in 'Godzilla vs Kong', according to The Hollywood Reporter. 'Godzilla: King of the Monsters' is set to be released on March 22, 2019 whilst

'Godzilla vs Kong' is expected to be unveiled in 2020. Meanwhile, Millie Bobby Brown previously revealed she is very "excited" for her debut film role to be in 'Godzilla: King of the Monsters'. The 12-year-old actress said: "It's my first movie. I'm really excited and that's really all I can say, but it's going to be great! I just had a really incredible connection with the director [Michael Dougherty]. I had a great meeting with him and you know, I just really love him." It looks like things are finally picking up for the sequel as it was thrown into chaos previously when Gareth Edwards announced he would no longer be doing the follow-up to his 2014 reboot after an amicable split with Warner Bros. and Legendary. — BangShowbiz



Tom Hardy to star in Aladdin?

Tom Hardy has reportedly been approached for a role in the live-action remake of 'Aladdin'. The 39-year-old actor could be in with a shot of playing Jafar in the forthcoming blockbuster after the project's director Guy Ritchie reached out to him about nabbing the part. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Guy is a huge fan of Tom's work and securing him would be a major coup. There have been conversations and, although nothing is set in stone and things are subject to change, he's certainly one of Guy's favored choices." However, although he's desperate to secure the 'Mad Max' star, Ritchie may be forced to come up with a back-up plan as Hardy's schedule is looking somewhat stacked right now. The insider added: "It just depends on schedules and whether he'll be able to sign up." And Hardy isn't the only person attached to the musical movie at the moment as Little Mix's Jade Thirlwall is in talks to play Princess Jasmine - though it could disrupt the band. A source said recently: "Jasmine is Jade's perfect role, so she's delighted to have got this far in the process. The talks have been going on for some time now. "And the longer they go on, the better her chances are looking. All of the girls have their fingers crossed for her, as they always support each other. But they also know that it would be a huge commitment. Jade would need to film for months, and that's before promotion for the movie began. So this week they sat down in a break from their tour dance rehearsals and talked about what they might do if Disney did decide to cast her. It was quite an emotional conversation. But they all agreed that they would try to make it work for her around Little Mix commitments. It wouldn't be easy, but as far as it's possible, that's what they want."

Will Smith is also thought to be on board the project to play The Genie after his negotiations about joining 'Dumbo', based on the classic 1941 animated family film about the titular big-eared baby elephant who learns to fly in the circus, fell through earlier this year. 'Aladdin' will start shooting this summer in the UK.



KIDMAN'S WORRIES OVER LIVING UP TO REAL-LIFE ROLE IN LION



Nicole Kidman feared she would "let down" the adoptive mother whom her 'Lion' character was based on. The 49-year-old actress - who has more than 30 years' experience in the film industry - felt the pressure to get things right on the set of the Oscar-nominated movie. When asked whether she felt cautious over meeting the adoptive mother Sue Brierley, she told Total Film magazine: "It was more like I didn't want to let her down. Obviously, it's a supporting role, so it's not her story - and she contributes to it. But her story itself - her life story - is so compelling." The film is based on a five-year-old Indian boy Saroo, played by Sunny Pawar and Dev Patel, who gets lost on the streets of Calcutta, thousands of miles from home. He is eventually adopted by a couple in Australia and 25 years later, he sets on a mission to find his lost family. Kidman admitted she was worried she wouldn't be able to do Sue's story justice and "honor" her life. She added: "I was like, 'Gosh, I hope I can somehow get her essence into the amount of screen time I have so you can really feel who she is and what she is.' So I wasn't reticent to meet her, but I didn't want her to feel that everything she shared with me - because I spent so much time with her - was not on the screen, because it couldn't be. But I wanted to somehow honor her life." And Kidman says that when she first read the script, she wasn't aware that it was based on a real-life story but still found it hugely emotional to play. She shared: "But then when I found it was a true story, I was like 'Oh...' but subsequently getting meshed in the whole world of the Brierleys and getting to know Sue and the whole family they're pretty special but she's just had very, very unusual life, and at times traumatic life, and yet she managed to pull it all together and give these boys this beautiful future and life. And that's the thing that touches me the most."

