

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

Up to KD 1,700



Queen outlines UK agenda in scaled-down speech



Greats lament 'sad day' as Kohli topples Kumble





annual fee

for parent

visa

SAUDI KING OUSTS NEPHEW, NAMES SON CROWN PRINCE

High Tide 09:29 & 23:22

Low Tide

03:38 & 14:52

Max 45°

32°

Min

Amir congratulates Saudi; Former Crown Prince relieved of all posts



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi yesterday.— KUNA

AMIR MEETS IRAQI

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi at Bayan Palace yesterday in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, ways of promoting ties, issues of mutual interest

and the latest regional crisis. The meeting was attended by First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and other top officials. — KUNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman yesterday appointed his 31-year-old son Mohammed Bin Salman as Crown Prince, placing him first-in-line to the throne and removing the country's counterterrorism czar and a figure wellknown to Washington from the line of succession. The monarch stripped Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef from his title as Crown Prince and from his powerful position as the country's Interior Minister overseeing security.

The announcements were made in a series of royal decrees carried on the state-run Saudi Press Agency. The all-but-certain takeover of the throne by Mohammed Bin Salman awards near absolute powers to a prince who has ruled out dialogue with rival Iran, has moved to isolate neighboring Qatar for its support of Islamist groups and who has led a war in Yemen that has killed thousands of civilians.

The prince already oversees a vast portfolio as Defense Minister and is spearheading economic reforms. He has become popular among some of Saudi Arabia's majority youth for pushing reforms that have opened the deeply conservative country to entertainment and greater foreign investments as part of an effort to overhaul the economy, including plans to list a percentage of the state-run oil giant Aramco.

The young prince was little known to Saudis and outsiders before Salman became king in January 2015. He had previously been in charge of his father's royal court when Salman was the Crown Prince. The Saudi monarch quickly awarded his son expansive powers and named him Deputy Crown Prince two years ago to the surprise of many within the royal family who are more senior

Continued on Page 13



TAIF: Saudi boys pose in front of a huge billboard showing (in the center) King Salman, with his 31-year-old son Mohammed Bin Salman to the right, and Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef to the left. Salman appointed his son, who was until now the Deputy Crown Prince and country's Defense Minister, as his successor and first in line to the throne. Salman stripped Mohammed Bin Nayef of the title of crown prince and ousted him from his powerful position of Interior Minister. — AP

COURT REOPENS ARGUMENTS IN ASSEMBLY STORMING CASE

Finance minister denies losing \$70 billion

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Court of Appeals yesterday reopened the door for fresh defense arguments in the case of storming the National Assembly in which 70 activists are defendants. The defendants, who include 11 present and former lawmakers, are charged with storming the National Assembly building during protests in 2011. The lower court had acquitted all of them. MPs involved in the case include Jamaan Al-Harbash and Waleed Al-Tabtabai and former lawmakers include Mussallam Al-Barrak and others. Judge Ibrahim Al-Obaid set the next hearing for July 5. The Constitutional Court meanwhile set

September 20 to issue its verdict on the controversy that surrounded the election of the deputy Speaker. Two candidates contested the election and Issa Al-Kundari emerged the winner after a re-vote. In the first vote, MP Harbash came ahead with one vote but did not secure the absolute majority needed for him to win.

Continued on Page 13



OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

By Teresa Lesher

ur journey in life is never alone. Each of us has parents, and each is born into a family. In Islam, the journey through life is intrinsically woven into family life, in whose structure the journey takes shape. And it is in the Quran and prophetic traditions that the Muslim finds guidance for family life. The Quran presents a methodology for safeguarding the family group and, within it, each family member.

Each person in the family is cared for - children, mothers, fathers, near relatives, far relatives, servants and guests - even unborn children have rights that protect their wellbeing. Outside of family life is the community, another sphere of belonging. While many people see community life as competitive - trying to be more and possess more than others -Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) instructed us that the context of community is inclusive, not competitive.

Continued on Page 13



Shorook Duhr Asr Isha 03:03 03:13 04:49 11:50 15:23

GULF COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR VAT IN TIME OF CRISIS

DUBAI: Oil-rich Gulf countries, which for decades have attracted millions of foreign workers thanks to their reputation as tax-free havens, aim to introduce valueadded tax in 2018 to plug budget gaps. On top of administrative and technical hurdles, however, the project now faces an unprecedented diplomatic crisis after Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on June 5 severed all ties with Qatar, their partner in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar are due to introduce VAT in early 2018, with the other three GCC members-Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman-following at a later date. In case of a prolonged crisis, Qatar would have to replace imports from Saudi Arabia and UAE, valued at \$4.55 billion annually, with "costlier" non-GCC goods, said M R Raghu, head of research at the Kuwait Financial Centre (MARKAZ). "Implementing VAT in such a scenario would lead to inflationary pressures, especially in food-related items," he said.

"If the crisis is prolonged, then Qatar might want to delay the implementation of this envisaged tax reform to balance any spike in prices of commodities in the local markets." If it goes ahead as planned, VAT is unlikely to tarnish the GCC reputation as a low-tax region or reduce its appeal to expatriates, according to Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank. An introductory rate of five percent "looks to balance raising government revenue and still having a very attractive business environment, both for expatriates and corporations", she said. "We believe the UAE and the Gulf will still overall be seen as a low-tax environment on a global basis."

VAT, a tax paid by the consumer, is also unlikely to deter businesses from setting up operations in the Gulf region, according to Jeanine Daou, indirect tax leader at PwC Middle East. "From a business perspective, VAT should be neutral. What businesses are required to do is to collect tax on behalf of the government on their sales... It is not a corporate tax," she said. She said that five percent would be "one of the lowest VAT rates across the globe".

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Belgium's outgoing Ambassador to Kuwait Andy Detaille.

AMIR RECEIVES SENIOR OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al- Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met His Highness the Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the received His Highness the Prime Minister, as well as

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Detaille. The meeting was attended by the head of Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh His Highness the Crown Prince also received Belgium's outgoing Ambassador to Kuwait Andy

Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Saud Al-Sabah. — KUNA

KUWAIT MOST EFFECTIVE, PROBABLE MEDIATOR: UN CHIEF



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UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

NEW YORK: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has expressed his full support to Kuwait's mediation initiative in the complex Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) situation. In a press conference held at the UN headquarters, the UN chief expressed concern over the situation, believing that there should be a "regional solution." "I have followed particularly the efforts of mediation by Kuwait, and I express my support to the Kuwait mediation initiative," he said.

Guterres told the press that he thinks what Kuwait is doing "is the most useful way," and for the UN to cooperate in trying to address a situation that is complex, the leadership should be a "regional leadership." "My main concern has been is to try to push for a regional solution and what I have considered as most effective and probable mediator has been Kuwait that has my full support," he added.

When asked about intervention of other countries to the conflict in order to solve it, he said if countries or entities who have leverage over the parties to the conflict can help, then obviously their efforts will always be welcomed. "I don't think the UN has a leverage over the parties to the conflict that makes our direct intervention more effective than the support of Kuwaiti mediation," Guterres stressed. —KUNA



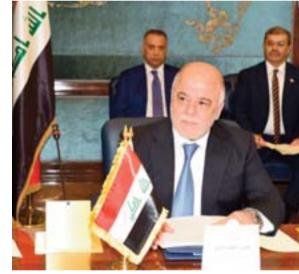
KUWAIT: His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. — KUNA

PREMIER MEETS IRAQI COUNTERPART

KUWAIT: His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met at Bayan Palace yesterday the visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all fields, in addition to regional and international issues that concern both nations.

The meeting was attended by First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, His Highness the Premier's Diwan Advisor and head of the accompanying mission of honor Faisal Mohammad Al-Haji, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Barrak Al-Sabeeh and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah.

Moreover, senior officials from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, His Highness the Premier's Diwan, Kuwait Investment Authority and Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources also attended the meeting, in addition to the delegation accompanying the Iragi Prime Minister. —KUNA



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi

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CONGRATULATIONS TO KUWAITI STUDENTS... AND WELCOME!

By Lawrence R Silverman, US Ambassador to the State

heartily congratulate all students who have received Kuwaiti Ministry of Education scholarships and offers of admission from one or more of the over 4,500 accredited institutions of higher learning in the United States. Graduates of American universities have gone on to become leaders and innovators in many fields around the world, including Kuwait, and you should be proud of the invitation to join this special and select group of young people whose lives will be changed forever by the dynamism, openness, and quality of university campuses across the United States.

Offers of admission are the product of much careful thought and hard work, both by the students who apply and by American universities that conduct a rigorous review of their applications. You earned these acceptances; you should be proud. Universities recognize the energy and creativity you poured into essays about your dreams and ideas, the hard work it took to prepare for English language and other examinations, and the commitments you fulfilled to community service and extracurricular interests.

Over a million international students are now in US higher education institutions, and around 15,500 of them are from Kuwait. We are proud that this is the highest number in history. For five generations, Kuwaiti students have studied in the United States, giving American students and communities a unique opportunity for interaction that expands their world views. This helps prepare all of us for shared, successful futures in an interconnected world. Studying in the United States makes you part of an impressive Kuwaiti tradition of getting the best possible education, then returning to help build the Kuwait of the future.

International students help maintain the United States' long-standing position as the world's top host nation for international students. This is a testament to the unmatched quality of American higher education in the eyes of international students, their families and the busi-

ness community. International students from diverse backgrounds also strengthen ties between the United States and countries around the world, developing the relationships between

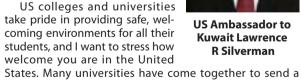
people and communities that are necessary to solve global

challenges. We value inclusion and actively support stu-

dents from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and geographic backgrounds on campuses across the United States. Our

universities value international students for the unique and

diverse perspectives you provide both in and out of classrooms. For generations, Kuwaitis have taken the opportunity of their schooling in the United States to explore all that America has to offer. These travel and cultural experiences are an important part of your education and preparation for your new careers.





US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman

specific and direct message to students around the world through the #YouAreWelcomeHere campaign. I join them in welcoming students from Kuwait to the United States, where our schools offer valuable educational opportunities to help you meet your life and career goals.

Consular officials at the American Embassy continue to work diligently to process student visa requests, and they are ready to welcome applications for students beginning their studies in the fall semester. Information about the visa process and maintaining your student status is available at travel.state.gov, ustraveldocs.com/kw, and studyinthestates.dhs.gov.

Be sure to follow us and check our Instagram account (USEmbassyQ8) for information about our upcoming "Student Visa Days," which are specially designated days for students planning to study in the United States. Our Consular and Public Affairs staff are happy to be partnering with the Ministry of Higher Education and with the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) to help facilitate the process of applying for visas and the distribution of information about studying in the United States.

In addition, "EducationUSA" advisers worldwide stand ready to answer questions. You can contact our very own adviser for Kuwait, Carine Nassrallah, via email at: EducationUSAKuwait@state.gov. Ms. Nassrallah is ready to assist you with your search for the right academic program for you, undergraduate or graduate. American colleges and universities welcome you, as do the American people and communities throughout our country. As the US Ambassador to Kuwait, I personally encourage those of you who have received offers of admission to accept this life-changing opportunity and join your peers in experiencing the unique value of an American higher education.







NO CASUALTIES IN FODDER FIRE NEAR SALMI: KFSD

KUWAIT: A huge fire that broke out at an open Tuesday night. Fire engines from Al-Jahra, Alarea used for storing fodder at 'kilometer one' of Ardiya and Al-Salmi rushed to the site and man-Al-Salmi highway resulted in no casualties, aged to control the fire that spread across 3,500 Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said square kilometers.— KUNA

NEW COMMITTEES FOR ISSUING MICRO-BUSINESS LICENSES: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Two committees have formed to set up executive mechanisms for issuing micro-business and mobile food trucks licenses, Minister of Trade and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said on Tuesday. The statement followed a coordination meeting that featured Minister of Awgaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri, Director General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi and a number of officials of the Public Authority for Manpower, the Ministry of Trade and Industry added.

Roudhan, also Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said outcome of the meeting that was also attended by some MPs came in activation of the ministerial decree No. 33 regarding the issuance of free licenses after the end of Eid Al-Fitr holiday. He said the meeting aimed to overcome obstacles and difficulties for small entrepreneurs, and to come up with integrated projects. He extolled the constructive cooperation by all participants aiming to provide the best services to citizens and facilitate all procedures.



Khaled Al-Roudhan

The minister stressed the government's keenness on materializing the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to develop Kuwait into a global commercial and financial hub through keeping pace with the world's economic developments and the creation of proper jobs for the Kuwaiti youth. The issuance of licenses would contribute to improving business environment, he noted, indicating that they also include commercial and intellectual businesses like



Mohammad Al-Jabri

designing websites, translations and others. Meanwhile, Minister Jabri expressed his hope for enacting the law without disadvantages so as to attract the Kuwaiti youth and provide labor market with their creative ideas and projects. The decision to issue the licenses is based on eagerness of the government to provide jobs for youth and coping up with the technology revolution, he said. He referred to the improvement and development of Kuwait in international business envi-

ronment. — KUNA

TELECOM TOWER REGULATIONS POSTPONED: COUNCIL MEMBER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Municipal Council member and chairman of the legal and financial committee Ali Al-Mousa said the committee postponed the approval of telecommunications tower regulations, adding that the rulings have been stagnant since 2013 and are important to the communications sector. He said the postponement was due to the change of names and entities.

Farmers Union

Kuwait Farmers Union Chairman Barrak Al-Sabeeh said the court's ruling to annul the elections of the board is an initial one and does not have the power of execution. He said

the current board will continue as is, based on ruling by the sessions court, as the new ruling will be contested within the legal period. He said in case a final ruling is issued to remove the current board, it is only he who can call for new elections as the elected chairman.

Road opening

Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) Ahmad Al-Hussan announced the opening of the upper part of a 2.1-km-long bridge within the project of west Jamal Abdul Nasser St at dawn tomorrow, starting from Doha Spur to residential Sulaibikhat near the sports club.



Ali Al-Mousa

GRAVE CHARITY VIOLATIONS DROP: MINISTER

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Social Affairs and Labor Minister and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said "there is a drop in grave violations, be it in mosques or donation ads on social media." Meanwhile, Sabeeh said the reason for the increase in the number of violations during the holy month compared with last year is due to the many NGOs participating in collecting donations (22), compared to 12 last year.

Housing units

State Minister for Housing Affairs and State Minister for Utilities Affairs Yasser Abul said the government plans to distribute 149,827 housing units until 2020 through an ironclad



Hind Al-Sabeeh

distribution plan that began in 2014. He said that the number of housing units in Jaber Al-Ahmad City total 2,185 units, including 1,475 houses and 710 flats. Meanwhile, there are 2,201 units in Sabah Al-Ahmad and 671 in West Sulaibikhat. The Wafra project includes 370 units, Sabahiya 133, Abu Halifa 141 and West Abdullah Al-Mubarak has 5,201 units.

Smart City

Korea Land and Housing Corporation opened its first branch in Kuwait in preparation for the construction of the smart city south of Saad Al-Abdullah. Deputy general manager for investment and private sector projects at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Hadeel bin Naji said she was happy with the new branch, adding the Korean side will bring Korean engineers to execute the project. She said the contract is for two years and the size of project makes it necessary to have a branch in the country with its own engineers.

KUWAIT'S INFLATION UP 2.7 PERCENT IN MAY

KUWAIT: The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) has risen by 2.7 percent in May year-on-year, the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) said on Tuesday. The index figure for May 2017 recorded an increase of 0.07 percent, compared to April, the CSB added in its monthly report. The CPI increased in seven influential groups last month, and stability in five others. The index for the first main group (food and beverages) went up by 0.13 percent, compared to the same

The figure of the second main group (tobacco and narcotics) was up by 0.59 percent in May month-onmonth, as the third group (clothing and footwear) rose by 0.31 on monthly basis. Inflation of the fourth group (housing services) shot up by 4.28 percent in May, and that of the fifth group (furnishing equipment and household maintenance) was up by 2.94

The sixth group (health) rose by 1.7 percent in May year-on-year, and the seventh (transport) went up by 12.33 percent on annual basis. Meanwhile, the index for the eighth group (communication) was down by 0.10 percent in May compared to the same month last year.

The ninth group (recreation and culture) also went down on an annual basis of 0.62 percent, as but the 10th group (education) was down by 1.15 on annual basis. As for the 11th group (restaurants and hotels), it edged up 4.47 percent on annual basis, and the last group (miscellaneous goods and service) witnessed an annual fall of 0.8 percent. — KUNA

KUWAIT URGES CITIZENS IN BELGIUM NOT TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BRUSSELS: The State of Kuwait's Embassy to Belgium urged citizens to refrain from using trains and metro services, following an explosion at Brussels-Central Station that occurred on Tuesday. Belgian police forces killed a person at Brussels Central Station, a police spokesman said, while an explosion took place in the station.

"There has been an explosion around a person. This person was neutralized by the soldiers present at the place," the spokesman was quoted by local media as saying. The embassy then advised citizens in Belgium not to use public transportation, including trains and metro services. It urged citizens wishing to contact the embassy in case of emergency to do so on following numbers: Emergency number: 47777-5801, Embassy: 2647-7950, Email: embassy-kwt+AEA-skynet.be. — KUNA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's Director of Public

116,470 SQUARE **METERS OF GARBAGE REMOVED**

Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Dr Saad Al-Jalawi said his department processed 182 transactions including the issuance of 30 licenses and renewing 44, 28 settlements for abandoned cars and 28 "to whom it may concern certificates." Jalawi said inspectors removed 116,470 square meters of garbage, besides issuing 242 warnings, 93 undertakings and 288 various violations.









MUSLIMS PERFORM QIYAM PRAYERS NATIONWIDE







KUWAIT: Sunil Jain, Ambassador of India to Kuwait hosted an iftar party at India House. Prominent Kuwaitis, foreign dignitaries and Indian community leaders attended the event.













GULF BANK CELEBRATES GIRGIAN WITH CHILDREN

IN COOPERATION WITH KACCH AND OTHER KUWAITI INSTITUTIONS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to have continued its annual tradition of celebrating girgian with children across Kuwait. The major portion of the Bank's girgian activities were carried out in partnership with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH) with the intention to bring laughter and smiles to hospitalized children.

Gulf Bank staff volunteered their time to visit children in seven hospitals over the course of one week. The volunteers distributed girgian bags and engaged the young patients in a series of fun activities such as games and coloring; face painting; henna, hair braiding; in addition to a variety of other activities. The visits to hospitals are considered an important part of supporting hospitalized children and their families.

This year, Gulf Bank was also happy to provide girgian bags filled with candies and a coloring/origami books to other Kuwaiti institutions such as: Nayef Palace, the Dasman Diabetes Institution, the Ideal Education School, and the Kuwait Center for Mental Health.

In addition to this initiative, the Bank also held a series of other activities during this Holy Month of Ramadan. The first event included the distribution of foodstuff boxes to families in need, which was carried out in cooperation with Saveco, the Kuwait Food Bank and LOYAC community service program. Next, was the sponsorship of the 'Women Football Tournament' which encouraged women to lead a fit and healthy lifestyle with sports activity being a key component. The Bank also launched a Ramadan TV commercial that highlights the importance of kinship and giving.

Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility program is committed to playing an active role in supporting Kuwait and its people. During the Holy Month of Ramadan, the bank's initiatives reflect the spirit of giving and sharing.









KFH DISTRIBUTES BREAKFAST MEALS TO MOTORISTS ON MAIN ROADS, INTERSECTIONS









KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continued its 'Feed a Fasting Person' campaign by distributing breakfast meals to motorists on the main roads and traffic intersections of the country. This initiative was part of the iftar meals project carried out by the bank as part of the Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 3' that reinforces the firm commitment towards social responsibility.

Distributing the meals took place in collaboration with the General Department of the Public Relations and Security Media and Kuwait Voluntary Work Center. The kind gesture is in line with the deeply-rooted values of giving in the Kuwaiti society. KFH's efforts in Ramadan underline the bank's role in the field of social responsibility, and contributes in strengthening the social ties. KFH voluntary team prepares and distributes over 600 meals daily until end of Ramadan.

KFH voluntary team distributes breakfast meals at places that are teeming with fasting people such as Nayef Palace, Souq Al-Mubarakeya in addition to Hawalli Governorate and other places in Kuwait. KFH's Ramadan program includes various 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.

AUB DISTRIBUTES SOHOUR MEALS DURING LAST TEN DAYS OF RAMADAN

KUWAIT: To add to Ahli United Bank's (AUB) extensive social program, which is filled with charitable activities during the Holy month of Ramadan, such as the distribution of iftar meals at the start of Ramadan, AUB recently began distributing light sohour meals amongst individuals during Qiyam prayers across different mosques in Kuwait. The Bank's team members volunteered and distributed more than 2000 meals over five days at many mosques, aiming to support and share the feeling with the worshippers for the special last ten days of Ramadan.

The bank said in a press release that "The distribution of sohour meals was inspired by the Bank's understanding of the importance of the last ten nights' prayers, and its desire to stand by the worshippers." He added, "The initiative reflects the bank's continued efforts to connect with the local community during the Holy Month of Ramadan and to promote the overall spirit of collaboration and social giving, a core element of AUB's strategic efforts in encouraging and promoting social cooperation."

CHARITIES



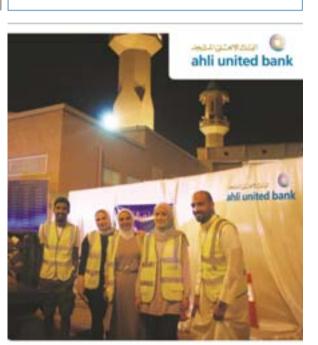
By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

owadays, we hear charity owners screaming out on various radio and TV channels urging people to donate money to their charities. Well, where are citizens from all these funds? Some citizen had taken bank loans of KD 10,000 that were doubled by extra interests and rescheduling.

A relative of mine used to purchase large quantities of barely to feed birds and pigeons out of charity. I once told him that he should, instead, donate those sums to relatives in distress who are in real need of this money. Thanks be to Allah, he did so and is still feeding the birds.

I once witnessed the problem of someone I knew and used to help whenever I could. I advised him to go to one of the many charity organizations we have in Kuwait because he was indebted. I went with him to several charities, but at one of them, they told him that Kuwaitis are not entitled to charity money. Another charity asked him to provide some hard to procure documents including some that would take months to be issued.



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Report

RECKLESS DRIVER ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Ahmadi police arrested a reckless driver when he continued drifting in front of them. Police received calls about the incident and went to the area, where several drivers sped off except for the arrested man, who continued drifting. Police forced him to stop and arrested him.

Revenge

A Moroccan woman accused a man and his sister of storming her house and kidnapping her friend. They then took him to their house where they beat him and forced him to strip in revenge for tricking a girl into having sex, she said. Detectives were asked to arrest the two for questioning.

Suicide

An Asian farm guard hanged himself to death in Kabd. The Asian worked of a former high-ranking officer at the interior ministry. The body was recovered by the coroner for further investigations.

Fire

A water tanker driver put out a fire that broke out in a car on Doha Spur. The fire department received a call about a two-vehicle collision, with one catching fire. The water truck that was passing by put out the fire.

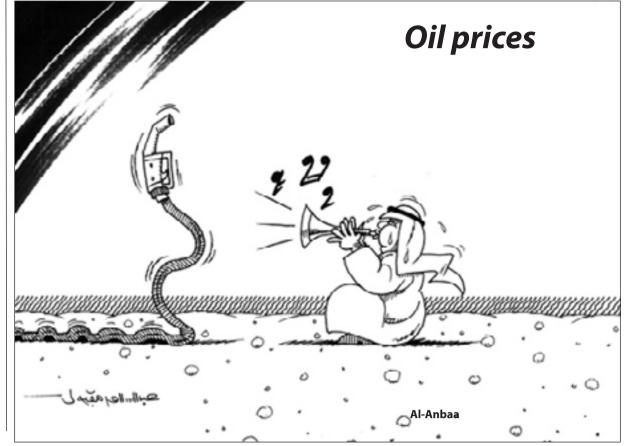
— Translated from the Arabic press

UP TO KD 1,700 ANNUAL FEE FOR PARENT'S VISA

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry is sticking to its decision to not grant new residence visas to expats' parents and siblings. Meanwhile, the directorate general of residency affairs issued executive rules regarding family residencies for those other than spouses and children - the 12,000 holders of article 22 residency permits.

The rules allow the issuance of residency permits to expats' parents only after producing a certificate of private health insurance and payment of KD 50 in health ministry insurance, apart from the payment of KD 200 per year per parent. The rules said the private health insurance value will be between KD 300 to KD 600 for parents according to their age, bringing the total annual fee to a minimum of KD 1,100 and up to KD 1,700. The rules stipulate siblings who reach the age of 24 have to transfer from family to work visas, and are not allowed to stay on family visas.

The rules exclude Kuwaitis' relatives from the need to get private health insurance, and will be treated as per the earlier rules, provided the sponsor pays KD 50 to the health ministry and KD 200 for the residency permit. The rules also exclude an expat's special needs relatives from private insurance - including parents or siblings. — Al-Rai



COST OF OVERSEAS TREATMENT

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

ollowing a period of relative calmness about overseas treatment, the issue is back to light through the controversy made about its cost, which has raised so many exclamations, suspicions and accusations. Though the cost was KD 800 million over the past two years, the political cost remains as huge and dangerous. Overseas treatment is a public service the government is committed to provide to citizens, namely patients in critical conditions whose treatment is not available in Kuwait.

The budget set for this service is KD 120 million, which is way below the amounts actually spent, thus multiplying the total sum to several folds simply because the service has turned into a political bargaining process through which lawmakers and others' loyalty can be bought. This, of course, is done at the expense of real patients in need to be sent abroad for treatment at international hospitals.

A number of prestigious US and European hospitals stopped receiving patients sent by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health (MOH) and its health offices for treatment abroad because there are many overdue and unpaid bills. This has led to a state of confusion and seeking medical services in less costing and less competent medical facilities. Thus, overseas treatment has deteriorated at the expense of true patients, and

its reputation is becoming as bad as that of local health facilities. Despite the highly qualified medical staff, latest medical equipment and medications in both domestic and overseas facilities, corruption and mismanagement has been undermining the service and turning it into another example of squandering public funds.

The Kuwaiti government is currently indebted to US health insurance companies with amounts equal to the budget allocated for overseas treatment. Those companies have their own advocates and will surely get their demands whether we like it or not. If German, British and French companies do the same, the cost will be absolutely catastrophic. MOH also made another mistake when it opted to dispatching patients to less costing centers in Eastern Asia and the Middle East.

Overseas treatment might have exceeded KD 4 billion since the liberation; an amount which could have been used to build the world's largest medical facilities and manning them with the best international medical equipment and staffs. With such a sum, Kuwait would have been turned into an international health tourism destination. The real problem lies in the chronic diseased minds and souls that seem to have lost hope in overseas treatment.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الانباء:

MERCHANTS AND BARBARIANS

By Salah Al-Sayer

n addition to their direct impact on markets and the economy, merchants have always had huge impact on deep social and cultural changes in various societies. Ancient Kuwaiti merchants not only turned Kuwait into a regional market, but they also contributed to developing the civil society, sponsored and nurtured literary activities, took care of charitable activities and built schools and mosques.

Islam prevailed in South **East Asia without** dispatching any troops or declaring Jihad.

This simply happened because merchants are greatly effective. I would like to quote Scottish philosopher David Hume who said that the spread of trade was a vital element in refining societies and achieving the advancements in science and arts. Trade has played a major role in the spread of Islam in South Asia. Despite the bad consequences the Muslim World suffered in the aftermath of the invasion of the Mongols and the destruction of Baghdad, Muslims maintained control over trade in the Indian Ocean.

In his book titled 'Islamic History,' the late Mahmoud Shakir said that Islam prevailed in South East Asia without dispatching any troops or declaring Jihad. No army conquered it. Islam spread through trade, or rather you could say through good treatment, good manners, respecting principles and behavior. The locals admired those values and adapted them, they were dazzled with these ideals and could not help but converting to Islam.

The history of Islam in Malaysia and Indonesia shows that trade is so powerful that it can change other peoples' religious beliefs. Trade enhances prudence and civilization, according to researcher Nigel Ashford in his book 'The Principles of Free Society.' Meanwhile, American intellectual Francis Fukuyama said that trade creates trust that enables a civil society to evolve.

The pioneer of French modern philosophy Montesquieu argues that thanks to trade, good manners prevailed amongst Northern European people (Scandinavians) who used to be described as 'barbarians' by the Romans. — Translated by Kuwait Times



WARBA BANK CONCLUDES SOCIAL RAMADAN ACTIVITIES AT 360 MALL WITH GREAT SUCCESS

KUWAIT: Under the slogan 'The Beauty of Humanity', Warba Bank successfully concluded social activities during the Holy Month of Ramadan on 9-11 June at 360 Mall and every night during the three-days event, Warba Bank hosted Kuwaiti influencers who faced difficulties and overcame challenges to make achievements in the form of inventions or helping others in need. Sheikha Al-Majed, who invented the 'Electronic Pen' for the blind, Ma'ali Al-As'ousi, goodwill ambassador and winner of the Hope Makers award, as well as Dr Hesham Bu Rizq and Dr Abdul-Mohsen Al-Kandari of 'Al-Amal Medical Team' shared their experiences with the crowd in interactive atmospheres, in which they inspired people and showed them that human beauty is embodied in their commitment and struggle to reach their goals.

The Warba Bank activity specifically targeted young people to inspire them so that they can exploit their energy and capabilities to achieve their dreams. During the morning period, Warba Bank offered its pavilion at the mall to nonprofit charity organizations and young initiators. On the first day, it hosted the 'Dinarain' project; which is an educational youth project that encourages the youth to participate in charitable activities in innovative ways. On the second day, it hosted Yameenik_Q8 volunteer team. Established in 2012, Yameenik_Q8 is a voluntary group dedicated to helping needy families in Kuwait. It is affiliated to the International Islamic Charity Organization



(IICO). On the third day, it hosted the national campaign to raise awareness about cancer (CAN), which was launched under the sponsorship of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and seeks to fight cancer and spread awareness about early diagnoses.

Children had their share at Warba Bank's pavilion too. A special interactive corner was dedicated for them, where children were encouraged to develop their mental and creative skills through a series of interactive quizzes based on intelligence and linking different elements to solve on-screen puzzles. Warba Bank thanks its clients and the entire Kuwaiti society for meeting them at 360 mall, and to witness successful and inspiring experiences that made a positive change to the society.



ABK SUCCESSFULLY EQUIPS 7 BRANCHES TO BETTER SERVICE THE SPECIAL NEEDS SEGMENT

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced that it has successfully completed equipping seven of its branches to better service the special needs segment and facilitate their banking experience. The branches are located across Kuwait's six governorates to ensure maximum reach and customer support in all areas.

ABK's Head of Complaints and Customer Protection Unit, Ali BuHamad, stated that this initiative allows ABK to fulfill its main objective, which is to provide banking services to all clients, with no exceptions and commit to the Central Bank's instructions.

He added that the branches that have been fully equipped to service clients with special needs will allow them to manage and finalize their banking matters smoothly and safely, since ABK has put forth specialized teams that have been trained to practice sign language, in addition to braille printing services for visually impaired clients. ABK has also made available parking spaces near the banks entrances and ramps, to facilitate wheel chair movement when entering the bank or utilizing the ATM machines. BuHamad also clarified that ABK has provided 7 ATM machines that are equipped with Braille key boards and an audio jack to support the visually impaired and offer verbal guidance and instructions to simplify the execution of their banking transactions, with the utmost privacy and security.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

QUEEN OUTLINES UK GOVERNMENT AGENDA IN SCALED-DOWN SPEECH

Republican avoids upset in costly Georgia election

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QATAR ACCUSES 'NEIGHBORS' OF HACK

US 'MYSTIFIED' BY FAILURE TO JUSTIFY EMBARGO

DOHA: Qatar on Tuesday accused "neighboring countries", which have cut ties with it, of being behind the alleged cyber attack on Doha's state media which set into motion the current diplomatic crisis. Attorney General Ali bin Fetais Al-Marri, one of the most senior legal figures in Qatar, said the case "is very clear" that the alleged hacking emanated from "countries responsible for the siege". It is the first time Qatar has accused any other countries of carrying out the attack. The alleged hack of the Qatar News Agency website

to show that iPhones originating from the countries laying siege to us have been used in this hacking," said Marri. "We have enough evidence to point the finger of blame at these countries."

Marri, speaking in Arabic, did not name any nations, but when pressed said the hack originated in "neighboring countries". He said the hack was carried out in more than one country. Less than a fortnight after the cyber attack, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and other allies severed on June 5 all links with

ing in Doha were ordered home - a deadline which passed on Monday.

Marri, speaking at a Doha press conference, added that he would be able "very soon" to give specific phone numbers for those who he claimed were responsible for the alleged hack. Investigators in Qatar had also traced Internet service providers used to the Saudi-led allied countries, he said. "We have sent the information to the countries concerned and we are awaiting their response," said Marri. He added: "As far as we are concerned the case is very clear." The subsequent inquiry ordered by the Qatari government into the hack used investigators from the FBI and the United Kingdom. One subsequent media report claimed that Russian hackers were responsible, a charge denied in Moscow.

Meanwhile, the United States is "mystified" that Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies have failed to present details justifying their embargo on Qatar, the State Department said Tuesday. Signaling Washington's mounting frustration at Riyadh's role in the crisis, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert called on the parties to settle their differences. And she called into question whether Qatar's alleged support for terrorism is the true cause of the crisis, or whether there is an underlying political dispute.

"Now that it has been more than two weeks since the embargo started we are mystified that the Gulf states have not released to the Qataris nor to the public the details about the claims they are making toward Qatar," she said. "The more that time goes by the more doubt is raised about the actions taken by Saudi Arabia and the UAE," she added, in a significant swipe at two of Washington's closest allies. "At this point we are left with one simple question: Were the actions really about their concerns regarding Qatar's alleged support for terrorism? Or were they about the long-simmering grievances between and among the GCC countries?" she asked, referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes both Doha and Riyadh. — Agencies



GAZA: Egyptian trucks carrying fuel enter Gaza's power plant in Nusseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. — AP

EGYPT DELIVERS FUEL TO GAZA, UNDERCUTS ABBAS

RAFAH: Egypt began yesterday to deliver a million litres of fuel to Gaza, temporarily easing a crisis that has left the Palestinian enclave's two million residents with only a few hours of electricity per day. The deliveries come two days after Israel began reducing the electricity it supplies to Gaza, following Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas' decision to stop paying for it amid a dispute with Hamas - the rival Palestinian faction that runs Gaza.

The United Nations and rights groups had warned the cuts would have disastrous effects, with the UN warning of a "total collapse" in basic services. The fuel will go to Gaza's sole power plant, which has been shut since April due to shortages, and will provide enough power for a few days, Samir Moutair, director general of the Gaza electricity company, told AFP. The gas-rich Gulf state of Qatar, a strong ally and backer of the Islamist Hamas, has previously intervened to cover fuel costs.

But the Saudi Arabian-led campaign to isolate Qatar, initially backed by US President Donald Trump, has left the small Gulf state eager to distance itself from Hamas, considered a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union. Instead Egypt, led by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, has intervened, despite traditionally frosty relations with Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007. In total 22 trucks carrying a million litres (220,000 gallons) of fuel for the power plant were entering yesterday, Wael Abu Omar, the Rafah crossing spokesman, told AFP. The energy authority said it expected the power station to resume operations in the coming hours.

The Egyptian offer will be seen by some as a sign of shifting alliances, following meetings last week between senior Egyptian and Hamas figures, as well as Mohammed Dahlan - a great rival of Abbas from his Fatah party who is currently in exile. "This Egyptian support in Gaza is part of what was agreed at the Cairo meetings," General Tawfiq Abu Naim, head of security in Gaza, told a news conference in Rafah yesterday. — Agencies



Qatari men herd camels in a desert area on the Qatari side of the Abu Samrah border crossing between Saudi Arabia and Qatar yesterday. Around 12,000 camels and sheep have become the latest victims of the Gulf diplomatic crisis, being forced to trek back to Qatar from Saudi Arabia. — AFP

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on May 24 attributed explosive remarks to Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, sparking a series of events that led to the region's diplomatic crisis.

The remarks covered sensitive political subjects such as Iran, Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, Israel and the United States. They were quickly seized on by news organizations outside Qatar, but Doha said they were false. "We have evidence

Qatar over accusations that Doha supports extremism - a claim it denies.

As well as diplomatic isolation, other measures taken included closing Qatar's only land border, banning its planes from using their airspace and barring Qatari nationals from transiting through their airports. Qatari nationals were told to leave those countries within 14 days, and some 11,000 citizens from the Saudi-led alliance countries liv-



REFUGEES FROM WAR-TORN S SUDAN FIND 'SAFETY' IN DARFUR

EL NIMIR CAMP, Sudan: Together with her husband and seven children, a hungry and thirsty Shadiya Ibrahim fled war and famine in South Sudan and says she has found safety in Sudan's conflict-ravaged Darfur. "This was the only place we knew we could come to," Ibrahim said at El Nimir camp in East Darfur, a newly opened facility for refugees crossing into Sudan by the hundreds each day. Ibrahim, 40, was among a crowd gathered on Tuesday to mark World Refugee Day at the camp in the presence of US charge d'affaires Steven Koutsis, making a visit to Darfur.

Koutsis travelled across vast stretches of Darfur a region the size of France - to assess the security situation before President Donald Trump decides next month to whether to permanently lift a twodecades-old trade embargo on Khartoum. Even as Koutsis makes his assessment, Darfur has become a refuge for South Sudanese like Ibrahim. "We are peaceful and secure here. There we lived in fear, but now we no longer feel afraid," she told AFP.

A brutal conflict broke out in Darfur itself in 2003 when ethnic minority groups took up arms against President Omar Al-Bashir's Arab-dominated government, which launched a deadly counter-insurgency. At least 300,000 people have since been killed and 2.5 million displaced in Darfur, the United Nations says. Sudanese officials claim the conflict in Darfur has ended, despite reports of continued fighting between government forces and rebels.

'Hungry and raped'

Ibrahim and several other refugees at El Nimir camp say the difficulties they face in the camp are minor compared to the trauma they experienced in



South Sudanese refugees look on at Al-Nimir refugee camp in Sudan's east Darur on Tuesday. — AFP

their country. Ibrahim fled in January from her home in the town of Raja after her father was killed in fighting between forces of President Salwa Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar. South Sudan formed after the south split from the north in 2011 plunged into a civil war just two years later when Kiir fell out with Machar. Since then the war has seen ethnic massacres, attacks on civilians, widespread rape and other human rights abuses.

"Women have suffered the most in the war," said Ibrahim. "We lost our husbands and our fathers. We have been left hungry and raped." About 400,000 South Sudanese have arrived in Sudan since the war erupted in the world's youngest country, according to the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR. About 50 percent of them live in 10 camps in Sudan, while the rest are scattered in cities and towns.

The increasing number of refugees fleeing the

war and famine in South Sudan has only put pressure on Sudan's resources, Sudanese officials and tribal chiefs say. "The healthcare sector in particular is under severe pressure," Mohamed Mussa Madibu, chief of Sudan's powerful Rizeigat tribe said in a meeting with Koutsis. Cooperation in efforts to resolve the war in South Sudan is key demand of Washington to help lift sanctions on Khartoum, first imposed over Khartoum's alleged for Islamist groups. "We hope that the Sudanese government's cooperation continues until the refugees are able to return home safe," Koutsis said.

'I want to study'

More than 5,000 refugees live in El Nimir camp, which opened in April. The camp is spread across a vast open area near El Daien, the capital of East Darfur state. A long muddy road connects the camp to El Daien, raising concerns that delivering aid to the facility in the rainy season could be a challenge for aid workers. A quick tour of the camp showed refugees - mostly women - living in thatched huts and children playing in open areas.

Despite the scorching mid-day sun, groups of children and women performed traditional African dances as they marked World Refugee Day. UNHCR officials said a hospital was already under construction in the camp, while plans were being finalized to open two schools.

"It is not easy to live in a camp when you once had a home," said 12-year-old Houda, who also fled from Raja with her family. "But then we are safe here. What I want is a school because I want to study," she said. "When I grow, I want to become a powerful voice of my people."— AFP

SYRIANS FEAR RAQQA TURMOIL ONCE ISLAMIC STATE DEFEATED

GOVERNING COUNCIL APPEALS FOR COALITION SUPPORT

RAQQA, Syria: US-backed forces are closing in and Arab militia fighting Islamic State. "This is a on Islamic State in Raqqa, but local Syrians who have escaped the battlefield are worried about what comes after the fight. Dozens of them have volunteered to help rebuild the town once the militants have been defeated. The aim of organization they have joined, the Raqqa Civil Council (RCC) is to restore order and keep the peace in a place where further violence could fuel the rise of a new set of extremists with global ambitions.

The RCC was established in April by Kurdish and Arab allies of the US-led coalition that began attacking Raqqa this month, to replace militant rule in a part of Syria long beyond President Bashar al-Assad's control. The campaign against Islamic State has accelerated since President Donald Trump took office in January with the militants now facing defeat in both Raqqa and Mosul in Iraq. But the RCC says postconflict planning in Raqqa has not kept pace. RCC volunteers say they have told the coalition it will take 5.3 billion Syrian lira (about \$10 million) a year to restore power and water supplies, roads and schools and that they have nothing but small private donations so far.

The dangers of the failure to rebuild after conflict were clear in Iraq following the 2003 US: led invasion. The post-conflict chaos opened the door to an insurgency that devastated the country and fuelled the rise of Islamic State. Mosul and Ragga are both key centers of the caliphate the group proclaimed in 2014, but Raqqa is its operational headquarters, from where it plotted many of the deadly attacks that have targeted civilians around the world. A US official said Washington stood ready to fund the RCC, "provided they prove themselves inclusive and representative of the communities they govern".

