

A building collapses in Jabriya



Cattle slaughter crackdown hits leather industry



Ronaldo accused of evading €14.7 million in tax



Imsak 03:03 Fajr 03:13 Shorook 04:48 Duhr 11:48 Asr 15:22 Maghrib 18:49 Isha 20:21

150 FILS
NO: 17257
40 PAGES

12 DEAD, 74 INJURED AS DEADLY FIRE ENGULFS LONDON TOWER

BABIES, KIDS TOSSED OUT OF WINDOWS AS FIRE RAVAGES BUILDING



Min 31°
Max 49°
High Tide 03:05 & 13:10
Low Tide 07:59 & 20:55

'ZAIN FAMILY' CELEBRATES SUCCESS



KUWAIT: Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi speaks during the ghabga.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, celebrated its employees with a Ramadan Ghabga gathering at Al Raya Hall in Kuwait City, in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and team spirit, and in the presence of Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi. Such events, which bring together staff and senior executive management, look to strengthen the links between members of the Zain family, and renew

the spirit of shared ambition and responsibilities for the challenges ahead.

Addressing the assembled guests, Kharafi said, "Due to your motivation and your deep sense of belonging to this company, I would like to thank you for your commitment and performance. I hope you are as proud as I am to be part of the Zain family. We together represent the company's aspirations and success." (See Page 5)

LONDON: A deadly overnight fire raced through a 24-storey apartment tower in London yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 74 others, police said. Witnesses reported seeing residents throw babies and small children from high windows to people on the sidewalk in a desperate effort to save them from the flames. The inferno lit up the night sky and spewed black smoke from the windows of the Grenfell Tower in North Kensington, where more than 200 firefighters battled the blaze.

A plume of smoke stretched for miles across the sky after dawn, revealing the blackened, flame-licked wreckage of the building, which was still burning over 12 hours later. People trapped by the quickly advancing flames and thick smoke banged on windows and screamed for help to those watching down below, witnesses and survivors said. One resident said the fire alarm did not go off. "The flames, I have never seen anything like it, it just reminded me of 9/11," said Muna Ali, 45.

"The fire started on the upper floors ... oh my goodness, it spread so quickly. It had completely spread within half an hour," Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton told reporters. "In my 29 years of being a firefighter I have never, ever seen anything of this scale." She said she feared more victims would be found still inside the building.

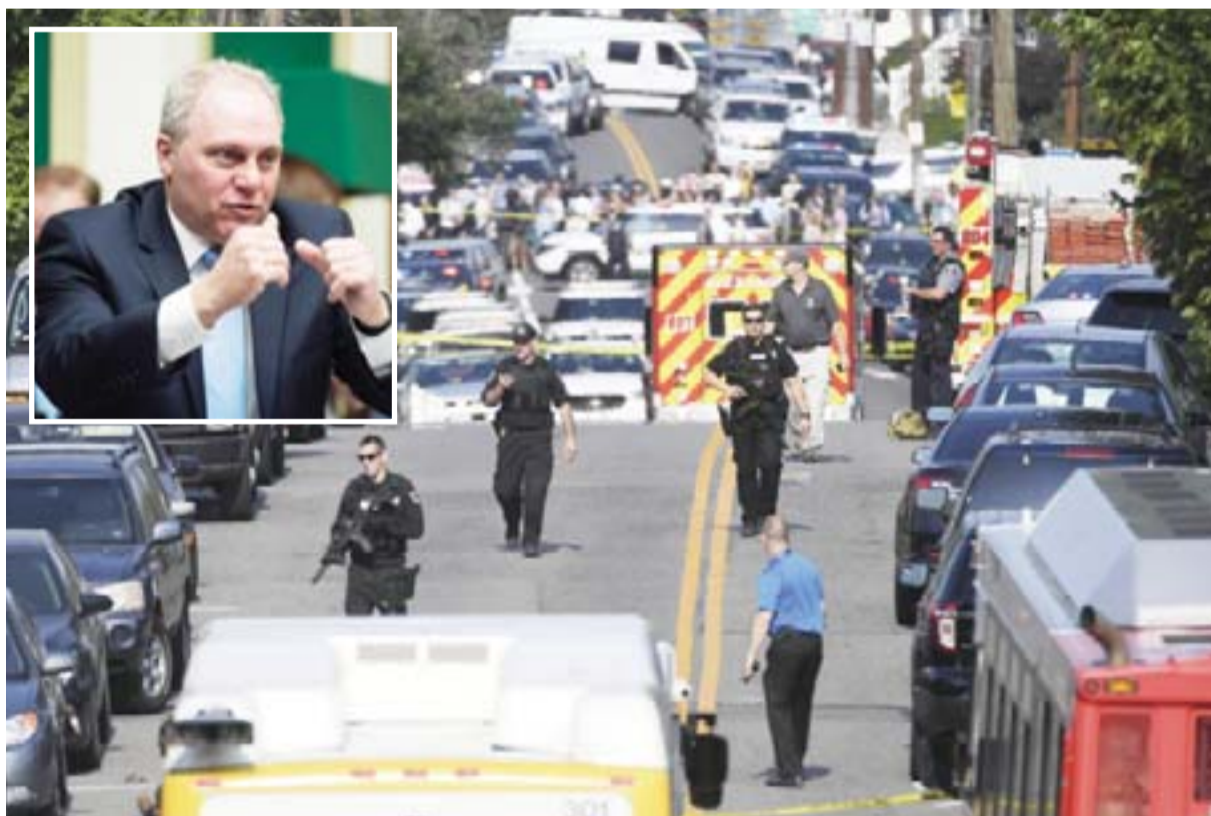


LONDON: Fire engulfs Grenfell Tower, a residential tower block yesterday in west London. The massive fire ripped through the 27-storey apartment block in the early hours of yesterday, trapping residents inside as 200 firefighters battled the blaze. — AFP

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REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN SCALISE WOUNDED IN MULTIPLE SHOOTING

SHOOTING ERUPTS AT US LAWMAKERS BASEBALL PRACTICE



ALEXANDRIA: Emergency personnel respond after reports of shots fired yesterday in Alexandria, Va. A top House Republican, Steve Scalise of Louisiana (inset), was shot by a rifle-wielding gunman yesterday at a congressional baseball practice just outside of Washington. — AP

ALEXANDRIA: A rifle-wielding attacker opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice yesterday, wounding House GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and several others as congressmen and aides dove for cover. The assailant, prepared with "a lot of ammo," fought a gun battle with police before he, too, was shot and later died. Scalise dragged himself off the infield leaving a trail of blood as colleagues rushed to his assistance.

Capitol Police officers who were in Scalise's security detail wounded the shooter, who was taken into custody. In all, five people were taken to area hospitals, including the suspect, Alexandria police said. The shooter later died of his injuries, President Donald Trump told the nation from the White House. "Everyone on that field is a public servant," Trump said. "Their sacrifice makes democracy possible." Scalise, 51, the No 3 House Republican leader first elected to the House in 2008, was in stable condition and undergoing surgery.

A government official identified the shooter as an Illinois man named James T Hodgkinson. The official was not authorized to discuss an investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity. Texas Rep Roger Williams, who coaches the GOP team, said that one of his aides, Zack Barth, was shot, but "is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery." Rep Jeff Duncan of South Carolina said he had just left the practice and encountered the apparent gunman in the parking lot before the shooting.

The man calmly asked which party's lawmakers were practicing and Duncan told him they were the Republicans. The man thanked him.

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EGYPT MPs APPROVE DEAL GIVING ISLANDS TO SAUDI

CAIRO: In defiance of a court ruling, Egypt's parliament voted yesterday to ratify a disputed 2016 agreement that would transfer two strategic Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia. The vote, in which lawmakers in favor were asked to stand up, came shortly after the 596-seat chamber opened a debate on the pact earlier in the day. The outcome was a foregone conclusion since the legislature is packed with supporters of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, whose government signed the deal when Saudi King Salman visited last year.

The vote and the uncanny speed with which the house processed the agreement are

likely to spark protests by Egyptians opposed to the deal, as well as lead to potentially destabilizing legal battles between the legislative branch of government and the judiciary after a court ruled against the islands transfer in January. Lawmakers who back the deal have insisted that only parliament has the right to ratify international agreements.

"The ruling by the highest administrative court annulling the agreement makes parliament's discussion and ratification of the agreement invalid," said Raafat Fouada, a constitutional law professor at Cairo University.

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SHARM EL SHEIKH: Photo taken through the window of an airplane shows the Red Sea's Tiran (foreground) and the Sanafir (background) islands in the Strait of Tiran between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Saudi Arabia. — AFP



NO WASTA WITH GOD

By Teresa Leshar

The cornerstone of Islam is the concept of a single deity and the direct relationship of people with God. The Muslim prayer is addressed directly to the Creator, without any sons, partners, semi-Gods, saints, or ancestors who intervene on the supplicant's behalf. In other words, we don't need "wasta" with God. We are taught to pray directly to the source of all good - God Almighty - and that praying to others or expecting benefit from them is offensive to God and a great sin.

He said in the Quran, "And when My servants ask you concerning Me, then surely I am very near; I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me, so they should answer My call and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way." (2:186) If God Himself hears our prayer and answers us, why would we ever ask another? In addition to performing formal prayers at regular intervals so that we are trained to connect with God often, we are encouraged to engage often in remembrance of God and supplication.

Supplication is informal communications with God, a spontaneous prayer from the heart of a believer at any moment during his life - in times of need, in moments of joy, during reflection or strenuous effort. The Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) set a perfect example by supplicating often from the time he woke up until he slept at night. He repented often, sought God's help at every opportunity and constantly glorified He who sustains us, provides for us and guides us throughout our lives.

His supplications were recorded by his companions and touch every aspect of life - from the usually mindless activities such as dressing in the morning to the most serious and somber situations like preparing a body for burial. Ramadan is a month full of many blessings and a superior time for supplication. This can be inferred from the statement of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who said, "When Ramadan comes, the Doors of Mercy (another narration says Paradise) are opened, and the doors of Hell are closed, and the devils are locked up."

(Sahih al-Bukhari #1899, Muslim #1079) Thus, it is clear that supplication during Ramadan has a greater chance of being accepted, as the Gates of Paradise and Mercy are opened. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said, "Three supplications will not be rejected (by Almighty God), the supplication of the parent for his child, the supplication of the one who is fasting, and the supplication of the traveler. [at-Tirmidhi].

Continued on Page 13

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CONTRACTOR SUMMONED FOR JABRIYA BUILDING COLLAPSE



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A building collapsed in Jabriya while a contractor was pulling it down, as authorities summoned the contractor to hear his testimony. No casualties were reported in the incident, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said in a statement. Kuwait Municipality's Deputy Director for Ahmadi and Hawally Affairs Fahad Al-Otaibi immediately rushed to the scene with relevant teams who helped remove the wreckage from the street. Otaibi said that all proper legal actions will be taken against the contractor if he was found responsible for the collapse. In addition, the contractor was referred to relevant authorities to investigate the matter and the safety procedures he used during the process.



KUWAIT 38TH IN WORLD'S COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: According to the world's competitiveness report issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Kuwait ranked fourth amongst Arab countries and 38th worldwide in terms of the world's most competitive economies. According to the report, Switzerland came first worldwide and UAE came first amongst Arab countries. The report includes 138 countries and examines 114 points to measure competitiveness indexes.

Privatization

The final decision on selecting Kuwait Stock Exchange's privatization consultant is expected to be settled in next Sunday's meeting of the privatization committee. KSE had invited international consultants to file in their biddings so that one of them will be selected.

Early payment

The Manpower and Government

Restructuring Program's (MGRP) Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali announced that the program will finish transferring due payments into bank accounts by Tuesday, June 20. Majdali explained that the transferred sums include national labor support allowances for citizens working for the private sector, graduates and students allowances, unemployment allowances and social allowances.

Embassies

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said that the ministry has set special regulations for companies wishing to work with Kuwait embassies and consulates abroad and that any company matching those conditions could apply to the ministry for accreditation. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry filed by MP Rakan Al-Nisf about monopolizing the process of issuing entry visas by two companies, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stressed that article 99 of the constitution states that only the inquirer

has the right to make a single comment on the response made to his inquiry.

Old accommodation

The Ministry of Education's (MOE) Assailant Undersecretary for Educational Facilities and Planning Dr Khaled Al-Rasheed urged the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to examine female teachers' old accommodation buildings including one that used to be a private school, to make a full technical report about it. MPW's assistant undersecretary for the government sector buildings' quality affairs Talal Al-Othainah said that the building was structurally unsafe.

Clean Fuel Project

Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) CEO Mohammed Ghazi Al-Mutairi said that the total number of laborers working in the Clean Fuel Project was 47,000 and that 84.9 percent of the project was so far finished. Mutairi added that none of the 199 Kuwaiti employees working in Shuaiba refinery will be laid off.

URNWA OFFICIAL LAUDS KUWAIT AID FOR GAZA

BRUSSELS: Director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) operations in Gaza, Bo Schack, has praised the contributions being made by Kuwait and other Arab Gulf countries to help Gazans undergoing untold suffering under a 10-year Israeli blockade. "Our exchange and association with Kuwait is one that is increasing. The engagement is not only about funding, it is also about ideas, issues and addressing concerns in education and the health sector," he said in an interview in Brussels.

Shack noted that the Gulf countries are primarily focusing in supporting in reconstruction, in building schools and renovating health facilities in

Gaza. In addition to that, there is also an increasing support to UNRWA's core budget; the one that pays the salary of teachers and the staff and running of the Organization, he clarified. "The focus for many years from the Gulf states has indeed been for us absolutely indispensable in the context of making sure that we are able to open a new school every month and that we have been renovating our medical facilities and that we have been building new ones," said Shack, a Danish lawyer by profession. The UNRWA official expressed concern that the socio-economic situation, and the lack of prospect in Gaza could lead to a more violent expression by the youth generation and that could descend to further risk. —KUNA

KUWAIT ALARMED OVER HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA



Jamal Al-Ghunaim

GENEVA: Kuwait yesterday warned that worsening humanitarian conditions in war-torn Syria would be detrimental to the global political landscape. Speaking at the 35th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations (UN) Jamal Al-Ghunaim said that his country is fully committed to the security and stability of Syria. Moreover, he underscored his growing concerns over the appalling atrocities being committed in Syria, ones that largely remain unabated as the conflict enters its seventh year.

The Kuwaiti diplomat lamented the massive loss of life that the conflict has induced, as more than 40,000 people have been killed and around 12 million others displaced. "Innocent civilians are being repeatedly targeted with impunity, which is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian laws and the international community has failed to put an end to the bloodshed," Ghunaim noted. He added that Kuwait has made stupendous efforts, along with other countries neighboring Syria, to make sure that hapless Syrian children are not deprived of education. The 35th UNHRC session, which runs from June 6-23, delves into the humanitarian conditions in Syria through reports produced by specialists. —KUNA



Farah Al-Gharaballi

KUWAIT COMMITTED TO UN CONVENTION ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait reiterated its full commitment to the implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. Kuwait also affirmed continuous efforts to enhance disable people's rights and better integrate them in the society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within the framework of the Kuwait 2035 Vision towards persons with disability. This came in a statement delivered late Tuesday by Diplomatic Attache at the State of Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN Farah Al-Gharaballi dur-


ing the 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).


The State of Kuwait began adopting the goals of sustainable development pertaining to the disability that were announced by the UN last September in the domains of health, education and the economy with the societal partnership between the government sectors and civil society organizations, she said. She added that Kuwait is seeking to promote equality in all social, political, civil and economic rights to

enhance the rights of persons with disabilities in general, and those with intellectual disabilities in particular.

In an unprecedented move on international level, the Kuwaiti parliament received persons with disabilities for the 12th year in a row to discuss their issues and follow up the activation of the international convention in this regard, she noted. She said Kuwait has been exerting efforts to boost rights of disabled persons through integrating their issues in all national and regional policies and strategies. —KUNA

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KUWAIT

Heritage



A scene from the Shuwaikh Port, which was called 'Al-Furda' in the past. This photo, which dates back to the 1950s, shows examples of many commercial activities that took place at the port at the time, including importing goods such as sugar, tea, coffee, and timber. (Sources: A total of commemorative printed images by the Ministry of Information in the 1960s and 1970s. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)



Mohammad Naif Orabi

GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By Ben Garcia

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?

Mohammad Naif Orabi is a 55-year-old photographer from Aleppo, Syria, and has five children. He had the following to say when asked what would he do to make Kuwait a better place:

"I have worked with the International Committee of the Red Crescent (ICRC) earlier for free, and stayed there for three years. I would like to be of my best service again. I love doing this as it is a means to give back to the community where I live. If you have experienced sharing to the less fortunate people, you will understand the happiness that comes along with the act of volunteering. We can be of assistance in different activities and a blessing to people around us."

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES SHARES JOY OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS DURING GIRGIAN EVENT AT AL-KHARAFI ACTIVITY KIDS CENTER

KUWAIT: The Food and Beverage Division of Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately-owned companies in the region, shared the joy of over 350 children with special needs and their families during the annual girgian event held at the Al-Kharafi Activity Kids Center, and which comprised of many entertaining outdoor and indoor games and shows.

Alghanim Industries' sole sponsorship comes as part of the company's philanthropic mandate and long-standing commitment to supporting and meeting the needs of various segments of the commu-

nity, be it education, awareness or individuals with special needs. This year, Alghanim Industries has extended support to segments of the populations in needs through all the brands listed under its umbrella.

Commenting on the sponsorship of the girgian event at Al-Kharafi Activity Kids Center, Vice President of Food and Beverage Division at Alghanim Industries, Phil Broad, said: "We are honored to have the opportunity to share the joy and happiness of children and show them that together, our society is whole. Our team

has been delighted and overwhelmed to serve each child and their family during the amazing event. We look forward to supporting many more noble activities held by the Center."

Al-Kharafi Activity Kids Center is the first center of its kind in the Gulf region and the Middle East. It gives disabled children the opportunity to learn through play and fun within a safe and enjoyable environment. Playing is vital for a child's development and well-being. It is one of the natural rights of disabled children and special needs. The center was developed to help

children play with their peers whilst developing their physical, emotional, social, and verbal abilities. We concentrate on training the children to deal with each other and communicate in a nurturing non-discriminatory environment.

Kicking off after iftar, the girgian event started with outdoor activities and games for children as well as a live entertainment show, including face painting and balloon giveaways presented by Wendy's Kuwait as well as Mason Jar desserts provided by Slim Chickens Kuwait. The event was followed by the distribution of girgian gifts

presented by Costa Coffee Kuwait, as well as awarding Alghanim Industries' Food and Beverage Division.

Alghanim Industries is actively expanding its food and beverage (F&B) portfolio, which began in 2013 with a franchise agreement that enabled it to penetrate the coffee shop market in Kuwait through UK's favorite coffee shop, Costa Coffee. The Company further expanded with the launch of the renowned chain for fresh and quality ingredients, Wendy's, as well as the US-based "life-changing chicken" chain, Slim Chickens.





Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi honors long-serving employees.

ZAIN HOLDS GHABQA GATHERING FOR STAFF, SHOWCASES THE GLOBAL SUCCESS OF ITS RAMADAN MESSAGE AND RECENT CSSR CAMPAIGN

KHARAFI TO FELLOW ZAINERS: "I HOPE YOU ARE AS PROUD AS I AM TO BE PART OF THE ZAIN FAMILY"

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Kharafi also expressed special appreciation for the efforts of the customer care and technical teams within Zain, stating, "Given the pace of developments in our sector and at our company, we may sometimes forget to give special thanks to the call center and technical teams, and I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to them for their continuous efforts in ensuring the satisfaction of the largest telecom customer base in the country and for continually introducing the

latest innovative technologies in the communications industry."

Notably, the Group CEO made a special note of acknowledgment for recently launched Ramadan message that went viral and attained global success. "I would also like to pay tribute to the marketing and the branding teams, who worked on the creation of our recent Ramadan television commercial, which has developed to become a message. We're calling this campaign a message because we did not market any product for Zain, but rather delivered a very important message that the company, along with the clear majority of the Arab and wider Islamic world, condemns all forms and shapes of terrorism, regardless of anyone who may be behind such action."

On this significant matter, Kharafi further noted, "It is our duty as a company from the Middle East to publicize this message, that hate and terrorism has no place in Islam, and that all religions of the world including Islam stand for, namely peace, forgiveness, leniency and understanding." Kharafi also expressed his pride in the success of the Zain brand in the region, noting that the brand's value has been further enhanced by the success of its business activities.

During this year's ghabqa, the company showcased a documentary clip that highlight-

ed the achievements of the 'Zain Al-Shuhoor' Ramadan CSSR Campaign, which is characterized with charitable, humanitarian and social initiatives. Zain also highlighted the role of its volunteers who participated in series of projects throughout the Holy Month.

Zain's Ramadan campaign for this year witnessed a wide range of social and charitable initiatives. The company participated in a number of charitable, social and voluntary activities, as well as the distribution of essential food supplies to underprivileged families, visit social care centers, visit hospitals, as well as organize other humanitarian initiatives.

Zain stressed that it has always been keen to organize a number of social and humanitarian initiatives during Ramadan to support the various sectors of the Kuwaiti society, and the company is keen on reflecting the religious as well as traditional humanitarian values and principles to enrich the art of giving and to increase bonding between individuals.

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



KUWAIT: Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi speaks during the ghabqa.



From the ghabqa.



Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi with Zain's executive management.



Zain's team in a group photo.

Crime

Report

WIFE'S MURDERER ADMITS CRIME

KUWAIT: An Indian man who is still on the run after he allegedly killed his wife called his family and confessed to his crime, a security source said. Farwaniya police were approached by a relative of the suspect who said that the man informed his family that he chose to put an end to his 'bothersome' wife's life because she was causing him so much trouble and asked for money all the time. The suspect also told his family that he planned to turn himself in soon, according to his relative.

Children left alone

A couple left their two children aged six and four in their Khaitan flat for no apparent reason, as Farwaniya security authorities handed them to their grandfather. The couple will be charged with negligence as they locked their two children inside the apartment and left for their home country. An Egyptian man had told police that his son and daughter-in-law disappeared two days earlier, so policemen went with him to the couple's residence and found the door locked with the children inside. The grandfather broke the door open and found the children who were very scared. Investigations are ongoing.

Critical injuries

A fight broke out between a group of youth in Fahaheel due to personal differences and some of them sustained critical injuries. Police were able to arrest those involved; who were sent to Fahaheel police station according to security source.

Assault

An employee at Hawally traffic department who stabbed a patron with a pen then escaped was charged with assault. A security source said a citizen told Jabriya police that he was attacked by the employee following a dispute and that the employee told him to get out of the department, then he picked a pen and stabbed the patron in the shoulder before escaping.

Policeman arrested

Interior Ministry supervision and inspection department put an end to the reckless behavior of a policeman who did not respect the holy month of Ramadan and his uniform, as he spread a video clip among his friends showing his sessions with a girl. The clip shows the policeman with a half-naked girl, who can be heard saying "this is not right... Ramadan, Ramadan." The clip reached police authorities who were able to identify the policeman and arrested him and the girl. Both are currently held pending further legal action.

Fraud

Three Kuwaiti girls in their early thirties formed a gang, stole civil IDs, changed their appearance to match with the civil ID photos, and then visited telecom and electronics companies to buy smart phones and video game devices then sold them, leaving the real ID holders in debt. Detectives received 17 cases from the original ID holders, and began their investigations. They followed the girls' activities which led them to car rental agencies where they reviewed the tapes to identify the girls. Two were arrested, and police are looking for their third partner. —Translated from the Arabic press



Economy



Al-Anbaa

PLACE OF BIRTH DOES NOT MATTER

By Saleh Al-Shayji

It is virtue that has kept life going for so long and has maintained the existence of mankind. Otherwise, all people would have vanished and life would have stopped. Good and virtue knows no siblings, fellow-citizens or people with the same beliefs or races. It flies around without wings covering the entire earth and landing in people's hearts. With the increase of Syrians displaced and forced out of their country into Western countries; be that in Europe or America, people in those countries received refugees holding welcome signs that read: "It does not matter where you were born, but we are happy that you are our neighbors!" They also put similar signs near the houses inhabited by a refugee family to make them feel welcomed by natives expressing their joy to have them around.

We do need such a beautiful virtuous spirit in the Arab and Muslim world. We need it in our souls in which all forms of virtue have grown dry and made way to evil, hate and exclusion of others. We, the ones who have

been bragging about our religious, cultural and racial heritage; the ones who have filled the world by talking about our human values, manners, helping people in distress and feeding the hungry, have been doing nothing but talking. We did nothing and seem to be incapable of doing anything. So, we left other nations that we claim have no manners, values, mercy or passion do such tasks.

Where on earth are our manners and values we have been bragging about for centuries? What if the destruction, wars and devastation that happened to some Arab and Muslim countries had happened to a Western or Eastern one; would we receive them in the same way? Would we feed, dress and secure them in safe houses telling them that "It does not matter where you were born, but we are happy that you are our neighbors!" Or would we rejoice with their crisis and celebrate it praying to God Almighty to befall more devastation and destruction on them? Unfortunately, that is who we are and that is who they are. —Translated by Kuwait Times

Where on earth are our manners and values we have been bragging about for centuries?



Al-Anbaa

LIONS' KONAFAs

By Saad Al-Mo'tesh

Television programs about nature showing jungle animals' life are so beautiful because they teach us so many lessons one should take into consideration as many of them do apply to our own lives. Each species has its own wonders and we ought to learn from them. Honestly speaking, I love to watch such scenes that include so many indications and implications that match our daily experiences. For example, many Arabs name their children after the lion for its might and pride.

In a documentary about lions, I saw a lion eating one of its own cubs to the bones just like a human being would devour a barbecue chicken. That sight remained on my mind until I watched another documentary showing hyenas messing around with a lion, which made me laugh my heart out and brought to my mind the image of some people trying to mess around testing the 'lion's' patience. Come on guys, the 'Lion' can eat its own cub and enjoy it, you will only be like a 'Konafa Nabulsiya' to him. I do hope people will perceive what is between the lines in this article, otherwise, only times will force them to understand, and then, they will never wish to be in that hyena's place. —Translated by Kuwait Times

PROPOSALS DISCUSSED TO ALLOW NEW DEPENDENCY VISAS FOR RELATIVES

KUWAIT: The residency affairs department decided to continue renewing 'Article 22' family residency visas of more than 11,500 expats, who are parents and brothers of foreigners working in Kuwait and have been granted permits before a ban on issuing such visas was announced. However, the visa is only renewed provided that the sponsor buys a private health insurance policy for the relative he wants to sponsor. Meanwhile, the ban remains on issuing new family residencies for parents and brothers until further notice, the department announced.

The department made a 'humanitarian decision' to suspend the ban on renewing visas for those already living in Kuwait, the sources said. They added that the visas are renewed provided that certain procedures are followed, most importantly getting medical insurance from private companies, in addition to paying the KD 50 per year for the Ministry of Health's (MOH) health insurance, not to mention the KD 200 visa renewal fee. These measures help reduce the pressure on public health services, the sources said, adding that "no new article 22 residencies will be issued for parents and siblings until the new fees' proposal is approved by the National Assembly."

The sources said the interior ministry's proposal, which the National Assembly received three years ago, stipulates that the sponsor's salary must be a minimum of KD 1,000, must pay KD 200 - 300 as article 22 residency fees for parents and siblings, while the health insurance fee will be determined following coordination with the health ministry and could reach nearly KD 300 as the case in the private companies' health insurance. In case the proposal is approved, it will allow bringing in parents and siblings on article 22 visas, and there will not be no need exceptions, the sources said. —Al-Rai



ZAIN'S RAMADAN IFTAR MEALS INITIATIVE CONTINUES

AT TWO MAJOR IFTAR HALLS IN JLEEB AL-SHUYOUKH AND KHAITAN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the continuation of its annual 'Iftar Al-Saem' initiative, providing fasting individuals with iftar meals during the holy month of Ramadan. The company distributes daily iftar meals throughout the holy month in two different iftar halls in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Khaitan.

Zain's iftar meals initiative, held for the twelfth consecutive time this year, is an integral part of the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility program. Zain's volunteers oversee the initiative, which is held in Jleeb Al Shuyoukh Co-op Society's Hall and Khaitan Sporting Club's Hall as part of a strategy to cover the most populated areas of Kuwait in order to assure the maximum amount of individuals' iftar needs are covered.

Ramadan presents a special occasion for Zain to communicate and interact with the Kuwaiti community it oper-

ates in through its extensive CSSR campaign. Zain's team started preparing for the iftar campaign prior to the coming of Ramadan to assure the process of distributing more meals to a larger geographical footprint goes smoothly.

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

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.



ABK CELEBRATES GIRGIAN WITH THE CHILDREN OF HOPE AND HAPPINESS VOLUNTARY GROUP

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently sponsored the Hope and Happiness Voluntary Group's girgian celebrations, which was organized at the Naser Al-Mojil's Down Syndrome Center in Khaldiya, on Thursday, June 8, 2017.

This sponsorship comes as one of ABK's Ramadan activities for this year,

which aims to spread the spirit of the Holy month among children with Down Syndrome and their families. It also falls in line with the Bank's CSR strategy, which focuses on supporting and engaging the special needs segment in society.

The Bank's efforts and support were recognized by the Hope and

Happiness Voluntary Group and Naser Al-Mojil's Down Syndrome Center, where officials formally thanked ABK for its involvement. ABK will continue to seek different opportunities that allow it to play a positive role in the lives of those with special needs, throughout the year and during all occasions.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) hosted a girgian party for 'My First Account' clients at Trumpo Extreme in Al-Moroj Mall recently.





Singapore rocked by open feud in Lee family

CATTLE SLAUGHTER CRACKDOWN HITS INDIA LEATHER INDUSTRY



DOHA: A general view taken on June 11, 2017 shows portraits of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on the back of vehicles and text reading in Arabic: "Tamim the glorious". —AFP

TURKEY: GULF RIFT DAMAGES MUSLIM WORLD

HAMAD PORT BUSTLING WITH SHIPS LOADED WITH FOOD, BUILDING MATERIALS

ANKARA/DOHA: Turkey said yesterday Qatar's rift with fellow Gulf Arab states and Egypt was damaging the Islamic world and it would do all it could by diplomatic channels to prevent any escalation. President Tayyip Erdogan, who has cultivated close ties to Doha while preserving relations with Saudi Arabia, dispatched his foreign minister to Doha in a bid to solve a dispute raising concern across the Middle East and beyond.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have broken off ties and imposed sanctions on Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism and courting regional rival Iran - allegations Doha denies. "Our main priority as part of our efforts with both Qatar and Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries is to solve this through negotiations, not to escalate the crisis," President Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told an Ankara news conference. "Today we are having to tackle many problems such as Daesh (Islamic State), the ongoing war in Syria, the fight against terrorism and poverty. Amid all this, tensions further escalating in the region through such a crisis would mean wasting of the region's resources and opportunities."

Turkey and Qatar have both provided support for the

Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and backed rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. Conservative Gulf neighbours have long viewed Qatar's outgoing foreign policy with suspicion. The Gulf Arab states have not made public any demands of Qatar but a journalist with the state-funded Al Jazeera network has shared a list that includes Qatar severing diplomatic ties with Iran and expelling members of the Palestinian Hamas group and the Muslim Brotherhood who live in Doha.

The list of demands also includes ending support for "terrorist organizations" and ceasing "interference" in Egyptian affairs, charges Qatar denies. Kalin said a Turkish military base in Qatar, set up before the regional spat, was established to ensure the security of the whole region and did not pose any military threat to any other country.

Turkey approved plans last week to deploy more troops to the base after the crisis began. But it was not immediately clear if they arrived. The measures against Qatar, which has a population of 2.7 million people but vast gas wealth, have disrupted imports of food and other materials and caused some foreign banks to scale back business. Qatar, which imported 80 percent of its food from bigger Gulf Arab neighbours before the diplomatic

shutdown, has been talking to Iran and Turkey to secure food and water.

At Qatar's Hamad port yesterday, workers were busy unloading containers of food and building materials, while another ship carrying livestock, including chicken and sheep from Australia had docked at the port. "There is a service from India... which used to come via Jebel Ali port (in the United Arab Emirates) but is now redirected," said a port official who declined to be named. "The first vessel on that service is to arrive Friday and will run once a week," he added.

Africa

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu flew to Doha for a meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani during a tour that may also include a visit to Saudi Arabia. There was no word either from Qatar or Saudi Arabia about the visit. The effects of the dispute could widen beyond the region. Yesterday, Qatar said it had withdrawn troops from the border between the east African states of Djibouti and Eritrea where the Gulf state has been acting as mediator in a border dispute. It gave no reasons for the move, but Djibouti had earlier down-

graded its diplomatic ties with Qatar after the Gulf move against Doha.

Last week, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt announced a list of 59 people, including Muslim Brotherhood spiritual leader Yousef Al-Qaradawi, and 12 entities, among them Qatari-funded charities Qatar Charity and Eid Charity, who had been designated as terrorists. Qatar has rejected the list and said it adheres to United Nations Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism including eradicating sources of financing for terrorism. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has criticized the measures imposed on Qatar, saying they were hurting the emirate's people, not its rulers.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir, speaking after talks in Washington with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday, said the measures taken against Doha did not amount to a blockade since Qatar's airports and ports remained open and offered to send supplies to Qatar if needed. The Qatari foreign ministry said Saudi Arabia's offer to provide food and medical assistance confirmed that the closure of transport links "is a siege, not a boycott, and reflects the clear contradiction in statements by officials of those countries." —Reuters

UAE: US SHOULD RETHINK QATAR BASE

WASHINGTON: The United States should consider moving its air base out of Qatar, the Emirati ambassador to the US said Tuesday, encouraging the Trump administration to use its leverage to further pressure Qatar over alleged support for extremism. As the Gulf crisis enters its second week, Ambassador Yousef Al-Otaiba of the United Arab Emirates said Qatar's neighbors would "fairly soon" give the US a list of specific actions Qatar must take before punitive steps are lifted. He said the list would likely include Qatari sanctions on bank accounts of individuals that Qatar's neighbors have already sanctioned - and possibly on the banks themselves. "We've gotten fed up. We've had enough," Otaiba said.

In their bid to isolate Qatar by cutting off diplomatic ties, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries have been emboldened by US President Donald Trump, who has forcefully echoed their accusations that Qatar funds terrorist groups and foments instability in the Mideast. Otaiba said both his country and the US had allowed "bad behavior" by Qatar to continue for "a very long time." "If I want to be honest, I think the reason action hasn't been taken against Qatar is because of the air base," Otaiba said, referring to Al-Udeid air base, not far from Doha. "The air base is a very nice insurance policy against any additional pressure."

Home to some 10,000 US troops, the base has emerged as a flashpoint in the dispute between Qatar and its neighbors, the worst in the Gulf in years. The forward headquarters of the US military's Central Command is a staging point for US air campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. "Maybe someone in Congress should have a hearing and just say, you know,

"Should we consider moving it?" Otaiba said. "And maybe not moving the entire base. Maybe just distribute to various countries so you don't have all your eggs in one basket."

Otaiba told reporters that the UAE hasn't told the US it should consider moving the base, but is "willing to have that conversation." And he suggested American troops could be moved to his country, instead. Pointing to new



Yousef Al-Otaiba

defense cooperation deal the US and the UAE signed last month, Otaiba said the "infrastructure is in place" to have the conversation if the US wanted to relocate. The US already has some troops in the UAE. The Pentagon has said the new document "provides the US military with the ability to more seamlessly

respond to a range of scenarios in and around the UAE, if necessary."

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Qatar last week, accusing it of backing terrorism and promoting policies that destabilize the region. Qatar denies those allegations. Trump has offered Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to help mediate a resolution, but other countries including Kuwait have also gotten involved. Otaiba said the forthcoming list of demands would center on three complaints about Qatari behavior: Support for terrorism, meddling in others' internal affairs, and use of state-backed media to attack neighbors.

He said the list would likely include expelling terrorists from Qatar and shutting down or curtailing Qatar-funded media outlets that attack UAE and others. He said Al-Jazeera, the Qatari-backed television network that has drawn particular consternation from Qatar's neighbors, would likely be on the list of issues Qatar address would have to address. The Emirati diplomat said his country was hearing only support from the White House on its move against Qatar, despite Tillerson's call for the UAE and the others to ease the steps they took to isolate Qatar. "That's not going to happen," Otaiba said.

Still, he said he did not foresee the crisis becoming a military conflict, even if Qatar refused to bow to demands. Even if Qatar does accept the list of demands, Otaiba said they'd have to fulfill specific steps over a period of time to show seriousness before the countries would restore ties to the tiny, gas-rich country. "There will be an escalation of economic pressure" unless Qatar changes course, Otaiba said. —AP

QATAR PULLS TROOPS FROM DJIBOUTI-ERITREA BORDER

DOHA: Qatar said yesterday it has pulled all of its troops from the border of Djibouti and Eritrea, east African nations that have a long-running territorial dispute which Doha had helped mediate. Qatar offered no explanation for the move, though it comes amid a diplomatic dispute with other Arab nations that have cut diplomatic ties and now are trying to isolate Qatar from the rest of the world. While the dispute hasn't escalated to a military confrontation, Qatar's military is dwarfed by neighboring Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, two of its biggest opponents in the crisis.

The 450 Qatari troops controlled a mountainous border crossing between Eritrea and Djibouti, said Nasredin Ali, a spokesman for Eritrea's biggest armed group, known as the Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization. Eritrean forces moved in after the troops departed, Ali said. Eritrea's top diplomat to the African Union, Araya Desta, told AP the move came after Eritrea cut diplomatic ties to Qatar. However, Desta said his country wanted no confrontation with Djibouti. "We don't want to take any of Djibouti's land," Araya said. "The last time we had some skirmishes. It was unnecessary."

Doha mediated the conflict between the two countries in 2010. Gulf nations have stationed troops in both African countries, using that as a jumping-off point for the ongoing Saudi-led war in Yemen. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have accused Qatar

of supporting terrorism and severed ties with Doha last week. Qatar denies the allegations, but its ties to Iran and embrace of various Islamist groups have put the country under intense scrutiny.

In Geneva, the United Nations human rights chief said yesterday he is "alarmed about the possible impact" of a diplomatic rift in the Persian Gulf on people's lives. "It is becoming clear that the measures being adopted are overly broad in scope and implementation, and have the potential to seriously disrupt the lives of thousands of women, children and men," said Zeid Raad Al-Husseini. After cutting ties with Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain also ordered Qatari residents out though on Sunday, officials said there would be exceptions for mixed-nationality families. Hussein said these measures do not sufficiently address all cases and expressed alarm that the UAE and Bahrain have threatened to jail and fine people who express sympathy for Qatar online.

Meanwhile, top donors trying to relieve the humanitarian crisis engulfing war-torn Syria met in Doha yesterday. Countries have pledged \$6 billion to help Syria, but so far only 22 percent of that has been funded, said Marcy Vigoda of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. I'm "taking this opportunity to request this top donor group to use your leverage, to use your influence ... to ensure that pledges are turned into commitments," Vigoda said. —AP

INDONESIANS DECRY IS 'LIES' AFTER FLEEING RAQQA

AIN ISSA, Syria: When Leefa set out from Indonesia for the Islamic State group's Syrian stronghold of Raqqa, she says she thought she was headed to an earthly paradise for the faithful. She and her family imagined being surrounded by true believers and expected free healthcare and jobs paying salaries they could only dream of in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

But now, as IS battles to defend its onetime bastion, Leefa and 15 other Indonesians are among thousands who have fled Raqqa in northern Syria. They are sheltering at a camp for the displaced in Ain Issa, 50 km north of Raqqa, waiting to learn their fates as the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) advance inside the jihadist bastion.

In broken English, scattered with Arabic words picked up during their 22 months in Syria, Leefa and her compatriots admit they chose to travel to IS territory. They tell piecemeal stories, with details missing and lost in translation. "When we in Indonesia... we read, we watch in the internet, Dawlah Islamiya is a place to live, to become a real Muslim," said Leefa, 38, using the Arabic for jihadists. "I have health problems, I need an operation in my neck and it's very, very expensive in Indonesia," she added, her eyes downcast behind her black-rimmed glasses.

"But in Daesh, there's all free, all free," she said, using the Arabic acronym for IS. "We come to Daesh for become a real Muslim and for my health," she added, her face framed by a green headscarf. As she speaks, a young girl with the group wearing a purple headscarf uses a flattened plastic bottle as a makeshift fan to battle the heat. Ain Issa is overflowing with people displaced by the campaign to oust IS from Raqqa province.

'Everything is lies'

Leefa explains haltingly that she was in contact with IS members in Syria over the internet, who told her that those who made it to Raqqa would be reimbursed for their tickets and would enjoy good lives. But upon arrival, they found the situation harshly different from their expectations. Leefa discovered the operation she needed was not free after all, and went untreated. "Everything is lies," said 19-year-old Nur, another of the Indonesians at Ain Issa, her beige headscarf pinned neatly below her chin. "When we enter Daesh, enter their country, turns out all of them very different from what they said on the internet."

Nur said she and her family expected the male relatives among the group to have jobs. But when they arrived they were told that all men were obliged to join the ranks of IS fighters. "Our men enter to the jail, my father, my brother,"



Indonesians arrive at the Ain Issa camp, 50 km north of Raqqa, after fleeing the Islamic State (IS) group's Syrian bastion on Tuesday. —AFP

she said, speaking a mixture of Arabic and English, without explaining when her relatives were imprisoned and why. And she found she was constantly pursued by IS fighters seeking to marry her, she said. "There are many divorced (IS fighters), just married for two weeks or two months," she said. "Many men come to my house and tell to my father, I want your daughter," she said with disgust. Her brother was even stopped by a stranger

in the market in Raqqa, who asked him "do you have some girl or some sister, I want a wife." "Everywhere they talk about women," she said bitterly.

'They were tricked'

The stories told by members of the group, among them eight women, three children and five men, are impossible to confirm. But they match accounts by some other foreign escapees from IS ter-

ritory who describe being seduced by online depictions that differed vastly from the reality they discovered upon arrival in the jihadist group's self-declared "caliphate". The SDF fighters now advancing inside Raqqa against IS are interrogating the members of the Indonesian group but expect to free them, said Ain Issa camp official Fayruz Khalil.

"From what I understood from them... they were tricked," she told AFP. "They discovered that the picture the Islamic State group has painted for them was false... For the last 10 months they were trying to leave, but they only managed in the last few days to flee." The SDF plans to send the group of Indonesians over the border to the Iraqi city of Arbil and hand them to the Indonesian embassy.

According to Indonesian authorities around 500-600 Indonesians are believed to be in Syria at the moment. Around 500 more have sought to reach Syria but were deported before reaching IS territory. So far, authorities have registered over 60 people returning from Syria, who mostly face light vetting before being released without further monitoring, experts say. Indonesia has long struggled with Islamic militancy. IS has provided a potent new force for the country's radicals to rally around, and there has been a string of plots by local militants linked to the jihadists. — AFP

'STAGGERING' CIVILIAN DEATHS FROM US AIR STRIKES IN RAQQA

DAUNTING AID CHALLENGES AS CIVILIANS FLEE

GENEVA: Intensified coalition air strikes supporting an assault by US-backed forces on Islamic State's stronghold of Raqqa in Syria are causing a "staggering loss of civilian life", United Nations war crimes investigators said yesterday. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a group of Kurdish and Arab militias supported by a US-led coalition, began to attack Raqqa a week ago to take it from the jihadists. The SDF, supported by heavy coalition air strikes, have taken territory to the west, east and north of the city.

"We note in particular that the intensification of air strikes, which have paved the ground for an SDF advance in Raqqa, has resulted not only in staggering loss of civilian life, but has also led to 160,000 civilians fleeing their homes and becoming internally displaced," Paulo Pinheiro, chairman of the U.N. Commission of Inquiry told the Human Rights Council. Pinheiro provided no figure for civilian casualties in Raqqa, where rival forces are racing to capture ground from Islamic State. The Syrian army is also advancing on the desert area west of the city.

Separately, Human Rights Watch expressed concern in a statement about the use of incendiary white phosphorous weapons by the US-led coalition fighting Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, saying it endangered civilians when used in populated areas. In its speech to the 47-member forum in Geneva, the US delegation made no reference to Raqqa or the air strikes. US diplomat Jason Mack called the Syrian government "the primary perpetrator" of egregious human rights violations in the country.

Pinheiro said that if the international coalition's offensive is successful, it could liberate Raqqa's civilian population, including Yazidi women and girls, "whom the group has kept sexually enslaved for almost three years as part of an ongoing and unaddressed genocide". "The imperative to fight terrorism must not, however, be undertaken at the expense of civilians who unwillingly find themselves living in areas where ISIL is present," he added.

Pinheiro also said that 10 agreements between the Syrian government and armed groups to evacuate fighters and civilians from besieged areas, including eastern Aleppo last December, "in some cases amount to war crimes" as civilians had "no choice". Syria's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Hussam Edin Aaala, denounced violations "committed by the unlawful US-led coalition which targets infrastructure, killing hundreds of civilians including the deaths of 30 civilians in Deir al-Zor".

The battle to oust IS from its stronghold is creating daunting challenges for aid groups. Tens of thousands of civilians have fled Raqqa and its surroundings since the SDF began its operation to capture the jihadist stronghold last year. But new waves of displacement are expected as the battle inside the city progresses. A key problem is getting aid supplies to the relatively remote desert region in Syria's north, with just a trickle of assistance currently crossing from neighboring Turkey and Iraq.

"There is supply but it's very, very limited and the needs of the population are very high," said Puk Leenders, emergency coordinator for northern Syria for the group Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Turkey considers the key Kurdish component of the SDF a "terrorist" group and its border with the area north of Raqqa is effectively closed. The border crossing with Iraq, over 300 km east of Raqqa city, is open to goods, but in practice sees little traffic, local officials say.

The United Nations, which operates inside Syria with government permis-

sion, has been able to airlift supplies to the city of Qamishli, northeast of Raqqa, from government-held Damascus. But "this offered limited capacity and was insufficient to meet all needs," said David Swanson, regional spokesman for the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The UN is now hoping to start transporting aid from Aleppo to Qamishli, a distance of more than 400 km, but the route must first be tested for security, said Swanson.

'Volatile security situation'

An estimated 300,000 civilians once lived under IS rule in Raqqa, including 80,000 displaced from other parts of Syria before the group seized the city. Tens of thousands fled Raqqa and surrounding areas as the SDF closed in on the jihadist bastion. The UN estimates more than 169,000 people fled Raqqa city and its environs in April and May alone, and thousands of displaced civilians are now living in overcrowded and underresourced camps.

In Ain Issa, 50 km north of Raqqa, new arrivals say they are sleeping on the ground, with neither mattresses under them nor tents overhead. "There are now more than 25,000 people in the Ain Issa camp, which was built with a capacity of 10,000," camp director Jalal Ayyaf told AFP. "International organizations are providing support, but it's not sufficient for the numbers who are arriving."

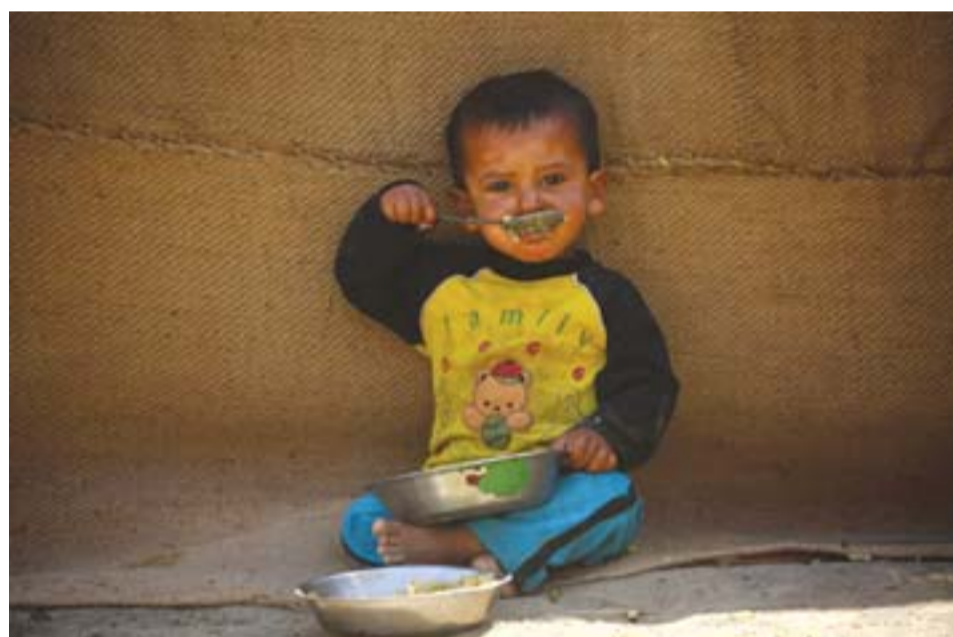
MSF's Leenders said up to 800 people were arriving at Ain Issa each day, and many more people were simply sleeping on roadsides or under trees in the countryside north of the city. The "highly volatile security situation" is another major concern for aid groups working in the region, said Paul Donohoe, senior media officer at the International Rescue Committee NGO. "We know that there are many mines and IEDs (improvised explosive devices), there is also the risk of IS attacks and there have been reports of some fleeing civilians being killed by coalition air strikes." "It is thought up to half the population of Raqqa could ultimately flee the city and they will still be very vulnerable to mines and IS snipers, as well as air strikes."