Andrews won't appear in Mary Poppins Returns

Julie Andrews is "100 per cent behind" 'Mary Poppins Returns' - but won't appear in it. The 81-year-old actress - who played the magical nanny in the 1964 musical fantasy film - is backing the forthcoming project and is pleased director Rob Marshall has chosen Emily Blunt to portray the leading role because she thinks she's "amazing." Speaking to Entertainment Weekly, Marshall said: "Julie was incredibly gracious. We talked about it in a very general way but she made it clear right up front. "She said, 'This is Emily's show, and I really want it to be Emily's show. I don't want it to be, "Oh, here comes that Mary Poppins. I don't want that." I really want her to take this and run with it, because she will be brilliant.' "Julie will always be, for me and for everybody, the most astonishing performance as Mary Poppins, winning the Oscar and bursting onto the scene so brilliantly. But Emily is the perfect person to carry the torch, and I know Julie feels the exact same way." Although Julie has turned down the chance to make an appearance in the film, Dick Van Dyke - who played jack-of-all-trades Bert in the original - will make a cameo. Details of the plot are under wraps at the moment but it is known that Mary will re-visit the Banks family after a family tragedy. The news that 'Mary Poppins Returns' was in development by Disney broke in 2015 and it was reported that the film would feature a standalone narrative based on the remaining seven books in the series. The movie will also star Ben Whishaw as a grown-up Michael Banks, Emily Mortimer as Jane Banks, Angela Lansbury as the Balloon Lady and Julie Walters as Ellen. Shooting on the film started on February 10, at Shepperton Studios in Surrey, England.



LONDON FASHION WEEK MEN'S JUNE 2017



Danish-born designer Astrid Andersen (center) greets the audience after her catwalk show at London Fashion Week Men's June 2017 in London yesterday. — AFP photos



Models present creations by Danish-born designer Astrid Andersen.

Models present creations by British fashion house John Lawrence Sullivan.

FEATURES



Participants in bicomunal art-therapy workshop colors the photographs while attending the event, in the coastal Cypriot city of Paphos. — AFP photos

A participant in a bicomunal art-therapy workshop holds out a photograph she coloured.

Art seeks to heal wounds in divided Cyprus

Inside an art gallery on the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus, Selma Bolayir draws a large yellow sun on a black-and-white picture of a South Vietnamese soldier who appears to be crying. "When I look (at) this young soldier, I feel so upset, because I am a mother," says the elegant 73-year-old, her eyes outlined with black eye liner. "In all the wars, the losers are the soldiers, the mothers and the children," says the Turkish Cypriot. Bolayir is in Paphos to take part in an art therapy session, more than 40 years after fleeing the coastal town following a Turkish invasion of the island's north in 1974.

black-and-white images of war from renowned photojournalists dot a table top. Participants have each chosen a picture and are busy coating it with color as a way of processing their individual and collective memories of traumatizing events.

'We have to talk'

Bolayir has picked a photograph taken by Nick Ut in 1974 of a South Vietnamese soldier sitting knees pulled up to his chest and head buried in his arms. She has drawn a large sun behind the fighter and written a line inspired by Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet: "The sun will rise for us one day." "I hope

to talk about it," she says, as the fragile peace talks enter their third year. The workshop is one of several projects to encourage dialogue between Turkish and Greek Cypriots as Paphos is European Capital of Culture this year.

'Time to give back'

At another gallery, the sculptures of both a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot are exhibited side by side. Most are by Greek Cypriot artist Andy Hadjiadamos, including an African-inspired elongated wooden man's bust. In 1974, Hadjiadamos was forced to abandon his studio in the city of Famagusta in what is now the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. A Turkish Cypriot ended up saving the works he left behind.

Sculptor Baki Bogac says he instantly recognised the value of Hadjiadamos' works when he discovered them by chance two years after the Turkish invasion. Bogac was part of a team surveying abandoned buildings in Famagusta, accompanied by Turkish troops. He persuaded the soldiers to let him take a few works at a time and managed to gather a collection of paintings, drawings, photographs and a sculpture. Years after looking after the works, Bogac searched for the artist to give him back his works but Hadjiadamos had died in 1990. Instead he met his family and handed over the treasure trove.

"I was really happy," says Bogac, now 66, at the recent opening of an exhibition of both their works. "I came here as a real Cypriot, to show that you shouldn't take what doesn't belong to you," he said. "It's time to learn to give what we took more than we needed-in this island." "We can create something new, more pure, without keeping everything for ourselves," he told a crowd including Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, his voice shaky with emotion. Prodromos Andreou, a Greek Cypriot literature student, stood nearby inspecting Bogac's sculptures. "It's very important that events like (these) happen in Cyprus to connect people and bring them closer," said the 27-year-old, a bag slung over his shoulder and trainers on his feet. "Unfortunately many of them don't want to see them," he said, referring to some of his friends. — AFP



A child touches a sculpture at an exhibition featuring the works of his late grandfather, Greek Cypriot artist Andy Hadjiadamos, along with other works by Turkish Cypriot artist Baki Bogac.