Stability

The RCC is a diverse team co-led by Arab tribal leader Sheikh Mahmoud Shawakh Al-Bursan, who wears tribal robes, and Kurdish civil engineer Leila Mustafa, dressed in a green shirt and jeans. Based in the village of Ain Issa, 50 km (30 miles) north of Ragga, it has the support of the Syrian Democratic Forces, US-backed Kurdish

historic step for Raqqa," Mustafa said, referring to the dozens of technocrats and tribal leaders at its headquarters, a former government water department building, preparing to govern Raqqa until free elections can be held. "But there is destroyed infrastructure which must be rebuilt," she said. "Schools must be opened. Water and power stations need funding."

The lack of funding has left the council, whose 70 members include teachers, doctors, engineers and lawyers, with few resources to appease frustrated, displaced Ragga residents looking for quick solutions when they return to the city. Revenge killings of anyone associated with Islamic State are likely, and such violence could fuel another extremist militant movement, just as revenge killings of al-Qaeda-linked tribes in Iraq helped Islamic State spread its rule there from Ragga.

Abdul Aziz Al-Amir, one of 20 representatives of local tribes on the council, is optimistic they can foster social cohesion in the city, where rows of houses and shops have been pulverized by coalition air strikes and Islamic State bombs. "People with disputes always came to us." said Amir, wearing a checkered headdress and flowing robe. "We have the confidence of the people. We can help bring stability."

Syria's northern neighbor Turkey disagrees, arguing that a Ragga council allied to Kurdish militia will expand the power of Syria's Kurds, effective fighters during the six-year-old conflict who have established self-rule in Syria's north. Turkey has battled a three-decade old insurgency by Kurdish PKK fighters in its south east and says Syrian Kurdish militia are an extension of the outlawed PKK. It views their ascendancy as a security threat.

The main Syrian Kurdish groups say their goal is only autonomy in a future democratic and federal Syria. The council says some 80 percent of its members are Arabs, with two Arabs and a Kurd as its deputy leaders. European countries share Turkish and US concerns that the RCC acts independently from the Kurdish militia in Ragga, an overwhelmingly Arab city, but are very worried about post-conflict limbo given the number of attacks on their soil. "For the moment the United States is telling us, 'we're carrying out our war so will see afterwards," a European diplomat said. The US official said Washington had helped reestablish local governance in other former militant strongholds in Syria and was working with the RCC to ensure it was representative.

Scratch Police Force

In the meantime, the council is running mainly on small donations, often from individuals. "One girl sent us 30 euros through Western Union," said RCC member Omar Aloush. "We thanked her." Sitting in his office surrounded by people asking him to help them return home, he holds up a petition from farmers for funds to fix irrigation canals destroyed by Islamic State. "Fixing Raqqa will require millions and millions of dollars," said Aloush who had watched as Islamic State destroyed his businesses; a hospital, a sports club, a language school and a restaurant. "We don't even have the cash to help them with a project that would cost about \$15,000."

With 200,000 people displaced from Raqqa and more expected to flee as fighting intensifies, some needs are basic. Two western military personnel from the coalition appeared in Aloush's office to tell him they could not pay for vehicles to transport food. Aloush told them the council would foot the bill. Just outside Ain Issa, police recruits for Raqqa funded by the coalition engage in a traditional dance to celebrate their graduation, after just 12 days of training.

Idris Mohamed, a Kurd who has been named as the future head of security in Raqqa, says 700 have been trained so far. "The goal is to train 3,000 but 10,000 would be great," he said. His main concern, aside from the Islamic State sleeper cells expected to stage attacks once coalition forces have control, is revenge killings that could bring a new wave of instability.

As fellow graduates enjoyed the music, young policeman Adel Al-Arabi recounted how Islamic State had killed his brother and cousin. "I watched Daesh behead them in the street," he said, explaining that he had joined the force to avenge their deaths. —Reuters



In this April 5, 2017 file photo, some of thousands of people walk for hours to reach a food distribution site in Malualkuel, in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal region of South

SOUTH SUDAN FAMINE EASES, **BUT MORE GOING HUNGRY: UN**

JUBA: A famine that was declared in parts of nation, was plunged into civil war in 2013 South Sudan four months ago is over, UN aid agencies said yesterday, but extreme hunger has increased to its highest levels ever across the war-torn country. "The accepted technical definition of famine no longer applies in former Unity State's Leer and Mayandit counties where famine was declared in February," according to a joint statement from the UN children's agency UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

The manmade famine, due to three years of conflict, has affected 100,000 people. The term famine is used according to a globally agreed scale determined by levels of access to food, acute malnutrition and daily deaths due to hunger. But while the famine has eased, the number of people struggling to find food each day has grown to six million from 4.9 million in February, in what the agencies said was the "highest level of food insecurity ever experienced in South Sudan."

And the number of people facing emergency levels of hunger - one step below famine - has increased to 1.7 million from one million in February. "The crisis is not over. We are merely keeping people alive but far too many face extreme hunger on the edge of a cliff," said the FAO's director of emergencies Dominique Burgeon. "The only way to stop this desperate situation is to stop the conflict, ensure unimpeded access and enable people to resume their livelihoods."

Fields empty as war rages South Sudan, the world's youngest

after President Salva Kiir accused his rival and former deputy Riek Machar of plotting a coup against him. The violence - initially between ethnic Dinka supporters of Kiir and ethnic Nuer supporters of Machar - has since spread to other parts of the country, engulfing other ethnic groups. An August 2015 peace deal was left in tatters when fighting broke out in Juba in July last year.

The United Nations has warned of potential genocide and ethnic cleansing in the country, where there seems to be no prospect of peace in sight. Farming communities have been driven from their homes, leaving fields unharvested and markets disrupted, and food prices have soared. More than 3.5 million people have been displaced by the conflict, and tens of thousands killed. The UN agencies warned that gains made in the famine-struck areas must not be lost and that emergency food aid was still crucial to prevent a return to crisis situations.

"Food insecurity is a key issue, but so is lack of health care, poor water and sanitation and, most crucially, access to those children in need of treatment. At present, too many parts of the country remain cut off due to insecurity, leaving hundreds of thousands of children on the cusp of catastrophe," said Mahimbo Mdoe, UNICEF's Representative in South Sudan. Severe drought across eastern Africa has left millions hungry in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, and with yet another poor rainy season just ending, humanitarians have warned the situation could grow even worse.— AFP

IRAQI FORCES ADVANCE ON MOSUL MOSQUE

MOSUL: US-backed Iraqi forces yesterday began a push towards the mosque in Mosul where Islamic State declared a self-styled caliphate three years ago, military officials said. The forces had encircled the jihadist group's stronghold in the Old City of Mosul, where the mosque is located, on Tuesday, they said. The Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) are 200 to 300 were metres (yards) away from the medieval Grand al-Nuri Mosque, an Iraqi military statement said.

Major General Rupert Jones, the British deputy commander of the international coalition fighting Islamic State, told Reuters the Iraqi forces were about 300 m from the mosque. The US-led coalition is providing air and ground support to the Mosul offensive that started on Oct 17. The militants' leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, proclaimed himself caliph from its pulpit after the insurgents overran parts of Iraq and Syria. His black flag has been flying over its famous leaning minaret since June 2014.

Iraqi officials have privately expressed the hope that the mosque could be captured by Eid al-Fitr, the festival marking the end of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month. The first day of the Eid falls this year on June 25 or 26 in Iraq. The battle for the Old City is becoming the deadliest in the eight-month-old offensive to capture Mosul, Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq. More than 100,000 civilians, of whom half are children, are trapped in its old fragile houses with little food, water, medicine, no electricity and limited access to clinics.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Monday sick and wounded civilians escaping through Islamic State lines were dying in "high numbers". "We are trying to keep families inside their houses and, after we secure their block, we will evacuate them through safe routes," Lieutenant General Abdul Ghani al-Assadi, senior CTS commander in Mosul, told Iraqi state TV. The militants are moving stealthily in the Old City's maze of alleyways and narrow



MOSUL: Smoke billows as Iraqi anti-terrorism forces (CTS) advance towards the Old City of Mosul yesterday during the ongoing offensive by to retake the last district still held by the Islamic State (IS) group. —AFP

streets, through holes dug between houses, fighting back the advancing troops with sniper and mortar fire, booby traps and suicide bombers. They have also covered many streets with sheets of cloth to obstruct air surveillance, making it difficult for the advancing troops to hit them without a risk to civilians. "We are attacking simultaneously from different fronts to fraction them into smaller groups easier to fight," said an officer from the Federal Police, another force taking part in the assault on the Old City,

The Iraqi army estimates the number of Islamic State fighters at no more than 300, down from nearly 6,000 in the city when the battle of Mosul started on Oct. 17. The fall of Mosul would, in effect, mark the end of the Iraqi half of the "caliphate" even though Islamic State would continue to control territory west and south of the city, the largest they came to control in both Iraq and Syria.

The Iraqi government initially hoped to take Mosul by the end of 2016, but the campaign took longer as militants reinforced positions in civilian areas to fight back. The militants are also retreating in Syria, mainly in the face of a USbacked Kurdish-led coalition. Its capital there, Ragga, is under siege. About 850,000 people, more than a third of the pre-war population of Mosul, have fled, seeking refuge with relatives or in camps, according to aid groups. — Reuters

OUTCRY AFTER TURKISH WOMAN ASSAULTED FOR WEARING SHORTS

ISTANBUL: A Turkish man assaulted a young woman on an Istanbul bus for wearing shorts during the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, images showed yesterday, sparking a furore among women's rights activists. University student Asena Melisa Saglam was travelling on the bus when the man seated behind her struck her in the face, images published by Turkish media showed. She responded by chasing after him but he grabbed her and slung her to the back of the bus before running out of the vehicle.

Saglam said that throughout the journey the man had been verbally harassing her by saying she should not be wearing shorts during Ramadan. The man was detained but following questioning - in which he reportedly said he had been "provoked" - he was set free, causing a new outcry. "The release of the attacker is a threat to all women," the women's rights organization We Will Stop Femicide Platform wrote on Twitter. "We will wear whatever we want outside. We will not give up our freedoms."

Following the outcry, an order was given to re-arrest the man but it was not immediately clear if he had been detained again. Saglam, 21, was quoted by the Hurriyet daily as saying: "From the moment I sat down he was making these remarks 'you dress like this during Ramadan? You should feel ashamed to be dressed like that." She said she put on her headphones and ignored him but then he got up, hitting her so the side of her jaw hit the bus window.

According to the Platform, 173 women have been murdered in the first five months of 2017 and 328 in 2016. Opponents of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accuse the government of presiding over a creeping Islamisation of Turkey which has undermined the secular principles of the state set up by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk that enshrined women's rights. But the government insists that while it has given women the right to wear the Islamic headscarf at university, school and even in the army this has not impeded the freedom of Turkish women to dress as they please. — AFP

INTERNATIONAL



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) shakes hands with his Brazilian counterpart Michel Temer during a meeting at the Kremlin yesterday.—AFP

BRAZIL CRISIS GETS MESSIER

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's federal police Tuesday said it had solid evidence embattled president Michel Temer received bribes, a legal development that could see him suspended from office. In a report the Federal Supreme Court said Temer who was away in Russia - benefited from bribe funds, even if he did so using someone else to collect or deposit the bribes. Temer has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. But Brazil's top court said it had accumulated enough evidence of bribes being paid to merit an investigation into Temer for "passive corruption". Prosecutor Rodrigo Janot will use the report as the foundation of the corruption case against the conservative president. "Faced with silence from the president and his former assistant, there is irrefutable evidence... showing strongly that passive corruption (on Temer's part) took place," the document said in part. The report referred to the president's relationship with suspended lawmaker Rodrigo Rocha Loures, who is in jail. Rocha Loures was filmed with a suitcase stuffed with a \$150,000 payoff from a JBS executive. The court's report alleges that Rocha Loures accepted bribes from JBS on Temer's behalf.

Long-haul corruption probe

Three years of investigations known as "Car Wash" have uncovered systemic corruption in the political and business elite, leaving Latin America's biggest country seething. "We are at war against a faceless enemy," Janot said late Monday. The main battle in that war features Janot's allegation that Temer took bribes - and attempted to buy the silence of a senior politician jailed for corruption. Temer is "the head of the most dangerous criminal organization in the country," according to meatpacking billionaire Joesley Batista, who secretly recorded the alleged hush money discussion as part of a plea deal to escape prosecution over his own corruption charges.

Now, it will be up to Janot to present formal charges before the Supreme Court. Once that

happens, the lower house of Congress would have to vote by a two-thirds majority for Temer to go on trial.

Friends in high places

Temer says his trips to fellow emerging economy giant Russia and to oil-rich Norway are about raising Brazil's trading footprint. He quickly retweeted a Russian presidency post showing him seated next to Vladimir Putin in a lavishly gilded stall at the Bolshoi theater. But Temer's coolness in taking a foreign trip in the midst of his domestic crisis isn't just bravado. The conservative president may have rock bottom popularity ratings and a major portion of his closest political allies also facing "Car Wash" investigations. Yet, he also has powerful friends.

These include many of the congressional deputies who will have to vote on whether to send Temer to trial. Given swaths of them also face corruption probes, they are currently expected to spare Temer-and take out their anger on "Car Wash" instead. To illustrate this dynamic, the latest cover of politics magazine Veja depicts Temer in a canoe with scandal-ridden Aecio Neves - who is currently suspended from the Senate - and their political arch-enemy, former leftist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

All three have wildly separate political agendas but also face "Car Wash" prosecutions and are in a "joint project of desperate survival and resistance against the most successful operation against corruption in Brazilian history," Veja commented. Temer has also been getting a boost from one of the country's most influential judges, Gilmar Mendes. Earlier this month, Mendes steered the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to throw out charges of campaign finance corruption that could have forced Temer out. Now, in his other role as a justice on the Supreme Court, Mendes is going after Janot and what he calls the out-of-control "Car Wash" —AEP

REPUBLICAN AVOIDS UPSET IN COSTLY GEORGIA ELECTION

HANDEL THANKS TRUMP IN VICTORY SPEECH

WASHINGTON: Republican Karen Handel won a closely watched special congressional election Tuesday, salvaging a seat in the traditionally conservative Georgia where Democrats had hoped to strike a blow against Donald Trump's presidency. Handel, an establishment Republican and former state secretary of state, defeated Democratic challenger and political novice Jon Ossoff by about five percentage points, US television networks projected, denying Democrats what would have been their first election victory of the year.

Her win marked an impressive rebound from polling that showed her narrowly trailing her rival as the vote approached, and signalled that Republican disillusionment about Trump was not as deep as Democrats were counting on. In her victory speech, Handel even gave "a special thanks to the president of United States of America" as the crowd went wild chanting Trump's name. The result comes as relief for Republicans who had grown concerned about whether their party, buffeted by the scandals that have plagued the Republican president, could hold the seat in Georgia's sixth district, which became the most expensive congressional race in US history.

"Congratulations to Karen Handel on her big win in Georgia 6th. Fantastic job, we are all very proud of you!" tweeted Trump, who had publicly implored Republicans to troop to the polls to back the candidate. While the White House had played down the national importance of the Georgia race, Trump had gone all in on Handel, and the Republican Party no doubt sees the victory as a shot in the arm as it prepares to fight to preserve its control of Congress in next year's mid-term elections.

"Tonight, the people of Georgia's sixth district overwhelmingly voted not only for Karen, but also for President Trump's agenda of replacing our broken health care system, reforming an outdated tax code, and prioritizing infrastructure investment," said Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel.

Trump gloats, Ossoff vows to fightDemocrats also lost a special like

election in neighboring South Carolina on Tuesday, where Republican Ralph Norman easily prevailed over Democrat Archie Parnell in a seat formerly held by Republican Mick Mulvaney, who is now serving as Trump's budget director. Democrats have now lost all four opportunities to win in special elections so far this year, following earlier losses in Republican-held districts in Kansas and Montana. The victories gave Trump a chance to gloat. "Well, the Special Elections are over and those that want to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN are 5 and O! All the Fake News, all the money spent = 0," he tweeted, apparently believing that there had been a fifth race.

The Democrats had portrayed each of the races as a referendum on Trump's scandal-plagued presidency. "We dodged a bullet tonight," Georgia-based Republican strategist Chip Lake told AFP. "We're still going to be on the defense in

November of 2018," with Trump a likely "liability," he added. But while Republicans were facing a sobering reminder of their president's poor approval ratings, Handel steadied the ship in a district that only narrowly backed Trump in last November's vote.

In conceding the race, Ossoff, a filmmaker and former political staffer, signalled that Democrats could learn from these races and prepare for the larger battle for control of the US Congress in 2018. "This is not the outcome many of us were hoping for," he told supporters. "But this is the beginning of something much bigger than us." Later on Twitter, Ossoff wrote that for months the district "has been a beacon of hope for people across the country. We showed the world that in places no one even thought it was possible to fight, we can fight. And we will fight."

'Wake-up call'

At least one Democratic lawmaker called Ossoff's loss a "wake-up

call for Democrats". "Business as usual isn't working," congressman Seth Moulton said on Twitter. "We need a genuinely new message, a serious jobs plan that reaches all Americans, and a bigger tent not a smaller one," he added. Ossoff tried to flip the Atlanta suburbs that Republican Tom Price left to become Trump's health secretary.

Republicans have held the seat since 1979. But as an increasingly well-educated and diverse suburban district, it is the kind of territory Democrats need to win if they want to gain the 24 seats necessary to reclaim the House in 2018. Price won the district last November by 23 points, and Ossoff's much closer margin serves as a "silver lining", Democratic congresswoman Cheri Bustos said. "We're moving in the right direction," she told CNN. But Handel's win is expected to energize Republican lawmakers in Washington as they seek to push forward with their repeal of Barack Obama's health care plan as well as tax law overhauls. — AFP



ATLANTA: Georgia's 6th Congressional district Republican candidate Karen Handel gives a victory speech to supporters gathered at the Hyatt Regency at Villa Christina on Tuesday. —AFP

SLAYING LEAVES DOUBT ABOUT MOTIVE IN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

FAIRFAX, Virginia: Islamic leaders are questioning Virginia detectives' insistence that the beating death of a teenage Muslim girl appears to have been a case of road rage, saying the attack looks all too much like a hate crime. Nabra Hassanen, 17, was bludgeoned with a baseball bat early Sunday by a motorist who drove up to about 15 Muslim teenagers as they walked or bicycled along a road, Fairfax County police said. A Hassanen family spokesman said all the girls in the group were wearing Muslim headscarves and robes.

Darwin Martinez Torres, a 22-year-old from El Salvador suspected of being in the US illegally, was jailed without bail on a murder charge after the girl's body was pulled from a pond near his apartment. In a sign of solidarity, Muslim groups held vigils across the country Tuesday to honor Hassanen. Her mosque, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, announced plans to hold her funeral Wednesday afternoon and encouraged people to come together and "respond to bad with good."

Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said there is a strong possibility the crime wouldn't have happened if the teenagers weren't Muslim. "You can't just say, 'Oh, he didn't say anything against Islam, so no hate crime," he said. Fairfax police, in their account of the attack, said Martinez Torres and one of the boys in the group got into an argument, and the motorist chased the youngsters down and got out swinging the bat. They said Martinez Torres beat Hassanen as her friends scattered, then put her in his car, assaulted her again and dumped her body.

"No evidence has been uncovered that shows this murder was motivated by race or religion," police said in a statement Monday night. "It appears the suspect became so enraged over the traffic dispute it escalated into deadly violence." But after a string of attacks on Muslims around the world, most recently in London and in Portland, Oregon, some are deeply skeptical.

some are deeply skeptical.

Rabia Chaudry, a lawyer and Muslim activist who lives in the Washington suburbs, ridiculed the notion it was road rage, saying on Twitter: "If you think for a minute that her appearance had nothing to do with this crime, you're lying to yourself." Chaudry said that when a Muslim commits a crime, officials are



WASHINGTON: People hold up signs during a vigil on Tuesday for Nabra Hassanen, a 17-year old Muslim girl who was killed in a road rage incident on June 18. —AFP

quick to treat it as an act of terror, but when the perpetrator is not Muslim, police seem to approach it differently. "I just feel like there is more hesitation and a lot of other factors are taken into account," such as whether the person was drunk or suffering mental problems, Chaudry said in an interview.

The public defender's office, which was appointed to represent Martinez Torres, declined to com-



ment. He could get up to 40 years in prison if convicted on the murder charge. The mosque expressed optimism that law enforcement will determine what motivated the crime and added: "We request the community to not speculate on the motives and jump to conclusions."

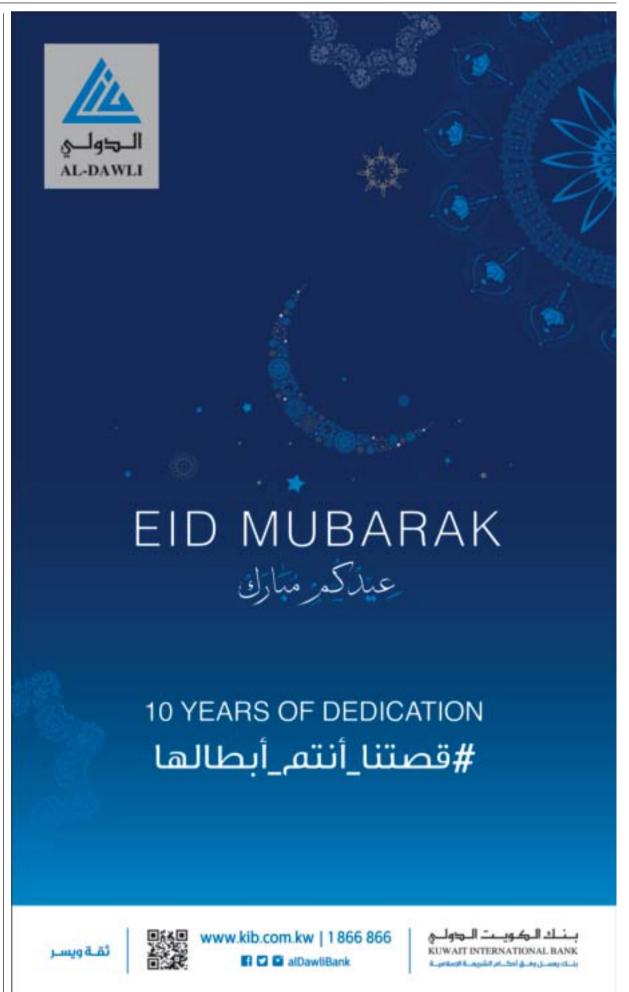
Joshua Salaam, a chaplain at the ADAMS Center, said police "have given us complete confidence" but the

community is struggling because Hassanen was beloved by so many and known for her kind spirit. "If nobody gave you a compliment, she gave you a compliment. And it wasn't just Muslim youth" but the broader Reston community that she was connected to, he said.

CAIR called on Muslim communities to increase security during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in light of Hassanen's slaying and other recent crimes. The attack on Hassanen came as she was on her way to a mosque for Ramadan. On Monday, British authorities charged a man with terrorism after he allegedly plowed his van into Muslim worshippers outside a London mosque, injuring at least nine people.

And in Portland last month, a man was charged with the equivalent of a hate crime in the fatal stabbings of two white men who were trying to defend two teenage girls, one of them wearing a hijab, from his anti-Muslim tirade. In those cases, the suspects allegedly made repeated anti-Muslim slurs before and during the attacks. In Virginia, neither police nor witnesses interviewed by The Associated Press said they saw anything to make them think the teenagers were targeted over their religion.

Fairfax County police said if they find any evidence the killing was a hate crime, they will pursue appropriate charges. Virginia law, in part, defines a hate crime as any illegal act motivated by a person's race, religion or nationality. A hate crime in Virginia can bring up to five years behind bars if it results in





LONDON: Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales holds his mother Queen Elizabeth II's hand during the State Opening of Parliament in the Houses of Parliament in London yesterday. — AFP

QUEEN OUTLINES UK GOVERNMENT AGENDA IN SCALED-DOWN SPEECH

BRITAIN'S 'ZOMBIE GOVERNMENT' PRESENTS BREXIT LAWS

LONDON: Prime Minister Theresa May, leading a "zombie" government after a disastrous election, yesterday unveiled a diluted program of action that included the mammoth legislation needed to take Britain out of the EU. The state opening of parliament by Queen Elizabeth II came after a string of tragedies which have shaken the nation, and the election on June 8 in which May's Conservatives saw their parliamentary majority

The queen, at an occasion shorn of its usual pageantry, read out the watered-down list of proposed legislation and lawmakers will then spend the next few days debating before bringing it to a vote. May could be forced to resign if she loses the vote, expected on June 29, just as the country embarks on highly sensitive negotiations for Britain's withdrawal from the European Union. After four terror attacks and a deadly tower block blaze that have darkened the national mood, anti-government protesters are also planning a "Day of Rage" in the streets that will converge outside parliament with temperatures forecast to hit 34 degrees Celsius - London's hottest June day since 1976.

May humbled

The enfeebled premier, who is still locked in difficult talks with a Northern Irish party to prop up her administration, says the program is about seizing apportunities offered by Brexit The gueen

European Union." She said her government would seek "to build the widest possible consensus on the country's future outside the European Union", amid divisions within May's own cabinet over the best strategy.

The speech announced no fewer than eight bills to implement Brexit, and new legislation aimed at tackling extremist content online after the terror attacks. But the speech was notable also for what it did not contain. There was no mention of May's hugely controversial invitation to US President Donald Trump to come on a state visit. Also absent were key pledges the Conservatives had given in their manifesto for the recent election which analysts said had bombed with the electorate - such as reform of social care for the elderly and more shake-ups in schools.

There was also no mention of May's controversial promise to allow a parliamentary vote to repeal a ban on fox hunting, which angered leftwingers. The Times branded May's administration the "stumbling husk of a zombie government" and said she was now "so weak that she cannot arbitrate between squabbling cabinet ministers". "Downing Street is a vacuum," the newspaper said, two days after Britain and the EU formally started their Brexit negotiations.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said he was ready to step in and build a rival government although he and other opposition parties lack the collective numbers to bring down May. "This is an said: "My government's priority is to secure the unstable coalition, it's not even a coalition, they deemed infeasible to prepare a second major best possible deal as the country leaves the haven't even got an agreement with the DUP event at short notice. — AFP

BRITAIN'S PRINCE PHILIP, 96,

IN HOSPITAL WITH INFECTION

(Democratic Unionist Party)," he said. "We're ready to form, obviously, a minority government if this government collapses and it may well," Corbyn said, while raising the possibility of a fresh election if parliamentary deadlock continues.

No deal yet

May called the snap general election in a bid to strengthen her mandate heading into the Brexit talks. But the plan spectacularly backfired, leaving her with a minority government that is now trying to form a majority with Northern Ireland's ultra-conservative DUP. May has resisted calls to resign and is hoping for the support of the DUP's 10 MPs to boost her tally of 317 seats in the 650-seat parliament, but a deal has proved elusive so far. A DUP source said a deal was "certainly not imminent" as the talks "haven't proceeded in a way that the DUP would have expected" and cautioned that the party "can't be

But even with DUP backing, the government would command only a tiny majority, and just a few rebel MPs could be enough to undermine it fatally. The Queen's Speech, normally a chance for a new government to show off an ambitious program, is usually a high point of British pomp, but this year there was no horse-drawn carriage procession, crown or ceremonial robes. The snap election plus the closeness to the monarch's official birthday parade last weekend meant it was

Prince Philip

band for 70 years and announced his forthcoming retirement in May. He is the longest-serving consort in British history, and is still in good health for a man of 96. But the royal family's patriarch, who con-

ducted 219 royal engagements last year, has been gradually reducing his workload in his nineties. The former naval officer's irascible, nononsense approach, combined with his infamous and sometimes politically incorrect offthe-cuff remarks, has not made it easy for people to warm to his style. But his forthright manner and unwavering devotion to duty and the queen has endeared him to the nation. And observers say his quips put people at ease while also providing a welcome contrast to the queen's seriousness.

'Trial and error'

Philip met the then Princess Elizabeth just before the outbreak of World War II, and they exchanged letters while he served with the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean and the Pacific. After their marriage in 1947, they spent time in Malta, where he was posted - only for their lives to be changed overnight by the premature death of her father, king George VI, in 1952. He once admitted the curtailment of his promising naval career was "disappointing", but

said that "being married to the queen, it seemed to me that my first duty was to serve her in the best way I could".

Although he had a reputation for coldness towards his children, many observers consider Philip the glue that held the royal family together as their offspring went through a series of divorces in the 1990s. In a rare interview to mark his 90th birthday in 2011, the prince said he carved out his role by "trial and error".

'Done my bit'

Philip was born on a kitchen table on the Greek island of Corfu on June 10, 1921, the only son of prince Andrew of Greece - the younger brother of Greece's king Constantine I - and princess Alice of Battenberg. Aged just 18 months, his family was evacuated on a British navy ship from politically unstable Greece. They settled in Paris, and at seven Philip was sent away to school in England. He became a Royal Navy cadet following the outbreak of war in 1939. By 1945, he was a first lieutenant and was in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender.

When he married he gave up his titles as a prince of Greece and Denmark - and became a naturalized British subject. In 2011, he said: "I reckon I've done my bit so I want to enjoy myself a bit now. "It's better to get out before you reach the sell-by date." —AFP

BRUSSELS ATTACKER IDENTIFIED AS MOROCCAN WITH NAIL BOMB

BRUSSELS: Belgium said yesterday a Moroccan man carried out a foiled terrorist attack with a nail bomb at a busy Brussels train station, the latest in a wave of attacks to hit Europe. The 36-year-old man, identified only as O.Z, shouted "Allahu Akbar" and tried to detonate a suitcase in a group of passengers at Brussels Central station before a soldier shot him dead on Tuesday. The suspect, from the largely immigrant Brussels neighborhood of Molenbeek which has been linked to a number of previous attacks, was not known to police for terrorism offences.

"It could have been much worse," Belgian federal prosecutor's spokesman Eric Van Der Sypt told a news conference. "It is clear that he wanted to cause more damage than he did." Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said a "terrorist attack has been prevented" in the city that hosts the EU and NATO headquarters. But he said that while security would be stepped up, the country's terror alert level would be kept stable. "We are not allowing ourselves to be intimidated by terrorists,

The blast came a day after a man mowed down Muslims near a mosque in London, and a suspected Islamist on a terror watchlist rammed a car laden with weapons into a police vehicle in Paris. Brussels has been on high alert since suicide bombers struck Zavantem Airport and the Maalbeek metro station near the EU quarter in March 2016, killing 32 people and injuring hundreds more. The Islamic State group claimed the attacks, which

were carried out by the same Brusselsbased cell behind the November 2015 suicide bombings and shootings in Paris which left 130 people dead.

'Nails and gas bottles'

In Tuesday's incident, the man failed to cause any casualties. He entered the station and twice approached a group of around 10 passengers, the second time standing in the middle of them, prosecutors said. "He grabbed his suitcase while shouting and causing a partial explosion. Fortunately nobody was hurt," Van Der Sypt said. "The suitcase immediately caught fire. The man then left his luggage burning and went down to the platform in pursuit of a station master. Meanwhile the bag exploded a second time more violently. This bag contained nails and gas bottles," he added. "The man then returned to the hall where he rushed to a soldier shouting 'Allahu Akbar' (God is Greatest). The soldier immediately opened fire and hit the individual several times."

The man, who died instantly, was not wearing a suicide belt, contrary to some Belgian media reports, he said. "He was not known to the authorities for any terrorism connection," Van Der Sypt said, declining to give the man's full name while the investigation continues. Interior Minister Jan Jambon underlined what a close call passengers had when he said the "big explosion did not happen". Police later raided the man's home in Molenbeek, home to some of the jihadists involved in the Paris and Brussels attacks. —AFP



BRUSSELS: A Belgian army soldier patrols around the Central train station yesterday following a failed terrorist bomb attack a day earlier. — AFP

PORTUGAL FIRE SMOLDERS AS FIRST VICTIMS BURIED

of firefighters battled blazes in central Portugal yesterday as the funerals of some of the 64 people killed in the inferno renewed anger over the emergency response to the disaster. Questions swirled over how so many people could have died in the forest fire, most of whom perished on a single road that locals say should have been sealed off by first responders. From early yesterday, firefighting planes flew sorties over the smoldering forest canopy in the central Pedrogao Grande region, dropping water on the flames still licking pine and eucalyptus trees, according to an AFP journalist on the scene.

The head of the region's civil protection services Vitor Vaz Pinto told reporters that 95 percent of the fire had been extinguished. "This is great progress," he added, as around 1,200 crew and 400 vehicles worked on dousing the flames. Yesterday's forecast also suggested more favorable firefighting conditions, with temperatures set to hit 35 degrees Celsius, compared to 43 the day before.

The blaze appeared to have been brought under control on Tuesday, only for it to suddenly flare again, forcing authorities to evacuate 40 hamlets near the village of Gois. Officials have expressed concerns that some residents are refusing to leave homes threatened by the flames. "We have to protect our houses. I came to help my friends who live here," said Sonia Pereira, 29, who along with around a dozen people refused calls to leave. Authorities now believe more than 200 people were injured in the blaze at the weekend.

Questions, anger mount

Details were emerging of the victims,

PEDROGAO GRANDE, Portugal: Hundreds many of whom were caught in their cars as they tried to flee. They included a fouryear-old boy, Rodrigo. His parents had left with him with relatives while on honeymoon and posted frantic messages on social media. The bodies of Rodrigo and his uncle were found burnt beside a car. Most were killed on the N236 national highway, now dubbed the "road of death" by local media. "My nephew died, a fire-

man" said Joaquim Serra da Fonseca, 68. As news of the fire spread on Saturday, the 40-year-old nephew and several colleagues rushed down the road to help. Faced with the fury of the fire, they turned back but in the thick smoke, they apparently crashed into a car full of people, Serra da Fonseca said. They stopped to try to get the passengers out, but in a matter of seconds the flames caught up. Serra da Fonseca wondered why they were allowed to take the road when police knew that a fire was raging in the area.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa has questioned why the N236 had not been closed to traffic, and has sought explanations into why the emergency services communications network had been interrupted. Press reports suggested Portugal's fire plan had not been revised for four years and that some communication antennae may have malfunctioned due to the intense heat. As anger mounted among the relatives of those killed, the daily Publico reported that civil protection personnel and backup fire crews only reached the fire site two hours after the first emergency calls. Costa has called for "immediate explanations" from authorities but insisted that there was "no evidence" of any rapid response failure. — AFP

Ambulances lead the way during the evacuation of Picha, as a wildfire approaches the village near Pedrogao Grande on Tuesday. —AFP

said vesterday. The infection arose from "a preexisting condition", the palace said. The Duke of Edinburgh, who is to retire from public duties later this year, was admitted to King Edward VII Hospital in London on Tuesday night. Prince Philip was due to accompany the monarch to the state opening of parliament on Wednesday as well as the Royal Ascot horse races. Their eldest son Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, accompanied Queen Elizabeth to the Houses of Parliament in his place. "Prince Philip is in good spirits and is disappointed to

LONDON: Prince Philip, the 96-year-old hus-

band of Queen Elizabeth II, has been admitted

to hospital as a "precautionary measure" for

treatment of an infection, Buckingham Palace

be missing the state opening of parliament and Royal Ascot," a Buckingham Palace spokesman said. "Her Majesty is being kept informed and will attend Royal Ascot as planned." Prince Philip was by Queen Elizabeth's side on Saturday for Trooping the Colour, her official birthday military parade in London.

Prince Philip traditionally holds his wife's hand as the state opening of parliament as they process through the Palace of Westminster to the throne, where he sits at her side as she reads out her government's program of legislation. The prince has been the queen's loyal hus-

CAR AFTER TRUCE DEAL BANGUI, Central African Republic: The death toll from clashes in Central African Republic has surged to around 100, local officials said

AROUND 100 KILLED IN

yesterday of violence that erupted hours after the government signed a truce with rebel groups. The bloodshed, which left dozens more injured, dashed hopes of an end to the simmering sectarian violence which has blighted the country since 2013, pitting Christian anti-Balaka militias against mainly Muslim ex-Seleka rebels.

Shooting erupted early on Tuesday in the central town of Bria and by midnight (2300 GMT) security sources and NGOs said some 40 people had been killed with another 43 wounded. But by Wednesday morning, the death toll had risen to around 100, according to the town's mayor Maurice Belikoussou and its parish priest Gbenai. The fighting began just hours after Bangui reached a deal with rebel groups on an immediate ceasefire in an agreement brokered by a Catholic group in

Since mid-May, Bria and several other southeastern towns - Bangassou, Alindao and Mobaye - have been engulfed by violence. By the end of the month, the fighting had already killed 300 people, wounded 200 and displaced 100,000 others, the UN's humanitarian organisation (OCHA) and the government said. In Bria alone, the violence has forced more than 40,000 people out of their homes, OCHA figures show, with more forced to flee in Tuesday's fighting. "The warring parties burned villages and neighborhoods of Bria, forcing more of the population out with many fleeing into the bush," local MP Arsene Kongbo told AFP yesterday. — AFP

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION EYES HARDENING LINE TOWARD PAK

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's administration is exploring hardening its approach toward Pakistan to crack down on Pakistan-based militants launching attacks in neighboring Afghanistan, two US officials tell Reuters. Potential Trump administration responses being discussed include expanding US drone strikes, redirecting or withholding some aid to Pakistan and perhaps eventually downgrading Pakistan's status as a major non-NATO ally, the two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Other US officials are skeptical of the prospects for success, arguing that years of previous US efforts to curb Pakistan's support for militant groups have failed, and that already strengthening US ties to India, Pakistan's arch-enemy, undermine chances of a breakthrough with Islamabad. US officials say generally they seek greater cooperation with Pakistan, not a rupture in ties, once the administration finishes a regional review, due by mid-July, of the strategy guiding the 16-year-old war in Afghanistan.

The discussions include officials from across the Trump administration, including the White House and the Defense Department, both of which declined comment on the review before its completion. Precise actions have yet to be decided. But Pakistan's embassy in Washington warned against "scapegoating" Pakistan to explain the stalemate in Afghanistan, pointing instead to Afghanistan's own troubled internal dynamics. It also noted past Pakistani efforts to battle militants and expressed willingness to work with the United States and Afghanistan on border management. "Singling out Pakistan and pinning the entire blame on Pakistan for the situation in Afghanistan is neither fair nor accurate, nor is it borne out by the ground realities," said Abid Saeed, press minister at the embassy.

A Pakistan Strategy

Experts on America's longest war argue that militant safe havens in Pakistan have allowed Taleban-linked insurgents a place to plot deadly strikes in Afghanistan and regroup after ground offensives. Although long mindful of Pakistan, the Trump administration in recent weeks has put more emphasis on the relationship with Islamabad in discussions as it hammers out a regional strategy to be presented to Trump, who took office in late January, one official said.

"We've never really fully articulated what our strategy towards Pakistan is. The strategy will more clearly say what we want from Pakistan specifically," the US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Other US officials question whether any mix of carrots and sticks can get Islamabad to change its behavior. At the end of the day, Washington needs a partner, even if an imperfect one, in nuclear-armed Pakistan, they say.

The United States is again poised to deploy thousands more troops Afghanistan, an acknowledgment that USbacked forces are not winning and Taleban militants are resurgent. Without more pressure on militants within Pakistan who target Afghanistan, experts say additional US troop deployments will fail to meet their ultimate objective: to pressure the Taleban to eventually negotiate peace. "I believe there will be a much harder US line on Pakistan going forward than there has been in the past," Hamdullah Mohib, the Afghan ambassador to the United States, told Reuters, without citing specific measures under review.

Kabul has long been critical of Pakistan's role in Afghanistan. Pakistan fiercely denies allowing any militants safe haven on its territory. It bristles at US claims that Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) directorate, has ties to Haqqani network militants blamed for some of the deadliest attacks in Afghanistan. A senior Pakistani government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, doubted the Trump administration would press too hard, saying: "They don't want to push Pakistan to abandon their war against terrorism."

Pakistani officials point towards the toll militancy has taken on the country. Since 2003, almost 22,000 civilians and nearly 7,000 Pakistani security forces have been killed as a result of militancy, according to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, which tracks violence. But the Pentagon, in a report to Congress released on Tuesday, explicitly accused elements of Pakistan's government of

supporting Afghanistan-focused militant groups, including the Taleban and Haqqani Network, who it said retained "freedom of action" within Pakistan. It called Pakistan "the most influential external actor affecting Afghan stability."

Is Pakistan an Ally?

Pakistan won the status as a major non-NATO ally in 2004 from the George Bush administration, in what was at the time seen in part as recognition of its importance in the US battle against al Qaeda and Taleban insurgents. The status is mainly symbolic, allowing limited benefits such as giving Pakistan faster access to surplus US military hardware. Yanking the title would be seen by Pakistan as a major blow. Some US officials and experts on the region scoff at the title. "Pakistan is not an ally. It's not North Korea or Iran. But it's not an ally," said Bruce Riedel, a Pakistan expert at the Brookings Institution think tank.

Lisa Curtis, prior to becoming senior director for South and Central Asia at the National Security Council, co-authored a report with Husain Haqqani, Pakistan's former ambassador to Washington, in which they recommended the Trump administration warn Pakistan the status could be revoked in six months. "Thinking of Pakistan as an ally will continue to create problems for the next administration as it did for the last one," said the February report, published by the conservative Hudson Institute think tank. It was unclear how seriously the Trump administration was considering the proposal.

The growing danger to Afghanistan from suspected Pakistan-based militants was underscored by a devastating May 31 truck bomb that killed more than 80 people and wounded 460 in Kabul. Afghanistan's main intelligence agency said the attack - one of the deadliest in memory in the Afghan capital - had been carried out by the Haqqani network with assistance from Pakistan, a charge Islamabad denies.

Washington believes the strikes appeared to be the work of the Haqqani network, US officials told Reuters. US frustration over the Haqqani's presence in Pakistan has been building for years. The United States designated the Haqqani network as a terrorist organization in 2012. US Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, then the top US military officer, told Congress in 2011 that the Haqqani network was a "veritable arm" of the ISI.

Any US pivot in its approach would be sharply different than the one taken at the start of the Obama administration, when US officials sought to court Pakistani leaders, including Army chief General Ashfaq Kayani. David Sedney, who served as Obama's deputy assistant secretary of defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia from 2009 to 2013, said the attempt to turn Islamabad into a strategic partner was a "disaster." "It didn't affect Pakistan's behavior one bit. In fact, I would argue it made Pakistan's behavior worse," Sedney said.