'Impossible choices'

Arriving civilians are already presenting health problems ranging from dehydration to untreated chronic illness. And aid groups expect an uptick in wounded arrivals as the fighting intensifies. MSF is establishing stabilisation points near the frontline to provide emergency care to keep the seriously injured alive until they reach hospitals. But there is a severe shortage of qualified medical staff in the region, Leenders said, and medical facilities have also been affected by the fighting. "Hospitals are being mined and it's really difficult to start those back up because they need to be demined... It can be extremely challenging."

The most difficult problem of all may simply be reaching those in need. "Many people fleeing... initially end up in locations too close to the frontline for aid agencies to safely respond," said Donohoe. And others cannot leave at all, with IS reportedly using threats, arrests and violence to prevent civilians fleeing. Those who do escape risk unexploded ordnance en route, and the threat of being mistaken for fleeing IS fighters by SDF forces or the US-led coalition.

MSF warned last week that civilians in the city faced "impossible choices". "Either they stay in Raqqa, subjecting their children to increased violence and air strikes, or they take them over the frontline, knowing they will need to cross minefields and may be caught in the crossfire." —Agencies



A young Syrian boy displaced from Raqqa eats at the Al-Karamah camp, some 20 km east of the Islamic State (IS) group's Syrian bastion on Tuesday. —AFP

WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP STRAINS TO KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL

BIDI BIDI, Uganda: At this kindergarten on the edge of the world's largest refugee camp, there are no notebooks. When it's time to practice writing skills, children sit under a tree to doodle in the dirt while teachers use a blackboard. "Maybe this term we will provide the books," said Kevin Afura, who teaches at the school for 500 children operated by the aid group Save the Children. "They write on the ground."

Schooling is the latest challenge in this overcrowded refugee settlement where basic facilities like toilets are in short supply. This school's only classroom is a tent in which dozens of kids swarm an overwhelmed teacher. She soon releases them to the playground, where they either swing and slide or simply go home. One recent morning, parent Reida Yeno pointed dismissively and said the children like her 4-year-old son are falling behind in their studies: "They are just only playing."

The sprawling Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in northern Uganda is home to over 270,000 refugees from neighboring South Sudan's civil war, most of them women and children. There is an urgent need to keep the thousands of children in school despite funding shortages that have slowed the pace of humanitarian work, including a reduction in food rations for some refugees. This month Uganda hosts a United Nations-backed summit at which it hopes to raise global awareness of the crisis. Ugandan authorities have said they need about \$2 billion as thousands of South

Sudanese continue to pour in. In Bidi Bidi, the children often have to walk long distances to the nearest school in the roughly 230-sq-km settlement. Absenteeism is high, and other students have dropped out.

At Ombechi Primary School, supported by Uganda's government, head teacher Olega Drangu said some children attend in tattered clothes. Pencils and notebooks are few. Temporary classrooms have been battered by heavy winds. Drangu's office is in a decaying classroom block that local government engineers recently condemned as uninhabitable. Drangu said he hesitates to be as strict with refugee students as he might be toward locals. When a refugee child heads home at lunch break and doesn't return for afternoon classes, he said, it's probably because there was no food at home.

Nearly half of Ombechi Primary School's 1,470 students are refugees from South Sudan, where tens of thousands have died in often ethnically targeted violence since December 2013. Hundreds of thousands of people have poured into Uganda in the past year, creating what has been called the world's fastest-growing refugee crisis. One of the South Sudanese students is 17-year-old Lilian Mercy, who will sit her final examinations later this year. Yet she despairs over the lack of notebooks, which makes her return to old ones to find empty spaces in which she can scribble notes.



In this photo taken on June 7, 2017, a mixture of South Sudanese refugee children and Ugandan children stand outside their classroom during break at the Ombechi Primary School in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in northern Uganda. — AP

News

in brief

Razed Bahrain protest hub reopens with new name

DUBAI: Bahrain's Pearl roundabout, hub of 2011 protests for a constitutional monarchy and an elected government, reopened under a new name yesterday six years after being demolished and sealed off. Witnesses in Manama told AFP that the roundabout, which was one of the capital's landmarks before the protests were crushed, has been replaced with a simple crossroads named Farouk Junction. The old roundabout, which boasted an imposing central monument of a white pearl supported by six white columns representing the six Gulf Arab states, was razed after troops and anti-riot police stormed a month-old protest camp there in March 2011. Inspired by the Arab Spring uprisings which swept the region that year, demonstrators had taken to the streets of the kingdom to demand sweeping reforms from the ruling family.

Tunisia extends 2015 state of emergency

TUNIS: Tunisia has extended for another four months a state of emergency in place since a 2015 jihadist attack, the president's office announced yesterday. "President Beji Caid Essebsi decided yesterday to extend the state of emergency for four months starting from Thursday, June 15," his office said on Facebook. The state of emergency has been in place since a Nov 2015 bombing in Tunis that killed 12 presidential guards. The Islamic State group claimed the attack as well as bombings earlier in 2015 at the Bardo National Museum in Tunis and at a beach resort near Sousse that killed a total of 59 foreign tourists and a Tunisian guard. A source in the president's office, who asked not to be identified, said that after recent attacks claimed by IS in London and Manchester, "it's better to be vigilant". The state of emergency gives much greater powers to the police and allows the banning of strikes and meetings likely to provoke "disorder", as well as measures "to ensure control of the press". It also allows the interior ministry to place under house arrest anyone whose activities it deems a "danger for security or public order".

PALESTINIANS NOT STOPPING 'MARTYR' PAYMENTS

RAMALLAH: Palestinian officials say there are no plans to stop payments to families of Palestinians killed or wounded carrying out attacks against Israelis, contradicting comments by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Tillerson told a Senate hearing on Tuesday he had received reassurances from President Mahmoud Abbas that the Palestinian Authority would end the practice of paying a monthly stipend to the families of suicide bombers and other attackers, commonly referred to by Palestinians as martyrs.

The issue of compensation has become a sticking point in efforts to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, with Israeli officials citing it as one reason they do not regard Abbas as a "partner for peace". "They have changed their policy," Tillerson said, referring to the Palestinians. "At least I have been informed they've changed that policy and their intent is to cease payments."

But Palestinian officials said they were not aware of any change and that it was unlikely a policy that has been a cornerstone of social support for decades would be altered. "There have been talks about making the payments in a different way, but not ending them," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on discussions held with the Americans. "They could perhaps be labelled differently," he said, suggesting the description "martyr" could be dropped, but he added: "They are not going to be stopped." The Palestinian Authority makes a variety of social security payments, mostly to families, for those convicted and imprisoned by Israel for fighting against the occupation and those killed in violence, whether they were carrying out suicide attacks, shot while throwing stones or in other circumstances. Amounts vary depending on whether the person killed was married or had children. Those wounded also receive aid.

In total, some 35,000 families receive support from a dedicated fund established in the 1960s, including those living outside the Palestinian territories. Some estimates suggest the fund distributes as much as \$100 million a year. At the same time, there are 6,500 Palestinians in Israeli jails, including 500 detained without charge, in some cases for years. All of them, including around 300 children and 50 women, receive monthly support from the Palestinian Authority. For Abbas, ending such payments would be politically fraught. Surveys show he is highly unpopular and that would only likely worsen if support were stopped. It would probably strengthen his rival in the Islamist group Hamas. However, Abbas has taken some steps to stop payments in recent weeks, following meetings he held with President Donald Trump in Washington at the start of May and later the same month when the president visited the region. — Reuters

TRUMP TO ROLL BACK SOME OF OBAMA'S CUBAN OUTREACH

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has vowed to revisit all of his predecessor's diplomatic successes and failures, but is he ready to slam the door on Cuba? Tomorrow, he is expected to unveil a new policy on relations with Cuba after Barack Obama painstakingly restored ties with the communist-run island. Although many Americans support the decision and the US business community has welcomed moves to reopen trade, Trump's hardline campaign rhetoric won him support among influential Cuban exiles in Florida.

The White House has not let much slip, but a radical turnaround such as a renewed break in diplomatic relations does not yet appear to be on the cards. Instead, Trump may announce a return to restrictions on US tourists heading to Cuba and businesses signing partner-

ships with Cuban firms. That would be meant to press Raul Castro's government toward democratic reform and appease Cuban-American voters, many of whom fled communist rule.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday acknowledged that increased cooperation helps both countries and provides opportunities for downtrodden Cubans. But he also cited the "dark side" of Cuba's regime, saying Trump's review had concluded that some renewed business relations help fund the regime. "Cuba has failed to improve its own human rights record. Political opponents continue to be imprisoned. Dissidents continue to be jailed," he told senators. "And as we're enjoying the benefits on the economic and development side, are we inadvertently or directly providing financial support to the regime?" "Our

view is: 'we are,'" he added, answering his own question.

That view resonates with Cuban-Americans such as Senator Marco Rubio, the son of anti-Castro immigrants, who has long warned that detente is moving too fast. "I am confident the president will keep his commitment on Cuba policy by making changes that are targeted and strategic and which advance the Cuban people's aspirations for economic and political liberty," he said. Trump accused Cuba of "cruel despotism" in May, vowing to support its people's hopes for democracy, which raised ironic cheers from rights supporters more used to his cozying up to Saudi Arabia, Turkey and other autocratic states.

But watchdog groups such as Human Rights Watch are skeptical of a return to the terms of the half-century Cold War

stand-off, with its total trade embargo and no diplomatic ties. "The previous administration was right to reject a policy that hurt ordinary Cubans and did nothing to advance human rights," said Daniel Wilkinson, the group's managing director for the Americas. "The fact that Obama's approach hasn't led to political reform in Cuba after just a few years isn't reason to return to a policy that proved a costly failure over many decades."

Tourism boom

On the economic front, business interests on both sides of the Florida Straits are wary of a return to a rigorous enforcement of the still-active US sanctions legislation. Some 50 female Cuban entrepreneurs who have benefited from the island's limited free-market opening have even written to Trump's daughter

and adviser Ivanka. Inviting her to the island to see for herself, the women insist that "millions of Cubans" now benefit from increased tourism and trade. "A setback in the relationship would bring with it the fall of many of our businesses and with this, the suffering of all those families that depend on them," they wrote.

The previous US administration softened many of the restrictions lifting American travel to Cuba, triggering a tourism boom. Some 285,000 people visited the Caribbean country in 2016, up 74 percent over 2015, with Americans the third biggest group after Canadians and Cuban expats. Engage Cuba, a group lobbying for an end to the embargo, estimates that 10,000 US jobs in aviation and the cruise business already depend on Cuba. —AFP



WASHINGTON: US Attorney General Jeff Sessions testifies before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill on Tuesday. —AFP

SESSIONS BRANDS RUSSIA COLLUSION 'DETESTABLE LIE'

WASHINGTON: US Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Tuesday vehemently denied any collusion with Russia to tilt last year's election in Donald Trump's favor, branding the suggestion an "appalling and detestable lie". In closely-watched congressional testimony, Sessions angrily denounced allegations he acted improperly during meetings with Russian officials - or that he knew of any attempt at collusion by members of the Trump campaign team. And he repeatedly refused to reveal whether he had spoken to the president regarding James Comey's handling of the probe into Russian election meddling - which the former FBI director believes to be the reason he was fired.

A Trump loyalist and early backer of the billionaire businessman's presidential bid, the 70-year-old Sessions has recused himself from all ongoing Russia investigations. But the nation's top law enforcement official - who recommended Comey's dismissal last month - has himself become a focal point in the crisis roiling the White House. Sessions kicked off his testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee by asserting that he had "never met with or had any conversations with any Russians" about interference in the 2016 presidential race.

"I have no knowledge of any such conversations by anyone connected to the Trump campaign," he said. "The suggestion that I participated with any collusion, that I was aware of any collusion with the Russian government to hurt this country... is an appalling and detestable lie." The appearance was Sessions's first sworn public testimony since being confirmed as attorney general in February.

During the two-and-a-half hour hearing, he engaged in testy exchanges with several senators who pressed him for details on his discussions with Trump - which he refused to provide in the name of confidentiality. Some Democrats grew impatient, warning Sessions was stonewalling on vital issues. "You are obstructing that congressional investigation

by not answering that question," charged Senator Martin Heinrich. "Your silence... speaks volumes." Sessions responded: "I am not stonewalling. I am following the historic policies of the Department of Justice."

'Innuendo'

Testifying last week before the same committee, Comey recalled that Trump had asked him to "let go" of a probe into onetime national security advisor Michael Flynn - exposing the president to accusations of obstruction of justice, a potentially impeachable offense. Flynn was sacked two weeks into the job amid concerns he lied over his Russian contacts, becoming the first high-profile victim of the scandal that has overshadowed Trump's young presidency.

Trump has recently expressed frustration with Sessions, who has come under pressure over his own Russia contacts. While the Justice Department has said Sessions recused himself in March because of his involvement in Trump's campaign, Comey testified that the FBI knew of information that would have made it "problematic" for Sessions to be involved. But the attorney general pushed back hard when asked what those problematic matters could be, retorting: "There are none. I can tell you that for absolute certainty. This is a secret innuendo being leaked out there about me, and I don't appreciate it," he added.

'No knowledge' of Russia probe

Barely a month after Trump dismissed Comey, rumors have been circulating that he may yet seek to sack Robert Mueller, the special counsel appointed following the FBI chief's ouster to head the agency's Russia investigation. Sessions declined to comment on those reports, stating only that he had "confidence" in Mueller and would not be involved in any effort, should it arise, to fire the special counsel. Following the hearing, a White House spokeswoman said Trump "has no intention" of dismissing Mueller.

VENEZUELA RENEGADE ATTORNEY GENERAL GOES AFTER JUDGES

CARACAS: Venezuela's attorney general raised the stakes in her standoff with the government Tuesday by demanding eight Supreme Court judges loyal to President Nicolas Maduro be put on trial. A staunch figure of the ruling party, Attorney General Luisa Ortega, 59, is the highest public official to break ranks with Maduro over the country's deadly political crisis. She has accused him and his allies of acting unconstitutionally in their standoff against the opposition in recent months of anti-government protests.

In her latest maneuver to pressure the socialist president, she told reporters she'd filed a case accusing the eight judges of allowing "a breakdown in constitutional order". The charge refers to a ruling by the court in late March that seized power from the opposition-controlled National Assembly legislature. The court later revoked the decision under international pressure, but it sparked a series of protests that has continued ever since. Clashes between demonstrators and police have left 67 people dead, according to prosecutors.

Ortega said in a radio interview on Monday that intelligence officials had been threatening and harassing her family. Pro-government lawmaker Pedro Carreno filed a motion in the assembly calling for the court to order that Ortega be examined by a psychologist. "It is clear that this lady is not in her

right mind," he told reporters. He called for experts to declare she was suffering from "insanity" and should be fired.

A stubborn fight against president

Former Supreme Court judge Blanca Rosa Marmol told AFP the assembly was the only body legally entitled to remove an attorney general from her post. Analysts say Ortega's legal challenges to the government could widen divisions in Maduro's camp, making it harder for him to stay in power. Last week, she filed a challenge against his effort to rewrite the constitution, branding it undemocratic. The court dismissed the appeal on Monday, but Ortega promptly responded with a new series of legal challenges against the judges.

Maduro is accused of controlling the Supreme Court, which has fended off numerous legal and legislative moves against him over the past year and a half. Protesters blame him for an economic crisis that has caused desperate shortages of food and medicine in the oil-rich country. Maduro says the crisis is a US-backed conspiracy. He retains the public backing of the military. "Whether it rains, thunders or lightens on July 30 there will be elections," Maduro said, referring to the constitutional assembly he wants to rewrite the document to expand his powers. —AFP

TRUMP ALLIES BEGINNING TO QUESTION MUELLER PROBE

CRITICISM NO LONGER OUT OF BOUNDS

WASHINGTON: Criticism of special counsel Robert Mueller used to be off limits. No more. Some of President Donald Trump's closest allies - including one of his sons - have begun questioning whether Mueller's wide-ranging probe is becoming too political, as the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election intensifies. The White House finally said Tuesday evening that Trump has "no intention" of firing Mueller, amid speculation and concern that he was weighing that option.

The effort to muddy the waters surrounding the investigation is coming amid growing White House concern that the probe could detract from the president's agenda for months or years to come. Senators on Tuesday questioned both Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein on how the inquiry is being handled. Until now, Mueller had drawn widespread praise from Republicans and Democrats alike. Trump, who isn't typically shy about leveling criticism, especially on Twitter, hasn't commented on the longtime former FBI director. And leading Republican legislators on Tuesday waved off the idea of firing Mueller, with House Speaker Paul Ryan saying that his advice was to "let Robert Mueller do his job" and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell voicing confidence in the special counsel.

But expressions of discontent with Mueller are bubbling up nonetheless. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich led one line of attack with a tweet that said "Republicans are delusional if they think the special counsel is going to be fair." He added that fundraising records show some of the lawyers whom Mueller selected for his team have contributed to Democrats. "It makes sense to point out any level of bias, to highlight any biases inherent in Mueller and this probe in order to force him to be transparent," Gingrich said. He said Trump had called him Monday night and the two discussed Gingrich's concerns about the probe.

Tuesday morning, Trump supporter Ari Fleischer, who served as President

George W. Bush's press secretary, again highlighted the issue of Mueller's probe being handled by attorneys who have donated mostly to Democrats, a message that Donald Trump Jr. quickly retweeted to his own 1.7 million followers. Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, declined to comment on the issues Gingrich and others have raised. In general, it is impermissible to ask prospective government hires about their political leanings, including whether they've made donations. Both Fleischer and Gingrich had previously vouched for the

Tuesday night for the White House to actually dispute Ruddy's suspicion.

On Trump's plane ride home after a trip to Wisconsin, Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters he "has no intention" of firing Mueller, even though she maintained that "the president has the right to". A person close to Trump's legal team said earlier Tuesday that there have been no discussions about firing Mueller with the legal team. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.



Robert Mueller

character and integrity of Mueller, who was appointed FBI director by Bush and whose term was extended an extra two years by Democratic President Barack Obama. Anxiety about the probe - and fresh concerns about the political leanings of some of the attorneys involved - is percolating in the West Wing of the White House.

Chris Ruddy, a Trump friend and the CEO of the conservative website Newsmax, raised the possibility of the president considering terminating Mueller, a potentially explosive option. White House officials said late Monday that Ruddy was at the White House that day, but said he hadn't met with the president and never spoke with him about the issue. Still, it took until

'Conflict'

But Ruddy opened a new line of questions about Mueller's impartiality - the fact that Trump had considered Mueller for the FBI director's job before he was named special counsel. Trump interviewed Mueller for the director's position days before Rosenstein picked Mueller as special counsel for the Russia probe, Sanders confirmed Tuesday. The interview was first reported by PBS. Other Trump supporters homed in on the sequence of Mueller's job interviews.

Sam Nunberg, who worked for Trump's presidential campaign, said it "could seem to be a conflict" for Mueller to first interview with the president to be a possible replacement for fired FBI

Director James Comey and then days later to be named as the special counsel heading an investigation that could look into Comey's firing.

But Stephen Gillers, a New York University professor who specializes in legal and judicial ethics, said the Mueller interview with Trump presented "no conflict whatsoever". It would be hard to make the case, he said, that the experience of interviewing for FBI director would make it impossible for Mueller to fairly exercise the broad discretion afforded to prosecutors. Trump has repeatedly denied colluding with Russia during the presidential campaign, and Comey and others have testified that there is no evidence to the contrary. Still, Gingrich said any special counsel with an agenda can "all of the sudden find something procedural and technical to latch onto."

With few exceptions, Trump's allies are urging him not to move to dismiss Mueller, which would be both politically and technically complicated. Rosenstein would be the one to fire Mueller, which he repeatedly assured senators Tuesday he would not consider without "good cause". Rosenstein is charged with Mueller's fate because Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself from all matters having to do with the Trump-Russia investigation. Sessions told senators on Tuesday that he'd recused himself because he was part of Trump's campaign.

Gingrich and Ruddy said it would be a "mistake" for Trump to remove Mueller, although both said they see the probe as unnecessary. Barry Bennett, a GOP strategist who served as an adviser to Trump's campaign, said he believed it would be too damaging for Trump to try to remove Mueller, but that he had concerns about the appearance that the probe was being politicized. "I think that he should be more cognizant of making sure that the people who come to work with him are non-partisan, for his own credibility," Bennett said of Mueller. Still, he said: "Bob Mueller did a great job as FBI director. I don't question his integrity at all, but he has to be careful not to create the impression of partiality." —AP

MANHUNT SPARKED BY SLAYING OF PRISON GUARDS, INMATES' ESCAPE

SAVANNAH, Georgia: Two Georgia inmates serving long prison sentences and "dangerous beyond description" overpowered and killed two guards on a prison bus before fleeing in a stolen car, authorities said. The deadly escape happened about 6:45 am. Tuesday as the guards drove 33 inmates between prisons, and it set off a massive manhunt involving local, state and federal officers, Putnam County Sheriff Howard Sills said. Sills was emotional as he described the scene. "I saw two brutally murdered corrections officers, that's what I saw," he said. "I have their blood on my shoes."

Donnie Russell Rowe, serving life without parole, and Ricky Dubose, who has prominent tattoos on his face and neck, overpowered, disarmed and killed Sgt Christopher Monica and Sgt Curtis Billue and then carjacked a driver who happened to pull up behind the bus on a rural highway, Sills said. They got into the "grass green", four-door 2004 Honda Civic with the Georgia license plate number RBJ-6601 and drove west on state Highway 16 toward Eatonton, southeast of Atlanta.

"We are still desperately looking for these two individuals. They are armed with 9 mm pistols that were taken from these correctional officers. They are dangerous beyond description. If anyone sees them or comes into contact, they need to call 911 immediately," the sheriff said. The two inmates got a head start by taking and tossing the Honda driver's cell phone and leaving the other 31 prisoners locked inside the bus, Sills said. "My biggest worry is they're going to kill somebody else," Sills said.

Later Tuesday, the manhunt shifted about 40 km to the north to the city of Madison, where Sills said the two men burglarized a house and then two men fitting their descrip-

tions were reportedly seen in a Family Dollar store less than a mile away. Authorities had no further signs of the inmates and had no reason to believe they had split up, Sills said. Multiple agencies contributed to a reward of \$60,000 for information leading to the arrests of the two inmates, Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Nelly Miles said.

Monica and Billue were both transfer sergeants at Baldwin State Prison. Monica had been with the Georgia Department of Corrections since October 2009 and Billue



Ricky Dubose Donnie Russell Rowe

since July 2007. How the two inmates managed to reach and overpower the guards remains under investigation, Sills said. "They were inside the caged area of the bus," he said. "How they got through the locks and things up to that area I do not know."

Protocol is to have two armed corrections officers on the bus, but the officers don't wear bulletproof vests during transfers, Corrections Commissioner Greg Dozier said. "We lost two of our fellow officers, two of our kin. We see our officers as our family," Dozier said. Monica was 42 and leaves behind a wife, Dozier said. Billue was 58 and is survived by his father, five sisters, two brothers and two sons, said Jim Green, an

attorney who's speaking for the Billue family.

"Officer Billue's family asks for prayers for all of those who are now placing their own lives at risk to bring these men to justice and asks anyone who has information that may assist in apprehending these perpetrators to please contact law enforcement," Green said in an email. The guards were moving the inmates to a diagnostic prison in Jackson, where their next placement was to be determined, Dozier said, adding that inmates do not know their transfer dates ahead of time.

Georgia Gov Nathan Deal pledged every state resource necessary to catch the pair. "The selflessness and courage of these two brave souls will not be forgotten, nor will their sacrifice and service," Deal said in an emailed statement. US Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said federal resources are being committed to help catch the fugitives. The FBI and US Marshals have joined the investigation, Sills said. "An attack on any American law enforcement officer is an attack on every American law enforcement officer and the principles we all believe in," Rosenstein told a Senate budget panel in Washington Tuesday morning.

Both escaped inmates were serving long sentences for armed robbery and other crimes. The Department of Corrections said Rowe, 43, has been serving life without parole since 2002, and Dubose, 24, began a 20-year sentence in 2015. A photo released by the sheriff's office in Elbert County, the site of his most recent conviction, shows Dubose with prominent tattoos. He appears to have a crown tattooed above his right eyebrow, writing above his left eyebrow and large letters covering the entire front of his neck. "They need to surrender before we find 'em," Sills said. —AP

NIGHT OF HORROR AS BLAZE TRAPS LONDON TOWER DWELLERS

LONDON: People watched in horror as neighbors found themselves trapped or in desperation leapt to their doom as flames raced through the stricken Grenfell Tower. The last time Hanan Wahabi saw her brother was when he and his family waved to her from their home in an upper floor after she had safely left the blazing building. Wahabi, 39, who lives on the ninth floor of the 24-storey Grenfell Tower, said she was awoken by smoke at around 1:00 am yesterday. "I could see there was ash coming through the window in the living room, which was partially open," she told AFP, sitting outside a local community center.

"I looked out and I could see the fire travelling up the block. It was literally by my window," she said. "I slammed the window shut and got out." After she escaped along with her husband and son, 16, and daughter, eight, she called her brother, who lives on the 21st floor, to see if he was all right. "The fire hadn't reached the top of the block at that point," Wahabi said.

"He said he had been told to stay inside, stay in one room together and put towels under the door. I told him to leave. He said he was going to come. Then I called him and he said there was too much smoke. The last time I saw him they were waving out the window, his

wife and children. The last time I spoke to his wife, he was on the phone to the fire brigade. I've not heard from them since, the phone is not going through, the landline isn't going through. That was about 2:00 am."

'Saw people jumping out'

Two eyewitnesses told the Press Association news agency they saw children dropped by their parents into the arms of people on the ground. One said a baby was dropped from the ninth or 10th floor, another that she saw a five-year-old boy dropped from a fifth or sixth floor window. Khadejah Miller, who was evacuated from her home nearby, recounted a night of horror. "I literally just heard screaming, I saw people jumping out of their windows, the building was literally on fire, the ambulances, the police. It was horrendous," she said.

Amanda Fernandez, 31, was evacuated from a different part of the housing estate. "When you live around here, you know people. And to stand helpless watching the fire and counting the floors, and thinking, 'Who lives on that floor? Who lives on that one?' Most of the people I know lived higher than the 10th floor." Others reported seeing mobile phone lights and white cloths, and hearing screams for



LONDON: Police man a security cordon as a huge fire engulfs the Grenfell Tower early yesterday. —AFP

help from the windows, as the flame rose through the building at astonishing speed.

'I'm a goner'

Another survivor at the community center, wearing shorts, a T-shirts and trainers and with a blanket draped around his shoulders, said he saved his own life with

just moments to spare. "My neighbor's smoke alarm went off and I thought he might have done some cooking," he said, giving only his first name of Eddie, 55. "I was in bed and I heard people shout fire, fire, I opened my door and loads of smoke came in. Then two seconds later my neighbor (on fifth floor) called and said,

'Get the f*** out the building!'

"I went into the bathroom and I got the towel and wet it and wrapped it around my head. I ran out into the hallway, close the door behind me and ran for where I thought the fire exit was. I didn't find it. It was a matter of life and death - I thought, 'If I'm in this for another five seconds, I'm a goner.' Then on the ground there was a fireman, he touched my leg and pulled me into where the fire stairwell was. You couldn't see anything. I just ran down the stairs. There wasn't that many people on the stairs. Loads of people haven't got out of the building."

'Saw them dying'

Some evacuated residents found refuge in nearby St Clement's Church and sat dazed on the pews as volunteers handed out food and drink. Clarita Ghavimi, 66, said she escaped with a tea towel over her mouth and was helped down by two men. "I was shaking and crying," she said, still clutching the tea towel in her sooty hands. Adi Estu, 32, who was in her pyjamas and a coat, said: "I saw people flashing their lights for help, families flashing their mobile phones like a torch. But the smoke covered them and then the fire destroyed everything." "We saw them dying. How can you forget that?" —AFP

MACRON SAYS 'DOOR ALWAYS OPEN' FOR UK TO STAY IN EU

TOWER BLAZE BRINGS FRESH DELAY TO MAY'S POWER DEAL

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday the door was "always open" for Britain to remain in the EU despite Prime Minister Theresa May saying Brexit talks would begin next week. The meeting in Paris followed the leaders' remarkably different political fortunes in the past week, which saw Macron's party headed for a massive parliamentary majority, while May lost her slim advantage in the House of Commons. "Of course the door is always open as long as the negotiations on Brexit have not finished," Macron said in a press conference.

But he stressed that the British people had taken the sovereign decision to leave the 28-member bloc in their referendum a year ago, adding that the beginning of talks would be a milestone. "Once it (the Brexit process) has started we need to be collectively clear that it's more difficult to reverse course," he said at the Elysee palace. May stressed that she would stick to her timetable of starting Brexit discussions next week in Brussels, saying the talks were "on course", despite her domestic difficulties.

Her Conservative party lost its majority in a bungled snap election last week which some observers suggested might lead May to abandon her plans for a so-called "hard Brexit". But she countered: "There's a unity of purpose among people in the UK. It's a unity of purpose having voted to leave the EU that their government gets on with that and makes a success of it."

Crackdown on online extremism

After their talks, May and Macron watched a football friendly between England and France where a minute's silence was held before kick-off to remember the victims of recent terror attacks in Manchester and London. The order of the national anthems was reversed, leading thousands of French fans to put aside centuries of rivalry, war and their own history of regicide in a moment of cross-Channel solidarity. "God Save The Queen" they thundered before the match began.

The poignant moment served to underline May and Macron's main message, namely that France and Britain will continue to work together despite Brexit. However there was no comfort for May on the pitch, with France running out 3-2 winners. The French and British leaders also announced a joint action plan to crack down on extremism and terror propaganda online, accusing Internet companies and social media networks of doing too little.

The measures aim "to ensure the Internet cannot be used as a safe space for criminals and terrorists and it cannot be used to host the radicalizing material that leads to so much harm," May said. Priorities include looking into encrypted communication platforms used by extremists to evade security forces and new laws to impose penalties on internet companies which fail to remove offensive content. Facebook, Twitter and other social networks had long argued that they



PARIS: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May is greeted by France's President Emmanuel Macron ahead of a meeting at The Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday. —AFP

were unable to monitor content posted online by their users, but have grown increasingly sensitive to criticism. Germany lawmakers recently introduced legislation requiring Internet companies to remove content flagged as hate speech within 24 hours.

Yesterday, May faced further delays in forming her new government yesterday after her would-be allies said their agreement would be put back following a deadly tower block blaze in London. The Conservative leader is now desperately seeking the backing of the 10 MPs from Northern Ireland's ultra-conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

EU leaders have voiced growing impatience to start Brexit negotiations, which have already been delayed by the parliamentary election - and on which the clock is ticking. An initial round of talks between May and DUP leader Arlene Foster ended with no agreement on Tuesday, although both sides said they were hopeful of a deal. "The talks are continuing but I think the events in London today probably will have some impact on that. I think it's unlikely there will be any announcement today," a DUP spokesman told AFP.

'Softer Brexit'

May has dismissed calls to resign following the dismal election result after calling a vote three years early in the hope of bolstering her slim majority, only to actually lose seats. A lackluster campaign saw her high approval rating slip away, and support for her "hard Brexit" strategy - pulling out of the European single market and customs union - now hangs in the balance.

Former prime minister David Cameron, who called last year's EU referendum and resigned after losing it, told a conference in Poland that "there will be pressure for a softer Brexit". Parliament now "deserves a say", he said, adding that there was "perhaps an opportunity to consult more widely with the other parties on how best we can achieve it".

Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's chief Brexit negotiator, warned Tuesday that "the current uncertainty cannot continue" and yesterday issued five "pressing questions" on Twitter. Among these was whether Britain's position would "be the same as in the letter of March 29" when May triggered the two-year Brexit countdown.

'Very unsettling'

The DUP is believed to be more favorable to a "soft Brexit" that would keep Northern Ireland's border with the Republic of Ireland free-flowing. Under the proposed deal, the DUP would likely support May's Conservatives on big issues such as the budget, Brexit and defense legislation on a vote-by-vote basis. They would not form a coalition. However, the prospect of a deal has prompted warnings that it could upset Northern Ireland's fragile peace. 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. "The danger is that however much any government tries they will not be seen to be impartial if they are locked into a parliamentary deal," 1990s Conservative prime minister John Major told BBC radio. —Agencies

TEARS, CHEERS AS BOROUGH MARKET REOPENS

LONDON: With emotions running high and stalls bursting with produce, London's 1,000-year-old Borough Market re-opened yesterday for the first time since a deadly attack by Islamist extremists killed eight people. Traders gathered for a minute's silence in honor of the victims of the June 3 attack, before fruit-and-veg stallholder Paul Wheeler rang the market bell, crying as he tugged the rope harder and harder. "I was only supposed to ring it once, but once I started I couldn't stop. I just wanted to get the market back open," he told Reuters moments later, still visibly emotional. "It's been really hard. Business-wise, we suffered, but emotionally, all of us here have been struggling with it. I'm just glad we're back open," he said.

Donald Hyslop, chairman of the market's board of trustees, was cheered loudly as he declared trade had resumed. London Mayor Sadiq Khan was in the crowd as he spoke. "Strong and together, London is open. Borough Market is

open," Hyslop said. A warren of alleyways and streets nestled under a railway bridge and by the side of the medieval Southwark Cathedral, Borough Market is a foodie's paradise, with stalls selling a variety of specialties from around Britain and the world.

It is also a vibrant spot for socializing, with the surrounding streets full of pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants that were packed with people enjoying a balmy Saturday night out when the three attackers struck. They drove a van into pedestrians on nearby London Bridge, killing three. They then ran into the maze of bustling streets, killing five people and injuring dozens by stabbing them and slashing their throats. The rampage ended when the three attackers were shot dead at the scene by police. The market had remained shut since then, with forensic investigators at work and police standing guard.

'Light after Darkness'

For the tight-knit community of



LONDON: Mayor of London Sadiq Khan (center) attends the re-opening of Borough Market yesterday in central London following the June 3 terror attack. —AFP

market traders, re-opening their stalls was a first step towards normality after a traumatic time.

"I'm so happy that we're all here to keep going and carry on and to show that no matter what they do we're still here. There's always light after darkness," said

Maria Moruzzi, who runs a cafe on the edge of the market. She moved to the area as a child, in 1964, and her parents ran a local cafe. She and her sisters used to play in the market as children. For her, it felt as if the attack took place "in my front room". — Reuters

NIGERIA SEEING A SURGE IN SEPARATIST SENTIMENT

LAGOS: Nigeria's government is calling for national unity after southerners were given an ultimatum to leave the country's north, triggering renewed calls for independence elsewhere. The Arewa Youth Consultative Forum last week said Igbo living in the mainly Muslim north should go back to the largely Christian south by Oct 1. At least two other groups in the south and southwest have since revived their push for independence, underlining barely concealed ethnic divisions in Africa's most populous nation.

In the Igbo-dominated southeast, there have been mounting calls for a separate state of Biafra, 50 years after a previous declaration of independence sparked a civil war. Nigeria's Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo has moved to nip the issue in the bud, warning the government "cannot control violence once it begins". At a meeting with northern leaders in Abuja on Tuesday evening, he said the "noises of hate, of division" had been "much louder... than perhaps had been the case in the past".

But he said a common front and dialogue was needed to overcome nearly a year of crippling economic recession that has pushed up inflation and worsened unemployment. "Every form of violence, every form of hate speech, any stone that is thrown in the market place will hit targets that are not intended," Osinbajo said in a speech. He added: "This is not the time to retreat behind ethnic lines. Moments like this are not for isolating ourselves... it is a time for us to come together, to work together."

History repeating

Nigeria's more than 180 million people could be forgiven for feeling a sense of deja vu. A similar situation involving Igbo in the north was a major factor in triggering the civil war that left more than one million dead between 1967 and 1970. Tensions are also nothing new in a country with more than 250 ethnic groups, which is roughly split along religious lines between north and south. But there is clear concern because the AYCF represents the dominant ethnic group in the north, the Hausa-speaking Fulani, and was made in the northern city of Kaduna.

Kaduna has been a powder keg of ethnic, sectarian and religious tensions over the years, where rivalries and grievances have regularly boiled over into deadly violence. Tit-for-tat attacks between

nomadic cattle drivers and farmers have also killed thousands in Kaduna state and the wider central region for decades. What is effectively a resource conflict has frequently been portrayed as a religious or ethnic dispute, because the herders are Muslim and farmers Christian.

The UN's resident coordinator in Nigeria, Edward Kallon, has stepped in to the row and publicly called for peaceful co-existence. But it has not stopped the Niger Delta Self-Determination Movement to call for "political autonomy and 100 percent ownership and control of our resources" in the oil-rich south. In the Yoruba-dominated southwest, the Oodua Nationalist Coalition said it was time to break free from the "Fulani oligarchy" to create "the third-biggest nation in Africa".

'Bluff and bluster'

The separatist calls and the need for what one newspaper said was to "clamp down on those beating the drum of war" have dominated headlines in Nigeria over the last week. To some extent, the situation mirrors 2014, when the then-president Goodluck Jonathan ruled out discussion about Nigeria's continued union at a national conference. The issue had come to the fore as it was 100 years since British colonialists created Nigeria by amalgamating its linguistically, religiously and socially distinct northern and southern protectorates.

Political commentator Chris Ngwodo told AFP the current situation was cyclical and much of it was "grandstanding, bluff and bluster". "My sense of the situation is that it is the consequence of a state that doesn't really guarantee social and economic opportunity for the majority of its people," he said. That has led to a rise of "demagogues and populists" like the Igbo independence leader Nnamdi Kanu, who is testing the government in power with political brinkmanship, he added. Grievances are frequently expressed in ethnic and religious terms and threats are a way of negotiating, particularly at a time when there is a "leadership vacuum", he said.

Osinbajo is deputizing for President Muhammadu Buhari, who has spent much of this year in London receiving treatment for an undisclosed illness. "There's no great hunger for secession in the north, there really isn't. National solidarity does exist. It might be dysfunctional but it's there," Ngwodo added. —AFP

FAMILY BATTLES EX-KGB FOR TRUTH ON DISGRACED RELATIVE

SAINT PETERSBURG: For decades the family of Russian village elder Vasily Ostryakov were told nothing about the man other than he was a traitor convicted of collaborating with the Nazis. Now, following an unlikely legal victory against the feared Federal Security Service, (FSB) Ostryakov's descendants are a step closer to learning the truth about their ancestor. "The figure of my great-grandfather has always remained in the shadows for our family, nobody knew much about him," said 33-year-old Dmitry Ostryakov.

Dmitry began his quest for the truth by asking his father, who had scarcely any information. Then, in 2015, the family went on a mission that many Russians consider to be a lost cause: to access his file from the FSB, inheritor of the archives of the KGB that prosecuted him. Vasily Ostryakov was the appointed elder of a small village in southern Russia that was occupied by the Nazis in World War II.

Condemned by the Soviets to six years in a labor camp for collaboration, he died in the gulag in far east Russia soon after. In 1998, his case was reviewed, like those of many other victims of Joseph Stalin's massive purges who were convicted between 1930 and 1950. But for reasons that remain unclear, the verdict against Vasily was not overturned and he has never been rehabilitated.

'What could he have done?'

The family want to know the precise reasons for their ancestor's conviction, but

their requests to see his file have been refused. "Those were difficult times," Dmitry, a doctor, told AFP of his relative living under Nazi occupation in southwestern Belgorod region. "The other villagers elected him as their elder. What could he have done? In any case, I want to learn the truth." Dmitry promised himself he would prize the information out of the security services, taking over a task his father had begun. "I want to really learn everything there is about my relative. Sooner or later I want to succeed."

After a protracted legal dispute, the Ostryakov family unexpectedly won a small battle in May, when the FSB tried to sue them to recover its legal expenses. A court in Saint Petersburg rejected the FSB's appeal and sided with the family.

Rare victory

Winning a case against the KGB's successor agency is practically a miracle in Russia, even if the sum in question of 26,000 rubles (\$450) is relatively small. "With this lawsuit against Mr. Ostryakov, the FSB wanted to discourage other people who would like to learn about their relatives," said Darya Sukhikh, a lawyer with Team 29, a human rights collective that fights for freedom of information and is helping the Ostryakovs. "This decision pleased us but it doesn't change anything - we still cannot receive the file on my great-grandfather," said Dmitry.

Two higher courts have confirmed the legitimacy of the decision by the FSB to refuse access to the file. — AFP

IN PAKISTAN, CHINA PRESSES ADVANTAGE FOR CONTRACTS

ISLAMABAD: Last year, Pakistan held informal talks with General Electric, Siemens and Switzerland's ABB to build the country's first high-voltage transmission line. Chinese power giant State Grid committed to building the \$1.7 billion project in half the time of its European counterparts - and clinched the deal. This is a familiar tale in Pakistan and many other countries. As China makes its "Belt and Road" initiative - a massive project to connect Asia with Africa and Europe through land and maritime routes - a policy priority for the next decade, Chinese companies are taking the lion's share of infrastructure projects across the region.

Just last year, Chinese firms won project contracts in Belt and Road countries worth \$126 billion, state media reported. In Pakistan, whose geographical position makes it central to Beijing's "Silk Road" plans, contracts have been awarded for projects worth more than \$28 billion - all by Chinese companies working together with local firms. More than \$20 billion in new investment is likely in the next few years, Pakistan's Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal told Reuters this week.

Last month, Pakistan's government took out

full-page newspaper advertisements on the first China-Pakistan project completed under the plan, a 1,300 mw coal plant that it said was constructed in 22 months, a record time for such a facility. The plant is owned by China's state-owned Huaneng Shandong and the Shandong Ruyi Science & Technology Group.

China Inc's main advantage, officials in both countries said, is the ability of Chinese banks - with the blessing of the government - to fast-track loans for projects related to the Silk Road. That makes a huge difference to projects like Pakistan's power transmission line, which aims to end regular energy cuts that leave the country's 190 million population without electricity for several hours every day.

"(Chinese companies have) that advantage because of the support of the Chinese government," said Mohammad Younus Dagha, a senior government official who was in charge at the Water and Power Ministry until earlier this year. Dagha, who spoke to Reuters shortly before being transferred to the Commerce Ministry, said Beijing was fast-tracking loan approvals and pushing its banks and insurance firms to speed up due diligence

work. Chinese government officials declined comment on specific loan approvals.

Favor Lending

But two officials at two Chinese state-owned banks that direct government funding, China Development Bank (CDB) and Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM), told Reuters that they have been instructed by the government to favor lending to Chinese firms for Silk Road projects. The officials also said that the two banks prefer that companies working on infrastructure projects across the region import raw materials or purchase equipment from China. There is some criticism in Pakistan that the awarding of the contracts to Chinese companies - while speeding up projects - is also costing the country more money.

In the transmission line project deal, for example, General Electric estimated it could make one key part of the line - the converter stations - for about 25 percent less than what State Grid was charging, according to a Pakistani government official and two power sources familiar with GE's projections. By awarding the contract to State Grid,

Islamabad paid a higher price, they said.

An official at Nepra, Pakistan's independent energy regulator, said State Grid was also given a tax break not on offer to other investors. Pakistani government officials declined to comment on tax issues regarding the deal. China Electric Power Technologies Company Limited (CET), the State Grid subsidiary that will build the line, said the price it asked for was fair. "It's a very reasonable cost," said Fiaz Ahmad Chaudhry, managing director of Pakistan's National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) referring to the overall State Grid contract.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the process for Belt and Road projects in Pakistan was "open and transparent" and would bolster bilateral relations and regional prosperity. The edge of Chinese companies in Pakistan is likely to continue. Under the Silk Road plan, China and Pakistan are planning to build \$57 billion worth of power plants, port facilities, railway lines and roads in Pakistan. During a meeting in Beijing last month, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the plan would be accelerated. —Reuters



Rescuers carry the body of a victim yesterday after Tuesday's massive landslide in Rangamati district, Bangladesh. — AP

RESCUERS BATTLING TO REACH VICTIMS OF B'DESH LANDSLIDES

CHITTAGONG: Rescue workers battled yesterday to reach victims of the worst landslides ever to hit Bangladesh, as the death toll rose to 146, with dozens more still missing. Villagers in some of the worst-hit areas used shovels to try to dig bodies out of the mud that engulfed their settlements as they slept. Authorities say hundreds of homes were buried by mud and rubble sent cascading down hillsides after monsoon rains dumped 343 mm of water on the southeast of the country in just 24 hours.

Disaster Management Department chief Reaz Ahmed said the landslides were the worst in the country's history and warned the death toll would rise as rescuers reached cut-off areas. Firefighters in the district of Rangamati said they had pulled 18 people out from under the mud on Tuesday, but did not have the manpower to reach all the affected areas. "People called us from several places saying people had been buried. But we did not have enough men to send," said Didarul Alam, fire services chief for Rangamati district. "We have been unable to reach some of the more remote places due to the rain. Even in those places we have reached, we have been unable to recover all the bodies."

The army said thousands of troops stationed in the affected districts as part of efforts to quell a long-running tribal insurgency had joined the rescue efforts. "Our soldiers based in all parts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts have participated in the rescue operations," armed forces spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Rashidul Hasan told AFP.

Four soldiers were killed in a landslide on Tuesday and another is missing.

Thousands evacuated

Those caught up in the disaster spoke of the horror that the rains had unleashed. Khodeza Begum emerged from her home just after dawn Tuesday to see the mountainside collapsing in front of her. "As I came out I saw a huge slab of earth rolling down from the hill. Instantly I got all my relatives out of their homes. We survived narrowly," she told a local news website. "My house was buried under mud within moments. I have never seen a disaster like this in my life," she said, adding that 11 people in her village were killed.

Rangamati district chief Manzurul Mannan told AFP 98 people had been killed there and 200 injured, some of them seriously. At least 37 people died in Chittagong, four in Cox's Bazar and seven more in the neighboring hill districts of Bandarban and Khagrachhari, officials said. The latest toll makes this year's disaster deadlier even than a 2007 landslide that killed 127 people in Chittagong. Authorities have opened 18 shelters in the worst-hit hill districts, where 4,500 people have been evacuated, a minister said. Among the victims were two fishermen who drowned off the coast of Cox's Bazar after their boat apparently capsized. Other trawlers and their sailors were still missing. As rain pounded Teknaf in Cox's Bazar for a third day, police confirmed that a father and daughter were killed after their home was buried by a landslide. — AFP

B'DESHI WOMAN ACTIVIST WITH 'ENEMIES' VOWS TO CARRY ON

MUMBAI: In her long career defending the rights of women, indigenous people and ethnic minorities, Sultana Kamal has faced numerous threats and intimidation. But none over a statue. Then on a TV show last month, she criticized the removal of a Lady Justice statue, wrapped in a traditional sari, from the Supreme Court premises - a move prompted by Islamist groups protesting it was a religious object. Kamal lashed back that mosques must also not be permitted then, sparking threats from a radical Islamist group.

"I have made enemies in many places," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by telephone from Bangladesh. "People have many reasons to come after me - because I talk about land grabbing, because I talk about the rights of indigenous people, of crimes against minorities. The majority groups, the fundamentalists don't like it."

Kamal, who until recently ran Dhaka-based human rights organization Ain o Salish Kendra, has been a vocal critic of the government's failure to protect the rights of minority groups and, increasingly, activists like herself. Rights activists in the South Asian country face judicial harassment, arbitrary arrest, fabricated charges, abduction, attacks, torture and extrajudicial killings, according to Front Line Defenders, an advocacy group headquartered in Dublin.