Around 200,000 people fled their homes on either side of the island after the incursion in response to an Athens-inspired coup seeking union with Greece. In a population swap, Turkish Cypriots fled to the north and Greek Cypriots fled to the south. Bolayir now lives in the northern half of Nicosia, Europe's last divided capital. Decades later, she is one of around 10 Cypriots-Turkish and Greek-attending the workshop to overcome painful memories of the conflict that split the island in two. Brightly coloured paint pots and

that one day, the sun will also rise for the Cypriots," she says, alluding to stalled peace talks for the island's reunification. Her daughter Asli, who is an artist and therapist, says she set up the workshop to transform pain into hope.

"When you see a war picture, automatically you feel the violence," she says. We "transform it into something else". "That's the purpose of the workshop: to change our point of view, our feelings." Cypriots on both sides have suffered greatly and witnessed devastating violence, says Asli. "We have



Participants in a bicomunal art-therapy workshop attend a group discussion.



Turkish Cypriot artist Baki Bogac poses at the launch of an exhibition featuring his works and those of the late Greek Cypriot artist Andy Hadjiadamos.

Opening Ceremony show features live fight scene, Rza music

A fight broke out at the Opening Ceremony fashion show Friday night, but it was all part of the plan. A model tripped during the runway show and shoved another before an all-out brawl unfolded, choreographed by stuntwoman Zoe Bell and set to a live score by Wu-Tang Clan beatmaster The RZA. Designer Humberto Leon said the collection, with its bright hues and rope accents, was inspired by the American Southwest.

The fashion show at LA Live, however, was pure Los Angeles. "We decided to embrace the LA-ness that we love, which is like this fun, other world - this Hollywood side. We decided to bring that into the show," Leon said after the show, timed to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the brand's LA store. "These stuntwomen have never all been together before. And they're all friends. And there's never been a movie where they're needed - 10 women stunt doubles," he continued. "So in many ways, this was also celebrating girl power and yeah, almost like a bunch of sisters coming together. Obviously everyone makes up at the end, so it's a fight for good."

For RZA, creating a live soundtrack presented a new challenge. "It was deep. I haven't done Broadway yet, you know what I mean?" he said. "I think it was really unique. And I think they pulled it off. When the sleeves came out - because we rehearsed it without the full costume. So when the sleeves came out and all of that, it just made it like wow - now I see. It was fun." — AP



Stunts perform at the MADE Fashion Festival 'Opening Ceremony' show in Los Angeles. —AP photos



Models walk down the runway at the MADE Fashion Festival 'Opening Ceremony' show.



RZA performs at the MADE Fashion Festival 'Opening Ceremony' show.



Fans dressed in Spider-Man outfits gather at a promotional event for the forthcoming "Spider-Man: Homecoming" movie at the Art Science Museum in Singapore. The movie will be shown in cinemas around the world from July 5 onwards. — AFP

South Africa's pre-teen queen with 'rainmaking' powers

She is a 12-year-old schoolgirl who aspires to become a doctor. But Masalanabo Modjadji is no ordinary pre-teen—she is South Africa's only female traditional ruler, with claims of mystical rainmaking powers. Queen Modjadji is the hereditary ruler of the Balobedu, an ethnic tribe in South Africa's northern province of Limpopo. She will be formally crowned when she turns 18, having ascended to the throne as a three-month-old infant when her mother, the previous queen, died in 2005.

Until her coronation, Masalanabo is not making any public statements. But AFP gained rare access, meeting her in a suburb outside

tile valley of Molototsi, 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Johannesburg. The monarchy, which originated in what is today southeastern Zimbabwe, has been ruled by women for over 200 years. Her mother was the first queen able to read and write. She could speak English, was computer literate and drove a car. Last year, after a long campaign, and a succession dispute—the Balobedu queen was officially recognized under South African law for the first time since apartheid.

It means the royal family will qualify—when the queen turns 18 — for government money under the 1996 constitution that was designed

undergoes early initiation teaching. Traditionally the Modjadjis conduct rainmaking rituals during the southern hemisphere spring. The ceremonies—which are restricted to the members of the royal family, with the queen leading the rain prayers — are held at five different shrines over five weekends. On the final day, if all goes to plan, the first rains of the season fall welcome news in South Africa, which has suffered a series of recent severe droughts.