More Drones, Cash Cut-Off

Pakistan has received more than \$33 billion in US assistance since 2002, including more than \$14 billion in so-called Coalition Support Funds (CSF), a US Defense Department program to reimburse allies that have incurred costs in supporting counterinsurgency operations. Last year, the Pentagon decided not to pay Pakistan \$300 million in CSF funding after then-US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter declined to sign authorization that Pakistan was taking adequate action against the Haqqani network.

US officials said the Trump administration was discussing withholding at least some assistance to Pakistan. Curtis' report singled out the aid as a target. But US aid cuts could cede even more influence to China, which already has committed nearly \$60 billion in investments in Pakistan. Another option under review is broadening a drone campaign to penetrate deeper into Pakistan to target Haqqani fighters and other militants blamed for attacks in Afghanistan, US officials and a Pakistan expert said.

"Now the Americans (will be) saying, you aren't taking out our enemies, so therefore we are taking them out ourselves," said the Pakistan expert, who declined to be identified. Pakistan's army chief of staff last week criticized "unilateral actions" such as drone strikes as "counterproductive and against (the) spirit of ongoing cooperation and intelligence sharing being diligently undertaken by Pakistan."—Reuters

MILITANTS TAKE HOSTAGES AT PHILIPPINE SCHOOL

MARAWI, Philippines: Islamic militants occupied a primary school and took hostages in a southern Philippine village yesterday, a few hours' drive from a city where other jihadists were fighting a month-long war, authorities said. Hundreds of gunmen initially attacked a lightly guarded military outpost at dawn, with many withdrawing but about 30 then taking over the school and using civilians as human shields, the military said.

"As of now they are in the school holding the civilians. They are using them as human shields," Captain Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the army division with responsibility for the area, told AFP by phone. He said the gunmen had planted improvised bombs around the school. Encinas said he did not know how many hostages had been taken, or if they included children.

The unrest occurred in Pigkawayan, a farming town about 160 km from Marawi city where fighters linked to the Islamic State (IS) group have been battling troops for a month in a conflict that has claimed hundreds of lives. Armed

forces spokesman Restituto Padilla earlier said the attackers yesterday belonged to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), one of four groups in the southern Philippine region of Mindanao that have pledged allegiance to IS.

Local police said the BIFF attack may have been intended to help the militants in Marawi by distracting the military. Padilla said the gunmen attacked the outpost at daybreak, then exchanged fire with troops in the morning before retreating in a hit-and-run assault typical of BIFF fighters. "It's already resolved. The enemy has withdrawn... they failed," Padilla said late yesterday morning.

However about six hours later Encinas reported the hostage crisis at the school. Padilla then appeared on television and confirmed militants were occupying the school. Encinas and Padilla said there had also been skirmishes throughout the day outside of Pigkawayan, which is surrounded by marshlands, mountains and farmlands.—AFP

ROHINGYA SEEK NEW ESCAPE ROUTES FROM BANGLADESH

DHAKA: In squalid camps in Bangladesh, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who have fled violence and persecution in neighboring Myanmar dream of a better life abroad - and rely on increasingly high-tech trafficking networks to get them there. Dhaka denies new arrivals refugee status and, after a major crackdown sealed off the ocean routes traditionally used to traffic migrants to Southeast Asia, many Rohingya are turning to complex smuggling operations to escape Bangladesh. "People are desperate to leave the camps," said community leader Mohammad Idris. "Those who have money or gold ornaments are paying smugglers to get them out by air, and those who don't are trying roads."

The Rohingya, who live mainly in Myanmar, are one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. Many now live in grinding poverty in Bangladesh's southeast coastal district of Cox's Bazar, packed into camps that were home to more than 300,000 Rohingya even

before some 70,000 new arrivals poured across the border after the Myanmar army launched a bloody crackdown last October. Bangladesh denies them the right to work, and is proposing to rehouse them on a mosquito-infested island that regularly floods at high tide.

New routes

For years, rickety boats were the main mode of escape for the refugees who would pay hefty amounts to smugglers to get them to Malaysia and Thailand. Those routes were cut off in 2015 when mass graves of would-be migrants, many of them killed at sea, were discovered in Thailand, triggering a global outcry and a major crackdown on traffickers. But the smuggling networks swiftly identified new routes out of Bangladesh by air and road, using mobile payments to operate internationally.

Mohammad, an undocumented 20-year-old Rohingya, said he spent 600,000 taka (\$7,700)

to reach Saudi Arabia, where he now lives. "I paid a local friend for a Bangladeshi passport and other papers. He also helped me pass through the immigration," Mohammad told AFP using the WhatsApp messaging service. He asked that his family name not be used. As it becomes more difficult for migrants to leave Bangladesh, many have been forced to head to destinations once considered less appealing.

Those who cannot afford flights are using buses and even travelling on foot to escape Bangladesh, going to India before moving on to Nepal or Pakistan. Some have even settled in the troubled Kashmir region. There is no reliable data on the value of the trafficking trade, but estimates suggest it is worth millions of dollars in Bangladesh alone. These networks arrange fake Bangladeshi passports and birth certificates for the Rohingya, a stateless ethnic minority denied citizenship rights in Myanmar even though they have lived in the Buddhistmajority nation for generations. —AFP





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OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

Continued from Page 1

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "You will not enter Paradise until you have faith; and you will not complete your faith till you love one another." (Muslim) But love is a vague concept, and one person's definition of how to treat someone lovingly might be different from another's. But Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) clarified the issue. He said, "Do you know what the rights of a neighbor are? If a neighbor seeks your help, extend it to him. If a neighbor asks you for a loan, lend him.

If your neighbor becomes poor, then help him financially and attend to his poverty if you can. If your neighbor becomes ill, then visit him. If your neighbor is happy on certain gain, then congratulate him. If your neighbor is suffering a calamity, then offer him condolences. If your neighbor dies, then attend his funeral. Do not raise your building over his building, so that he would have no sun exposure or wind passage. Do not bother your neighbor with the smell of your cooking, unless you intend to offer him some." (Tabrani 101) These "rights" of a neighbor are expressions of love.

When a person reaches old age, he has a special status in the

community. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "He does not belong to us who does not show mercy to our children and respect to our elderly" (Tirmidi 1279). The Quran is particular about the care of parents: "We have enjoined everyone to look after his parents.." (31:14) "We have instructed man to be kind to his parents..." (46:15) "... when they attain old age...never say to them 'uff' nor scold either of them. Speak to them gently. Serve them with tenderness and humility..." (17:23-25)

Our journey through life is always in the company of others, and our treatment of each other is what will make our lives either happy and meaningful or lonely and miserable. Ramadan is the perfect time to reach out to others, whether relatives, colleagues, neighbors or strangers, and share the spirit of a loving community. It is the time to complete our faith by loving one another.

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

GULF COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR VAT IN TIME...

Continued from Page 1

But in Dubai's old souk, a wholesale trader disagreed, expressing fear of having to bear the VAT cost due to low profit margins. "I think five percent will be too much," said Obaid Tahiri sitting in his household appliances shop. "For wholesale, we don't have five percent profit. Clients will not pay... I cannot increase the price for the customer."

Although the UAE has announced plans to introduce VAT in January next year, many wholesale traders in the souk seem unaware of it. "Until now, the government has not told us anything about tax," said Abdullah al-Marzouqi, another trader. The introduction of VAT is part of measures being taken by the energy-rich monarchies

to reduce dependency on oil revenue and to diversify income. "The governments' objective is to diversify their revenue sources. It is about fiscal sustainability for the future. So, implementing VAT is an important tool allowing government to generate more revenue," said Daou.

Although the five-percent rate is unlikely to address the fiscal pressure faced by Gulf governments, "it is a tool for future fiscal sustainability". Malik said the introduction of VAT across the six nations is expected to provide revenues of up to 1.5 percent of total gross domestic product. "The aim is not to end the fiscal deficit. It is rather to deepen and widen non-oil revenue," she said, noting that hydrocarbons still account for between 50 and 90 percent of government revenues in GCC countries. —- AFP

COURT REOPENS ARGUMENTS IN ASSEMBLY...

Continued from Page 1

So, a re-voting was called and Kundari was declared the winner. The loser candidate MP Harbash challenged the result and said that he should have been declared the winner in the first vote. The controversy was reviewed by the legal and legislative committee which recommended that it be sent to the Constitutional Court whose rulings are final.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh categorically denied reports that Kuwaiti assets abroad have lost around \$70 billion. The minister reiterated that neither Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), the country's sovereign fund, nor the Public Institution for Social Security made such losses. The minister called for taking legal action against those who initiate such false reports. Saleh

said that both KIA and the Social Security posted good profits in the past fiscal year. The minister told the closing session of the National Assembly two weeks ago that Kuwaiti fiscal reserves have reached their highest level ever at the end of March. He did not provide details.

MP Riyadh Al-Adasani meanwhile sent a number of questions to the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Al-Sabeeh about the activities of charity organizations and the fund raising activities. He said his questions come after Kuwaiti courts convicted several people of funding the Islamic State terror group. He asked the minister if there are any unlicensed bodies or individuals who can raise charity funds in Kuwait and demanded a list of their names if any. He also asked about the ministry mechanism of monitoring the collection of donations and also of spending them.

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SAUDI KING OUSTS NEPHEW, NAMES SON...

Continued from Page 1

and more experienced than Mohammed Bin Salman, also known by his initials MBS.

The appointment of such a young royal as the immediate heir to the throne essentially sets Saudi policy for decades and removes the challenge of uncertainty. Saudi Arabia's stock market was up by more than 3.5 percent in mid-day trading. "He could be there for 50 years," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. "If you look at it positively, it is basically setting Saudi Arabia's course into the 21st century."

Another young prince also ascended to power yesterday. Prince Abdulaziz Bin Saud, 33, was named the new Interior Minister tasked with counterterrorism efforts and domestic security. His father is the governor of Saudi Arabia's vast Eastern Province, home to much of the country's oil wealth and most of its minority Shiites. He previously served as an adviser to the interior and defense ministries.

The new Interior Minister is Mohammed Bin Nayef's nephew, while Mohammed Bin Salman is the former Crown Prince's cousin. All hail from the powerful Sudairi branch of the royal family. The royal decree issued yesterday stated that 'a majority' of senior royal members - 31 out of 34 - from the so-called Allegiance Council support the recasting of the line of succession.

The Allegiance Council is a body made up of the sons and prominent grandsons of the late King Abdul-Aziz, the founder of the Saudi state. They gather in secret and vote to pick the king and crown prince from among themselves. It was not immediately clear if the council met before yesterday's sudden change. Even when there is disagreement, the royal family has long followed a tradition of speaking with one voice, particularly on issues of succession, in order to appear united in front of Saudi Arabia's many tribes and communities.

After the decrees were announced, Saudi TV aired footage of the new Crown Prince kissing Mohammed Bin Nayef's hand and kneeling before him. Mohammed Bin Nayef is heard telling him: "I will rest now, and God help you." In celebration of the news, King Salman ordered the reinstatement of all benefits and allowances for government employees that had been curbed by austerity measures, and granted additional days off for the upcoming Eid holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.

Over the weekend, the king had issued a decree restructuring Saudi Arabia's system for prosecutions that removed Mohammed Bin Nayef's oversight of criminal investigations, and instead ordered that a newly-named Office of Public Prosecution report directly to the monarch. Mohammed Bin Nayef was once a towering figure credited with crushing Al-Qaeda's cells in Saudi Arabia. He worked closely with Washington after the Sept 11 attacks, helping to share intelligence to thwart more attacks.

The prince had previously studied at the FBI and at Scotland Yard's anti-terrorism institute. Dubbed by Washington insiders as "the prince of counterterrorism", Mohammed Bin Nayef developed a ground-breaking program that rehabilitates and counsels individuals convicted of terrorism-related crimes. The center bears his name. In 2009, he survived an assassination attempt when a man who'd completed the program approached the prince and blew himself up.

The 58-year-old prince had served in a senior security post before taking over as interior minister from his father, the late Prince Nayef, in 2011. Both cracked down hard on rights activists and crushed any signs of dissent. Though his image remained on billboards and atop buildings throughout Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Nayef appeared to be slipping in profile and was not believed to have played a significant role in Saudi and Emirati-led efforts to isolate Qatar for its support of Islamist groups and its ties with Iran.

Instead, it was Mohammed Bin Salman, who embarked on major overseas visits, including a trip to the White House to meet President Donald Trump in March. That visit to Washington helped lay the foundation for Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia in May, which marked the president's first overseas visit and which was promoted heavily by the kingdom as proof of its weight in the region and wider Muslim world.

Saudi-US relations had cooled under the Obama administration after Washington pursued a nuclear accord with Shiite-majority Iran that the Sunni-ruled kingdom strongly opposed. The warm ties forged between Riyadh and Washington under the Trump administration may have helped accelerate Mohammed Bin Salman's ascension as crown prince. Despite his ambitions, the prince has faced criticism for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, which he oversees as defense minister.

The war, launched more than two years ago, has failed to dislodge Iranian-allied rebels known as Houthis from the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and has had devastating effects on the impoverished country. Rights groups say Saudi forces have killed scores of civilians and have called on the United States, as well as Britain and France, to halt the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia that could be used in the war. The US already is helping the Saudis with intelligence and logistical support for the bombing campaign in Yemen, and the Trump administration has signaled it could assist with greater intelligence support to counter Iranian influence there.

The newly-minted crown prince also raised eyebrows when he ruled out any chance of dialogue with Iran. In remarks aired on Saudi TV in May, Mohammed Bin Salman framed the tensions with Iran in sectarian terms, saying it is Iran's goal "to control the Islamic world" and to spread its Shiite doctrine. He also vowed to take "the battle" to Iran. Iran and Saudi Arabia's rivalry has played out in proxy wars across the region. The conflicts have deepened Sunni-Shiite enmity between hard-liners on both sides. Batrawy reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Amir congratulated Saudi Arabia's King Salman for choosing Mohammed Bin Salman as his new Crown Prince yesterday. Kuwaiti Amir HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah prayed for the Saudi king and said he was "looking forward to development and prosperity under the wise leadership" in the neighboring country. Mohammed Bin Salman was also congratulated by Kuwait's Amir, KUNA said. — Agencies



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DEMOCRATS LOSS UNDERSCORES THE PARTY CHALLENGES

By Erica Werner

epublicans just got a big argument for sticking with President Donald Trump and pushing forward with dismantling "Obamacare." And Democrats are looking almost incapable of translating the energy of their core supporters into actual election wins. Tuesday night's outcome in a Georgia special House race was a triumph for the GOP, and the most recent, and devastating, illustration of the Democrats' problems, from a weak bench and recruiting problems to divisions about what the party stands for. Instead of a win or even a razor-thin loss by Democrat Jon Ossoff that many had expected, Republican Karen Handel ended up winning by a relatively comfortable 4 percentage point margin in the wealthy suburban Atlanta district previously held by Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.

That followed another recent Democratic disappointment in Montana, where the Republican candidate won even after last-minute assault charges, and an earlier loss for the Democrats in Kansas. Indeed the best news Democrats got Tuesday night was that a different special House race, in South Carolina, ended up closer than the Georgia contest even though it had drawn little national attention. Republican Ralph Norman beat Democrat Archie Parnell by around 3 percentage points in South Carolina, closer than expected and a warning sign to the GOP not to take any seat for granted.

But for Democrats, having failed to unseat a Republican in four special House elections in a row despite an extremely energized base, it's now a time for soul-searching - and finger-pointing. Ossoff ran a careful campaign and shied away from talking about Trump, and some groups on the left wasted no time in insisting that Democrats must draw brighter contrasts with the GOP. "Defeating Republicans in districts that they have traditionally held requires doing something drastically different than establishment Democrats have done before specifically, running on a bold progressive vision and investing heavily in direct voter contact," said Jim Dean, chair of Democracy for America.

The Georgia race was the most expensive House race in history, with many millions spent on both sides. The fact that that level of investment failed to pay off with a win against a Republican candidate widely viewed as uninspiring left Democrats frustrated and dispirited heading into the 2018 midterm elections. Democrats will need to pick up 24 House seats to take back the majority. The outcome "better be a wake-up call for Democrats business as usual isn't working," Rep Seth Moulton, D-Mass., said over Twitter. "Time to stop rehashing 2016 and talk about the future."

House Democratic leaders tried to downplay the loss ahead of time, pointing out that the Georgia race took place on GOP-friendly terrain, as did the other recent special elections. Rep Joe Crowley of New York, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, said that there are 71 districts that will be more favorable for Democrats to contest than the one in Georgia. "This is a heavily Republican district," Crowley said. "It never should have been this close to begin with.

But for Republicans from the president on down, it was time to celebrate. Trump sent supporters a text message crowing, "Congrats to Karen Handel on a HUGE win in GA! Democrats lose again (0-4). Total disarray. The MAGA Mandate is stronger than ever. BIG LEAGUE." As the results rolled in Tuesday, AshLee Strong, spokeswoman to House Speaker Paul Ryan, mused over Twitter, "Remember when they told us we'd be punished in the special elexs for following through on our promise to #RepealAndReplace #obamacare?"

Indeed the string of special election wins, especially in Georgia, sent a powerful message to Republicans that they must be doing something right, even though Trump's approval ratings are low by historical standards and the GOP has yet to notch a single major legislative accomplishment on Capitol Hill. Far from rethinking their support for Trump or their plans to undo former President Barack Obama's health care law, Republicans seem likely to stay the course. And as for the Democrats, they, clearly, are doing something wrong. What exactly it is, and whether they can fix it, will be debated in the weeks and months ahead.—AP

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3 THINGS TO WATCH AS SAUDI NAMES NEW HEIR TO THRONE

ohammed bin Salman, named Saudi crown prince yesterday at the age of 31, inherits a historically conservative nation facing challenges at home and turmoil abroad. Here are three key areas to watch as the prince becomes first in line to the most powerful throne in the Middle East.

Yemen

Prince Mohammed retains his position as defense minister, a post he held when Rivadh joined the war in neighboring Yemen in 2015. Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia heads a regional military alliance fighting Shiite Houthi rebels, accused of ties to Iran, for control of the impoverished country. In May 2017, faced with international criticism over the Saudi-led alliance's role in Yemen's humanitarian crisis, the prince said his country had "no choice" but to intervene in the war to support the Saudiallied, UN-recognized government of Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi." These militias posed a threat to international shipping" in the Red Sea, Mohammed said in a tel-

evised interview. "If we had waited the threats would grown more com plicated, and there would have been a threat to Saudi Arabia". Mohammed defended Saudi Arabia's decision to fight a long war in Yemen as the sole means to protect civilians in the fight against the Houthis and their allies,

Saleh. "We could eliminate the Houthis and Saleh in a few days ... but as a result thousands of our troops and Yemeni civilians would be the victims," he said.

International rights groups have criticized both sides in the war for human rights violations, accusing the Saudi-led alliance of attacking civilian targets including hospitals and schools. Human Rights Watch in January said some of those attacks may amount to war crimes. Amnesty International in March said Saudi arms purchases from the US and Britain were "used to commit gross violations and helped to precipitate a humanitarian catastrophe".

Saudi economy

Prince Mohammed is the chief architect of an ambitious plan to transform the Saudi economy by 2030 to reduce its dependence on oil and develop the private sector. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of oil, was dealt a serious blow when oil prices plummeted in 2014. Under the "Vision 2030" plan, unveiled in April 2016, Saudi Arabia will sell nearly five percent of state-owned Aramco-the world's largest oil company reportedly worth between \$2 trillion and \$2.5 trillion.

The sale would mark the first move towards Aramco's fund worth \$2 trillion, which would make it the largest remained unresponsive. — AFP

former troops loyal to ex-Yemeni president Ali Abdullah state-owned investment fund in the world. It targets an increase in non-oil government revenue sixfold from \$43.5 billion to \$267 billion.

> It aims to raise non-oil exports and boost the contribution of the private sector to gross domestic product (GDP) from 40 percent to 65 percent. The economic plans are also aimed at bringing about tentative societal change by expanding local industry and slashing unemployment. Women, who face some of the world's harshest restrictions in Saudi Arabia, are expected to constitute 30 percent of the workforce by 2030, up from 22 percent now.

Qatar crisis

Prince Mohammed is one of the prime movers behind Saudi Arabia's decision earlier this month to isolate Qatar, accusing the gas-rich emirate of ties to Shiite rival Iran and of facilitating the financing, and function, of extremist groups. As crown prince, and deputy prime minister, he will oversee the aftermath of what Qatar has called a "blockade" by Saudi Arabia and its allies the UAE and Bahrain. Saudi Arabia has sealed off Qatar's only land border to the outside world and the three Gulf states have banned all flights to and from Doha. Qatar has demanded the lifting of the "economic blockade" before agreeing to privatization. The plan aims to create a sovereign wealth dialogue with its neighbors, but Saudi Arabia has

LOOKING BACK: THE HONG KONGERS WHO LEFT

Hong Kong to China by Britain in 1997, thousands of residents fearful of the future under Beijing jumped ship to start a new life abroad. As the semi-autonomous city prepares to mark 20 years since the handover and fears grow that China is tightening its grip, those who left are reflecting on their decision to abandon the home they loved. Philip Fok moved to Australia in 1992 with his wife and two children because he felt unsure of what would happen after July 1, 1997. Fok says China's history under the Communist Party, including the Cultural Revolution which saw purges of political opponents in the 1960s and 1970s and the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989, played on people's minds.

Working as a mime artist at the time, he felt particularly vulnerable because of his need for freedom of expression. "To be free, to the artist, is very important," the 69-yearold explains. Before he emigrated, he performed a mime show at Hong Kong's City Hall theatre called: "The night before and after," dealing with pre-handover uncertainty. Fok went to Sydney where he already had relatives, but says life was hard he struggled to get a visa, had very little English and lived on benefits for two years. However, he eventually managed to set up a successful painting studio, which he ran until last year, and hosts a weekly Cantonese radio show in Sydney's north west, where he lives.

Fok says his worst fears for Hong Kong have not materialized and argues the city is freer now than in colonial times. But he has no regrets about leaving. "In Australia nobody cares about your dress, nobody cares about your money," he says, adding that artists there are held in higher regard. In contrast to the densely packed expensive high-rises of Hong Kong, Fok lives in a four-bedroom house and is proud of the vegetable patch in his backyard. "If I have space I can think. If I have no space I can't think. I love Australia like that," he muses.

'Better to leave'

There are no official emigration figures, but government estimates show hundreds of thousands leaving Hong Kong between 1990 and 1997, with the annual figure hitting 61,700 in 1990 and peaking at 66,200 in 1992. Australia, Canada and the United States were the top destinations and are still home to thriving Cantonese communities. Whilst emigration has dropped dramatical-

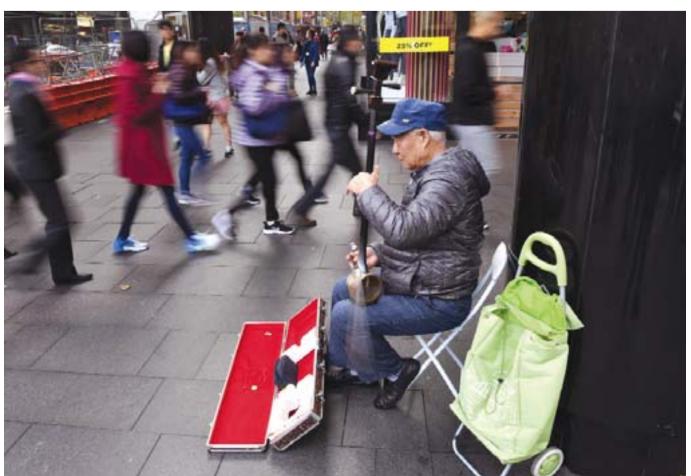
n the years leading up to the return of ly, numbers have recently risen again, from felt pangs of regret as his friends rose 6,900 in 2014 - the year of major prodemocracy rallies-to 7,600 in 2016.

Herman Fu, 58, believes the political divisions and lack of opportunities for young people, with increased competition for jobs and salaries outpaced by the cost of living, make the situation "worse than he thought" it would be when he left. He moved to Toronto in 1987 with his wife and two-year-old son, launching a window covering business, dealing in curtains, blinds and shutters. Fu originally planned to return once he had gained Canadian citizenship. But the Tiananmen crackdown changed his mind. "My idea of the Chinese government was too optimistic and I had to rethink my decision of going back," he says. As Hong Kong boomed in the 90s, Fu through the ranks at their companies, but he believes overall the standard of living is better in Canada. "I'm now living in a 3,600 square feet (330 sq m) house plus the basement, with a lawn. You can't get a lawn unless you're Li Ka-shing in Hong Kong," he explains, referring to the city's richest tycoon. Fu insists he still loves Hong Kong as the place of his birth but argues it may be better for youngsters to move. He adds: "If they can't survive in their environment, or they find it hard to improve themselves, better to leave."

Next generation

Even for the children of Hong Kong's emigres, there is still a bond with the city. Justin Fung, 37, was born and raised in Vancouver after his parents were among the first wave of Hong Kongers to move there. They went to study in the late 1960s and 70s and decided to stay. Fung says the prospect of a change in China's relations with Hong Kong was causing "rumblings" even back then.

The vast majority of his high school were ethnic Chinese students and there was always easy access to Cantonese food and culture. Fung refers to Hong Kong as "back home" and spent two years living and working in the city. But as the handover anniversary looms, he says he would hesitate to relocate permanently as concerns grow over Beijing interference. He says: "For myself as a father with a young child at home, I don't know if I'd want her growing up in that system." — AFP



SYDNEY: A busker plays the erhu, a traditional stringed Chinese instrument in Sydney. There are no official emigration figures, but government estimates show hundreds of thousands leaving Hong Kong between 1990 and 1997, with the annual figure hitting 61,700 in 1990 and peaking at 66,200 in 1992. —AFP

RUBEL HAS SURGERY AFTER DOOR COLLISION

DHAKA: Bangladeshi fast bowler Rubel Hossain has been ruled out of competition for at least a month after colliding with a door and breaking his jaw while on tour in England, his doctor said yesterday. The mishap occurred in the Bangladesh team hotel in Birmingham on June

15 after the semi-final loss to India in the Champions Trophy. Bangladesh Cricket Board physician Monirul Amin said Rubel underwent surgery yesterday and would need four to six weeks off to recover. "We hope he will be fine after that period, and make himself available for selection for the Australia series," Amin told AFP, referring to the first of two Tests starting late August. Rubel featured in all four of Bangladesh's Champions Trophy matches but claimed just two wickets at an average of 95.50. Bangladesh progressed to the semi-final of the 50-over tournament for the first time in their history, but were crushed by India in a nine-wicket thumping. — AFP

THREE RUSSIANS BANNED AFTER BEIJING RETESTING

MOSCOW: The Beijing Olympics relay silver medallist Anastasiya Kapachinskaya and two other Russian athletes were banned for four years yesterday for doping. Kapachinskaya, Inga Abitova and Denis Alekseyev, were caught out for using the prohibited substance turinabol when their samples from the 2008 Games were retested. The bans were announced by the All-Russian Athletics Federation (RusAF). Kapachinskaya, who also tested positive for stanozolol, was part of the women's 4X400m relay team that came second in Beijing. Her retested sample from the 2011 World Athletics Championships in Daegu also came back positive. Abitova took sixth in the women's 10,000m in China while Alekseyev picked up bronze in the men's 4x400m relay bronze that year. "These three runners have voluntary admitted doping code violations," RusAF anti-doping coordinator Yelena Ikonnikova told AFP. "Their avowals of guilt, which we received from the international athletics federation (IAAF) have been validated by the disciplinary committee of the country's anti-doping agency RUSADA," she added. —AFP

MARTIN LEADS KATUSHA AT TOUR DE FRANCE

PARIS: Katusha unveiled their nine man team for the Tour de France yesterday with Germany's freshly recruited Tony Martin tipped as a potential winner of the opening day July 1 time-trial in Dusseldorf. The four-time world champion time triallist with five Tour de France stages to his name will then have to wait until the penultimate day for a 23km time-trial around Marseille on July 22 in a Tour with an unusually low amount of time trialling. Another highlight of the Katusha line up will evoke glimmers of nostalgia for older fans with the first Tour de France appearance of 23-year-old sprinter Rick Zabel. Zabel's father Erik won the Tour's green sprint points jersey from 1996 through to 2001, also winning 12 stages. Rick, who bears a remarkable resemblance to his father, will support key Katusha sprinter Alexander Kristoff on the bunch sprints expected on around five of the flat stages. — AFP





FORD GT TAKES SECOND IN GTE PRO AT LE MANS 24 HOURS

KUWAIT: The #67 Ford Chip Ganassi a tough one, but everyone stuck with it. Racing Ford GT of Andy Priaulx (GB), Harry Tincknell (GB), and Pipo Derani (BRA) grabbed the runner-up spot in the 2017 Le Mans 24 Hours at the end of the final lap. Last minute struggles for the secondplaced Corvette gave Tincknell the opportunity to pounce and take the place just as the chequered flag fell.

In a door-to-door battle of manufacturers through the full 24-hours, the #67 crew that won the FIA World Endurance again with strong strategy and an incredible effort from the entire team.

"That was an amazing race," Priaulx said. "It was a faultless race with faultless pit stops. These guys (the Ford Chip Ganassi Racing team) deserve a medal as yet again they have risen to the challenge. It was a gruelling race; we had to fight through every lap, every pit stop, every moment of the 24 hours. Everything had to be perfect and it was. Watching Harry at the end was nail-biting so when we saw the Corvette appear in Harry's sights we knew he would get the job done and take second." All four Ford GTs finished the Le Mans 24 Hours, which was one of the most brutal 24-hour races at the Circuit de la Sarthe for many years. Last year's racewinning #68 Ford GT came home in sixth place, followed by the #69 car in seventh and the #66 in tenth place.

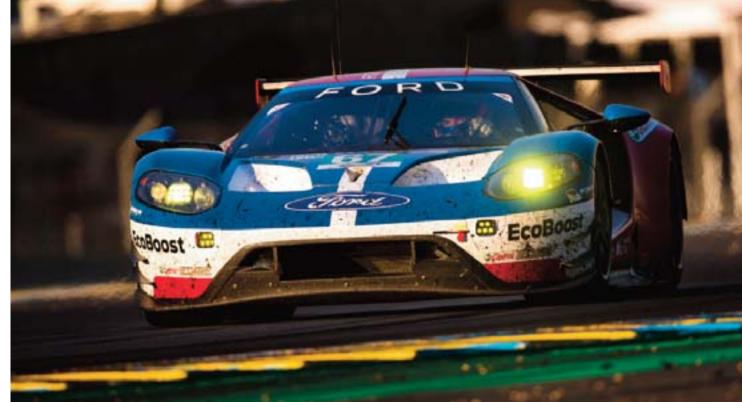
"Wow, what a race," said Dave Pericak, global director, Ford Performance. "It was

This proves that you have to stick with it right until the very end. To take second place on our second time here is amazing. First is always best but we'll take this because it's a great result for this team. It was huge for us in the WEC championship so it's not just a great finish, but it's also great for the championship we want to win this year."

All four of the team's Ford GTs showed promise early, leading laps at the Championship season-opener at 14km/8.5-mile Circuit de la Sarthe. Then, Silverstone proved their mettle once as dusk fell, the challenges came quickly and with little warning.

The #66 Ford GT was leading the category four hours in with Billy Johnson (US) behind the wheel after Stefan M,cke (GER) started eighth, but 10 hours later a rear suspension problem sent their team-mate Olivier Pla (FRA) into the gravel and the #66 to the back of the pack.

The #68 struggled in qualifying and lined up 12th on the grid. Although it led briefly thanks to a charge by Dirk M ller (GER) and showed pace, a series of pit lane challenges kept the team from showing its real promise. "Congratulations to the #67 crew for a fantastic second-place finish," M ller said. "We know how it feels to make it on to the podium. It's a good feeling. We were hit with so many things during the race. Joey did a good job and definitely Tony Kanaan. (Adding him to the lineup) was such a rush. We arrived here on Tuesday morning and from that moment on it all went so fast. He gave



everything for us and we made a good team." Kanaan, who competed at this year's Rolex 24 At Daytona with Tincknell and Priaulx, made an easy transition into the car at Le Mans.

Of the two full-time IMSA SportsCar Championship cars (#68 and #69), it was

#69 that really showed promise going into race day. It qualified highest among the Ford Chip Ganassi Racing Ford GTs in fifth place and although starting driver Richard Westbrook reported understeer, still appeared to be a podium contender. It

wasn't long, though, before the #69 had

to pit to fix a tail lamp issue - a problem that would resurface again the next day and hinder the progress of Westbrook, Ryan Briscoe and Scott Dixon.

The next race for the Ford Chip Ganassi Racing team is in two weeks' time at Watkins Glen in the US.

YACHTING

TEAM USA BACK ON WATER IN SEARCH OF ANSWER TO N ZEALAND

HAMILTON: Oracle Team USA were back on the water Tuesday as they scramble to find answers to Emirates Team New Zealand before America's Cup racing resumes on Saturday. A sweep of all four races on the opening weekend gave Team New Zealand a 3-0 lead in the firstto-seven points series as they erased their one-point opening deficit and then some. Team USA skipper Jimmy Spithill said "everything was on the table" as the two-time defenders contemplated "serious changes" aimed at narrowing the gap on Kiwis, who displayed markedly more speed in the light winds at the weekend on Bermuda's Great Sound.

After a day of work in the boat shed, Oracle had their foiling catamaran out on the water. While regatta rules limit the changes Team USA can make, they could tweak their hydrofoils, the appendages that allow the catamarans' twin hulls to rise above the water's surface to virtually fly at breathtaking speeds. Changes to the set-up of the massive fixed-wing sail and crew changes are also possible.

One of the most noticeable innovations by New Zealand this year was the use of bike-style cycle power, rather than traditional arm-grinders. Team USA have already added one cycle station-with tactician Tom Slingsby sometimes seen pedalling. But Spithill has insisted he doesn't believe the "cyclors" make much difference in providing sufficient power to the hydraulics system at key

moments, even though it's reckoned the legs can generate some 30 percent more power than the arms.

"I honestly don't think it's the bikes," Spithill said. "They've obviously got speed and they've had a little edge in a lot of the maneuvers." It's not the first time Spithill and Oracle have had their backs to the wall. In 2013, Team New Zealand were one win away from victory at 8-1, only for the US outfit backed by tech billionaire Larry Ellison to roar back to a 9-8 victory. Spithill said a similar resurgence wasn't out of the question. "We've got a lot of great boat building resources, we've got design engineering and we've got a very good group up here," Spithill said. And plenty of confidence. "Clearly we've got to make some steps forward in boat speed but we've shown we can do it," Spithill said.

"We're a group that isn't afraid of a challenge. I think mentally the guys seem to operate better under higher pressure and that's what we've got." But 26-year-old New Zealand helmsman Peter Burling believes the challengers can make strides before Saturday as well as they try to bring the Cup-the world's oldest international sporting trophy-to New Zealand for a third time after Black Magic's triumphs in 1995 and 2000. "We're all still on an incredibly steep part of the learning curve," he said. "We're just trying to keep learning and keep improving. Nothing changes for us."—AFP

RACING

BIRTLES A 'ROYAL' POET IN MOTION

ASCOT: Fashion may share the spotlight with racing at Royal Ascot but a nice literary touch is added by Henry Birtles who has written a poem dedicated to the showpiece event. The engaging 51-year-old-whose day to day job is his horse racing television rights business which includes the Melbourne Cup and Breeder's Cup — has penned 'A World Like Nowhere Else' for probably the most glamorous race meeting in the world.

The poem-the third he has been commissioned by Ascot to write-runs to 16 lines concluding with: "A blazing beacon to the most majestic sport of all where heroes rise and heroes fall, And Royal Ascot's world stands tallest of the tall."

Self deprecatory to a fault-he says his mercenary instincts in writing commissioned poems would have dead poets spinning in their graves-he still puzzles over how he came to become a poet.

"My love of racing came first," he told AFP before racing got underway yesterday. "I don't know how the poetry part really happened as I was probably closer to the bottom than the

top of my English class! "I suppose it started when I visited the Victoria Museum in Melbourne, Australia, and looked at Phar Lap their greatest horse who a taxidermist back in the 30's had done a great job on and there he is in all his glory. "This Australian lady came in with her child and remarked 'nice horsey' I thought to myself that is not a horse it is a piece of your history. "I was a bike courier at the time in Sydney and

the next day when I got on my bike I came up with a line for Phar Lap 'He ran for a country struck down by depression, and wrote a poem about him."

Others followed including one on the extraordinary grey steeplechaser Desert Orchid winning the 1987 Cheltenham Gold Cup. He has now penned 45 — "some of the lesser ones should be hidden at the back"which he hopes to turn into a book and the proceeds given to charity with prostate cancer and the Injured Jockeys Fund favoured.

'HONEST FARE'

Birtles, who saw his tricky relationship with his English master at Stowe Public School brought to a premature end and was sent thousands of miles away to Canada to finish his schooling, says his poetry would not trouble the pantheon of greats like William Wordsworth or John Keats. "They do rhyme which is good and I think that they are just

not complicated you can read them," he said. "I would describe it as honest fare like a friend of my mother's who isn't a good cook would say 'come round to my house for dinner

you can expect honest fare'. "You don't have to dig deep to understand what my poems are about." Birtles is not just a racing poet. He had a poem read by 'Homeland' actor Damian Lewis at Westminster Abbey, and was asked by the BBC to write and film one for the 2014 football World Cup.

In the film he included "the vicar, the



Henry Birtles

butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker" from the local town as well as Lewis and Hugh Grant. "I said to my two youngest Alec and Scarlett do you want to be part of the BBC film and they said yes.

"Alec kicked a football into the back of the net and Scarlett let go a bunch of red, white and blue balloons up into the sky. "I asked (eldest son) Jack who was 16 at the time and he said 'no I bloody well don't want to be part of your film' which was the answer I wanted. "Good on him!" -AFP



CHINA WILL STAGE REGULAR-SEASON GAME: NFL OFFICIAL

season NFL game "down the road" as American football targets a more global fanbase, the sport's top figure in the country told AFP yesterday.

New England Patriots star quarterback Tom Brady said during a visit to Beijing and Shanghai this week that it was his "dream" to play a game in China before he retires.

Richard Young, managing director of NFL China, said despite several challenges: "We really believe that a regularseason game is the right way to go because you want to see the real thing

SHANGHAI: China will stage a regular- (and not an exhibition game) and China and compete the next week in a very demands the real thing and we want to respect that growing fanbase."

Last year, reports said that the NFL was working to stage a game in China in 2018. "To get a real game over here, you have to understand that teams only have eight home games so one team is going to have to give up one eighth of their home-team schedule, which is a difficult thing," Young said.

He said the logistics are difficult, but "not impossible".

"They've got to fly a long, long way and then go back (to the United States)

physical sport. "So do I think it is going to happen in the future? Yes, I do. But it's down the road and we need a lot of things to sort out before we're going to have the game."

Young added that before China hosts a game, American football needed to become "relevant" in the country, adding: "We need to make the sport less foreign."

BRADY BACKING

The NFL, which is enjoying growing popularity in China but has dwindling participation numbers at youth level in the United States, is already branching out abroad. There will be four games in London in the coming season and the fifth game of the International Series will take place in Mexico City. Germany and Brazil have also been touted as potential future hosts. Asked by AFP in Shanghai if a regular-season game in China was inevitable one day soon, the five-time Super Bowl champion Brady said: "I hope so. I think you need to start with small goals and work up to that. "To play a game, who knows? Logistically it might be challenging... but I am hoping to have the opportunity to come one day and I

am going use the knowledge I have had of being here-the culture and what the fans want-to achieve that. "It would be a great experience." Brady, who turns 40 in August before the start of his 18th NFL campaign, and the Patriots were set to play a pre-season contest in China in 2007, a year before Beijing hosted the Olympics.

But the game against the Seattle Seahawks was cancelled by the NFL to focus on the debut of regular-season games in London later that year. Asked Tuesday who he would like to play against in China, Brady replied: "The Seahawks!"—AFP

PREVIEW

ROWNTREE SAYS MID-WEEK PLAYERS PRESSING FOR LIONS TEST SPOTS

WELLINGTON: British and Irish Lions assistant coach Graham Rowntree says performances by several players in the mid-week win over the Chiefs has made it more difficult to select the test squad to face New Zealand in Saturday's first test at Eden Park. Asked yesterday whether any players

Chiefs had played themselves into the test lineup the previous night, Rowntree said "potentially." "It's going to be even tougher now," Rowntree said. "We'll meet later on today as

who took part in the 34-6 win over the

coaches and there are a few guys who've put their hands up. "That won't be ignored, it will be taken into consideration and we've got a real challenge. The quality of this squad is such that it was always going to be a big debate,

but last night quite a few of them put their Rowntree said whatever lineup the Lions decide on, which will likely be revealed to players yesterday and to the public on Thursday, he is confident of the tourists' ability to cope with the high-tem-

po style of the All Blacks. The Lions have adopted a relatively conservative style on tour, focusing on strong set pieces, accurate kicking and a smothering rush defense. They showed sustained attacking flair for the first time on tour in their four-tries-to-nil win over the understrength Chiefs.

Rowntree said the Lions had prepared in training to cope with the New Zealand's pace and fitness. "We've trained hard and fast, which you have to to play the All Blacks," he said. "The ball is on the field for a long time, it's a quick game and we've trained them exceptionally hard.

"Those guys last night would quite easily back up again at the weekend if we wanted them to." Rowntree, who is responsible for the Lions' scrum, said the world champion All Blacks were the best team in the world at set pieces, along with most

other areas of their dame. "They (All Blacks) have proved that over two World Cups; a very efficient, excellent lineout defense particularly with Kieran Read in the mix," he said. "Scrum, my department, they've been leading the charge for quite a long time now.

"They've been exceptionally well coached by Mike Cron. It's an honest, efficient forward pack." Rowntree said the Lions had developed well throughout the tour, improving steadily through six matches to date. He believes they are now ready to face New Zealand.