Violations against activists are committed by state and non-state actors, and in most cases go unpunished, it said. "The government does not put the rights of

people first," said Kamal, who campaigned for the country's liberation in the 1960s and 1970s, and now advocates for the protection of the fragile Sundarbans coastal mangrove forests. Activists warn the proposed construction of power plants near the Sundarbans would damage the environment and affect the livelihoods of millions.

Some protests against the projects have turned violent. Kamal is also fighting for the rights of tens of thousands of indigenous people displaced from their traditional lands in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. Activists say the government has failed to honor an agreement signed 20 years ago to restore their lands. "The rights of indigenous people are not recognized. They are marginalized and disadvantaged because the law does not back them," she said. "People belonging to the majority religion, ethnic group and having the backing of political parties - that is Bangladeshi Muslim men, who are the majority - act with a certain impunity against everyone else."

Amnesty International last week called for a thorough investigation into the latest threats against Kamal and action from the government to ensure her safety. Two days after the government ordered the Lady Justice statue removed, they ordered it put back up, in a less prominent location. Kamal said the threats will not stop her work. "I am nearly 70, and I am not going to change my ways now ... I hope that others will also come forward to do this work, and I hope that the state will listen to us." —Reuters

CATTLE SLAUGHTER CRACKDOWN HITS INDIA LEATHER INDUSTRY

MUSLIM MINORITY FEARS FOR LIVELIHOODS IN SHOEMAKING CENTER

AGRA, India: In the backstreets of Agra's Muslim quarter, where shoes have been made for centuries, small-scale manufacturers are firing workers and families cutting back on spending as a government crackdown on cattle slaughter ripples through the community. The election of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) three years ago has emboldened right-wing Hindu groups to push harder for protection of the cow, an animal they consider sacred.

Authorities in India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, started closing down unlicensed abattoirs in March, immediately hitting production and sales in the Muslim-dominated meat industry. Last month Modi's government also banned trading cattle for slaughter, including not just cows, whose killing was already outlawed in most states, but also buffalo, an animal used for meat and leather. Now the squeeze is spreading to others in the Muslim minority and to lower-caste Hindus who cart cattle, labor in tanneries and make shoes, bags and belts - including for big name brands such as Zara and Clarks. Frequent attacks by rightwing Hindus against workers they accuse of harming cattle have further rattled the industry.

Social Tensions

Much of India's meat and leather trade takes place in the informal economy, meaning the impact of the closing of illegal abattoirs and ban on trading for slaughter is hard to measure. But cattle markets are reporting a big slowdown in trade and tanneries a shortage of hides. Abdul Faheem Qureshi, a representative of India's Muslim Qureshi community of butchers, said in Uttar Pradesh some markets trading 1,000 animals last year were now down to as few as 100.

The decline in production means fewer jobs for two of India's poorest communities, and risks inflaming social tensions at a time when Modi has vowed to boost employment and accelerate economic growth ahead of the next general election in 2019. Some large leather manufacturers support the Uttar Pradesh state govern-

ment's move, arguing that allowing only licensed abattoirs to operate will clean the industry's image. Bigger exporters also say they have enough leather as they source hides widely, including from abroad.

Still, millions work in the meat and leather industries, which are worth more than \$16 billion in annual sales. When Reuters visited the narrow shoemaking lanes of Agra a crowd of Muslims breaking their Ramadan fast gathered, shouting angrily that they were no longer safe to trade buffalo, buy cow leather for shoes or to do work that their community has done for centuries for fear of being attacked by Hindu vigilantes. "They want to weaken us. They want to snatch our bread," says 66-year-old Mohammad Muqem, whose workers stitch \$3 shoes in his cellar, referring to the closure of slaughterhouses and recent attacks on cattle traders. Muqem's monthly income has halved to \$300 since last year as leather has become scarce. His dozen casual workers, down from 40, now use mostly synthetic materials.

Impossible Target

Like meat, India's leather industry has expanded rapidly in the last decade, providing relatively well-paid factory work and cash for families stitching informally in their homes. Agra, in Uttar Pradesh, turns out a million pairs of shoes a day for domestic buyers and European labels such as Inditex-owned Zara and Clarks. An estimated 40 percent of the population of the northern Indian city, famed as the home of the Taj Mahal, depends on the industry.

Clarks said in a statement that it does not use leather from Indian-origin cows and that the small amount of buffalo leather it sources from India had not been impacted. Zara and did not respond to requests for comment. India is one of the world's top five producers of leather, with skins coming from cows that die of natural causes or from the legal slaughter of buffalo. Modi's government is targeting leather revenues of \$27 billion - more than double today's level - by 2020 as part of a job creation push. But in May, the

government decreed that animal markets could only trade cow and buffalo for agricultural purposes such as ploughing and dairy production - a move many in the industry say contradicts its plans to grow leather sales. India's environment minister said this week the government could amend the rule after a court temporarily stayed the order and there was widespread anger in regions where meat and leather are important to the local culture and economy.

But industry officials said the shock of the ban, coming on the heels of the crackdown on abattoirs and attacks against cattle workers, meant business would not easily recover. Companies say the government's leather target would be impossible to meet unless the restrictions are reversed. "There is a lot of panic in the industry after the latest order, which has come as the biggest blow," Puran Dawar, chairman of Agra-based exporter Dawar Footwear Industries, said as hundreds of workers moulded shoes on the factory floor, referring to the ban on cattle traded for slaughter. "There are grave concerns about the supply of leather, exports of shoes and overall employment." India's commerce ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a controversial Hindu priest, had made closing unlicensed slaughter houses a priority after Modi appointed him in March. About 30 percent of hides, mostly from buffaloes, that supply tanneries in the state are from unlicensed abattoirs. Sitting in his one-room shop in Agra's leather market, Mohammad Hashim, a burly leather dealer in his sixties, said business was down 40 percent in the last three months.

The recent scarcity of hides had hurt Hindus as much as Muslims, he said, pointing to the quiet streets outside and a Hindu man struggling to sell puffed rice snacks from his cart. Modi's election in 2014 and a resurgence in right-wing Hindu activism have increased concerns among Muslims that their livelihoods are under attack. As a minority making up 14 percent of India's 1.3 billion people, they are generally poorer and less literate than majority Hindus. — Reuters



KABUL: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (center) arrives to meet Afghan families who fled the conflict at a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) yesterday. — AFP

UN: NO MILITARY SOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN

TRUMP LETS PENTAGON SET TROOP LEVELS

KABUL: There is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan that is forcing record numbers of people from their homes, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said yesterday, during an unannounced visit to the war-torn country. Guterres' first visit as secretary general comes as the Afghan government faces internal turmoil, insurgents make gains nationwide and the international military coalition mulls plans to send thousands more troops to help struggling Afghan forces.

These combined threats have worsened the crisis for refugees and internally displaced people, forcing international bodies like the United Nations to call for emergency funding. The crisis can only be solved by ending the war, said Guterres, standing in a makeshift camp on the outskirts of Kabul that accommodates Afghans displaced by fighting. "Peace is the solution for the problem," said Guterres, previously a United Nations' high commissioner for refugees. At least 126,000 Afghans have been forced to flee their homes, the United Nations says.

More than 218,000 Afghan refugees have also

returned this year from neighboring Iran and Pakistan, many citing pressure from authorities there. The International Organization for Migration estimates that at least 600,000 refugees could return this year, piling strain on aid groups struggling to help the newly displaced. Khumri, a 30-year-old Afghan woman who met Guterres, said she had lived in the squalid camp for the last two years with her family after their home was destroyed and her husband killed by government forces battling Taliban occupying their village in the northeastern province of Kapisa. "We need everything," she said, recounting the struggle for clean water, food, and hygiene materials that drives some to beg.

Guterres was set to meet Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who is trying to soothe domestic political tension after recent violence in the capital, Kabul. Ghani also hosted international delegations last week in a bid to set the stage for peace negotiations with the Taliban, which have remained stalled amid widespread fighting. If the Taliban do not begin negotiations soon, Ghani will seek new UN sanctions against the group as a

sponsor of terrorism, he told the June 6 meeting.

Any sanctions would be up to the UN Security Council, Guterres said. Afghanistan has endured too many "foreign interventions", however, he added, urging an eventual deal to resolve the war. Thousands of international troops remain in Afghanistan to train and assist Afghan forces, besides mounting counterterrorism operations. US President Donald Trump has given Defense Secretary Jim Mattis the authority to set troop levels in Afghanistan, opening the door for future troop increases.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an official told AFP that Mattis can now directly adjust troop numbers, though the official would not confirm whether a new "force management level" - currently at around 8,400 - had been finalized. "The White House has done the same that it did with Iraq and Syria, which is to grant the secretary of defense the authority to set troop levels," the official said, referring to recent adjustments Trump has approved for the fight against the Islamic State group in those two countries. — Agencies

AUSTRALIA ASYLUM-SEEKERS WIN MULTIMILLION DOLLAR PAYOUT

SYDNEY: Detainees at an Australian asylum-seeker camp in Papua New Guinea won millions of dollars in compensation for "degrading and cruel" treatment yesterday, in a decision hailed as an important human rights victory. Abuse, self-harm and mental health problems are reportedly rife in offshore processing centers, with detainees resorting to desperate protests like sewing their own lips together to raise awareness of their plight.

Wednesday's AU\$570 million (US\$53 million) conditional settlement, to be shared by 1,905 people who have been held on Manus Island since 2012, averted a public trial against the government and security providers Transfield and G4S. A class action had sought damages for what claimants said was suffering due to the harsh conditions in which they were held.

It also called for a payout for false imprisonment after the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court ruled last year that holding asylum-seekers on Manus Island was unconstitutional and illegal. Law firm Slater and Gordon said they believed it was the largest human rights class action settlement in Australian history, with the defendants also agreeing to pay more than Aus\$20 million in costs. "The people detained on Manus Island have



MANUS ISLAND, Papua New Guinea: An undated handout file photo shows a man walking between tents at Australia's regional processing center. — AFP

endured extremely hostile conditions, but they will no longer suffer in silence," said the firm's Andrew Baker.

"While no amount of money could fully recog-

nize the terrible conditions the detainees endured, we hope today's settlement can begin to provide them with an opportunity to help put this dark chapter of their lives behind them." The Manus

detention facility opened in 2012 to hold people trying to enter Australia by boat, under a tough immigration policy that sends them offshore to be processed. They are blocked from resettling in Australia even if found to be refugees.

Conditions in the camp, and another one on Nauru in the Pacific, have been widely criticized by refugee advocates and medical professionals, with reports of maltreatment and neglect, leading to serious health problems. Amnesty International called the decision "historic" and "a major crack in the Australian government's crumbling system of abuse." "It must be a turning point towards a better solution for refugees - one that is grounded in protection, not abuse," said Amnesty Pacific researcher Kate Schuetze.

Prudent outcome

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said the payout was not an admission of liability, but to avoid a costly six-month trial. "In such circumstances a settlement was considered a prudent outcome for Australian taxpayers," he said in a statement. "The Commonwealth strongly refutes and denies the claims made in these proceedings. Settlement is not an admission of liability in any regard." — AFP

SIBLINGS ACCUSE SINGAPORE PREMIER OF ABUSING POWER

BROTHER, SISTER SAY THEY FEEL THREATENED

SINGAPORE: A feud between the children of Singapore's late founding leader intensified yesterday after two siblings publicly accused their brother Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of disobeying their father's last wishes and abusing his powers. Singapore's founder Lee Kuan Yew is largely credited with transforming the city-state from a relatively poor British colony into one of the world's wealthiest and most stable societies.

His eldest son Hsien Loong became Singapore's third prime minister in 2004, taking over the People's Action Party (PAP) which has governed Singapore since it gained self-rule in 1959. "We have felt threatened by Hsien Loong's misuse of his position and influence over the Singapore government and its agencies to drive his personal agenda," read a statement posted online by younger brother Hsien Yang and younger sister Wei Ling.

It was an extraordinary public criticism of the city-state's top leadership in a country where tough laws against protests and curbs on press

freedom have stifled political dissent. The siblings' grievances largely center on the fate of the family's home after their father's death. The Lee patriarch, who died two years ago, warned against building a personality cult around his legacy and feared his old bungalow would be turned into a museum if it was not demolished. The pair said their brother Lee had defied their father's instructions to tear down the house.

'Absurd claim'

"We have observed that Hsien Loong and (his wife) Ho Ching want to milk Lee Kuan Yew's legacy for their own political purposes," the statement said, adding that they harbor political ambitions for one of their sons. Ho, a former civil servant, is the chief executive of state investment agency Temasek Holdings. The prime minister, who is on vacation overseas, fired back with his own statement, saying he was "deeply saddened by the unfortunate allegations."

"Ho Ching and I deny these allegations, espe-

cially the absurd claim that I have political ambitions for my son," Lee said. "Since my father's passing in March 2015, as the eldest son I have tried my best to resolve the issues among us... out of respect for our parents," he added. "My siblings' statement has hurt our father's legacy."

The premier's siblings also alleged they were being closely monitored, adding they had lost faith in their brother's ability to lead. "We feel hugely uncomfortable and closely monitored in our own country," they said. "We do not trust Hsien Loong as a brother or as a leader. We have lost confidence in him." Hsien Yang, a former brigadier-general like his brother, added that he "will leave Singapore for the foreseeable future" over the widening rift. He is currently chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore after holding top jobs in Singapore Telecom and beverage giant Fraser & Neave. Wei Ling, a medical doctor, is senior adviser to the National Neuroscience Institute.

Rare public criticism

The public dispute involving the country's first family has gone viral online in a country where open criticism of the ruling party is rare. Lee Kuan Yew, despite his major achievements in bringing economic prosperity, was criticized by rights groups for restricting political freedoms, including muzzling the press, jailing political opponents and suing critics for defamation. Premier Lee and former prime minister Goh Chok Tong have also sued critics for defamation.

The junior Lee led the PAP to a landslide victory in the 2015 general election, six months after the death of his father sparked a massive outpouring of support for the former leader's legacy. Analysts said that despite the quarrel, Lee's political position was unlikely to be affected. "Lee Hsien Loong I don't think will be challenged politically, his position is quite secure," Michael Barr, associate professor of international relations at Flinders University in Adelaide, told AFP. But he said the question remains whether this incident would affect "Brand Lee". Political analyst and former nominated lawmaker Eugene Tan said the dispute puts Lee in the "challenging position of having to defend himself while at the same time ensuring that confidence in Singapore's government remains unshaken." — AFP



SINGAPORE: This photograph taken on June 2, 2017 shows Singapore prime minister Lee Hsien Loong at an event at the Istana presidential palace. — AFP

RODMAN BEGINS N KOREA SIGHTSEEING

PYONGYANG: Dennis Rodman, the former NBA bad boy who has palled around with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, began sightseeing in Pyongyang yesterday during a trip he said he hoped would "open a door" for his former "Celebrity Apprentice" boss - US President Donald Trump. Hours after his arrival the previous day, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson announced that North Korea had released an American student serving a 15-year prison term with hard labor for alleged anti-state acts. A plane carrying Otto Warmbier arrived late Tuesday at an airport in Cincinnati. His parents say he has been in a coma and was medically evacuated.

Tillerson said the State Department secured his release at Trump's direction, and a spokeswoman was firm in saying Rodman's trip had nothing to do with Warmbier's release. Rodman, one of the few people to know both of the nuclear-armed leaders, sported dark sunglasses and athletic wear as he left his hotel in a black limo Wednesday morning without comment. He is scheduled to meet North Korea's sports minister before he leaves the country on Saturday.

He was met by North Korean Vice Minister of Sports Son Kwang Ho at the airport, saying then, "I'm just here to see some friends and have a good time." It was a relatively low-key arrival after his four past trips since 2013 generated a lot of publicity - most of it unfavorable - and did little in terms of diplomacy. His current visit has already been roundly criticized by some for its timing, during high tensions between the US and North Korea over its weapons programs and recent missile launches.

"Well, I'm pretty sure he's pretty much happy with the fact that I'm over here trying to accomplish something that we both need," Rodman said in Beijing when asked if Trump was aware of the trip. Rodman said the issue of several Americans detained by North Korea is "not my purpose right now," in remarks made in Beijing before the release of Warmbier was publicly disclosed.

The University of Virginia student from subur-

ban Cincinnati who publicly confessed to trying to steal a propaganda banner left North Korea on Tuesday morning, a foreign ministry official confirmed. Warmbier's parents said in a statement to AP that they had learned only a week ago that their son has been in a coma since March 2016. In Seoul, South Korea, US Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon said "we pray for him and we pray for his family". Tillerson said the State Department is continuing to discuss three other detained Americans with North Korea.

In 2014, Rodman arranged a basketball game with other former NBA players and North Koreans and regaled leader Kim with a rendition of "Happy Birthday". On the same trip, he suggested an American missionary was at fault for his own imprisonment in North Korea, remarks for which he later apologized. Any visit to North Korea by a high-profile American is a political minefield.

Rodman has been criticized for failing to use his influence on leaders who are otherwise isolated diplomatically from the rest of the world. He has generally brushed off such criticism as unfair because as an athlete and celebrity he shouldn't be expected to solve difficult political problems.

Americans are regarded as enemies in North Korea because the two countries never signed a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War. Thousands of US troops are based in South Korea, and the Demilitarized Zone between the North and South is one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world. A statement issued in New York by a Rodman publicist said the former NBA player is in the rare position of being friends with the leaders of both North Korea and the United States. Rodman was a cast member on two seasons of Trump's TV reality show "Celebrity Apprentice." — AP



PYONGYANG: Former NBA basketball star Dennis Rodman visits the Sci-Tech Complex yesterday. — AP



CINCINNATI: Otto Warmbier, a 22-year-old college student detained and imprisoned in North Korea, is carried off of an airplane at Lunken Airport on Tuesday. — AP

AMERICAN STUDENT RELEASED FROM N KOREA ARRIVES IN US

WASHINGTON: An American student who fell into a coma while imprisoned in a North Korean labor camp returned to the United States late Tuesday after Pyongyang allowed him to be flown home, US media reported. A military airplane carrying Otto Warmbier landed in his hometown of Cincinnati shortly before 10:20 pm (0220 GMT yesterday), CBS News reported. The release of Warmbier, 18 months into a 15-year sentence, came as US President Donald Trump invited South Korea's new leader Moon Jae-In to Washington for talks on the escalating standoff over the North's nuclear program.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said earlier in the day that his agency had "secured" the 22-year-old's release in talks with North Korea and is pushing for three more Americans to be freed. It was not immediately clear if he had made any concessions. The news surfaced after the flamboyant retired NBA basketball star Dennis Rodman - a former contestant on Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" reality show - flew to Pyongyang to resume his quixotic quest to broker detente between his US homeland and Kim Jong-Un's authoritarian regime. But State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the visit "had nothing to do with the release."

Warmbier's parents Fred and Cindy announced his release in a statement to CNN on Tuesday. "Sadly, he is in a coma and

we have been told he has been in that condition since March of 2016," they said. "We learned of this only one week ago." "We want the world to know how we and our son have been brutalized and terrorized by the pariah regime" in North Korea, they added. On arriving in Cincinnati's Lunken Airport, Warmbier was transferred to a waiting ambulance that rushed him to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center for urgent treatment, Fox News reported.

Political pawn

Warmbier's parents were told their son had contracted botulism and was given a sleeping pill soon after his trial in March last year and never woke. The New York Times reported a senior US official as saying the authorities recently received intelligence indicating Warmbier was repeatedly beaten while in custody. US officials refused to comment on his condition, but former ambassador and New Mexico governor Bill Richardson said he had spoken with the family. "Otto has been in a coma for over a year now and urgently needs proper medical care in the United States," said Richardson, who has previously served as a special envoy to North Korea and still works on prisoner issues. "We received a call from Cindy and Fred Warmbier early today to update us on Otto's condition. In no uncertain terms, North Korea must explain the causes of his coma." — AFP



MARAWI: Soldiers aboard a vehicle maneuver through a street of this city on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. — AFP

PHILIPPINES SAYS US TROOPS NEAR MARAWI, NOT FIGHTING

MARAWI CITY, Philippines: US troops are on the ground near Marawi City in the southern Philippines, but are not involved in fighting Islamist militants who have held parts of the city for more than three weeks, a Philippines military spokesman said yesterday. The Philippines military has previously said the United States was providing technical assistance to end the occupation of parts of Marawi City by fighters allied to the Islamic State group, but it had no boots on the ground.

"There are some US personnel who are operating equipment to provide information on situation awareness to our troops," Brigadier General Restituto Padilla told a news conference. "I do not know the exact number and the specific mission. They are allowed to carry rifles for self-defense. But they are not allowed to fight, they only provide support," he said. It was not clear how close to the battle zone the US troops were. They were from a contingent of Special Forces based in the southern city of

Zamboanga, the Philippines military has said previously. The US embassy in Manila did not respond to a request for comment. A US official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States was providing a P-3 surveillance plane as well as intelligence gathering from a drone. That drone, however, crashed on Saturday after it lost communication links with its operator, the official said.

On Wednesday, government forces attacked rebel positions in Marawi with bombs, tank fire and helicopter gunships, and plumes of smoke could be seen rising from the battered city. Some sniper shots could be heard. Fighting died down in the afternoon when heavy rain fell. It was the 23rd day of fighting in Marawi, and there was no sign that it would end any time soon. "There will be no more deadlines," said Padilla, referring to a promise by the military to clear the city by June 12, the country's independence day. "It may take some time." — Reuters

12 DEAD, 74 INJURED AS DEADLY ...

Continued from Page 1

There was no immediate word on the cause of the blaze, but angry residents said they had warned local authorities about fire issues at Grenfell Tower.

The subsidized housing block of 120 apartments was built in 1974 and was recently upgraded at a cost of 8.6 million pounds (\$11 million), with work finishing in May 2016, according to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Samira Lamrani, a witness, said one woman dropped a baby from a window on the ninth or 10th floor to people on the sidewalk. "People were starting to appear at the windows, frantically banging and screaming" and one woman indicated she was going to drop the baby, Lamrani told Britain's Press Association news agency.

"A gentleman ran forward and managed to grab the baby," Joe Walsh, 58, said he saw someone throw two children out of a window from the fifth or sixth floor. Tiago Etienne, 17, said he spotted about three children between the ages of four and eight being dropped from an apartment around the 15th floor. Police commander Stuart Cundy gave the death toll of 12 but added the figure was likely to rise "during what will be a complex recovery operation over a number of days." Paul Woodrow, head of operations for the London Ambulance Service, said 20 of the injured were in critical condition.

The London Fire Brigade received the first reports of the fire at 12:54 am and the first engines arrived within six minutes, Cotton said. Witnesses described a white, polystyrene-type material falling like snow from the building as it burned. Some feared the charred tower block might collapse, but a structural engineer said the building was not in danger, according to the London Fire Brigade, which added "it is safe for our crews to be in there."

Ruks Mamudu, 69, escaped from her first floor apartment wearing only her purple pajamas and bathrobe. She and her grandson sat outside the building and watched people trapped on higher floors cry desperately for help. "I sat there watching my house burn down and watching people cry for help who couldn't come down," she said. People at the scene spoke of being unable to reach friends and family inside. Others saw people inside using flashlights and mobile

phones to try to signal for help from higher floors. Nassima Boutrig, who lives opposite the building, said she was awakened by sirens and smoke so thick that it filled her home as well.

"We saw the people screaming," she said. "A lot of people said 'Help! Help! Help!' The fire brigade could only help downstairs. It was fire up, up, up. They couldn't stop the fire." The disaster occurred 10 days after a terror attack at London's Borough Market. Some residents initially feared the fire was also terror-related, though authorities discounted that possibility. Edward Daffarn, a 55-year-old who lived on the building's 16th floor, said the fire alarm didn't ring. Daffarn said residents had complained for years to London City Council about building safety, to no avail. "I'm lucky to be alive. A neighbor's smoke alarm went off and another neighbor phoned and told me to get out," he said. "I consider this mass murder."

The Grenfell Action Group, a community organization formed to oppose a nearby redevelopment project, has been warning about the risk of fire at Grenfell Tower since 2013. The group has raised concerns about testing and maintenance of firefighting equipment and blocked emergency access to the site. "All our warnings fell on deaf ears and we predicted that a catastrophe like this was inevitable and just a matter of time," the group said after the fire broke out. A July 2014 newsletter for residents said the tower building was designed "according to rigorous fire safety standards" and recommended that in case of a fire residents should stay inside their apartments.

The British company that carried out the tower's 2016 refurbishment, Rydon, said in a statement that its work "met all required building control, fire regulation and health and safety standards." London Mayor Sadiq Khan said many questions now need to be answered about the scores of tower blocks around the city. "There will be a great many questions over the coming days as to the cause of this tragedy, and I want to reassure Londoners that we will get all the answers," Khan said. Prime Minister Theresa May's Downing Street office said she was "deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life in the Grenfell Tower and is being kept constantly updated on the situation." — Agencies

EGYPT MPs APPROVE DEAL GIVING ISLANDS TO SAUDI

Continued from Page 1

Police and opponents of the deal clashed late Tuesday in downtown Cairo, with policemen kicking, punching and using sticks to beat several dozen protesters outside the national journalists' union. An unspecified number of arrests were made and eight protesters remained in police custody yesterday, according to defense lawyers.

After the agreement was first announced in 2016, Egypt saw the largest anti-government protests since El-Sisi took office in 2014. Hundreds of demonstrators and activists were arrested, with most later released. "Ratifying the agreement in this manner will create a deep rift between the president and a large segment of society," said Khaled Dawoud, leader of the opposition Dostour (Constitution) party. "It is a turning point in our relationship with the president."

Earlier yesterday, the house's defense and national security committee approved the deal with a 35-2 vote, becoming the second such body to do so in as many days. The legislative and constitutional committee approved the deal on Tuesday after a three-day, often raucous review during which lawmakers got into heated arguments, pushed and shoved each other and came close to blows. The government insists the islands of Tiran and Sanafir at the mouth of the Gulf of

Aqaba were always Saudi but were placed under Egypt's protection amid Arab-Israeli tensions in the 1950s.

Critics have linked the islands transfer to the billions of dollars in Saudi aid given to El-Sisi's government, saying it amounts to a sell-off of sovereign territory. "There is nothing in the agreement that violates the constitution," Kamal Amer, chairman of the defense committee, told the house yesterday before the vote. "It is designed to realize and perpetuate the mutual interests of the two nations and it also came in response to Saudi requests (to take back the islands) made in 1984, 1989 and 1990."

"The demarcation of the border between Saudi Arabia and Egypt confirmed that the islands are on the side of that brotherly nation, but we are confident that they (the islands) will always be used to serve national Egyptian and Arab security," Amer added. The island of Tiran, a popular destination for Red Sea divers, controls a narrow shipping lane that leads to and from the ports of Eilat and Aqaba, in Israel and Jordan respectively. Egypt's unilateral closure of that lane was among the main reasons behind the outbreak of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, in which Egypt lost the entire Sinai Peninsula. Control over Sinai was restored to Egypt under its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. — AP

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN SCALISE WOUNDED IN MULTIPLE...

Continued from Page 1

The gunman had a rifle and "a lot of ammo," said Sen Jeff Flake of Arizona, who was at the practice. The shocking event left the Capitol horrified and stunned. The House canceled proceedings for the day. The shooting occurred at a popular park and baseball complex in Alexandria, Virginia, where Republican lawmakers and others were gathered for a morning practice about 7 am.

They were in good spirits despite the heat and humidity as they prepared for the congressional baseball match that pits Republicans against Democrats. The popular annual face-off, which raises money for charity, was scheduled for Thursday evening at Nationals Park across the Potomac River in Washington. The team was taking batting practice when gunshots rang out and chaos erupted. Scalise was fielding balls on second base when he was shot, according to lawmakers present, then dragged himself into the outfield to get away from the gunman.

Rep Mo Brooks, an Alabama Republican, said his colleague "crawled into

the outfield, leaving a trail of blood." "We started giving him the liquids, I put pressure on his wound in his hip," Brooks said. Texas Rep Joe Barton, still in his baseball uniform, told reporters a shooter came out to the practice and opened fire, shooting at Rep. Trent Kelly, R-Miss, who plays third base. "He shot at Steve Scalise, our second baseman. He hit Steve Scalise," Barton said. "Scalise's security detail and the Capitol Hill police immediately returned fire, and Alexandria Police also immediately came and began to return fire."

They shot the shooter. The security detail saved a lot of lives because they attacked the shooter."

Barton said the shooting lasted 5-10 minutes, and there were dozens if not hundreds of shots fired. "It was scary," Barton said. Lawmakers took cover in the dugout. Barton said his son, Jack, got under an SUV. FBI special agent in charge Tim Slater said it was "too early to say" whether it was an act of terrorism, or whether Scalise was targeted. After the gunfire stopped, Sen Flake, of Arizona, said he ran onto the field and also tried to come to Scalise's aide. — AP

NO WASTA WITH GOD

Continued from Page 1

Because Ramadan is the month of fasting, it is one of the best times to supplicate to our Creator for whatever our hearts desire. But be careful what you ask for! Ask things that are really important and valuable, not things that could eventually lead us to wrongdoing. The Quran provides examples for our prayers. The following prayers touch upon many worthwhile aspirations: My Lord, increase me in knowledge. (20:114) My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and my parents and to work righteousness of which You will approve and make righteous for me my offspring.

Indeed, I have repented to You, and indeed, I am of those who sub-

mit to You. (46:15) Our Lord! Pour out on us patience and constancy, and make us die as those who have surrendered themselves unto You. (7:126) And do not disgrace me on the day they are [all] resurrected, the day when there will not benefit [anyone] wealth or children, but only one who comes to Allah with a sound heart. 26:87-89 Our Lord! Grant us good in this world and good in the life to come and keep us safe from the torment of the Fire (2:201).

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• Kuwait 1 (The New str) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalidn str) • Shuwaik (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str) • Farwanya (Behind police Station) • Fataheei (Opp. General Parking) • Jatra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

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Focus

QATAR-GULF CRISIS TURNS HOSTILE ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA

By David Harding

The diplomatic crisis surrounding Qatar and other Gulf countries has remained a peaceful one for now, but open warfare has been declared in the media—both traditional and social. Since Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and allies abruptly severed all ties with Qatar on June 5, the anger felt by ordinary citizens in all countries has played out online.

Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat erupted in the hours after the “blockade” was imposed on Qatar, and #cuttingtieswithQatar was briefly the number one trend worldwide in the immediate aftermath of the announcement. The diplomatic crisis has also had the likely unintended consequence of reflecting both the level of connectivity among countries online and the massive popularity of social media in the region. Internet penetration in Qatar is a whopping 93 percent, according to a 2016 study by Northwestern University in Qatar.

The study reported internet penetration also at 93 percent in Saudi Arabia and at 100 percent in the UAE. The role of social media has continued to rise even as the dust of the crisis begins to settle. A UAE hashtag claiming the Emirates would snatch the 2022 football World Cup from Qatar — #UAEwillhosttheWorldCup—has reached a level of popularity, notoriety and amusement far beyond the region. The response from Qataris on Twitter? #youaredreaming. Another hashtag trending in the UAE, #Qatarfundterrorism, mirrors accusations by the Emirates and its allies that Doha funds extremist groups in the region.

‘Clearly orchestrated’

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and others have said Qatar’s alleged role in extremism was behind the boycott. Doha denies the accusations. One angry Twitter user in the UAE wrote in Arabic: “A mini-state with a history of coups and treachery, what would you expect from Qatar?” In Saudi, another user tweeted cuttingly: “You have disturbed us Qatar, with your three streets, two restaurants. Even the Al-Suweidi neighbourhood is bigger than Qatar. It’s just a matter of weeks and it will become a Saudi city.” Meanwhile in Qatar, “Oh God, keep Qatar safe” was trending in Arabic, as well as #iloveqatar among the country’s sizeable English-speaking expat community.

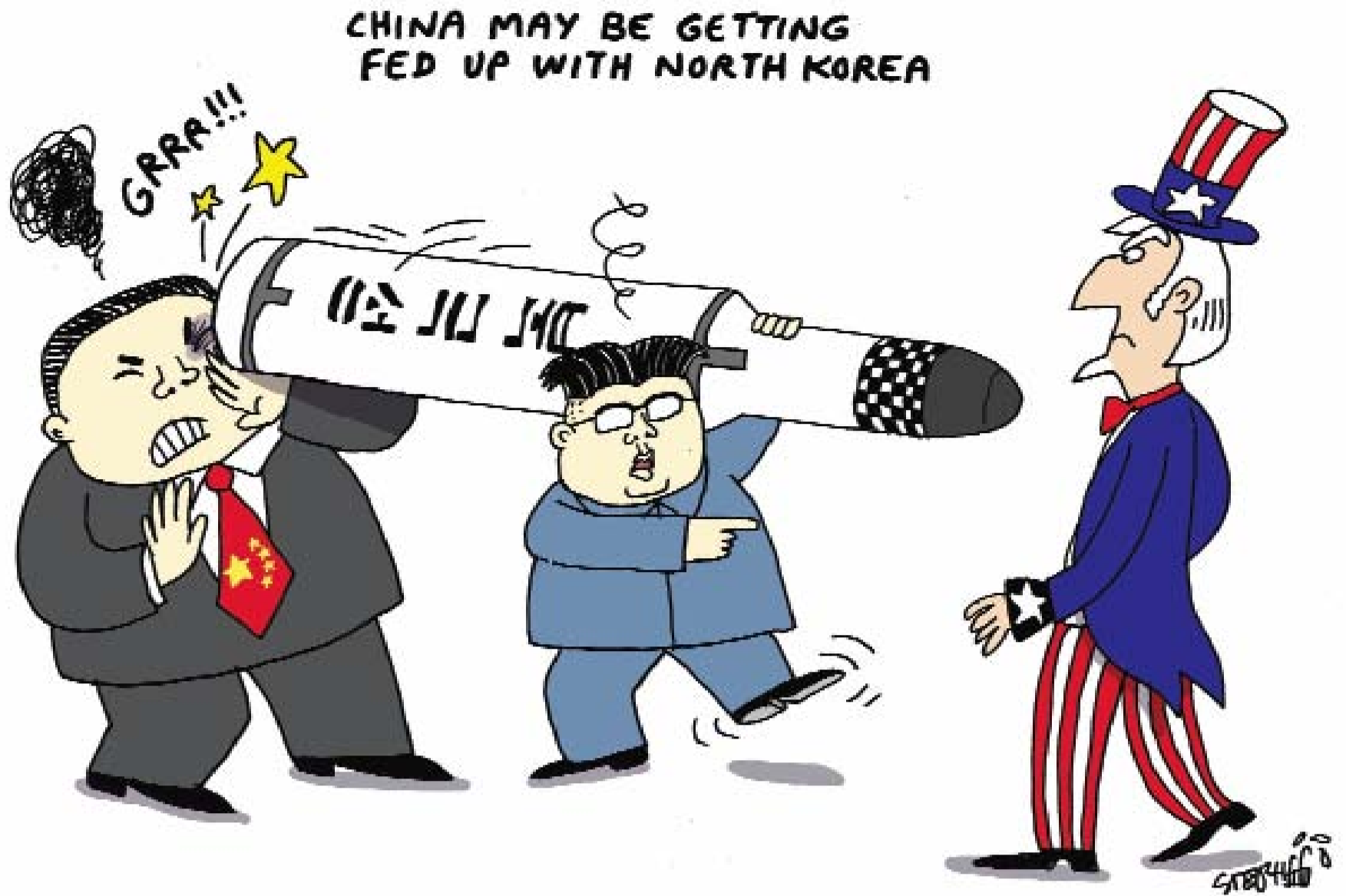
The media are now “an integral part of the ‘war arsenal’ of many states” in the region, said Khaled Hroub, professor of Middle East politics and Arab media at Northwestern University in Qatar. “Official and semi-official media, mostly TV broadcasting and social media, along with encouraged ‘national media volunteers’ have been deployed in phases like battalions, clearly orchestrated and seemingly under a control-and-command structure at the highest level.” The UAE and Bahrain warned last week that anyone expressing sympathy with Qatar on social media could face lengthy jail terms.

#Qataristomach

Beyond the vitriol, the online conflict has had its lighter moments. An online survey by a former political advisor to the Abu Dhabi government asked if it was right to cut ties with Qatar, but was deleted after 65 percent of respondents decided it was not. And Twitter users had great fun at the expense of Jamil Al-Ziabi, the editor of a Saudi newspaper, who said he was concerned about Qataris having to get used to food shipped from Iran and Turkey, after Saudi Arabia cut exports. “I am really worried because I don’t believe Qatari stomachs can get used to such products so quickly,” Ziabi said. This sparked another trending hashtag in Arabic — #Qataristomach. The hostilities have spilled beyond social media battles into more traditional forms of media—all the way back to billboards.

Doha-based broadcast giants Al-Jazeera and beIN Sports are now blocked in various countries across the region, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE. And in Doha, perhaps the most powerful slogan has been the ubiquitous “We are all Tamim”, complete with a profile drawing of Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The message has been spotted everywhere in the past week — on huge billboards in Doha, on cars and even on T-shirts. The slogan and drawing even appears to have made its way to Kerala, India, from where large numbers of the huge two-million strong migrant workforce in Qatar hail, and taken on a life of its own in the Malayalam dialect. — AFP

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ENERGY MARKET SEEN AS VULNERABLE TO PROLONGED GULF CRISIS

By Omar Hasan

While the Gulf’s bitter diplomatic crisis is unlikely to affect energy prices in the short term, a prolonged rift that disrupts Qatar’s gas supplies could send prices soaring, analysts say. With rising US shale oil output driving a global supply glut, the decision by Saudi Arabia and its allies earlier this month to sever diplomatic ties with Qatar provided only a fleeting boost to prices.

“Given the severe supply glut in the oil markets globally, it is quite unlikely that the Gulf spat would lead to a spike in oil prices in the short or medium term,” M R Raghu, executive vice president of Kuwait Financial Center (Markaz) said. Qatar said on Monday that it would comply with an agreement by the OPEC oil cartel and other producers to extend production cuts for nine months until the end of March to rebalance the market.

Qatar’s share in the output cuts of 1.8 million barrels per day is just 30,000. While its daily oil output of around 600,000 barrels represents less than one percent of world crude production, Qatar is a major player in liquefied natural gas (LNG). The tiny emirate is the world’s leading LNG exporter, accounting for a third of international supplies, mainly to Asia and Europe. Advisory firm Oxford Economics said Qatar’s exports of oil and gas are unlikely to be significantly affected, with its main sea routes—including through Omani and Iranian waters—still accessible.

But using Iranian waters could involve higher costs, said Jean-Francois Seznec of the US-based Atlantic Council’s Global Energy Center. “It may have a small indirect impact in the case of continued tension. Insurance rates will start increasing rapidly and those rates would have to be paid by Qatar,” Seznec said. Most of Qatar’s almost 80 million tons of LNG supplies are shipped in tankers, mainly to Japan, South Korea and India, as well as to several European countries. One-third of Britain’s gas imports, for example, come from Qatar. Other European customers include Spain and Poland.

Politically fraught

The air, sea and land restrictions imposed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt have not so far affected maritime routes for Qatari LNG vessels which can pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption to Qatar’s LNG exports could anger the European Union. “If Qatar gas finds it increasingly difficult to reach world markets, especially Europe, then the European Union may feel threatened by the prospect of having to depend on more Russian gas imports, a decision that is highly fraught politically in many EU capitals,” Kuwait Financial Center said in a report Monday. Qatar also pumps more than two billion cubic feet of gas daily through a pipeline to the UAE mainly for power generation. A small part of the pipeline exports goes to Oman.

So any disruption to Qatar’s gas supplies would be painful for several countries. And a serious escalation of Gulf tensions or a military confrontation—while seen as highly unlikely—could cause energy

prices to soar. “If the conflict develops into a military confrontation ... I would expect a very large spike in prices to around \$150 a barrel of oil,” from below \$50 per barrel now, Seznec said. Gas prices would also increase several-fold, he added. This would be accompanied by a major leap in insurance premiums. For oil prices to triple as predicted by Seznec, the conflict must disrupt oil and gas supply lines from most of the Gulf nations, including Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest crude exporter.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—account for a fifth of global crude exports or about 13 million bpd. Income from energy exports makes up over 80 percent of public revenues for the six members. Raghu said an escalation of the crisis could mean “sea routes getting blocked and cost of transshipment of global gas rising.” Major importers of Qatari LNG like Japan, South Korea and India may face shortages of supplies leading to a scramble for alternative suppliers in the long term, he said. — AFP

MOONLIGHTING POLICE LEAVE BODY CAMERAS BEHIND

LOUISIANA: When police officers in America’s cities put on their uniforms and grab their weapons before moonlighting in security jobs at nightclubs, hospitals, and ballparks, there’s one piece of equipment they often leave behind — their body camera. That’s because most police agencies that make the cameras mandatory for patrol shifts don’t require or won’t allow body cameras for off-duty officers even if they’re working in uniform, leaving a hole in policies designed to increase oversight and restore confidence in law enforcement.

Police departments contend that they have only a limited number of body cameras or that there are too many logistical hurdles and costs involved. But that argument doesn’t sit well with those who say it shouldn’t matter whether an officer is on patrol or moonlighting at a shopping mall. “As long as they have real bullets, they need to have the body cameras,” said John Barnett, a civil rights leader in Charlotte, North Carolina, where shootings involving police have put use of the cameras under scrutiny.

An Associated Press survey of the 20 biggest US cities found that nearly all have officers wearing or testing body cameras, but that only five — Houston; San Antonio; San Francisco; Fort Worth, Texas; and San Jose, California — have rules requiring them for uniformed officers working outside their regular hours. The departments that have body cameras or are testing them, but do not require moonlighting officers to wear them, are New York City; Los Angeles, Chicago; Philadelphia; Phoenix; San Diego; Dallas; Columbus, Ohio; and Charlotte. Denver also has them and is planning to add cameras for off-duty work.

“There shouldn’t be a distinction,” said Lt Elle Washburn, who oversees San Jose’s body camera program. “You’re still in uniform, still have powers of arrest.” Just about every police agency makes it clear that officers working in uniform still represent the department and are subject to police rules even when they’re off duty and paid by someone else. Trouble can happen anywhere and anytime, and when it does, there’s little difference between an on-duty and off-duty officer. Within the past three years, there have been shootings — some fatal — involving moonlighting officers in Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, Ohio and Indiana, but the overall number isn’t known because departments don’t keep those statistics. In Louisiana, a moonlighting officer who wasn’t wearing a body camera was sentenced in March to 40 years in prison for manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a 6-year-old boy following a car chase.

A key piece of evidence came from an on-duty officer’s body camera showing the boy’s father had his hands raised and sticking out his window as the moonlighting officer and a former officer both working as deputy city marshals collectively fired 18 shots. Once the shooting stopped, the footage showed blood on the door and an officer’s realization the boy was in the passenger’s seat. Minneapolis and Atlanta are among the cities requiring the cameras for off-duty work, and some others are moving that way, including Cincinnati, which is spending about \$1.2 million on 350 cameras and equipment so all officers will have one and be able to use them on secondary jobs — it’s now optional. Moonlighting officers without the cameras to back them up can be more vulnerable to false allegations, said Cincinnati police Capt.

Doug Wiesman. And it might be tough to explain why an off-duty officer who used deadly force didn’t have a camera, he said. “It’s a mistake not to have them,” Wiesman said. “Your officers are wearing that uniform. Who cares who’s paying them?” But most places turn off the cameras when it comes to the millions of hours officers put in work for private employers — a widespread practice but not one tracked in detail. New York City’s new guidelines covering body cameras specifically say they can’t be used in any off-duty activities, including paid details run by the department.

Among the 170 departments that have received US Justice Department grants for body cameras, it’s rare to find in their policies any mention of equipping moonlighting officers, said Michael White, who works with those cities on training and technical assistance.

“It’s an evolving issue, but I think it’s something departments will need to start addressing,” said White, also a criminology professor at Arizona State University. “It should be a part of the uniform just like anything else.” White, who developed a checklist to evaluate body camera policies, said requiring them for off-duty details wasn’t really on his radar until an independent monitor overseeing changes in Cleveland’s department proposed the idea in March. But so far Cleveland’s plan has been met with resistance from the city administration and police union, which say using the cameras for secondary jobs could lead to added overtime

costs for officers returning the cameras to the station for charging and for uploading of videos. Some departments say that they have only enough cameras to cover regular shifts and that they’re still wrestling with more pressing worries about guidelines on when officers must activate the cameras and the increased costs to store the additional footage, which is more than the cameras themselves and can run into the millions. “Great questions that I wish I had answers for,” said Ken Allen, a retired officer who now assists with coordinating off-duty jobs in Atlanta, where cameras are required for secondary jobs if the officer has already been assigned one. Eighty percent of the department’s officers work off-duty jobs either on days off or after their workday, he estimates.

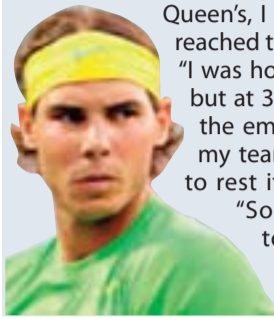
Police administrators in Charlotte want to reach a point where uniformed officers working second jobs have the cameras, but a main concern is whether the batteries will last beyond their normal shift, said Lt David Moorefield. Just over two years ago, moonlighting Charlotte officers in separate shootings killed a teen with a gun at a mall and seriously wounded a suspect in a restaurant brawl who attacked the officer. Both shootings were ruled to be justified. Susanna Birdsong, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union in North Carolina, said that uneven use of the cameras is setting up police agencies for controversy and that they’re “only effective if a department’s policy is a strong one.” — AP



ATLANTA: Cobb County police officer wears a body camera as he works an off-duty security detail at an Atlanta Braves baseball game in Atlanta. — AP

NADAL OUT OF QUEEN'S TO REST FOR WIMBLEDON

LONDON: Rafael Nadal confirmed Tuesday he has pulled out of next week's Aegon Championships at Queen's in order to rest and prepare for Wimbledon. The 31-year-old Spaniard has had a hugely successful clay season, claiming a record 10th French Open crown on Sunday to earn a 15th Grand Slam title. "I am very sorry to say that I am not going to be able to play Queen's next week," the world number two said on his Facebook page. "I am sad to make this decision because I love Queen's, I won the tournament in 2008 and every time I reached the Wimbledon final it was after playing Queen's. "I was hoping to take some days off and then be ready, but at 31, and after a long clay court season with all of the emotions of Roland Garros, and after speaking to my team and doctors, I have decided my body needs to rest if I am going to be ready to play Wimbledon. "Sorry to all the great fans in Britain and to the tournament organisers. "I hope to see you at Queen's next year."—AFP



MCILROY RETURNS FROM ANOTHER INJURY AT WISCONSIN MAJOR

ERIN: The storms moved in overnight and kept pounding Erin Hills through the morning, closing the course for some three hours with just two practice days remaining before the US Open. No one was happier than Rory McIlroy.

"I wasn't crying when I saw that rain last night and this morning," he said Tuesday. "It's a long golf course, and it's only going to play longer. That benefits a few guys, and luckily, I'm one of them." There's more to it than just length.

McIlroy won the first of his four majors in the US Open six years ago at Congressional, a course so softened by rain that he shattered the scoring record (268) and won by eight shots. For someone who grew up in Northern Ireland, he has the reputation of favoring benign conditions instead of firm, wind-whipped conditions.

The course also was soft at the last two majors he won, the British Open at Hoylake and PGA Championship at Valhalla. The bigger concern for McIlroy is his competitive form. This is the second straight time that a major championship has come to Wisconsin and McIlroy, the No. 2 player in the world, is coming off an injury.

Two years ago was far worse. He ruptured a tendon in his ankle playing soccer and missed two months, including his British Open title defense at St. Andrews. He didn't return until the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, and while he broke par all four days, he finished 11 shots behind Jason Day.

This time, McIlroy has been out for six weeks because of a recurring injury in his rib that caused him to miss nearly two months at the start of the year. McIlroy skipped the BMW PGA Championship and the Memorial as a precaution and to let the rib properly heal.

McIlroy arrived at Erin Hills last Friday. He says he can swing and has full power. The only limitation is how much he can hit balls. The unknown is how sharp he will be this week. "My expectations going into Whistling, I was playing well. I didn't feel like my body was restricting me in any way from doing what I wanted to do," he said. "I felt like coming back into it I was playing well enough to win. And I feel like it's the same thing here. I don't feel like my body is limiting me from doing what I want to do out there. It's just a matter of being able to

do it. And if I play the way that I know I can, I fully expect to have a chance on Sunday."