The ritual involves a specially-chosen cow, drinking traditional beer, and singing and dancing in the palace courtyard where shoes are strictly forbidden. "The animal (cow) will come and drink the special brew," explained John Malatji, head of the Modjadji Royal Council, sitting in the middle of a circular palace courtyard. The remaining beer is then shared among family members—young and old—before prayers are said, calling for rain. "Finally we spend the night dancing to special divine songs," he said. At another shrine, Phiphidi Falls, the rites are conducted on a treacherously slippery slope where devotees risk slipping and falling into the water below. "It is very important to come here every year. The rituals are a way of thanking the ancestors and asking for things that we want for the coming year," said researcher Fathuwani Mulovedzi.

'Both male and female'

Traditional rulers do not have any formal power in South Africa, but they still wield influence—and the government money is highly sought after. Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini will receive 59 million rand (\$4.5 million, 4 million euros) this year alone, helping fund a lifestyle that includes several royal palaces, six wives and nearly 30 children. The rain queen is seen by her community as "a sacred person", said Wits University cultural anthropologist David Copland. Her relevance in modern society is representing "a spiritual sense of identity and special powers (just as) people think the Pope has powers," he said.

The queen's family life will also be distinctive. After she is crowned, she will marry several maiden women, paying their families "lobolo" money—which is normally paid by a husband to his new wife's family. The wives then have children with other royal relatives, and the children are counted as the queen's own. She, too, can have children, but only with a relative whose identity remains secret. "The queen is both male and female. That's how she expands her family," said Mtshekgwa. South Africa legalised same-sex marriage in 2006, but for the Balobedu queen it was nothing new. "We have been doing that for hundreds of years. It's our way," said Malatji. — AFP

Annual rain ritual

During school holidays, Masalanabo, who has an older brother studying at university, heads to the royal palace at Modjadjikloof, where she

Regal duties

Masalanabo will sit on the dynasty's throne in her ancestral village of Modjadjikloof in the fer-



These photos show South Africa's Queen Masalanabo Modjadji. — AFP photos

Johannesburg where she lives during term time with her guardian Mtshekgwa, who speaks on her behalf. Masalanabo arrived back from school driven in an ordinary sedan car, and quickly swapped her black uniform tracksuit for a black-and-white traditional robe and a multi-coloured beaded headband.

She sat quietly next to her guardian, listening carefully and smiling. "She knows that this is her position by birth, so she doesn't have to hurry," said Mtshekgwa, describing her as the "earthly representative of the rain goddess." "She wants to be well-prepared because the world is modern and her subjects are going to be educated people, so she wants to be educated so that she matches with the times."

UNPACKING A LEGEND: NY SPOTLIGHTS FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

From a skyscraper twice the height of today's tallest building to self-sufficient farms designed to offset the Great Depression, a New York exhibition is spotlighting the hidden projects and dreams of Frank Lloyd Wright. "Unpacking the Archive" is the product of painstaking research from thousands of documents that lay dormant in the personal archive of Wright, that most famous and revered of US architects, 150 years after his birth. Opening at the Museum of Modern Art today and running until October 1, it offers a new glimpse into Wright, five years after the institution, together with Columbia University, acquired the legend's archives.

"He has been the most exhibited and lionized architect in the museum's history," says curator Barry Bergdoll. "Probably the only architect that is almost more popular with the general public than with the architect community." To that end the museum invited a dozen architecture historians to "come and play" with the archives and come up with a compelling exhibit, he explains. Spread across 13 rooms, the exhibition explores little-known aspects of the work and personality of the architect, born in 1867 on the prairies of Wisconsin and whose career spanned seven decades until his death in Arizona in 1959.

If he is best known for the Guggenheim in New York or "organic architecture" such as his 1930s "Fallingwater" house built over a stream in Pennsylvania—only half of the 1,000 projects he conceived ever materialized. But Wright kept everything: different versions, some of them annotated, designs that were themselves revolutions in graphics, ultra-detailed models, photos of himself at work, rejection letters and newspaper clippings. Even when his projects were rejected, that did not stop him shopping them around with an innate sense of marketing.

Mile-high home for 100,000

One of them was "Little Farms," dreamt up



Journalists get a look at the "Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking The Archive" exhibit during a media preview on June 8, 2017 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. — AFP