"Luckily we've had some good challenges over the last few weeks and I'm really happy with how the boys have adapted," he said. "You saw the challenges we had at scrum time in Otago on a couple of occasions and against the Crusaders as well, against the All Blacks' front five basically.

"But the guys have learned and are adapting well. Those games, those challenges are what we need to learn from and be able to step up for this pack at the weekend, which is the best in the world."

The Lions and All Blacks squads each face questions about the fitness of their captains. Lions tour captain Sam Warburton has been struggling in his comeback from a knee injury and may concede the test captaincy to Ireland's Peter O'Mahony, while All Blacks captain Kieran Read will return after an almost two-month layoff with a broken thumb.

Read was unable to play in the All Blacks' warm-up match against Samoa last Friday and has had only a handful of Super Rugby matches this season. New Zealand assistant coach Ian Foster says Read is determined to play on Saturday and is confident of being match fit.

"He's desperate to play and he's our leader," Foster said. "The diagnosis has always been that he was due back to play this game.

"We're pretty satisfied. He had his first real solid hit out with contact (on Tuesday) and hopefully he comes through that really well and it becomes a reasonably easy dec sion." — AP

HAMILTON: British and Irish Lions head coach Warren Gatland, center, talks with Finn Russell, left, and assistant coach Rob Howley during the team's captains run at Waikato Stadium in Hamilton, New Zealand, June 19. — AP **RUGBY** COACH GATLAND TO CURB CHAT



LAS VEGAS: It's 116 degrees in the ice hock-

ey capital of the world. For the next few days,

Las Vegas is the place to be on skates. The

desert gambling mecca is hosting the NHL's

annual postseason awards show, when the

league also will reveal the Vegas Golden

Knights' choices in the expansion player draft

to stock the club with talent for its inaugural

several years, welcoming the NHL's best for a

red carpet presentation and a short week of

partying in a city that knows a little some-

light for the first time this year, reaching a

major milestone in its process of becoming

the NHL's 31st franchise - and doing it during

We think it's going to be a lot of fun for our

arena, a veteran front office, an eager coach-

ing staff, an eye-catching logo and positive

momentum in their new community. This

week, they'll finally have one player apiece

from the other 30 clubs, putting recognizable

The Golden Knights have an NHL-ready

fans, particularly those here in Las Vegas."

But Vegas' hometown team is in the spot-

Las Vegas has hosted the awards show for

season in the fall.

a heat wave.

thing about entertainment.

Knights' first major acquisitions

Gatland has vowed to "let the rugby do the talking" as his side prepares for a blockbuster first Test against the world champion All Blacks.

Gatland has traded barbs with New Zealand ounternart Steve Hansen in recent weeks hut said he wanted to look at the positive aspects of the tour ahead of Saturday's clash at Eden Park.

"Lions tours are special and the hospitality that we've had from the New Zealand public has been absolutely brilliant. We've loved being here," he said. "Let's just hope we can have a great series and everyone can enjoy the rugby and let's let the rugby do the talking.

Hansen has accused Gatland of having only one style of play, claimed inside knowledge of the Lions reinforcements and warned New Zealand's thumping 78-0 over Samoa last week was "just the start".

After initially biting his tongue, Gatland said Hansen's comments showed he was worried about the Lions and also accused New Zealand players of illegal blocking tactics.

The Kiwi-born coach complained too that he had been "hammered" by a personal campaign against him in the local media.

But he was in a conciliatory mood after the Lions shone in a 34-6 win over Waikato Chiefs, saying the tourists had tried to avoid venting their frustrations about issues such as obstruction. "We haven't come out and bitched and moaned about everything," he said.

"The referees came back to me and said (Waisake) Naholo's try for the Highlanders shouldn't have been awarded because it was blocking.

"We haven't complained about that stuff... the referees have identified some of that and hopefully it gets stamped out of the game."

'LIVELY DEBATE'

Gatland conceded the Lions' Test selectors had a difficult task after the mid-week team of second stringers thrashed the Chiefs.

Wing Jack Nowell crossed twice, while his England team-mates Elliot Daly and Courtney Lawes also staked their claim to take on New Zealand with stand-out performances.

"Some guys put their hands up," Gatland said. "We're pretty happy with where we're at at the moment. "The selection meeting will be with all the coaches... I'm sure there will be some lively debate and discussion."

Gatland still has pieces of his Test jigsaw missing, with the back three, lock and back-row likely to be the biggest areas of discussion. He said the Lions' fluidity in attack against the

Chiefs showed the composite team of players from England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland was beginning to gel. But he said they would have to step up

against Hansen's back-to-back World Cup-winners at Eden Park, a venue where the All Blacks have not been beaten for 23 years. "From a defensive point of view we're getting stronger and stronger against the best attacking

teams in world rugby," Gatland said. "We score multiple tries week-in, week-out and we're strangling them a little bit in the way

that we're defending too. "On Saturday, we're up against the best team in the world in their own backyard, a place they haven't been beaten at since 1994, so we have to take things up a level." — AFP

pros from the rest of the league. Combining the awards show and the Big names with bad contracts are available expansion draft should only enhance the fun in abundance, but general manager George for Vegas fans welcoming their city's first McPhee is likely to structure the core of a young, hard-hitting team from the available major professional sports team. Thousands of those fans are expected to gather at T-Mobile talent. General managers around the league Arena after the expansion draft for a raucous have frantically negotiated with McPhee in "Round Table Rally" to celebrate the Golden recent weeks to keep their most valued unprotected players through side trades, but "You don't always have to do things the not every team has enough assets to do so. same way," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman "I'm very interested to see the kind of price said of the two-for-one Vegas show. "We're not afraid to try something a little different.

The expansion draft affects every team in

the league, so many of the stars convening in

Vegas will be paying close attention to the

names of the teammates they'll be losing to

awards, but not as much as we're going to

talk about the expansion draft and who got

picked and who didn't, and what the team's

going to look like," Boston forward Patrice

Bergeron said. "It's definitely exciting to be

whopping \$500 million as an expansion fee

for the privilege of owning an NHL franchise.

The league subsequently structured the

expansion draft in a way that essentially cre-

ates more chances for Vegas to grab quality

Golden Knights owner Bill Foley paid a

here and to see it firsthand."

"I think we're going to talk about the

teams paid, and to see what the currency on the market is," Toronto coach Mike Babcock said. "But also, you're going to see how teams vou compete

against are affected or not affected. We're fortunate in our situation. With so many young players, we're not affected the way some teams are. But lots of teams are going to lose good players. Now do they make a deal and lose more, or did they not and just watch and see it happen?"—AP



NHL AWARDS AND EXPANSION

DRAFT COLLIDING IN VEGAS

LAS VEGAS: Vegas Golden Knights General Manager George McPhee speaks during a news conference June 19, in Las Vegas. McPhee answered questions about his hockey team and the NHL's expansion draft. — AP

QUEENSLAND KEEP ORIGIN SERIES ALIVE WITH THURSTON GOAL

SYDNEY: Johnathan Thurston kicked a pressure conversion to crown a magnificent 18-16 comeback victory by Queensland over New South Wales yesterday and keep Australia's State of Origin series alive.

The Maroons clawed back from 16-6 down at half-time in Sydney to send the series to a decider in Brisbane on July 12. The Blues were bidding to clinch their first Origin series since 2014 after winning the opening game 28-4 in Brisbane. But Queensland dug deep to stay alive, with winger Dane Gagai scoring two secondhalf tries.

Gagai's second try with three minutes to go left the Test great Thurston with a pressure angled conversion for Queensland to go ahead and hold on to their lead till fulltime. "It's what dreams are made of, kicking the winning goal after a massive effort from our boys,"Thurston said.

"We were behind the eight-ball at halftime, but we kept fighting and working for each other and we got the job done in the end." Queensland have won 10 of the last 11 interstate series and will get their chance to send Thurston and his halves partner Cooper Cronk out winners next month in their final representative season.

"We're still alive. It took every ounce of effort from every player on the field tonight to get the victory," said Queensland skipper Cameron Smith.

"When you need a big moment and a guy to step up and make a big play, it's always nice to have JT (Thurston) in your team and to kick that goal under so much pressure from a wonderful player."

Queensland began well, with winger Valentine Holmes scoring in the corner in the ninth minute and Darius Boyd instrumental in the lead-up play. But the Blues, roared on by their 82,000

home crowd, hit back with tries to Jarryd Haynes, Brett Morris and Mitchell Pearce to lead 16-6 after 27 minutes.

NSW were having plenty of joy moving the ball, with the pace of the contest taking its toll on Queensland.

The Maroons were twice denied a try right on half-time when Cronk was stopped by forward Jake Trbojevic, while Michael Morgan could not ground the ball in Josh Dugan's tackle over the try-line as the halftime siren sounded.

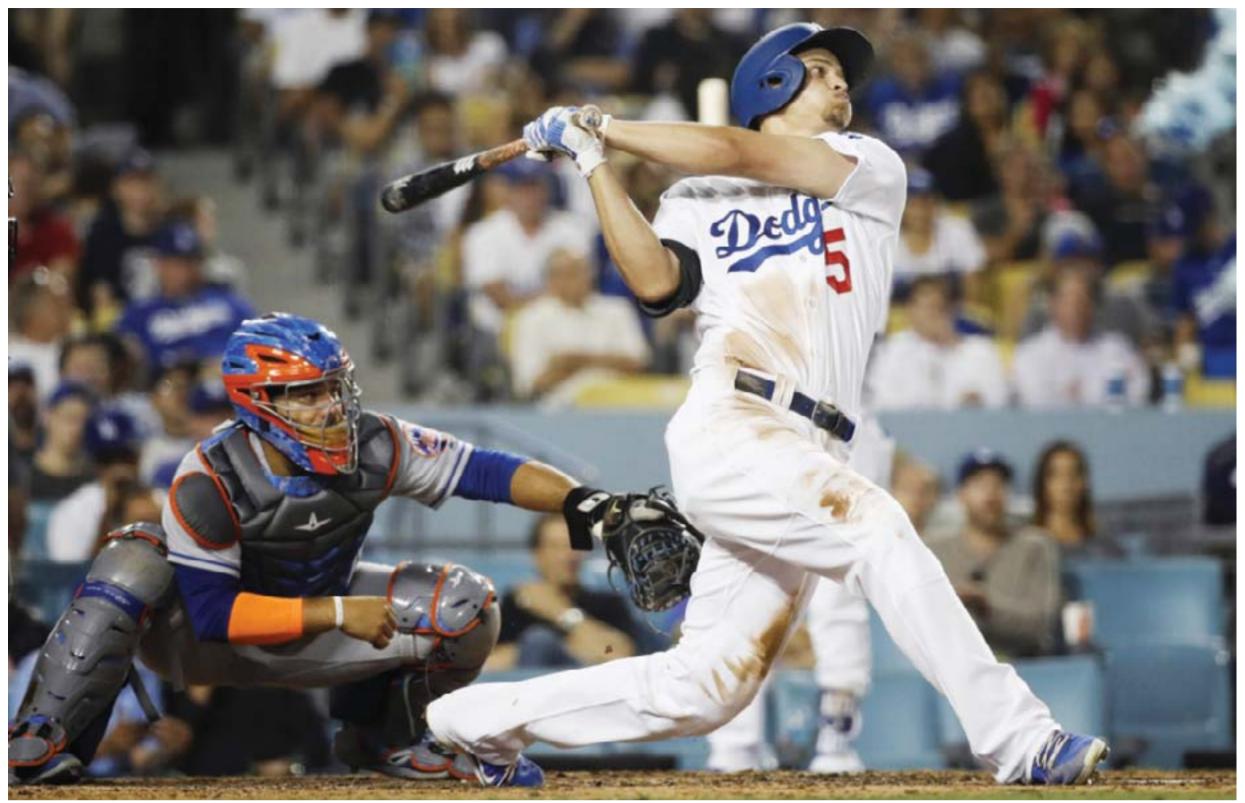
But Queensland lifted in the second half and Gagai pulled them to within four points with his first try in the 53rd minute.

With Thurston, Cronk and Smith calling the shots, the Maroons finished strongly and hit the front when Gagai crossed for his seventh try in six Origin games to leave Thurston with the winning kick. —AFP



File photo shows half-back Johnathan Thurston gets past the defence of Broncos

skipper Darren Lockyer.



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Dodgers' Corey Seager watches his third home run of the night, during the fifth inning of the team's baseball game against the New York Mets, Tuesday, in Los Angeles. — AP

BASEBALL

SEAGER HITS 3 HRS, DODGERS GO DEEP IN BIG WIN

starters pounded their way to a victory

that moved them into first place in the AL

East. Sale (9-3) gave up a homer to Mike

Moustakas in the second and a two-run

shot to Jorge Bonifacio in the ninth before

departing two outs shy of his second con-

secutive complete game. He allowed four

hits and fanned 10, pushing his major

league-leading strikeout total to 146 this

season. More importantly, he got a win

after going the distance in a 1-0 loss to

Philadelphia last week. Xander Bogaerts

and Sandy Leon each drove in a pair of

runs for Boston, which got plenty of pro-

duction from a lineup missing Pablo

Sandoval, Dustin Pedroia and Mitch

NATIONALS 12, MARLINS 3

two-run single that extended his hitting

streak to 13 games, and Gio Gonzalez

pitched seven innings to help the

Nationals beat the Marlins 12 -3 on

Tuesday night. Daniel Murphy had two

Bryce Harper started the scoring with a

Moreland to various injuries.

LOS ANGELES: Corey Seager hit three homers in a game for the second time in his young career and the Los Angeles Dodgers went deep five times in a 12-0 victory over the New York Mets on Tuesday night. Cody Bellinger also had a two-run homer to help the Dodgers win their fifth straight. Bellinger leads the National League with 22 homers in 52 games, including two long balls against the Mets on Monday. The Dodgers have hit nine home runs the past two nights and 27 home runs in their last 10 games. Seager has 12 home runs on the season. He hit a two-run homer in the first, a solo shot in the fourth and a three-run homer in the fifth. He flied out with the bases loaded in the sixth. Brandon McCarthy (6-3) pitched four-hit ball through six innings for Los Angeles, and Brock Stewart got his first career save with three hitless innings in his first outing of the season. Robert Gsellman (5-5) gave up four homers and eight runs over 4 1/3 innings.

CARDINALS 8, PHILLIES 1

Yadier Molina and Tommy Pham both homered in a seven-run 11th inning to help the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Philadelphia Phillies. Stephen Piscotty had a two-run double off Casey Fien after Edubray Ramos (0-5) started the inning with two walks. Molina and Pham followed with homers as the Cardinals had their biggest output of the season in an inning. Fien gave up both homers and then a single to Chad Huffman and double to Carpenter before the pitcher was removed. Philadelphia has now lost 12 of its last 13 games. Kevin Siegrist (1-1) pitched one inning in relief to earn the win. Mike Leake started the game for St. Louis and allowed one run and three hits in six innings. Jeremy Hellickson gave up six hits and a run in seven innings. His only blemish was a solo homer for Jedd Gyorko in the second inning. Philadelphia scored its lone run of the game on a Maikel Franco RBI single after Leake walked the first two batters in the fourth inning.

ROCKIES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Nolan Arenado hit a two-run triple in the eighth inning, and the surging Rockies rallied past the Diamondbacks in the opening game of their NL West showdown. Carlos Gonzalez homered and saved a run with a diving catch of David Peralta's line drive in the fifth to help Colorado win its sixth straight. The NL West leaders extended their advantage over third-place Arizona to two games. Second-place Los Angeles, which began the night trailing the Rockies by a half-game, played late against the New York Mets. Peralta and Paul Goldschmidt homered for the Diamondbacks, who had won seven straight. Arizona and Colorado, perhaps baseball's two biggest surprises this season, both entered on a roll. The Diamondbacks are a major league-best 23-9 since May 15, while the Rockies' 23-11 mark since then ranks third.

ANGELS 8, YANKEES 3

Cameron Maybin hit a tiebreaking home run off struggling reliever Tyler Clippard to spark a three-run seventh inning, helping the Angels beat New York to extend the Yankees' losing streak to seven games their longest in a single season since April 2007. Aaron Judge hit his major leagueleading 24th home run and Gary Sanchez his 12th as New York climbed back from a 3-0 deficit. But then Cameron drove the second pitch from Clippard (1-4) into the left-field seats, Kole Calhoun doubled to the right-center gap, Albert Pujols flied out to the center-field warning track and Yunel Escobar hit an RBI triple just over the glove of a leaping Brett Gardner at the left-field wall. Clippard walked off to boos after allowing runs for the third time in four outings.

RED SOX 8, ROYALS 3

Chris Sale shut down the Royals while pitching into the ninth inning, and a ragtag bunch of Red Sox filling in for injured

RBIs and hit his 12th homer for the Nationals. Teammate Stephen Drew had three hits and three RBIs, and Rvan Zimmerman drove in three runs with a double and a single. The NL East leaders went 7 for 14 with runners in scoring position. Gonzalez (7-1) allowed three runs, struck out eight and won his fourth straight decision. The left-hander, who grew up in nearby Hialeah, improved to 7-3 in 13 starts against his hometown team with an ERA of 2.19. Marcell Ozuna hit his

19th homer for the Marlins.

RAYS 6, REDS 5

Corey Dickerson went deep, Alex Cobb threw seven solid innings and the Rays beat the Reds. Dickerson had his 29th multihit game of the season with two hits. He drove in Tampa Bay's first run with a thirdinning single, then capped their scoring with his 16th home run in the fourth. Cobb (6-5) gave up two runs and eight hits while striking out six. Alex Colome pitched the ninth for his 20th save. Joey Votto hit his 20th home and Eugenio Suarez drove in another run off Colome, but the Reds lost for the 10th time in 11 games. Amir Garrett (3-6) allowed six runs in 3 2/3 innings.

GIANTS 6, BRAVES 3

Austin Slater hit a three-run homer after the Braves botched a potential doubleplay grounder, sparking the Giants to a victory over Atlanta that snapped a sevengame losing streak. Matt Moore (3-7) pitched seven strong innings for his first win in over a month, and the shaky Giants bullpen protected the lead. Julio Teheran (6-5) was up 2-0 and cruising toward his first home win since opening night at SunTrust Park, only to be let down by his defense in the eighth inning. The Braves were charged with three errors in all, the biggest coming when shortstop Dansby Swanson dropped a throw trying to turn a double play. On the very next pitch, Slater lined one into the right-field seats for his

went on to score five runs in the inning, also taking advantage of throwing errors by reliever lan Krol and first baseman Matt Adams. Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his 11th save in 15 chances.

PIRATES 7, BREWERS 3

Chad Kuhl got his first victory since April, Andrew McCutchen homered for the fifth time in seven games and the Pirates beat the Brewers. Jose Osuna's three-run homer highlighted the Pirates' six-run first inning. McCutchen's two-run single and David Freese's RBI hit accounted for the other runs, all scored before Zach Davies (7-4) recorded a second out. Kuhl (2-6) went 12 starts without a win after beating Atlanta 6-4 on April 8. The young righthander allowed two runs and seven hits over five innings, walked two and matched his career high of six strikeouts.

CUBS 4, PADRES 0

Anthony Rizzo hit another leadoff home run to help Mike Montgomery get his first win of the season in the Cubs' victory over the Padres. Rizzo homered on the second pitch from Jhoulys Chacin (6-6) and was the third leading off in seven games since Rizzo was moved to the top of the order by manager Joe Maddon. In those seven games, he is 6 for 6 with a walk to open the first inning. It also extended his hitting streak to a career-high 14 games and came on the day Rizzo took a call from the league office about a collision at home plate with Padres catcher Austin Hedges the previous night. Rookie Ian Happ also homered for the Cubs. Montgomery (1-3) allowed three hits and two walks in six innings, striking out four.

ORIOLES 6, INDIANS 5

Manny Machado went 4 for 4, homered twice and drove in four runs to help the Orioles beat Cleveland and end the Indians' six-game winning streak. After the Orioles rallied from a 5-2 deficit to pull even, Machado doubled off Bryan Shaw (1-2) in the seventh inning and scored on a double bv Adam Jones. Machado's first four-hit game since last August lifted his batting average 13 points to .227. He hit a solo homer in the first and tied it with a threerun drive in the fifth. Miguel Castro (1-0) worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh to earn his first big league victory. Brad Brach pitched the ninth for his 13th save, retiring Yan Gomes on a deep fly ball with runners on the corners and two outs.

RANGERS 6, BLUE JAYS 1

Carlos Gomez homered in a four-run first inning, Nick Martinez allowed two hits while taking a shutout into the seventh and the Rangers beat the Blue Jays. Adrian Beltre had a solo homer in the eighth for his 2,960th career hit as the Rangers (35-35) got back to .500 while the Blue Jays (34-36) dropped to 0-8 this season when trying to reach the break -even mark for the first time. Toronto beat two-time

second homer of the season. The Giants defending AL West champion Texas in a Division Series each of the past two seasons, as the AL East winner in 2015 and as a wild-card last year. Delino DeShields led off for the Rangers with a bunt single and scored on an RBI groundout by Beltre before Gomez's seventh homer and runscoring hits from Jonathan Lucroy and Mike Napoli. Martinez (2-3) didn't allow more than one baserunner in any inning, giving up one run and striking out two in 6 1/3 innings for the right-hander's first win since May 19 at Detroit.

TWINS 9, WHITE SOX 7

Miguel Sano and Kennys Vargas each hit a long home run to help the Twins bounce back from a demoralizing sweep by beating the White Sox. Sano hit his 17th homer and Vargas added a three-run shot as the Twins overcame a rough outing from Ervin Santana (9-4), who gave up six runs on 10 hits and struck out six in five innings. Brandon Kintzler pitched the ninth for his 18th save in 21 tries. Jose Abreu went 4 for 5 with a home run and two doubles, and Avisail Garcia had a homer and two RBIs for the White Sox. Derek Holland (5-7) allowed seven runs and nine hits in 2 2/3 innings for Chicago.

ASTROS 8, ATHLETICS 4

George Springer hit a leadoff homer to spark a five-run first inning and the Astros once again made themselves at home in Oakland with a victory over the Athletics. Brian McCann and Yuli Gurriel each added an RBI double, and Alex Bregman hit a two-run single in the first against Sonny Gray (2-3) to give the Astros their eighth straight win at the Coliseum and 13th in the last 14 meetings with the A's overall. Francis Martes (2-0) was the beneficiary of the early outburst and won his second straight start to begin his career. Houston's heralded prospect allowed three runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings. Chad Pinder hit a solo homer and Khris Davis and Jaycob Brugman added RBI hits for the A's, who cut the deficit to one but couldn't climb out of the early hole.

MARINERS 5, TIGERS 4, 10 INNINGS

Kyle Seager's double off the right-field wall drove home the winning run in the 10th inning to lift Seattle over Detroit. Seager's game-winning hit came on a night when his brother, Corey, hit three home runs for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Nelson Cruz walked on a 3-2 pitch from Justin Wilson (3-3) to open the 10th. Tyler Smith came on as a pinch runner and reached second with no outs on a wild pitch. Seager then turned on a fastball and lined it over the head of right fielder J.D. Martinez, allowing Smith to score easily. Steve Cishek (1-1) pitched the top of the 10th to get the win. Cruz had a two-run double, and Taylor Motter and Ben Gamel both homered for Seattle. Ian Kinsler, Justin Upton and J.D. Martinez all homered for the Tigers, who have lost four straight. — AP

MLB results/standings

Seattle 5, Detroit 4 (10 innings); LA Dodgers 12, NY Mets 0; Houston 8, Oakland 4; Colorado 4, Arizona 3; Boston 8, Kansas City 3; Minnesota 9, Chicago White Sox 7; Chicago Cubs 4, San Diego 0; Texas 6, Toronto 1; Pittsburgh 7, Milwaukee 3; San Francisco 6, Atlanta 3; Tampa Bay 6, Cincinnati 5; Washington 12, Miami 3; Baltimore 6, Cleveland 5; LA Angels 8, NY Yankees 3; St. Louis 8, Philadelphia 1 (11 innings).

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division					
	W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	43	28	.606	-
Boston	40	31	.563	-	Atlanta	32	38	.457	10.5
NY Yankees	38	30	.559	0.5	Miami	31	38	.449	11
Tampa Bay	38	36	.514	3.5	NY Mets	31	39	.443	11.5
Baltimore	35	35	.500	4.5	Philadelphia	22	47	.319	20
Toronto	34	36	.486	5.5		Centra	l Divisio	on	
		al Divisi			Milwaukee	38	35	.521	_
Cleveland	37	32	.536	-	Chicago Cubs	36	34	.514	0.5
Minnesota	35	33	.515	1.5	Pittsburgh	33	38	.465	4
Kansas City	34	36	.486	3.5	9				
Detroit	32	38	.457	5.5	Louis	32	37	.464	4
Chicago White	Sox	31 38	.449 6		Cincinnati	30	40	.429	6.5
	Weste	rn Divis	ion			Wester	n Divisi	on	
Houston	48	24	.667	-	Colorado	47	26	.644	-
LA Angels	37	37	.500	12	LA Dodgers	46	26	.639	0.5
Texas	35	35	.500	12	Arizona	44	27	.620	2
Seattle	36	37	.493	12.5	San Diego	28	44	.389	18.5
Oakland	31	40	.437	16.5	San Francisco	27	46	.370	20



PHIL MICKELSON SPLITS WITH LONG-TIME CADDIE

LOS ANGELES: Phil Mickelson, a fivetime major winner and three-time Masters champion, announced Tuesday he has split with caddie Jim "Bones" Mackay after working together for 25 years and 41 professional triumphs.

The 47-year-old lefthander and the bagman he met at 1992 US Open sectional qualifying in Memphis parted ways as friends, each releasing a statement saying as much. "After 25 very rewarding and memorable years, Bones and I have mutually decided to end our player-caddie

relationship," Mickelson said. "Our decision is not based on a single incident. We just feel it's the right time for a change."

Mickelson has not won a title since the 2013 British Open, his fifth major crown after the 2005 PGA Championship and the 2004, 2006 and 2010 Masters.

Denying him a career Grand Slam is a US Open triumph and Mickelson withdrew from last week's edition of the event to attend his daughter's graduation. Mickelson has finished as a US Open runner-up a record six times, including 1999,

2002, 2004, 2006, 2009 and 2013.

Mickelson's younger brother Tim, who filled in for a day when Mackay was sick at a World Golf Championships event in Mexico earlier this year, will take over as the caddie for "Lefty" for the remainder of the season starting with his next event, the PGA Greenbrier Classic on July 6-9.

"After an amazing 25-year run, Phil and I have mutually decided to go our separate ways," said Mackay, who this year has been recovering from a double knee replacement. "Player-caddie rela-

tionships don't often last that long. I will always be grateful that I was around to witness so much of Phil's career."

Mickelson's success made Mackay's dream come true. "When Phil hired me in 1992, I had one dream: to caddie in a Ryder Cup. Last year, at Hazeltine, Phil played in his 11th straight Ryder Cup. It was so cool to have a front-row seat," Mackay said. "I wish Phil nothing but the best. His game is still at an elite level, and when he wins in the future (definitely the Masters), I will be among the first to

congratulate him." Mickelson showed he can still contend in majors, finishing second to Sweden's Henrik Stenson last July in a British Open thriller. Now he must do so without Mackay. "My relationship and history with Bones far exceeds golf," Mickelson said, saying he looks to forward to "sharing life and friendship" forever. Mickelson won his first PGA event in 1991 at Tucson, Arizona, as an amateur before meeting Mackay, the only one of his 42 career tour titles to come without "Bones" on his bag. — AFP

CDICKET

GREATS LAMENT 'SAD DAY' AS KOHLI TOPPLES KUMBLE

NEW DELHI: Batting great Sunil Gavaskar lamented a "sad day" after Anil Kumble stepped down as India coach over a rift with captain Virat Kohli, leaving the hotseat vacant once again.

Kumble said Tuesday his position was "untenable" after Kohli questioned his leadership style and told the Indian board he had reservations about the spin legend extending his one-year stay. Since Duncan Fletcher left in March 2015, India, currently the world's top Test team, have struggled for stability with Ravi Shastri and Sanjay Bangar both taking on temporary roles before Kumble's reign.

"I have very little knowledge about the differ-

ences between Virat and Anil. But it is a really sad day for Indian cricket," Gavaskar told NDTV.

"India have won everything since the time Anil took over," he added. "I can't see Anil doing much wrong in one year. Differences (can) happen in any team but see the results."

India suffered a humiliating defeat to Pakistan in the Champions Trophy final on Sunday, but Kumble also helped them reclaim the number-one Test ranking and maintained an unblemished record in five Test series.

Former India captain and coach Bishan Singh Bedi also signalled his disappointment, tweeting: "If there's more intelligent/committed Crkt

analyser than @anilkumble 1074 on Indn horizon (we are) ignorant really!"

Kumble, 46, had already appeared headed for the exit after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) advertised for a new coach last month, although he was an automatic candidate. Former India opener Virender Sehwag and Australia's Tom Moody are reported to be among the possible replacements for Kumble, whose contract ran out after the Champions Trophy.

KING KUMBLE

Sehwag, who seems to be the frontrunner for the job, believes it would be tough for anyone to match Kumble's success as coach.

"The way this Indian team has performed under his coaching, I doubt whether anybody else will be able to replicate his success," Sehwag told UC News, an online data provider.

"I don't know about his coaching style but as a player, as an individual and as a senior he is just brilliant," said Sehwag, who played under Kumble's Test captaincy. Sambit Bal, editor in chief of ESPNCricinfo.com, said the manner of Kumble's exit set an unwelcome precedent for Indian cricket. "I think that sets a bad precedent really... it's really a case where the BCCI has backed the captain over the coach," he said. "The message is sent out to the next coach: fall into line or else," added Bal.

A three-man panel of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman, who picked Kumble in June last year, will deliberate over Kumble's replacement. As well as Sehwag and Moody, reports say other candidates are Englishman Richard Pybus, who has coached Pakistan and Bangladesh, former India manager Lalchand Rajput and ex-paceman Dodda Ganesh.

An Indian Express column said the pressures of modern cricket demanded a "strong chain of command". "Giving veto powers to the captain and players over coaches sits at odds with the direction cricket is moving in," the column said. "Indian cricket has once again endorsed that captain is more important than a coach," it added. —AFP



PHILADELPHIA: In this March 29, 2017, file photo, Atlanta Hawks' Dwight Howard prepares to shoot a free throw during the team's NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers in Philadelphia. A person familiar with the situation says the Charlotte Hornets have reached an agreement to acquire center Howard from the Hawks. — AP

BASKETBALL

ATLANTA HAWKS SEND CENTER DWIGHT HOWARD TO HORNETS

ATLANTA: Dwight Howard's Atlanta homecoming was short-lived. The Hawks sent Howard and the No. 31 overall pick in today's NBA draft to Charlotte for center Miles Plumlee, shooting guard Marco Belinelli and the 41st pick, getting the deal completed late Tuesday night.

Howard, an eight-time All-Star and three-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year, will be playing for his third team in three seasons following a disappointing one-year return to his Atlanta hometown.

"We are excited to add a player of Dwight's stature to our roster," Charlotte general manager Rich Cho said. "He has been a very talented player, an elite rebounder and rim protector as well as a physical presence since the moment he entered the league. Howard's best seasons came alongside coach Steve Clifford and we believe their familiarity will make an immediate impact for the Hornets this upcoming season." Clifford was an assistant with Orlando and the Los Angeles Lakers during Howard's stints with those teams. "I'm excited about working with Dwight again," Clifford said. "He brings a defensive mindset, shot blocking ability and a level of physicality that will be a huge asset for us. We look forward to him continuing his

career here in Charlotte."
Howard signed a three-year, \$70.5 million deal with Atlanta and then sat out the fourth quarter in two of six playoff games in the Hawks' first-round loss to Washington. Howard's averages with the Hawks - 13.5 points and 12.7 rebounds were close to his production in his last of three seasons with Houston in 2015-16. Still, he finished the season unhappy about his diminished role in the playoffs, when he averaged eight points and 10.7 rebounds.

"It was very difficult. I want to play," Howard said after the season. "I want to be on the floor. I want to make an impact. You can't do it on the bench." The Hawks were eliminated in the first round for the first time since 2014. Following the season, coach Mike Budenholzer resigned his additional role as president of basketball operations and Wes Wilcox stepped down as general manager. The Howard trade is the first deal for new Hawks GM Travis Schlenk, who faces the difficult challenge of re-signing free-agent forward Paul Millsap.

"It is extremely important for our organization that we maintain our flexibility and this trade helps us achieve that critical goal," Schlenk said. "We appreciate the contributions that Dwight made on the court and in the greater Atlanta community this past season." Howard, 31, is due to earn \$23.5 million each of the next two seasons. Plumlee, 28, still has three years remaining on his contract at \$12.5 million per season.

Belinelli, 31, is set to earn \$6.6 million in the final year of his deal.

Michael Jordan's Hornets have been attempting to land a star player for quite some time and Howard potentially gives them that if he can return to playing at a high level. Point guard Kemba Walker has developed into an All-Star, but Nicolas Batum struggled last season after being handed a \$120 million, five-year contract the largest ever given to a Hornets player.

The trade also satisfies the Hornets' search for a true center since losing Al Jefferson to free agency last summer. They had hoped that Roy Hibbert would fill the role of a rim protector, but injuries slowed him down and he was eventually traded to Milwaukee in a midseason deal that brought Plumlee to Charlotte. Plumlee wasn't much of a contributor last season for Charlotte and he was beset by injuries. The Hornets traded away their first-round draft pick in 2016 to acquire Belinelli after losing Courtney Lee and Jeremy Lin in free agency. Belinelli played in 74 games last season and averaged 10.5 points per game on 42.9 percent shooting. — AP

CAVALIERS IN CHAOS AFTER GM LEAVES ON EVE OF PIVOTAL SUMMER

LONDON: This photograph taken on May 26, 2017 shows India's head coach Anil Kumble

attending a practice session at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on May 26, 2017 ahead of the

start of the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy cricket tournament. Batting great Sunil Gavaskar

lamented a "sad day" yesterday after Anil Kumble stepped down as India coach over a rift with

captain Virat Kohli, leaving the hotseat vacant once again. —AFP

CLEVELAND: Nothing ever seems good enough for Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert. Not a championship. Not three straight appearances in the NBA Finals. Not a rapt fan base. Not being forgiven by LeBron James. He's demanding. A fearless, risktaking, casino-owning gambler. Those attributes have made him a billionaire businessman, a tough boss to please and the reason why the Cavaliers are in a current state of chaos. Following a loss to the Golden State Warriors in the Finals and facing a pivotal offseason for his franchise, Gilbert decided Monday to part ways with general manager David Griffin, the architect of the most successful run in team history.

Gilbert, who has gone through four GMs in 12 years in Cleveland, made the risky move as the Cavaliers are trying to revamp their roster while James' free-agency clock is ticking down toward next summer when his contract expires. There's confusion in Cleveland.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

This is a team that has flourished amid disorder, and the Cavaliers are in disarray again days after having their title snatched by Kevin Durant and the Warriors. Just last week, Gilbert had said he was happy with the direction of the team and didn't envision sweeping changes. But he and Griffin's vision for the future didn't align and they mutually agreed to separate. "We are now at a point where the fit is not right for us to continue with one another," Griffin said in a statement that sounded like something he might say about a player being released.

The timing of Griffin's exit couldn't be worse. The Cavaliers are preparing for today's draft without any picks and they are reportedly exploring trades to land either Paul George or Jimmy Butler in an attempt to add another All-Star and close the gap on Golden State.

And they may need to placate James, who praised Griffin while seeming to take a swipe at Gilbert late Monday on Twitter. After mending their relationship following a messy split in 2010, James and Gilbert may have more work to do.

"If no one appreciated you Griff I did, and hopefully all the people of Cleveland!" James posted. "Thanks for what u did for the team for 3 yrs! We got us 1(trophy)."

On Tuesday, Gilbert met with former All-Star guard Chauncey Billups about a job in Cleveland's front office, a person familiar with the talks told the AP on condition of anonymity. Billups, who has known Gilbert for years, does not have any executive experience so it's unlikely he would replace Griffin. It's more likely Billups would serve as an operations president and serve alongside a new GM.

Griffin's impact on the Cavaliers can't be understated. While he did have the luxury of

having James and All-Star guard Kyrie Irving on the roster to build around and Gilbert's deep pockets, he pulled off the blockbuster trade for Kevin Love, fired coach David Blatt and replaced him with Tyronn Lue. He also plugged holes with veterans such as Richard Jefferson, Channing Frye and Kyle Korver.

No, not everything worked out. Griffin, though, nurtured a championship culture and helped deliver Cleveland its first title since 1964.

James may have carried the Cavaliers. Griffin built them. There were growing signs in recent months that Griffin's run as GM would end after three seasons. First off, Gilbert has never signed any of his previous GMs to an extension, electing to move on to the next person in his chain of command once their contracts expired.

Unlike Lue, Griffin did not receive a contract extension last summer as Cleveland basked in the glow of its championship. Griffin was among the lowest paid top executives in the league, and while he didn't publicly complain about his salary, the fact that he wasn't rewarded by Gilbert was a large crack in a foundation that was splitting apart quickly. Griffin did all he could to please Gilbert, but there didn't seem to be much

reciprocation. When Atlanta and Orlando asked permission to speak with Griffin about their open GM positions during the playoffs, Gilbert denied it, depriving Griffin from some options in case things didn't work out in Cleveland and stripping him of whatever leverage he had.

Griffin had fretted over the Cavaliers' maddening inconsistency in the second half of the regular season, but the team found its stride in the playoffs and swept Indiana and Toronto in the first two rounds. Cleveland then took down top seed Boston in five games to win its third straight Eastern Conference title and earn a third matchup with the Warriors.

Afterward, before the Cavaliers were presented with their silver conference trophy, Griffin had to be talked into joining the players on the podium. Watching the video now, it's as if Griffin knows his fate. "We've been blessed with incredible ownership that was willing to do whatever it took to keep this group together, and to add to this group," Griffin told TNT's Ernie Johnson. "They love each other like brothers and that's what we were trying to create from the beginning." It's someone else's turn to keep it going.— AP



PHOENIX: In this May 9, 2016, file photo, Phoenix Mercury's Diana Taurasi smiles as she speaks during a news conference at the team's basketball media day, in Phoenix. Still thriving at 35, a case could be made that the Phoenix Mercury guard is the greatest player in women's basketball history. —AP

ATHLETICS

KENYA FACES CHANGE OF GUARD IN LONDON TRIALS

NAIROBI: Kenya's reigning athletics world champions face a tough challenge from a crop of young runners as the country prepares to choose the team to defend their title in London. Athletes will gather in Nairobi tomorrow and Saturday for national trials ahead of the August world athletics championships, two years after Kenya's victory in Beijing with 16 medals, including seven golds.

While Kenya's track team has been known to peak for the big occasion, as evidenced in Beijing, a shake-up among the team, race fatigue and ongoing concerns over doping will loom large over the trials.

Reigning world champions Ezekiel Kemboi, Asbel Kiprop and David Rudisha are hoping to make the team, but have struggled to hold up against a new crop of Kenyan runners this season.

"The season is only two-and-a-half months old but from the results we have seen so far we are likely to be seeing a transitional change in Kenyan athletics," says veteran athletics journalist Peter Njenga.

"Kemboi has won the world title for four consecutive years, and from the way he ran at the Rome Diamond League, finishing 17th, shows he's past his prime.

"Rudisha, likewise, at 28 is not growing younger either. He has had his time and he is struggling to get back to his old form" said Njenga. Rudisha, the two-time 800m world and Olympic champion had asked to be exempted from competing at the trials and qualify on a wildcard, but his request was turned down by Athletics Kenya, and he is set to compete in Friday's first semi-

final against his old rival, Ferguson Rotich.

The race will also feature two teenagers-Kipyegon Bett and Willy Tarbei who scored stunning victories in the Shanghai Diamond League and at the Racers Grand Prix in Jamaica in May and early June.

Tarbei, a former 800m World Under-18 champion and regular training mate of Rudisha, handed the world record-holder his second defeat of the season at the Usain Bolt invitational meeting in Kingston on June 11. Kenyan athletes remain on the watchlist by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which means the runners have come under a lot of scrutiny from Athletics Kenya (AK) and the International Federations of Athletics Federations.

Top athletes, including javelin world champion Julius Yego have complained that the authorities are paying too much attention to the issue of doping at the expense of the athletes' training programmes. But AK chief Jackson Tuwei warned that the athletes seeking selection to the world championships must meet several requirements, including attending anti-doping seminars organised by the Kenya Anti-Doping Agency..

"We are not yet out of the woods on this issue of doping. Therefore the seminars are not optional. There are important conditions required for each athlete to meet before the entries to the world championships in London," Tuwei said. "Each athlete is required to be tested three times before taking part in the world championships."—AFP

'NISSAN AL BABTAIN'S' WINNERS BACK FROM TRIP OF THEIR DREAMS TO WALES



KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co., the exclusive agent of Nissan vehicles in Kuwait, welcomes back the lucky customers who won a unique experience to witness the 2017 UEFA Champions League Final live which will took place in Principality Stadium in Cardiff, Wales.

The lucky Nissan Al Babtain customers won a fully paid trip including airlines tickets to London, accommodation for two nights, a 2-night stay at the Magellan Cruise Ship, and two tickets to attend the most anticipated football game of the season, the UEFA Champions League Final. Nissan Kuwait offered a similar promotion last year and

sent customers to the UEFA Champions League Final 2016 which was held in Milan, Italy. In 2014 Nissan Motor Co. LTD has enclosed a four years partnership with the UEFA Champions League including the UEFA Super Cup.