The sky brightened by the afternoon as Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 player, arrived at Erin Hills. Johnson played two practice rounds last week after missing the cut at the Memorial. And while Erin Hills is new to all but a dozen or so players who were at the 2011 U.S. Amateur, there are not many secrets. Keep it in the fairway. Avoid the thick, knee-high fescue at all costs. Don't miss the green in the wrong spots. And keep a good attitude.

Patience is as valuable as pars, and that holds true at any US Open. "I've heard nothing but great stuff about this golf course and how much everyone's attitude is great at the start of the week," Day said. "Everyone is going to run into some sort of trouble out there - everyone is. It's a matter of how you handle yourself in that moment to prepare yourself to greatness."

McIlroy and Day are the only ones of the top five in the world who have not won this year. McIlroy lost in a playoff in South Africa in January - his last tournament before the rib injury - while Day was coping earlier this year with his mother's treatment for lung cancer.

Jordan Spieth won two years ago at Chambers Bay, relevant only because that was another new US Open course that had opened only a decade earlier. The grass is similar - green at Erin Hills, brown and dying at Chambers Bay - but both are relatively wide by US Open standards.

Spieth didn't see too many similarities except that both are a US Open, and it still feels like one. Adam Scott concurs, though as much focus as there has been on length and driving, he still sees an impeccable short game as going a long way.

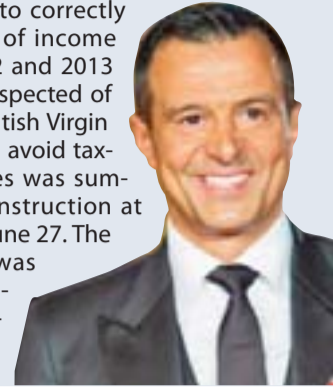
Phil Mickelson, a runner-up six times, is not the model of accuracy off the tee. Neither is three-time champion Tiger Woods. Both are renowned for their short games, as is Spieth. "Even the best drivers of the ball can't hit it in the fairway all the time at most US Opens," Scott said. "And you're going to have to scramble. And great wedge players will do well, and that's also what I've focused on a little bit this year, to lift the standard of that so I'm able to contend. ... It took me a long time to get a good result. I haven't cracked the code, but hopefully I'm on my way." — AP

XI MEETS FIFA BOSS AS CHINA EYES WORLD CUP

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with FIFA chief Gianni Infantino on Wednesday as the football world watches for signs that the Asian giant will make a bid to host a World Cup. Xi greeted Infantino in the capital's palatial Great Hall of the People but the two men did not mention China's World Cup ambitions as they exchanged pleasantries before their closed-door meeting. The talks follow widespread speculation that China will bid to host the event either in 2030 or 2034. "President Infantino, since becoming president of FIFA you have provided great support to the development and reform of football as a sport in China," said China's football-mad president. "I wish to express my appreciation for what you have done." "We are aware of the fact that FIFA is paying more attention to the development of football in China these days, and I do believe China-FIFA cooperation has a good future," he said. Infantino thanked Xi, adding: "We can really start a new era of football, not only in China, President Xi, but in the whole world because we are really passionate about football." —AFP

MENDES SUMMONED OVER FALCAO TAX EVASION

MADRID: Footballing super-agent Jorge Mendes, who manages Cristiano Ronaldo among others, has been summoned before a Spanish court as part of the probe into Colombian striker Radamel Falcao's alleged tax evasion, legal sources said yesterday. Monaco's Falcao is suspected of failing to correctly declare 5.6 million euros (\$6.1 million) of income earned from image rights between 2012 and 2013 while he was at Atletico Madrid. He is suspected of using a web of shell companies in the British Virgin Islands, Ireland, Colombia and Panama to avoid taxes on the image rights income. Mendes was summoned to appear before the court of instruction at Pozuelo de Alarcon, close to Madrid, on June 27. The summons comes a day after Ronaldo was accused by Spanish prosecutors of evading 14.7 million euros in tax through offshore companies. —AFP



HARTFORD: Dustin Johnson of the United States walks along the course during a practice round prior to the 2017 US Open at Erin Hills on Tuesday in Hartford, Wisconsin. — AFP

GOLF

JOHNSON READY FOR LONG GAME IN US OPEN DOUBLE BID

ERIN: Dustin Johnson will aim to exploit his big-hitting prowess on the longest course in major championship history when he tees off at the US Open today, bidding to become the first back-to-back champion in 28 years.

The world number one won his first major in last year's US Open at Oakmont, after several near-misses, and is the bookmakers' favourite at the picturesque Erin Hills course in rural Wisconsin. Hosting a major for the first time, the intimidating 7,741 yard, par-72 layout is not for the faint-hearted, promising a physical and mental challenge for the very best.

Many holes feature blind or semi-blind tee shots, while the course's mid-section runs on an outward-inward path that will ensure players face variable winds. Factor in fairways bordered by deep fescue grass that some have already described as unplayable, and it appears likely that the tournament will live up to its billing as the toughest test in golf. Johnson, however, who missed the Masters in April after a freak accident where he slipped on steps and hurt his back on the eve of the tournament, was adamant the length of Erin Hills would suit his game. "It's just a very, very difficult tournament to win," the 32-year-old said, noting the US Open challenge and the reputation of this year's venue. "I like really tough golf courses. I tend to focus more and play better. I like knowing par is a good score for some reason. I don't know why. I play better when I'm playing for pars."

If he defends his title, Johnson will be the first man to win back-to-back US Opens since Curtis Strange in 1988 and 1989. Strange, now working as a television analyst, backed Johnson to complete the double. "We're at a bomber's paradise, and the best player in the world is the bomber," Strange said. "Wherever DJ plays, he's the longest out there. I have a feeling he'll be amped this week." With Tiger Woods absent, still struggling to resurrect his career after back surgery, and Phil Mickelson likely to skip the tournament to attend his daughter's high school graduation, this year's US Open could mark the end of an era. If Mickelson

fails to show as expected - he retains a tee-time despite vowing not to attend - it will be the first time since 1994 that neither player has featured in the first round of the US Open. World number two Rory McIlroy, who won the event in 2011, has declared himself ready despite a frustrating season dogged by nagging injuries.

DRIVING FORCE

The Northern Irish star has played only one event since the Masters after rib and back problems forced him to withdraw from the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.

McIlroy arrived in Wisconsin last week to begin surveying a course he believes he can thrive on.

"I don't think it's a secret that I feel like my driver is one of the biggest weapons in my bag," McIlroy said on Tuesday. "If I can get that in my hands more regularly, and I think if the field has to hit driver more, as well, that plays into my hands, too."

While other players have complained at the tangled acres of fescue grass, McIlroy was dismayed to learn some of the rough had been cut back following the complaints. "These are the widest fairways we've ever played in a US Open," McIlroy said. "You've got 156 of the best players in the world here. If we can't hit it within that avenue, you might as well pack your bags and go home." The last six majors - including Johnson's maiden US Open victory - have been won by players who had never won a major before. One of the likeliest candidates to continue that streak at Erin Hills is 22-year-old Spaniard Jon Rahm, the former amateur world number one. Rahm, who turned pro in mid-2016 and claimed his maiden PGA Tour win at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines in January, said he is ready for the challenge of Erin Hills. "It's like a links golf course on steroids, everything is a little bigger," Rahm said. "But I think it's US Open, they expect our best!" — AFP

JUSTIN ROSE EYES MORE FATHER'S DAY SUCCESS

ERIN: Justin Rose believes he is ready for more Father's Day glory at the US Open after slowly recovering his form after his nail-biting Masters defeat to Sergio Garcia.

The 36-year-old Englishman's results have taken a dip since his playoff defeat to Garcia in April, with a missed cut and a share of 65th place at The Players Championship followed by a tie for 12th at the BMW PGA Championship. But the 2016 Olympic champion is adamant that his game is starting to click once more as he looks ahead to this week's US Open at Erin Hills - four years after his victory in the tournament at Merion.

"Since (Augusta) it's obviously been nothing

to really write home about," Rose said Tuesday. "But I do feel like I'm beginning to trend into this tournament. So although the results might not be there to kind of back that up, I feel good about where the week can go for me from here." The US Open usually falls at an emotional time for Rose on Father's Day weekend, bringing back memories of his dad Ken, who died from cancer when the golfer was 21. He dedicated his 2013 victory to his late father and in 2015 played the final round with Ken's name stitched onto his golf bag.

Reflecting on his win four years ago, Rose said he regards the fact that it fell on Father's Day as a "huge gift." — AFP



HARTFORD: Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland looks on during a practice round prior to the 2017 US Open at Erin Hills on Tuesday in Hartford, Wisconsin. — AFP

SECURITY SHIELDS, SECURITY AND CONTROL TO MEET IN FINALS OF LATE SHEIKHA SALWA SOCCER TOURNAMENT

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The "Security Shields" team will face the "Security and Control" team in the finals of the 12th late Sheikha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad indoor soccer tournament, as the first team defeated the special units in the semi final after resorting to penalty kicks 4/3, while the later defeated special operations 4-1.

The tournament is under the patronage of HH the Amir, and backed by Interior Ministry and Undersecretary Lt General Mahmoud Al-Dousary who will attend the final match tonight.

The four teams reached the semi finals after tough competitions in earlier rounds and qualification was not decided until all matches were played.

Former International Referee Saad Kameel, who heads the referees committee lauded the high technical lev-



Referee Saad Kameel

el of competitions and it is getting better year after year with the increase in the participating teams.

He also lauded the efforts of the organizing committee headed by Lt. Colonel Abdallah Al-Bahar through providing all administrative and technical needs for the players during the competition.



CHARGERS SAY BITTERSWEET FAREWELLS IN LAST WEEK IN SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO: Antonio Gates first arrived at Chargers Park in 2003, and Philip Rivers joined him one year later on the peaceful practice fields and low-slung buildings tucked below a golden hillside in northern San Diego.

The tight end and his quarterback have spent their entire NFL lives inhabiting this training complex. They've honed their skills with uncountable thousands of throws and catches on these fields, and they've built warm friendships with hundreds of their fellow Chargers in its locker room.

But Chargers Park and San Diego are down to their final week as this team's home. After a three-day mandatory minicamp concludes Thursday, the play-

ers will disperse for summer vacation before the moving vans portentously parked outside the complex are filled for the 85-mile drive north to Costa Mesa, the Orange County city where the Los Angeles Chargers will hold training camp in July.

"It's a bittersweet moment, because obviously the memories are still here," Gates said Tuesday. "They will forever be here for myself, for the guys that have been around." Chargers Park will be empty this summer for the first time in two decades, and San Diego will spend its autumn Sundays without the team that arrived from Los Angeles in 1961. The move has loomed for five months, but its imminent finality has some veter-

ans feeling nostalgia during their last few workouts in San Diego's postcard-perfect sunny weather.

"There's a lot of time spent out there, a lot of balls thrown," Rivers said while standing in the cool shade just off the practice fields. "A lot of time spent in this locker room, weight room, meeting room. Qualcomm (Stadium) and the memories there from game days are public memories that a lot of people shared in."

While coach Anthony Lynn and many current Chargers haven't been around long enough to truly feel their fans' pain, the senior players and team employees are still processing the end of this era.

"You've got to look at it as a positive,

as we're going somewhere to a new beginning," said pass rusher Melvin Ingram, who has spent his entire five-year career with the Chargers. "But you've also got to have a bitter feeling, (because) this is where it all started, and you're leaving the place where it all started." While the Rams packed up swiftly in St. Louis after securing relocation last year, the Chargers elected to make a slower transition north, holding their offseason workouts and running out their lease at the training complex still owned and maintained by the city of San Diego.

Rivers was grateful for the gradual breakup, which allowed him extra time to decide whether to commute to LA or

to move his wife and eight children out of their longtime family home.

Rivers still hasn't decided, by the way. "I will figure it out at some point," he said with a laugh. Gates has long spent parts of his offseason in Los Angeles, so he has given his teammates plenty of tips on the sprawling metropolis. He also needs just one touchdown catch to become the NFL's career leader in TDs by a tight end, and Gates is at peace with the fact that he'll set the record and finish his career away from San Diego.

"I'm excited to move to LA. I'm excited about the new change, and hopefully they'll welcome us with open arms, embrace us, and we can win some games and win a championship." — AP

'CULTURE OF FEAR' EXISTED IN BRITISH TEAM: REPORT

LONDON: A long-awaited independent report published yesterday into British Cycling says the sport's domestic governing body lacked "good governance" and there was a "culture of fear" within the track cycling team.

However, the report—compiled by a five-member panel headed by British Rowing chair Annamarie Phelps—is not as damning about British Cycling as the draft that was leaked to the Daily Mail in March, although the "culture of fear" conclusion remains.

The panel—who began work in April 2016 after allegations of sexism and bullying were made about the then British Cycling technical director Shane Sutton by female track rider Jess Varnish and then by several other cyclists—took evidence from more than 100 former riders and staff.

The report—seven pages shorter than the leaked version—said Sutton, who subsequently resigned prior to the 2016 Olympics in Rio, was allowed to operate within a "power pocket" without having to really answer to anybody.

Phelps explained at a press conference after the publication of the report why it varied somewhat from the draft version. "The panel carefully reviewed the draft in the light of new information provided to it," said Phelps.

"It's important to reiterate that the panel's findings and recommendations were unanimous and wholly independent.

"At times the culture and climate came secondary to this. The situation is not simple," added the 51-year-old, who is a former rowing world champion in the women's lightweight coxless four.

'NOT ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH'

Phelps said the situation could have been contained if British Cycling had reacted to a report in 2012 pinpointing worries over the culture within its elite programmes.

"Many of the early warning signs highlighted by that report were not adequately

dealt with by the board at that time," said Phelps. UK Sport, who operate a tough funding to medals potential policy, are taken to task over their failure to monitor properly the poisonous atmosphere at British Cycling's headquarters in Manchester.

Sutton resigned after the allegations by Varnish, who said he told her to "get on with having a baby" after she was cut from the team last year. However, Phelps and her fellow panel members, while decrying the strong language used by coaching staff, did not think it was based on gender.

"The language used could at times be perceived as discriminatory, certainly derogatory and have no place in modern work place or high level sport," she said, though they did find Varnish's case had not been "handled well".

Varnish and her team-mate Katy Marchant had both lashed out at the British set-up after they failed to qualify for last year's Olympics, where the British team went on to enjoy huge success on the track. British Cycling has already begun to implement reforms and made changes to board personnel which left Phelps optimistic that the atmosphere would be altered for the good.

"There is much talent that could be better harnessed to make British Cycling even more successful," said Phelps. "I'm confident the new leadership will grasp the issues head on." British Cycling chair Jonathan Browning said all the recommendations had been accepted unconditionally by him and the board. "We accept in full the recommendations and apologise for where we've fallen short for the standards we should have achieved," he said.

"Since the findings were shared with us we've rapidly made major changes to the World Class Programme and to our leadership operations and governance, so we can ensure British Cycling learns the lessons and becomes a world class governing body." — AFP

CYCLING

FORMER UCI PRESIDENT HEIN VERBRUGGEN DEAD

LAUSANNE: Hein Verbruggen, former president of the International Cycling Union (UCI) and one of the most prominent sports administrators of his time, has died. He was 75. The Dutchman, head of the UCI between 1991 and 2005, was heavily implicated in the doping scandals that rocked elite cycling when he ran the sport.

Most notable in that era was the case of American Lance Armstrong, who defeated cancer to go on and win seven straight Tour de France races from 1999 to 2005. He was stripped of his titles in 2012 and banned from the sport for life.

The fallen US cycling hero later admitted taking banned substances. Verbruggen, also a member of the International Olympic Committee between 1996-2005 and again from 2006-8, was accused by an independent commission in 2015 of attempting to shield Armstrong from investigation.

The Cycling Independent Reform Commission (CIRC), set up following allegations of corruption at the heart of the UCI, said the body "exempted Armstrong from rules, failed to target test him despite the suspicions, and publicly supported him against allegations of doping, even as late as 2012".

The commission said "requesting and accepting donations from Lance Armstrong, given the suspicions, left UCI open to criticism". Travis Tygart, the head of the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), even called for the prosecution of Verbruggen and Pat McQuaid, UCI president from 2005-13, over the alleged cover-up.

The independent commission later cleared Verbruggen of corruption, the Dutchman insisting that claims that he failed to do enough to combat doping were unfair.

The IOC, in a statement Wednesday, dubbed Verbruggen, who also headed the SportAccord Convention of international sports federations from 2003 to 2013, "a cycling fanatic and a true sports fan".

"Hein Verbruggen was a fearless fighter for his sport. "Thanks to his great engagement and his management skills, he greatly contributed to the success of the Olympic Games Beijing 2008 as chair of the coordination commission. For this he will be always remembered," said IOC president Thomas Bach.

The IOC said that as a mark of respect the Olympic flag will be flown at half-mast at its headquarters in Lausanne. — AFP



BEIJING: In this April 3, 2008 file photo, Hein Verbruggen, the then coordination commission chairman of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee, listens during a news conference in Beijing. Former International Cycling Union president Hein Verbruggen has died. The Dutchman oversaw the worldwide spread of a sport often tainted by doping. He was 75. — AP



OAKLAND: Kevin Durant #35 of the Golden State Warriors speaks at the press conference after his team's 129-120 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 5 to win the 2017 NBA Finals at ORACLE Arena. — AFP

WARRIORS, CAVALIERS WORKING ON FOURTH FINALS IN A ROW

BASKETBALL

OAKLAND: Stephen Curry was still smiling and laughing about Golden State's second NBA title in three seasons when he made it clear the Warriors think they are just getting started hoisting trophies.

"We're obviously just getting started," the two-time NBA Most Valuable Player said. "This is something that we want to continue to do." The Golden State juggernaut rolled over Cleveland four games to one in the best-of-seven championship series, which ended with a 129-120 Warriors home triumph Monday that brought NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant his first championship. "They have an incredible team. They beat us, but I'm pretty sure we'll be back and we'll be ready to battle again," Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving said. "You just pick yourself back up and you keep pushing and you keep going."

It was an unprecedented third consecutive meeting between the clubs in the finals and both appear ready to continue their domination of conference rivals on the way to an annual showdown for the crown.

"As far as that team, they're going to be here for a while," Cleveland superstar LeBron James said of the Warriors. "Pretty much all their big-name guys are in their 20s and they don't show any signs of slowing down. From my eyes, they're built to last a few years."

Curry, Durant, 3-point sharpshooter Klay Thompson and forward Draymond Green are all under 30 and formidable starters.

"It's encouraging. Quite encouraging," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's fun to be part of this. It has been great three-year run, but we feel like we can carry this forward. We'll see how long."

The Cavaliers will be searching for answers in the off-season after being dethroned, the Warriors avenging last year's loss when they squandered a 3-1 finals lead.

Does Cavaliers general manager David Griffin look to star free agents or trade deals? Will he bring in more role players as he did with 3-point ace Kyle Korver in order to build a better challenge for the Warriors in the finals? How does he not compromise the squad needed to fight past rivals to reach the finals?

"I know our front office is going to continue to try to put our ball club, put our franchise, in a position where we can compete for a championship year in and year out," James said.

"Teams and franchises are going to be trying to figure out ways that they can put personnel together, the right group of guys together to be able to hopefully compete against this team. So we will see, but I will get away from the game a little bit."

"As far as being back on the basketball court, I'm going to take a while," he added. "I need to get off of my feet and let my joints and let my body kind of recover from being out on the floor for 14 straight years."

'BEAT HIM TO THE GYM'

James could opt out of his contract after next season, so he will want to see some progress. That could involve moving forward Kevin Love, who was only 2-for-8 for six points in the final game. The Warriors figure to sign Curry to a five-year deal for about \$205 million since he has taken less money in recent years to help finance a strong supporting cast.

Durant might be asked to do the same—take less than he might command elsewhere to allow

Golden State to keep Andre Iguodala and Shaun Livingston without salary cap issues. It's such unselfish nature that has helped the Warriors flourish. "We don't even have to speak about it," Iguodala said. "That's the culture that we built and it's an amazing thing to see."

And Durant knows James will soon be work-

ing on new ways to dethrone the Warriors.

"He'll probably be back in the gym the start of July getting ready for next season, so I've probably got to beat him to the gym," Durant said. "I've got nothing but love and respect for him and I can't wait to compete against him again next season." — AFP

YACHTING

COUTTS BRUSHES ASIDE AMERICA'S CUP CRITICS

HAMILTON: New Zealand sailing great Russell Coutts dismissed criticism of this year's America's Cup from his home country, ahead of the final match between Team Oracle USA and the Kiwis which starts on Saturday in Bermuda. It is a chance of revenge for the New Zealanders, after they blew an 8-1 lead to lose 9-8 to Oracle in one of sport's greatest comebacks in 2013.

The 1984 Finn-class Olympic champion and five-time America's Cup winner Coutts is the head organizer of the 35th edition of the world's oldest sailing competition, which has featured a shortened format and ultra-fast boats in an attempt to bring in new fans.

But New Zealand, who set up the rematch with the Americans by beating Sweden's Artemis Racing 5-2 in the challenger final on Monday, have refused to join the other teams to discuss the future of the Cup.

Coutts expressed his delight with the new format, but acknowledged that should New Zealand win the title and hold the next staging of the event, then it could prove to be a one-off. "We just have to wait and see what their plan is, they have not announced their plan," he told AFP.

"I think the strength in the framework agreement with the five teams that have joined is really that they have agreed to pre-agree the rules before any one team wins.

"Typically in the past, the team has won,

and then created the rules with a friendly challenger of record, in isolation to everyone else. "So everyone else has to wait and see what those rules are. And clearly, that's not ideal." "It's much better I think to involve everyone, and the New Zealanders were invited to participate in that process, they declined."

FOILING CRITICISM

The criticism has come despite an exciting America's Cup challenger series, that has seen the hydrofoil boats enable teams to travel up to double the wind speed.

New Zealand have accused that of killing innovation in the event, but Coutts strongly disagrees. "No, I don't think that that's true," he said. "I think clearly you see more innovation in these last two America's Cups than we've perhaps ever seen in these last, you know, 30-50 years, frankly. "You know, no matter what the critics say about foiling, what I can tell you is that it's already having a dramatic impact in our industry."

"Of course it's a more efficient way of sailing, and therefore that's going to translate in a fairly major way than it already is into a pleasure boat, leisure industry."

Other significant changes to this year's competition include the shift from offshore to inshore racing, which opened up the sport to a new fanbase, and the shortening of the races themselves.—AFP



TOKYO: This file photo taken on June 2, 2016 shows Russell Coutts, CEO of the America's Cup Event Authority delivering a speech next to the America's Cup trophy during a press conference in Tokyo. New Zealand sailing great Russell Coutts dismissed criticism of this year's America's Cup from his home country, ahead of the final match between Team Oracle USA and the Kiwis which starts on June 17, 2017 in Bermuda. — AFP



CLEVELAND: Cody Bellinger #35 of the Los Angeles Dodgers hits a three run home run during the ninth inning against the Cleveland Indians at Progressive Field on Tuesday in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

BASEBALL

BELLINGER HITS 2 HOMERS AS DODGERS TOP INDIANS

CLEVELAND: Clayton Kershaw extended his unbeaten string and rookie Cody Bellinger hit two home runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the eighth inning off Andrew Miller that lifted the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-5 victory over the Cleveland Indians in Major League Baseball on Tuesday. Kershaw (9-2) allowed two runs in seven innings and has not lost in his last eight starts. The left-hander gave up a run in the third on Michael Brantley's single and a leadoff homer to Roberto Perez in the fifth that tied the game. The three-time Cy Young Award winner yielded six hits, struck out four and walked two while throwing 101 pitches. He is 5-0 with a 1.94 ERA since his most recent defeat on May 1. Bellinger led off the eighth with a towering drive into the right-field seats off Miller (3-1). The home run was the first Cleveland's dominant left-hander has allowed in 33 innings this season.

three homers in 15 MLB games this season, equaling his total from the previous four years combined.

WHITE SOX 6, ORIOLES 1

Matt Davidson hit his first career grand slam, Derek Holland scattered eight hits over six innings and the White Sox beat the Orioles. Jose Abreu went 3 for 4 and Avisail Garcia had a two-run double as Chicago won its second straight after dropping nine of 11. Davidson leads the White Sox with 12 homers in 163 at-bats. Manny Machado had an RBI-single for the Orioles. Holland (5-6) faced trouble in every inning, but managed to give up just one run. The left-hander had lost his three previous starts, allowing 15 earned runs in 13 innings (10.38 ERA) during that span. Baltimore starter Alec Asher (2-5) allowed six runs and six hits in five-plus innings following a fast start.

RAYS 8, BLUE JAYS 1

Rookie Jacob Faria dazzled again and Logan Morrison hit his 18th home run of the season to help the Rays beat the Blue Jays. Six days after his big-league debut, Faria (2-0) became the third Rays pitcher all-time to win his first two career games, joining Jeremy Hellickson and Joe Kennedy. The victory was Tampa Bay's sixth in its last seven games. The 23-year-old right-hander held the Blue Jays to six hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out eight and giving up one run. He was called up on Monday to replace Matt Andriese, who went on the disabled list with a hip complaint. Corey Dickerson went 4 for 5 with a homer - his 15th of the season. Marco Estrada (4-5) had his shortest outing of the season, lasting just 3 1/3 innings after giving up 12 hits and being charged with six runs in his sixth straight loss to Tampa.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, TIGERS 6

David Peralta homered to left center in the ninth inning off Detroit closer Justin Wilson, lifting the Diamondbacks to a win over the Tigers. Arizona reliever Archie Bradley (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth to pick up the win. Zack Greinke, who was staked to a 6-0 lead in the third, went 5 2/3 innings and allowed five runs, all unearned, and five hits. Fernando Rodney pitched a scoreless ninth for his 17th save. Wilson (2-2) took the loss after allowing the homer to Peralta to the first pitch in the ninth. Starter Buck Farmer went 2 1/3 innings and allowed six runs on nine hits.

He was 2-0 and had gone 13 straight scoreless innings before Tuesday.

NATIONALS 10, BRAVES 5

Ryan Zimmerman hit his 18th and 19th home runs of the season in his return from back soreness, and the Nationals scored five sixth-inning runs against R.A. Dickey to defeat the Braves. Zimmerman went 3 for 4 and drove in three runs to help Washington end a four-game slide after sitting out the last three. Daniel Murphy homered, doubled and had three hits and two RBIs as the NL-East leading Nationals scored eight runs against a second Braves starter in as many nights. Unlike Monday, Washington's bullpen held firm Tuesday with four relievers combining for 3 1/3 scoreless innings. Trevor Gott (1-0) worked out of the sixth for his first victory as a National. Dickey (4-5) went five-plus innings while allowing his most runs since April 24, 2015.

MARLINS 8, ATHLETICS 1

Giancarlo Stanton returned to the Marlins' starting lineup after recovering from a bruised wrist and hit a two-run homer to help beat the Athletics. Stanton missed only one start after being hit on the right wrist by a fastball Saturday. His 17th homer of the year put Miami ahead 4-1 in the fifth inning. Marcell Ozuna hit his 16th homer and had two singles, hiking his average to .332. Tyler Moore added three hits, including a two-run double. The Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki had a pinch-hit single in the eighth for his 364th interleague hit, tying Derek Jeter's MLB record. Jose Urena (5-2) won his fourth consecutive decision by allowing one run in six-plus innings. The right-hander, who leads the Marlins in wins, retired 14 straight batters before tiring in the seventh.

RANGERS 4, ASTROS 2

Rougned Odor hit a solo homer in the seventh inning and his tiebreaking two-run shot in the eighth lifted the Rangers to a victory over the Astros. Odor tied it at 2-2 all when he dropped the first pitch of the seventh inning from Chris Devenski into the front row in right field. He was at it again in the eighth when, after a single by Jonathan Lucroy with two outs, he connected off Luke Gregerson (2-2) into the seats in left field to put Texas up 4-2. Nick Martinez allowed five hits and two runs in six innings. Jose Leclerc

(1-1) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win and Matt Bush allowed one hit in 1 1/3 innings for his eighth save. George Springer and Carlos Correa hit solo homers for the first-place Astros, who lost for the sixth time in eight games.

**CARDINALS 6, BREWERS 0, Game 1
BREWERS 8, CARDINALS 5, Game 2**

Keon Broxton and Travis Shaw each hit solo home runs and combined for five RBI to help the Brewers beat the Cardinals and split their day-night doubleheader. The Cardinals won the opener 6-0 behind Jose Martinez's two home runs. In the nightcap, Shaw's eighth inning single against Trevor Rosenthal (1-3) broke a 5-5 tie. Shaw, who was reinstated from a family medical emergency before the doubleheader, went 2-for-5 in the second game and drove in two runs. Brewers right-hander Jimmy Nelson went 5 2/3 innings, but is still winless in 11 career games (10 starts) against the Cardinals. He gave up nine hits, two walks and struck out four. Jared Hughes (2-1) got the decision after giving up a game-tying homer to Matt Carpenter. Corey Knebel earned his ninth saves in 12 opportunities.

RED SOX 4, PHILLIES 3, 12 Innings

Andrew Benintendi singled to right in the 12th inning driving in Xander Bogaerts for the winning run as the Red Sox outlasted the Phillies. Mitch Moreland hit one homer and a long single that allowed Bogaerts to advance to third and set up Benintendi's first career walk-off hit. The Red Sox beat the Phillies in extra innings for the second straight night, extending Philadelphia's losing streak to seven straight. Fernando Abad (2-0) pitched the 11th and 12th for the Red Sox, who left 12 runners on base and were just 2 for 12 with runners in scoring position.

PIRATES 5, ROCKIES 2

John Jaso hit a pinch-hit two-run homer off Colorado's Adam Ottavino in the seventh inning to break a tie and Andrew McCutchen homered twice as the Pirates pulled away from the Rockies. Jaso sent the second pitch he saw from Ottavino (0-1) just over the fence in center field for his second pinch-hit homer of the season and fifth of his career. Gerrit Cole (4-6) broke out of a funk to allow just one run in seven strong innings. The Pirates have won a season-high four straight following a four-game losing streak that

dropped them to last in the NL Central. Tony Wolters had two hits and an RBI for Colorado. Trevor Story drove in a run and scored for the Rockies. The NL West-leading Rockies have dropped three consecutive games for the first time this season.

CUBS 14, METS 3

Anthony Rizzo began the game with a long home run after a surprising move to the leadoff spot, rookie Ian Happ hit his first career grand slam and the Cubs trounced the Mets. Backed by a season-best seven-run second inning, the World Series champs ended a nine game skid on the road and moved back to .500 through 64 games. The Cubs had lost five of six overall. Jon Lester (4-4) earned his 150th win and matched a season high with 10 strikeouts. He allowed a run and five hits over seven innings. Rizzo, batting leadoff for the first time in his career, had two hits, three RBIs and a bases-loaded walk. He's reached base in 21 of his last 36 plate appearances.

PADRES 6, REDS 2

Clayton Richard carried a shutout into the ninth inning, Franchy Cordero homered twice and the Padres beat the slumping Reds. One out from going the distance, Richard was removed after pinch-hitter Tucker Barnhart's two-run double. The left-hander allowed eight hits while striking out six and walking two. Brandon Maurer got the final out for his 11th save, handing Cincinnati its fifth straight loss. Richard (5-7) tossed San Diego's only complete game this season on May 21.

ROYALS 8, GIANTS 1

Alcides Escobar hit a two-run double as part of a six-run sixth inning and the Royals beat the Giants. Jorge Bonifacio drove in three runs and ended an 0-for-13 drought, Alex Gordon added two hits and two runs, while Whit Merrifield had a bases-loaded triple to help Kansas City to a win in its first appearance at AT&T Park since the 2014 World Series. Jason Vargas (9-3) allowed one run over seven innings to outpitch Ty Blach in a battle of left handers. Vargas gave up five hits with six strikeouts and one walk for his fourth straight win overall and second against the Giants this season. Buster Posey had two hits and scored San Francisco's run. The Giants have lost 10 of 14. —AP

MLB results/standings

Kansas City 8, San Francisco 1; San Diego 6, Cincinnati 2; LA Angels 3, NY Yankees 2 (11 innings); Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 5; Chicago White Sox 6, Baltimore 1; Minnesota 20, Seattle 7; Texas 4, Houston 2; Arizona 7, Detroit 6; Chicago Cubs 14, NY Mets 3; LA Dodgers 7, Cleveland 5; Miami 8, Oakland 1; Boston 4, Philadelphia 3 (12 innings); Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 1; Washington 10, Atlanta 5; Pittsburgh 5, Colorado 2; St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 0.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
NY Yankees	38	24	.613	-	Washington	39	25	.609	-
Boston	36	28	.563	3	NY Mets	29	34	.460	9.5
Tampa Bay	35	32	.522	5.5	Miami	28	35	.444	10.5
Baltimore	31	32	.492	7.5	Atlanta	28	36	.438	11
Toronto	31	33	.484	8	Philadelphia	21	42	.333	17.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Minnesota	33	28	.541	-	Milwaukee	34	32	.515	-
Cleveland	31	30	.508	2	Chicago Cubs	32	32	.500	1
Detroit	30	33	.476	4	St. Louis	30	33	.476	2.5
Kansas City	29	34	.460	5	Pittsburgh	30	35	.462	3.5
Chicago White Sox	28	35	.444	6	Cincinnati	29	35	.453	4
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	44	22	.667	-	LA Dodgers	40	25	.615	-
LA Angels	34	34	.500	11	Colorado	41	26	.612	-
Texas	32	32	.500	11	Arizona	40	26	.606	0.5
Seattle	32	34	.485	12	San Francisco	26	40	.394	14.5
Oakland	27	37	.422	16	San Diego	26	40	.394	14.5



SAN DIEGO: San Diego Padres' Yangervis Solarte, left, slides by the tag attempt by Cincinnati Reds catcher Devin Mesoraco to score on a single to center field by Cory Spangenberg during the fifth inning of a baseball game in San Diego, Tuesday. — AP

JAPAN COACH FACES REVIEW AFTER IRAQ DRAW

TOKYO: Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic was facing a performance review yesterday after a 1-1 draw with Iraq set back his team's World Cup qualifying campaign. Japan's football chief was left fuming by the result in neutral Tehran, saying hot conditions were no excuse for the disappointing result.

"(The heat) is not an excuse. We could have potentially lost the match," Japan FA chief Kozo

Tashima told reporters, according to Kyodo News agency. "We need to feel fortunate that we took a point from here." The Blue Samurai took an early lead but they lacked intensity in the second half, when the Iraqis equalised in the 73rd minute.

Japan missed the chance to take a three-point cushion at the top of Group B, ahead of their final games against Saudi Arabia and Australia who are both just one point back.

Despite the setback, Japan will advance to next year's World Cup in Russia if they beat Australia at home on August 31.

When asked if Bosnia's Halilhodzic would keep his job, JFA technical director Akira Nishino said "of course", according to the Nikkan Sports daily. But he added: "A review is needed. There was enough time. How was our preparation until today? We must have a full grasp on that."

Halilhodzic said he was "disappointed" by his side's showing, adding that injuries hampered the team and that his team were "exhausted".

"I am absolutely not satisfied," he told reporters after the Tuesday match in Tehran.

"I told the team at half-time that we can kill off the game if we score a second but then we let one in. We were exhausted, and could not carry out the plan we had in place." — AFP



BIRMINGHAM: India cricket captain Virat Kohli attends a press conference at Edgbaston cricket ground in Birmingham yesterday, ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy semi-final cricket match between India and Bangladesh. — AFP photos

CRICKET

KOHLI URGES INDIA ON IN BANGLADESH SEMI

BIRMINGHAM: India captain Virat Kohli has promised there will be no let-up from the title-holders when they face Bangladesh in the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy at Edgbaston today.

After a surprise group defeat by Sri Lanka in a tournament featuring the world's top eight one-day international sides, India responded to their 'win or go home' clash against South Africa with a commanding eight-wicket victory over the top-ranked Proteas at the Oval last weekend.

India's bowlers put the brakes on South Africa's innings while a trio of run-outs said much about the Proteas' frailty and the improved fielding standards of Kohli's men.

Needing a mere 192 for victory, Kohli was there at the finish with 76 not out as India won with a whopping 12 overs to spare.

It was an innings that helped take the India skipper back to number one in the ICC ODI batting rankings. Now India return to Edgbaston where they launched their title-defence with a

124-run thrashing of arch-rivals Pakistan.

"We played in Birmingham before. We like that pitch. It suits our game," said Kohli after the win over South Africa. "There's no looking back. There's always room for improvement. We can't rest on our laurels."

With Pakistan facing tournament hosts England in Wednesday's first semi-final in Cardiff, three of the four teams left in the tournament are all from the sub-continent. Kohli acknowledged the amount of one-day cricket played in the region was a factor, but he has also been impressed with the way so many of the Asian nations have adapted to English conditions.

"Maybe because of how much limited-overs cricket we play, I think the players are getting more experienced in difficult situations," he said. "Maybe some of the teams have really surprised the opposition with the way they have batted and bowled in certain situations."

There was certainly plenty of good work with the ball carried out by Bangladesh's bowlers as they held New Zealand to a modest 265 for eight in Cardiff last time out.

The Tigers were, however, still looking at an embarrassing defeat when they slumped to 33 for four in reply. But Shakib Al Hasan (114) and Mahmudullah (102 not out) responded to the pressure of a dire position in a must-win game with a brilliant new Bangladesh record partnership of 224 that turned the match upside down and eventually saw New Zealand eliminated.

Bangladesh's place in the last four was then confirmed when England beat Australia at Edgbaston. India have 26 of their 32 ODIs against Bangladesh, suffering just five defeats with one no result.

But Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza believes wins such as the one over New Zealand will bolster the side's already growing self-belief.

"In the last three years we keep improving a lot," he said. "This sort of performance really helps us to move forward, especially with the 2019 World Cup (in England) coming up." — AFP



BIRMINGHAM: Bangladesh cricketer Mashrafe Mortaza attends a training session at Edgbaston cricket ground in Birmingham yesterday, ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy semi-final cricket match between India and Bangladesh.

MAMIC OUTBURST DELAYS TESTIMONY FROM LOVREN

OSIJEK: Liverpool defender Dejan Lovren's turn in the witness box at a multi-million euro corruption trial was adjourned yesterday after a furious outburst from defendant Zdravko Mamic, the former chairman of Dinamo Zagreb.

Lovren, 27, arrived at the tribunal in Croatia's eastern city of Osijek to be questioned over his 2010 transfer from Dinamo to French side Lyon.

Mamic, considered the most powerful man in Croatian football, is being tried along with three others: his brother and former Dinamo coach Zoran Mamic, former club director Damir Vrbancic, and a tax inspector.

They were charged last year with abuse of power and graft that cost the former Croatian champions more than 15 million euros (\$17.6

million), and the state 1.5 million euros. Most of the money—more than 12 million euros—was illegally acquired by the Mamic brothers notably through fictitious deals related to player transfers, according to the indictment.

Yesterday, during the testimony of Lovren's father, Mamic stood up and complained about the prosecutor's questions to the witness. After a warning from the judge, Mamic's two attorneys tried to calm him down but only made him more angry.

"What are you talking about! I can behave this way because my skin is at stake," the furious 57-year-old shouted at his lawyers.

"Get lost! You will not defend me... I will defend myself!"

Mamic told the judge he was sacking his lawyers, who in turn said they were terminating their services to the defendant. After a pause, the judge set the next hearing for early July. Lovren is to appear as a witness in September.

On Tuesday, Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric, 31, appeared in the witness box to give evidence over financial details of his 2008 transfer from Dinamo to Tottenham Hotspur.

Neither of the two players is a suspect. "I'm a guy with balls. Anyone who wants to can check," Mamic told reporters after the hearing.

Mamic's trial is a major one for Croatian football, which is known for the success of its national team but also hooliganism and poor infrastructure. — AFP

TIOTE'S AGENT CALLS FOR END TO SPECULATION OVER DEATH

LONDON: The agent of the late Ivory Coast midfielder Cheick Tiote yesterday called for the media to cease making unsubstantiated claims about the reasons for his death.

The 52-time capped star—a member of the Ivory Coast squad that ended a 23-year drought in winning the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations—died after fainting during training with second division side Beijing Enterprises on June 5. He was 30 years of age. His death shocked the football world, reverberating in England, where he played for seven years at Newcastle United before joining the Beijing team in February.

However, with his body being flown home to the Ivory Coast after an emotional farewell held at a funeral home in China on Tuesday—Emanuele Palladino issued a statement to Press Association Sport calling on the speculation over why he died to end out of sympathy for his family's feelings.

"There is increasing speculation regarding the circumstances and reasons behind Cheick Tiote's death with many inaccuracies being printed in the press on this subject," Palladino said. "This has been upsetting for Cheick's family and all parties involved at what is already a difficult time."

"We appreciate Cheick was a much-loved personality. His club Beijing Enterprises are being co-operative at this

time and when we have official information surrounding his death we will give a statement on behalf of his family.

"Until then we cannot comment further however we thank you for all your continued support and well wishes." Tiote's body is expected to arrive back in the Ivory Coast today and more tributes are planned for the player.

The national team returned to Abidjan on Monday after an Africa Cup of Nations qualifying defeat by Guinea and presented their condolences to the player's family.

Tiote was one of 10 children, who like many of his Ivory Coast team-mates, grew up in abject poverty and didn't possess a pair of boots until he was 15, but whose lucrative move to China gave him the opportunity to help his family financially.

"It was his dream to play in China and I was so delighted for him when it happened," said former England manager Steve McClaren, who coached him twice, once at Dutch side Twente where they won the 2010 league title and then at Newcastle (2015/16).

"He earned money to look after his family. He loved playing football to look after his family. All the relatives, uncles, aunts, grandparents, they all relied on him to look after them." — AFP

RUGBY

LIONS COACH GATLAND RUES MISTAKES AS LOSSES MOUNT

DUNEDIN: Frustrated British and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland says his players must stop caving under pressure at key moments after 'shooting themselves in the foot' in their latest defeat.

The tourists threw away a nine-point lead to lose 23-22 to the Otago Highlanders on Tuesday, stalling momentum gained from a gutsy win over the Canterbury Crusaders.

Gatland admitted the performance was "a step backwards", blaming poor discipline that cost 12 penalties and a lack of composure in the dying minutes. "To be 22-13 up and feeling reasonably comfortable means it is disappointing to give it away," he said. "We didn't nail a few big moments that were important. We shot ourselves in the foot with some turnovers and penalties in the last 10 minutes. The big learning is that New Zealand sides play for 80 minutes. The penalties really hurt us."

It was the Lions' second loss on tour and their next fixture is the Maori All Blacks on Saturday, with the first Test against New Zealand looming a week on Saturday.

Gatland is expected to name a near-Test strength team as he seeks a morale-boosting win in what is sure to be a physically challenging Maori match.

MISSED CHANCES

While the Lions' attack finally fired against the Highlanders—with tries to Jonathan Joseph, Tommy Seymour and captain Sam Warburton—they panicked in the face of a late comeback.

Their defence disintegrated to give Liam Coltman a pushover try then a needless

scrum infringement gifted Marty Banks a penalty to put the Highlanders ahead.

Owen Farrell and Elliot Daly also missed crucial kicks as the Lions fell short. "We needed some strong game management to close the game down," Gatland said. On his second appearance on tour, Warburton scored a try and looked in decent shape. But after he and impressive scrum-half Rhys Webb left the field, the Lions were a different side.

In the two games in which they have been refereed by Australian official Angus Gardner — against the Provincial Barbarians and in Dunedin — the Lions have conceded 25 penalties.

Gatland also provided more details about the injury that forced Scottish full-back Stuart Hogg out of the tour. The Six Nations player of the tournament in each of the last two seasons suffered a fractured eye socket against the Crusaders after colliding with teammate Conor Murray.

Gatland said Hogg was warned he could lose his sight if he played on with the injury. "It was a freak accident. Stuart is absolutely gutted and we are really feeling for him," he said.

"He saw four specialists and one of them said he could be right in seven to 10 days, but the others said it was a reasonably serious injury with the possibility that he could lose his sight."

"We said it's only a game of rugby and he had to get his health right. He understood that." Hogg's departure means Leigh Halfpenny is now almost certain to start the Test series wearing the number 15 jersey. — AFP



SINGAPORE: In this Saturday, March 4, 2017 file photo South Africa's Malcolm Adrian Emile Jaer of the Southern Kings leaps over Japan's Takaaki Nakazuru of the Sunwolves, during their Super Rugby match in Singapore. The South Africa Rugby Union has called a special meeting for July 7 to decide which two of its six teams are dropped from Super Rugby. — AP

AUSSIES IN CONFED CUP 'TO WIN IT' DESPITE BRAZIL DRUBBING

SYDNEY: Australia departed for the Russia and FIFA's Confederations Cup yesterday insisting they can still win it, despite a crushing 4-0 demolition by Brazil in a lopsided warm-up.

The Socceroos were thrashed by the South Americans in a friendly in Melbourne on Tuesday, but coach Ange Postecoglou preferred to look on the bright side. "For us as I said, this game was preparation for what we're going to face," he said.

"We needed to do some things in terms of getting some game time into players and we got that. We'll be ready for the first game." The Socceroos held the five-times World Cup winners to 1-0 at half-time after conceding just 12 seconds from the

kick-off, but the home defence's frailties were exposed by three second-half goals.

It was a sobering farewell for Australia, who face Germany in their opening Confederations Cup game on June 19, then Cameroon and Chile.

Postecoglou said despite the high quality opposition, his team could be successful. "We want to win it, mate," he told reporters. "I know after last night that probably sounds ridiculous, but I took this job with the intent of being as ambitious as I possibly can for Australian football. "When you're ambitious you have spectacular failures and spectacular successes."

"I'm not going to coach in between, just notch

up a stint for my country as a coach flatlining. Let's go there and see what we can do." They head into the tournament without skipper Mile Jedinak, who withdrew from the squad ahead of the Brazil game with a groin injury.

The Aston Villa midfielder pulled up sore after Australia's 3-2 World Cup qualifying win over Saudi Arabia last week and has been replaced by Austria-based midfielder James Jeggo.

"He has had a tough period since Christmas with his groin and we all agree it is in the best long-term interest of Mile and the Socceroos that he has a break to ensure he is ready for the new season," said Postecoglou.

A replacement captain has yet to be announced, although veterans Tim Cahill or Mark Milligan would be obvious choices.

Cahill, who is desperate to play in his fourth World Cup next year, said the Socceroos need to embrace the Confederations Cup and build on what the side has achieved.

"It's about the experience of what we've done in the last two-and-a-half-years and to build on it," he said.

"The Confed Cup is where we really put it into practice and make a mark on the world stage. "There's a lot of great teams in the competition and we know it's going to be tough." — AFP

CHELSEA FIRST OPPONENTS FOR SPURS AT NEW 'HOME' WEMBLEY

LONDON: Premier League champions Chelsea will be the first opponents for runners-up Tottenham at their temporary home of Wembley on the second weekend of the 2017/18 campaign it was revealed yesterday when the fixtures were published.

Spurs—who were beaten by Chelsea in their FA Cup semi-final at Wembley and lost two of their four European matches last season when they played 'home' matches there instead of White Hart Lane—are using Wembley while their new state of the art ground is developed in north London.

Chelsea begin the defence of their title with a home fixture at Stamford Bridge on the weekend of August 12/13 against Burnley, who had a terrible time away from home last season.

The challenge for Burnley is even greater as the champions have not lost on the opening day of the Premier League since going down to Coventry in 1998.

Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool have two testing fixtures on the third and fourth weekend of matches-hosting Arsenal and then an away trip to Manchester City.

Arsenal, whose manager Arsene Wenger will be firmly in the sights of the disgruntled Gunners fans who didn't want him to sign a new contract, face a tricky trip to Chelsea the weekend after.

Arsenal will host Antonio Conte's champions on January 1 in the usual packed festive period programme which will see the teams play four matches apiece between December 23 and New Year's Day.

For those Arsenal fans who are superstitious the omens are good for the Europa League campaign as the Gunners open their league programme at home to 2016 champions Leicester—the last time they did that in the 1999/2000 season they went on to reach the UEFA Cup final (the predecessor of the Europa League), losing to Galatasaray.

Three weeks before that sees a mouth-watering couple of derbies with Liverpool hosting Everton and the Manchester derby-Pep Guardiola's City travelling to take on Jose Mourinho's United at Old Trafford.

For the trio of newly-promoted clubs, their opening fixtures see second tier champions Newcastle host Spurs, whilst Premier League debutants Brighton entertain Manchester City and Huddersfield are away at Crystal Palace.

With both Brighton and Huddersfield favoured to be mired in a relegation battle they both face daunting run-ins at the end of the season.