This agreement is the biggest sponsorship deal of Nissan which made the Japanese automotive manufacturer the official partner of the prestigious European Championship. True to its promise to deliver value and excitement to its customers in a form of unparalleled service and world-class Japanese engineered cars, Nissan Al Babtain regularly strives to design offers that people simply just can't resist while creating a more

memorable and enjoyable car purchasing experience. As Nissan is the official automotive sponsor of the UEFA Champions League since the 2014/15 season, Nissan Al Babtain is providing customers for the third time in a row the chance to win a trip to the most anticipated match of the year - the UEFA Champions League Final - bringing Innovation and Excitement closer to its customers as a token of appreciation. Nissan Al Babtain highly encourages all those who wish to purchase a new vehicle to visit one of Nissan's showrooms in Kuwait and to avail this exciting opportunity to win a trip of a lifetime.

SOCCER

HEAVYWEIGHTS GERMANY AND CHILE CLASH AT CONFED CUP

SOCHI: Germany and Chile clash for control of Group B at the Confederations Cup today with Germany coach Joachim Loew talking up the south American champions. "They have shown in the past few years that they belong to the elite of world football," said Loew ahead of the encounter in Kazan, Russia. "They are flexible like maybe no other side, very unpredictable.

"Almost every player is capable of scoring and wants to score goals. "They are so flexible that, from time to time, you cannot tell which player is playing which position."

Both teams have three points with Chile ahead on goal difference after their 2-0 win over Cameroon and Germany's 3-2 victory against Australia. Loew, having rested all of his World Cup-winning stars, will match his young guns against an experienced Chile team which won both the 2015 and 2016 Copa

America titles. Both sides are amongst the favourites to win the 2017 Confed Cup in the St Petersburg final on July 2. "They are the rival that will give us a good idea of what we can accomplish here," said Chile's Edson Puch, who started in place of Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez against Cameroon.

Regardless of their inexperience-the entire Germany squad had just 149 caps between them-Marcelo Diaz said facing the world champions requires a certain mindset. "In order to play them, we need to be psychologically prepared, at your best, and we are," said the midfielder. "Our mentality is one of our biggest achievements of this team." For the eighth match-in-a-row and with first-choice Manuel Neuer recovering from foot surgery, Loew will change his goalkeeper with Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen replacing Bernd Leno. The Germany

boss will also switch some outfield players, but keep his trusted core. "Jonas Hector, Joshua Kimmich, Shkodran Mustafi and (captain) Julian Draxler will start," revealed Loew. "It makes no sense to change seven or eight positions now, but three or four, that's possible."

Germany have won all four meetings between the countries in the last 40 years. The most recent was in 2014 when Mario Goetze's goal sealed a 1-0 friendly win in Stuttgart. In Thursday's other Group B game, Australia play Cameroon in St Petersburg with both teams knowing they can ill afford another Confed Cup defeat. "Australia play with a lot of fighting spirit and I expect a difficult game against a team with a different style to Chile," said Cameroon's Belgian coach Hugo Broos.

"We will have to be at our top level, because if we lose we are done at this tournament." Broos is expected to stick with the same line-up which leaked late goals by Vidal and Eduardo Vargas against Chile. After a quiet opening match, Christian Bassogog - the player of the tournament at the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations - will be keen to shine on the right wing.

Having conceded early goals against both Brazil, in last week's 4-0 friendly defeat, and Germany, Australia coach Ange Postecoglou will want to tighten his defence.

"We've had discussions about that, we need to make sure we are brave and we stick to what we have worked on," said Socceroos captain Mark Milligan. "If we stay true to ourselves and our structure, it'll all go better." Milligan and fellow midfielder Aaron Mooy will be tasked with making sure Australia maintain possession, an area where they struggled against Germany. —AFP



SAN JOSE: In this March 24, 2017, file photo, Brandi Chastain, center, poses for a picture with US Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati, left, and her former coach Tony DiCicco during an induction ceremony for the National Soccer Hall of Fame, in San Jose, AIP.

TONY DICICCO, COACH OF WOMEN'S WORLD CUP CHAMPS, DIES AT 68

LOS ANGELES: Tony DiCicco, who coached the US to the 1999 World Cup title before an overflow Rose Bowl crowd in a landmark for women's soccer, has died at 68.

He died Monday at his home in Wethersfield, Connecticut, with his family present, son Anthony DiCicco said Tuesday on Twitter. No cause was given, although his family said he battled health issues in recent months.

DiCicco became the US coach in 1994 and led the team to the gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Games, the first Olympics to feature women's soccer.

He then guided a team filled with superstars - women's sports trailblazers such as Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy and Michelle Akers - to the '99 World Cup crown. In the final, the US beat China 5-4 on the winning penalty kick by Brandi Chastain in Pasadena, California, before 90,185 fans, by far the largest attendance for a women's soccer game.

US Soccer President Sunil Gulati called DiCicco "one of the most influential coaches in US Soccer history." "Tony's passion for the game as a coach, administrator and broadcaster was always evident, and his relationships with everyone in the soccer community distinguished him as a compassionate and much-loved man," Gulati said. "U.S. Soccer will forever be thankful to Tony for his vast contributions to the game."

Foudy said DiCicco was among the "wonderful gems" in her life and was "always about family." She said DiCicco would walk on the field and say, "I love my job." "He contributed to our ability to spread joy and enthusiasm," Foudy told The Associated Press by phone. "That was Tonyhaving fun and constant laughter. He was such a humble and understated guy."

Chastain, whose celebration after the '99 winning kick became an iconic photo, posted a loving tribute on Facebook. "Thank you Coach for all you have given to every player you ever met, as well as for giving a shining example and role model of how to be a dedicated parent, how to be passionate about your job as well as tireless in the pursuit of excellence," Chastain wrote.

DiCicco is a member of the National Soccer Hall of Fame. He is the winningest coach in U.S. Soccer history by percentage as well as the only coach to win more than 100 games. He went 103-8-8 from 1994 to 1999. He then left coaching and did television work.

In 2008, DiCicco took over the US Under-20 women's team and led it to a world title. Amanda Duffy, the National Women's Soccer League managing director of operations, lauded DiCicco.

"Tony will be remembered for his immense passion, his dedication to the game and his life pursuit to inspire players and people," she said. "A truly influential figure, no one will forget the impact he has had on so many people's lives and his role in the tremendous growth of women's soccer in the US" DiCicco was the goalkeeper coach for Anson Dorrance on the first Women's World Cup championship team in 1991. In 1994, he took over from Dorrance and led the Americans to a third-place finish at the 1995 World Cup in Sweden.

From there, his team swept the next two major events, sparking a level of interest in the women's game never seen before in this country.

And he played a key leadership role in the start of women's professional soccer leagues in the United States. In 2001, he was chief operating officer for the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA), which played from 2001-2003. He was the league's commissioner in 2002 and 2003.

He coached the Boston Breakers in Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) from 2009-2011. DiCicco was born in Wethersfield and graduated from Springfield (Massachusetts) College in 1970, where as a goalkeeper he was an All-American, captain and most valuable player his senior year. DiCicco also earned a master's degree from Central Connecticut State in 1978. DiCicco played five years as a pro in the American Soccer League with the Connecticut Wildcats and Rhode Island Oceaneers. In 1973, he toured and played for the national team.

The family said in a statement on Twitter: "In honor of Tony's life, we ask that the emotion evoked by his passing be channeled towards the ideals he embodied: integrity, compassion and love." He is survived by wife Diane and four sons: Anthony, Andrew, Alex and Nicholas. — AP



ST PETERSBURG: Australia players exercise during a training session in St Petersburg, Russia, Tuesday. Australia held a training session with only players who did not play against Germany. Australia will play Cameroon in a Confederations Cup, Group B soccer match scheduled for today.—AP

ATHLETICS

COLEMAN POISED TO UPSTAGE GATLIN AT US TRACK TRIALS

SACRAMENTO: The next generation of American sprinting talent will be on display today when the US Track and Field Championships get under way in Sacramento with places at this year's World Championships up for grabs.

With Usain Bolt preparing to hang up his spikes later this year, the athletics world will get a glimpse of the sprinters likely to be in the frame to inherit the Jamaican star's throne when he departs the sport.

For the best part of a decade, drug-tainted veteran Justin Gatlin has been the dominant force in American sprinting over 100m and 200m, while remaining an emphatic second best against Bolt in major championships.

Gatlin finished runner-up to the Jamaican twice in the 100m at the last two world championships in 2013 and 2015, and once again at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro last August.

But the grizzled 35-year-old will be back at Sacramento's Hornet Stadium this week hoping to book his place on the US team for the World Championships at London in August-and possi-

bly another showdown with Bolt.

However, Gatlin might well find himself in a dogfight just to qualify for London judging by

his results this season.

Gatlin, who has a 100m personal best of

9.74seconds set in 2015, has not come close to that kind of time this year, only once ducking below 10 seconds. He clocked a disappointing fifth place at the Prefontaine Classic Diamond League meeting a month ago in Eugene, Oregon. More significantly, while Gatlin has struggled to rediscover his best form, American sprinting has been crackling with excitement over the displays of collegiate star Christian Coleman. The 21-year-old University of Tennessee prodigy sent shockwaves rippling throughout the athletics world earlier this month when he scorched to a world-leading fastest time of the season, 9.82.

A STAR IS BORN

The fact that Coleman eased up as he crossed the line in the US college championships semifinal suggests he has the potential to go faster.

Conditions in Sacramento this week are likely to suit fast times, with the mercury forecast to reach 105 degrees Fahrenheit (41 degrees Celsius). Coleman was a teammate of Gatlin on the US squad in Rio last season, an alternate in the 4x100m relay squad. The youngster revealed that Gatlin had become a mentor to him.

"He has become a friend of mine, a mentor," Coleman said. "He was once in the same position as me. He has talked to me about how to handle myself, what to do with my career." Gatlin, meanwhile, has tracked the progress of his young rival with admiration, telling US media he was wowed by Coleman's world-leading 100m display.

"Watching him gave me goose bumps," Gatlin said. "You're able to watch a star being born.

"I'm just going to get my popcorn ready, sit back and enjoy the show," added Gatlin, who must secure a top-three finish in Friday's 100m final to qualify for London.

While Coleman looks set to eclipse Gatlin in the 100m, a new crop of talent is also expected to shine in the men's 200m and 400m.

While Coleman will race in the 200m-he has the second-fastest time in the world this year at 19.85 — he will be joined by teenager Noah Lyles, who ran an impressive 19.90 in Shanghai in May. In the 400, meanwhile, Fred Kerley is the man to beat. Kerley, 22, has posted the three fastest times in the world this year, including a startling 43.7 in a regional meeting in May, the seventh fastest time in history.

Elsewhere at this weekend's meeting, which runs from Thursday to Sunday, a galaxy of 2016 Olympic stars will be in action aiming to lock down their World Championship berths, including Rio 1,500m gold medalist Matthew Centrowitz and 400m hurdles champion Dalilah Muhammad. — AFP

INNSBRUCK SAYS HOSTING 2026 Olympics 'doable and affordable'

VIENNA: A feasibility study has suggested Innsbruck could host the 2026 Winter Olympics on a budget of 1.175 billion euros (\$1.3 billion), but the Austrian city will need the approval of its residents before deciding on a bid.

"If we stick to the strategy from the feasibility study, it could become doable and affordable games," Innsbruck Mayor Christine Oppitz-Ploerer said Wednesday during a presentation of the 137-page report detailing financial, infrastructural and economic aspects of a potential candidacy. The study said different sports could be spread over existing venues in the Tyrol region and in southern Germany, like biathlon in Hochfilzen, Nordic combined in Seefeld, and speedskating in Inzell, Germany. It would prevent Innsbruck from having to build new permanent infrastructure.

Also, the concept refrains from building a central Olympic Village as athletes would be located close to their respective venues. The dispersion of events is possible under Agenda 2020, the IOC's reform program that allows more flexibility in hosting the games, including the possibility of using venues in other cities, and

even in neighboring countries. Tyrol governor Guenther Platter said the study provided "a good chance" for Innsbruck to go ahead. Platter added he was planning to start an information campaign ahead of a referendum among the province's residents, which will be held parallel to the Austrian parliamentary elections on Oct. 15.

In 2013, the last time Austrian citizens were asked about out hosting Olympics, Vienna had to drop plans to bid for the 2028 Summer Games after more than 70 percent of its residents rejected the idea.

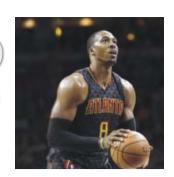
Innsbruck has hosted the Winter Games twice, in 1964 and 1976. Since then, Austria had several failed bids, most recently with Salzburg for the 2014 Games.

Other potential bidders for the 2026 Olympics include Almaty, Kazakhstan; Calgary, Canada; Sapporo, Japan; and Sion, Switzerland. With the IOC still to release the bid procedure for 2026, the formal bid process is not expected to start until after the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, with the hosting rights to be awarded in 2019. —AP

Coach Gatland to curb chat ahead of All Blacks Test



Atlanta Hawks send center **Dwight Howard** to Hornets



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HEAVYWEIGHTS GERMANY AND CHILE CLASH AT CONFED CUP

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LONDON: Luxembourg's Gilles Muller serves to France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on day three of the The Queen's Club tennis tournament in London, yesterday. — AP

Tsonga latest star to slump at Queen's

LONDON: Jo-Wilfried Tsonga became the latest star to crash out of Queen's Club as the world number 10 was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Luxembourg's Gilles Muller yesterday. After world number one Andy Murray, three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka and former Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic all endured shock first-round defeats on Tuesday, it was Tsonga's turn to suffer a surprise second-round exit.

Fifth-seeded Tsonga is traditionally a powerful force on grass and finished as

appearing in the Wimbledon semi-finals.

But the 32-year-old, who has won titles in Lyon, Marseille and Rotterdam in 2017, was out of sorts from start to finish against the big-serving Muller.

It took Muller just 69 minutes to hand Tsonga another frustrating loss on the heels of his embarrassing first-round exit against Renzo Olivo at the French Open.

"Sometimes you cannot do anything because the guy in front of you is doing the right things to make you play in a bad way," Queen's runner-up in 2011, while twice Tsonga said. "I played two matches here.

That's life. I'll try to play better in Wimbledon. "I have to put a little bit more energy in my game."

Muller's impressive display maintained his recent surge, which has seen the 34year-old win the 's-Hertogenbosch grasscourt tournament last week and reach a career-high ranking of 26.

Muller is in the quarter-finals at the Wimbledon warm-up event for a third successive year and will play former Queen's champion Sam Querrey or Australia's Jordan Thompson for a place in the last four.

Grigor Dimitrov fought back to avoid becoming yet another big name casualty as the Bulgarian world number 11 defeated France's Julien Benneteau 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Dimitrov won Queen's in 2014 and, given the way the tournament has unfolded, the sixth seed must fancy his chances of claim-

ing the title again. The 26-year-old was pushed hard by the world number 87 in almost two hours on court in searing heat, but he battled through to set up a quarter-final clash with Australian wild card Thanasi Kokkinakis or Russia's Daniil Medvedev.

It is the first time Dimitrov has made the last eight of an ATP event since Rotterdam in February.

Donald Young reached the Queen's quarter-finals for the first time as the American world number 55 defeated Serbia's Viktor

Young, who arrived at Queen's on a fivematch losing streak, faces former US Open champion Marin Cilic or American qualifier Stefan Kozlov with a semi-final berth at stake. — AFP

MUGURUZA SURVIVES SCARE IN TAKING FIRST STEP ON GRASS

BIRMINGHAM: Former Wimbledon finalist Garbine Muguruza suffered a scare before taking the first early steps that may help her forget her ordeal in losing her French Open title 10 days ago. The sixth seeded Spaniard was at times in serious difficulties during her survival by 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 against Elizaveta Kulichkova, a Russian qualifier, in the first round of the Aegon Classic, a Wimbledon warm-up tournament.

Kulichkova is slender of build but packs a tremendous wallop with her ground strokes on both sides, and had also had three qualifying matches to help her get used to the grass. She frequently forced Muguruza to scramble and plunge in different directions, unable to impose her elegant game on the rallie. When Kulichkova broke back in the final set with a chance to serve for 5-5 the match could have gone in any direction.

"I often felt like a rookie out there," admitted Muguruza. "It was like a cat fight. She's very powerful, but I kept my concentration and spirit and I turned things around." It had taken Muguruza four or five days to start afresh after her loss in Paris to Kristina Mladenovic in an atmosphere that had caused her to make strong criticisms of the hostile crowd.

She claims she has put it behind her, but allowed herself one more comment on her trauma on her arrival here. "Tennis matches should not be like football," she said. "People should be respectful."

Muguruza does though believe she is a better player than when she reached the Wimbledon final two years ago. "I am much more experienced and less emotional," she reckoned. "Before I was super-hyped, but now I am more comfortable with situations. They don't take me by surprise now. I expect things more than before." She next plays Alison Riske, the world number 45 from the United States who is at her best on grass, and has previously reached the semi-final of this tournament.

Earlier Kvitova, the two-time Wimbledon champion,



BIRMINGHAM: Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova returns a shot to Great Britain's Naomi Broady during day three of the tennis Classic at Edgbaston Priory, Birmingham, England, yesterday. — AP

made a winning comeback to her beloved grass with a 6-2, 6-3 2 win over her fellow Czech Tereza Smitkova. Not that Kvitova will consider this a step towards an attempt on a third Wimbledon title just yet. More importantly it continued to raise hopes that after the muchpublicised injuries inflicted upon her left hand by an intruder in her home she might yet regain many of the qualities her impressively forthright game.

At the age of 27, and after six months on the sidelines, this was only the third match in her comeback, but there moments when Kvitova the ball almost as well as ever. There were also mistakes, but these became fewer and less bothersome the longer the match went on.

Kvitova had come away from her comeback tournament, the French Open where she won only one match, with an empty feeling. Now she was happy, she said, an emotion apparently shared by others, particularly when the music signalling her capture of the first set was left on so long that it delayed the onset of the second by an entire minute.

"I love to be playing on grass, I have to be glad I am playing the game I love again, and yes, I am happy with the way I am playing," she said. "I hope my coaches are too. "Of course I still have to be careful about things. I don't want to get inflammation," she said of the damage which apparently included damage to all five fingers and two tendons. "I came here early to practise and try to do the right things.

If Kvitova has recovered enough of her former brilliance to reach the semi-finals, her path will have been smoothed by the exit of another top 10 player in her half. — AFP

BECKER DECLARED BANKRUPT

LONDON: Former German tennis star Boris Becker has been declared bankrupt by a court in London after failing to pay a "substantial" long-standing debt since 2015.

Laywers for the the three-time Wimbledon champion pleaded with a Bankruptcy Court registrar yesterday to allow Becker a "last chance" to pay off the debt.

But Registrar Christine Derrett, who recalled watching Becker play on Centre Court, ruled there was a lack of credible evidence the outstanding payment would be forthcoming and refused to adjourn the case. "One has the impression of a man with his head in the sand," she said of the six-time major winner after making the bankruptcy

order following a brief hearing. The bankruptcy application was made by private bankers Arbuthnot Latham & Co in connection with a judgment debt owed them by Becker dating back to 2015.



Boris Becker

The German's lawyers had argued there was sufficient evidence to show that he would be able to pay the debt soon through a refinancing arrangement, involving remortgaging a property in Mallorca, which was expected to raise six million euros (\$6.7 million).

His advocate told the registrar his instructions from Becker were that it was expected the deal would be approved by a Spanish bank in approximately one month.

Becker's advocate said his client was not likely to benefit from bankruptcy and it could have an adverse effect on his "image". But the judge responded: "He should have thought about that a long

time ago." She added: "It is not often the case that a professional person has a judgment (debt) outstanding against them since October 2015. This is a historic debt." Becker split with former world number one Novak Djokovic last December following three successful years together, the Serb winning six of his 12 Grand Slam titles with Becker as coach. — AFP

ASIA STOCKS HIT BY ENERGY FIRMS AS OIL DIVES

NBK report

Toshiba chooses US-Japan bidder for memory chip biz

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10 years after US housing crash, remnants accompany recovery

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NEW DELHI: In this June 15, 2017 photo, employees wait for customers at a toy shop in Khan Market. —AP photos

INDIA SWITCHES TO SINGLE TAX

SHOPKEEPERS RUSHING TO COMPLY WITH CHANGES

NEW DELHI: The daily bustle of tourists and shoppers has died down in an upscale market in central New Delhi, but a toy shop owner is still busy poring over new Indian tax rules that take effect next month. The new tax regime - replacing a messy mix of state and federal taxes built up over seven decades of Indian commerce - will affect the final price of every board game and baseball bat in Sanjiv Mehra's cramped shop in Khan Market. The government promises that the transition to a single, nationwide tax on goods and services will streamline business and boost the economy. Mehra is trying to figure out how it will all work. "This is such a major tax reform, but there has been little effort to explain how it works to the traders," Mehra said while he and his son sorted through piles of invoices, receipts and price lists, trying to decide how each item should be taxed under the new system. The government published lists last month of how almost every item for sale in India, from shampoo to tea to automobiles, should be taxed within four broad categories - at rates of 5 percent, 12 percent, 18 percent or 28 percent. It had already ordered all businesses in January to adopt or upgrade cash registers and computer systems so they are able to file tax returns that comply with the new tax regime.

For millions of tiny neighborhood shops that often don't even use a calculator, this technology leap seems nearly impossible, and many hoped the July 1 rollout date would be delayed. "It's a tough time for small traders like us," the grayhaired Mehra said. "The government says we should all become computer savvy. Then give us the time to do so."

Most Indians have grown accustomed to the array of taxes slapped on every transaction. After a restaurant meal, for example, a customer is presented with a bill that includes a value-added tax, a service tax and a service charge. A bill for electricity also demands payment of an education tax and a fee for public sanitation. Big businesses are also worried they'll take a hit. Those producing goods in the highest 28 percent tax bracket including sodas, shampoos and household appliances - say the new categories are unfair.

"This increase will have a negative ripple effect and hurt the entire ecosystem of farmers, retailers, distributors and bottlers in India," the Indian Beverage Association said last month. Unbranded food staples including vegetables, milk, eggs and flour will be exempt from sales tax, along with health and education services. Tea, edible oils, sugar, textiles and baby formula will attract a 5 percent tax. Luxury items including motorcycles, perfume and shampoo will be taxed at 18 percent or higher. They account for about 19 percent of all taxable items.

Long time coming

India's sales tax reform has been a long time coming. First proposed in 2003, the idea was bogged down for years in bipartisan debate, with various governments trying to push it forward while opposition politicians dragged it back. Before Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatya Janata Party came to power three years ago, they were staunchly against the move.

Now, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and others in Modi's government are promising it will boost the economy by a full 2 percent by making taxation more efficient and bringing small traders into the mainstream economy. Jaitley has acknowledged there may be "teething troubles" with many businesses as well as state governments still scrambling to get ready. But he said the effort would eventually help reduce rampant tax eva-

Overall, financial analysts agree. Applying uniform sales taxes should draw more revenue without singling out any classes or sections of society, they say. Only 12.5 million Indians - or 1 percent of the population - pay income taxes. Many evade taxes by hiding profits within antiquated accounting systems, while hundreds of millions are simply too poor and don't earn enough to qualify as income tax payers. With the new Goods and Services Tax, or GST, "we can expect indirect tax collection to increase by 30 to 40 percent," said tax adviser Suresh Rohira, a partner at Grant Thornton India, a consulting firm in Mumbai.

Some will suffer

Some will necessarily suffer. Manufacturing centers in the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are bracing for losses as taxes are charged at the point of consumption, though the federal government said it would reimburse those losses for five years.

Most of India's 29 states have passed local laws to implement the new tax regime, but some have pleaded for more time. The government last week dismissed that idea, but at least one industry grouping - the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India - urged a delay, saying the government's own computer networks are not yet ready for the change.

The Finance Ministry said preparations are on

track for implementation on July 1, but that authorities would show leniency toward businesses filing online until Sept 1. In some parts of India, business associations are holding workshops for small and medium-size businesses on how to get ready for the new regime. "Nobody can anticipate all the problems in implementing such a major overhaul," said economist Rajiv Kumar of the Pahle India Foundation, a New Delhi-based think tank.

Indian businesses are also still recovering from the government's snap decision to remove 86 percent of its currency from circulation overnight on Nov 8. In the months that followed, India replaced the old currency notes with newly designed bills. But the move caused chaos within the country's cash-dependent economy, hurting industries like construction and tourism, and hitting poor people the hardest.

Still, Kumar said India is right to push forward with the new tax regime, even if it is painful. "Traders will not willingly accept any regularization of their business activities," said Kumar, a former economic adviser to the Finance Ministry. "Given the magnitude of the reform, the way forward is to take the plunge - implement the GST - and deal with the problems as they come up."—AP

AFTER TOPPLING APPLE IN CHINA, OPPO NOW EYES WORLD MARKET

DONGGUAN: With its army of salespeople and vast smartphone market in major cities and online, network of outlets, a relatively new smartphone maker has exploded in popularity to overtake global giants Apple and Samsung in China's market-and now it has its eye on the West.

Oppo began life selling DVD players in the southern manufacturing hub of Dongguan a little more than a decade ago and only broke into the handset market in 2011. But with an aggressive marketing strategy and concentration on bricksand-mortar stores in small and medium-sized citiesrather than relying on online customers-sales have soared. Last year it had a market share of 16.8 percent making it the China market leader and while a slip in the first three months of 2017 put it just behind local rival Huawei, according to market analyst IDC, it remains well ahead of Apple and Samsung. Globally it ranks fourth behind Samsung, Apple and Huawei.

While its rivals focus on the premium end of the

Oppo makes relatively cheap devices-its latest model is less than half the price of an iPhone 7. Oppo also sells them in actual shops. It has 200,000 outlets across China less than 10 percent of its purchases are made online-while retailers are offered generous commissions in exchange for promoting the brand.

"In small cities, consumers unfamiliar with smartphones need to see and touch the devices and to have salespeople there to help them," said Yi Jun, Oppo's international sales director. At the company's factory in Guangdong province, Oppo handsets are submitted to a series of durability tests including one-meter drops and temperature changes ranging from -40 degrees Celsius to 85 degrees Celsius. "Technology is essential for meeting consumers' expectations," Yi said, pointing to Oppo's fast-charging ability, high-definition camera lens and sleek design.

'Brand ambassadors'

Now Oppo's rivals are starting to follow suit. Chinese brand Xiaomi, which lost significant market share in 2016, has been relying on the web for sales of its top-of-the-range smartphones. But in February it announced plans to go back to old-fashioned selling techniques with plans to open 1,000 stores by 2020 in the hope of reversing its fortunes.

As competitors play catch up, analysts warn Oppo must maintain its momentum to stay on or near the top. It needs to continue expanding its sales network and offering competitive products, said Mo Jia, an analyst at technology research firm Canalys. Oppo has also been boosting its sales abroad, including emerging markets in Southeast Asia where its share more than doubled to 13.2 percent last year-by far the biggest increase among its rivals, IDC data shows. —AFP



SHENZHEN: In this picture taken on May 9, 2017, men holding smartphones stand in front of an Oppo shop. —AFP

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SAUDI ARABIA: GOVERNMENT SPENDING, REFORMS TO STIMULATE NON-OIL ACTIVITY

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Responding to the oil price downturn, the Saudi government has embarked on a radical and ambitious plan to transform the kingdom's entire economy, restructure its finances and ultimately wean it off its oil dependency. The Saudi Vision 2030 and its associated tactical programs, now provide the basis upon which economic growth and development will be benchmarked. Public expenditures and investment will be redirected towards localizing industries, training Saudis and raising economic competitiveness.

Fiscal reform is taking place through expendi-

% of GDP

Sources: Official sources and NBK estimates

ture rationalization, non-oil revenue enhance-

ments and privatization of state entities, so that

by 2020 the kingdom would achieve a bal-

anced budget. Fuel and utility prices have been

hiked, taxes are about to be introduced, includ-

ing a VAT in 2018, while the authorities unveil a

private sector stimulus package. That package

is to include a housing and household

allowance program to mitigate the burden on

The risks and challenges are immense; the

Key economic indicators

Real GDP growth

Inflation

Fiscal balance

low income families.

Public debt

This year, however, non-oil activity is expected to rise by 1.1% y/y, thanks to moderately expansive government fiscal policy, including the launch of specific housing and private sector stimulus packages, and a rebound in consumer, manufacturing and construction activity. The consumer sector should get a welcome boost from the recent reinstatement of public sector bonuses and allowances. The private sector stimulus package, which is worth SR 200 billion (\$53.3 billion), aims to boost private sector GDP by 2020 through efficiency enhancements to high energy and labor-intensive industries.

2017f

0.5

1.4

-8.0

17.7

2018f

1.3

1.7

2.1

trend is due to a combination of weak consumer demand, still soft international food prices and lingering base effects relating to last year's subsidy cuts.

As a further reflection of anemic demand, real estate prices have also been trending downwards, falling by around 10% y/y. Going forward, however, it is more likely that inflation will pick up once the government's second round of energy subsidy cuts are instituted and after the authorities roll out their planned excise taxes on tobacco and sugary products by the middle of the year. The introduction of the VAT in 2018, at a rate of 5%, will also impact consumer prices, and propel the headline inflation rate towards 2.1% in 2018 from a projected 1.4% in 2017.

Higher oil prices and fiscal reforms

Saudi Arabia's 2-year-old budget deficit is likely to extend into 2017 and 2018. The deficit should narrow, however, from last year's high of -16.8% of GDP to -8% of GDP in 2017 and to -3.7% of GDP in 2018. The expectation of higher oil prices during the next two years (Brent to average \$55/bbl in 2017 and \$60/bbl in 2018) and continued fiscal restraint as well new reforms stipulated in the National Transformation Program (NTP) and Vision 2030 documents are behind the improved outlook.

Indeed, judging by recent data for 1Q17, which showed the fiscal deficit halving to SR -26.2 billion (\$7 billion) from the pro-rata 1Q17 budget estimate of SR 50 billion (\$13 billion), the government appears to have carried through into 2017 some of the fiscal restraint and spending rationalization programs it introduced in 2016. In 1Q17, revenues increased by 72% y/y

while expenditures contracted by -3% y/y. Based on full year figures for 2016, total expenditures were cut by 16% from 2014's historically high level of SR 1,110 billion (\$296 billion) to SR 930 billion (\$248 billion). Capital expenditures were curtailed by scrapping or reprioritizing non-essential infrastructure projects. Fuel and utility subsidies were cut. Public sector bonuses and allowances were cancelled. (The latter were reinstated in April by royal decree, however).

The second round of fuel and utility subsidy cuts is expected this year as the government pushes ahead with its phased plan to link all fuel, water and electricity prices to international market-based prices by 2020. The estimated savings to the government are in the region of SR 209 billion (\$55 billion) by 2020, or around 8.7% of 2016 GDP, as detailed in the government's Fiscal Balance Program (FBP).



TOKYO: This May 26, 2017 file photo shows the company logo of Toshiba Corp displayed in front of its headquarters. — AP

TOSHIBA CHOOSES US-JAPAN BIDDER FOR MEMORY CHIP BIZ

TOKYO: Money-losing Toshiba Corp said yesterday that it has chosen a US-Japan consortium as the preferred bidder in the sale of its lucrative memory chip business, but hurdles remain as an American jointventure partner is opposing the move. Toshiba sorely needs the sale, with its US nuclear unit Westinghouse Electric Co racking up massive red ink and filing for bankruptcy protection.

Tokyo-based Toshiba said the board of directors selected the bid, totaling about 2 trillion yen (\$18 billion), from the consortium of Innovation Network Corp of Japan, Bain Capital Private Equity and the Development Bank of Japan in the sale of Toshiba Memory Corp. But Western Digital of the US, which has acquired some SanDisk chip operations, including a joint venture with Toshiba in Japan, reiterated its opposition to such a move. It said in a statement that Toshiba "has no right" to transfer the joint venture without

It said it filed a request for arbitration last week. Toshiba has accused Western Digital of interfering with its sales efforts. Such sales can be sensitive because they involve the transfer of technology. SK Hynix, a major South Korean chip supplier, confirmed it was a lender to the consortium, "seeking new business opportunities," but declined to elaborate. Toshiba said Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group of Japan was also a financer for a consortium member, but neither SK Hynix nor MUFJ will have managerial say.

"Toshiba has determined that the consortium has presented the best proposal, not only in terms of valuation, but also in respect to certainty of closing, retention of employees and maintenance of sensitive technology within Japan," it said. Damian

Macquarie in Tokyo, said the decision reflects how Japan wants to keep the technology, but concessions would be needed from Western Digital.

A fight in court would be detrimental long term, because delays would give an edge to rivals, he added. Samsung Electronics is No 1 in the field.

"The whole point of this is to help Japan retain control of the semiconductor operations and business of Toshiba," Thong said. "This is Japan trying to protect its position and relevance in global chipmaking." Earlier, others had expressed interest, including Hon Hai of Taiwan, also known as Foxconn, a major supplier to Apple, which has acquired Japanese electronics company Sharp Corp. Broadcom, Western Digital's rival, had also been reported as a candidate.

Toshiba wants to reach an agreement with the consortium and clear legal and other procedures before its June 28 general shareholders' meeting. The Innovation Network Corp. of Japan is made up of 26 big-name Japanese corporate investors, including Sony Corp, Canon Inc, Toyota Motor Corp and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp Bain Capital Private Equity, based in Boston, is one of the world's leading investment firms. The Development Bank of Japan is backed by the government of Japan.

Toshiba's earnings reports have failed to get endorsements from its auditors, given the company's precarious finances over the US projects. The reports are being given as projections, not results - a 950 billion yen (\$8.6 billion) loss for the fiscal year ended March. Reactors that Westinghouse is building in the US are still unfinished, partly because of beefed-up safety regulations following the 2011 Fukushima Thong, senior technology analyst with ucclear disaster.— AP

most pressing is the need to stabilize the oil employment levels. price at a level high enough to kick-start growth

2015

4.1

3.2

2.2

5.8

15.0

2016

3.5

16.8

13.2

in the non-oil economy directly, through government spending and investment in SR 1.4 trillion (\$373 billion) worth of outstanding capital projects, and indirectly, through enhanced banking sector liquidity and lending. Consumer activity and confidence should rebound.

Real GDP growth to slow in 2017

Saudi economic growth is projected to slow further from last year's 1.4% to 0.5% y/y in 2017. Behind the outlook is a contraction in oil sector activity, by -0.3% y/y, in line with Saudi Arabia's commitment to OPEC's cuts, and continued weakness in the non-oil private sector. Private sector growth fell to a 26-year low of 0.1% last year, following two years of relative fiscal austerity and low business confidence triggered by the oil price downturn.

The government is also committed to improving the localization of industries such as oil/gas and defense. Moreover, the non-oil manufacturing sector

is expected to benefit from the full operation of major petrochemical projects such as the \$20 billion Sadara petrochemical complex and the \$500 million Rabigh expansion project. The direct effects of these and ancillary projects should lead to the creation of thousands of jobs, providing a welcome boost to Saudi

Nevertheless, the retail and consumer sector remains a weak spot. The latest metrics, such as point of sale (POS) and ATM transactions, private sector credit growth and the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) show improving but subdued activity. The roll out of the second round of the government's subsidy cuts this year, along with the implementation of excise taxes on tobacco and sugary products, and the VAT in 2018, will undoubtedly squeeze consumer finances, although the government has moved to mitigate the adverse effects on lower income families via the introduction of the Household Allowance Program.

Deflation unlikely to last beyond 1H17, after which energy price hikes, excise taxes and VAT (in 2018) will push prices up. Inflation has been in negative territory since the start of the year, falling to -0.6% y/y in April. The downward

EUROVISION-STYLE FIGHT FOR

UK-BASED EU AGENCIES

The procedure the leaders will agree on at this Thursday's summit, over an after-dinner 'digestif' once British Prime Minister Theresa May has left the room, consists of several stages. Firstly the candidate cities must formally put themselves forward by July 31, according to an EU working document seen by AFP.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, will then evaluate the cities by September 30, taking into account criteria including accessibility for current employees, work opportunities for their spouses and schools for their children. But it will also look at whether their countries already host other EU agencies, in order to ensure fair distribution throughout the bloc.

The final decision will go back to the 27 member states in October, in a secret vote. Each country has a total of six voting points to give to the candidate cities-three points for the first preference, two points for the second preference, and one point for the third. While they are allowed to vote for themselves they are also expected to take the commission's assessments into account when voting for the others.

If any location gets three points from 14 or more members then it automatically wins-otherwise there is a second vote for the top three candidate cities with the most points, with each country only getting one vote each. —AFP

Chinese Yuan Renminbi

KUWAIT-BACKED MOVIE THEME PARK LOSES HOLLYWOOD PARTNER

KUWAIT: A Kuwait-backed movie theme park planned for southern England has parted ways with its Hollywood movie partner. London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH) launched plans for the London Paramount Entertainment Resort in October 2012. Located on an 872-acre site on Kent's Swanscombe peninsula, around 17 minutes by train from central London, the \$3.2 billion project included a partnership with Paramount Pictures.

But the Kent Online news website reported on Tuesday that the partnership had ended, after the two sides were unable to agree right of usage for Paramount's films (the studio produced such blockbusters as Star Trek, Mission: Impossible, Titanic, Transformers and The Godfather but its unclear what films were discussed as possible material for the park.)

LRCH announced the split in a state-

ment released to the press. "Today, London Resort Company Holdings Limited and Paramount Licensing Inc. have jointly agreed to discontinue the license agreement for the proposed entertainment resort," the press statement said. LRCH was bought by the Kuwaiti European Holding (KEH) Group in 2013, which has been financing the firm ever since. The Kuwaiti firm has invested around \$75 million in the development of the project, Zawya.com reported.

KentOnline reported that LRCH has approach other major movie studios to replace Paramount. The also has a number of other agreements in place, including a deal with BBC Worldwide, the British broadcaster behind brands such as Doctor Who, Top Gear and Sherlock and Aardman Animations, the animator behind films and television shows such as Chicken Run and Wallace and Gromit.

agencies after Britain leaves the bloc. At a summit in Brussels this week, the leaders of the remaining 27 EU countries will endorse the process for choosing where the European

Medicines Agency (EMA) and European Banking Authority (EBA) will move to. A final vote by secret ballot is expected in October. Both are currently based in London's Canary Wharf business district and together employ more than a 1,000 people. They promise to bring economic benefits and prestige to whichever country hosts them after the Brexit process is complete. From big guns like France and Germany to

and fierce national pride at stake, it resembles

nothing so much as the Eurovision Song

Contest. But the European Union will this week

kick off a less glamorous but more lucrative bat-

tle-for the right to host two London-based EU

newer eastern European states seeking to make their mark, the competition promises to be fierce. "It's like Eurovision," a diplomat from a major European country said, referring to the glitzy, 60-year-old televised annual song contest in which European countries vote on each others' tunes.

Battle royale

So far the EMA candidate cities are Amsterdam, Copenhagen, the northern French city of Lille, Stockholm and Barcelona-with the

BRUSSELS: With a points-based voting system Catalan city hoping to house the agency in a round-topped skyscraper nicknamed 'the Suppository' (amongst other things). The medicines agency is responsible for test-

ing and certificating pharmaceuticals for humans and animals across the EU. The German financial hub of Frankfurt is meanwhile the frontrunner to host the EBA, while Luxembourg, Paris and Prague are also among the leading candidates. The EBA is perhaps best known for its regular stress tests on the EU's financial sector, which have become a vital focus for investors and regulators in the wake of the global financial crisis.

Cities like Vienna, Dublin and Warsaw have also put themselves forward as candidates for both agencies. The battle is about far more than pride. The EMA, which has been based in London since 1995, employs nearly 900 people and accounted for nearly 30,000 nights of hotel stays by visitors in 2015, according to EU figures.

For its part the EBA, set up in 2011, employs 190 people and accounts for 9,000 hotel nights a year. But while the competition for the agencies is tough, the EU is doing all it can to ensure it maintains a unified front in public as it heads into Brexit negotiations. "There's a lot of posturing at the moment, but in the end it's about the unity of the 27" remaining EU nations, a senior EU official said.

EXCHANGE RATES

ASIAN COUNTRIES Japanese Yen 4.723 Indian Rupees Pkistani Rupees 2.898 1.985 Srilankan Rupees Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollar 221.570 Hongkong Dollar 38.988 Bangladesh Taka Philippine Peso 6.100

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

GCC COUNTRIES Saudi Riyal 81.147 Omani Riyal 790.281 Bahraini Dinar 808.020 **UAE** Dirham

Thai Baht

Morocco Dirham

ARAB COUNTRIES Egyptian Pound - Cash Egyptian Pound - Transfer 16.737 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.221 Tunisian Óinaı 124.890 Jordanian Dinar 428.970 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.027

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

31.513

US Dollar Transfer 304.100 343.630 Sterling Pound Canadian dollar 231.960 Turkish lira 87.260

Swiss Franc Australian Dollar US Dollar Buying	315.620 234.770 302.900
	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 Pesso	6.140
Cyprus pound	167.715
Japanese Yen	3.755
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.962
Malaysian Ringgit	72.080

Thai Bhat 9.910 Turkish Lira 86.480

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL CURRENCY BUY SELL

45.135

	Europe	
British Pound	0.381970	0.391970
Czech Korune	0.004997	0.016997
Danish Krone	0.041739	0.046739
Euro	0.335153	0.344153
Norwegian Krone	0.031958	0.037158
Romanian Leu	0.074243	0.074243
Slovakia	0.009095	0.019095
Swedish Krona	0.030923	0.035923
Swiss Franc	0.305977	0.316977
Turkish Lira	0.082073	0.092373
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.223131	0.235131
New Zealand Dollar	0.214565	0.224065
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.224522	0.233522
Georgina Lari	0.137438	0.137438
US Dollars	0.300200	0.304600
US Dollars Mint	0.300700	0.304600
	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003386	0.003970
Chinese Yuan	0.043246	0.046746
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036931	0.039681

Indian Rupee	0.004253	0.004941
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002654	0.002834
Kenyan Shilling	0.002931	0.002931
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067351	0.073351
Nepalese Rupee	0.002976	0.003146
Pakistan Rupee	0.002692	0.002982
Philippine Peso	0.006024	0.006324
Sierra Leone	0.000037	0.000043
Singapore Dollar	0.214515	0.224515
South African Rand	0.017752	0.026252
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001608	0.002188
Taiwan	0.009902	0.010082
Thai Baht	0.008640	0.009190
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.799738	0.808238

311 Latikati nupee	0.001000	0.002100
Taiwan	0.009902	0.010082
Thai Baht	0.008640	0.009190
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.799738	0.808238
Egyptian Pound	0.014453	0.020361
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423835	0.432835
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019791	0.043791
Nigerian Naira	0.000334	0.000969
Omani Riyal	0.783969	0.789649
Qatar Riyal	0.079294	0.084234
Saudi Riyal	0.080060	0.081360
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.120455	0.128455
Turkish Lira	0.082073	0.092373
UAE Dirhams	0.081425	0.083125
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069



ALGHANIM MOTORS LAUNCHES THE COMPLETELY REDESIGNED AND REENGINEERED ALL-New 2017 Honda CR-V

onda Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Honda cars, motorcycles and marine equipment in Kuwait, announced the launch of the All-New 5th Generation CR-V. The completely redesigned and reengineered 2017 CR-V boasts of bold new styling, a more premium interior and a host of new features and technologies aimed at enhancing CR-V's status as the outright benchmark in the highly popular compact SUV segment.

The New CR-V targets the highest levels of quality and driving refinement in its class with top class steering precision, ride comfort, body control and cabin quietness. The New CR-V comes in four grades namely, DX and LX in 2 Wheel Drive (2WD) and EX and Touring in All Wheel Drive (AWD).

New Powertrain and Chassis Technology:

At the heart of the 2017 CR-V is a 2.4-litre DOHC, direct injected i-VTEC engine that is mated to a smooth shifting and sporty continuously variable transmission (CVT) with Honda G-Shift control logic. The 2.4-liter engine generates 184-horsepower @ 6400rpm and a torque of 244NM @ 3900rpm. The fuel consumption statistics of the CR-V are 15.5km/L for the DX and LX grades and 14.7km/L for the EX and Touring grades.

The all-new body and chassis design in the 2017 CR-V provides more agile and confident handling, greater drive refinement and superior overall versatility. Its front

The All New CR-V comes in the below exterior and interior colors for all the grades: Exterior Colors:

White Diamond Pearl Lunar Silver Metallic Modern Silver Metallic Crystal Black Pearl Basque Red Pearl

MacPherson strut and rear multi-link suspension utilize specially tuned low-friction dampers, with both FWD and AWD models including tubular front and solid rear stabilizer bars that promote quick turn-in and flatter cornering. Dual-pinion, variable ratio Electric Power Steering (EPS) also contributes to the CR-V's direct and satisfying steering feel.

Bold and Sophisticated Exterior Styling:

The CR-V heads in a new fresh direction with crisper and sharper front-end design elements such as new aggressively styled headlights surrounded by wing shaped LED Day Time Running Light (DRL) array on all grades. The CR-V's new windswept frontend appearance also includes signature Honda LED headlights (touring only). Wide muscular fenders with athletic wheel arch-

Color Availability

Dark Olive Metallic Obsidian Blue Pearl Sandstorm Metallic Gun Metal Metallic

Interior Colors Ivory Black

es, longer wheelbase and short rear overhang give the 2017 CR-V a more sophisticated and athletic presence. Perfectly straddling the line between bold design and modern sophistication, this is the perfect SUV for any lifestyle.

The New CR-V also features distinct LED taillights and exciting wheel options in 17 inches (DX and LX grades) and 18 inches (EX and Touring Grades) that help it stand out whether sitting still or taking off. It also includes a Power Programmable Tailgate, which opens and closes at the push of a button with added tailgate height-adjustability feature (available on Touring grade only) which can be customized for drivers of all heights. Other notable standard features include power door mirrors, side mirror LED indicators, rear fog lights, headlight off timer, various chrome garnishes and auto rain sensing wipers (Touring only).

Premium, Spacious and Technologically Advanced Interior Styling:

The New CR-V raises the bar for interior refinement and utility through its completely redesigned cockpit and innovative premium features. The more spacious cabin, with top-in-class interior space and the best rear seat legroom in its class, features upgraded materials throughout, including a new softtouch instrument panel and more intricately stitched seats. A color TFT driver information interface (DII) center meter display adds to the handsome new design aesthetic.

With the new Easy Fold Down and 60/40 split rear seat design, the CR-V interior is incredibly versatile with room for five people and a substantial amount of cargo of various sizes.

The CR-V offers the latest in vehicle connectivity and audio performance with a new generation of advanced technologies. The DX and LX grades have a 5-inch Colour Screen Audio and the EX and Touring grades have a 7-inch touch screen Display Audio interface with Android operating system™ that now features a physical volume knob as well as an available Navigation system. The 7-inch touch screen Display Audio is compatible with Apple CarPlay™ and AndroidAuto™ platforms, giving customers seamless integration of key smartphone features and functions, including smartphone powered GPS navigation and voice controlled search capabilities.

The clean and elegantly laid out dash-

board presents advanced driving technology placing essential information directly in the line of sight. The DII supplies a wide range of information such as average fuel consumption, AWD torque identification, turn-by-turn navigation and Driver Attention Monitor. The Driver Attention Monitor is designed to detect driver fatigue and alert the driver when exhibiting diminished attention to the road with a series of visual and audio alerts.

The Honda LANEWATCH™ feature in EX and Touring grades, uses a camera located in the passenger door mirror to display a clear image of the lanes and any vehicles that are on the lane on the 7-inch Display Audio screen. The Multi Angle Rearview Camera with dynamic guidelines shows steering input direction, to ensure you park safely and quickly.

Some of the key comfort and convenience features available on the New CR-V include a smart entry and remote engine start (LX, EX and Touring only), single zone air conditioning in DX and dual-zone climate controls in the remaining grades, rear A/C ducts in all grades, Auto Dimming Rear View Mirror (EX and Touring only), Electronic Parking Brake (EPB) with Brake Hold function, front USB ports, rear 2.5A USB charging ports and front passenger seat with 4-way power adjustment and driver's seat with 8-way power adjustment and 4-way power lumbar support.

Advanced Safety:

The all-new 2017 CR-V utilizes Honda's next-generation Advanced Compatibility Engineering™ (ACE™) body structure. 2017 CR-V targets the highest available collision safety ratings, including an NCAP 5-star Overall Vehicle Score from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHT-SA) and a TOP SAFETY PICK+ rating from the

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

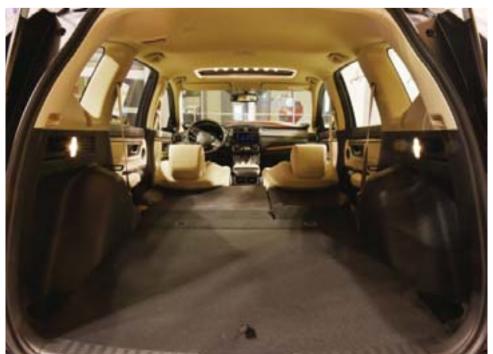
The 2017 CR-V utilizes an Electronic Brake Booster (EBB), which replaces the conventional vacuum Brake Booster. The EBB motor is controlled by a microprocessor that monitors the vehicle speed as well as the pressure the driver applies to the brake pedal, building superior hydraulic pressure more quickly and with less pedal effort in all braking situations.

Other Honda active-safety features such as Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) with Traction Control Systems (TCS), Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS), Electronic Brake Distributor (EBD), Agile Handling Assist, Tire Pressure Monitor System (TPMS), Brake Over Ride System and Hill Start Assist (HSA). Rear Parking Sensors are present in LX, EX and Touring grades.

Honda Alghanim invites all its customers and enthusiasts to visit one of the two Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh to discover the all-new 2017 CR-V. The Ramadan timings for the showrooms are as follows: Honda Alghanim showroom in Al-Rai area operates from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM and from 8:00 PM until midnight, Saturday to Friday. Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM and from 8:00 until midnight from Saturday to Thursday. The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs. The service center operates from Saturday to Wednesday from 7:30 AM to 8:30 PM, from 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM on Thursdays, and from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Fridays.











ASIA STOCKS HIT BY ENERGY FIRMS AS OIL DIVES

HONG KONG: Another sell-off in energy firms members exempt from the production cut deal," dragged Asian markets lower yesterday, tracking hefty losses on Wall Street as oil prices tanked. Shanghai was the shining light, ending up 0.5 percent after MSCI's decision to include mainland-listed firms in a key index. Crude prices sank more than two percent on Tuesday on increasing fears of a global supply glut, as continued production in the US and elsewhere offsets an OPEC output cut deal. The fall also came despite a drop in US inventories.

"Oil prices have officially entered a bear market (and) plummeted two percent after reports of said Stephen Innes, senior trader at OANDA. The crude sell-off, which means the commodity has lost a fifth of its value from recent highs, saw energy firms drag Wall Street down, with all three main indexes ending deep in the red.

And while both main contracts stabilized yesterday, Asian energy firms followed their US counterparts. Rio Tinto sank 2.9 percent and BHP dived close to four percent in Sydney, while Hong Kong-listed CNOOC was 0.7 percent off and Inpex fell 1.2 percent in Tokyo. Broader markets were also well down. Tokyo's Nikkei fell 0.5 rising output from Nigeria and Libya-both OPEC percent, Hong Kong closed down 0.6 percent,

Sydney sank 1.6 percent to its lowest close since term. It is also seen as another step in early February and Seoul dipped 0.5 percent. Singapore tumbled 0.7 percent, Wellington eased 0.8 percent and Manila fell 0.6 percent.

Pound losses build

But Shanghai bucked the trend to end up 0.5 percent after the US-based MSCI finally approved mainland-listed stocks, or A-shares, for inclusion in its emerging markets index. The agreement, after three previous rejections, means that for the first time foreigners will be able to buy into Chinese markets directly, providing a possible \$8 billion of inflows in the near China's further opening up to the world economy and asserting its growing importance to global finance. However, analysts tempered expectations and pointed out that while the decision is important, Chinese stocks will only account for 0.7 percent of the index when they are included next June. Northeast Securities analyst Shen Zhengyang said: "The thing itself is a good thing. But it has limited benefit for the market. The money that will come in is just a drop in the bucket, while the market's liquidity itself isn't sufficient at the moment due to the deleveraging process in the financial system."

The yuan edged up on the MSCI move

but the pound extended Tuesday's losses below \$1.26 after Bank of England governor Mark Carney dismissed an interest rate rise any time soon. Carney's comments disappointed investors after a recent rise in inflation suggested the BoE could lift borrowing costs again. Adding to the pound'd weakness was ongoing speculation about how tough Brexit terms will be after negotiations on Britain's departure from the EU got under way. Sterling is now at levels last seen just before British Prime Minister Theresa May called a snap general election expected to boost her majority, which she eventually lost. In early European trade London was flat, Paris lost 0.5 percent and Frankfurt dipped 0.2 percent. — AFP



movements at a securities company. — AFP

45,343,468 12,402,708

Change	BEIJING: An investor reads a newspaper in front of screens showing stock market

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 21 June 2017	Wedn	esda	sy 21	June	2017
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Index	С	hange	Closing	Last Closing		
Price index		-18.37	6,765.01	6,783.38		
Weighted Index		4.29	403.50	407.79		
KSX 15	*	-11.35	918.92	930.27		

				Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	c	hange
MARIN	90	.71	431800	31,342	17	73	٧	41
IPG .	0.0	0.0	0	0	. 0	345	-	0.0
NAPESCO	1,510	1.363	2.663	3,770	6	1,450		-59.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	_	0.0
GPI	39.0	38.0	744,744	28.607	21	39.0	*	-0.2
ABAR	88	70	1,000	70	2	88		1.0
Oil & Gas			1,180,207	63,797	56	1015.37	7	-28.70
KFOUC	279	279	8,250	2,302	2	279	7	-1.0
BPCC	583	579	1,424,567	826,283	- 66	583		4.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	-	0.0
ALQURAIN	337	336	21.646	7.278	8	336	*	-1.0
Basic Materials			1,454,463	835,863	76	1243.99	*	-0.30
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	. 0	470	-	0.0
CABLE	416	415	42,173	17,518	10	416	-	0.0
SHP	216	208	30.040	0.259	4	216	-	0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	.0	940	_	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	-	0.0
MRC	89	72	801	69	7	89	*	-1.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255	-	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	-	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	-	0.0

CABLE	416	415	42,173	17,518	10	416	-	0.0
SHP	210	208	30.040	0.259	4	216	-	0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	a	.0	940	_	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	-	0.0
MRC	89	72	801	69	7	89	*	-1.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255	-	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	-	0.0
KEMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	-	0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165	-	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	.0	0	49.8	-	0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108	_	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	-	0.0
SALBOOKH	60	58	15.500	902	2	60		1.2
AGLTY	846	834	1.697,536	1,429,393	192	834	*	-12.0
EDU	364	358	100,645	36.199	17	360	-	0.0
CLEANING	43.3	43.3	92,780	4,017	. 1	43.3	*	-2.2
KGL.	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	-	0.0
KCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165	-	0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,140	4,100	181,769	745,976	31	4,100	-	0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	-	0.0
GFC ·	80	70	3,493,530	261,979	34	75		5.1
MAYADEEN	27.8	27.0	40,010	1,063	9	27.8		0.1
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	619	-	0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	-	0.0
UPAC	730	730	180	131	. 1	730		119.0
ALAFCO	314	310	164,000	51.001	- 6	310	*	4.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	-	0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	-	0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	-	0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	-	0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	_	0.0
FCEM	83	63	51,000	4.228	3	83		0.1
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	. 0	. 0	90	-	0.0
SPEC	84	84	44,000	3,696	. 1	84	*	-5.0
Industrials	0010	244	5,953,964	2,562,451	218	1854.28	4	12.60
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	ò	0	0	100	_	0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	226	=	0.0
DANAH	74	72	60.100	4,339	2	74	*	-3.0
property.		7.6	00.100	4,000			•	-0.0

Health Care	10		3,000	1,359	1	1635.51		162.60
KON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,390	-	. 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	. 0	0	250	-	
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	-	
CABLETY	40.8	27.2	118,486	3,345	23	30.0	*	4
EYAS	1,095	896	33,490	31.896	23	1,000	7	-120
FAHR	210	210	1	0	1	210	4	18
OULAFUEL	122	120	604,924	72,695	19	121	-	
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	-	
JAZEERA	470	455	198,634	92.860	14	457	*	-1
SOOR	122	120	101,515	12.163	9	120	A	- 1
FUTUREKIO	107	105	34,995	3,094	3	105	*	-1
ALRAI	117	117	7.175	839	2	117	*	-3
ZIMAH	51	49.5	145,732	7,266	. 7	49.5	*	-3
Mezzan	940	940	801	828	1	940	٧	-5
Consumer Service	es.		1,245,833	225,629	102	1064.35	*	41.50

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TAHSSILAT

JEERANH.

INCVEST

EXHOLDING

Financial Services

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16,730,449

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49,595

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14

FOOD

ATC

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CORECCO

HITSTELEC	41.4	40.5	140,000	5,757	. 5	41.0	*	+1
VIVA	830	822	3,964	3,260	12	830		- 4
Telecommunicati	OFF		2,270,600	980,604	171	597.61	T)	-12.2
NBK	702	696	2,415,641	1,686,820	109	696	+	4
GBK	246	244	322,305	79.011	14	244	*	-3
CBK	324	314	1,211	383	6	320		
ABK	335	319	25,324	8,164	3	335	*	- 4
ALMUTAHED	643	440	24,454	10.808	6	440	*	-4
KIB	248	246	13,887	3,424	2	245	7	-41
BURG	325	323	120,189	39.035	10	325	-	
KFIN	500	484	6,499,615	3,199,535	315	484	*	-19
BOUBYAN	410	409	237,312	97.062	23	409	*	-1
AUB	209	204	2,333,100	482,245	86	206	*	-3
ITHMR	45.4	45.7	527,435	24,279	22	45.3		
WARBABANK	258	256	519,926	133,547	45	257	Ŧ.	-2
Banks	1000000	1891110	13,040,459	5,764,212	637	926.33	4	4.1

Insurance			35,668	18,614	4	1083.31	A	13.40
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	-	0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57	-	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	-	0.0
KLWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	-	0.0
WINS	100	82	668	64	3	100		3.8
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480	-	0.0
GINS:	530	530	35,000	18,550	- 1	530		30.0
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	262	-	

				Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	0	ange
SOKOUK	47.5	46.5	688130	32.271	19	47.5	*	41
KRE	55	55	235,000	12.972	5	55	*	42
URC	85	85	50	4	1	85	_	0.0
NRE	114	110	1.602.822	179.844	45	110	*	-4.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	-	0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	-	0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	147	-	0.0
MASSALEH	40.0	40.0	20,000	800	1	40.0	Ŧ	-5.0
ARABREC	35.0	33.1	604,077	20,746	13	34.0	-	0.0
ERESCO	39.0	38.0	356,981	13.613	21	38.8	*	42
MABANEE	779	770	165,961	127,935	11	779	*	-1.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	-	0.0
INVESTORS:	23.3	22.9	140,000	3,219	6	22.9	*	-4.1
IRC	32.6	31.0	55,456	1,719	- 6	32.8	-	0.0
ALTUARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	-	0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	ů.	0	0	50	_	0.0
AAYANRE	83	82	372,000	30,903	13	83	. ¥	-1.9
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	-	0.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.5	-	0.0
MAZAYA	112	110	221,010	24.311	6	112	-	0.0
ADNG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	-	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	-	0.0
TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57	-	0.0
TAAMEER	33.2	32.9	180,000	5,940		32.9	*	-0.8
ARKAN	84	83	65.213	5.467	3	83	*	4.9
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	. 0	. 0.	186	-	0.0
ABYAAR	23.4	23.0	1,113,849	25,795	51	23.4	٧	-0.1
MUNSHAAT	54	53	271.000	14.423	7	53	٧	-0.3
FIRSTOUBAL	47.0	46.0	105,000	4,890	9	47.0	4	0.4
KBT	49.0	48.3	360,600	17,461	10	48.4		0.4
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	-	0.0
MENA	22.5	21.7	182,773	3,993	6	22.5	-	0.0
ALMUDON	35.0	33.7	51,120	1,724	3	35.0	-	0.0
MARAKEZ	45.0	41.5	5,500	230	3	45.0		-1.5
REMAL	63	.57	185,000	10,856	16	59	*	4.5
AWJ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	-	0.0
Real Estate			6,981,542	539,123	263	941,41	7	-5.30
KINV	97	93	98,995	9,207	4	96	+	-0.5
FACIL.	171	169	501,000	84,869	11	169		-1.0
FA	35.0	34.0	124,000	4,231	11	34.4	*	4.6
NINV	105	101	1,520,110	154,395	50	102	*	-1.0
KPROJ	336	332	28.354	9.454	19	336		2.0
COAST	40.1	40.0	834,460	33,428	13	40.0	*	-0.3
manufacture and the second	and the last		2000	200000000000000000000000000000000000000		77.7	711/	7.4

Value (KWD)

Number of Trades

IAAMEER	33.2	34.9	180,000	5,940		32.9		-0.0
ARKAN	84	83	65,213	5.467	3	83	*	4.9
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	.0	. 0.	186	-	0.0
ABYAAR	23.4	23.0	1,113,849	25,795	51	23.4		-0.1
MUNSHAAT	54	53	271,000	14,423	7	53	*	-0.3
FIRSTOUBAL	47.0	46.0	105,000	4,690	9.	47.0	A	0.4
KBT	49.0	48.3	360,600	17,401	10	48.4		0.4
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	-	0.0
MENA	22.5	21.7	182,773	3,993	6	22.5	-	0.0
ALMUDON	35.0	33.7	51,120	1,724	3	35.0	-	0.0
MARAKEZ	45.0	41.5	5,500	230	3	45.0		-1.5
REMAL	63	.57	185,000	10,856	16	59	*	4.5
AWJ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	-	0.0
Real Estate			6,981,542	539,123	263	941.41	7	-5.30
KINV	97	93	98,995	9.207	4	96	+	-0.5
FACIL.	171	169	501,000	84,869	11	169	¥	-1.0
FA	35.0	34.0	124,000	4,231	11	34.4	*	4.6
NINV	105	101	1,520,110	154,395	50	102	*	-1.0
KPROJ	336	332	28.354	9.454	19	336		2.0
COAST	40.1	40.0	834.460	33.428	13	40.0	*	-0.3
SECH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.1	-	0.0
ARZAN	36.0	32.4	123,236	3,993	5	36.0	-	0.0
MARKAZ	106	106	887	94	1	106	*	4.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0	_	0.0
ALAMAN	41.8	40.3	228,000	9.274	13	40.3	*	-2.0
ALOLA	49.0	47.8	10,500	503	3	49.0	-	0.0
ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	15.0	_	0.0
GIH	37.5	37.5	3.500	131	2	37.5		-1.6
AAYAN	43.5	42.3	1.083.195	45.434	33	43.0	*	-0.3
BAYANINY	52	49.5	702,600	35,578	27	50	.*	-1.9
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	_	0.0
KFIC	45.5	43.5	100,100	4,583	7	46.5		2.5
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	-	0.0
NIH	67	64	1,275	83	4	64	*	-3.0
UNICAP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.0	-	0.0
MADAR	18.6	18.5	15,000	279	2	18.6		4.3
ALDEERA	32.0	32.0	100	3	1	32.0	. A	2.0
ALSALAM	50	48.6	1,100,614	54.277	66	48.7	*	-1.3
EKTTITAB	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.3	-	0.0
ALMADINA	50	48.5	1,563,160	76,479	35	50		1.0
NOOR	51	44.1	239,940	12,072	12	50	*	-1.3
TAMINY	300	300	2,500	750	1	300	-	0.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	-	0.0
KSHC	35.3	36.3	50	2	1	35.3		1.8
ASIYA	43.7	42.0	121,820	5,127	8	43.7		0.2
GNAHC	33.5	33.5	150,000	5,025	3	33.5	*	-0.1
AMWAL	47.5	45.4	5,300	241	2	47.5	-	0.0
ALIMTIAZ	157	154	5.993,451	932,373	81	156	*	-1.0
MANAZEL	45.0	44.5	13.294	592	2	45.0		-0.4
NIND	116	112	697,037	79,109	21	112	*	-4.0
BIHC	42.5	40.5	200,500	8,121	3	42.5	-	0.0
SENERGY	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.8	-	0.0
AGHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	-	0.0
KPPC	49.8	47.0	915,845	44,544	40	49.7		1.9
TAMEST AT	0.0	0.0	n	0		32.0	_	0.0

privestment instru	etherits		v		_ •	1001.97	-	0.00
ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220	_	0.0
osos	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	137	-	0.0
HAYATCOMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	-	0.0
Technology	10000	101000	0	0	0	726.64	-	0.00
SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	_	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	-	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	-	0.0
EFFECT	32.0	32.0	400	13	1	32.0	-	0.0
AJWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	-	0.0
MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	-	0.0
DALGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	-	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	.0	0	0	90	-	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	-	0.0
THURAYA.	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	-	0.0
AMAR	45.0	44.0	100,500	4,423	2	44.0		-2.0
Parallel Market			100,900	4,435	3	1205.39	· W	-5.20

32.0

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490 681.16 ¥ -2.60

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		Glo	bal St	ock In	dices			ė
Index	Previo	n Close	1845	Price	50	nge	Delly Performance	Yearly
Annual Annual	24.5	28.99	21.4	47.14	41.45		0.20	***
Dow Jones NASDAO		9.01		67.14	-61.85 -50.98		-0.29	14.95
58P 500		3.46		17.03	-16.43		-0.67	8.88
Financial Times	7,47	2.71	7,45	33.06	-19.65		-0.26	4.34
DAX	12,8	14.79	12,7	40.70	-74.09		-0.58	10.97
CAC 40	5,21	3.65	5,24	16.83	-46.82	•	-0.88	7.91
Swiss	9,02	3.55	8,96	11.63	-61.92	•	-0.67	9.02
Hikkei 225		30.41		38.79	91.62		-0.45	5.36
Topix		7.25	- 11.	11.56	-5.49	•	-0.35	6,12
Hang Seng		43.04 0.42	25,694.58		-148.46		-0.57	16.75
Straits Times	3,2.	15000	3,201.77 -28.65		10000000	•	-0.89	11,14
		ME	NA Sto	ock In	dices		V200200 - 11	
Index	Previou	rs Close	Last	Price	Che	roge	Daily Performance	Yearly Performa
Kewait	6,71	3.30	6,76	35.01	-18.37		-0.27	15.26
Saudi Arabia		2.67	-	11.87	239.20		3.44	-3.57
Dubei	3,45	2.10	3,41	18.30	-33.80		-0.98	-2.23
Abu Dhabi	4,45	5.73	4,45	9.05	3.32		0.07	1.99
Behrain	1,31	9.19	1,31	13.41	-5.78		-0.44	8.09
Qutar	8,93	4.37	8,77	77.73	-156.64	*	-1.75	-14.4
Desen	5,19	5.12	5,12	21.47	-73.65	•	-1.42	-10.1
Lebason		4.78	-	54.05	-0.73		-0.06	-3.95
Jondan		1.10	-	19.22	-1.88	-	-0.09	-0.88
Eppt		15.55		53.50	-62.05		-0.46	8.67
Tunisia		45.39 2.95		18.36	-27.03 -6.58	÷	-0.23	8.09
T. Control					hange		0 0	
	Kawaiti	Saudi Riyal	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	Sterling	Switz	Japanese	Australi
Currency	Dinar	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	2223000	Euro	Pound	Franc	Yen	Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2319	3.2755	2.9382	2.5824	3,1893	364.62	4.326
Saudi Riyal	0.08175	2.7144	0.2678	0.2402	0.2111	0.2607	29.81	0.353
US Dollar Euro	0.30530	3.7344	1,1148	0.8970	0.7884	1.0860	111.32	1.321
Sterling Found	0.38724	4.7367	1.2684	1.1374	. U. U. F.E.	1.2355	141.26	1.675
Swiss Franc	0.31355	3,8353	1.0270	0.9208	0.8094	-	114.37	1.356
Japanese Yen	0.00274	0.0335	0.0090	0.0081	0.0071	0.0087		0.011
Australian Dollar	0.23111	2.8269	0,7570	0.6789	0.5968	0.7371	84.27	111111111111111111111111111111111111111
	MEN	IA Cur	renci	es Exc	:hange	Rate		
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti	Saudi Riyal	Behraini	Qutari	Omani	Emirates	Egyptia
US Dollar	Technology (1)	0.30530	3,7344	0.3743	Riyal	Dyel 0.3833	Dirham	18.040
Kowaiti Dinar	3.2755	V. PF. I. IV	12.2319	1.2260	12.0046	1.2550	11.9784	59.089
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08175	12.2319	0.1002	0.9814	0.1026	0.9793	4.830
Sahraini Dinar	2.6717	0.81566	9,9770	-	9,7916	1.0236	9,7702	48.196
Qutari Riyal	0.2729	0.08330	1.0189	0.1021	1	0.1045	0.9978	4.922
Omani Riyal	2.6099	0.79682	9.7466	0.9769	9.5654	ner mount	9.5446	47.083
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08348	1.0212	0.1024	1.0022	0.1048		4.933
Egyptian Pound	0.0554	0.01692	0.2070	0.0207	0.2032	0.0212	0.2027	20000
		Glol	al Int	erest	Rates			
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-84	onth	6-M	onth	193	fear
Kowelti Diner	1,13	1.50		69		94		19
US Dollar	1.19	1.21	1.	28	1.	44	1.	71
Euro	-0.41	-0.40	-0	.37	-0	.29	-0	.18
Sterling Pound	0.23	0.25	0.	28	0.	42	0.	61
	0.00	0.23 0.25 0.28 -0.78 -0.78 -0.73		-0.66		-0.49		
Swiss Franc	-0.78					_		
Swiss Franc Australian Dollar			1.		1.	63	1.	65

Global Bond Yields 5-Year

0.41

0.45

Last Price

42.69

43.40

43.29

1246.26

Commodities

2-Year

1.34

-0.66

0.16

Previous Close

42,70

43.04

43.39

1242.81

IIO tiawr

Vest Texas

10-Year

2.15

0.25

1.01

Change

-0.01

0.36

-0.10

3.45

0.02

30-Year

2.73

1.05

1.71

-24.61

-27.00

-23.88

7.32

3.17

-0.02

0.84

-0.23

0.28

0.11

10 YEARS AFTER US HOUSING CRASH, REMNANTS ACCOMPANY RECOVERY

NEWBURGH: Boarded-up homes became a ubiquitous symbol of the US housing crash, with once-prosperous neighborhoods left to decay as mortgage defaults soared and no new buyers emerged. Some 10 years later, the national picture has improved and many places have boomed. Although the bricks and mortar of abandoned properties scar the streets of many states, suitors are lining up in some places where tumbleweed long ago outgrew the market.

Newburgh, in the Hudson Valley two hours north of New York City, is a minnow compared to cities in Florida and California that fell apart when the subprime mortgage bubble burst, culminating in a global recession. The once thriving area of 30,000 people succumbed to rising interest rates, falling prices and local tax hikes all the same. Many families upped sticks without warning in 2007-08. Rows of vacant properties remain, but Newburgh is on the up.

"It hit Newburgh particularly hard," says Stuart Sachs, an artist originally from Brooklyn, who bought a home close to his new city's main drag 14 years ago. "Before the great recession most of these buildings were inhabited. All of them, from here to the corner, have been seized, which is truly terrible." More than 700 homes are still empty-about 10 percent of those in the town. Leaks, fire risks and rising crime exemplify the vast collateral damage.

To make matters worse, about 200 properties are so-called "zombie" homes, which are not only vacant, but have no real owner and sit in limbo. Banks may have already started the long, drawnout foreclosure process, but are yet to take ownership. Unattended, the homes fall into disrepair and are no longer habitable, a deadweight on a fully-fledged registed.

"Very often the banks start the process and realize that they're going to make less by selling the house," explains Helene Caloir, director of the New York State Housing Stabilization Fund. "They don't really have an incentive to finish. They're in foreclosure but it never gets resolved." The city is leading a revitalization effort to fight the vacant home problem, with the help of subsidies managed by Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a non-profit organization.

A hipster haven?

The cash comes from banks who reached a deal with the state attorney general's office to cope with the aftereffects of the crisis and avoid prosecution. Newburgh city hall and Newburgh Community Land Bank, an independent but subsidized local entity, are working together. The city currently owns about 150 of the vacant properties and the bank around 80.

Together they are trying to breathe life back into the abandoned streets and

put the empty homes back on the market. Newburgh Community Land Bank has already sold 60 of its homes to buyers whose finances have been thoroughly investigated, says executive director Madeline Fletcher. A few have been bought by people wanting to live in them, but most by investors, private companies or non-profit organizations. In 80 percent of those cases, investors charge moderate rents in exchange for a low purchase price.

"We feel that it's also part of our role to ensure that people here have opportunity that their quality of life improves," says Fletcher. Fortunes can change quickly. Hipsters are starting to appear in Newburgh. While the city suffered job losses from a decline in manufacturing, new interest is drawn by the area's architectural riches and pretty-if old-brick homes. "Every weekend we do get people in here from Brooklyn that can't believe they can buy a townhouse for \$40,000," says Mikey Jackson, co-owner of the 2 Alices cafe, which he opened three years ago. "Business has been good. It's been growing," he says. "There's a very fancy restaurant, a couple of hip bars."

'Killing zombies'

The average price for a home in Brooklyn is almost \$1-million. But Fletcher wants to avoid the rampant gentrification that transformed the New

York borough, even if the brick homes are similar. "I started in 1981 and this is the first time it's going in the right direction," says William Horton, deputy head of the fire department called out to a number of blazes at abandoned homes. But the difficulty remains trying to track down whoever could claim ownership of the "zombie" homes.

The city hall has created the role of

investigator, a first, who scours every avenue, through the courts or online, for the name of a lawyer who could be a starting point, says city planner Alexandra Church. "Killing zombies in Newburgh is the same as in 'The Walking Dead," she says, drawing a comparison with the popular television series. "You literally try every tool that you have." —AFP



NEWBURGH: A man walks past empty homes, with gray boards on the doors and windows. —AFP



WEST TABIR: This photo taken on May 20, 2017 shows an excavator at an illegal gold mine located along the banks of the Tabir River. —AFP

INDONESIA TACKLES AN ILLEGAL MINING BOOM

WEST TABIR: Hulking excavators claw at riverbanks on Indonesia's Sumatra Island in the hunt for gold, transforming what was once a rural idyll into a scarred, pitted moonscape. It is one of a huge number of illegal gold mines that have sprung up across the resource-rich archipelago as the price of the precious metal has soared, luring people in rural areas to give up jobs in traditional industries. Now authorities in Sumatra's Jambi province, which has one of the biggest concentrations of illegal mining sites in Indonesia, have started a determined fightback, combining a crackdown with attempts at regulation. Declines in the price of rubber, which provided a livelihood for many in the area who had worked on plantations tapping the commodity, has driven many locals to more lucrative-and dangerous-gold mining.

lwan, a 43-year-old who works at an illegal site by the Tabir River, left his job on a rubber plantation to become a gold miner two years ago but said life was still difficult. "This year has been tough because there are days when we don't find any gold," the miner, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told AFP. "But it's still better than being a rubber farmer because rubber is very cheap nowadays."

The illicit industry in Jambi started off in a handful of places with small-time prospectors panning for gold, but has exploded to about 100 sites in recent years. With authorities apparently doing little to stop the boom in its early years, miners became increasingly bold and began openly using excavators. Mining in the province is usually carried out at open sites next to rivers, where workers dig shallow pits in the hunt for gold deposits that typically build up next to waterways.

Miners' lives at risk

In Jambi, the wildlife-filled jungles have been degraded by the expansion of mines and plantations to devastating effect. But it is not just the environment that is suffering, miners are putting their lives at risk. Burning mercury mixed with raw

WEST TABIR: Hulking excavators claw at riverbanks on Indonesia's Sumatra Island in the hunt for gold, transforming what was once a rural idyll into a scarred, pitted moonscape. It is one of a

In recent months, authorities have stepped up their fight back. Police have raided mines, authorities have initiated programs to offer training in farming techniques in a bid to lure workers away from prospecting, and have appointed village heads who are firmly against the practice. But officials quickly realized that cracking down alone was not the solution. They are also taking steps to regulate the industry by offering would-be miners a route to working legally. Under a plan introduced by the local government in December, individual miners and small groups can apply to open up a pit in a "People's Mining Area". Workers can mine in an approved area after obtaining a permit, said Karel Ibnu Suratno, a senior official from the Jambi government. He said authorities would be able to oversee the work, meaning that environmental damage would be limited, and local government coffers would get a boost as miners would have to pay tax on the gold they find. The scheme "is meant to improve people's lives" by ensuring the miners themselves get the profits, rather than the wealthy individuals providing financial backing for the sites who usually remain in the shadows, said Suratno. "Most of them don't earn much but mining is the only source of income they have," he added.

'All I can do'

The government is facing an uphill struggle to clamp down on the industry however. Since the introduction of the "People's Mining Area" initiative, only one area has successfully applied for a permit. Authorities have sometimes faced retaliation when they attempt to crack down. After some people allegedly involved in trading illegallymined gold were arrested in Jambi last year, the local police station was set on fire in a suspected revenge attack.—AFP

TALON'S ECONOMIC REFORM SPARKS PROTEST IN BENIN

COTONOU: Moves to sell off state assets by Benin's businessman-turned-president Patrice Talon are causing widespread anger, with critics accusing him of "uncontrolled privatization". The 59-year-old known as "the cotton king" was elected in March last year on a promise to kick-start the economy, which is largely based on farming. But his liberal reforms have met opposition in the tiny West African nation, which borders giant neighbors Nigeria to the east and Niger to the north.

The latest dispute is the government's decision to hand over the running of the port in the country's economic hub, Cotonou, to a private company. Talon's office said the move "aims at positioning the Port of Cotonou as a reference model in the sub-region, which entails modernization work to guarantee better performance". The presidency told AFP in an email that the private company will have to fulfill a remit under the supervision of the ministry of transport.

The port in Cotonou is the main driver of Benin's economy and brings in some 80 percent of the country's tax revenue. In recent years it has undergone several changes aimed at improving productivity, such as extending its wharves and installing modern cargo handling equipment. But it struggles to compete with bigger ports such as Lagos in Nigeria, Abidjan in Ivory Coast or Cameroon's Douala, which have also modernized.

As a result, Cotonou has seen goods traffic fall from 10.5 million tons in 2014 to 8.7 million tons in 2016. Benjamin Steck, a specialist in west African seaports, said Talon "embodies a new generation of African heads of state who share the concept of economic free trade". That generation understands that multinationals such as the French group Bollore, which has interests in ports across francophone Africa, "has the capital, the worldwide networks and skills" to make infrastructure more competitive, said Steck. —AFP

KAZAKH ENERGY EXPO SAPPED BY ROWS OVER COSTS, VISITORS

ASTANA: Kazakhstan sought a place in the sun when it bid to host a glitzy international energy expo, but a spat over visitor numbers has strengthened criticism that the multi-billion dollar showpiece was money thrown to the wind. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Spain's King Felipe VI were among the dignitaries taking in the festive opening on June 9 of the Future Energy expo in the Central Asian country's futuristic new capital of Astana.

Dancers in golden bodysuits hoisted imitation solar panels skywards, spacemen swung on ropes between suspended models of the planets and Kazakh children sketched a "city of the future" on a giant screen to impress the VIPs. But just over a week into the event, fresh controversy broke out as internet service providers in the country appeared to block the Washington-based Foreign Policy magazine following a critical article claiming weak visitor numbers, while authorities engaged in an unseemly spat with the author.

Graft scandals and an economic crisis cast long shadows over ex-Soviet Kazakhstan's decision to hold the event in the showpiece city of Astana, which is costly to reach from most European and Asian capitals. Officials have continued to trumpet it as a branding coup, however. "People call Astana a city of the future. Well, this (expo) area will become like a city of the future within the city of the future," Astana's Mayor Asset Issekeshev told AFP in an interview in his office. "The area where the expo is now will host a museum and centres of technical and financial excellence. These centres can be put to use by the city, the country, and hopefully the whole region," he added.

Glass half empty?

When an AFP correspondent visited the expo territory on the outskirts of Astana on its June 10 opening to the public, the event appeared well-attended with large queues coming out of major pavilions. But reporters who visited the following day, including an AFP photographer, reported a clear drop in numbers despite Kazakh authorities

claiming Monday that more than 86,000 people have already visited the expo's main pavilion.

James Palmer, Asia editor for Washington-based Foreign Policy claimed in his article entitled "Kazakhstan Spent \$5 Billion on a Death Star and It Doesn't Even Shoot Lasers" that many pavilions at the expo "were barren of anyone except staff" during his recent visit.

The PR-sensitive country's information minister, who denied ordering a block on the Foreign Policy website, said Palmer was guilty of "untruths and misinterpreting facts".

Palmer was even forced to respond to a claim by organizers that he had not visited Kazakhstan by tweeting photographs of his passport showing entry and exit stamps as well as a ticket stub from the event. The government says the expo cost Kazakhstan 400 billion tenge, \$1.3 billion at present rates but close to double that figure prior to the battering received by the national currency following the collapse of global energy prices in 2014. Criticism of spending on the expoonly grew after chief organizer Talgat Ermegiyayev, a former sports minister, was arrested in 2015 and jailed for 14 years in 2016 for embezzling some 5.9 billion tenge from the event's budget.

Future energy focus

Some 115 countries including China, Russia and the United States are participating in the event which runs into September. While some of the pavilions wowed visitors, many had a more token feel. Kazakhstan's neighbor Russia used its pavilion to promote its new generation of nuclear-powered ice-breakers, for instance.

tance. "No other country in the world has a fleet like this," boasted Maria Nikolayeva, a guide, standing by a water tank representing the Arctic Sea patrolled by model versions of the boats. Costa Rica's display, surrounded by other similarly threadbare Latin American pavilions, consisted simply of a video highlighting the country's natural habitat and renewable energy use. "It is important for us to be here and show people what we are about," said Arturo Fournier-Facio, the country's ambassador to Russia who had travelled down for the occasion.

World's fairs and specialised expos like the one in Astana originated in the 19th century industrial era to showcase mankind's achievements. Legacies of the events include major tourist attractions such as the Eiffel tower in Paris and the Space Needle in Seattle, but in recent times the events have taken on a more corporate vibe.—AFP



ASTANA: A picture taken on June 10, 2017 shows dancers as they perform at the EXPO-2017 International exhibition. —AFP

CHINA WELCOMES ADMISSION TO MSCI AT FOURTH TIME OF TRYING

SHANGHAI: China yesterday hailed the decision by index compiler MSCI to include it in its key emerging markets list, saying it was a signal of confidence in the world's number-two economy. The agreement to admit mainland-listed big-cap stocks-allowing them to be traded by foreigners-comes after three failed attempts as China's leaders aimed to expand its global market influence.

Analysts said inclusion on the Emerging Markets Index could lead to up to \$12 billion of inflows as many overseas investors measure the performance of their portfolios against MSCI indexes and are obliged to buy shares in them. "We applaud and appreciate MSCI for making such a decision," said Zhang Xiaojun, spokesman for the China Securities Regulatory Commission. "It showed international investors' confidence in a stable Chinese economy with better prospects and in the steadiness of China's financial market," Zhang said.

MSCI's nod also comes after the domestic market was rocked by painful plunges in 2015 and 2016, and a liquidity crisis fuelled by Beijing's recent efforts to tighten credit over concerns the country's massive debt could trigger a financial meltdown. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index closed up 0.52 percent while the Shenzhen Composite Index, which tracks stocks on China's second exchange, finished 0.43 percent higher-both bucking a downturn across the rest of Asia's markets.