Huddersfield, out of the top flight since 1972, face Chelsea, Everton, Manchester City and Arsenal in their last four matches, while Tottenham, Manchester United and Liverpool are the opponents in three of Brighton's final four games.

Bookies reacted to the fixtures publication with William Hill making Chelsea 3/1 second favourites to retain their title, with Manchester City 2/1 favourites. Huddersfield are 4/5 favourites for the drop with Brighton and Burnley favoured to join them at 6/5 and 5/4 respectively. — AFP



SAINT DENIS: England's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, left, outruns France's Lucas Digne during their friendly soccer match between France and England at the Stade de France in Saint Denis, north of Paris, France, Tuesday. —AP

FRANCE EDGE THRILLING FRIENDLY AGAINST ENGLAND

PARIS: Ousmane Dembele capped a thrilling performance with the deciding goal as 10-man France beat England 3-2 in a friendly in Paris on Tuesday in which the video assistant referee played a central role.

Captain Harry Kane had earlier scored twice for the visitors at the Stade de France, including from a penalty early in the second half. That came after the Italian referee gave a spot-kick for a foul on Dele Alli and the video assistant-being trialled here-ruled that Raphael Varane deserved a straight red card.

The decision was a controversial one, coming after FIFA tweaked the rules last year to reduce cases of players being sent off for denying clear goal-scoring opportunities, unless the offence is deliberate. Varane's team-mates and the French fans did not agree with the call, which came after Samuel Umtiti and Djibril Sidibe had scored to cancel out Kane's early opener.

But France's recovery when a man down was a source of disappointment for England manager Gareth Southgate. "We should have got a result. In the space of 90 minutes we saw the things that we are very good at—we looked a threat and created a lot of openings—and equally we saw what we have to do better," he said. Meanwhile, France coach Didier Deschamps was delighted to see his side get back to winning

ways after a World Cup qualifying defeat in Sweden. "It is always good to finish with a victory, especially after a defeat. We were down to 10 men, so hats off to the players, because that is a great England team," he told TF1.

It was a fine end-of-season match, played out in front of French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Theresa May and preceded by an emotional tribute to the victims of recent terror attacks in England. The French fans in the crowd of almost 80,000 joined in with the English anthem 'God Save the Queen' and a minute's silence was observed to honour the victims of attacks in Manchester and London over the last month.

KANE DOUBLE

England were back in France for the first time since their disastrous Euro 2016 campaign, when they were humiliated by Iceland in the last 16. Southgate made six changes to his line-up following the 2-2 World Cup qualifying draw in Scotland, while Kane again wore the captain's armband. The Tottenham Hotspur striker, the top scorer in the Premier League last season, netted a stoppage-time equaliser at Hampden Park and he gave the visitors the lead in the ninth minute here, tapping in after Raheem Sterling's back-heel had set up Ryan Bertrand to

deliver a low cross from the left. Olivier Giroud had an effort ruled out for offside and France were forced into an early change—the first of many substitutions—as Lucas Digne replaced the injured Benjamin Mendy.

The Euro 2016 runners-up deserved their equaliser when it came midway through the first half as Barcelona defender Umtiti followed in to score after Tom Heaton had saved from Giroud's header.

Burnley goalkeeper Heaton was preferred in goal to under-fire Joe Hart and he underlined his credentials with a fine stop to deny Kylian Mbappe, but he was beaten again two minutes before the interval. Dembele did brilliantly to create the opportunity for a shot that was saved by Heaton but Monaco full-back Sidibe converted the rebound. Many members of the crowd were still returning to their seats after the interval when referee Davide Massa pointed to the spot when Varane clipped Alli in the area.

Varane was incredulous when he was sent off following the video assistant's intervention, and Kane then beat his Spurs colleague Hugo Lloris from 12 yards, but France had the last laugh.

Mbappe hit the bar before, with 12 minutes left, he set up Borussia Dortmund starlet Dembele to net the winner from a low finish past substitute goalkeeper Jack Butland. — AFP



PANAMA CITY: Panama's Armando Cooper, left, and Honduras' Alfredo Mejia vie for the ball during a 2018 Russia World Cup qualifying soccer match at Rommel Fernandez Stadium in Panama City, Tuesday. — AP

BRIEFS

Goffin pulls out of Wimbledon

BRUSSELS: Belgian David Goffin withdrew from Wimbledon yesterday because of the nasty ankle injury he suffered at the recent French Open. The 26-year-old was forced to retire from his third-round match at Roland Garros when his right foot became jammed beneath the rolled-up covers at the back of the Suzanne Lenglen Court. "David's rehabilitation is going well and the injury is gradually improving, but in order not to risk it and to be 100 percent for his return, David decided with his doctors and team to return to competition after Wimbledon," Goffin's team said in a statement. The world number 13 has had a good season so far in reaching two ATP Tour finals, and he also beat Dominic Thiem and Novak Djokovic during his run to the Monte Carlo Masters semi-finals in April.

Tolisso joins Bayern Munich

France midfielder Corentin Tolisso has moved to Bayern Munich from Lyon for a reported 35 million euros, the Bundesliga champions announced yesterday. The 22-year-old signed a five-year deal with Bayern to bring an end to his 10-year association with Lyon. Tolisso, who made his senior France debut against Spain in March, had been contracted to stay at Parc OL until 2020. He impressed in the recent French season by scoring 14 goals in all competitions, a career-best tally. Tolisso is Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti's most expensive signing of the close-season so far after the arrival of defender Niklas Sule from Hoffenheim for 20 million euros, and the permanent transfer of Tolisso's compatriot Kingsley Coman from Juventus for 21 million.

Skull fracture Mason returns

Hull City midfielder Ryan Mason returned to light training yesterday five months after a horrific clash of heads in a Premier League match with Chelsea resulted in him suffering a fractured skull. The 26-year-old-Hull's record signing last year when he joined from Tottenham Hotspur for £12 million (13.6m euros, \$15.3m) — confessed to feeling lucky to be alive after being rushed to hospital following the clash with Chelsea's Gary Cahill in late January. However, Mason was able to tweet: "Back at it..." on Wednesday below a video of him running on the training ground. Mason, who was sorely missed as Hull ended up being relegated to the second-tier Championship, had 14 plates inserted into his skull and spent eight days in hospital.

Eriksson sacked by Chinese club

Former England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson was shown the door at China's second-tier Shenzhen FC yesterday after a run of poor results. The club hailed Eriksson despite parting ways with the much-travelled Swede, who leaves with the team fourth in China League One. Shenzhen said it had "cooperated with Mr. Eriksson with joy and we also admire his elegance and grace". The 69-year-old is leaving after a "friendly discussion", it said. "We also thank him for the positive change he has brought for the team and the international football theory he has injected," a club statement said. Eriksson joined Shenzhen in December after departing Chinese Super League side Shanghai SIPG, despite leading them to a third-place finish last year.

REAL MADRID DEFENDS RONALDO FROM TAX FRAUD ACCUSATIONS

MADRID: Real Madrid backed star forward Cristiano Ronaldo yesterday after Spanish prosecutors accused the star player of evading 14.7 million euros in tax through offshore companies.

"Real Madrid C.F. have full confidence in our player Cristiano Ronaldo, who we understand has acted in accordance with the legality regarding the fulfilment of his fiscal obligations," Real said in a statement.

"Since his arrival at Real Madrid C.F. in July 2009, Cristiano Ronaldo has always shown a clear will to fulfil all his tax obligations.

"Real Madrid C.F. are absolutely convinced that our player, Cristiano Ronaldo, will prove his total innocence in this process. Real Madrid C.F. hope that justice is done as quickly as possible so that his innocence can be proven as soon as possible."

The 32-year-old Ronaldo—the world's highest paid athlete according to Forbes magazine—follows in the footsteps of Barcelona forward and Argentina star Lionel Messi, who was found guilty of the same offence last year, although the sums involved were allegedly smaller.

If he too is put on trial and found guilty, he

risks "a fine of at least 28 million" euros (\$31.3 million) and could potentially be jailed for three-and-a-half years, according to the Gestha union of experts at Spain's Inland Revenue.

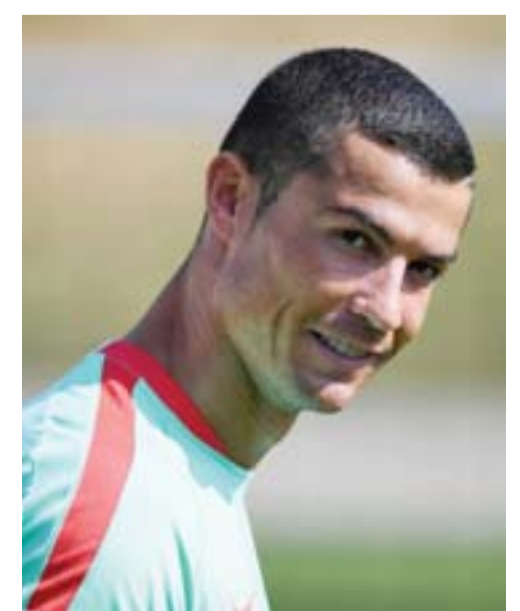
Ronaldo is accused of "four crimes against the public treasury between 2011-14... which involves tax fraud of 14,768,897 euros", Madrid's public prosecutor's office said on Tuesday.

"The accused took advantage of a company structure created in 2010 to hide income generated in Spain from his image rights from tax authorities, which is a 'voluntary' and 'conscious' breach of his fiscal obligations in Spain," it said.

Prosecutors accuse the Portugal international of evading tax via a shell company based in the British Virgin Islands and another in Ireland, known for its low corporate tax rate.

In addition, they say he only declared 11.5 million euros of Spanish-related income from 2011 to 2014, while what he really earned during that time was close to 43 million euros.

And finally, they accuse him of "voluntarily" refusing to include 28.4 million euros in income linked to the sale of his image rights for the 2015 to 2020 period to a Spanish company. — AFP



Cristiano Ronaldo

Sports

Former UCI president Hein Verbruggen dead



France edge thrilling friendly against England



THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017

KOHLI URGES INDIA ON IN BANGLADESH SEMI

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DOHA: Qatar's Mohammed Kasoala (C) attempts a shot on goal during the World Cup 2018 Asia qualifying football match between Qatar and South Korea at the Jassim Bin Hamad stadium in Doha on Tuesday. — AFP

LATE BLOWS JOLT CHINA, QATAR SHOCK S KOREA

KUALA LUMPUR: Ahmad Al Salih's late strike dealt a body blow to China's faltering quest to reach a second World Cup on Tuesday, as blockaded Qatar kept their slimmest of hopes alive with a shock 3-2 victory over South Korea.

Marcello Lippi's China were within reach of only their second win in Group A when Al Salih curled home a free-kick in injury time to leave the scores at 2-2 in their Group A match.

With only two games left, China face the unlikely prospect of making up six points and four goals in goal-difference to snatch third place and a play-off spot in Group A.

Japan were also stunned by a late equaliser from Iraq as they drew 1-1 and failed to establish a cushion from their rivals Saudi Arabia and Australia at the top of Group B.

It was Qatar, however, who were in the spotlight on Tuesday as they took on World Cup regulars South Korea in Doha in the wake of the Arabian Gulf's most serious political crisis in years.

The Qataris, however, appeared calm with Hassan Al Haydos's double powering them to only their second win in eight matches that took their tally to seven points giving them an outside chance of finishing third in their group.

Only the top two teams from each of Group A and B qualify automatically for next year's

World Cup in Russia, while the third-placed sides go into a play-off series.

Al Haydos put Qatar ahead with a brilliant free-kick in the 25th minute and then helped the 2022 hosts consolidate with a fine pass that saw Akram Afif find the net in the 52nd with a right-footed shot from the right side of the box.

The Koreans, who enjoyed a whopping 63 percent of the possession, stormed back into the game with goals from Ki Sung-yeung and Hwang Hee-chang in the 62nd and 70th minutes but Qatar had the last laugh when Al Haydos recorded his second goal off an assist from Rodrigo Tabata just four minutes later.

Earlier in the day, Japan seemed to be cruising to victory in neutral Tehran after Yuya Osako's first-half goal, before the 164cm (5ft 4in) Mahdi Kamil poached the equaliser for Iraq on 73 minutes. Japan lie just one point ahead of both Saudi Arabia and Australia, their final two opponents in what is shaping up to be a blockbuster finish to Group B.

UAE REPRIEVE

In a night of late equalisers, the United Arab Emirates were the beneficiaries of a stoppage-time strike which at least postponed their elimination.

The UAE were seconds from dropping out of

the running for Russia 2018 when Ali Mabkhout scored from close range in the third minute of added time.

It means UAE are mathematically capable of securing third place in Group B, but like China they need big wins in their last two games and for other results to go their way.

China have only ever reached one World Cup, in 2002, but their national and domestic set-up has been energised by official proclamations about hosting and winning the tournament.

Led by Lippi, who coached Italy to victory in the 2006 World Cup, China recovered from Mahmoud Al Mawas's first-half penalty through Gao Lin's spot-kick and Wu Xi's volley.

But Salih, who had complained bitterly that China's penalty was soft, stepped up in injury time to place his free kick past goalkeeper Zeng Cheng and earn a point for Syria.

Japan remain well placed in Group A but they will be kicking themselves after letting victory slip through their fingers against Iraq.

Japan were looking comfortable with 17 minutes left but after Alaa Abdul Zahra's slalom run into the box the ball bounced to Kamil, who gratefully slammed it home. So far, Iran are the only Asian side to confirm their place in Russia. — AFP

QATAR COACH IN SHOCK 'RESIGNATION' AFTER WIN

DOHA: Qatar national coach Jorge Fossati stunned his own federation by apparently resigning moments after his team beat South Korea to keep the Gulf nation's slim World Cup hopes alive.

As a press conference ended early yesterday morning after the 3-2 win, Fossati thanked the Qatari people and journalists in what sounded like a goodbye speech. Asked by stunned journalists if the game in Doha was his last as national coach, he replied: "Most probably."

Following the press conference and cornered outside the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, where his team had just won to retain the slimmest of hopes of qualifying for Russia, Fossati told reporters it was time for a change. "If the federation agrees, I don't

want to stand in anybody's way. "I don't like to leave the national team but sometimes you must do what you think is right, not what is best for you," he said. "You cannot put yourself ahead of everybody." He added that Qatari football officials needed to put a long-term plan in place for its development as a football nation.

His announcement seemed to surprise even his own federation. It was announced on Twitter that Qatar Football Association boss Hamad Bin Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al-Thani was "surprised" by Fossati's remarks and would only make a final decision after speaking to the Uruguayan. To muddy the waters a little further, Fossati said he would be willing to help the national team in any capacity if asked. "I love Qatar, I want the best for Qatar." — AFP

SCOREBOARD

CARDIFF, Wales: Scoreboard yesterday in the Champions Trophy semifinal between England and Pakistan at Sophia Gardens.

England	3, Mohammad Hafeez 8-0-33-0.
Jonny Bairstow c Hafeez b Hasan	43
Alex Hales c Azam b Raees	13
Joe Root c Ahmed b Shadab	46
Eoin Morgan c Ahmed b Hasan	33
Ben Stokes c Hafeez b Hasan	34
Jos Buttler c Ahmed b Junaid	4
Moeen Ali c Zaman b Junaid	11
Adil Rashid run out (sub Shezhad)	7
Liam Plunkett c Azhar Ali b Raees	9
Mark Wood run out (Ahmed)	3
Jake Ball not out	2
Extras: (11b, 3w, 2nb)	6
TOTAL: (all out)	211
Overs: 49.5 overs	
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-80, 3-128, 4-141, 5-148, 6-162, 7-181, 8-201, 9-206, 10-211.	
Bowling: Junaid Khan 8.5-0-42-2, Rumman Raees 9-0-44-2, Imad Wasim 5-0-16-0, Shadab Khan 9-0-40-1, Hasan Ali 10-0-35-	
	Result: Pakistan won by eight wickets

PAKISTAN THRASH ENGLAND IN CHAMPIONS TROPHY SEMI-FINAL

CARDIFF: Pakistan booked their place in the Champions Trophy final with a crushing eight-wicket win over England in Cardiff yesterday.

Set just 212 to win, Pakistan finished on 215 for two. Pakistan will now face title-holders India in Sunday's final at the Oval if their arch-rivals beat Bangladesh in today's second semi-final at Edgbaston. Azhar Ali (76) and Fakhar Zaman (57) all but ended previously unbeaten tournament hosts England's slim hopes of victory with an opening stand of 118.

But the real damage was done when England collapsed to 211 all out after Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed sent them in to bat on a used pitch.

Paceman Hasan Ali led a disciplined attack with a superb return of three for 35 from his maximum 10 overs. Pakistan's openers then compounded England's misery to the delight of their supporters at a sun-drenched Cardiff. Left-hander Fakhar hit a six-something England didn't manage in their entire innings-when a top-edge off fast bowler Mark Wood flew safe. The dashing Fakhar completed a 49-ball fifty to follow his 50 against Sri Lanka. Azhar, who pulled all-rounder Ben Stokes for six, followed him to the landmark in 68 balls. On a Cardiff ground where they chased more than 300 to beat England in a one-day international last year, Pakistan completed Wednesday's pursuit with a mammoth 77 balls to spare when Mohammad Hafeez pulled Ben Stokes for four. England did avoid a 10-wicket defeat when Jos Buttler stumped Fakhar

off leg-spinner Adil Rashid and Azhar too fell before the finish, pulling Jake Ball into his stumps.

But Pakistan had the game all but won at 173 for two. India thrashed Pakistan by 124 runs in the teams' Champions Trophy tournament opener at Edgbaston on June 4. But three days later Pakistan returned to the Birmingham ground to make a mockery of the rankings by beating South Africa in a bottom versus top clash.

Pakistan then held their nerve in a three-wicket win over Sri Lanka in Cardiff on Monday-a virtual quarter-final for both sides.

England didn't manage a single individual fifty in their innings. Joe Root top-scored with 46 and Yorkshire team-mate Jonny Bairstow, recalled in place of dropped opener Jason Roy, managed 43.

Rumman Raees, in for injured fellow left-arm quick Mohammad Amir, took two for 44 on his ODI debut. England, who were 128 for two, lost their last eight wickets for just 83 runs.

Pakistan had collapsed to 162 for seven chasing 237 against Sri Lanka but, two days on, there was no repeat of that batting slump.

Bairstow replaced Roy after the Surrey opener had managed just 51 runs in eight ODI innings this season. Yet Bairstow, opening for the first time in ODI cricket, had a narrow lbw escape second ball and was dropped on 27 and 42. Raees, denied the wicket of Alex Hales on an lbw review, got his man for 13 when the opener sliced a drive to extra-cover. — AP



ZHADENY, Belarus: An elderly woman pours milk after milking in the village of Zhadeny, some 300 km southwest of Minsk on June 4, 2017. —AFP

DAIRY DISPUTE SOURS BELARUS-RUSSIA RELATIONS

HYGIENE OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF SABOTAGING PLANTS, ABATTOIRS

MINSK: A spat between Russia and Belarus seems to have spilt over into the dairy sector, as Moscow has whipped up a conflict that is pushing its neighbor to export its products to China. Ex-Soviet Belarus's dairy producers accuse Russian food hygiene officials of deliberately sabotaging them by issuing multiple bans against various dairy plants and abattoirs. While Moscow insists these measures are all about hygiene, they resemble the commercial embargoes the Kremlin has applied to other countries whenever political relations break down.

Russia and Belarus are close allies and trading partners but ties have become strained as veteran strongman Alexander Lukashenko, increasingly wary of Moscow since its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, has argued over border controls and energy prices. The stakes are very high for landlocked Belarus with its closed economy and extreme dependence on Russia: last year 95 percent of its food exports worth \$3.7 billion went to Russia. The dairy sector is particularly important because Belarus has a large number of producers and they have a high reputation for quality in

Russia, which does not produce enough milk for its own consumers.

Chinese market

Russian agricultural officials accuse Minsk of taking advantage of Russia's embargo of European food imports imposed in revenge for EU sanctions by sending it products of inferior quality. But for Minsk there is no doubt that "certain structures have an obvious interest in using their influence to keep out Belarusian producers" from the Russian market, said Belarusian agriculture minister Leonid Zayats in an interview with ONT state television.

The restrictions on Belarusian enterprises have fluctuated constantly for months-being introduced, then softened or toughened up. They take all forms, from outright bans to increased monitoring. At the end of May, they affected almost 100 dairy plants and abattoirs. Searching for new markets, agriculture professionals met at a conference in mid-May organised to help them sell to Chinese consumers who increasingly hungry for dairy products.

"Russia has closed its market to us, I've come in order to start exporting to China," Alexander Mikhailovsky, the director of the Lepelskiy dairy plant, told AFP. Alexander Subbotin, the country's chief veterinary inspector, said around 30 dairy producers had already been authorised to sell to China. And certification is underway for future exports of beef.

Subbotin said dairy exports to China in the first quarter of 2017 were worth \$1.3 million, more than in the whole of 2015. "We are going to sell our products to consumers who need them," agriculture minister Zayats told state news agency Belta recently.

Complicated relations

These commercial spats come at a time of complicated diplomatic relations. Minsk has criticised Moscow's role in the Ukrainian crisis and edged closer to the West by convincing the European Union to lift sanctions after Lukashenko freed imprisoned opposition politicians. At a press conference in February, Lukashenko, in power for over two decades and prone to outspoken declarations, spent a long

time berating Russia and accusing it of not respecting international agreements.

The Kremlin responded by reminding Minsk which side its bread is buttered: Moscow gives "major economic, political and other support to Belarus", it said, citing loans and agreements worth tens of billions of dollars. A meeting in early April between Lukashenko and counterpart Vladimir Putin helped smooth over the cracks, as they resolved a raging disagreement on the price of Russian energy supplies. But relations remain volatile.

Vladimir Zharikhin of the CIS Institute argues the crisis between the two is only relative, with Belarus still one of the few members of a Moscow-led economic union. For Zharikhin, Belarus needs the Russian market to sell its products and Moscow has an interest in protecting its alliance with a neighbour bordering the European Union. He links the current problems to the Belarusian president's personality and his "habit of raising purely business matters onto a political level". "These are relations between two close countries. They cannot always be absolutely cloud-free." — AFP

IMF RAISES CHINA GROWTH FORECAST

BEIJING: China must quicken the pace of reforms and do more to curb rising debt, the IMF said yesterday as it raised its growth forecast for the world's number two economy. The International Monetary Fund expects China to expand by 6.7 percent this year, faster than its previous estimate of 6.6 percent due to expanding credit and investment.

That would match last year's growth rate, which was the slowest in a quarter of a century. The economy is then expected to slow to an average of 6.4 percent expansion between 2018 and 2020. After years of blistering growth, China's economy has been slowing as it moves from an investment and export-driven model to one more reliant on consumer spending. However Beijing's Belt and Road infrastructure project, for which the government has earmarked hundreds of billions of dollars, has raised concerns it may be retreating from the difficult transition.

David Lipton, the IMF's first deputy managing director, said it was "critical" that China capitalizes on its still-strong pace of expansion to speed up reforms. "While some near-term risks have receded, reform progress needs to accelerate to secure medium-term stability and address the risk that the current trajectory of the economy could eventually lead to a sharp adjustment," Lipton told reporters at the end of a two-week visit to China.

The IMF also called on Beijing to do more to rein in soaring credit, warning that runaway lending could lead to a bad debt problem if borrowers default on their loans. China's overall debt liabilities, which include corporate and household borrowing, are above 260 percent of gross domestic product compared to about 140 percent before the 2008 financial crisis. — AFP



EVERETT: In this Nov 4, 2015 file photo, a Boeing 787 airplane purchased by Qatar Airways is shown during a delivery ceremony. — AP

QATAR AIRWAYS SAYS SERVICE 'UNAFFECTED' BY GULF BAN

DOHA: Qatar Airways said yesterday that it was largely unaffected by the decision of several Arab countries to ban the Doha-based carrier from using their airspace. "Qatar Airways' global operations continue to run smoothly, with the vast majority of our network unaffected by the current circumstances," said chief executive Akbar Al-Baker.

The Qatari carrier released a statement saying it had operated some 1,200 flights in the past week, 90 percent of which took off within 15 minutes of their scheduled departure times. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt are among several countries that suspended ties with Qatar last week, including the suspension of all flights to and from Doha

and an airspace ban on Qatar Airways. On Tuesday, the four Arab countries said the air embargo only applies to airlines from Qatar or registered there. Saudi Arabia and its allies accuse gas-rich Doha of supporting Islamist extremists in what is the worst crisis to grip the Gulf in years. Qatar denies the allegations. Earlier this week, Qatar Airways announced profits of \$540 million in the fiscal year which ended in March. But analysts warn the profitable carrier could take a hit should the diplomatic crisis drag out. Qatar Airways on June 7 announced the cancellation of all flights into Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain, just weeks after having been hit by a new US travel ban on laptops and tablets in passenger cabins. — AFP

MALLYA CHARGED WITH MONEY LAUNDERING IN INDIA: AGENCY

MUMBAI: India's financial crimes agency filed charges of money-laundering yesterday against Vijay Mallya, accusing the flamboyant tycoon of siphoning off money from a loan to his now-defunct airline. The charges brought by the Enforcement Directorate against Mallya—once dubbed the "King of Good Times" for his lavish lifestyle—relate to a loan extended to his grounded carrier Kingfisher Airlines.

The agency is investigating whether India's IDBI bank gave the airline a loan despite knowing of its financial troubles, and whether cash was spirited away. In a 57-page report the directorate alleged that four billion rupees (\$62 million) from the loan deal had been illegally whisked abroad, the Press Trust of India reported. Officials from the bank and airline were also under scrutiny, PTI said.

A court issued an arrest warrant for Mallya after he fled India in March 2016 owing more than \$1.3 billion to state-owned banks. Indian investigators want the liquor baron brought home to face a series of charges related to his financial dealings, which are being investigated by several agencies. Mallya, who co-owns Formula One team Force India, was arrested in London in April following an extradition request from India and granted bail.



Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya

The 61-year-old appeared before court in London again Tuesday where he maintained his innocence. "I deny all allegations that have been made and I will continue to deny them," Mallya said outside the court. Mallya made Kingfisher beer a global brand, and was a director of Indian Premier League cricket team Royal Challengers Bangalore until stepping down last year. He caused a stir last week when he attended India's cricket match against South Africa in London, where Indian fans met him with shouts of "Chor, chor!" (Thief, thief!). Mallya dropped off India's most wealthy list in 2014, engulfed by the massive debts of his grounded carrier. He now lives in a sprawling \$15 million mansion in England's county of Hertfordshire. —AFP

World Oil Demand - 2015/2016, mb/d	2015	Q1-16	Q2-16	Q3-16	Q4-16	2016	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	24.59	24.49	24.67	25.01	24.77	24.73	0.14	0.57
of which US	19.84	19.78	20.00	20.21	20.05	20.01	0.17	0.84
Europe	13.75	13.67	13.98	14.49	14.07	14.05	0.30	2.22
Asia Pacific	8.04	8.55	7.64	7.79	8.31	8.07	0.04	0.44
Total OECD	46.38	46.71	46.29	47.29	47.14	46.86	0.48	1.04
Other Asia	12.28	12.75	12.93	12.64	13.09	12.85	0.57	4.64
of which India	4.05	4.54	4.29	4.13	4.58	4.39	0.34	8.30
Latin America	6.56	6.25	6.49	6.76	6.37	6.47	(0.09)	(1.35)
Middle East	7.97	7.98	7.79	8.37	7.74	7.97	0.00	(0.04)
Africa	3.99	4.12	4.09	4.03	4.14	4.10	0.10	2.59
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	30.81	31.11	31.31	31.80	31.34	31.39	0.58	1.89
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	4.62	4.49	4.37	4.73	5.05	4.66	0.04	0.88
Other Europe	0.67	0.68	0.65	0.68	0.77	0.70	0.02	3.52
China	11.19	11.12	11.51	11.49	11.89	11.51	0.31	2.79
Total "Other Regions"	16.49	16.30	16.53	16.91	17.71	16.86	0.38	2.28
Total World	93.68	94.12	94.13	96.00	96.19	95.12	1.44	1.53

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - June 2017

MARKET EXPECTATIONS PUSH OIL PRICES LOWER

KAMCO MARKET REPORT

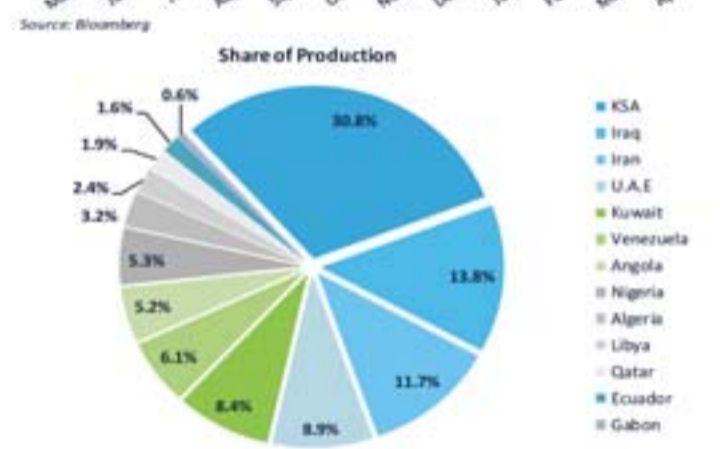
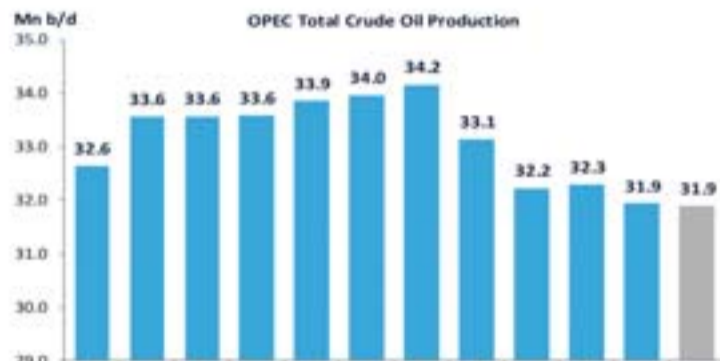
Oil markets remained fragile and mostly trended lower despite the OPEC announcing extension to its existing output cut agreement. After the OPEC meeting, which extended the agreement by a further nine months until March-18, crude prices witnessed one of the biggest daily declines in several weeks, as the market was expecting deeper cuts by the producers to curb supplies. The slide in prices continued during June-17, initially due to the announcement that US would pull out of the Paris Climate deal that would possibly result in increased drilling activity in the US and higher crude supply.

The market got another shock after the EIA reported an unexpected inventory build in the US for the first time in nine weeks, casting further doubts on the effectiveness of the OPEC output cuts that is being continuously countered by rising production in the US. Moreover, the diplomatic tensions in relation to Qatar also did not have any visible impact on oil prices, as supplies are not expected to be affected.

In addition, the revival of oil output in Libya and Nigeria further threatens to offset the effectiveness of OPEC cuts. According to the latest monthly oil production data from Bloomberg, OPEC output increased by 1% or 315 tb/d during May-17 as both Nigeria and Libya pumped additional 310 tb/d during the month. Output by Saudi Arabia continued to remain below the 10 mb/d level while UAE's decline of 40 tb/d was offset by an equivalent increase in output by Iraq.

Meanwhile, a more targeted strategy by Saudi Arabia in reducing oil supply to the US and limiting supplies to some Asian buyers is expected to have a positive impact on the oil market. According to Reuters, the Kingdom would reduce July-17 crude allocations to Asia to about 0.3mb/d, less than the level in June-17, while allocations to the US is expected to be curbed by almost 35%. This comes after China's monthly oil imports reached the second highest level on record in May-17 after increasing by almost 15.4% year-on-year taking advantage of the low oil prices. That said, purchases in June-17 is expected to be lower; however, July-17 which is a peak demand season for oil demand in China, should once again trigger higher imports.

Near term trend in oil prices is expected to be stable as estimates suggest crude inventory drawdown in the US in the coming weeks.



Source: Bloomberg

OPEC also expects higher demand for crude during 2H-17 on the back of largely improving economic fundamentals globally. According to the latest OPEC monthly report, global oil demand is expected to increase by close to 2 mb/d during 2H-17 while non-OPEC supply is expected to increase by 0.5 mb/d. The higher expected consumption would be backed by demand for higher transportation fuel in the US as well as rising oil consumption in India. Moreover, KAMCO Research expects higher domestic demand from GCC OPEC members due to seasonal summer consumption. This would further limit exports from the region and support prices in the near term.

Oil prices

Oil traded mostly below USD 50/b during May-17 and slowly started crawling up closer to the date of the OPEC meet on expectations that producers would not only renew the pact but also undertake deeper cuts. In the meeting, the producers did renew the agreement and in fact extended it by nine months as against the expectations of six months but did not impose deeper cuts on the members. This resulted in a steep decline in oil prices following the

announcement as seen from the 5% fall in OPEC and Brent crude for the next two trading sessions.

The market suffered further in June-17 when the US pulled out of the Paris climate deal prompting higher drilling in the US. A surprise inventory build in the US also pushed prices further down to the lowest in more than six months for OPEC crude that reached USD 45.48/b on 9-June-17. According to the EIA report, US stockpiles increased for the first time in nine weeks with crude inventories swelling by 3.3 million barrels as against expectations of an equivalent drawdown during the week.

In the US, rig count continued to rise unabated increasing 21 weeks consecutively to reach 741 for the week ended 9-June-17. In addition, there are no near term catalysts that would see any slowdown in the number of rigs being drilled in the US. According to Rystad Energy, there is a significant number of drilled but uncompleted wells in the US that are commercially viable to put into operation even at oil price of as low as USD 40/b or USD 30/b.

However, more rigs may not necessarily mean more oil in the market. According to an EIA report,

although the rig count has been increasing in the Permian Basin, the productivity of the newly drilled wells have been falling every month since September-16, as against prior expectation of seeing a first decline this month. EIA's estimate in its latest monthly Drilling Productivity Report says that the average amount of oil produced per well in the Permian Basin is expected to fall to just 602 barrels a day in July-17, down from a peak of 704 barrels a day in August-16.

World Oil Demand

World oil demand growth estimates for 2016 remained unchanged in the latest monthly oil market report from OPEC and is expected to grow by 1.44 mb/d to average 95.12 mb/d. Demand expectations for 2017 was also kept unchanged at 96.38mb/d, an increase of 1.27 mb/d as compared to 2016 despite some adjustments to demand data within the OECD region. Demand estimates for OECD America was revised lower by 50 tb/d for Q1-17, reflecting the slower-than-anticipated oil demand growth in Canada and Mexico. This was offset by an upward revision to US oil demand by almost 28 tb/d in Q1-17 to account for higher distillate oil and jet fuel demand during March-17 on the back of higher industrial production. The month saw the biggest monthly increase so far this year amounting to 0.4 mb/d or 2.4% month-on-month growth, despite disappointing data for gasoline demand that declined for the third consecutive month due to factors related to transportation sector, including a drop in vehicle sales and higher retail fuel prices that led to a decline in miles driven.

Meanwhile, oil demand data for OECD Europe for April-17 also showed weak momentum for the third consecutive month due to slower-than-expected industrial activity in Germany, UK and Turkey, in addition to slower-than-anticipated oil demand growth in the Netherlands and Belgium. The softer trends largely reflect the high baseline effect for the overall OECD Europe oil demand performance.

Oil demand in the Big 4, according to preliminary data for April-17, indicated a steep year-on-year decline in oil requirements for all product categories. Jet/kerosene and fuel oil requirements witnessed the biggest declines due to lower activity in UK's aviation sector and slow demand for bunkering, especially in France.



WASHINGTON: In this Thursday, March 23, 2017, file photo, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen steps offstage after speaking at the Federal Reserve System Community Development Research Conference. — AP

3 THINGS TO WATCH FOR FROM FEDERAL RESERVE

WASHINGTON: There isn't much suspense about what the Fed will announce when its latest policy meeting ends: That it's raising its key short-term interest rate for the third time in six months. The job market - with unemployment at a 16-year low of 4.3 percent - has improved to such an extent that the Fed is thought to feel it's time to modestly raise its benchmark rate again. The move, to a still-low range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent, will likely lead to somewhat higher rates on some consumer and business loans. The idea is to ensure that the US economy doesn't overheat.

But beyond the announcement of another rate hike, anticipation surrounds the possibility that the Fed could signal policy shifts in a statement it will issue, in updated economic forecasts and in a news conference with Chair Janet Yellen. Investors want to know, for example, how fast the pace of rate increases may be in coming months or whether Washington's political paralysis has concerned the Fed. Here are three things to watch for after the Fed's meeting ends:

Future pace of rate hikes

After leaving its benchmark rate at a record low near zero for seven years, the Fed has raised rates three times, by a quarter-point each time - once in December 2015, again last December and a third time in March. The Fed has previously forecast that it will raise rates three times in 2017.

Though investors have pegged the likelihood of a rate increase Wednesday at near 100 percent, there's much less certainty about the prospect or timing of any further hikes. Some Fed watchers expect another increase in September. Others say the Fed may want to wait until December.

The reasoning is that the policymakers will want more time to determine whether a slowdown in growth and inflation at the

start of 2017 was indeed "transitory," as they described it in May, or the start of another slump that could lead the Fed to halt its rate hikes. Investors will be watching the language in the Fed's policy statement to describe the economy, along with Yellen's comments during her news conference.

One signal could come from the Fed's quarterly "dot plot." This is an illustration representing the anonymous forecasts of each Fed official - the board members as well as the 12 regional bank presidents - for the timing of future rate hikes. It's this chart that provides the current expectation of three rate increases during 2017.

Balance sheet reductions

Starting in 2008, the Fed expanded its balance sheet five-fold to its current \$4.5 trillion through purchases of Treasury and mortgage securities. The Fed began the purchases after it had cut its main policy lever, the federal funds rate, to a record low near zero. The bond purchases were intended to depress long-term borrowing rates as an additional way to energize the economy as it struggled to emerge from the Great Recession.

The Fed is no longer buying new bonds. But it's been replacing maturing bonds to prevent its portfolio from shrinking. Speculation has grown that Yellen may reveal details at her news conference of a plan to gradually reduce the portfolio.

One possibility suggested would have the Fed begin to pare its holdings late this year and then gradually shed incrementally larger amounts into next year, while allowing the financial markets to adjust to the impact. Investors are keenly interested in whatever the Fed says about its balance sheet because gradual reductions in its portfolio could raise long-term rates, even if only slightly. —AP

SECRET REBATES SEND EU PLASTICS BENCHMARK ABOVE ITS TRUE COST

LONDON: An unregulated benchmark used to set the price of plastics in Europe has veered above the true cost in recent years, because of secret rebates chemical companies give each other that disguise the price of the main precursor, four sources familiar with the industry say.

Ethylene, a flammable gas, is the main feedstock used to synthesize the most commonly used plastics, found in the vast majority of all manufactured goods. It is produced in refineries from natural gas or crude oil, as one of the main products of the \$400 billion global petrochemicals industry. When manufacturers buy and sell plastic, a benchmark of the ethylene price is often written into their purchase contracts, to reflect the raw material cost.

The sources include one person at a petrochemical company and three people who research the industry. The actual price companies charge each other for the chemical is secret, and companies tend to offer big clients discounts from the benchmark to reflect economies of scale, local market conditions, or other

factors. But those discounts have grown, making the benchmark a less accurate reflection of the real costs.

Companies do not have to pass the rebates on to their customers further down the supply chain, who are contractually obliged to pay prices based on the higher benchmark. Reuters was unable to assess the degree to which the practice has hurt manufacturers of goods made from plastics. More than 10 companies that buy or sell ethylene, contacted by Reuters, declined to discuss their pricing, including any rebates they offer or receive.

"There's an understanding that this is not a perfect process," said Matthew Thoele, senior director of olefins and derivatives at analysis firm IHS. The sources said the petrochemical companies that participate in setting the ethylene contract price while giving or receiving rebates include Europe's biggest, such as BASF, Royal Dutch Shell, Total and LyondellBasell. BASF, Shell and Total declined to comment on their pricing. LyondellBasell did not respond to Reuters request for comment. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.763
Indian Rupees	4.730
Pakistani Rupees	2.898
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.986
Nepali Rupees	2.959
Singapore Dollar	221.080
Hongkong Dollar	38.994
Bangladesh Taka	3.763
Philippine Peso	6.145
Thai Baht	8.991

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.147
Qatari Riyal	83.578
Omani Riyal	790.281
Bahraini Dinar	808.020
UAE Dirham	82.850

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.700
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.737
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	124.890
Jordanian Dinar	428.910
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.027
Syrian Lira	2.168
Morocco Dirham	31.611

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.100
Euro	342.720
Sterling Pound	390.010
Canadian dollar	230.900
Turkish lira	87.010

Swiss Franc	315.780
Australian Dollar	230.810
US Dollar Buying	302.900

GOLD

20 Gram	257.580
10 Gram	131.710
5 Gram	66.700

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.900
Canadian Dolla	226.475
Sterling Pound	388.545
Euro	342.155
Swiss Frank	295.810
Bahrain Dinar	806.040
UAE Dirhams	83.135
Qatari Riyals	84.355
Saudi Riyals	81.935
Jordanian Dinar	428.545
Egyptian Pound	16.923
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.988
Indian Rupees	4.725
Pakistani Rupees	2.898
Bangladesh Taka	3.772
Philippines Peso	6.140
Cyprus pound	167.715
Japanese Yen	3.755
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.962
Malaysian Ringgit	72.080

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.135
Thai Baht	9.910
Turkish Lira	86.480

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.381851	0.391851
Czech Korune	0.005006	0.017006
Danish Krone	0.041765	0.046765
Euro	0.335384	0.344384
Norwegian Krone	0.032017	0.037217
Romanian Leu	0.074521	0.074521
Slovakia	0.009085	0.019085
Swedish Krona	0.030943	0.035943
Swiss Franc	0.307381	0.318381
Turkish Lira	0.081134	0.091434

Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.221401
New Zealand Dollar	0.213495

America	
Canadian Dollar	0.224544
Georgina Lari	0.137347
US Dollars	0.300000
US Dollars Mint	0.300500

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003384
Chinese Yuan	0.043282
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036902
Indian Rupee	0.004272

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002679	0.002856
Kenyan Shilling	0.002935	0.002935
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067304	0.073304
Nepalese Rupee	0.002974	0.003144
Pakistan Rupee	0.002705	0.002995
Philippine Peso	0.006035	0.006335
Sierra Leone	0.000038	0.000044
Singapore Dollar	0.214815	0.224815
South African Rand	0.017769	0.026269
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001607	0.002187
Taiwan	0.009938	0.010118
Thai Baht	0.008619	0.009169

Abrah		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799209	0.807709
Egyptian Pound	0.014441	0.020349
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423553	0.432553
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.00251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019770	0.043770
Nigerian Naira	0.000365	0.001000
Omani Riyal	0.783450	0.789130
Qatar Riyal	0.079239	0.084179
Saudi Riyal	0.080007	0.081307
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.120892	0.128892
Turkish Lira	0.081134	0.091434
UAE Dirhams	0.081370	0.083070
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

UBER RECOMMENDATIONS SHOW COMPANY WAS 'OUT OF CONTROL'

SAN FRANCISCO: It's clear from former Attorney General Eric Holder's recommendations on how to fix Uber's dysfunctional management that the male-dominated company grew huge without even the most basic procedures to prevent sexual harassment, bullying and other bad behavior. The 13-page document from Holder's firm Covington & Burling LLP released Tuesday exposes a startup-turned-goliath that permitted misconduct, had few policies to protect employees and ran with little board supervision.

The recommendations, adopted unanimously by Uber's board, show clearly that the next version of Uber, called 2.0 by CEO co-founder Travis Kalanick, will have to be much different from the free-wheeling company that flouted regulations and disrupted the taxi business to become the world's largest ride-hailing company. Kalanick told employees Tuesday that he'd be taking an indefinite leave of absence. The Holder investigation started after former engineer Susan Fowler posted a blog in February detailing harassment during the year she spent at Uber,

writing that she was propositioned by her manager on her first day with an engineering team. She reported him to human resources, but was told he would get a lecture and no further punishment because he was a "high performer," she wrote.

After interviewing 200 witnesses, Holder had to make such basic recommendations as setting clear policies to protect workers from harassment, and that the human resources department gets a better handle on keeping records and tracking employee complaints. It even suggests such simple procedures as using performance reviews to hold leaders accountable and requiring all employees to turn in receipts so the company can make sure expenses match its values. The recommendations "definitely paint a picture of a company that was out of control and pretty chaotic," says Elizabeth Ames, a senior vice president at the Anita Borg Institute, a nonprofit aimed at advancing women in the technology business.

Justified poor behavior
Holder also suggests that Uber change its written

cultural values to promote positive behavior, inclusion and collaboration. The company should eliminate values that justified poor behavior, such as "Let Builders Build," "Always Be Hustlin'," "Meritocracy and Toe-Stepping" and "Principled Confrontation." Holder also called for trimming Kalanick's job duties, shifting day-to-day functions to a yet-to-be-hired chief operating officer. During Kalanick's leave, his leadership team will run the troubled company. Kalanick wrote that he needs time off to grieve for his mother, who died in a May boating accident. He also said he's responsible for the company's situation and needs to become a better leader echoing comments the 40-year-old CEO made earlier this year after a heated argument with an Uber driver over pay was captured on video.

Uber's board said it would review Kalanick's responsibilities and reassign some to others. Ames said the recommendations were strong but indicated Uber had few policies, and the ones it had were not followed. The board unanimously approved the recommendations on Sunday, including a suggestion

that a senior executive be tasked with making sure they are implemented. Apparently because of distrust of some leaders, Holder recommended that care be taken to make sure the executive "is viewed positively by the employees." The company released only Holder's recommendations, not his full report, citing the need to protect employees who complained.

Liane Hornsey, Uber's chief human resources officer who started in January, said implementing the recommendations "will improve our culture, promote fairness and accountability, and establish processes and systems to ensure the mistakes of the past will not be repeated." Holder also recommended adding independent directors and replacing the board chairman, co-founder Garrett Camp, with an independent person. The board currently has eight voting members, three from within the company. Uber was also advised to make sure its workforce is more diverse. The company's diversity figures are similar to the rest of Silicon Valley, with low numbers for women and underrepresented minorities. In the US, less than a third of the company's workers are female. —AP

CHINA INSURANCE MOGUL SAID UNABLE TO WORK, DETAINED

BEIJING: The Chinese insurer that owns New York City's Waldorf Astoria Hotel said yesterday its chairman has turned over his duties to other executives following a report he was detained by regulators amid accusations of possible financial misconduct. Anbang Insurance Group Ltd Chairman Wu Xiaohui was "temporarily unable to perform his duties due to personal reasons," said a one-sentence statement on the company website. It said Wu had authorized other executives to do his work and gave no other details. On Monday, the magazine Caijing reported that Wu, who founded Anbang in 2004 and built it into one of China's biggest insurers, was detained last week by insurance regulators. Citing unidentified sources, it said authorities told the company about the detention but gave no reason.

Spokespeople for Anbang did not respond to phone calls or emails. The China Insurance Regulatory Commission did not respond to questions sent by fax. Anbang has been under scrutiny since a multibillion-dollar global string of asset purchases, including buying the Waldorf for \$2 billion, raised questions about how it was paying for its buying spree. The privately held company said the money was raised from shareholders. It denied a report by another magazine, Caixin, in April that Anbang improperly used payments from policyholders to increase its capital base. More recently, the company has suffered setbacks including failing to complete several foreign takeovers. That included the proposed purchase of US-based Fidelity & Guaranty Life for \$1.6 billion.

In May, Anbang was ordered to stop

selling two financial products that regulators said violated industry rules. Chinese insurers also have been investigated following complaints of reckless speculation in stocks and real estate. The chairman of the Chinese insurance regulator is under investigation by the national anti-corruption agency. Regulators say reducing financial risks in the Chinese economy is a priority this year. Rising Chinese debt levels have prompted concern about the stability of the country's financial system. Anbang has a reputation for unusually aggressive expansion in a Chinese insurance industry dominated by state-owned companies. Earlier, the company discussed possibly investing in a Manhattan skyscraper owned by the family of Jared Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser. Those talks ended in March without a deal.