'Positive change'

MSCI said the move has "broad support" from international institutional investors and was the result of loosening of restrictions enacted by China on foreign ownership of "A" shares-yuan-denominated stock in mainland China-based companies. Ownership of the shares had once been limited to mainlanders. China has been gradually opening its A share market to foreigners, allowing them to trade selected stocks in Shanghai and Shenzhen through machanisms linking those markets to Hong Kong

mechanisms linking those markets to Hong Kong.
Overseas investors have also been allowed to buy A shares through a quota system. But for the most part they have been restricted to "B" shares denominated in US or Hong Kong dollars and traded in Shanghai and Shenzhen, or "H" shares traded in Hong Kong. "International investors have embraced the positive changes in the accessibility of the China A shares market over the last few years and now all conditions are set for MSCI to proceed with the first step of the inclusion," said MSCI managing director Remy Briand.

aging director Remy Briand.

"MSCI is very hopeful that the momentum of positive change witnessed in China over the past years will continue to accelerate." MSCI says its emerging markets index is tracked by more than \$1.5 trillion in assets, adding that Chinese representation in the index could be increased in time if it enacts additional reforms. China had failed on three previous occasions to be included by MSCI, with the US-based firm citing China's restrictions on market access and on moving capital in and out of the

"We reflected the comments from the institutional investor community. They (Chinese officials) took them very seriously and acted upon some of them," MSCI chief executive Henry Fernandez told CNBC. Institutional investors praised a decrease in the number of stock suspensions in China, but said the current level is still an "outlier" compared with other markets, MSCI said. Chinese shares will join the index in June next year.

'Token inclusion'

However, observers said the small number of firms taking part — 222 large-cap firms will join initially meaning they make up just 0.73 percent of the overall index-meant there would be little early impact. Capital Economics described it as "a token inclusion", while ANZ Research said "the more progress that Chinese regulators make on liberalization, the greater the potential for further inclusion".

Nevertheless, admission to the index was seen as a good start. "A low number of shares and weighting is not important at the beginning," said Li Daxiao, chief economist at Yingda Securities. "It is like opening a door. Even if it is just a crack, it is a huge improvement compared to being completely shut." And while the expected inflows would be a "drop in the bucket" and would do little to alleviate the liquidity problem in the short term, it could boost confidence in the Chinese market over time, said Northeast Securities analyst Shen Zhengyang. "Investors might feel that the Chinese market will become more regulated, more mature and more international," Shen said. —AFP





BEHBEHANI COMPANY ORGANIZES RAMADAN GHABQA FOR ISUZU CLIENTS

KUWAIT: Mohammad Saleh & Reza Yousuf Behbehani - Isuzu's dealer in Kuwait - has organized its seventh consecutive Ramadan Ghabqa for its customers at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall. The attendance was remarkable, with an impressive turnout from major company owners and senior executives. The special guests enjoyed a pleasant evening which created a charming atmosphere that was commended by all.

It is worth noting that Isuzu is one of the world's top Japanese companies specialized in the development and manufacturing of commercial N-Series trucks and D-Max Pickup trucks, which are ideal partners for employers and individuals who are looking to maximize their business potential. Isuzu continuously strive to raise the industry's standard in trading mechanisms, designed in accordance with the global standards for safety, economy and environment. The event featured a special video presentation, which focused on the technological developments in the truck and vehicle industry and its enthusiasm to enhance its capabilities and efficiency, including safety and safety systems.

Representatives from Isuzu Regional Office in Dubai - Mr Piyapong Tennapei and Mr Kenji Hisaeda - attended the Event and took the opportunity to praise Behbehani for its distinctive achievements and to celebrate a partnership of over 41 years. Mohammed Saleh & Reza Yousuf Behbehani, the exclusive agent for Isuzu trucks in Kuwait, have been recognized for their outstanding performance on two prestigious awards at the Isuzu Middle East agents confer-



ence held in Dubai this year, "SERVICE GOLD CATEGORY AWARD" & "SPARE PARTS SILVER CATEGORY AWARD" for the year 2016. The company has been awarded "Dealer Number one in the Middle East", this award is granted by Isuzu for the first time in its history in 2015.

Several factors paved the way to continue receiving such prestigious awards have been taken into account in the evaluation of the dealer, including sales growth, sales lounge, expectations system accuracy, excellence in the show brand, effective means of communication and marketing, the efficiency of experimental drive system, the level of maintenance and after-sales service. The company has achieved excellence in most of these factors, which paved the way to win awards year after year.





People stand outside a Whole Foods Market in Upper Saint Clair, Pa. Amazon's planned \$13.7 billion acquisition of Whole Foods signals a massive bet that people will opt more for the convenience of online orders and delivery or in-store pickup, putting even more pressure on the already highly competitive industry. —AP

SMALL FOOD MAKERS WONDER ABOUT THE AMAZON-WHOLE FOODS IMPACT

HOW MIGHT THIS DEAL AFFECT ME?

NEW YORK: Among the many questions being asked about Amazon's intended purchase of Whole Foods is one from small and mediumsized food manufacturers: How might this deal affect me? The unknowns include whether Amazon might change the grocery chain's food offerings, which at the moment include thousands of products made by small and mid-sized businesses. A key point for many companies is whether Whole Foods would place less of an emphasis on buying locally produced or innovative foods after the \$13.7 billion purchase, expected to become final later this year.

Whole Foods' buying strategy, which appeals to many consumers, has made it possible for small players to get products into regional stores. The company says between 10 percent and 20 percent of the products in each of its stores come from local producers. But activist investors who advocated a sale of Whole Foods also demanded that it cut the number of products it offers to lower its costs.

They contended that buying small amounts of so many food items eroded the company's profits. Gail Levy, who sells HFactor packaged water to stores including Giant's nearly 200 supermarkets in the East, has approached Whole Foods about her products and gotten some interest. With the Amazon deal pending, though, she says, "we just don't know how that's going to pan out and what it means for us, something good or bad."

HFactor is also sold on Amazon and doing well, says Levy, who's based in New York. "I can

only hope that having that status with Amazon will help us get into Whole Foods." Many experts believe Amazon would use its vast distribution system to help streamline Whole Foods' operations. That makes some food company owners who are courting the grocery chain more hopeful about their chances of success under Amazon. "They (Amazon) already have our gift boxes. It seems like it would be easier to loop that distribution system into Whole Foods," says Michael Volpatt, co-owner of Big Bottom Market in Guerneville, California, whose biscuit mixes are sold through Amazon.

Whole Foods has struggled in recent years with declining sales at established stores and increasing competition from big grocery chains across the country that have recognized the demand from consumers and are offering more natural and organic foods. Jeanne David, whose bread and pizza crust made primarily with cauliflower are sold in Whole Foods stores in the West, believes that Amazon's ownership will strengthen the chain and benefit suppliers.

"Amazon will give them the support they need, the financial stability, and Amazon will add to what they're currently doing," says David, owner of Goleta, California-based Outer Aisle Gourmet. Whatever changes Amazon makes, they're likely to be aimed at holding on to Whole Foods' current customers, says Mike Maher, CEO of Presenture, a company that helps food manufacturers sell their products to retailers. So he doesn't expect that a Whole Foods owned by Amazon would stop buying locally

produced food. However, being competitive on prices is part of Amazon's core culture, and buying larger quantities of a smaller number of products helps a retailer lower its overhead. So "instead of five choices of honey, there could be three," Maher says. He also expects that Amazon will demand lower prices from food manufacturers than Whole Foods has. "If I were a supplier, I would be concerned about profit margins," Maher says.

Meg Barnhart, who sells spices for slow cooking through both Amazon and Whole Foods, believes there's enough demand for natural or organic products that Whole Foods will continue to seek out ones that are unique. "It would be such a radical change if the company didn't go in that direction," said Barnhart, whose company, The Zen of Slow Cooking, is based in Lake Forest, Illinois. Her products are sold in 22 Whole Foods stores in the Chicago area. But because of the growing number of retailers courting the natural and organic food shopper, some food companies are bypassing Whole Foods.

Muuna, a company that makes single-serving containers of cottage cheese, is content selling in big chains in the Northeast, CEO Gerard Meyer says. He doesn't expect the Amazon-Whole Foods deal to have a big impact on his company for now. However, Meyer is interested in seeing whether Amazon, through its ownership of Whole Foods, can find a way to use its distribution system to deliver perishables like cottage cheese. "If they figure that out, it portends well even for brands like ours," he says.— AP



SKYTRAX WINS HAT-TRICK FOR ETIHAD AIRWAYS FIRST CLASS

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways has once again been presented with three coveted awards for the World's Best First Class, Best First Class Onboard Catering, and Best First Class Airline Seat at the annual Skytrax World Airline Awards. The event was held at the Musee de l'Air et de l'Espace, as part of the bi-annual Paris Airshow.

The prestigious World Airline Awards are widely considered to be a global benchmark of airline excellence. Winners are chosen based on the votes and findings of a ten month survey of over 19 million air travelers from 105 countries. The survey covers over 325 airlines, from the largest international airlines to smaller domestic carriers, measuring quality standards for 41 KPIs across front-line product and service factors in the airport and onboard environments.

Linda Celestino, Etihad Airways Vice President Guest Experience Delivery, said: "This is a great honor for us - particularly as these awards mark the culmination of a global consumer satisfaction survey of millions of travelers around the world. Our First Class experience is unlike any other and has been tailored around exact requirements of those who wish to enjoy a truly bespoke hospitality experience, with the finest in-flight dining and amenities, incomparable levels of privacy and the genuine warmth and care for which we are known.

"These awards not only recognize our drive for innovation and a superior guest experience, but also reinforce our commitment to First Class travel - an experience for which we have set the industry benchmark." In recent years, Etihad Airways has won numerous accolades for its First Class service and cabin designs. This also marks the third time the airline has won all three First Class award categories at the World Airline Awards.

Edward Plaisted, Chief Executive Officer of Skytrax, said: "Etihad Airways continues to be a market leader in first class air travel, illustrated by their excellent performance in this First Class section of the awards. It is a remarkable display of consistency to yet again secure this very prestigious set of awards and we congratulate them on this achievement."

GBK RED ACCOUNT HOLDERS ENJOY CINESCAPE SCREENS DURING EID

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank offers its red customers an exclusive opportunity to watch the latest movies at Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) screens, during Eid Al Fitr break. Offer is valid between June 27th and July 1st 2017. New red customers, who open an account at the Avenues Mall, will be receiving a free ticket. During the period of the promotion, Gulf Bank will have a red booth by KNCC at the Avenues Mall to showcase its products and services to potential and existing customers.

Gulf Bank is also presenting its customers with a new feature "ePay" (Pay Bill) which allows customers to pay their mobile bills for Zain, Ooredoo, and Viva and buy iTunes and Google Play cards instantly using the new "ePay" service available on Gulf Bank's Online Banking and Mobile Banking App. red customers can now also transfer money from anyone, from any local bank into their Gulf Bank account.

Gulf Bank continuously looks for new and interesting initiatives to reward its loyal customer base over the year. Gulf Bank is committed to providing its red customers with

the right promotions that are tailored to meet their specific needs and to better enjoy their holidays. Gulf Bank is pleased to celebrate this occasion with the people of Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's red is an account for high school students, college and university students aged between 15 and 25. No minimum deposit or minimum balance charge is required to open a red account. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on a monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances. Each month, a red iPhone 7, an iPad Pro, and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners. The draws will run until January 2018.

In addition to the Apple prizes, students will have the opportunity to win a Fiat 500-Model 2017 at the annual car draw, upon transferring their allowance! Also, movie tickets at all Cinescape theatres will be available for only KD2 seven days a week, as well as red customers can shop from the USA or the UK with a dedicated company (edfa3ly) which provide mail box for internet shopping services from their website.

CISCO UNVEILS NETWORK OF THE FUTURE THAT CAN LEARN, ADAPT AND EVOLVE

DUBAI: Cisco unveiled intent-based networking solutions that represent one of the most significant breakthroughs in enterprise networking. The introduction is the culmination of Cisco's vision to create an intuitive system that anticipates actions, stops security threats in their tracks, and continues to evolve and learn. It will help businesses to unlock new opportunities and solve previously unsolvable challenges in an era of increasing connectivity and distributed technology.

This new network is the result of years of research and development by Cisco to reinvent networking for an age where network engineers managing hundreds of devices today will be expected to manage 1 million by 2020.

The network has never been more critical to business success, but it's also never been under more pressure," said Chuck Robbins, chief executive officer for Cisco. "By building a more intuitive network, we are creating an intelligent platform with unmatched security for today and for the future that propels businesses forward and creates new



Chuck Robbins

opportunities for people and organizations everywhere." Today companies are managing their networks through traditional IT processes that are not sustainable in this new age. Cisco's approach creates an intuitive system that constantly learns, adapts, automates and protects, to optimize network operations and defend against today's evolving threat landscape.

"Cisco's Encrypted Traffic Analytics

solves a network security challenge previously thought to be unsolvable," said David Goeckeler, senior vice president and general manager of networking and security, Cisco. "ETA uses Cisco's Talos cyber intelligence to detect known attack signatures even in encrypted traffic, helping to ensure security while maintaining privacy."

With the vast majority of the world's internet traffic running on Cisco networks, the company has used its unique position to capture and analyze this immensely valuable data by providing IT with insights to spot anomalies and anticipate issues in real time, without compromising privacy. By automating the edge of the network and embedding machine learning and analytics at a foundational level, Cisco is making the unmanageable manageable and allowing IT to focus on strategic business needs.

Already, 75 leading global enterprises and organizations are conducting early field trials with these nextgeneration networking solutions, including DB Systel GmbH, Jade University of Applied Sciences, NASA,



David Goeckeler

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Scentsy, UZ Leuven and Wipro.

Informed by context and powered by intent

With this new approach, Cisco is changing the fundamental blueprint for networking with reimagined hardware and the most advanced software. This shift from hardware-centric to softwaredriven networking will enable cus-

tomers to experience a quantum leap in agility, productivity and performance. The intuitive network is an intelligent, highly secure platform - powered by intent and informed by context:

• Intent: Intent-based networking allows IT to move from tedious traditional processes to automating intent, making it possible to manage millions of devices in minutes - a crucial development to help organizations navigate today's ever expanding technology landscape.

• Context: Interpreting data in context is what enables the network to provide new insights. It's not just the data that's important, it's the context that surrounds it - the who, what, when, where and how. The intuitive network interprets all of this, resulting in better security, more customized experiences and faster operations.

• Intuition: The new network provides machine-learning at scale. Cisco is using the vast data that flows through its networks around the world, with machine learning built in, and unleashing that data to provide actionable, predictive insights.



DELL CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES, PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT

ROUND ROCK: Dell Inc. reports the first2020 Legacy of Good update that recognizes key CSR achievements for the combined company following Dell's merger with EMC1. The plan outlines Dell's long-term commitment to -society, team members and the environment. As a result of the merger, the company has a broader technology portfolio, more engaged team members and greater resources to address the world's most pressing challenges. The report summarizes the efforts of Fiscal Year 2017 (Feb. 1, 2016—Jan. 31,

"Bringing together Dell and EMC in September 2016 gave us an opportunity to reflect on our progress and establish a core set of commitments that represent the best of both companies," said Trisa Thompson, Chief Responsibility Officer at Dell Inc. "We have a newfound energy as we think about the opportunity we have to put our combined portfolio, expertise and resources to good work. It's already encouraging tremendous innovation that will benefit our customers and our world.

The updated plan and goals reflect how Dell and EMC came together with a shared commitment to people and the planet. For example, the combined company has increased its investment in STEM education for underserved youth. To help cultivate an inclusive culture, Dell is extending its flexible work program to legacy EMC team members and offering more employee resource groups, connecting team members who share interests such as gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or background. And as a combined company, Dell achieved part of its American Business Act on Climate Pledge to plant 1 million trees to offset carbon emissions and restore natural habitats around the globe. Lastly, this year's report includes additional goals dedicated to driving transparency, accountability and continuous improvement throughout Dell's global

supply chain. The initial plan was developed during Dell's Fiscal Year 2014 (Feb. 1, 2013 -Jan. 31, 2014). Today's 2020 Legacy of Good update includes original goals, adjusted goals as well as new goals to reflect the opportunities, scale and expertise of our combined organization. Report highlights include:

Community

• Dell has offered expertise and technology for 2.3 million underserved children directly and over 10 million people indirectly through strategic giving programs, reaching 59 percent of Dell's direct impact goal and 84 percent of the indirect goal.

- Since FY14, Dell employees provided over 3.3 million hours of community service in the areas in which they live and work. Dell's goal is to provide 5 million cumulative hours of service by 2020.
- Dell's partnership, funding and technology enables TGen to accelerate and improve treatment plans for cancer patients. By working with Dell, the increased computational and storage

capacity has reduced the time it takes to sequence a genome from multiple weeks to just six hours, logging over 1 million computational hours per

People

- Dell offers 14 different employee resource groups (ERGs) to help instill an inclusive culture. As of December 2016, 23 percent of team members are engaged in employee resource groups. Pride, Dell's ERG for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender team members and allies, is one of the fastest-growing ERGs. Much of that growth came through new chapters in Asia and Latin America, locations where identifying as LGBT is not always widely accepted.
- Dell further expanded its flexible work programs to Dell EMC team members, encouraging eligible employees to work where, how and when it is most productive for them. Dell's goal is to increase global participation to 50 percent by 2020.
- Dell continued to be recognized as an Employer of Choice, garnering awards in over 20 countries. In November 2016, Dell launched its first employee survey as a combined company, with positive results: 82 percent of team members said they felt inspired, exceeding the goal of 75 percent.

Environment

- Dell exceeded the initial 2020 goal of using 50 million pounds of sustainable materials in its products and adjusted the goal to use 100 million pounds of recycled-content plastic and other sustainable materials.
- Dell began shipping the XPS 13 2in-1 in packaging made from oceanbound plastics and made a public commitment to increase annual usage 10x by 2025 as well as open source Dell's supply chain to encourage broad use of ocean plastics by other companies.
- Dell has recovered 1.8 billion pounds of electronics, 88 percent of the way toward its 2020 goal to recycle 2 billion pounds of used electronics by 2020.

Supply chain

- Dell expanded transparency into supply chain operations through the release of the semiannual Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER) Progress Report, which describes supply chain performance on Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) audits and other initiatives.
- Dell also introduced new supply chain sub-goals focused on EICC audits, emissions reporting and water risk mitigation plans to help drive responsible
- actions amongst suppliers. • Dell is committed to tracking suppliers' adherence to standards for working hours, human rights, health and safety, and environmental conditions and work together to resolve issues. In FY17, Dell expanded the weekly working hours monitoring program to include more than 190,000 workers across 121 supplier facilities in China and increased direct engagement with workers to help give workers a safe environment to speak up about issues.

GULFSAT LAUNCHES SUDANESE TV BROADCASTING PACKAGE 'SUNTSAT'

KHARTOUM: Gulfsat Communications Company, (Gulfsat), the leading company specialized in providing communications and satellite TV broadcasting and re-broadcasting services, has announced the launching of the new Sudanese satellite bouquet "SUNTSAT" with an orbit adjacent to the NileSat Orbit with a 12688 frequency vertical and a coding rate of 27500, in realization of Gulfsat's strategy of comprehensive expansion. This step enhances the policy of integrated spreading strategy in the MENA region and provides a unique concept to the satellite broadcasting market, with clear-cut benefits for viewers who will have the opportunity to view the bouquet channels on one single frequency.

The launching ceremony was attended by the Sudanese Minister of Information, Dr. Ahmed Bilal, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Sudan, HE Bassam Alqabandi, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Gulfsat Communications Company, Mohammed Al-Haj, the president of the Arab League's Union of Arab Producers, Ibrahim Abu Thikri, the Sudanese Private Channels Commissioner, Mohammed Omar, the Director of the Commercial and Sales Sector at Gulfsat Communications Company, Dr. Riyadh Daghlas and a number of ministers, engineers and TV channels managers, in addition to a large number of representatives of media and Press.

This step reflects Gulfsat's ambitious plan to transmit TV broadcasting content by using state-of-the-art technologies with a view to facilitate operations for both operators and TV channels.

Commenting on the launching of the Sudanese modern broadcasting bouquet "SUNTSAT", Gulfsat's CEO, Mohammed Al-Haj, said: "The launching of the Sudanese broadcasting bouquet, which includes a rich variety of channels, fits well within Gulfsat Communications Company's strategy that is based on the concept of unique bouquets where channels to have the same frequency. This approach emphasizes the Company's philosophy of adhering to a well-considered policy of expansion and spread in the MENA region".

Al-Haj added: "This achievement is the fruit of intensive efforts made by the Gulfsat team over a period of more than twenty years with a view to creating an appropriate infrastructure for providing satellite TV broadcasting and communications services in the MENA region. We are proud to say that Gulfsat owns a number of broadcasting bouquets operating on several satellites, as part of our plan of providing a set of services including TV broadcasting and re-broadcasting for TV channels and internet and linkage through satellites (VSAT) in addition to our platform which perfectly provides high-quality and clear broadcasting services to millions of viewers in the MENA region".

Al-Haj went on to say that "thanks to the multiplicity of our teleport stations located in three continents (USA, Europe and Asia) in major cities as New York, Cyprus, Slovenia, Paris and Kuwait. We can guarantee the flexibility and quality of both signal and broadcasting by strengthening the control of the frequencies of up linking to satellites, increasing the number of active channels by upgrading



Mohammed Omar, Mohammed Al-Haj, Ambassador HE Bassam Alqabandi and, Ibrahim Abu Thikri during the press conference.



Alqabandi.



The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Sudan, HE Bassam Awarding the president of the Arab League's Union of Arab Producers, Ibrahim Abu Thikri.

the satellite 's capacity generated by solar panels in addition to several options to locate the satellites, as well as the distribution quality that enables any channel to obtain its actual needs at a high level of security and quality, free from any interference".

The president of the Arab League Union of Arab Producers, Dr. Ibrahim Abu Thikri, expressed his pleasure to witness the launching of the Sudanese "SUNTSAT" bouquet. He said that "this bouquet marks the start of a huge revolution in Sudanese media, particularly in view of numerous other factors where Sudan has a remarkable and effective wealth of highly qualified media professionals who can enrich any media content. However, coverage is weak at present, and this gives me a strong reason to believe that this bouquet will provide a huge opportunity to the channels to convey a rich and high-quality content. The bouquet will definitely receive a tremendous support from the Arab League".

He said he particularly admires the package's distinctive name "SUNTSAT" which has an artistic and musical resonance of its own. He also feels the deep value of the name which reflects the value of the antique "SUNT" tree which resists the severe conditions of Sudanese climate and stands aloof, maintaining its presence against harsh and all environmental challenges.

After highlighting the longstanding good relations between Sudan and Kuwait, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Sudan, HE Bassam Al-Qabandi, said "Sudan is a large country, rich in beautiful natural resources, cultural wealth and an artistic and cultural diversity. The media should highlight this beautiful image in a more

effective way". On his side, the Sudanese Private Channels Commissioner, Mohammed Omar, expressed his thanks to the State of Kuwait for its continuous efforts to develop investment in Sudan and for its continuous support to Sudanese media over the years.

It is worth mentioning that Gulfsat will provide other means for increasing communication with the public, by first creating a website for "SUNTSAT" broadcasting bouquet for the purpose of enhancing the culture of smart viewing so that the viewer may access the website and browse the channel program schedule within the bouquet and access other information and details about programs and content, such as political, sports, health, children, varieties or other content, in order to know the broadcasting and re-broadcasting schedule. In this regard, an application for smart phones will be launched with a simplified and user friendly interface to enable the user to keep pace with news and programs updates for the various channels.

With regard to individuals who do not have access to the Internet, a TV channel guide will be printed for SUNTSAT bouquet containing all the foregoing details in order to facilitate things to the public and help them get to know their way among the channels of the Sudanese bouquet. This should indeed result in a large increase in viewing rates and a higher income for these channels, thereby enabling them to develop their production and broadcasting techniques and keep pace with the latest global standards of HD broad-

In conclusion, the Director of the Commercial and Sales Sector at Gulfsat, Dr Reyad Daghlas reviewed the key aspects of the company's vision and mission. He said: "Perhaps



Mohammed Al-Haj presenting Gulfsat Vision.

the most important objective of **Gulfsat Communications Company is** to establish new standards of excellence in the satellite communications industry, gain the confidence, respect and satisfaction of customers and commercial partners by catering for their needs and exceeding their expectations".

He added: "Gulfsat Communications Company focuses on satisfying the requirements of the market while providing the best products and solutions, focusing on its culture which is based on successful partnerships, supported by a well trained professional technical team who are able to serve customers and partner's needs and requirements. Gulfsat seeks to occupy and maintain a prominent position as an independent provider of VSAT satellite, TV broadcasting and communications in the MENA region, offer integrated and comprehensive solutions that can help its customers achieve their strategic goals by adopting the latest in communication technologies, building close partnerships with its customers, expanding is customer base and achieving a greater penetration of the regional markets".



Awarding Ali Mahdi.



Information, Dr Ahmed Bilal.



Awarding the Sudanese Minister of Awarding Mohammed Omar.

VACCINES CAN BE BLAMED FOR ILLNESSES WITHOUT PROOF: EU

LONDON: The highest court of the European Union ruled Wednesday that courts can consider whether a vaccination led to someone developing an illness even when there is no scientific proof. The decision was issued yesterday in relation to the case of a Frenchman known as JW, who was immunized against hepatitis B in late 1998-99. About a year later, JW was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. In 2006, he and his family sued vaccine-maker Sanofi Pasteur in an attempt to be compensated for the damage they claim he suffered due to the vaccine. Mr JW died in 2011.

France's Court of Appeal ruled there was no causal link between the hepatitis B vaccine and multiple sclerosis, and dismissed the case. Numerous studies have found no relationship between the hepatitis B shot and multiple sclerosis. After the case went to France's Court of Cassation, it was brought to the European Union. Yesterday, the EU's top court said that despite the lack of scientific consensus on the issue, a vaccine could be considered defective if there is "specific and consistent evidence," including the time between a vaccine's administration, the individual's previous

state of health, the lack of any family history of the disease and a significant number of reported cases of the disease occurring following vaccination.

In a statement, the court said that such factors could lead a national court to conclude that "the administering of the vaccine is the most plausible explanation" for the disease and that "the vaccine therefore does not offer the safety that one is entitled to expect." It did not rule on the specific French case. Sanofi Pasteur did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Some vaccine experts slammed the ruling, saying the court's threshold for linking a vaccine to side effects is too low.

Dr Paul Offit, a pediatrician and vaccines expert at the University of Pennsylvania, said the criteria used by the court made no sense - and are similar to those used by vaccine injury compensation programs in the United States. "Using those criteria, you could reasonably make the case that someone should be compensated for developing leukemia after eating a peanut butter sandwich," he said. Offit said the courts shouldn't be trusted to make rulings about scientific evidence. "It's very frus-

trating that they have such a ridiculously low bar for causality," he said, adding that anti-vaccination supporters have long relied on such court judgments to bolster their campaign against vaccines.

Offit said the court's decision was concerning and hoped it wouldn't spur more people to reject vaccines. "Vaccines save lives and people who choose not to vaccinate their children are putting those children at risk," he said. "To prove whether one thing causes another has to happen in a scientific venue, and the courts are not a scientific venue."—AP

ALBANIA GRAPPLES WITH MARIJUANA

TIRANA: As Albania gears up for elections, one huge challenge facing the Balkan country has been low on the campaign agendas: the scourge of its cannabis fields, which threatens to hinder EU accession. Morocco may be the leading source of cannabis resin, but mountainous Albania is the main supplier of herbal cannabis trafficked to the European Union, says the bloc's law enforcement agency, Europol.

Despite Albania's attempts to crack down on the illicit but lucrative trade, recent international reports said the scourge is yet to be brought under controland that the criminal gangs behind it are escaping justice. Until a month ago, Albania's main opposition Democratic Party was threatening to boycott Sunday's election. It accused Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama of colluding with cannabis traffickers and using their profits to manipulate

But the two sides struck a deal in mid-May, in which the Democrats were granted key ministerial positions in the run-up the polls. Since then, the cannabis question has been quietly dropped by both sides. "They agreed a ceasefire, but the most uncertain are the poor people who do not know how they are going to ensure their survival," said Petrit, a small-scale farmer in northern Albania, echoing the desperation of many who cultivate the crop.

On a visit to see family in the capital Tirana, 35-year-old Petrit-who did not want to give his full name-said it was smaller producers who were being punished by the crackdown. "No big boss is behind bars," he told AFP, adding that he was preparing to emigrate to Greece to find other work to feed his six children.

Crackdown

The market value of the drug from Albania's southern town of Lazarat dubbed the "kingdom of cannabis"-was alone estimated at an annual 4.5 billion euros (\$5 billion) in a 2013 Italian police report. But most of the profits are generated abroad and fail to benefit national coffers in the impoverished country of 2.9 million people.

After a crackdown was launched on Lazarat in 2014, criminal groups spread their cultivation and trafficking operations to other parts of Albania, said Rovena Voda, deputy interior minister and head of the anti-cannabis task force. Under international pressure, Albanian police have since January seized nearly 40 tons of dried cannabis and destroyed more than 2.5 million plants, which are often grown in hardto-access rocky terrain.

Police have arrested nearly 400 people in the crackdown since November, and 71 police officials have been either charged or dismissed for corruption. International police also say that, since January, at least 20 tons of Albanian cannabis have been seized in neighboring Italy-and another 10 tons in Greece.

These amounts "far from represent the country's true production levels or the quantity transported, in particular to Greece and Italy," said one Western diplomat in Tirana on condition of anonymity. In its latest progress report on Albania in November, the EU acknowledged that the authorities had made progress destroying marijuana fields. But the criminal gangs behind cultivation and trafficking remain at large, the report added. "Efficient judicial follow-up in criminal proceedings is seldom secured," it noted.

Pledges to eradicate

Political parties' plans to encourage alternative sources of income, such as saffron and sage production, green tourism and organic farming, have yet to make a significant impact. The cannabis culture, "mastered by international criminal networks, has become a real economy for many poor families," said Fabian Zhilla, a security analyst.



DOUMA: A Syrian man pushes an iron cart loaded with solar panels in the rebel-held town of Douma, on the outskirts of the capital Damascus. — AFP

SOLAR POWER GIVES WATER TO A BESIEGED SYRIA TOWN

'A HOUSE WITHOUT WATER IS A HOUSE WITHOUT LIFE'

DOUMA: Solar panels on wheels make for a strange sight on the streets of Syria's besieged Douma, but the makeshift generator is helping local residents secure water. Douma lies outside the capital Damascus, in the rebel stronghold of Eastern Ghouta, and has been under a suffocating government siege since 2013. Residents have had no electricity for four years, relying instead on generators for everything from lighting to refrigeration. But the siege also means generator fuel is expensive and increasingly rare, which is where the solar panel generator comes in. It trundles around the city, powering the water pumps residents use to draw supply from underground wells, and helping fill the electricity supply gap. "The most important thing for a family is to secure water. A house without water is a house without life," said Abu Mohammad Ahmad, an engineer and local council member who supervises the project.

The generator is a simple set-up, just 12 solar panels and six batteries mounted on an iron cart. The panels each have a capacity of 100 watts a day, and are also used to power the batteries, which serve as a back-up on days when the panel supply is low. The project supplies local schools, as well as mosques and communal water tanks. As the cart is pushed and pulled to its next destination, residents weave around it on bicycles, which have become a favoured mode of transport in the city because of the fuel shortages. Arriving at a blue communal water tank, one of the generator's operators unfurls a cord from the device and connects it to an electric pump. Soon the chug of the pump is accompanied by the splashing of water filling up the tank.

A boon for locals

Local residents arrive with buckets and big plastic bottles to fill up. Nearby stands Abu Akram, 52, who once owned a minimarket but lost his livelihood when the shop was destroyed in bombardment. "This is the most successful project in the Ghouta region," he told AFP over the gush of water. "We used to draw water by using generators, but we're besieged, and fuel is hard to find and very expensive," he added.

He and his neighbours would sometimes club together to buy a single litre of fuel so they could pump up enough water to fill a tank. "But this project is free and it has helped us a lot," he said. The project grew out of the failure of a previous local council initiative, under which 13 schools were provided with solar panels. "Some of the panels were stolen, so we ended up removing them and putting them in storage," said Ahmad, as an employee cleaned the panels behind him.

When the idea was born for a mobile solar generator, they were dug out of storage and strapped to the iron cart, which was built out of the remains of vehicles damaged in bombardment. A single panel costs \$200 and each battery \$240, but the set-up also requires an inverter device that costs around \$600. "The more solar panels we could have, the better," said Ahmad, adding that the cart was designed to carry up to 24.

'God will reward them'

Ahmad would like to see the project which began about a month ago expanded to help Douma's approximately 50,000 residents, though costs and availability so far have made it cart comes in and we fill up the water tank, and impossible. "If we get the capacity, we have plans for between 20 and 50 vehicles, which would cover 22 neighborhoods and secure about 70 percent of the city's water needs," he project. Muslims perform ablutions before prayer said. At a local school, headmaster Bashar, 54, describes the project as "a major improvement". "Before we used to run the generator and it made so much noise," he said, standing by a wall with a tree painted on it. "It was really exhausting. Sometimes the generator would work, sometimes it wouldn't. Sometimes we'd have

fuel, and other times not." "Now the solar panel

no one even knows it's here. It's great."

At a local mosque, Abu Mohammad Badran, who calls believers to prayer, is delighted by the and mosques are usually outfitted with taps to allow them to do so. "We were really struggling to have water in the mosque. It was so expensive," he said. During the holy month of "Ramadan we need even more, because the number of people coming to pray is much greater," he added. "If they fill us up with enough water for a day or two, God will reward them." — AFP

CHINA'S DOG MEAT FESTIVAL **OPENS DESPITE BAN RUMORS**

YULIN: A notorious Chinese dog meat festival opened yesterday with sellers torching the hair off carcasses, butchers chopping slabs of canines and cooks frying up dishes, dispelling rumors that authorities would ban sales this year. After earlier reports of a sales ban at the summer solstice event in the southern city of Yulin, animal rights groups said vendors and officials reached a compromise and set a limit of two dogs on display per stall. But multiple carcasses rested on several stalls at two markets, with stiff pointy tails, leathery yellow skin, eyes shut and bared teeth as if in a final growl.

Crowds of umbrella-toting festival-goers braved the rain to stand in line outside popular restaurants, but animal welfare groups said sales appeared to be down this year. Behind two long rows of dog butchers at the Nangiao market, others sold cow tongues and pork hocks. But even they sold some dog parts, including liver. Others offered poultry, vegetables and fruit, including big bundles of lychees, which are eaten alongside dog dishes. There was a heavy police presence outside the market and at all intersections but officers did not seem to be checking stalls. A man yelled at an AFP reporter at the Dongkou market, warning against taking photos and demanding that they be deleted. Residents said dog meat was just part of their tradition. Wu San, 40, used a blowtorch to burn the hair off a dead dog on the floor of a house. It was given by a friend who had used it as a guard dog but no longer wanted it because "it would only wag its tail, it wouldn't bark anymore," Wu said. "We'll eat it tonight with friends," Wu said. "Small dogs don't taste good. Dogs that are too fat don't taste good either."

Thousands of dogs have traditionally been killed during the festival in conditions activists describe as brutal, with dogs beaten and boiled alive in the belief that the more terrified they are, the tastier the meat. The tradition dates back centuries to the Ming Dynasty, with people eating dog and lychees in the belief that it gives them strength, according to Xinhua news agency. Between 10 million and 20 million dogs are killed for food annually in China, where consumption is legal, according to the Humane Society International (HSI). But animal rights groups have sought to stop the sale at the

annual festival. "Despite the fact that there does not seem to be a ban on all dog meat, the festival appears to be smaller this year, with fewer dogs losing their lives to this cruel industry," Irene Feng of Animals Asia told AFP. Activists reported a "significant decrease" in sales at markets, with some traders saying they had stopped buying dogs, according to HSI. "Ending the Yulin dog meat festival will be made up of smaller victories such as this and it's important that we recognise when progress has been made," said HSI spokeswoman Wendy Higgins. But locals disagreed that sales were down.

'Tasty meat'

Outside the markets, vendors sold stewed dog meat out of enormous steaming woks, shoveling big portions into plastic bags for passing customers. Some changed their "dog meat" signs to read "tasty meat" instead. One restaurant covered the character for dog on its sign. A restaurant owner surnamed Yang said he expected to sell six dogs a day during the festival.—AFP



YULIN: A man sits behind his pet dogs near a restaurant which serves dog meat. —AFP

GROWERS AT BORDEAUX WINEFEST UNITE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

BORDEAUX: This is the wine industry's new suggested that wine-producing estates join normal: heavy rains, floods, hailstones, drought and sometimes even frost. Wine makers who once took great pleasure in competing against each other to offer the best wine on the market are now locked in a duel with mother nature to simply save the vines they manage to grow. In just the past few years, rising temperatures have devastated crops in warmer climates worldwide.

Last year in Australia and Chile, for example, an unprecedented heatwave sparked forest fires and in France, one hailstorm nearly wiped out entire harvests in April. Wine production in 2016 slumped to its lowest level in two decades, according to the International Organization of Vine and Wine. "The changes and the harm will get worse in the future no matter what action society takes, because of time lags in the climate system and the energy system," John Holdren, professor of Environmental Science and Public Policy at Harvard University, told AFP.

In an effort to save their livelihoods, vignerons have gathered at the prestigious Vinexpo in the world's most storied wine region this week to hash out solutions to mitigate these climate challenges. "The future harm will be much smaller if society takes strong remedial action than if it does not," Holdren said.

Low-tech approach

The planet's surface temperature has risen by about 1.1 degrees Celsius (2.0 Fahrenheit) since the late 19th century, according to NASA, intensifying the risk of bushfires and droughts, while altering rainfall patterns. This has in turn affected wine's harvesting seasons. "Vines are very sensitive plants," Gaia Gaja, co-owner of leading Gaja Winery in Italy, told AFP. "They're like a thermometer. They register every little variation that there is around them". Winemakers have found that global warming can cause grapes to ripen earlier, which changes their sugar and acid levels, leading to lower-quality wines with higher alcohol content. "We need big changes," Miguel Torres, president of Spanish wine company Bodegas Torres, said during a news conference on the issue.He together in a global grouping to try to counter the effects of climate change and encourage changes by other companies.

For some winemakers, these changes mean using low-tech approaches to delay harvesting times and increase soil moisture. They are experimenting with pruning later or using grape varieties that take longer to ripen, or thrive in warmer climes or are resistant to drought. But these grapes are not yet ready to be turned into great wines, according to winemakers. Winemakers are also experimenting with growing droughttolerant vines, Gaja said. Her company's Italian vineyards eschew chemical products in favor of more organic compounds such as mulches and compost to keep the soil moist or allowing grass to grow freely underneath vines to provide shade in dry spells and suck up excess moisture when wet.

'Premium wines at risk'

For others, the solution is as simple as reaching out to influencers to make them aware of the growing wine market problem. "Everybody understands something about wine," Holdren said. "Practically everybody drinks wine and many influential people drink premium wine and I think to the extent we can persuade influential people that their premium wines are at risk, we will have a very powerful voice in this discussion."

For winemakers who have no choice but adapt to this new normal, solutions do not come cheap. The Torres company has invested about 12 million euros (\$13 million) in research, trying to alter the CO2 content of different matter-such as algae and methaneto recycle water and lower by 25 percent its energy consumption. "Our job in the last 15 years has become not about taking care of vineyards but taking care of life," Gaja said.

Disappearing vineyards have become another consequence of climate change, prompting companies to look for planting harvests elsewhere. Torres for example has bought land in the south of Chile, near lakes, while the French wine and champagne company Taittinger has gone to Britain in hopes of finding vineyards to make its sparkling wine. —AFP

HEATWAVE SCORCHES EU, FROM LONDON TO SIBERIA

PARIS: Europe sizzled in a continentwide heatwave yesterday, with London bracing for Britain's hottest June day since 1976 as Portugal battled to stamp out deadly forest fires. More than 1,000 firefighters were still fighting to control the flames that broke out in central Portugal at the weekend, killing 64 people.

Cooler weather was aiding their efforts, but thermometers were still hovering around 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) — a level matched across oven-like swathes of Europe, including Italy, Austria, the Netherlands and even alpine Switzerland. Two forest fires have also broken out since Sunday on Croatia's southern Adriatic coast, prompting the authorities to evacuate 800 tourists, though the blazes have now been brought under control.

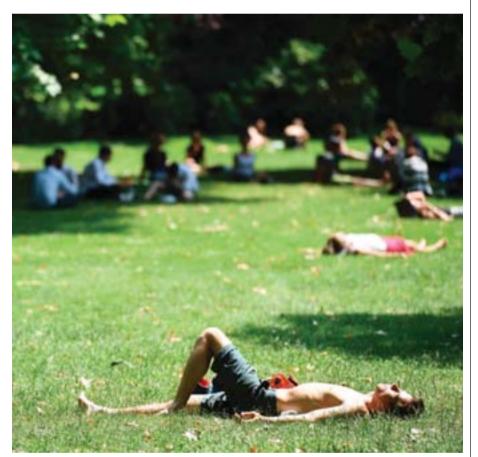
"We were scared, it's true," a Swedish tourist who gave her name only as Karolina told local media. "From the hotel room window it seemed like the fire was at our doors." As the northern hemisphere marked the summer solstice, firefighters were on alert in Austria, where revellers were due to celebrate the longest day of the year by lighting bonfires for the festival of Saint John. In Italy, forecasters say the current heatwave could turn out to be the most intense in 15 years, with temperatures around eight degrees above the seasonal average — 39 degrees Celsius in Milan and up to 30 in the Alps at an altitude of 1,000 metres (3,300 feet). A study released Monday warned that deadly heatwaves will become more and more common around the world even if the rise in temperatures is capped at 2.0 degrees Celsius as targeted by the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. "Even if we outperform the Paris targets, the population exposed to deadly heat will be about 50 percent by 2100," Camilo Mora, lead author of the study published in the journal Nature Climate Change, told AFP.

London sizzles

Britain was set to see its first five-day stretch of temperatures over 30 degrees in June since 1995. The thermometer was forecast to hit 34 Celsius in west London. a record for the month since 1976. In Guildford, southwest of the capital, a road surface melted on Tuesday, with motorists likening it to a bar of chocolate left out in the hot sun. At the prestigious Royal Ascot horse races, organisers said they were considering relaxing the strict dress code for the first time.