Wu rarely talks to reporters or appears in public, but Caijing said he attended a series of public events in recent weeks. That included a May 12 meeting called by the insurance regulator to study a speech by President Xi Jinping about financial regulation. Anbang said it raised 50 billion yuan from investors in 2014. That increased its registered capital fivefold to 62 billion yuan the biggest among Chinese insurers. Caixin's April report said at least 30 billion yuan of that money really was payments from policyholders. The magazine said it was channeled back into the company through a complex ownership structure. Anbang has more than 30,000 employees serving 35 million clients and has interests in life insurance, banking, asset management, leasing and brokerage services. —AP



SAINT-JUNIEN: This file photo taken on June 08, 2017 shows an employee working on a leather wallet at the Hermes new leather workshop. — AFP

FRENCH LUXURY LEADERS CREATE WORK AT HOME

FEEDING THE WORLD'S GROWING APPETITE FOR CHIC

PARIS: Using globalization's potential with the precision of master designers making fashion, France's luxury companies are generating jobs again, defying nationwide gloom over stubbornly high unemployment. As they feed the world's growing appetite for the ultimate in chic, the likes of Hermes and Chanel are hiring qualified staff in the hundreds and even thousands, most of them in France itself, a growing contribution to reducing the nation's jobless pool of nearly 3.5 million. Birkin-bag maker Hermes is the latest French luxury firm to announce new jobs, opening two new leather workshops and adding 220 employees to meet rising demand abroad, particularly in Asia.

Other French labels such as Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Yves Saint Laurent have also become major global brands for ready-to-wear, accessories and perfume. As sales rise, especially to Chinese consumers slaking their thirst for luxury goods, manufacturers are adding jobs. That goes against the grain of the overall manufacturing sector in France, which has seen its share of economic output halved over the past half century to account for around 11 percent, according to World Bank data. At Saint-Junien in central France, where Hermes opened one of the new workshops, dozens of craftsmen cut and stitch leather into gloves, wallets and other

small objects. In this facility, which used to process wool, there is no automation. Work is done by hand and each piece is signed by the craftsman. "It is unimaginable creating a site like this in another country," said Guillaume de Seynes, executive vice president of manufacturing for Hermes, which was founded in 1837. "It is out of consideration for quality and a question of image. Made in France means to clients French know-how" that has been handed down for generations.

Historic chance

"Very clearly, for the luxury sector, the enrichment of new countries, globalization, were a historic chance for the creation of jobs, as in aeronautics," said de Seynes, a descendant of the firm's founder Thierry Hermes. In the past five years, the company which makes 85 percent of its products in France and exports 86 percent of them, has created 2,400 new jobs in the country. Hermes is not alone.

Kering, the Paris-based world's number two luxury company whose stable includes Yves Saint Laurent, Gucci and Bottega Veneta, has also bulked up. Over the past three years the staff at its luxury division has expanded by 13 percent. In 2013, it acquired the Normandy-based France Croco, a tannery that specializes in working with

crocodile skins and supplies top French and Italian fashion houses. Staff levels are expected to rise from 45 to 160 by 2020. Meanwhile at LVMH, the top luxury company with 70 brands including fashion houses Christian Dior, Louis Vuitton, Guerlain, Givenchy as well as Moët et Chandon champagne and Hennessy cognac, added about 1,000 positions last year to meet rising sales, which hit 40 billion euros this year.

And "the trend is comparable, even a bit higher for 2017" said Chantal Gaemperle, the company's head of human resources. The hiring "is for all professions, all along the hierarchy, from manual skills to managers", she said, adding 93 percent of the contracts are permanent.

Powerful symbol

A sign of the luxury sector's growing weight, LVMH this year became the largest company on the Paris stock exchange by market capitalization, pushing aside energy firm Total and drugs maker Sanofi. "It is a powerful symbol. Luxury has a significant weight in the French economy," said Olivier Abtan, who leads the global luxury sector team at Boston Consulting Group. He said French luxury firms had managed to retain a sense of exclusiveness and creativity, while managing to avoid diluting their image. And he believes many of the new jobs are likely to last. —AFP



AGADEF: The picture taken shows West African migrants returning from Niger after fleeing Libya due to armed groups by pickup truck. — AFP

FROM BOOM TO BUST: CRACKDOWNS TAKE TOLL ON NIGER SMUGGLING HUB

AGADEF: With tens of thousands of migrants flooding into the desert city of Agadez en route to Europe, Africa's smuggling capital enjoyed a surge in business which boosted the local economy. But a government ban on the transportation of migrants has hit business badly, leaving disgruntled locals out of pocket. "It's as if you smacked a child without saying what it had done wrong," explains Issouf Maha, mayor of Tchirozerine, a town in central Niger which lies on the edge of the Sahara, just north of Agadez. In May 2015, the government in Niamey adopted a law banning the illegal trafficking of migrants with those found guilty facing a prison sentence of between one and 30 years, and fines of up to 30 million CFA francs.

It was only in August 2016 that the government began "rigorously" applying it, Interior Minister Mohamed Bazoum told AFP. Since then, "more than 100 people smugglers" have been arrested, around a hundred vehicles seized and "nearly 7,000 migrants" brought back to Agadez, Bazoum said, indicating the importance of cracking down on all forms of smuggling. "All trafficking is interlinked" whether it be in migrants, weapons or drugs, he said. As a result of the crackdown, both smugglers and fixers have found themselves at a loose end.

No other work

But it's not only them: shops, banks and lorry drivers are also feeling the absence of the thousands of migrants who, despite their extreme poverty, have stimulated the economy in this impoverished desert city that is a key transit point for those heading to Europe. "Me, I just help one of the fixers. Now the police are calling us 'accomplices'," says Achama Akomili, 35, describing the criminalization of an activity which only

three months ago was legal. "Before I was earning a good living. I paid my rent through the migrants and the fixers. With that I could feed my wife and help my family. At the moment, it's not going well. "We carry on because there's no other work. We've got no choice. Before I was earning between 30,000-40,000 CFA francs per day. "But now, I can go a whole week without earning anything," he complains. And one day soon, he himself might have to join "the exodus" heading north, Akomili says.

Business at a standstill

Taher Soufiane, who has been driving migrants to the border since 2013, is also at a loose end after being arrested on the road with around 20 people in the back of his pick-up truck. "We didn't know it was forbidden," says this 29-year-old father-of-three. After several days in jail, he appeared before a judge and was released. But he's not clear whether it's a provisional release before a trial or whether he's been handed a suspended sentence. "They just told me that if I do it again, I will go to prison for a long time. They took my car and my work and now I just sit around all day," he complains.

"Why is Europe banning this without giving us anything?" In the market, trader Issouf Halidou says he too has seen his business hit by the crackdown on people smuggling. "I'm not selling anything anymore. Business is at a standstill," he grumbles. His stall is packed with all the paraphernalia sought by migrants taking the long desert journey north: for 500 CFA francs (75 centimes, 85 cents), you can buy a small water bottle, gloves, a balaclava and sunglasses. For a little more, there is also food: milk for about 2.0 euros, cassava for 1.50 and sugar for 90 centimes. But now he doesn't know what to do with his stock. — AFP

MIGRANTS DICE WITH DEATH ON BOATS AND IN DESERTS

ZAWIYAH, Libya: Maria gave smugglers all her family savings and crossed three countries and the searing Libyan desert, but when she finally boarded a boat for Europe her dream was swiftly shattered. She was 24 and pregnant with her second child when she left Liberia with her husband and their three-year-old son. The family passed through Guinea and Mali before crossing southern Algeria to reach the Libyan desert. "The smugglers took all our money", more than \$2,150 she said. "We spent four days in the desert. People died of thirst and the sun in the back of the truck."

They finally arrived on the beach at Sabrata, 70 kilometers west of Libya's capital Tripoli, a key departure point for migrants making the perilous Mediterranean crossing to Europe. They immediately boarded an inflatable boat after paying smugglers about 500 Libyan dinars. But the subsequent voyage was short and ended abruptly. Their flimsy craft was intercepted by the Libyan coastguard and they were escorted to a detention centre in Zawiyah, a port town between Sabrata and Tripoli. It was there that Maria finally gave birth.

Today, she is locked up with her baby and son, along with 20 other women and children. Her husband is detained in a cramped cell nearby with dozens of other migrants. Their story is similar to that of thousands of sub-Saharan migrants who make desperate attempts to reach Europe via war-torn Libya. The country has become a major transit point for migrants looking to cross the Mediterranean with, according to the UN's International Organization for

Migration, between 700,000 and a million people in Libya awaiting their chance. Libya also has more than two dozen reception centers where hundreds of migrants are being detained in appalling conditions.

Harrowing journey

Smugglers operate openly in the chaos that followed the fall of longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011. Moussa Ouatar, 29, headed to the North African country from his native Ivory

Coast. He had to pay \$195 to reach the transit point of Agadez in Niger's central desert, then a further \$490 to reach Sabrata with a group of other Ivorians. He too spoke of a harrowing journey across the Libyan desert. "There were deaths," he said. "They died of hunger and thirst. There was no water or food." After paying more money to cross the Mediterranean, his boat was intercepted by the Libyan coastguard, who took him to Zawiyah. "I haven't got any money for another crossing attempt," he said. —AFP



GARABULLI, Libya: Libyan coastguards drag a deflated rubber boat carrying the bodies of migrants after the craft sank off Garabulli, 60 kilometers east of Tripoli, on June 10. — AFP

MARKETS DIVERGE BEFORE US RATES OUTCOME

LONDON: European stock markets rose yesterday and the dollar mostly firmed against rivals after drops for Asian equity indices and a record-high close on Wall Street...

Some analysts suggest the rise could be the Fed's last this year as traders fret over tepid US inflation and the future of President Donald Trump's big-spending, tax-cutting agenda...

in borrowing costs-but the agenda is now in trouble as the tycoon faces political crises.

"With the rate hike now 96 percent priced in, focus will fall on the Fed's forward guidance and importantly their views surrounding low inflation," said Stephen Innes, senior trader at Oanda trading group.

The ZEW institute's poll measuring economic expectations among financial players shed 2.0 points to 18.6 points in June-well

below its long-term average of 23.9. Despite the June drop, "prospects for the German economy remain favourable, not least thanks to the positive development of economic growth in the European Union in the first quarter of this year..."

"There was more bad news for the UK consumer yesterday after regular wage growth, excluding bonuses, fell to 1.7 percent, its lowest level since late 2014," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at traders City Index.

"Falling real wage growth is not a new theme, but the fact that inflation-adjusted wage growth has continued to fall to its lowest level for three years, is likely to keep a lid on" a recovery for sterling...

Watchdog the International Energy Agency said yesterday that global oil output will expand faster than worldwide demand next year, primarily as US producers rack up crude production...

Asia markets mostly down

Meanwhile, Asian traders were subdued yesterday despite a record close on Wall Street as they await the outcome of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting...

ing ends later in the day but the main focus will be on chair Janet Yellen's comments afterwards. Some analysts suggest the rise could be the Fed's last this year as traders fret over tepid inflation...

"With the rate hike now 96 percent priced in, focus will fall on the Fed's forward guidance and importantly their views surrounding low inflation," Stephen Innes, senior trader at OANDA, said in a note.

Tokyo ended 0.1 percent lower, while Shanghai closed down 0.7 percent with dealers unimpressed by Chinese factory output data. Chinese insurance firms were among the big losers after the chairman of sector giant Anbang Insurance...

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Wednesday 14 June 2017. Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing. Includes sub-tables for Trades, Oil & Gas, Basic Materials, Industrials, Consumer Goods, Health Care, Consumer Services, Banks, Insurance, and Parallel Market.

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



LULU EXPANDS ITS KUWAIT OPERATIONS

OPENS 7TH HYPERMARKET IN AL JAHRA, TOTAL STORE COUNT AT 136

KUWAIT CITY: The Middle East retail major, LULU Group further consolidated its presence in Kuwait by opening their 7th Hypermarket in Al Jahra this morning. The new hypermarket was formally inaugurated by General R Fahad Ahmed Al-Amir, Governor of Al Jahra in the presence of Yusuffali MA, Chairman of Lulu Group and other top govt officials.

Ideally located at the Jahra Mall in Al Jahra, the 130,000 sq ft. hypermarket is easily accessible from the nearby suburbs and residential areas. Apart from the usual world class features and vast range of products, the new lulu hypermarket also boasts of many key features such as enhanced space for Free From range products, local produce section and organic products.

Speaking to media during the inauguration ceremony, Yusuffali MA said "Kuwait has been a very key

market for us and we have been always bullish about the market scenario here. The positive responses we have been receiving from day one have been very encouraging and we intend to continue build on our success and explore new opportunities here."

"The Kuwaiti economy is very stable and forward-looking under the wise leadership of HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of this great country. We intend to contribute to the all-round growth here, including new investments to providing job opportunities to the Kuwaiti youth. Other top dignitaries present at the event were, Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain, Mayor of Jahra, Ramadan Khalaf al Harbi, Lulu Group Executive Director Ashraf Ali MA, CEO Saifee Rupawala, COO Saleem VI, and Regional Director Mohd Haris.



BURGAN BANK WILL ANNOUNCE DRAW WINNERS OF YAWMI, YOUTH ACCOUNTS



KUWAIT CITY: Burgan Bank will be conducting the quarterly draws of Yawmi and Youth accounts on Sunday, June 18th, 2017, where the lucky winner of the Yawmi Account will receive KD 125,000 as a cash prize, and the first lucky winner of Youth Account will receive a cash prize of KD 1,000, while second and third winners will each receive free "unlimited access" to Grand Cinemas for one year.

To be eligible for the Yawmi Account quarterly draw, customers should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. In addition, to be eligible for the Youth accounts quarterly draw, customers must transfer their student allowance to their Youth account whereby they will be automatically enrolled into the draw, the account provides the cus-

tomers a chance to win with every KD 20 in the account.

For more information about Burgan Bank accounts, customers are advised to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.



MAZAYA RESIDENCE'S 20% CONSTRUCTION WORK FINISHED, DELIVERY DUE IN 2018

MUSCAT: Al-Mazaya Holding has announced that up to 20 percent of the construction work has been completed so far on its Mazaya Residence, the company's maiden development in Muscat. Strategically located in Al-Seeb Province in the heart of the Omani capital, the landmark development targets Omanis as well as other GCC nationals as potential buyers. Construction work on the project's foundation and basement, which spreads over 6,614 square meters, has been completed. It will help to start the main upper construction work and external structure. The project is due for completion during 2018.

Since the project is progressing well, the company has started promoting the project in Oman and other markets in the region. Al-Mazaya Holding has launched a Ramadan promotional campaign offering discounted prices and also attractive easy installment plans for its 120 Mazaya Residence apartments and 28 retail shops. The project stands out as an attractive opportunity for different segments of society looking for the investment or own use.

The mixed-use project is one of the important real estate developments in Oman that meets the divergent needs of all segments of society. It offers valuable opportunities to home seekers of decent housing units in a vibrant market with strong tourist and economic potential thanks to the project's promising and divergent investment prospects that augur well for the future of the Sultanate and set itself apart from other markets in the region.

Significant discounts

The Ramadan promotion of Mazaya Residence features significant discounts on unit value as the starting price of the apartment is OMR 38,000. Additionally, there is a 5 percent discount on select apartments and on top of that, it comes with an easily affordable installment plan divided into four payments.

To begin with, a buyer needs to pay a 10 percent of the total unit price on booking. The second installment is another 10 percent of the

total apartment price to be paid in six months after booking. The third installment, which is 70 percent of the total unit price, will be due upon completion of the project. The final 10 per cent installment is needed to be paid upon delivery.

The Ramadan promotional campaign is aimed to boost sales and attract property buyers to the project's first phase in order to reinforce the company's investments in Oman with the objective of securing the cash needed for the



Salwa Malhas

next phases of the development. Ultimately, it will enable the company to launch new projects in the near future.

Eng Salwa Malhas, Chief Business Development, Marketing & Sales Officer at Al-Mazaya Holding, said: "We are delighted to launch the Ramadan promotion of Mazaya Residence which is located in one of the Muscat's most vibrant locations near major shopping malls. We hope a large number of Omanis and other GCC citizens would take the advantage of our campaign. This is an ideal proj-

ect that would provide value for money to end-users as well as investors.

'Competitive prices'

"The campaign was launched after a well-thought-out study of the market requirements and competition levels as well as the offers available in order to come up with competitive prices that suit the targeted segments of the society while ensuring the quality of residential products boasting a modern style and elegant finishing. The project offers integrated services and utilities including swimming pools, tennis courts, kids play areas, and fitness clubs for both genders, which altogether ensure an integrated community and hospitable environment." Malhas mentioned that the Omani real estate market boasts high socio-economic stability and security levels that ensure high prospects for success on all platforms.

A sales office has been established by Al-Mazaya Holding at the project's site that incorporates a beautiful model of the residential unit for visitors and potential buyers to get a first-hand experience of the project's specs and scope of work. As part of the marketing campaign, an informative kiosk has been set up in Al-Seeb City Centre to brief visitors on the project's technical details along with an advertorial campaign run in leading daily newspapers.

Al-Mazaya Holding launched Mazaya Residence in April 2017 at a ceremony which was held under the sponsorship of Sultan bin Salim Al-Habsi, Secretary-General of Oman's Supreme Council for Planning, who attended the ceremony in the presence of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Oman Fahd Hajr Al-Matiri and a number of Omani dignitaries. The ceremony was also attended by Rashid Al-Nafisi, Board Chairman of Al-Mazaya Holding; Engineer Ibrahim Al-Saq'abi, Group CEO; Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabak, Vice Board Chairman of Al-Mazaya Real Estate, along with the company's top executives and a number of public figures, businessmen, property specialists and representatives of the Omani Ministry of Housing, Muscat Municipality and media people.

RAMADAN OFFER 30% OFF ON NISSAN GENUINE PARTS

KUWAIT: With the summer heat in Kuwait pushing the mercury up to a blistering. Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the authorized agent of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait has moved quickly to offer Nissan car owners' some respite in the soaring summer heat. Nissan Al-Babtain are offering 30% discounts on all Nissan Genuine brakes, suspension and cooling system parts at all Nissan's authorized service centers and genuine parts authorized shops. This Ramadan offer on Nissan Genuine parts is running until the 2nd of July. Customers can avail the offer at all Nissan authorized service centers and genuine parts. Nissan Al-Babtain is committed to continuously offer high vehicle service standards in Kuwait and the best after-sale services to its customers. Nissan recommends that regular servicing and



general vehicle maintenance is integral to reliability, roadworthiness and safety of the vehicle, driver and their family.

INDIA LAUNCHES FREE LEGAL AID VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING TO VILLAGERS

NEW DELHI: Villagers in India will soon be able to connect directly with city lawyers and receive free legal advice via video conferencing as part of a government initiative aimed at improving access to justice for the country's poorest and most marginalized. The "Tele-Law" initiative launched on Sunday will be piloted in 500 village councils in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and then rolled out across the rest of the country in a phased manner, said the law ministry.

Villagers will access the service through newly established "Common Service Centres"-single-window centres providing online services to the public in rural areas where there is little or poor internet connectivity. Through the "Tele-Law" portal, people will be able to access lawyers - selected by the government in their state capitals - and seek advice on anything from land disputes to domestic violence cases via video conference.

The law ministry said hundreds of village women will also be trained up as paralegal volunteers and will act as the first point of contact

for rural citizens-explaining the advice given by lawyers and assisting if further action is required. Their training will include understanding laws on social justice and fundamental rights, and will include women and child rights as well as labour-related legislation.

"Tele-Law will fulfill our commitment to ensure access to justice and empowerment of the poor," Ravi Shankar Prasad, minister for law and information technology, said in a statement. "The Common Services Centers and paralegal volunteers will offer easy legal advice to litigants in rural India making them digitally and financially inclusive." An economic boom over the last two decades has lifted millions of Indians out of poverty and boosted literacy rates in the country of 1.3 billion, but access to justice remains costly and beyond the reach of hundreds of millions of poor citizens. Some of the major challenges include a lack of public awareness of their basic rights and entitlements, the limited reach of institutions providing legal aid and too few courts and judges, say activists. —Reuters

EU OPENS INVESTIGATION INTO 'HELLO KITTY', NIKE LICENSING

BRUSSELS: The EU's top anti-trust regulator yesterday launched probes into whether Nike, Universal Studio and Sanrio's Hello Kitty illegally blocked retailers from selling merchandise across bloc borders. The European Commission "is investigating whether Nike, Sanrio and Universal Studios are restricting cross border and online sales of merchandising products," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

"We are going to examine whether the licensing and distribution practices of these three companies may be denying consumers access to wider choice and better deals in the Single Market," she added. The probe is one of several stemming from the EU's ambitious project to build a digital single market across the union of 28 countries and 500

million people, which as a bloc is the world's biggest economy.

The probe involves a whole range of products, such as clothes, shoes, bags or toys, which are sold featuring some of the world's biggest brands and characters including the Minions, Hello Kitty and the Barcelona football team. In its latest effort to break down barriers in the European Union, the Commission will probe whether the companies may have broken EU competition rules by restricting a manufacturer's or retailer's ability to sell licensed merchandise cross-border and online. These deals limit consumers' ability to shop for highly popular merchandised products across EU borders in the hunt for cheaper prices. There is no deadline for the probes, and the companies may not in the end face actual anti-trust charges. —AFP

EICHER ALONG WITH KAICO UNVEILS NEXT-GEN TRUCK



KUWAIT: An emerging player in the Kuwait, VE Commercial vehicles is celebrating 16 years of successful operations in Kuwait along with KAICO, the exclusive distributor for Eicher since 2001, has been supporting the brand with an excellent infrastructure facility and large sales, service and spare parts network.

Ashish Tandon, General Manager of KAICO, thanked all Eicher customers for their support and loyalty to the brand. He emphasized KAICO has a simple business philosophy "Customer is # 1" and "Customer for Life" and over the years the company's strong commitment to quality, integrity and customer service has helped it grow confidently. The long-term value proposition of Eicher is to extend technically superior, tough, reliable, profitable, high quality products and services to KAICO fleet users.

The all new truck has been named the Eicher Pro 3008. Adopting the

most professional and holistic approach to modernize the trucking industry, the new brand philosophy is to Go Pro; that is to give trucking a truly professional offering which will lead to higher productivity, profitability and prosperity for the customer. Eicher's new Pro 3008 trucks promise to deliver best-in-class fuel efficiency, higher loading capacity, superior uptime and overall vehicle life time profitability. With a completely new Pegasus-based front styling across the product family, it is a quantum leap in each and every aspect, from exterior design to engine technology to cabin features. The Pro 3008 truck will be powered by new generation engines adapted from Volvo Group technology with power capacity of 150 hp with high fuel efficiency, reliability and long life.

Eicher Truck Pro 3008 is set to redefine the trucking experience in the medium-duty truck industry. It is specially designed for segments that

require high power and torque combination as well as a greater degree of refinement and sophistication. With a new generation highly fuel-efficient engine and world-class cabin, it offers state-of-the-art features, high level of comfort and safety along with superior overall performance. Eicher Pro 3008 is going to set new benchmarks in performance and profitability.

This truck has undergone very stringent and grueling test protocols to ensure superior up-time. Extensive testing has been done not only in the labs and on the Volvo Group's torture track, but also with some of the customers in real conditions and various applications in Kuwait market. The trucks will look to take on the key segments of food distribution, construction, government tenders and contracting which traditionally dominated by the Japanese brands. In addition, it will also address the mass market segment with value features at low cost of ownership.

CANON MIDDLE EAST SPREADS HAPPINESS THROUGH WORKPLACE OPPORTUNITIES

KUWAIT: Canon Middle East, a leader in digital imaging solutions, embarked on a series of employee-led projects inspired by the UAE's 'Year of Giving' as well as the global One Million Acts of Kindness mission. Developed under an overarching campaign called 'Follow Your Happiness,' Canon's initiatives target its own employees by giving them the opportunity to become active members within their own work environment as well as the larger community.

Anurag Agrawal, Managing Director, Canon Middle East said: "We were inspired by the UAE's 'Year of Giving' and One Million Acts of Kindness initiatives, both of which encourage people to have lifetime goals of doing an act of goodwill for others. This clearly resonates with Canon's global corporate philosophy of 'Kyosei,' which means living and working together for the common good. By delivering social and environmental benefits through our people and products, we are powerfully demonstrating our commitment to our philosophy."

"In 2017 we established the 'Follow Your Happiness' campaign driven by the three pillars of Future, Youth and Happiness to coincide with the themes the UAE government enforces on a nation-wide level. Together, the three pillars create an interconnected Canon eco-

system for our campaign led by the participation and contribution of our employees," added Agrawal. Each of Canon's campaign pillars has a series of projects and initiatives for Canon's employees to participate in and sustain the campaign. The pillars create an environment whereby Canon employees are given the tools, physical and intellectual space to grow, become more optimistic about their future, use and develop their creativity, and actively participate within society. Furthermore, each time an employee participates in any activity within the three pillars, Canon contributes 400 dirhams to donate to two charities by the end of 2017. Within the first pillar, Youth, Canon is looking to attract and retain young talent because investing in youth empowers them to grow and lead in the future.

To facilitate this Canon initially set up the Millennial Club, which acts as a sounding board between the employees and upper management to relay ideas and suggestions to facilitate sincere dialogue within Canon. In addition, an internship program was developed to give opportunities to fresh graduates to work within Canon. The interns are given the opportunity to work on projects, develop their creativity and youthful innovative ideas, and learn about Canon's work envi-

ronment. For the even younger generation, Canon established Generation Z; a week-long opportunity for 14-18-year-old relatives of employees to work on a project within Canon.

The second pillar, Future, allows Canon to provide tools for its employees to be more creative and innovative in their work. Canon is open to alternative thought processes and inventive projects to drive an original and inspirational working environment. This is facilitated by the soon to be launched Canon's Innovation Hub which gives employees the physical space and tools to brainstorm and develop their unique ideas. For employees to witness any of their innovative concepts come to life is an achievement that pushes their boundaries and enhances their capabilities.

"Within the third Happiness pillar, we created a supportive and happy environment internally within Canon, so our employees can then spread it outwards to the community. We did this through a series of meaningful projects such as volunteering opportunities, corporate social responsibility initiatives, cultural activities, health and fitness programs, and more importantly a complete Canon office overhaul. The office renovation certainly increased creativity, pro-

ductivity and above all, employee satisfaction with their work environment," added Agrawal.

This Ramadan, a time for giving back to the community, Canon employees are participating in two corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. The first initiative is to support the Ministry of Health and the Sharjah Blood Transfusion and Research Centre on World Blood Donation Day by distributing giveaways to people who have donated blood to show appreciation for their participation and support. Special gifts will also be given to frequent blood donors. The campaign will last for four days across multiple mosque locations in Sharjah from 12-14 June after Iftar.

The second campaign Canon is participating in is DU's annual Mawaed Al-Rahman initiative, which packs and distributes food boxes to families in need during Ramadan. The campaign relies primarily on volunteers to pack and distribute the food boxes, and this year Canon's employees heavily participated in packing 120 boxes to reach 40 families. The Blood Donation campaign and Mawaed Al-Rahman initiative both fall on Zayed Humanitarian Day, which is commemorated on the 19th of Ramadan every year, and celebrates the accomplishments and humanitarian legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan.

DRONES CARRYING DEFIBRILLATORS COULD AID HEART EMERGENCIES

CHICAGO: It sounds futuristic: drones carrying heart defibrillators swooping in to help bystanders revive people stricken by cardiac arrest. Researchers tested the idea and found drones arrived at the scene of 18 cardiac arrests within about 5 minutes of launch. That was almost 17 minutes faster on average than ambulances - a big deal for a condition where minutes mean life or death. Drone-delivered devices weren't used on patients in the preliminary study, but the results are "pretty remarkable" and proof that the idea is worth exploring, said Dr Clyde Yancy, a former American Heart Association president who was not involved in the study.

Cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death worldwide, killing more than 6 million people each year. Most happen at home or in other non-medical settings and most patients don't survive. "Ninety percent of people who collapse outside of a hospital don't make it. This is a crisis and it's time we do something different to address it," said Yancy, cardiology chief at Northwestern

University's medical school in Chicago. The researchers reached the same conclusion after analyzing cardiac arrest data in Sweden, focusing on towns near Stockholm that don't have enough emergency medical resources to serve summer vacationers.

The analysis found an emergency response time of almost 30 minutes and a survival rate of zero, said lead author Andreas Claesson, a researcher at the Center for Resuscitation Science at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. To see if care could be improved, Claesson's team turned to drones. Drones are increasingly being tested or used in a variety of settings, including to deliver retail goods to consumers in remote areas, search for lost hikers and help police monitor traffic or crowds. Using them to speed medical care seemed like a logical next step, Claesson said.

Heart defibrillator

The study was done last October and was published Tuesday in the Journal of the American

Medical Association. More than 350,000 Americans had a cardiac arrest in a nonmedical setting last year, the American Heart Association says. The condition is often confused with heart attacks but they're different. Heart attacks occur when a clot or other blockage stops blood flow to the heart. Cardiac arrest occurs when electrical impulses controlling the heart's rhythmic pumping action suddenly malfunction.

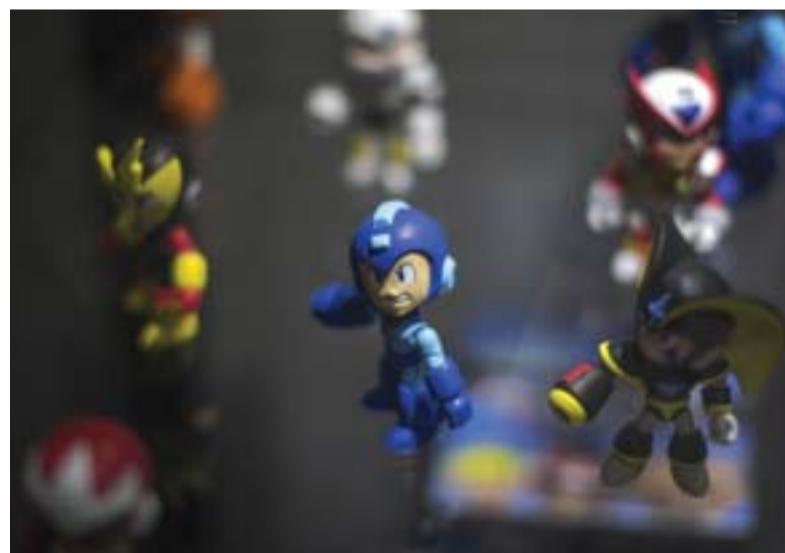
The heartbeat becomes very irregular or stops, preventing blood from reaching vital organs. Death can occur within minutes without treatment to restore a normal heartbeat, ideally CPR and use of a defibrillator. The researchers used a small heart defibrillator weighing less than two pounds, featuring an electronic voice that gives instructions on how to use the device. It was attached to a small drone equipped with four small propeller-like rotors, a global positioning device and camera. They launched the drone from a fire station within about 6 miles from homes where people had previous cardiac arrests. — AP



NEBRASKA: This file photo shows a drone at a testing site in Lincoln, Nebraska. —AP



LOS ANGELES: Marvel's Spider-Man character is seen atop a helicopter over people in the PlayStation exhibit area on opening day of the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) at the Los Angeles Convention Center in Los Angeles, California.—AFP photos



LOS ANGELES: Megan figurines are displayed on opening day of the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3).



LOS ANGELES: People game in the Nintendo exhibit on opening day of the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3).

VIDEO GAME PLAY AS SPECTATOR SPORT CENTER-STAGE AT E3

LOS ANGELES: Long fiercely guarded video game industry terrain, the Electronic Entertainment Expo kicked off Tuesday with YouTube, Twitch and Facebook turning gamers into online stars. A hot trend of video game play streamed as spectator sport and "YouTubers" becoming famous for skills or pithy commentary pervaded the annual gathering, from unveilings of titles to major eSports matches staged for the first time on the show floor.

"There is a reality now that the influencers of the gaming industry are no longer the games, but the YouTube creators," YouTube head of gaming Ryan Wyatt said. "It is smart to bring creators into the fold so the feedback is constructive, and not scathing reviews." Players who have risen to stardom by streaming play online took part in theatrical press conferences held by game and console makers in the days ahead of the formal opening of E3.

Unveilings of eagerly-awaited titles and new franchises were streamed live on platforms including Facebook, Twitch, and YouTube - drawing hun-

dreds of thousands of viewers. YouTube billed itself as the biggest gaming platform, and said that broadcasters from E3 racked up record-sized audiences. "Before publishers caught on to the power of the creator, I think creators felt alienated," Wyatt said, referring to players who stream game action and comment online. "All of that has changed now. They are integrated into the show and their feedback goes into the design, marketing and promotion of games."

Outshining real-world sports

Video game competition as spectator sport is driving the industry in many ways, according to Craig Levine, chief of leading eSports company ESL. Developers are building games with features to be attractive online spectator events, offerings at E3 showed. "There are more people watching these games than playing them; it has more than crept into the design cycle," Levine said. As competitive performance climbs as a priority, hardware makers push to field better computer chips, screens, con-

trollers and more. This week, for the first time at E3, there was an eSports zone powered by ESL where video game battles were fought and streamed online. "eSports has one of the fastest growing audiences in not just video games but all of entertainment," said Rich Taylor, senior vice president of communications at the Electronic Software Association behind E3. The eSports industry will accelerate from roughly \$200 million in revenue in 2015 to \$1-billion by 2018, according to Baird Equity Research estimates cited by E3 organizers.

In the coming three years, the global audience for eSports was predicted to grow to a half-billion viewers, eclipsing the numbers watching traditional real-world sports, according to Levine. And, while the focus at E3 was on games for consoles or Windows-powered computers, mobile game play is consistently in top ranks when it comes to viewing, according to YouTube.

More women gamers

The gaming community is huge at

Facebook, which returned to E3 this year with an area for live-streamed chats with developers and personalities, and where

visitors could share thoughts about the show at the social network and capture memories with 3-D or augmented reality

technology that put them into game scenes. During the past month, 43 million people have made some 115 million posts, 'likes', and comments related to E3 and major titles. More than a third of that sharing came from women, who are a growing part of the gaming community, according to Facebook.

"We've seen this community of gamers continue to grow and evolve each year with women now taking a growing share of the conversation around E3," said Facebook head of global console and online gaming Franco DeCesare. About 800 million members of the social network play at least one Facebook game monthly, director of global games partnerships Leo Olebe said. Facebook worked with ESL, video game giant Activision and others at E3 to create content for the social network. "The fact that the player really is at the center of everything is really powerful," Olebe said. "As the player takes a larger role in what's happening inside our industry, Facebook is perfectly positioned to facilitate that process."—AFP



LOS ANGELES: 343 Industries' Kiki Wolfkill, Gearbox's Randy Pitchford, film director James Gunn, television personality Chris Hardwick and astrophysicist Neil Degrasse Tyson (via satellite) conduct a keynote discussion about building worlds across entertainment mediums, alongside Randy Pitchford and Neil Degrasse Tyson (via satellite) during the Electronic Entertainment Expo E3 coliseum at the Novo LA Live in Los Angeles, California.



LOS ANGELES: A band sings pirate-themed songs at the X Box exhibit on opening day of the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3).



LOS ANGELES: People look at X Box components on opening day of the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3).



LOS ANGELES: People wait in line of to see a demonstration of Call of Duty WWII at the Activision exhibit.

GIANT FLYING TURKEY ROAMED AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: A giant, flying turkey as tall as a kangaroo once roamed Australia, paleontologists said yesterday, after an analysis of fossils and bones from around the country revealed five extinct bird species. A team from Flinders University in South Australia said they were all chunky relatives of today's malleefowl and brush-turkeys. The megapode birds lived during the Pleistocene era, between 1.6 million and 10,000 years ago, alongside oth-

er giant Australian animals like diprotodons, marsupial lions and short-faced kangaroos. Scientists had initially thought the fossils, first found in the 1880s, represented a single ancient bird, but fresh examination has led them to conclude they belong to five different species. Among them was a turkey weighing up to eight kilograms and standing taller than a grey kangaroo, which can reach 1.3 meters four times

the size of modern fowl. "These discoveries are quite remarkable because they tell us that more than half of Australia's megapodes went extinct during the Pleistocene, and we didn't even realize it until now," said researcher Elen Shute.

"We compared the fossils described in the 1880s and the 1970s with specimens discovered more recently and with the benefit of new fossils, differences between species became really clear." The

newly found birds fall into two categories "tall turkeys" that had long, slender legs and "nuggetty chickens" that had short legs and broad bodies. Unlike many large extinct birds, such as dodos, these megapodes were not flightless.

While big and bulky, their long, strong wing bones showed they could all fly, and probably roosted in trees, unlike their modern ground-dwelling cousins which build mounds to incu-

bate their eggs. Two of the new species come from the Thylacoleo Caves beneath Australia's vast Nullarbor Plain, which have proved a treasure trove since they were discovered 15 years ago. "So far the Thylacoleo Caves have yielded seven new species of kangaroo, a frog, two giant ground-cuckoos, and now two new megapodes," said Flinders professor Gavin Prideaux. "The closer we look, the more we keep finding."—AFP

SCIENTISTS DEVELOP TANNING DRUG FOR THE PALE-SKINNED

WASHINGTON: After 10 years of research, scientists have come up with a drug that could help people tan without exposure to the sun, potentially reducing the risk of skin cancer. The drug stimulates cells that produce the pigment that absorbs ultraviolet light, the researchers said in the US journal Cell Reports published. They stressed that further tests are needed to safeguard against potential side-effects in humans. Applied as a cream to the skin, the drug allowed red-haired mice to develop a deep tan.

Like their pale-skinned human counterparts, the mice are particularly susceptible to the damaging effects of the sun's ultraviolet rays. The original breakthrough in mice was announced more than a decade ago, in a study published in the British journal Nature in 2006. But it has taken scientists that much time to work out how to make much thicker human skin absorb the substance. The initial report revealed that a substance called forskolin gave red-haired mice a deep tan without exposure to UV light. But because human skin is relatively hairless compared to animals', it has evolved to be much tougher in order to protect against heat, cold and other environmental factors and the topical substance could not penetrate it effectively.

"Human skin is a very good barrier and

is a formidable penetration challenge. Therefore, other topical approaches just did not work," said David Fisher, chief of dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital, a professor of dermatology at Harvard Medical School, and one of the authors of the study. "But 10 years later, we have come up with a solution. It's a different class of compounds, that work by targeting a different enzyme that converges on the same pathway that leads to pigmentation," he said. The scientists tested the substance on samples of human skin kept in laboratories and found that it darkened in proportion to the dosage applied.

The tan lasted several days. In animal tests, red-haired mice became "almost jet black in a day or two with a strong enough dose," the researchers observed. When the dosage was removed, normal skin regeneration meant the color faded within a week or so. "We believe the potential importance of this work is towards a novel strategy for skin cancer prevention," Fisher said. "Skin is the most common organ in our bodies to be afflicted with cancer, and the majority of cases are thought to be associated with UV radiation," he said. The long-term aim would be to create a cream that develops a tan without exposure to sunlight but which also absorbs harmful UV rays like traditional sun screens.—AFP

INDONESIA SEIZES PANGOLINS SCALES

MEDAN: Indonesian authorities have seized hundreds of critically endangered pangolins and scales in a haul worth \$190,000 after uncovering a major smuggling operation, an official said yesterday. Two men were also arrested after navy officers raided a warehouse near a port on Sumatra island late Tuesday, acting on a tip-off that it was being used to store the creatures which are also known as "scaly anteaters".

They discovered 223 live pangolins, 24 of the creatures which were already dead and frozen as well as nine large bags of pangolin scales, local navy spokesman Sahala Sinaga told. He said the total haul seized near the city of Medan, which was going to be sent to neighboring Malaysia, was worth an estimated 2.5 billion rupiah. It was further evidence that trade in the world's most heavily trafficked mammal remains a major problem despite concerted efforts to clamp down.

Last year, the reclusive, gentle mammal received the highest level of protection against illegal trade at a global conference in South Africa. Sinaga said the detained men, both 43, were suspected of being

small players in a larger syndicate. They could face up to five years in jail and a fine of 100 million rupiah if found guilty of breaking wildlife protection laws. "They claimed the pangolins would be shipped to Malaysia," said Sinaga, adding the scales could have been intended for use in the production of crystal methamphetamine. Pangolin scales are sometimes used in the production of the illegal drug.

The creature's meat is also prized as an edible delicacy and its body parts as an ingredient in traditional medicine in parts of Asia particularly China and Africa. It was just the latest case of pangolins being seized from alleged smugglers in Indonesia in August last year authorities found more than 650 pangolins hidden in freezers on the main island of Java and arrested a suspect. Protection group the International Union for Conservation of Nature classifies the pangolins found in Indonesia as critically endangered. Pangolins, which have bad vision but a good sense of smell and hearing, are covered in tough, overlapping scales, and eat ants using pink, sticky tongues almost as long as their bodies.—AFP



BOGOTA: Colombian doctor Alan Gonzalez, center, talks with acid attack survivors Angeles Borda, right, Luz Mendoza, left, and Silvia Jimenez in Bogota, Colombia.—AFP photos

COLOMBIAN PLASTIC SURGEON REBUILDS ACID VICTIMS' LIVES

'CHALLENGE TO GIVE THEM BACK THEIR HOPES, DREAMS'

BOGOTA: Angeles Borda ignored the cat calls as she walked past the building site. But she couldn't ignore the nitric acid that her tormentor then threw in her face. A decade on she is still disfigured. But help is at hand. In Colombia, said by authorities to be one of the countries, worst affected by acid attacks, a campaigning plastic surgeon is helping for free to rebuild victims' faces and lives. Borda, a 32-year-old mother of three, has had the ninth operation on her face at Alan Gonzalez's pristine surgical clinic. "I know that in a few months I will look better," she says. She has never been sure who was behind the attack, though an ex-boyfriend has been suspected.

Rebuilding faces

Previously used to treating soldiers wounded in conflict, Gonzalez, 46, has since 2010 specialized in helping women disfigured by acid. "Plastic surgery is not the surgery of vanity, but of life. The challenge is to give them back their hopes and dreams and above all, their smiles," he says. "We don't just rebuild faces, we rebuild lives." Official figures indicate that about 100 women get disfigured in acid attacks every year in Colombia, most of them in romantic disputes. The country last year passed a law specifically targeting such crimes. Struck by the "ignorance and intolerance" of such violence, Gonzalez helped set up Rebuilding Faces, an organization to help victims. Since late 2010 he has rebuilt the faces of 15 women in some 300 separate operations.

Reason to live

Victims typically contemplate suicide, Gonzalez says. On top of the trauma of the attack, they suffer discrimination and struggle to find work. Borda works selling sweets on buses. "I had two choices: sit there crying or go out and be seen the way I am," she says. "What happened to me is very sad, but it is possible to live with the consequences. I have dreams, I have goals, and I have the strength to move forward." Another patient, Luz Nidia Mendoza, 37, says she has not worked since suffering an acid attack in 2011.

She was blinded and is missing seeing her children grow up. "I hear them, I feel them and I touch them. But I cannot see them," she says. Like Borda she says she would have killed herself if it had not been for her children. "It is because of them that I am here." She has had 25 operations, with more yet to come, to rebuild her cheeks, forehead, mouth and nose. She is also hoping for a corneal transplant to be able to see again. "Doctor Alan is an angel for us. We owe him a lot," says Luz. "He gives us courage. He gives us joy."—AFP



BOGOTA: Angeles Borda, a 32-year-old acid attack survivor, is seen after her surgery with Dr. Alan Gonzalez, in Bogota, Colombia.

HK LAUNCHES IVORY BAN BILL

HONG KONG: Hong Kong launched a landmark bill to ban its ivory trade yesterday, describing it as an effort to "eradicate" the illegal poaching of elephants. The southern Chinese city is a major hub for ivory sales and announced last year that it would ban the import and export of the goods, but later clarified it would only completely abolish the trade by 2021. Critics say authorities are dragging their feet and lagging behind China, where officials in December pledged to halt the enterprise by the end of 2017.

A new amendment to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants ordinance was presented to lawmakers yesterday, designed to toughen regulations and "phase out the local ivory trade," but said it would be a five-year process. Environment minister Wong Kam-sing said the city must respond to the demands of the international community as he formally introduced the bill at the legislative council yesterday. The trade would "fully come to a close" by 2021, he added.

A frontline park ranger from the Democratic Republic of Congo last week delivered emotional testimony to legislators, describing the violent nature of the trade.

Garamba National Park manager Erik Marav said he and his team were ambushed by poachers near an elephant carcass "with its face hacked off" last year, leading to the deaths of three rangers. He went on to argue that Hong Kong should not compensate its own ivory traders as it could further encourage the violent industry. Angry sellers in Hong Kong are demanding payback, claiming they have been unable to offload much of their remaining stock since the market diminished following an international ban nearly three decades ago.

The global trade in elephant ivory, with rare exceptions, has been outlawed since 1989 after populations of the African giants dropped from millions in the mid-20th century to around 600,000 by the end of the 1980s. There are now believed to be some 415,000. Lawmaker Regina Ip yesterday raised the question of compensation for traders, but Wong said the government would not buy up the ivory as the city was "determined" to close down the market. African ivory is highly sought after in China, where it is seen as a status symbol, and where elephant tusks are used in traditional medicine or to make ornaments.—AFP



INDONESIA: A forest ranger holds a pangolin confiscated from smugglers during a press conference in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia yesterday.—AP

AUSTRALIA BUILDS HUGE CAT-PROOF FENCE TO SAVE NATIVE ANIMALS

SYDNEY: Australia has begun constructing a huge cat-free zone in the desert so it can reintroduce native animals that have been pushed to the brink of extinction by the feral predator. Conservationists said work was underway on a fence in the country's harsh centre northwest of Alice Springs that will eventually enclose an area of 69,000 hectares with hundreds of feral cats trapped and culled. The project, run by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), will reintroduce from islands and protected pockets of Australia at least 10 threatened species.

In some cases it will double populations that have dwindled to the hundreds. "Basically, anything that is a small-to-medium-sized mammal, particularly in inland and central Australia, has crashed dramatically," AWC chief executive Atticus Fleming told yesterday. "The early explorers, what they saw if they moved through the landscape was the Australian bush alive with small ani-

mals. "What feral cats and foxes, in particular, have done is robbed the country of our native wildlife so that much of inland central Australia is now a marsupial ghost town."

Feral cats, considered the main culprit behind Australia's high rate of mammal extinction, number in their millions across the country. Some kill up to seven animals every night. They have wiped out populations since being introduced by Europeans who settled Australia two centuries ago. Up to 400 will be killed "humanely" after the first phase of fencing is completed early next year, with the first lot of endangered animals, including the numbat a banded ant-eater and the black-footed rock-wallaby, reintegrated in 2019. Other animals to be given a new home include the western quoll (a carnivorous marsupial), the brush-tailed bettong (sometimes known as rat-kangaroos) and the bilby (rabbit-bandicoots).—AFP

'GREEN POLICE' TO BATTLE TUNISIA TRASH SCOURGE

TUNIS: Tunisia on Tuesday launched a special "green police" unit aimed at dealing with the proliferation of waste, a scourge that has worsened dramatically since the 2011 revolution. "May God help you it's a very difficult mission," Prime Minister Youssef Chahed said at the launch of the unit, with their new uniforms and GPS-equipped pick-ups. The North African country's rubbish woes have worsened because municipalities are not dealing with the problem in advance of local elections slated for December.

There is also a lack of equipment, treatment centers and landfills, Environment Minister Riadh Mouakher said. "Even municipalities themselves sometimes dump their waste in public spaces," he told reporters. But he also pinpointed a lack of awareness among the general public. For a

month, the environment police will be responsible for raising that awareness, Mouakher said. After that, from mid-July, throwing trash outside dumpsters or burning waste will incur fines of between 40 and 60 dinars.

And if an offence is deemed to be damaging to the public health, a prison term can be or higher fines of between 300 and 1,000 dinars can be imposed. Initially, the new force will deploy 163 officers in 34 municipalities across greater Tunis. In mid-July, an additional 136 officers will patrol another 40 municipalities across the country. The "green police" will come under the authority of municipalities but will also be monitored by the environment ministry. In another measure taken in March this year aimed at ending "visual pollution", Tunisia banned plastic bags from supermarkets.—AFP



TUNIS: Tunisian policemen take part in an event to launch the environmental police force in Tunis.—AFP

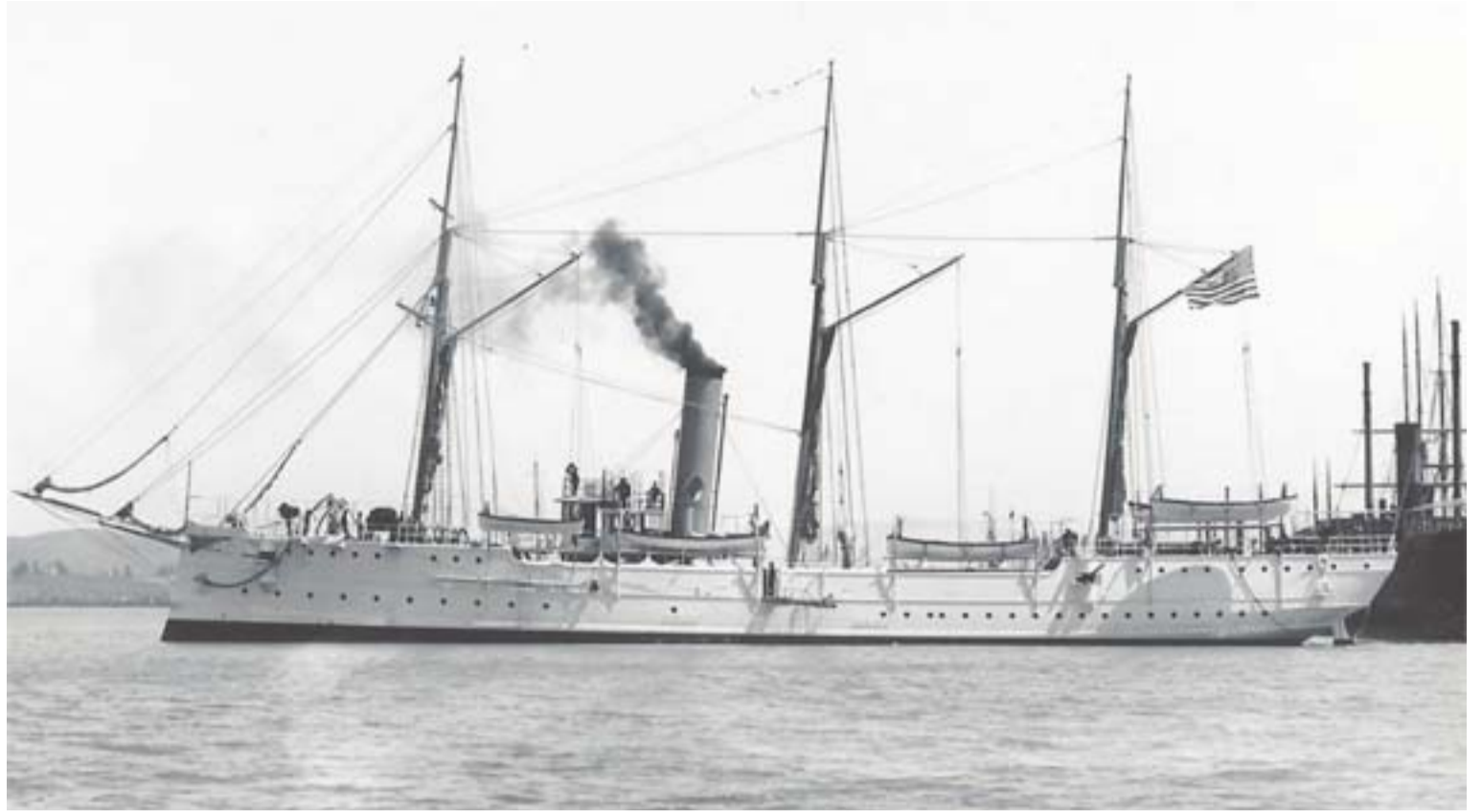
BABY WALRUS BORN AT SEAWORLD, ORLANDO

ORLANDO: A whiskered baby walrus has been born at SeaWorld Orlando. SeaWorld officials said that a 14-year-old walrus named Kaboodle gave birth June 3 at the Florida theme park. It's Kaboodle's first baby, and it's the first walrus birth at SeaWorld Orlando. The pair of flipper marine mammals is not currently on public display. The sex of

the young walrus was not released. Images posted online by SeaWorld showed the young walrus sporting a full mustache, just like its mother. Both male and female walruses have whiskers and tusks. Park officials said the birth has thrilled its animal husbandry and veterinary teams, "especially when mom and calf vocalize with each other."—AP



ORLANDO: This photo provided by Sea World Orlando shows a baby walrus born at the park in Orlando, Florida.—AP



SAN FRANCISCO: This undated image provided by NOAA shows the USCG Cutter McCulloch that was launched in 1896.—AP

COAST GUARD SHIP WILL LINGER IN CENTURY-OLD WATERY GRAVE

SAN FRANCISCO: A hundred years ago in a blinding fog, a US Coast Guard ship was sailing off the coast of Southern California when it smashed into a passenger steamship. The USCGC McCulloch sank within 35 minutes and lingered on the ocean floor undisturbed by people for a century. On the 100th anniversary of the vessel's June 13, 1917, disappearance, the Coast Guard announced that it found the shipwreck - not far from where it went down. And officials plan to leave it there.

Strong currents and an abundance of sediment would make moving the delicate ship too difficult, officials said in detailing the discovery of the San Francisco-based USCGC McCulloch. They also paid tribute to its crews, including two members who died in the line of duty, but not in the crash. Coast Guard Cmdr. Todd Sokalzuk called the ship "a symbol of hard work and sacrifice of previous generations to serve and protect our nation" and an important piece of history. The ship sank shortly after hearing a foghorn nearby and then colliding with the SS Governor, a civilian steamship. The McCulloch's crew was safely rescued and taken aboard the steamship.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Coast Guard discovered the wreck last fall during a routine survey. Researchers focused on the area of the shipwreck 3 miles off Point Conception, California, after noticing a flurry of fish. Sunken ships offer a great place for fish to hide. The site is about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Commissioned in the late 1800s, the McCulloch first set out to sea during the Spanish-American War as part of Commodore George Dewey's Asiatic Squadron in the Battle of Manila Bay.

Cutters based in San Francisco in the late 1800s and early 1900s represented American interests throughout the Pacific. They also played important roles in the development of the Western US. After the war, the cutter patrolled the West Coast and later was dispatched to protect fur seals in the Pribilof Islands off the coast of Alaska, where it also served as a floating courtroom in remote areas. The archaeological remains, including a 15-inch torpedo tube molded into the bow stem and the top of a bronze 11-foot propeller blade, are draped with white anemones 300 feet below the surface, officials said. A 6-pound gun is still mounted in a platform at the starboard bow.—AP

TRACKING INVASIVE SPECIES? FOLLOW THE PEOPLE

PARIS: Islands and populated coastal areas are the world's "hotspots" for invasive species, which can upend entire ecosystems and drive local animals and plants to extinction, a study reported. The first global census of non-native fauna and flora found the highest concentrations in Hawaii, New Zealand's North Island, and the Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia. The 50th US state is beset with alien species, including rats, feral pigs, and the fire tree, which crowds out indigenous plants, in each of eight categories that include reptiles, fish, ants, spiders, mammals and amphibians.

Disease-bearing mosquitoes that arrived in the early 19th century have wiped out half the island chain's tropical birds, with several other species on the brink. Florida is the top hotspot among mainland regions, boasting a rogues' gallery of invaders: walking catfish, giant iguanas, mammal-crushing pythons, and monster African land snails that gobble up native plants and carry a parasite that causes meningitis in humans. The California coast and northern Australia are also rife with uninvited guests.

The new map of intruder species points unmistakably to how they got there, said Wayne Dawson, a biologist at Durham University in northeastern England and lead author of the study published in Nature Ecology and Evolution. "We have shown that regions with higher human population density, and greater wealth, have more established alien species," he told. Not all living things that take root in foreign soils or waters cause harm. But those that do are among the main drivers, along with habitat loss, hunting for food, pollution and climate change of wildlife decline around the world, experts say.

Creatures that have evolved in isolation may find themselves helpless against unfamiliar predators or pathogens. Forests in

Guam are eerily silent, for example, because the brown tree snake has devoured most of the island's birds (or their eggs) over the last half century. Newcomers often marginalize native species: Asian carp now dominate some US rivers, grey squirrels have replaced red ones in London parks, and kudzu, a perennial vine introduced to the US 150 years ago as an ornamental bush, has crowded out many plants.

Altered ecosystems

Benign or not, the overwhelming majority of invasive species are brought to new places by humans. Sometimes it happens on purpose, for pest control. But attempts to engineer nature can backfire: plantation owners in Hawaii imported mongooses to eat the rats that had infested sugar cane fields. But rats are nocturnal, and thus continued to thrive. The diurnal mongooses ate ground-nesting birds instead. More often, invasive critters spread by hitching rides with cargo. The deadly Asian hornet is thought to have landed in Europe a dozen years ago in a shipment of pottery from China.

Ballast water in cargo ships pumped in and out of huge tanks to keep vessels balanced is also a major conduit, transporting thousands of aquatic species, including bacteria and viruses, unnoticed across the globe every day. Under the terms of an international treaty going into effect in September, all big ships will be required to have equipment to treat their ballast water. "We are arguably creating a new 'Pangaea,'" said Dawson, referring to the super-continent that joined most of Earth's land masses some 335 million years ago. "The consequences of such a virtual continent are profound: The creation of novel communities with mixtures of species from around the world, altered ecosystems, and extinctions of some species," he said.—AFP

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OOREDOO SHARES THE JOY OF RAMADAN BY VISITING CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS

Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, visited children wards in Fawaniya and Amiri hospitals recently as part of its volunteer program. The visit comes in tandem with the company's corporate social responsibility strategy, which is based on caring and connecting. Children and nursing staff looking after them were presented with girgian boxes filled with candy, snacks and toys, assembled by Ooredoo's volunteers and children during an event organized last Thursday at Discovery Mall as part of the Heart2Heart initiative.

Ooredoo reiterated that its visit comes as part of a year-

long strategy and is in alignment with the company's core values of caring and connecting with all segments of society. The company also expressed its pride in instilling values of giving selflessly in the participating volunteers. 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 vol-

unteer 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.



KFH HOLDS A GIRGIAN EVENT FOR KIDS AT DISCOVERY MALL

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held a girgian event for kids at Discovery mall as part of its social responsibility and in the framework of its 'eventful Ramadan program "Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 3". KFH voluntary team distributed girgian confectionary and gifts to the children amidst friendly and passionate Ramadan atmospheres. Girgian is considered as an important occasion for children to enjoy.

It is a folkloric event associated with the Holy Month of Ramadan and it contributes in spreading joy and love among children. It is worth noting that KFH is keen on holding girgian events on an annual basis in efforts to reinforce ties with all segments of the society. KFH's Ramadan program includes a plethora of social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives.



THE SULTAN CENTER CELEBRATES GIRGIAN ACROSS ITS STORES



In celebration of the Kuwaiti traditions during the Holy month of Ramadan and out of its commitment to share the spirit of the month, The Sultan Center organized girgian celebration's events across its stores including: Boulevard, Salmiya and Al-Kout on the 13th, 14th and 15th of Ramadan which were themed with the traditional authentic Kuwaiti setting, reflecting the true meaning for the generous month.

Parents and children were delighted to take part in the celebrations and enjoyed fun filled evenings of entertainment. Over 3 days, TSC's customers including children and adults, were greeted with a range of fun filled activities which included: characters, face painting and a range of arts and crafts and Ramadan inspired songs. Children were delighted to participate and awarded with girgian treats.

Customers who had not experienced girgian enjoyed learning about the tradition through the joyous evenings of girgian tailor-made for families' entertainment during the Holy Month. During the month of Ramadan TSC has been active within the community through numerous initiatives underscoring its social commitment to society in which it operates. The Sultan Center celebrates the Holy Month of Ramadan with its customers and is committed to providing them with all their shopping needs.



SYMPHONY STYLE CELEBRATES GIRGIAN WITH SPECIAL NEED CHILDREN, CANCER PATIENTS

As part of the company's aim for preservation of the original Kuwaiti traditions and within the framework of its social responsibility under the name, "We Care", the hotel and the symphony style Mall celebrated their girgian in a very special way. On this occasion, the Commercial Real Estate Company had sent a special invitation to all schools and people with special needs, Beit Abdullah Hospital and NBK Hospital for the participation of children and their families to come celebrate the joy of girgian, where a special program with various fun activities took place.

Celebrations began at the Symphony Style Hotel at the Children's Club on the third floor. Gifts were distributed at the Club by Royal Pharmacy, followed by a special cele-

bration and an exclusive Show by the Sheyaab Group which was held in the basement of the Symphony Style Mall to entertain the children. Rawan Adnan, Department Manager of Marketing and Leasing, said: "Through this Holy Month, The Commercial Real Estate Company aims to create happiness and joyfulness in the hearts of children and provide entertainment for people with special needs and cancer patients and help them integrate into the society."

The marketing and public relations department at Symphony Style hotel Kuwait said that the management of the hotel was dedicated to upgrade the hotel's facilities and services and attract more families. Recently, two leisure facilities have been added to the third floor "Teens

Hub and "Party Room" to provide a new haven for entertainment in a safe environment.

Fawaz Al-Manea, representative of Arzan Financial Group (the golden sponsor of this event), added that the Group is honored to sponsor the girgian event to bring happiness and joy to the kids hearts. He also stated that they are always willing to participate in any event that could support the greater benefit and welfare of the society. In conclusion, Rawan Adnan thanked all the sponsors' of Symphony Style girgian event: Arzan Finance Group and Royal Pharmacy for their support and confidence in our work, and Build a Bear Co. for joining the event and being a part of this very successful event which has brought happiness to all the kids.



Sheikha Fadia Sa'ad Al-Abdullah



Dr Fatima Al-Hashim



AL-SAAD CHARITY ORGANIZES GHABQA

Al-Saad Charity for Knowledge and Scientific Research board's chairperson, Sheikha Fadya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah recently urged all NGOs to combine efforts and demand approving a special quota for women in various fields. Speaking at the sidelines of the Charity's Ghabqa during which the organizers of charity markets were honored, Al-Saad stressed that men and women are equal in Kuwait's constitution and that women were still excluded from decision-making.

LOYAC SENDS ITS ART CONVOY TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN LEBANON



Within its Ramadan activities, LOYAC recently announced intention to send its Art Convoy to refugee camps in Lebanon in the period of June 21-25. In this regard, LOYAC's board chairperson, Farea Al-Saqqaf said that the trip will be organized in collaboration with Lebanon's LOYAC and that the project's first phase aims at helping over 120 children of Syrian refugees to overcome psychological problems they suffer from as a result of the war.

She added that the project will also provide those children with education and therapy through music and art. Al-Saqqaf explained that Al-Fa'our camp included 220 Syrian families and 600 children and that six teachers from the camp were being trained to teach the program with hopes to double them within two years.



NBK CELEBRATES IFTAR WITH AIRBORNE AMBULANCE CENTER

The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) recently visited MOH's Airborne Ambulance center where the visitors had Iftar with the center's crews and spent some time with them. Notably, the visit comes within NBK's Ramadan program titled: "Do Good in The Month of Good". In this regard, NBK's PR executive manager, Abdul Mohsen Al-Rasheed stressed that NBK was so keen on having Iftar meals with all sectors during Ramadan with the aim of enhancing the spirit of sharing.

AM MOVIES ACTION

- 01:00 The Tower
03:15 Black Rose
04:45 Rivers Nine
06:30 Die Hard
08:45 The Tower
11:00 Black Rose
12:30 Jurassic Hunters
14:00 Die Hard
16:15 Metro
18:00 Bad Company
20:00 Rise Of The Legend
22:15 7500
23:45 Fast & Furious 7

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 America's Cutest Pets
01:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
04:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
05:02 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
05:49 League Of Monkeys
06:36 Gorilla School
07:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
09:10 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
11:55 America's Cutest Pets
12:50 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
13:45 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
14:40 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
17:25 The Lion Queen
18:20 Wild Ones
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
21:05 The Lion Queen
22:00 Wild Ones
22:25 Blood Lions - Bred For The Bullet
23:50 Untamed China With Nigel Marven

BBC FIRST

- 00:00 EastEnders
00:40 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
01:35 Maigret
03:10 The Kettering Incident
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Father Brown

- Patrol
09:20 Sweat Inc.
10:10 Hungry Investors
11:00 Life Or Debt
11:50 Bondi Ink
12:40 Disaster Date
13:30 Lip Sync Battle
14:20 Hungry Investors
15:10 Catch A Contractor
16:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
16:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
16:55 Brotherhood
17:50 MLE Chowdown: The Turkey Bowl
18:39 Impractical Jokers
19:03 Disaster Date
19:27 Hungry Investors
20:13 Lip Sync Battle
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
22:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
22:25 Ridiculousness Arabia
23:15 Lip Sync Battle
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Nextworld
01:20 Bondi Vet
02:10 Everest: Beyond The Limit
03:00 What Happened Next?
03:25 What Happened Next?
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
07:50 America's Cutest Pets
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 America's Cutest Pets
12:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Storm Chasers
14:30 Kenny The Shark
14:55 Bear Grylls Survival School
15:20 America's Cutest Pets
16:10 Nextworld
17:00 Secret Space Escapes
17:50 How The Universe Works
18:40 What Happened Next?
19:05 What Happened Next?
19:30 How It's Made

- 06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopydoo
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 Unbungaleivable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 PJ Masks
15:55 Sofia The First
16:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 Sofia The First
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
21:00 Gummi Bears
21:25 Sofia The First
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Little Mermaid
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopydoo

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 Abandoned Engineering
02:00 Man vs Weird
02:50 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed
03:40 Misfit Garage
04:30 Container Wars
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

- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
22:35 Booster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

- 00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 WAGs
04:40 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 La Clippers Dance Squad
06:55 E! News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Botched
12:00 E! News
12:15 Botched
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
17:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:00 E! News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:00 E! News
23:15 Second Wives Club

food

- 00:00 Chopped
01:00 Kids BBQ Championship
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: 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
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Bake With Anna Olson
10:30 Bake With Anna Olson
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
20:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
21:00 Private Chef
21:30 Private Chef
22:00 The Big Eat - Middle East
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv choice

- 00:10 Pick Me!
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
03:25 This Is England '86
04:20 Safe House
05:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
06:10 Pick Me!
07:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
08:00 This Is England '86
09:00 Safe House
10:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
10:55 Pick Me!
11:50 Who's Doing The Dishes?
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Pick Me!
15:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:00 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
16:55 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
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 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
21:55 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King

- King
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

HISTORY HD

- 00:20 Detroit Steel
01:10 Forged In Fire
02:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Lost In Transmission
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 Alone
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Swamp People
13:30 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Lost In Transmission
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Detroit Steel
18:30 Forged In Fire
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
21:50 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
22:40 Time Team
23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:45 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
01:10 What's For Sale?
01:40 What's For Sale?
02:05 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
02:35 Route Awakening
03:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
03:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
04:50 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
05:20 The Food Files
05:45 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
06:15 This Is Brazil
07:10 What's For Sale?
07:35 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
08:05 Route Awakening
08:30 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
09:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
10:50 The Food Files
11:15 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
11:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
12:10 A Is For Apple
12:40 A Is For Apple
13:05 What's For Sale?
13:35 What's For Sale?
14:00 Street Food Around The World
14:30 Route Awakening
14:55 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
15:25 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:45 Poh & Co
17:15 Places We Go
17:40 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
18:10 This Is Brazil
19:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:30 Poh & Co
21:00 Places We Go
21:30 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
22:00 This Is Brazil
22:55 What's For Sale?
23:20 What's For Sale?
23:50 Street Food Around The World

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
01:00 Russia's Mystery Files
02:00 I Wouldn't Go In There
03:00 Evacuate Earth
04:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
05:00 Doodsyday Preppers
06:00 Science Of Stupid
06:30 Science Of Stupid
07:00 Genius
08:00 Ancient Megastructures
09:00 Doodsyday Preppers
10:00 Hacking The System
10:30 Hacking The System
11:00 Inside
12:00 Locked Up Abroad
13:00 Science Of Stupid
13:30 Science Of Stupid
14:00 Route Awakening



SHERLOCK HOLMES ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 14:30 Route Awakening
15:00 Genius
16:00 Breakthrough
17:00 Narco Bling
18:00 Locked Up Abroad
19:00 Genius
20:00 Breakthrough
20:50 Narco Bling
21:40 Locked Up Abroad
22:30 Genius
23:20 Science Of Stupid
23:45 Science Of Stupid

AM MOVIES HD

- 00:45 Casino Royale
03:15 Sherlock Holmes
05:30 Inception
08:00 Casino Royale
10:30 Sherlock Holmes
12:45 Inception
15:15 Gridiron Gang
17:30 Last Action Hero
19:45 S.W.A.T.
21:45 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
23:30 Quantum Of Solace

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:20 Planet Carnivore: Perfect Killers
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Lion Battle Zone
02:50 World's Weirdest
03:45 World Oceans Day
04:40 Dolphin Dynasty
05:35 Lion Battle Zone
06:30 World's Weirdest
07:25 World Oceans Day
08:20 Dolphin Dynasty
09:15 Extreme Animals
10:10 Secret Life Of Predators (2016)
11:05 Snake Underworld
12:00 Secrets Of The Mediterranean
12:55 Queen Of The Chase
13:50 Unlikely Animal Friends
14:45 World's Weirdest
15:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
16:35 Extreme Animals
17:30 Secret Life Of Predators (2016)
18:25 Man V. Monster
19:20 World's Weirdest
20:10 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
21:00 Extreme Animals
21:50 Secret Life Of Predators (2016)
22:40 Man V. Monster
23:30 Secrets Of The Mediterranean

AM MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:35 Hannah Montana Movie
02:20 True Heart
04:00 Snow Dogs
05:45 Frankenweenie
07:15 Hannah Montana Movie
09:00 Gnomeo & Juliet
10:30 Snow Dogs
12:10 Lilo & Stitch
13:40 Lilo & Stitch 2
15:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
16:40 The Muppets
18:25 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
19:50 A Sunday Horse
21:35 Herbie Fully Loaded
23:20 Lilo & Stitch

AM MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:30 Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo
03:00 Once Upon A Crime
04:45 Love, Rosie
06:30 7 Chinese Brothers
08:15 Once Upon A Crime
10:00 Love, Rosie
11:45 7 Chinese Brothers
13:30 The Final Girls
15:00 Camp Nowhere
16:45 Hanging Up
18:30 The Grand Seduction
20:30 Gentlemen Broncos
22:00 Spanglish

AM MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:45 The Sting
04:00 Fast Girls
05:45 Quiz Show
08:00 The Sting
10:15 The Girl
12:00 And Justice For All
14:00 WarGames
16:00 The Express
18:15 The Man Who Wasn't There
20:15 Whiplash
22:00 Nightcrawler

AM MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:15 Yugo & Lala 2
02:45 Capture The Flag
04:30 Robosapien: Rebooted
06:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
07:45 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
09:15 Ratchet And Clank
11:00 Frog Kingdom
12:30 Yugo & Lala 2
14:00 Cher Ami
15:45 Ratchet And Clank
17:30 Garfield
19:00 Bams And The City Of Thieves
20:30 Cher Ami
22:15 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
23:45 Garfield



FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 06:55 Doctors
07:25 EastEnders
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
15:20 EastEnders
16:15 The Musketeers
17:10 Father Brown
18:05 Doctors
18:35 EastEnders
19:05 New Tricks
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Agatha Raisin
21:50 Agatha Raisin
22:45 Him & Her
23:15 New Tricks

- 19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Secret Space Escapes
22:00 How The Universe Works
22:50 What Happened Next?
23:15 What Happened Next?
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

ID

- 00:30 Six Degrees Of Murder
01:20 Betrayed
02:10 Murder Chose Me
03:00 Grave Secrets
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It
04:36 California Investigator
05:01 California Investigator
05:24 Deadly Affairs
06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
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 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
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 Vanity Fair Confidential
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
19:50 Southern Fried Homicide
20:20 Southern Fried Homicide
21:10 I Am Homicide
22:00 Murder Chose Me
22:50 Murder Book
23:40 Betrayed

Disney Junior

- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopydoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopydoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopydoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopydoo

- 08:30 What On Earth?
09:20 Container Wars
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Abandoned Engineering
11:25 You Have Been Warned
12:15 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed
13:05 How Do They Do It?
13:30 Container Wars
13:55 Container Wars
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 Container Wars
20:35 Container Wars
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 Salvage Hunters
22:40 Storage Hunters UK
23:05 Storage Hunters UK
23:30 Misfit Garage

XD

- 06:00 Right Now Kapow
06:25 Disney11
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 Annedroids
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
16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Mighty Med
19:00 Atomic Puppet
19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse



FAST GIRLS ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

CLASSIFIEDS



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO THURSDAY (08/06/2017 TO 15/06/2017)

Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time
SHARQIA-1 Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release) Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release) KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD MARINA-2 Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release) Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	9:30 PM 12:15 AM 9:45 PM 12:30 AM	360- 1 KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:45 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2 Seats-428 Min 30 Sana (Re-Release) AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:30 PM 12:30 AM	MARINA-3 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	360- 2 Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release) ALIEN: COVENANT	10:15 PM 12:45 AM
SHARQIA-3 MINIONS (Re Release) KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:45 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-1 YO-KAI WATCH: The Movie ALIEN: COVENANT	9:30 PM 11:30 PM	360- 3 AL FERAN (KUWAITI) AL FERAN (KUWAITI) Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	9:45 PM 11:15 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1 Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release) KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-2 MINIONS (Re Release)-3D-4DX KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (3D-4DX)	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.1 Ashan Khargen (Re-Release) Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	9:30 PM 11:45 PM
MUHALAB-2 RAABTA (Hindi) AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:45 PM 12:45 AM	AVENUES-3 THE BOSS BABY HERE ALONE	10:30 PM 12:30 AM	AL-KOUT.2 AL FERAN (KUWAITI) AL FERAN (KUWAITI) AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:45 PM 11:15 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-3 Ashan Khargen (Re-Release) Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-4 ALIEN: COVENANT Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	10:15 PM 12:45 AM	AL-KOUT.3 Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release) KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	10:15 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-1 RAABTA (Hindi) RAABTA (Hindi)	9:30 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-5 KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	9:45 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.4 Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release) Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	10:00 PM 12:05 AM
FANAR-2 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	10:30 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-6 AL FERAN (KUWAITI) Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	10:00 PM 11:30 PM	BAIRAQ-1 MINIONS (Re Release) THE BOSS BABY	9:45 PM 11:45 PM
FANAR-3 KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	9:45 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-7 Ashan Khargen (Re-Release) Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	BAIRAQ-2 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	10:00 PM 12:05 AM
FANAR-4 Min 30 Sana (Re-Release) ALIEN: COVENANT	9:30 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-8 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	10:15 PM 12:30 AM	BAIRAQ-3 RAABTA (Hindi) AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:30 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-5 AL FERAN (KUWAITI) AL FERAN (KUWAITI) AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	10:00 PM 11:30 PM 1:00 AM	AVENUES-9 RAABTA (Hindi) THE EXCEPTION	9:45 PM 12:45 AM	PLAZA CIA: Comrade in America (Malayalam)	9:30 PM
MARINA-1					

LOST

I, Ayesha Jaffar, Eshbelia Block 4 street 429 building no. 48, hereby inviting to the notice of the public that my certificate of BCOM examination 2014 with registration no. FFALBS0003 of Calicut University have been irrecoverably lost during transit from India to Kuwait as such I intend to apply for the duplicate certificate. If anybody happens to get the originals may kindly send the same or intimate the undersigned or the university. Ayesha Jaffar S/d. (C 5321) 14-6-2017

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation For Filipino Bachelor ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulf mart. Available on June 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 (12-6-2017)

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS	
Fajr:	03:13
Shorook:	04:49
Duhr:	11:48
Asr:	15:22
Maghrib:	18:48
Isha:	20:21

Accountants required for major company

- 1- 5 years' experience in cost accounting system design, controlling and analysis.
- 2- University qualification in accounting - costing accounting certified by the Embassy of the State and Foreign Affairs
- 3- Experience certificate from previous companies
- 4- Salary certificate or bank account statement stating salary statement
- 5- A copy of the current residence

For inquiries, please call **24912830 Ext. 520** or email **jobs@yaliholding.com**

Required

Call Center Agent (Male or Female)

For restaurant in Souq Al Qurain Must be Bilingual (Arabic & English) Good salary plus commission

Please call **66128148**

Required

Data Entry Operator

with Shipping Line Experience to work U.S Army, Shuaiba Port

Email: **faisal@cts-kuwait.com**

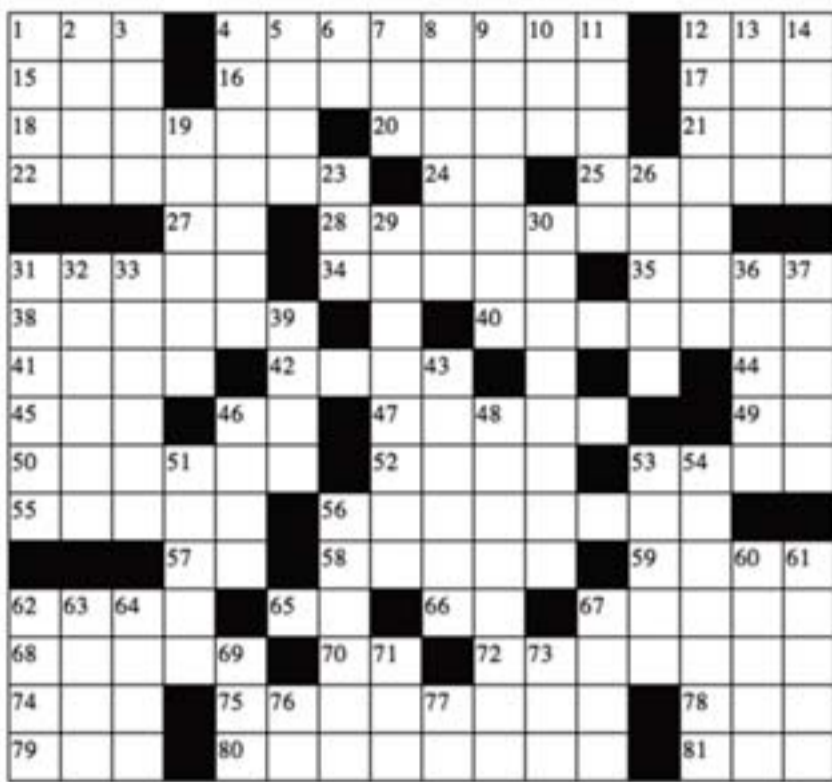


Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 15/6/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 15/6/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	792	Madinah	13:55
KAC	102	London	00:15	QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	352	Kochi	14:20
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	562	Amman	15:10
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	CLX	856	Luxembourg	15:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
BAW	157	London	06:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	118	New York	16:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
KAC	524	Al Najaf	07:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1080	Doha	18:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	744	Dammam	19:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
FDB	803	Damascus	10:00	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	620	Doha	19:50
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	20:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	564	Amman	21:00
JZR	239	Amman	12:40	KAC	168	Paris	21:05
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
MEA	406	Beirut	13:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	8053	Dubai	21:25
KAC	514	Tehran	13:10	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	522	Al Najaf	13:40	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	NIA	161	Cairo	22:10
				ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
				AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25

CROSSWORD 1637



ACROSS

- The cry made by sheep.
- A person who is paid to pray for the soul of another.
- (Australian and New Zealand) A disparaging term for English immigrants to Australia or New Zealand.
- A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
- Tubular pasta in short ribbed pieces.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- Hear or try a court case anew.
- (of speed) Having or caused by speed approximately equal to that of sound in air at sea level.
- A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
- The father of your father or mother.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- Find repugnant.
- Unknown god.
- Bubble shells.
- Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.
- Austrian composer who influenced the classical form of the symphony (1732-1809).
- Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
- For a short time.
- Capable of being added or added to.
- No longer having or seeming to have or expecting to have life.
- A large quantity of written matter.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- A periodic paperback publication.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
- Of or relating to the ancient Greek city of Argos or its people.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- City in Sudan.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- A bowl-shaped vessel.
- Belonging to some prior time.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- Being one more than one hundred.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- One celestial body obscures another v 1.
- A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
- One related on the mother's side.
- Greenwich Mean Time updated with leap seconds.
- A master's degree in education.
- A family of acrocarpus mosses.
- Of flax, hemp, or jute, so as to promote loosening of the fibers from the woody tissue.

DOWN

- A large mass of ice floating at sea.
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- An awl for making small holes for brads or small screws.
- A genus of Mustelidae.
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
- Structure consisting of a room or set of rooms comprising a single level of a multilevel building.
- Any of various aromatic herbs of the genus Monarda.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
- Any of various herbaceous plants whose leaves or stems or flowers are cooked and used for food or seasoning.
- A spread made chiefly from vegetable oils and used as a substitute for butter.
- A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- Antiarrhythmic drug (trade name Enkaid) used to treat life-threatening arrhythmias but increases the risk of sudden death in heart attack patients.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- Obvious and dull.
- (Polynesian) An alcoholic drink made from the aromatic roots of the kava shrub.
- A large sailing ship that was engaged in the British trade with India.
- Physically and mentally fatigued.
- A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
- Wild or domesticated South American cud-chewing animal related to camels but smaller and lacking a hump.
- Make difficult to perceive by sight.
- Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
- (Greek mythology) A woman transformed into a Gorgon by Athena.
- Rounded like an egg.
- The Indonesian language of the people of Bali.
- Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
- Garlic mayonnaise.
- Hybrid between mandarin orange and lemon having very acid fruit with orange peel.
- The state of existing and being localized in space.
- Social status or position conferred by a system based on class.
- Upright in position or posture.
- (British) An open river valley (in a hilly area).
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
- The executive agency that advises the President on the federal budget.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- Being nine more than ninety.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Relationships are very important during this time and can have a very strong influence on your career and workplace. You may find that a more detached attitude is the key. You will make career gains by your ability to sense quality and choose accordingly. It may be necessary to cut through the fluff and get down to your most practical for the day. If you are working overtime, it may end soon. If there have been errors or carelessness in your financial dealings, or the way you work with numbers, it will easily be corrected now. Avoid unfamiliar places and strange situations-follow your instincts. Relying on others could be mind-boggling, but if someone else takes the lead, you will be able to observe the events and enjoy.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Don't be surprised if you are not in top mental gear this morning. You could find yourself struggling to communicate. This day would be best spent with your head down and with a steady period of concentration in order to accomplish what is before you. There are some prosperous endeavors ahead and you will want to have your work as up-to-date as possible. This afternoon you may decide to catch up on your chores and find ways in which you can relax and enjoy the company of your loved ones. Work in the yard or with plants, art, and all forms of relaxation are beneficial to your mental and physical health. A strong need for nurturing is a bigger than usual element in your life this evening. Romance is possible tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Much can be accomplished this Thursday. You may enjoy involvement in any mental efforts or like forms of discipline. You could present or teach religious and philosophical ideas, anything where substance and content are at issue. You have such an outpouring of insights-having a conversation with you can be a real experience. Your mind works like lightning; words and thoughts sort of shoot out, illuminating whatever subject is at hand. You really do have very different ideas and ways of expressing them. A born coach or teacher, you are at home in the physical and productive areas of life. You are an inspiration and driving force in the lives of others-do not be afraid to participate in the care and education of the young.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your feelings need to be stirred before you can throw yourself wholeheartedly into any venture. Love, ideals and a strong sense of your own worth are vital to your wellbeing and ability to function. You enjoy life and you value gusto and enthusiasm in those around you. Feelings are something you express with ease and you appreciate others doing the same. Emotional drama is valued rather than avoided today and you may perceive these actions as learning experiences. Sports, outdoor activities and everything physical are high on your list of favorites. Romance is, no doubt, also important this evening. A love relationship can be strengthened now. There is optimism, faith and a tendency to take emotional chances.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself very active today. You have a wonderful way of working with others, helping them to sense and feel the unity of life. Your love of the spiritual and the eternal is clear to all who meet you. You love to solve the problems of the world, at least in words and images, and when you tell it, all are enchanted. You will be sharing stories with friends this afternoon. Your dreams and ideals are very important to you as you methodically go about putting them into practice. You may enjoy entertaining this evening. You are never more at home than when entertaining and carrying on in front of a group. Many people sense that you have an interest in their welfare when they are with you and you enjoy entertaining others.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are optimistic and not afraid to be friendly and inquisitive to those around you. Others may follow your lead. You feel an appreciation for responsibilities. Problems are valued for the lessons they represent, rather than perceived as any type of block. When you say yes to too many people and have too many projects going at once, it is easy to work at cross-purposes to your own best interests. This is a good time to step back and reevaluate your goals. Give yourself some time on this. The rebel in you likes to ignore dreams and ideals and just let come what may. You relish your freedom and independence and pursue it even at the expense of future plans. Do not marry until you have extinguished the desire to roam and travel alone. Plan your fun travels now.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There are insights into your dreams today. This is a good time to reshape and renew your philosophy or religion, during which your imagination is at full tilt. Breakthroughs in compassion and unity are possible. Getting your message across to others takes little time or explanation just now, because others seem to understand just what you mean. You are spontaneous and know just what to say when in difficult or less than positive situations. Your good management abilities are in high gear. You will not be moved by the pretend emotions of another. You prefer concrete subjects to grand ideas and flights of fancy. Your love of groups and the social scene may find you more interested in relationships this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

When you love, you love with energy and passion. You value personal contact, cutting through all the externals and getting to the heart of things. You understand and appreciate vulnerability and have no qualms about presenting your own sensitive spots to others. You enjoy working behind the scenes, getting at any secrets and hidden areas of the mind and psyche. There could possibly be the beginning of some positive changes and transforming experiences with loved ones-a good understanding. Your feelings need to be stirred before you can throw yourself wholeheartedly into any activity; you will be encouraged to become involved in some healing work today. Love, ideals and a strong sense of your own worth are vital to your wellbeing.



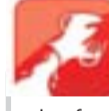
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough characterizes the cycle you have just begun. You have a lot of faith and trust in your fellow human... This may be the best way to enjoy life. Be open to the suggestions of others. This is a time of exploring your feelings, a kind of restlessness for new challenges. Your most essential quality has to do with the very real love and compassion you radiate. Your sense of values and sheer appreciation for life are communicated to all who come to know you. People value you for your warmth and dynamic qualities as much as for your ideas. You may be able to help in some community effort or organize a block party this evening or for next weekend. You can relate to most people with ease.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This morning is a good time for making amends, making peace with the past and meditating. Someone needs caring for on this day. Relationships and fairness take on a special importance to you. True friendship or partnership means commitment and being responsible to the other person-a lesson that takes on greater importance as this cycle progresses. Your mind and thoughts always gravitate to what is lasting, true or of the essence. Your ideas are to the point and candid, never superficial. You are expert at working with words that communicate mystical and mythological ideas. You can always manage to bring otherworldly ideas into the practical realm. This afternoon you may enjoy coaching young people in outdoor sports.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You naturally are a giving person, sacrificing your own interests for the sake of an inner vision-what you feel is right. A born psychologist, you may find yourself counseling and caring for the mental needs of others. It may be difficult just now for you to coordinate your ambitions with your actual actions and feelings. Your lack of seriousness may undermine any valid attempts to form a base and become involved with new projects. At these times your nonconformity and refusal to go along may work against your own best interests-resulting in difficulties to get ahead. You can sense and understand the moods and feelings of others and you seem to always land on your feet. You have a natural sense of just what is needed; tune into those signals.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your close ties with home and family, plus your career interest, may be cutting into your social life now. Others may find you somewhat preoccupied and lacking in the social graces. You may feel some regret or tension from this situation today. There is a sense of emotional coolness or detachment at the personal level, combined with an emphasis on philosophy. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns. Despite whatever problems you find, there are areas of life where you have clear insight-natural ability. When it comes to matters of assessment and finding solutions, your judgment is sharp and you always manage to take charge. You have a knack of working hard and accomplishing things without too much difficulty.

WORD SEARCH

Fantasy World 2

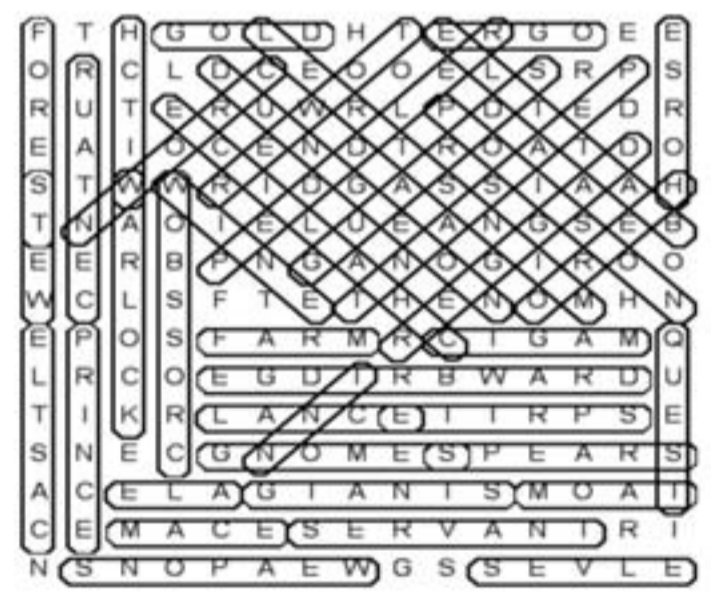
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 29 letters spell the name of a popular fantasy book



- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| ARCHERS | DWARF | LORDS | SPELL |
| ARMOR | ELF | MAGIC | SWORD |
| ARROWS | EVIL | MARKET | THRONE |
| AXE | FAERIES | MINOTAUR | TROLL |
| BARD | GOBLET | MOUNTAINS | UNICORN |
| BLACKSMITH | GOLD COINS | PALACE | VILLAGE |
| BOW | GOOD | POTION | WAGON |
| COURT | HEADSMAN | PRINCESS | WAND |
| CRYSTAL BALL | KING | SHIELD | WIZARD |
| DRAGON | KNIGHT | SILVER | WRAITH |

Yesterday's Solution

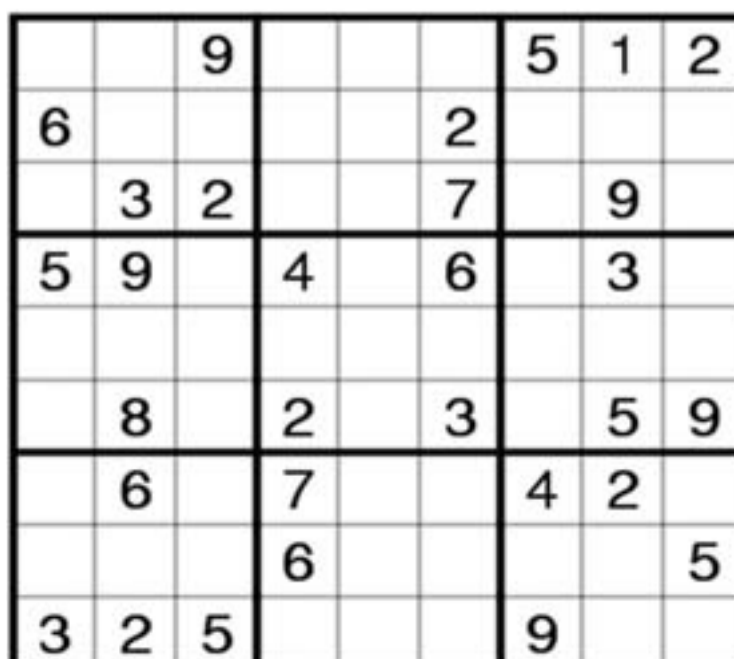
Fantasy World 1



- | | | | |
|------------|--------|----------|---------|
| ALE | ELVES | LANCE | QUEST |
| BATTLE | FARM | MACE | SERVANT |
| CASTLE | FOREST | MAGIC | SPEARS |
| CENTAUR | GIANTS | MINSTREL | SPRITE |
| CHALICE | GNOMES | MOAT | STEW |
| CROSSBOW | GOLD | OGRE | TOWER |
| CROWN | GUARDS | PEASANT | WARLOCK |
| DAGGER | HERO | PEDDLER | WEAPONS |
| DRAWBRIDGE | HORSE | POISON | WINE |
| DUNGEON | INN | PRINCE | WITCH |

The hidden message is: THE LORD OF THE RINGS

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 Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

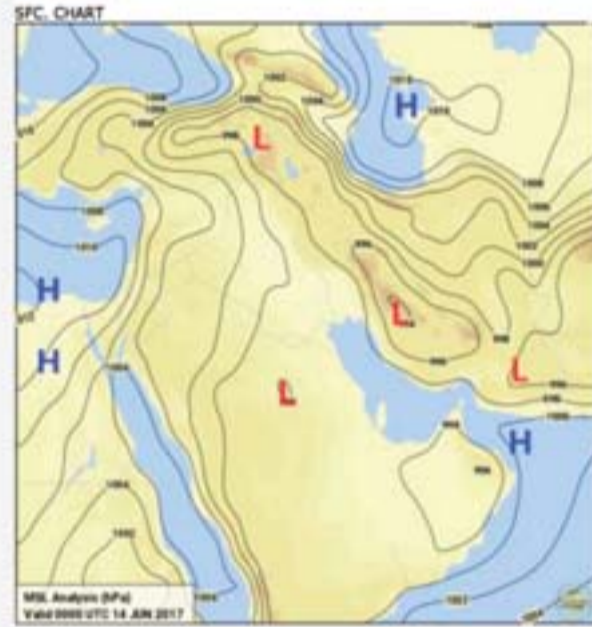
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 14/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 50 °C

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h.
By Night: Relatively hot with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	32	32	33	33
Max Temp °C	49	48	48	49
Wind Direction	northerly westerly to south easterly	northerly westerly to northerly	variable	variable to northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	12 - 30	06 - 22	10 - 32

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated.

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	36		49
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28		50
ABDAILY	29		50
BUBYAN	29		49
JAHRA	32		50
FALAKA ISLAND	30		48
SALMIYAH	36		46
AHMADI	36		44
JAL ALYAH	29		49
QAROH ISLAND	31		42
UMH AL-MARADEM	31		41
MUWAISIB	31		47
WAFRA	29		49
SALMY	28		49
MUTRIBA	28		50

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	30
Max Rel Hum (%)	25
Min Rel Hum (%)	06
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Sunrise	04:49
Sunset	18:48
Fajr	03:13
Sunrise	04:49
Zuhr	11:48
Aer	15:22
Sunset	18:48
Isha	20:21

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah 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-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah 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. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid 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			

Grammys switching to online voting, changes top album rule



This Dec 9, 2008 file photo shows a Grammy Award statue. — AP

The Grammy Awards are transitioning to online voting and have updated rules for its top category, album of the year. The Recording Academy announced new changes yesterday, including its official switch to online voting for its 13,000 members. Voting for the 2018 Grammy Awards will take place in the fall and will include songs and albums released between Oct 1, 2016, and Sept 30, 2017. Bill Freimuth, the academy's senior vice president of awards, said the academy expects to attract younger voters and touring musicians who are away from home during voting season.

"It is something that has been long-desired, long-talked about and long-investigated," he said of online voting, which comes a year after the Latin Grammys made the switch. Freimuth said there were concerns about security issues, but added they have "done everything we can to make sure the integrity of the system will be preserved." Another major change is the addition of songwriters to the nominees for album of the year, which was previously reserved for artists, producers and engineers. However, all participants in the album, including featured artists, songwriters, producers and engineers, must now be credited with at least 33 percent or more playing time on the album to be eligible for nomination. Prior to

the new rule, all participants on an album would earn a nomination for album of the year even if they worked on one song.

The album of the year rule change would mainly affect pop, rap and contemporary R&B albums where producers typically vary throughout the project, as opposed to country and rock albums, where fewer producers are present. Beyonce's "Lemonade," Drake's "Views" and Justin Bieber's "Purpose" - all nominees this year for album of the year - each had at least 20 producers credited. Adele's "25," which won the top prize in February, had 11 producers. The fifth nominee was country singer Sturgill Simpson, who produced his album by himself. "Does participation on a single track on a 12- or 15-track album really signify that they really worked on the album? When it was put that way most people were saying, 'No, not really,'" Freimuth said.

New Age genres

If the new rule had been implemented at this year's show, Bruno Mars and Ryan Tedder wouldn't have earned Grammys for their production work on Adele's album, for example. Freimuth added that songwriters and producers who work on a big hit on an album could earn a nomination for record or song of the year

for their song. The new changes were approved last month by the Recording Academy's board of trustees. Other changes include nomination review committees added to the rap, contemporary instrumental and New Age genres. The committees serve as an additional layer of checks and balances, and for rap, could prevent wins like Macklemore & Ryan Lewis in 2014 over Kendrick Lamar, which were highly criticized. It could also allow rising acts to earn nominations over veteran performers like Eminem and Kanye West, who consistently earn nominations.

"We form these committees only when we hear from ... those genre communities (when) they feel like something's wrong, or that our nominations could be better," said Freimuth. "For rap, what they were finding was that 'legacy' artists, almost no matter what they released, they would get a nomination because of their name recognition and fan base." The rock, R&B and country genres are other genres that have nomination review committees. The Grammy Awards have 83 categories. Nominees will be announced Nov 28, and the 60th awards show will take place at Madison Square Garden in New York on Jan 28, 2018. — AP



In this June 21, 1997, file photo, Country Joe McDonald, left, an anti-Vietnam War protester and 1960s rock icon, sings "Carry On," a healing song of peace, during San Francisco's 30th anniversary celebration of the "Summer of Love." — AP photos

1960s rock icons recall groovy, gritty Summer of Love

The Summer of Love in 1967 marked a turning point in rock and roll history: It introduced America to the exciting new sounds coming out of San Francisco's local music scene.

There was the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Big Brother and the Holding Company, which launched Janis Joplin's career, and Country Joe and the Fish, another signature band of the era. The Associated Press talked to members of these bands to discuss their memories of that legendary summer and how it shaped their careers and influenced their lives. Here's what they said:

- Bob Weir, 69. Grateful Dead, guitarist, vocals. On how that summer shaped his life: "We were sort of forced into a divorce from what we'll call the straight culture. They had a war going on that, Number One, didn't look good to us, and then even worse boded quite ill for us. If I had fallen to the draft, I probably wouldn't be here now. So what the straight culture had to offer for us, for me, was death. In our culture, in the Summer of Love, I had the life that I've lived to this day to look forward to."

- On making music history: "We were remaking the rules for music. I think we had a notion that we were remaking the rules a bit more than we actually ended up doing. But we did change music, our generation."

- On Jerry Garcia: "When I first met Jerry, he wasn't a hippie. He was basically a banjo player. He was a talented guy, and a great guy to hang with and an accomplished musician. And I figured I could do a lot worse than hooking up with that guy and playing music because I could see that we could go places together."

- On Jimi Hendrix: "I found myself jamming with him at the Monterey Pop Festival backstage. I didn't know who he was, and I don't think he knew who I was. But we were plugged into the same amplifier and had a great time together basically destroying that amplifier. And we became friends after that."

- On fame: "Our great fame didn't come right away, believe me. It was a long time in coming, which is one of the reasons that those of us who are still here are still here. Because we never got a chance to suffer from that 'too much, too soon' syndrome, which is almost invariably quite destructive."

- Country Joe McDonald, 75. Country Joe and the Fish, lead singer, guitar. On the hippies: "The main thing about the Summer of Love and that period of history is that we were incredibly poor and disenfranchised. Our clothes were hand-me-downs, and our instruments were cheap musical instruments, and the artists were lucky to get paid \$50 or \$100 bucks. The bands were making \$200 a night, split five, six, seven ways."

- On the vibe at the time: "It was exciting. It was small, and it was new. It was empowering and inclusive. Anyone could participate and was encouraged to participate. It had something that people wanted. It was also a period of invention and creativity, and with each new creative moment and invention, our morale was boosted." On what led to the Summer of Love: "In 1965 and '66 we had had enough. We couldn't stand it anymore. We weren't going to do what the status quo asked us to do. I grew up with a T-shirt with nothing on it. There was like one haircut for men. There was death in Vietnam, for black Americans, for minority Americans of all kinds. There was nothing for homosexuals except prison. For women, there was nothing except marriage and nursing, but there wasn't opportunity. We created opportunity. We created a mindset."

- On how it shaped his life: "It gave me a life. I didn't feel comfortable in the old life I had. I was part of it, I was successful in it. I

was in the Navy, but I didn't feel safe in my own skin and comfortable in it. There wasn't a world for me to be part of, and now I'm part of history. I'm not just talking about some song I wrote that made a lot of money. I got so much more out of it than money."

- Dave Getz, 77. Big Brother and the Holding Company, drummer.

- On the scene in San Francisco: "It was a cultural movement of artists, musicians, dancers, the gay culture, the writers. It was just all kinds of people interacting with each other and discovering each other and dropping acid. It was just a real exciting time. It was a revelatory time, and there was this great energy happening."

- On how the Summer of Love changed that scene: "By the spring of 1967, everybody knew that there was going to be an influx of people ... that there was going to be this mass invasion of young people in San Francisco. Nobody was really sure whether that was a good thing, or what would happen. It was what it was."

- On bandmate Janis Joplin: "After Monterey (Pop Festival), from 1968 on, it really became inevitable that she was going to go off and be a star. ... I think it would have happened anyway, because she was just destined for greatness." "I think toward the end, she was starting to become somewhat of a caricature of this certain part of her personality ... some part of herself that wasn't quite real anymore. Because she was a much more complex person than that. She wasn't Mae West. She was something else. She was very, very intelligent, very literate and very thoughtful on some other level. She just had a lot of sides to her that I thought maybe she was burying under this other image of herself, this sort of swaggering Mae West boozey character."

- On one epic night at the band's house in late '66: "We had a massive party when we knew we were going to move out. And all the people from the different bands came and it was like a big jam session. It was a great moment where everybody got high and everybody drank a lot. There was a lot of playing and animals running around. One of the things I remember was that someone brought a goat, and the goat ate my bedspread. I got back to my room in the morning, there was half a bedspread and a goat walking around the place."

- On how that era affected him: "I think there were moments at the time when I kind of thought to myself, 'This will be the seminal moment of my life. And take it in, because it's never going to be the same.'"

- David Freiberg, 78. Quicksilver Messenger Service, bassist and vocals. Joined Jefferson Airplane in the early 1970s.

- On the Summer of Love: "It just felt like walking down the street was magic. Just to be there was amazing."

- On the Haight-Ashbury: "For a while, it was kind of like everyone was there, doing their own thing, whether you were a poet, an artist, everybody existed in an enlightened state of existence. It felt very special." "It felt like a community for that short period of time until everybody got so big that they never saw each other anymore."

- On what changed the Haight-Ashbury: "It was doomed as soon as it made the cover of Time magazine, as soon as the (tour) buses pulled up with people to look at Haight Street."

- On the 50th anniversary: "It seems kind of tame to be marking the Summer of Love with museum exhibits and looking at posters." — AP



In this photo Mandy Moore, left, and Claire Holt pose for a portrait at the "47 Meters Down" junket at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

IN '47 METERS DOWN,' MOORE AND HOLT EMBRACE UNCHARTED WATERS

Mandy Moore spent six weeks at the bottom of a London pool trapped inside a steel cage, hyperventilating and screaming while filming the underwater thriller "47 Meters Down." It wasn't all called for in the script. Countless "what ifs" played out in her mind: What if her air suddenly cut out? What if her scuba equipment wasn't properly attached? "It hadn't really been done before, so no one really knew the ramifications of spending that much time underwater," Moore, 33, said. In total, Moore said she and her co-star Claire Holt spent 95 percent of production underwater for "47 Meters Down," which arrives in theaters Friday more than two years after it was shot.

Moore and Holt, 29, play sisters who try escaping their everyday problems by going on a Mexican vacation. They party, they argue and they go shark diving in a rickety cage. The cable suddenly breaks loose, sending them plummeting 154 feet to the ocean floor. In reality the actresses only descended 20 feet down to reach the bottom of that London pool. But as Moore will tell you, that's still 20 feet underwater. "It wasn't lost on us that we're breathing underwater and that is not normal," Moore said. Much like their characters, Moore and Holt were running out of air the moment they dived in. Director Johannes Roberts said it sped up shooting. They had a fixed amount of time until each air tank emptied and production stopped.

Unlike their characters, Moore and Holt were not dealing with actual sharks or darkness in the deep ocean. However, communication was an issue for all. In the film, the sisters were too deep for radio frequencies, leaving them unsure if help was on the way. On set, Roberts directed on dry land, only audible to Moore and Holt through underwater speakers. They couldn't even communicate with the underwater crew who wore special scuba diving masks different than their costume versions. So Moore and Holt looked to one another for guidance to both finesse their performances and remain calm.

Appreciate the experience

Holt said they didn't have to try too hard to act frightened - the strenuous production did that for them. "We knew our characters more, what facial expressions worked and what didn't," she said. Unease wasn't just reserved for the actresses. It became something of a theme for the film off-screen as well. Before the film's theatrical release, a bigger competitor emerged in the Blake Lively shark thriller "The Shallows." "47 Meters Down" headed for different territory, opting for a straight to video release. Roberts learned about the changes, including a new title, "In the Deep," from a horror film website. He and "47 Meters Down" co-writer Ernest Riera were already working on a new script in Spain, and Roberts told his creative partner he never wanted to speak of the film again.

The underwater production, lengthy editing and the video release had all taken their toll on the director. "It's a brutal job," Roberts said. "How you deal with it, is badly." However things changed again. "The Shallows" did better than expected at the box office, earning over \$55 million, according to comScore. A new distributor, Entertainment Studios, stepped in and set the film for a wide release. "It showed there's a market for it," Roberts said, an admitted shark movie aficionado.

Moore and Holt said they haven't seen "The Shallows," though Holt said she read the script. She noted they're distinct films, and "47 Meters Down" is not just a shark movie, she said. "It's about being trapped underwater, running out of air with nowhere to go. You can't go up; you'll get the bends," Holt said. "You don't know where you are. You don't know if anyone is coming for you." The film's unconventional journey to theaters has coincided with a career resurgence for Moore, who stars in the hit NBC series "This is Us." Holt is part of "The Vampire Diaries" franchise on the CW, most recently appearing in the spinoff "The Originals." They're proud of the hard work shooting "47 Meters Down," especially those days spent underwater. As for the film's distribution woes and delayed premiere, that's the last thing on their minds. "As actors, it's really important for us just to appreciate the experience," Moore said. "That's the only thing we're in control of." — AP



This undated file photo shows members of the Grateful Dead band, from left to right, Mickey Hart, Phil Lesh, Jerry Garcia, Brent Mydland, Bill Kreutzmann, and Bob Weir.



In this December 1969 file photo, singer Janis Joplin performs with her group Big Brother and the Holding Company.



In this March 8, 1968 file photo, members of the rock group Jefferson Airplane pose in San Francisco. From left are, Marty Balin, lead singer, songwriter and founder, Grace Slick, vocalist, Spencer Dryden, drummer, Paul Kantner, electric guitar and vocalist, Jorma Kaukonen, lead guitarist, vocalist and songwriter and Jack Casady, bass guitarist.

CLINTON, OBAMA SURPRISE WOMEN IN FILM AWARDS WINNERS, GUESTS

Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama and Sen. Kamala Harris made surprise appearances at Women in Film's awards ceremony with special videos, while veteran newsmen Dan Rather called the group's work toward gender parity in entertainment an example of "basic American decency, tolerance and generosity." Comedian Jessica Williams hosted the unexpectedly patriotic Crystal + Lucy Awards Tuesday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where F-bombs flew freely and "Wonder Woman" earned applause anytime it was mentioned.

Clinton said she hadn't seen "Wonder Woman" yet, but planned to: "Something tells me that a movie about a strong powerful woman fighting to save the world from a massive international disaster is right up my alley," she said before introducing Crystal Award-winner Elizabeth Banks. Lucy Award-winner Tracee Ellis Ross was misty-eyed as she watched Obama describe her as brilliant and hilarious. "Your character on 'Black-ish,' Bow, is an inspiration for folks all across this country," the former first lady said.

"Oh my goodness gracious," Ross said. In accepting the award named for Lucille Ball, Ross said that "to be a part of reshaping what it is to be a modern woman through the face and beingness of a joyful black woman is really special." But she said she wonders why such representations are so few. "Why are black women underrepresented in the stories that get told?" Ross asked, adding: "That question is not just a question for black women." Robert Redford, who played Dan Rather in the 2015 film "Truth," presented the reporter with a humanitarian award.

Rather praised Women in Film for supporting equality, inclusion and fairness. "In standing tall about these characteristic American values, you do our country - not just the film industry, but our country - great service far beyond what you may imagine," he said. "It is of tremendous value to our nation as a whole." Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o introduced filmmaker Mira Nair, who received the Dorothy Arzner Director's Award. Producers Michael Barker and Tom Bernard received the inaugural Beacon Award: The co-founders of Sony Pictures Classics have released more

than 60 films directed by women.

Actress Zoey Deutch received the Max Mara Face of the Future Award, which Banks received eight years ago. "You get eight years before you get the Old Lady in the Business award, so good luck," Banks quipped. She said movies and TV shows by and about women are important because media images shape popular perspectives. "We are creating culture," she told the industry-heavy crowd. "We are sending messages out into the world, and those messages matter. Presenting strong independent women who have agency in TV and film, is really important - not just in this room, not just in our culture, but in global culture."

The annual Crystal + Lucy Awards raise funds for Women in Film's research and education programs. Besides awards, the gala offered a look at some of Women in Film's new initiatives, including the "Flip the Script" series of short videos premiering on YouTube yesterday. — AP



Donna Langley attends the Women In Film 2017 Crystal and Lucy Awards.



Robert Redford attends the Women In Film 2017 Crystal and Lucy Awards.



Elizabeth Banks attends the Women In Film 2017 Crystal and Lucy Awards.



Dan Rather attends the Women In Film 2017 Crystal and Lucy Awards.— AP photos

FEATURES



Andrea Kittle tries out a vintage Smith Corona electric typewriter at a "type-in" in Albuquerque.



John Lewis, a typewriter repairman, works at his shop in Albuquerque, NM, in front of his collection of vintage typewriters.



Joe Van Cleave, who runs a popular YouTube channel on restoring typewriters, speaks about one of his vintage typewriters at his home in Albuquerque, NM. — AP photos

Old-school typewriters attract new generation of fans

Typewriter enthusiasts gather at an Albuquerque restaurant to experiment with vintage Smith Coronas. Fans in Boston kneel in a city square and type stories about their lives during a pro-immigration demonstration. A new documentary on typewriters featuring Tom Hanks and musician John Mayer is set for release this summer. In the age of smartphones, social media and cyber hacking fears, vintage typewriters that once gathered dust in attics and basements are attracting a new generation of fans across the US.

From public "type-ins" at bars to street poets selling personalized, typewritten poems on the spot, typewriters have emerged as popular items with aficionados hunting for them in thrift stores, online auction sites and antique shops. Some buy antique Underwoods to add to a growing collection. Others search for a midcentury Royal Quiet De Luxe - like a model author Ernest Hemingway used - to work on that simmering novel. The rescued machines often need servicing, and fans are forced to seek out the few remaining typewriter repair shops. "I haven't seen business like this in years," said John Lewis, a typewriter repairman who has operated out of his Albuquerque shop for four decades. "There's definitely a new interest, and it's keeping me very busy."

Jails and prisons

Renewed interest began around 10 years ago when small pockets of typewriter enthusiasts came together online, said Richard Polt, a Xavier University philosophy professor and author of "The Typewriter Revolution: A Typist's Companion for the 21st Century." Since then, the

base of fans has dramatically grown, and various public events have been organized around the typewriter. "It's beyond the phase where this is just a fad," Polt said. It's almost impossible to gauge recent typewriter sales. Almost all of the original manufacturers are out of business or have been bought out and become different companies. The Moonachie, New Jersey-based Swintec appears to be one of the world's last typewriter makers, selling translucent electronic machines largely to jails and prisons.

But operators of thrift stores and estate sales say typewriters are some of the quickest items to go. "That's part of the fun: the hunt," said Joe Van Cleave, an Albuquerque resident who owns more than a dozen typewriters and runs a popular YouTube channel on restoring the machines. "Sometimes, like a little luck, you might find something from the 1920s in great condition." Doug Nichol, director of the upcoming documentary California Typewriter, said the interest stems from "digital burnout" and people wanting a connection to the past. That interest seems to transcend age, he said. "Kids who grew up knowing only mobile phones and the computer are excited to see a letter typed with your own hand," said Nichol, who owns 85 typewriters. "It's a one-on-one interaction that doesn't get interrupted by Twitter alerts."

Vintage machines

In his film, set for release in August, Nichol interviews Hanks, who said he uses a typewriter almost every day to send memos and letters. "I hate getting email thank-

you from folks," Hanks says in the film. "Now, if they take 70 seconds to type me out something on a piece of paper and send to me, well, I'll keep that forever. I'll just delete that email." Hanks owns about 270 typewriters but often gives them away to people who show an interest. "No one is ever going to make the great typewriter ever, ever, ever again," he said.

One way the typewriter craze is growing is through organized "type-ins" - meet-ups in public places where typewriter fans try different vintage machines. Such events have been held in Phoenix, Philadelphia, Seattle, Los Angeles and Cincinnati. During a recent type-in at Albuquerque soul food restaurant Nexus Brewery, around three dozen fans took turns clicking the keys of an Italian-made 1964 Olivetti Lettera 32 and a 1947 Royal KMM, among others. Rich Boucher, a slam poet, spent most of his time on a 1960s-era Hermes 3000 crafting poetry and pausing while trying to figure out when to return the carriage for a next line.

"I haven't used a typewriter in forever," Boucher said. "This is a real refreshing way to spend a summer afternoon." After finishing his work, Boucher grabbed his phone and sent a Facebook status update about the experience. He then started looking online for a Hermes 3000. "That's the typewriter I want," he said. "I'm going to find one." — AP



Joe Van Cleave, left, and Rich Boucher, right, try out various vintage typewriters at a "type-in" in Albuquerque, NM.



Vintage typewriters are on display at a "type-in" in Albuquerque, NM.



Madelyn Deutch, from left, Zoey Deutch and Lea Thompson attend the Women In Film 2017 Crystal and Lucy Awards.



Photo shows a minidress, foreground, and an outfit worn by Jerry Garcia, top right, in the exhibit "The Summer of Love Experience, Art, Fashion and Rock and Roll" in Golden Gate Park at the deYoung Museum in San Francisco.



People look at 1960s music posters display in the exhibit "The Summer of Love Experience, Art, Fashion and Rock and Roll". — AP photos

San Francisco celebrates pivotal time in US: Summer of Love

They came for the music, the mind-bending drugs, to resist the Vietnam War and 1960s American orthodoxy, or simply to escape summer boredom. And they left an enduring legacy. This season marks the 50th anniversary of that legendary "Summer of Love," when throngs of American youth descended on San Francisco to join a cultural revolution. Thinking back on 1967, Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead recalls a creative explosion that sprouted from fissures in American society. That summer marked a pivot point in rock-and-roll history, he says, but it was about much more than the music.

"There was a spirit in the air," said Weir, who dropped out of high school and then helped form the Grateful Dead in 1965. "We figured that if enough of us got together and put our hearts and minds to it, we could make anything happen." San Francisco, now a hub of technology and unrecognizable from its grittier, more freewheeling former self, is taking the anniversary seriously. Hoping for another invasion of visitors - this time with tourist dollars - the city is celebrating with museum exhibits, music and film festivals, Summer of Love-inspired dance parties and lecture panels. Hotels are offering discount packages that include "psychedelic cocktails," "Love Bus" tours, tie-dyed tote bags and bubble wands.

Haight-Ashbury neighborhood

The city's travel bureau, which is coordinating the effort, calls it an "exhilarating celebration of the most iconic cultural event in San Francisco history." One thing the anniversary makes clear is that what happened here in the 1960s could never happen in San Francisco today, simply because struggling artists can't afford the city anymore. In the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, which was ground zero for the counterculture, two-bedroom apartments now rent for \$5,000 a month. San Francisco remains a magnet for young people, but even those earning six-figure Silicon Valley salaries complain about the cost of living.

In the mid-1960s, rent in Haight-Ashbury was extremely cheap, Weir, now 69, told The Associated Press. "That attracted artists and bohemians in general because the bohemian community tended to move in where they could afford it," he said. During those years, the Grateful Dead shared a spacious Victorian on Ashbury Street. Janis Joplin lived down

the street. Across from her was Joe McDonald, of the psychedelic rock band Country Joe and the Fish. Jefferson Airplane eventually bought a house a few blocks away on Fulton Street, where they hosted legendary wild parties.

"The music is what everyone seems to remember, but it was a lot more than that," said David Freiberg, 75, a singer and bassist for Quicksilver Messenger Service who later joined Jefferson Airplane. "It was artists, poets, musicians, all the beautiful shops of clothes and hippie food stores. It was a whole community." The bands dropped by each other's houses and played music nearby, often in free outdoor concerts at Golden Gate Park and its eastward extension known as the Panhandle. Their exciting new breed of folk, jazz and blues-inspired electrical music became known as the San Francisco Sound. Several of its most influential local acts - the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Big Brother and the Holding Company, which launched Joplin's career - shot to fame during the summer's three-day Monterey Pop Festival.

Fantastic music

One song in particular served as a national invitation to hippies across the land. "San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)," written by John Phillips of the Mamas & the Papas and sung by Scott McKenzie, came out in May 1967. It bolted up the charts and was used to help promote the Monterey festival that June. "Every fantasy about the summer of '67 that was ever created - peace, joy, love, nonviolence, wear flowers in your hair and fantastic music - was real at Monterey. It was bliss," said Dennis McNally, the Grateful Dead's longtime publicist and official biographer who has curated an exhibit at the California Historical Society that runs through Sept 10.

The exhibit, "On the Road to the Summer of Love," explains how that epic summer came about and why San Francisco was its inevitable home. McNally uncovered 100 photographs, some never seen publicly, that trace San Francisco's contrarian roots to the Beat poets of the 1950s, followed by civil rights demonstrations and the Free Speech Movement at the University of California, Berkeley in the early 1960s. The national media paid little attention to San Francisco's psychedelic community until January 1967, when poets and bands joined forces for the "Human Be-In," a Golden

Gate Park gathering that unexpectedly drew about 50,000 people, McNally said. It was there that psychologist and LSD-advocate Timothy Leary stood on stage and delivered his famous mantra: "Turn on. Tune In. Drop out."

"After the media got hold, it just exploded," McNally said. "Suddenly, a flood descends on Haight Street. Every bored high school kid - and that's all of them - is saying, 'How do I get to San Francisco?'" An exhaustive exhibit at San Francisco's de Young museum, "The Summer of Love Experience," offers a feel-good trip back in time. There's a psychedelic light show, a 1960s soundtrack and galleries with iconic concert posters, classic photographs and hippie chic fashions worn by Joplin, Jerry Garcia and others. It runs through Aug 20.

Free speech debate

But that summer's invasion carried a dark cloud. Tens of thousands of youths looking for free love and drugs flooded into San Francisco, living in the streets, begging for food. Parents journeyed to the city in search of their young runaways. An epidemic of toxic psychedelics and harder drugs hit the streets. "Every loose nut and bolt in America rattled out here to San Francisco, and it got pretty messy," Weir said. The long-timers saw it as the end of an era, but one that shaped history. "We created a mindset that became intrinsic to the fabric of America today," said Country Joe McDonald, now 75. "Every single thing we did was adapted, folded into America - gender attitudes, ecological attitudes, the invention of rock and roll."

Half a century later, McDonald, who lives in Berkeley, feels the rumblings of history repeating itself. UC Berkeley is again at the center of a free speech debate, albeit of a different nature. Discontent with the US government and President Donald Trump has stirred the largest protests he's seen since the Vietnam War. In the women's marches across America, he felt echoes of the Summer of Love. "I think there's a similarity," McDonald said, drawing a parallel to the massive anti-Trump turnout marked by nonviolence, playful pink protest hats, creative signs and a determination to change the country's political course. "Both were about saying goodbye to the past and hello to the future." — AP



People take pictures outside the exhibit "The Summer of Love Experience, Art, Fashion and Rock and Roll".



People sit on bean bags and watch abstract images by light show artist Bill Ham in the exhibit "The Summer of Love Experience, Art, Fashion and Rock and Roll".

FASHION

A few tips to enjoy your Iftar

By The Real Fouz

It's an amazing feeling to quench your thirst and eat all the things you were craving after a long day of fasting, but going from fasting to overeating isn't always the best idea. It's amazing how we practice so much control while fasting, but choose to overeat and overindulge when we break our fast. To help you break these bad habits this Ramadan, I've gathered a few tips to ensure you enjoy your Iftar the right way.

1. Eating right at Suhoor time will help with fasting as well as prevent overeating during Iftar. A balanced Suhoor can keep you going a long way and reduce your feelings of hunger during the day. Try to incorporate a fiber packed meal with a combination of protein, carbs, and good fats.
2. Begin your Iftar with something small like dates or nuts and take a break before starting your meal. This will satisfy your hunger and allow you to avoid overeating from the start. Starting with soup and salad is also a good option because they are low in calories but will still make you feel full.

3. When you do eventually eat, try to eat as slow as you can and enjoy your meal instead of rushing to finish it. Eating slowly will allow your body to effectively send you signals that you are full, which will help you to eat enough but still feel good after your meal. Eating slow will also help to prevent indigestion, which is a problem many people face during Ramadan.
4. When it comes to dessert, we all love to overindulge. This is when you will need the most self-control. Try to go for a selection of fresh fruits or fruit salad instead of Arabic sweets or chocolate. Your body needs the extra nutrition and vitamins after a full day of fasting so fruits are the perfect option.
5. Exercising during Ramadan is also very important, even if this means walking for an hour every day or going to the gym if preferable. Make sure you incorporate some kind of exercise into your daily routine. You will notice that you'll feel so much better and it will also help to burn off the extra calories.
6. Staying hydrated during Ramadan is one of the most important things. Drinking enough water isn't only

crucial to your health, but will also make you less likely to overeat. Drink a full glass of water before starting your meal and make sure to keep staying hydrated throughout the non-fasting hours.

7. Getting enough sleep is also important during this month. People tend to sleep at later hours, so it's important to make sure that you are getting enough sleep during the day to compensate. Eating and sleeping are the two basic human functions, so there is a big connection between the two. When we don't get enough sleep, our body releases hunger hormones, which makes us overeat once we break our fast. Prioritizing your sleep schedule will have a huge effect on the way you feel during Ramadan.

Try to make the most out of this amazing month and don't let your bad habits ruin it for you. Overeating, not getting enough sleep and eating the wrong food will prevent your body from getting the endless health benefits that fasting can give you. Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and blessed Ramadan.



In Africa's fashion capital, Lagos, 'trad is swag'

Leggy dancers in tight shorts, bottles of Moët champagne and flashy cars feature in Nigerian pop icon Wizkid's bling-bling music videos. But the singer himself has now swapped the Versace T-shirts and low-slung jeans that show his underwear for traditional African dress—a new youth trend in fashion hub Lagos. Last year, Vogue voted Wizkid "Nigeria's best-dressed pop singer", a particularly coveted and prestigious title in a country where appearance is all important and competition is fierce.



This file photo shows models displaying their make up to stage managers and designers ahead of the final dressing up at the Africa Fashion Week in Lagos. — AFP photos

Clothing that used to be considered only for the old or for people out in the provinces is setting the trend in fashion, from the Yoruba agbada, a large, triple-layered robe worn in the southwest, to the Igbo "Niger Delta" embroidered collarless shirt from the south, and the northern Hausa babariga, a long tunic worn with an embroidered asymmetrical hat. In recent years, this traditional clothing—or "trad" as it's dubbed—can be seen in offices as well as nightclubs, and at weddings and business meetings.

"It's the in-thing now," Wizkid told Vogue magazine. "When I'm back home, all I wear is African fabrics. I get material from different parts of Nigeria—north, west, south—and I mix it up," said the 26-year-old superstar. Lack of space in Lagos, a sprawling megacity of 20 million inhabitants, has meant there are few shopping centers and ready-to-wear clothing stores are hard to find. Economic recession and the free fall of the naira currency has put paid to wealthy Nigerians' shopping sprees in Dubai, Paris and Milan. Instead, they've had to make do with what's on offer locally, sending the popularity of roadside tailors soaring.

'Trad is swag'

In 2012, Omobolaji Ademosu, known as B.J., left his job in a bank to set up his own line of men's clothing, Pro7ven. In two tiny workshops in Ojodu, on the outskirts of Lagos, his dozen employees cut, sew and iron a series of orders to the sound of a diesel generator. B.J. calls his style "African contemporary". His work includes magnificent made-to-measure agbadas with embroidered collars, which can sell for up to 150,000 naira (\$475, 420 euros) each. "Trad is swag," smiled B.J. "Any day, I can switch from Yoruba to Igbo to Fulani, I'm rocking it! It's the Lagos spirit, there is no barrier, we are one."

When attending professional meetings in business and politics, dressing in the ethnic outfit of your host is a sign of respect that can really pay off—or at least win big contracts. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari's election campaign in 2015, for example, featured him in a variety of traditional outfits from across the country. With more than 500 ethnic groups, Nigeria is able to draw from a huge catalogue of fabrics, styles and jewelry. The beauty of each ethnic look is a source of pride, which has begun to extend beyond Nigeria's borders.

In early May, Mbuyiseni Ndlozi, a spokesman for South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters party, posted a picture of himself on Instagram, dressed in a dark "Niger Delta" outfit, complete with wide-brimmed hat and gemstone necklace. His numerous and enthusiastic female fans were quick to comment with emoji hearts, affectionately calling him "Igwe" — an Igbo prince.

Retained 'African pride'

"Even in Paris, young people from the diaspora want to present themselves as African princes now," said Nelly Wandji, owner of MoonLook, an African fashion boutique in the upmarket Rue du Faubourg St-Honore. "Nigeria is clearly the leader in fashion in terms of style, creativity and number of recognized designers," she said on a recent visit to Lagos. "Lagos Fashion Week has dethroned Johannesburg. Nigerians have remained much more authentic, they have retained 'African pride', whereas South Africa is very Europeanized."

Wandji, who is French of Cameroonian heritage, said the fashion trend was due to the African diaspora, of which Nigerians were the main ambassadors by sheer weight of numbers. "Young people from the diaspora are the drivers of African fashion, they have reappropriated their culture and made it trendy because it's seen in Europe or the United States," she said. Gloria Odiaka, a petite woman in her 50s, is the successful owner of a luxury traditional fabric shop in Lekki, a well-heeled Lagos neighborhood. "The young generation are into native wear and they look gorgeous," she said. "My sons study in Canada and when I go visit them they say, 'Please, Mommy, buy us some trads, I'm done with Canadian T-shirts!'" she said with a laugh. — AFP



This file photo shows models in bridal fashion waiting backstage ahead of the Africa Fashion Week in Lagos.



This file photo shows Nigerian traditional fashion designer Omobolaji Ademosu holding a mannequin as he leaves his office in Lagos.



This file photo shows a model in bridal fashion designer Omobolaji Ademosu waiting backstage to enter the catwalk at the Africa Fashion Week in Lagos.



This file photo shows models in bridal fashion waiting backstage ahead of the Africa Fashion Week in Lagos.



In this file photo, fashion designers Stefano Gabbana, left, and Domenico Dolce arrive for the presentation of the book "Milan Fashion, soccer players portraits", in downtown Milan, Italy. — AP

Dolce & Gabbana calls out critics with boycott T-shirts

Italian fashion house Dolce & Gabbana is thumping its nose at critics with a new campaign and apparel urging a boycott of the company. The company is selling T-shirts for \$245 a piece that read #BOYCOTT DOLCE & GABBANA. The shirts are listed on Dolce and Gabbana's website alongside a short film of Italian protesters against the shirts during a demonstration against the company. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana are among the protesters.

The shirts follow Instagram posts from co-founder Stefano Gabbana last month highlighting first lady Melania Trump's Dolce & Gabbana outfits during her recent overseas trip with President Donald Trump. In one of his posts, Gabbana called out "haters" and urged them to boycott the brand. Dolce & Gabbana didn't immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday. — AP

Beyond the formal corsage: Floral accessories get creative

Want a memorable accessory for that big event? Think beyond the traditional pinned-on boutonniere or corsage, and consider wearing a piece of floral art. "There are those floral artists who are thinking outside the box and are using blooms and botanical elements in new, fresh ways, as in floral jewelry and wearables," said Tobey Nelson, owner of Tobey Nelson Events and Design in Langley, Washington. Wearable flowers have been getting play on fashion runways, and are increasingly popular as necklaces, bracelets and crowns at weddings, proms or other special occasions. Some can even be replanted later.

Nelson describes her flower jewelry as "neck gardens" or "wrist gardens." "I see so many different plant parts - be it a flower or berry or an acorn or curly stem - as a gem of nature," she said. "It is only fitting that I would fashion them into jewelry." Floral designers cajole blooms - often succulents - into jewelry bases that can be worn around a wrist or finger, or used as necklaces, earrings and headpieces. Many of the bases can be used again after the flowers are spent.

Succulents are resilient, simple to grow and don't need to be watered frequently. Sedums, echeverias and sempervivums multiply rapidly. Eventually, they will expand off their bases, sending out roots in search of nutrients. "The life expectancy of a floral wearables piece made from succulents can be three weeks to two months, as long as it is stored in sunlight," Nelson said. "Jewelry made from succulents can be taken apart when the plants begin to outgrow the jewelry piece and then planted."

Susan Mcleary, a floral designer, artist and instructor who operates Passionflower in Ann Arbor, Michigan, has a long list of go-to flowers and foliage



This photo shows a floral tiara at a workshop held near Langley, Wash, and is designed as an accessory to be worn at weddings, proms or other special occasions. — AP photos



This photo shows a floral bracelet at a workshop held near Langley, Wash.

that she uses as wearables. "The best way to form your own list is to test obsessively," Mcleary said. "Anytime I get a new flower in the studio, I snip off a few blooms to test how they fare out of water."

"For floral jewelry, I love using young, tight ranunculus, astrantia blooms, hyacinth pips, delphinium florets, huechera foliage, herbs, berries, pods, miniature orchids . . . to name a few." Floral pieces appreciate a periodic misting but they are made to last for the duration of a one-day event such as a wedding or party, Mcleary said. Succulents can last up to three weeks without watering.

Mcleary's designs often center around a single

family of colors, adding a variety of shades and textures to boost interest. "Larger blooms and darker shades typically are set down first, and more delicate materials and lighter shades float above," she said. She receives many illustrated thank you notes from former clients - usually brides - for whom she designed succulent jewelry that was successfully re-potted. "A favorite photo came on one couple's first anniversary: a pot of overflowing plants, happily nestled in their new home," she said. — AP

FEATURES



A traffic security officer stands on duty at an intersection in Pyongyang..



Traffic security officers stand at an intersection in Pyongyang.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION: PYONGYANG'S 'TRAFFIC LADIES'

Snapping their heads from side to side, marching into the roads in close-fitting blue uniforms and black heels, the "traffic ladies" who marshal vehicles at the intersections of Pyongyang are an emblematic image of the North Korean capital. Officially known as traffic security officers but universally referred to as traffic ladies, they are chosen for their looks in a society that remains traditionalist in many respects. They must leave the role if they marry, and have a finite shelf-life, with compulsory retirement looming at just 26.

The 300-odd ladies are unique to Pyongyang, which North Korean authorities are always keen to present in the best possible light despite their nuclear-armed country's impoverished status, and ensure a steady supply of photogenic young women who are the favorite subject of visiting tourists and journalists. "They are representing the capital city," explained a senior officer of the ministry of public security, which supervises traffic regulation. "That's why they are selected based on their appearance and physique." No age limit applies to their roughly 400 male counterparts - who tend to be stationed at roundabouts. The rules were because "normally, the women in our country marry at the age of 26 or 27", explained the officer, who did not want to be named. "Because the role is tough and difficult, they can only do the job when they are single."

Tough training

The traffic ladies were originally introduced in the 1980s, when vehicles were a rarity on the streets of Pyongyang and remained so for decades, giving rise to the surreal sight of them directing - with precision and energy - non-existent

cars on wide but deserted boulevards. As part of North Korea's security forces they hold officer ranks, and Senior Captain Ri Myong-Sim, 24, said: "I have to carry out each and every action with discipline and spirit." A seven-year veteran, she cuts an imposing presence in her high-peaked cap and white gloves.

Her "tough training" had involved "exhausting repetition" of the moves, she told AFP. "But every time I felt that, the thing that kept me going and drove me was the thought that our leader, who cares for only the happiness of our people all year long, was watching us work," she said, standing ramrod-straight at the Changjon crossroads in central Pyongyang. "So I could practice throughout the night and keep going on the next day without feeling tired at all." Ordinary North Koreans normally only express official sentiments when questioned by foreign media. An obelisk down the road proclaimed: "The Great President Kim Il-Sung and the Great Leader Kim Jong-Il will always be with us."

Great love

Vehicle numbers have increased in the capital in recent years as authorities quietly liberalize the economy, leading to growth despite United Nations sanctions imposed over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, although the North keeps most statistics secret and precise figures are not available. Traffic lights have been introduced at most intersections, but the ladies - who say they work an hour on, an hour off, although their feet can still get sore - have no fear of their blue uniforms being replaced by red, amber and green.

The lights "help the humans do their jobs more easily," said Ri. Their kit includes thick cotton coats for winter - when their breath condenses instantly in the bitter cold - flashing orange halters for night work, and sunscreen. "The great leader shows them endless care and love," the ministry officer said. "That's why they do their best in their efforts, to repay the great love of the great presidents and dear Respected Marshal Kim Jong-Un."

Second to none

The traffic ladies are "second to none" as a photo subject for tourists visiting Pyongyang, said Simon Cockerell, general manager of specialist travel agency Koryo Tours, who has been leading trips to North Korea for more than 15 years. "They appear to have the dual function of directing traffic and brightening up the streets of the capital," he said. "I don't believe there has been a tourist who has visited Pyongyang and not taken a photo of a traffic lady."

"I think it would be no exaggeration to call them iconic," he added - although they were "somewhat objectified" by visitors. With retirement ahead Senior Captain Ri is taking a training course to become a teacher. But she let the facade of discipline slip when asked if the focus was annoying. "We are so concentrated on doing our jobs we rarely notice the attention," she giggled. — AFP



A traffic security officer stands on duty at an intersection in Pyongyang.—AFP photos



A Premiere Padmini taxi used as a garbage vat is seen along a street in the Indian city of Mumbai.— AFP photos



Indian taxi driver Dawood Khan, 80, stands next to his Premiere Padmini taxi after dropping off a customer in Mumbai.



An Indian woman speaks on her mobile phone while walking past a Premiere Padmini taxi used as a garbage vat in Mumbai.



Indian taxi driver Dawood Khan, 80, drives his Premiere Padmini taxi along a street in Mumbai.

Mumbai's adored Padmini taxis near the end of the road

They were named after a legendary Indian queen and were synonymous with Mumbai for half a century but the last Premier Padmini taxis will soon embark on their final journey-to the scrapyard. The compact black-and-yellow cabs, based on an Italian Fiat and often boasting elaborately patterned interiors, were once ubiquitous across the congested roads of India's financial capital and have featured in countless Bollywood movies.

Around 65,000 Padminis plied Mumbai at their peak in the mid-1990s but a gradual phasing out in favor of newer, more environmentally friendly vehicles has meant that today only some 300 splutter around and officials predict they will disappear completely next year. For many the passing of the Indian-built vehicle, a product of the Asian giant's closed economy of the 1960s and a classic, albeit now rusting, car which continues to enthral foreign tourists, will be the end of an unforgettable chapter in Mumbai's history. "It really is an iconic car because for so long it was the only vehicle used by taxi operators here. It must have been the largest fleet in the world," A. L. Quadros, a taxi union chief in Mumbai, told AFP.

The first Padminis, an Indian take on the Fiat 1100 Delight, rolled off production lines at the Premier Automobiles Limited factory in Mumbai, then called Bombay, in 1964 under an licensing agreement with the famous Italian car manufacturer. They were initially known as "Fiat taxis" before being renamed Padmini in 1973 after mythical Hindu queen Rani Padmini who legend has it lived during the 13th and 14th centuries.

Padmini v Ambassador

Mumbai authorities in the 1960s opted for the Padmini over the bulkier Hindustan Motors Ambassador - the taxi of choice in Delhi and Kolkata, which was the only other car widely available in India at the time - and their numbers increased exponentially during the '70s and '80s. "The Padmini was chosen because it was small and attractive. It was nice to drive and you could park it anywhere easily. It was comfortable and people liked it," said Quadros.

Not known for their speed or boot space, Padminis are characterized by their low ceilings, large gear stick to the left of the steering wheel and quirky silver-coloured door handles which require passengers to trickily lift up and push to get out. Today, many have colorful carpeted ceilings and seat covers while some boast bright, multi-colored neon lights which illuminate the inside of the



A Premiere Padmini taxi (center) is parked alongside other taxis outside a railway station in the Indian city of Mumbai.

cab at night. But they are also known for dodgy brakes, indicators that fail to work, doors that don't close properly and a tendency to let in water during Mumbai's four-month summer monsoon.

As Autocar India editor Hormazd Sorabjee points out they were hardly famous for being finely-tuned automobiles. "The welding was poor and sloppy. Even when it came out of the factory it was in terrible condition and you'd probably have to get it fixed. That's just how it was in India in those days," he told AFP, referring to the years before India's economy opened up in 1991.

Anti-pollution measures

Liberalization paved the way for the arrival of more spacious, reliable, comfortable and fuel-efficient vehicles such as Hyundai models. Numbers steadily declined and production of Padminis was stopped altogether in 2000. Their death knell was finally sounded in 2013 when the

government implemented an anti-pollution order banning cars more than 20 years old from Mumbai's roads. The number of Padminis has declined rapidly since and Quadros expects there will be none left on the roads by December 2018. Taxi driver Mukund Shukla, who has maneuvered his Padmini through Mumbai's hectic streets for 20 years, is sad about the prospect of his beloved vehicle being sold for scrap.

"This Padmini has given me company for two decades and I will miss it deeply," said the 47-year-old, who plans to take a bank loan to afford the 500,000-rupee (\$7,700) cost of a new taxi. But not everyone is upset about the Premier Padmini fading into history. Sorabjee said: "Modern cars are light years ahead in terms of technology. The Padmini had nothing going for it by the end, nostalgia apart." — AFP



Motorists ride past a Premiere Padmini taxi used as a garbage vat in the Indian city of Mumbai.



An Indian taxi driver drives his Premiere Padmini past the iconic UN Heritage building Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station in Mumbai.

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017

In Africa's fashion capital, Lagos, 'trad is swag'

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Iraqi boys read a copy of the Quran as they attend a reading class at the Sheikh Abdul Qadir Al-jailani mosque in central Baghdad during the Holy Fasting Month of Ramadan. — AFP

Prophet's cloak attracts Ramadan faithful in Istanbul



People look at and offer prayers beside what is believed to be the sacred cloak of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in a mosque in Istanbul. — AFP photos

A long queue of men and women standing in separate lines extends from an Istanbul mosque to see a centuries-old garment pressed down flat inside a glass exhibition case: the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) sacred cloak made of linen, cotton and silk. The Hirka-i Serif (the Noble Cloak) was brought to Istanbul in the seventeenth century, at a time when the Ottoman Empire controlled much of the Islamic world deep into today's Saudi Arabia. Every year, during the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the cloak is put on special display at the Hirka-i Serif mosque in Istanbul, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors.

"I was here last year. God willing, I will be here next year as long as I am alive," 78-year-old Nimet Sahin said, as caretakers warned visitors selfies were not appropriate. Neziha Polat, 76, said she felt as if she was in Mecca, the holy Islamic city to which all Muslims are required to make a pilgrimage in their lifetimes. "I come here every year and have the same feeling. Let God not diminish this feeling in our heart," she said in tears.

From Yemen to Istanbul

The garment had been entrusted to Uwais Al-Qarni, who went in the seventh century to Medina to see Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) but had to return to Yemen due to his mother's illness without seeing the prophet. Impressed by the story, Muhammad gave his cloak via companions to Al-Qarni as a present and he received the garment in Yemen. Al-Qarni had no children and the relic was then preserved by his relatives, Istanbul mufti Hasan Kamil Yilmaz said.

In 1611 Ottoman Sultan Ahmed I brought the holy cloak to Istanbul from Kuasadasi in western Turkey where Al-Qarni's relatives had preserved it. "Since then Hirka-i Serif has been in Istanbul," Yilmaz told AFP. And in 1851, Sultan Abdul Majid built the Hirka-i Serif mosque in the Fatih district with the goal of preserving and exhibiting the cloak. "There are two keys to the cloak-one held by the foundation and the other by the family," he said.

The sacred garment has passed on from one generation to another and its current head keeper is Baris Samir-the 59th generation grandson of the al-Qarni who was first given the garment. "It's a very honourable duty. We are very happy to perform it, and have such a responsibility," Samir told AFP. "It's also a tough job, it is a tough responsibility, morally and financially."

'Spread the goodness'

An old man, wearing an Islamic skullcap and waiting his turn in the queue to see the garment, said he was at peace. "What can be more precious than this in life?" he asked. "I have seen this before I die." Zehra, 48, said it was a great happiness for the Muslims even to lay eyes on the Prophet's cloak. "I believe that brings us closer to him." Every year, over one million believers come to see the sacred garment from all over the world.

"People from Siberia to Africa, from America to Far East come and see the Prophet's cloak," Samir said. "The number of visitors usually exceeds one million. We receive many visitors especially on the Laylat Al-Qadr (Night of Destiny marking when the Koran was revealed) because the cloak can be seen till the morning."

Loukman Hakim, 49, a businessman from Malaysia, was among the visitors, along with a group of around 20 Malaysians. "Of course it makes us closer to Prophet Muhammad," Hakim told AFP outside the mosque after seeing the sacred cloak. "It makes us happy, it makes us feel that we have to do something to be with him meaning to say that we have to spread the love, spread the teaching, spread all the goodness that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had brought into this humankind," he added. Samir said the cloak's display was a meeting point between the Prophet and the believers. "We are happy to bring them together." — AFP



Bizarre News

Millionaire scratch card winner mistook winnings for pint of milk

A pensioner, who won £1 million on a scratch card, thought he had won a pint of milk. Bill Bett, from Markinch in Fife, Scotland, scratched off the numbers on his Monopoly Millionaire card, but believed his prize which read '1 mil' was a milk freebie, according to BBC News. Mr Bett insisted his shopkeeper had to drill it into him that he had in fact won the top prize and was now a millionaire. He said: "When I saw the amount it didn't really click at first. On the card it reads 1MIL and I thought what does this mean - I've won a pint of milk? I went back into the shop and asked them to check it. They confirmed that I had won and that I'd have to call the Lottery line. I couldn't believe it but I actually remained quite calm."

Family offer staggering sum for live-in nanny at haunted house

A family is offering a staggering £50,000 for a live-in nanny to look after their kids at their haunted home. The homeowners from Scotland are desperate for a minder to live at their home for four nights a week to look after two children aged five and seven after five previous nannies quit their role due to reported supernatural activity at the home, including strange incidents including noises, broken glass and moving furniture. The job advert on childcare.co.uk reads: "We haven't personally experienced any supernatural happenings, as they have been reported only while we've been out of the house, but we're happy to pay above the asking rate and feel it's important to be as up-front as possible to find the right person."

Ravensbourne grad scoops once in a lifetime Travel guru role with comparethemarket.com

A Ravensbourne University graduate will jet across the globe after he won comparethemarket.com's Travel Advisor competition. Joe Thompson, who studied Digital Photography, has secured the once in a lifetime opportunity and will capture his experiences on video, after receiving thousands of votes. Joe is delighted with his forthcoming venture, and said: "I was extremely happy to get the news that I have won the Compare The Market competition. Not only will it be an amazing trip, it will set up my career as a travel and landscape photographer after Uni and improve my portfolio immensely." In addition, he's also secured £5,000 for his Student Union. "The £5,000 will be put to good use at my universities SU, who have done a fantastic job in looking after us during our time at Ravensbourne. Thanks to Compare the Market for this amazing opportunity!"

Father's Day cards show shift in dads role in modern home

Archive analysis of Father's Day cards by Clintons, the national gift and card retailer, shows the extent to which dads' roles have shifted in the modern home. Depictions of dads as aloof, pipe-smoking, newspaper-reading, besuited men 'enthroned' by the fireplace have disappeared from all cards, with the exception of parody cards, and have been replaced by casually-dressed, soft-in-the-middle, sofa-dwelling figures, often likened to Darth Vader and far more likely to be comically inept. Clintons looked at thousands of depictions of dads on Father's Day cards since the 1950s. The research found the following:

1. Dads appear to have put on 10-15 kilos in body weight.
2. Dads have dressed down.
3. Dads' leisure time preferences have shifted from reading the paper in slippers on an armchair to barbecuing or watching the football on the sofa with a drink.
4. Dads have a much stronger emotional connection with their kids are often the subject of affectionate jokes.(PBUH)