And a thunderstorm was looming over the Glastonbury Music Festival, threatening mud just as an expected 200,000 revellers begin pitching their tents. Music lovers in France were also braving the heat, as the annual Fete de la Musique-a nationwide celebration with thousands of free street performances – kicked off under an official heatwave declared across many areas of the country. The national postal service announced that its postmen would be calling on elderly and disabled residents living alone to check they were alright, with temperatures due to hit 37 Celsius in Paris.

A peak in pollution linked to the heat prompted police in the Paris region to reduce speed limits in some areas and divert heavy goods trucks, with the most polluting vehicles banned from the capital on Thursday. On Tuesday, the body of a 31-year-old man was pulled out of the Loire river in the central city of Tours after he got dragged down by the current while trying to cool down. In Russia, Siberia was also suffering a heatwave, with temperatures of up to 37 Celsius in the city of Krasnoyarsk, Channel One television reported. But at the other extreme, it was just one degree Celsius and snowing in Murmansk in northern Russia, the RIA Novosti news agency reported. Many residents are having to get by with no heating in their flats as centralised systems have been switched off for the summer. —AFP



LONDON: People relax in the hot weather in St James's Park.—AFP



Researchers from the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in the southern Israeli resort city Eilat monitor coral growth while scuba diving on June 12, 2017 in the Red Sea off Eilat. —AFP

IN THE RED SEA, CORAL REEFS CAN TAKES HEAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SCIENTISTS TRY TO UNLOCK THEIR SECRETS TO SURVIVAL

EILAT: In the azure waters of the Red Sea, Maoz Fine and his team dive to study what may be the planet's most unique coral: one that can survive global warming, at least for now. The corals, striking in their red, orange and green colors, grow on tables some eight meters underwater, put there by the Israeli scientists to unlock their secrets to survival.

They are of the same species that grows elsewhere in the northern Red Sea and are resistant to high temperatures. Fine's team dives in scuba gear to monitor the corals, taking notes on water-resistant pads. "We're looking here at a population of corals on a reef that is very resilient to high temperature changes, and is most likely going to be the last to survive in a world undergoing very significant warming and acidification of sea water," Fine said at his nearby office ahead of the dive.

Global warming has in recent years caused colourful coral reefs to bleach and die around the world-but not in the Gulf of Eilat, or Aqaba, part of the northern Red Sea. That is what has prompted Fine's work, both in the Red Sea and on its shores. At the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences in the southern Israeli resort city of Eilat, dozens of aquariums have been lined up in rows just off the Red Sea shore containing samples of local corals.

A robot slowly dips its arms into each glass container, taking measurements and uploading them to a database. "We exposed corals to high temperatures over long periods of time, beyond the current peak summer temperatures and even beyond the model-based temperatures we predict for the end of the century," said Fine, a marine biology professor from Bar Ilan University in central Israel. He explained: "They didn't undergo bleaching."

Heat is on

According to Fine, the Gulf of Eilat corals fare well in heat thanks to their slow journey from the Indian Ocean through the Bab al-Mandab strait, between Djibouti and Yemen, where water temperatures are much higher. "Over the past 6,000 years they underwent a form of selection through a very, very hot body of water, and only those that could pass through that hot water body reached here, the northern Red Sea and Gulf of Eilat," he said. The world just marked its three hottest years in modern times, with scientists pointing to increases in heat-trapping emissions such as carbon dioxide as a driving factor. Oceans also absorb about one-third of the carbon dioxide released by human activities, resulting in increasing acidification that is harmful to corals. Coral reefs, most famously Australia's Great Barrier Reef, are experiencing in recent years unabated mass bleaching and die-offs.

Often mistaken for a form of vegetation, corals "are in fact an animal that lives in symbiosis with an algae, a plant," said Jessica Bellworthy, a PhD student under Fine's supervision taking part in the Eilat research. Corals and algae "provide services for each other," with the algae providing "up to 90 percent of the coral animal's food" through photosynthesis, said Bellworthy, originally from Britain. "When ocean temperatures get too hot, this symbiosis, this relationship, breaks down," she said. "The algae is lost from the coral and causes the coral to look white," effectively "starving" it.

Losing coral reefs is not only bad news for

tourists diving to see their beauty and marine life swimming among them. Corals are important to "the whole balance of the eco-system," offering structure, food and protection to a variety of marine animals, Bellworthy said. Their rich chemical interactions have provided components for medications, including those for cancer and HIV patients, Fine said.

But while the coral reefs off Eilat and Aqaba may be able to survive global warming for now, they also face other risks. Fertilisers, pesticides and oil pollution "harm the corals and lower their resilience to high temperatures," Fine said, warning of plans to build fish pools that would stream nutrient waste into the Gulf of Eilat. The Israeli researcher stressed the need to join forces with countries that share the Red Sea. That would include not only Jordan and Egypt-the only two Arab states to have peace agreements with Israel-but also Saudi Arabia, with which Israel has no formal ties. "To safeguard this small body of water, we naturally need the cooperation of our neighbors since the reefs have no borders," Fine said. —AFP

ANTARCTIC RESEARCHERS TAKE ICY PLUNGE TO MARK SOLSTICE

SYDNEY: Antarctic researchers welcomed the his quick swim as "amazing". "There is the into icy waters yesterday as they look forward to brighter days after weeks of darkness. Expeditioners stationed at Australia's Davis station marked midwinter's day by taking a chainsaw to the ice, cutting a small pool and taking a dip in water with a temperature of -1.8 degrees Celsius (28.76 Fahrenheit). Davis station leader Kirsten le Mar said it was the halfway point for those wintering on the continent and a highlight of the Antarctic calendar.

"After three weeks of darkness, today marks the beginning of longer days in Antarctica, although it will still be 19 days before the sun starts to peek above the horizon here at Davis," she said. One of those who took the plunge was electrician Bryce Daniels, who described ly feel warm and then you work out that you are actually freezing instead," he said.

The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year and celebrations to mark the start of longer days date back over 100 years of exploration on the continent. Many of the 68 researchers working for Australia's Antarctic program joined in with the chilly festivities, which also included a sea-ice golf competition and theatrical performance. Several countries have territorial claims on Antarctica-viewed as a potential future source of huge mineral resources-although under a 1949 agreement the frozen continent is designated a scientific preserve. About 30 nations operate permanent research stations on the continent. — AFP



Kuwait 🥧 Times 248 33 199







PEACH GARDEN PROMOTES FRESH PEACHES IN KUWAIT

or the second year in a row and this year with the presence and support of the Greek embassy in Kuwait, the Peach Garden project lands in Kuwait to promote the European fresh peaches that produced in Greece and meet the industry decision makers to further boosts the trade relations between both countries.

The 2017 version of the project has been launched in a press conference in presence of His Excellency Greek Ambassador in Kuwait, Andreas Papadakis, representatives from the Greek Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers' Organization, Ghanima Al-Fahd, Macrobiotic expert and Kuwait media representatives and Novacert Ltd.

During the press conference, the speakers shed lights on the importance of this project in tying up business relations with Kuwait while providing an unparalleled opportunity to Kuwait importers to diversify their offerings to consumers. It also provided an insight for a nutrition angle on the importance of the goldstone fruit to maintain a healthy lifestyle system.

The Peach Garden is a European project promoting and increasing the marketing value of Greek fresh peaches in UAE, Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and Kuwait market. It was established by Greek Ministry of Rural Development & Food & the Greek Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers Organizations as a result of the many Greek Agriculture Cooperatives that are active in the fresh produce sector.

The main purpose of this project has to do mainly with the wide recognition and presentation of Greek fresh fruits (peaches, nectarines, kiwis, apples, apricots etc) in these targeted countries. The participating companies come from a province of Greece which represent the vast majority of production from the peaches and general stone fruits.

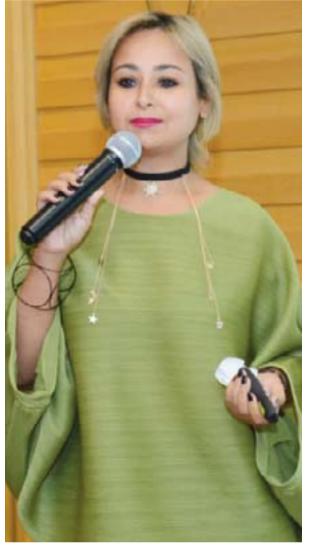
More importantly the project for Kuwait enlists a series of promotional actions that has to do mainly with the product sampling in supermarkets in Kuwait, event presentation, as well public relations that include business missions from Greece to the targeted countries as well vice versa, visits to production units in Greece.

This year, 'Peach Garden' in Kuwait will be organizing a promotional event at 20 outlets for the prime aim to communicate the authenticity of Greek fresh peaches to Kuwait residents. One of the projects' main priorities is to better inform, introduce and increase daily consumption of fresh fruits from Greece while also develop and increase their qualitative value. To the same extent, the high priority of 'Peach Garden' is that Greek fresh fruits can obtain a high market share and can create a competitive advantage in the most populated area across Europe

due to their premium quality.

All the companies represented in 'Peach Garden' are specialized to some extent in the export of all kind of fresh fruits. The participating companies of this European project, under the legal form of Greek Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers Organizations, are as follow: COOP MESI, VENUS GROWERS, AC MELIKI, AC NEOS ALIAKMON, ACN NAOUSA, ASOP EPISKOPI, AC EPISKOPI, ASEPOP NAOUSA.













TALABAT CELEBRATES THE SPIRIT OF RAMADAN WITH A NEW CAMPAIGN

n the occasion of the Holy Month, Talabat recently launched its newest Ramadan campaign, as part of its ongoing commitment towards the local community. Running throughout the entire month, the campaign sees a daily distribution of Iftar meal packages to individuals and families in need, with the aim of giving back to the community during this blessed month.

In partnership with the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society- Al-Qurain, this year's campaign provides wholesome, high-quality meals consisting of: rice, chicken or meat, Laban, dates and fruit. Accordingly, Talabat coordinated with one of its restaurant partners to prepare 200 Iftar meals every day. These meal packages are being distributed in Khaitan; where street workers, as well as anyone in need, can enjoy warm, nutritious meals for Iftar every day throughout Ramadan.

"Ramadan presents us with the per-

fect opportunity to interact with the community we operate in, the very same one that continues to support our ongoing successes. As the Holy Month of Ramadan is a time for generosity, through this initiative, we are delighted to team up with our local partners to give back to the community and truly make a difference, sharing the spirit of giving and caring with the local community," commented Abdulhamid Alomar, Chief Executive Officer of Talabat.

This campaign comes as part of Talabat's ongoing corporate social responsibility program, which stems from its belief in the importance of supporting charitable programs and its ongoing commitment towards the local community. Talabat has always been committed to organizing an array of different humanitarian initiatives and activities that aim at helping the less fortunate, particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan, reflecting the true spirit of this Holy Month.

REGISTRATION FOR ALP EXTENDED

he Abdulaziz bin Humaid Foundation, which strives to shape a sustainable society driven by innovation leaders, announced that registration for the fifth edition of the Abdulaziz bin Humaid Leadership Program (ALP) will be extended to July 6th due to high demand. In just over a month, ALP has already received 320 applications.

The Abdulaziz bin Humaid Program provides young talents within the GCC with skills, knowledge and experience to be able to serve their nations and become successful leaders in the future. The program is designed in accordance with the best international practices in leadership and in collaboration with world's leading training and consultancy firms. The fourth edition of ALP concluded in May with a graduation ceremony that congratulated the success of all of its 20 exclusive participants.

Eng Marwan Bin Ghalita, Vice Chairman of the AAF Board Members, commented, "The Abdulaziz bin Humaid Foundation has taken the responsibility of nurturing and empowering young leaders by providing integrated programs where participants have a real opportunity to unleash their potential and have a positive impact on the community. Following the monumental success of ALP4, we are already receiving hundreds of applications from all over the GCC. As a result, we have decided to extend the period for registration."

He expressed his delight and gratitude for the support of His Highness Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman and HH Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al-Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman and Chairman of the Executive Council. Registration is extended to July 6th for the fifth edition of ALP that will launch on the 8th of October. Following a review of the applications, the program will start interviewing potential candidates on the 10th of July. The next phase of the process is a psychometric test in August with the announcement of the final 20 candidates that have been accepted in September of 2017.

"We have continued to develop ALP to be one of



HH Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Humaid Al-Nuaimi

the most ambitious leadership programs in the GCC region, contributing to building capacity and nurturing the skills of young leaders. Key to the ongoing success and evolution of this program is its recruitment of applicants that are driven to be future leaders. We are looking forward to providing unique training opportunities for all the new participants and broaden the horizons of their true potential," added Eng Marwan Bin Ghalita.

Abdulaziz bin Humaid Leadership Program is an initiative under the umbrella of Abdulaziz bin Humaid Foundation, an organization that operates under the patronage and support of His Highness

Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Ajman, who stresses the importance of filling leadership positions with young candidates. The program is enthusiastically supported by His Highness Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al-Nuaimi, who monitors the progress of the program, which cultivates the skills of young GCC talents from both genders, aged between 25-35 with drive and determination. Registration for the fifth round of ALP is available and open for the next generation of innovators and leaders at www.abdulazizlp.com

SPECIAL EID OFFER AT MILLENNIUM HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER

n the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr holiday, Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait announced special offers on rooms in addition to the Eid brunch buffet at Lamar Restaurant. Furthermore, the hotel hosts several activities to spread the Eid joy among children, and allow guests to relish in the best hospitality this season.

Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait presents on the first three days of EID a three-day EID Al-Adha Brunch at Lamar International Restaurant, featuring a wide selection of distinguished dishes, seafood and mixed grills, in addition to appetizers and desserts from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Meanwhile, several activities were prepared for children, including face painting, hair color, dancing with cartoon characters, magic show, hand activities, coloring and many others.

Dani Saleh, Area General Manager, Millennium & Copthorne Hotels - Kuwait, said: "We would like to greet all our guests on this vigorous occasion of Eid. We are looking forward to welcome them and hope that they will enjoy the variety of services that our hotel offers "Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait is located in a strategic place in Salmiya, and a few meters away from the best shopping malls, recreational sites and restaurants in Kuwait.

It is considered one of the most luxurious 5-star hotels that serve businessmen and tourists, and the highest level in terms of hosting conferences and exhibitions. Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait provides 295 rooms and suites equipped with the latest technology, including high-speed free Wi Fi, gym, pool, sauna and Spa. It also provides an integrated business center, secretarial services and office facilities. Furthermore, it contains three restaurants as well Lamar, Nara lounge and the library Cafe to ensure best moments.







AUK ART & GRAPHIC DESIGN DEPARTMENT HOLDS 10TH ANNUAL CAPSTONE EXHIBITION

he Art & Graphic Design Department at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) concluded its 10th annual Graphic Design Capstone Exhibition which took place recently at the Promenade Cultural Center at The Promenade Mall in Hawally. The Exhibition offered senior students an opportunity to display their creative work, which covered to a range of topics that included social and cultural awareness, corporate identity and entrepreneurship, to experts from the industry and the public.

Under the supervision of graphic design professors, Maryam Hosseinnia and Marcella Kulchitsky, participating students researched the topics of their choice and used graphic design as the medium to address their topics to target their audiences. The projects were then evaluated by the industry experts based on their creativity and presentation, their ability to conduct and use graphic design research strategy effectively, and their ability to plan and implement a compelling graphic design display.

Hosseinnia explained that the Graphic Design Capstone Exhibition showcases the accumulation of all the learning outcomes rooted in the course offerings in the Graphic Design curriculum. "When students enter in the Art &Graphic Design program, often, they are quiet or shy. By the time they reach to capstone, they gained a personal voice and able to visually communicate through text and image, and they have a strong sense of critical thinking about their environment and their role as designers.

As educators, our aim is to teach them about the importance of principles in design, to make them aware that through good design they can bring change within their small community and at large. They [the participating students] have a clear sense of purpose and direction as citizens of this community to advance further in their stud-



ies or professional practice," she said
Held on an annual basis, the Graphic
Design Capstone Exhibition brings together
visitors from the field of graphic design,
including experts from graphic design studios, publishing houses, film and video production companies, advertising, and multimedia firms. Richard Halabi, Creative
Director of Horizon FOB Kuwait, who has
been serving as exhibition jury since 2014,
found this year's exhibition exceptional in
many ways.

"I have served as a jury since 2014 and with each year the students were getting better but this year they were exceptional in executing the concepts, ideas, presentations and designs. Also, I found that the idea of moving the exhibition out of campus to a gallery gave me the feeling as if I was in a design exhibition and not a capstone," he explained.

"With this year's Graphic Design Capstone Exhibition, we are celebrating a few extra things at AUK. First this is our largest gradu-



AUK's Graphic Design Capstone Exhibition presents an opportunity for senior students to fully incorporate their design strengths and learning into a focused, extended, process of research and visual expression. Senior student Fajer Alfadalah, who created the "Voice of Women" campaign concept, explained that her project was an effort to advocate for gender equality in Kuwait. Alfadalah remarked that the process of working on her project helped her evolve on the personal level. "Throughout my project, I did a lot of research and I met with a lot of people inside and outside of Kuwait.

The experience has educated me a lot and made me stronger as a woman," she said. Senior student Nada Al-Kharashi, developed a project concept called "Ta3reeb", which was based on her observation that the GCC region lacks on Arabic type design. "In working on previous projects, it was very challenging for me to find Arabic fonts that were elegantly developed, so I decided to come up with a new Arabic font, inspired by the gulf region," she said.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English.









TV PROGRAMS

MOVIES

00:30 The Gallows 02:00 Savage Dog 03:45 Tomorrow Never Dies

06:00 The 5th Wave 08:00 Larceny 10:00 Savage Dog 11:45 Tomorrow Never Dies

13:45 The 5th Wave 15:45 Beverly Hills Cop 3 17:30 Kingsglaive: Final Fantasy XV 19:30 The World Is Not Enough

00:45 America's Cutest Pets 01:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 02:35 Tanked 03:25 Shamwari: A Wild Life

04:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 05:02 Swimming With Monsters: Steve 05:49 Insane Pools: Off The Deep End

06:36 Night 07:00 Night 07:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 09:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life

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 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall

14:40 Shamwari: A Wild Life 15:35 Tanked 16:30 Swimming With Monsters: Steve

Backshall 17:25 The Lion Queen 18:20 After The Attack

19:15 Tanked 20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 21:05 The Lion Queen 22:00 After The Attack

22:55 Shamwari: A Wild Life

23:50 Swimming With Monsters: Steve

BB@ FIRST

00:00 EastEnders 00:40 Kat & Alfie: Redwater

01:35 Sherlock 03:10 The Kettering Incident

05:55 Bondi Ink. 06:50 Catch A Contractor

07:40 Lip Sync Battle 08:05 Lip Sync Battle 08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On

09:20 Sweat Inc. 10:10 Hungry Investors 11:00 Gvm Rescue 11:50 Bondi Ink. 12:45 Disaster Date 13:10 Disaster Date

13:35 Lip Sync Battle 14:00 Lip Sync Battle 14:25 Hungry Investors 15:15 Catch A Contractor 16:03 Comedy Central Presents Comedy

16:24 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 16:55 Brotherhood 17:25 Brotherhood

17:50 MLE Chowdown: Wedges And 18:39 Impractical Jokers 19:03 Disaster Date19:27 Hungry Investors 20:13 Lip Sync Battle Lip Sync Battle

21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 21:52 Comedy Central Presents Comedy

3alwagef 22:25 Ridiculousness Arabia 22:50 Ridiculousness Arabia 23:15 Lip Sync Battle 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery

00:30 Nextworld 01:20 Bondi Vet 02:10 Everest: Beyond The Limit 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds 03:25 Destroyed In Seconds

03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor 04:40 How It's Made 05:05 How It's Made 05:30 Strangest Weather On Earth 06:20 Mythbusters 07:00 Kenny The Shark

07:25 Kids vs Film 07:50 Animal Planet's Most Outrageous 08:40 How It's Made 09:05 How It's Made 09:30 Nextworld

10:20 Mythbusters 11:10 Animal Planet's Most Outrageous 12:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor 12:50 How It's Made

23:45 Loopdidoo 02:55 Hank Zipzer 03:15 The Hive

03:20 Hank Zipzer 03:45 Alex & Co. 04:10 Alex & Co. 04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 05:25 Binny And The Ghost 05:45 The Hive 05:50 The 7D

06:00 Jessie 06:25 Jessie 06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts 06:55 Rolling With The Ronks 07:20 Elena Of Avalor 07:45 Bunk'd 08:10 Stuck In The Middle

08:35 Bizaardvark 09:00 Austin & Ally 09:25 Austin & Ally 09:50 Good Luck Charlie 10:15 Good Luck Charlie 10:40 Alex & Co. 11:05 Lolirock 11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And

Cat Noir 11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse 12:00 Welcome To The Ronks 12:15 Hank Zipzer

13:10 Good Luck Charlie 13:35 Austin & Ally 14:00 Jessie 14:25 Rolling With The Ronks 14:50 Sunny Bunnies 14:55 The Zhuzhus

12:40 Dog With A Blog

13:05 Star Darlings

15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 15:45 Elena Of Avalor 16:10 Liv And Maddie

16:35 Descendants Wicked World 16:40 Girl Meets World 17:05 Stuck In The Middle 17:30 Bunk'd 17:55 Evermoor Chronicles 18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse

18:25 Alex & Co. 18:50 Best Friends Whenever 19:15 Star Darlings 19:20 Liv And Maddie 19:45 Mako Mermaids 20:10 Jessie

20:35 Cracke 20:40 Bizaardvark 21:05 Evermoor Chronicles 21:30 Stuck In The Middle 21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts 22:00 Bunk'd

22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And



THE 5TH WAVE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

04:05 Doctors 04:35 FastEnders 05:05 Call The Midwife Father Brown 06:55 Doctors 07:25 EastEnders 07:55 New Tricks 08:45 Call The Midwife 09:40 Father Brown 10:35 Doctors 11:05 EastEnders

11:35 New Tricks 12:30 Call The Midwife 13:25 Father Brown 14:20 Doctors

14:50 EastEnders 15:20 New Tricks 16:15 Call The Midwife 17:10 Father Brown 18:05 Doctors

18:35 EastEnders 19:05 New Tricks 20:00 Holby City 21:00 Agatha Raisin 21:50 Agatha Raisin

22:45 Him & Her

23:15 New Tricks crime &investigation

00:00 Escaping Polygamy 01:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories 02:00 My Haunted House 03:00 Paranormal State 03:30 Paranormal State

04:00 Escaping Polygamy 05:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories 06:00 My Crazy Ex 07:00 My Crazy Ex

08:00 Evil Up Close 09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 10:00 Homicide Hunter 11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 12:00 Nightmare In Suburbia

13:00 My Crazy Ex 14:00 Evil Up Close 15:00 Homicide Hunter 16:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 17:00 Nightmare In Suburbia

18:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 19:00 Evil Up Close 20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 21:00 Homicide Hunter

22:00 Homicide Hunter

23:00 Cold Case Files COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Disaster Date 00:30 Disaster Date 00:55 Impractical Jokers

01:20 Impractical Jokers 01:45 Lip Sync Battle 02:10 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

03:25 Gym Rescue 04:15 Disaster Date 04:40 Disaster Date 05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On 13:15 How It's Made 13:40 Strangest Weather On Earth 14:30 Kenny The Shark 14:55 Kids vs Film 15:20 Animal Planet's Most Outrageous

16:10 Nextworld 17:00 Secret Space Escapes 17:50 How The Universe Works

18:40 Destroyed In Seconds 19:05 Destroyed In Seconds How It's Made 19:55 How It's Made 20:20 Mythbusters

21:10 Secret Space Escapes 22:00 How The Universe Works 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds

23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

00:30 Blood Relatives 01:20 Murder Calls

02:10 Murder Chose Me 03:00 Grave Secrets 03:48 I Almost Got Away With It California Investigator 05:01 California Investigator

05:24 Blood Relatives 06:12 Murder Comes To Town 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 Blood Relatives 10:20 Murder Comes To Town 11:10 The Detectives Club: New Orleans 12:25 The Locator 12:50 I Almost Got Away With It

13:40 California Investigator 14:05 California Investigator 14:30 Blood Relatives Murder Comes To Town 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 Blood Relatives 20:20 Murder Comes To Town 21:10 I Am Homicide 22:00 Murder Chose Me 22:50 Murder Book

Murder Calls 00:00 Hank Zipzer

00:25 Alex & Co. 00:45 The Hive 00:50 Evermoor Chronicles 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

02:05 Binny And The Ghost

02:30 Binny And The Ghost

22:50 Lolirock 23:35 Binny And The Ghost

23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster 00:15 Calimero 00:30 Art Attack 00:55 Zou

01:05 Loopdidoo 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster 01:35 Calimero 01:50 Zou 02:05 Art Attack

02:30 The Hive 02:40 Loopdidoo 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster 03:10 Art Attack 03:35 Loopdidoo 03:50 Calimero 04:05 Art Attack

04:30 Henry Hugglemonster 04:45 Zou 05:00 Art Attack 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster 05:45 Loopdidoo 06:00 Zou 06:15 Calimero

06:30 Loopdidoo 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster 07:00 Sofia The First 07:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 07:50 The Lion Guard 08:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 08:40 Goldie & Bear

09:05 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital 09:35 The Lion Guard 10:00 Sofia The First 10:30 Doc McStuffins 10:55 Little Mermaid 11:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh 11:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 12:15 Goldie & Bear

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 Unbungalievable 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 P.J Masks 18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

19:05 Sofia The First 19:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 20:05 The Lion Guard 20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 21:00 Goldie & Bear 21:25 Doc McStuffins

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

Discoverv



00:20 Wheeler Dealers 01:10 Dive Wars Australia 02:50 Incredible Engineering Blunders: 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 Wheeler Dealers 07:40 Misfit Garage 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 Dive Wars Australia 11:25 Strip The City 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 Wheeler Dealers 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

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 Access All Areas: Spider-Man: Homecoming 15:50 Disney Mickey Mouse 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 21:10 Walk The Prank 21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors 22:35 Boyster

23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

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 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 06:55 E! News

08:10 E! News: Daily Pop

00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler 00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler

07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler 09:10 Botched

00:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina 01:10 What's For Sale? 01:40 What's For Sale?

02:05 Street Food Around The World 02:35 Route Awakening

03:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 03:30 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 03:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 04:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 04:50 Poh & Co





WILDLIKE ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

10:05 Botched 11:00 Botched 12:00 E! News 12:15 Botched 13:10 Botched 14:05 Botched 15:00 E! News

15:15 E! News: Daily Pop 16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler 17:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler

18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 19:00 E! News

20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 23:00 FI News

23:15 Second Wives Club

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 Dives14:30 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



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 Ice Road Truckers 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

09:00 Doomsday Preppers 10:00 Breakthrough 23:30 American Pickers 11:00 Hacking The System 11:30 Hacking The System NAT GEO 12:00 Locked Up Abroad 13:00 Science Of Stupid 13:30 Science Of Stupid

people III



01:10 Monster Fish 02:00 Queen Of The Chase 02:50 Unlikely Animal Friends 03:45 World's Weirdest 04:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet 05:35 Queen Of The Chase 06:30 Unlikely Animal Friends

07:25 World's Weirdest 08:20 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet 09:15 Extreme Animals 10:10 Secret Life Of Predators (2016) 11:05 Man V. Monster 12:00 Fish Tank Kings 12:55 The Phantom Cat 13:50 Unlikely Animal Friends 14:45 World's Weirdest (2015)

16:35 Extreme Ánimals 17:30 Secrets Of The Wild 18:25 Man V. Monster 19:20 World's Weirdest (2015) 20:10 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet 21:00 Extreme Animals 21:50 Secrets Of The Wild

22:40 Man V. Monster

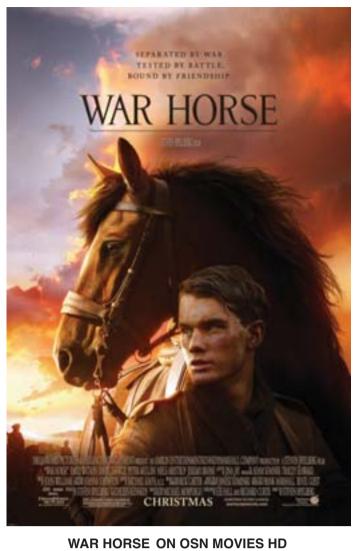
23:30 Fish Tank Kings

15:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet

MOVIES HID FAMILY

00:15 Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie 01:55 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End 04:45 Underdog 06:10 Open Season: Scared Silly 07:40 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At

World's End 10:30 The Shaggy Dog 12:15 Underdog



13:40 Oliver & Company

05:20 Places We Go 05:45 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia 15:00 The Emperor's New Groove 06:15 This Is Brazil 16:25 Kronk's New Groove 07:10 What's For Sale? 17:40 Turner & Hooch 07:35 Street Food Around The World

09:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

09:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

11:15 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia 11:45 What's For Sale?

14:55 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita

15:25 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita

19:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita

10:20 Poh & Co 10:50 Places We Go

12:10 A Is For Apple

12:40 A Is For Apple

13:05 What's For Sale?

13:35 What's For Sale?

14:30 Route Awakening

16:45 Poh & Co

17:15 Eat Street

17:40 Eat Street

20:30 Poh & Co

21:00 Eat Street

21:30 Eat Street

22:00 This Is Brazil

22:55 What's For Sale?

23:20 What's For Sale?

23:50 Sara's Australia Unveiled

00:10 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation

04:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation

01:00 Russia's Mystery Files

02:00 | Wouldn't Go In There

05:00 Doomsday Preppers

06:00 Science Of Stupid

06:30 Science Of Stupid

08:00 Route Awakening

08:30 Route Awakening

14:00 Route Awakening

14:30 Route Awakening

17:00 La Street Racers

18:00 Locked Up Abroad

20:00 The Putin Interviews

20:50 La Street Racers

21:40 Locked Up Abroad

16:00 The Putin Interviews

15:00 Genius

19:00 Genius

22:30 Genius

07:00 Genius

03:00 Evacuate Earth

NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC

CHANNEL [13]

18:10 This Is Brazil

14:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled

15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

16:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

20:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

19:20 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On 08:05 Route Awakening08:30 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita Stranger Tides 21:35 The Emperor's New Groove 09:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 23:00 Kronk's New Groove

> MOVIES LIE COMEDY 00:45 Daddy's Home

02:25 Kicking And Screaming 04:05 The Parent Trap 06:08 Ricki And The Flash 07:55 Kicking And Screaming 09:35 The Parent Trap 11:45 Ricki And The Flash

13:30 Trust Me 15:00 Baby's Day Out 16:45 Taxi 18:30 Mr. Deeds 20:15 Awful Nice

> 22:00 Cooties 23:30 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star

M MOVIES 00:30 Pele: Birth Of A Legend

02:15 Neil Young: Heart Of Gold 04:00 Swing Kids 06:00 It Boy 07:30 Neil Young: Heart Of Gold

09:15 Wildlike 11:00 Swing Kids 13:00 Before I Disappear 14:45 Chariots Of Fire

16:45 Love & Mercy 18:45 The Kings Of Summer 20:30 Rudderless

OM MOVIES LIE 00:45 Bee Movie 02:30 Izzie's Way Home

04:15 The Tigger Movie 06:00 Savva 07:45 When Marnie Was There 09:30 Marco Macaco

11:00 Memory Loss 12:30 Bee Movie 14:15 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything 16:00 Marco Macaco

17:30 Get Squirrely 19:00 The Heart Of The Oak 20:15 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything 22:00 When Marnie Was There

23:45 Get Squirrely OM MOVIES LIE

00:00 Cas & Dylan 01:45 One Fine Day 03:45 D-Tox 05:30 Cas & Dylan

07:15 Pitch Perfect 2 09:15 October Sky 11:15 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn... 13:15 The Bad News Bears

17:45 Up Close And Personal

15:15 War Horse





01:20 Invent It Rich 02:10 Space Pioneer 03:00 Landing On A Comet: Rosetta 03:48 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie 04:36 Invent It Rich 05:24 Mythbusters 06:12 How Do They Do It?

06:36 Food Factory 07:00 How Do They Do It? Penn & Teller Tell A Lie 08:14 Mythbusters

09:02 Space Pioneer 09:50 Landing On A Comet: Rosetta 10:38 Invent It Rich 11:26 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie

12:14 Mythbusters 13:02 Space Pioneer 13:50 Landing On A Comet: Rosetta14:38 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie

17:02 Landing On A Comet: Rosetta 17:50 How Do They Do It? 18:15 Food Factory 18:40 Mythbusters 19:30 Home Factory 19:55 Home Factory

15:26 Invent It Rich

16:14 Space Pioneer

20:20 Space Pioneer 21:10 Man v The Universe 22:00 Home Factory 22:25 Home Factory

22:50 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie 23:40 Mythbusters

CLASSIFIEDS

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017





9:15.

230, 430, 915, 11:15

200, 415, 930, 1145

215, 415, 930, 1130

AL HAMBA LUBBURY CENTER

KAC

FDB

JZR

Time

00:10

618

059

779



NOW SHOWING

Kuwait - Times

HACKSAW RIDGE IUN 245. 9.00 10:00 CAST: Andrew Garfield, Sum Wortlangton وأميان الفيلمدول ادينونو ددوس النصفف الوراحيش المردان خال الديد الطالب الثانية والديد مطرفة الوالية الراقط الذر الدعار السالي مسيد ما وطال الديد شيا أمدن أول مستندك سلنط في الديار الاسمانية الأسياب الدستم مسالية الدوليوس الشيافة AL HAMBA LUXURY CENTER 245, 9.00, 11.45 **EPIANOCLASS**

DON'T BREATHE THROUGH RATHOLISM THROUGH MINIS CAST: Stephes Lang, Jane Lony, Dylan Minnette

WHIT American Army Medic Desmond T. Doss, who

people; and becomes the first man in American history t-receive the Model of Honor without thing a shot.

AL HAMPS LIVEURY CONTER فالباديال البدل فيدر والشعمية تشقوا معاه ميداؤوان بنوا أواريعه منه بعد الشاشع فأخلال فاستمل Hoping to walk away with a massive fortune, a big of theses break into the house of a bind man who ign't as helpless as he seems.

THE EXCEPTION CAST: Lity James, Jai Courtney A German soldier tries to determine if the Dutch

Airlines

THY

QTR

KNE

GFA

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KAC

1078

231

500

Doha

Riyadh

Jeddah

Kochi

14:05

14:10

14:15

14:15

14:20

Airlines

BBC

JZR

976

044

1540

772

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL COMPANY SUCING PG 1 HR 31 MINE

جاموت التنساسل إلى من الليسر الياسيانية في تعواساً البات كراج الدين الطالبية الثانية التنابية في فراد الراجعين هوالدية في الا أن التطبية

resistance has planted a spy to infiltrate the home of Kasuer Wilhelm in Halland during the orset of World Wile II, but falls for a young Jewish Dutch

CAST: Jason Drucker, Alicia Silverstone ره هيئا توريد له مغورة ماي البخيري من أول دهو بيد أصياف المستجور الميمان لمان الأمور المشاركات أعلى مقاب بعد منها درين المدنى فالمنطق فإلمان بالعال القيادي وهذا التمينة الدين بالكافرة الأسبة A Heffley family road trip to attend Mermaw's 90th

birthday purty goes bilanously off course thunks to Greg's rewest scheme to get to a wike gening

Arrival Flights on Thursday 22/6/2017

Route

Istanbul

EXCLUSIVE MOVIES SHOWING ONLY AT GRAND CINEMAS GATE MALL AND AL HAMPA LUXURY CENTER

*Late shows highlighted in orange are available on Thursday and Friday only

ALIEN: COVENANT CAST: Michael Faedender, Katherine Michaelte ST, MICHAEL PROGRAMME, CONTROL OF CONTROL OF STREET CENTER CONTROL OF STREET CENTER يك شف والأمران المتيان العمالية الفهد احتاثاً الشادوس الماثاً المتدوس الماثاً المتدوس الماثاً المتدوس المستحد مسعولة الشاء الم المتلفظة والمشتقدة والمستحدة المستحدة المستحدة المستحدة المتدوس المستحدة المتدوس المتدوس المتدوس المتدوس المتدوس المتدوس المتدون المتدادي المتدوس المتدون المتدادي The prewolf a colory step, brand for a remote planet

their imagination, and must alternal a harmoning KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 3D

ACTIONADE SUTTING PG (1995 EMINE CAST: Charle Human, Jude Law الساطنات أرتز مرضا دان في بيعان الشباب والدي مرد في الحمير AL HAMBA LEXUET CENTER 2:00. إية واستامر أدل هزيمة الوزيدين اليساند الدو الترجادية واستيام عتم ميليجام إلسابق. Raibed of his birthright, Affrai corries up the hard 4.45 way in the Sock allays of the city. But once he pulsi the count from the stone, he is forced to acknowledge his tue legacy - solution to likes that set. AL HAMPA LEBURY CONTER

THE GALAXY VOL.2 3D ACTIONACY TATION I JUNE 16 MAG CAST: Chris Praft, Zive Saldarus, Davie Bautista يناود فيق مرامر الميترا من نديد فو معيه بديد اشد فور الشر التو تعدد الميترا مرديدها ولودنا الراضد فو الانتلام مرديده أنين ينافر نفس الوقت البناشات أنامينان البيل فارسم ميانا دوله الميار الدائمة ميزيداون وادم البليلان Set to the backdrop of Auresome Mildage #2. Guardians of the Gallary Vol. 2' continues the feam's adventures as they unravel the mystery of Peter **Quill's true parentage**

biosels, family and that of humanity.

Doha

Dubai

Departure Flights on Thursday 22/6/2017

Route

Dhaka

Cairo

Goa/Chennai

Jeddah

CAST: Emma Watson, Turo Hanko, John Boyego تتحل فاي على عبل جيد في أشر شيانا فيتصفيه في عبال بالواتواسل التبتياس بالرحسلون الفائم وبالبرشعا مراحس الشرة الإيمان باللغ خاو شوم شمار الدرية وسيد التنظ الدولار الرسالة الانتخارسية حبا بإلار بالتنظية داور خراها الشار مربا وذرية السائلة والالتنظام والرشوية بأسيط A norman lands a dissare jub al a powerful fach company called the Circle, only to uncover a referious agends that will affect the lives of her

14:20

14:20

14:25

FDB

AL HAMBA LUBBRY CENTER THE CIRCLE

573

072

240

915, 1145

9.15.

10:30

12:00

2:00,

Mumbai

Dubai

Sialkot

112

SITUATION WANTED

I am Looking for job as Architecture & MEP Draftsman with 12 years' Experience in UAE & Kuwait. Proficient in AutoCAD-2000 to 2016, Knowledge in REVIT-2014, 3D-MAX, Photoshop, Micro station, Architectural Desktop, Google Sketch up, MEP-Electrical, Low voltage, Telephone, Fire Alarm, Fire Fighting, HVAC. Transferable visa-18, can join immediately. Call: 99076506 21-6-2017

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pappu Lal S/o Mohan Lal, holder of Indian Passport No. L3465187 & Civil ID No. 277070902896 has changed my name to Praful Dewra, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5322) 18-6-2017



Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart. Available on June 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 20-6-2017

> **Automated** enquiry about the Civil ID card is

EMERGENCY

1889988







13:45

13:55

14:00



Istanbul

Cairo

Alexandria

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

THY

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GFA

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Bahrain

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Jeddah

Doha

Abu Dhabi

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MEA Beirut 14:00 KAC 102 KAC 788 14:55 502 01:15 London 00:15 Jeddah Luxor JZR KAC 304 Mumbai 14:55 SVA 503 Jeddah 01:20 KAC 413 Bangkok 14:05 553 00:15 Alexandria AXB 394 14:10 Kozhikode **SVA** 502 529 Jeddah 14:55 Riyadh 01:25 Jeddah 00:20 UAE 872 14:15 Dubai MSC 412 SVA 514 Riyadh 00:25 692 Muscat 14:55 Asyut 01:30 **KNE** 382 15:00 786 773 Istanbul 01:40 KAC Jeddah 00:30 Abu Dhabi 15:05 **GFA** 222 Bahrain 15:00 15:10 DLH 635 Frankfurt 02:00 MSC 411 Asyut 00:30 Muscat 15:00 Lahore JZR 267 Beirut 00:35 **Amman** 15:10 SAI 442 02:30 FDB 15:05 ETH Addis Ababa 02:50 KAC CLX 621 00:45 Luxembourg 15:20 QTR 1079 Doha 15:15 KKK 6505 02:55 Istanbul DLH 502 15:25 01:00 KAC SVA 563 **Amman** 15:40 **AXB** 02:55 396 Kozhikode JZR 01:25 127 15:35 Cairo Sharjah 501 15:45 Jeddah KAC Kochi 03:05 SAI 441 UAE 857 15:45 Lahore 01:30 KAC 15:50 775 831 Istanbul 03:10 Rivadh UAE 853 Dubai 01:40 SAW 705 Damascus 15:50 JZR 188 Dubai 15:50 UAE 854 Dubai 03:30 Amman RJA 01:45 RJA 640 16:00 **Amman** 530 Jeddah 15:55 **KLM** 446 **Amsterdam** 03:30 ETH 620 Addis Ababa 01:50 **FDB** 051 Dubai 16:15 KAC Abu Dhabi 15:55 KAC 523 Al Najaf 03:40 KAC 358 04:50 QTR 1072 Doha 16:15 KAC MSR 619 Doha 16:00 04:05 607 Luxor KAC 784 Jeddah 05:00 **JZR** 535 Cairo 16:20 KAC 743 Dammam 16:00 OMA 644 04:05 Muscat **FEG** 931 Alexandria 05:00 JZR 125 Bahrain 16:25 OMA 16:10 646 Muscat QTR 1087 Doha 04:10 KNE THY 770 Istanbul 05:05 531 Jeddah 16:35 ABY 128 Abu Dhabi Shariah 16:15 04:10 DHX 170 Bahrain 05:10 JZR 787 Riyadh 16:35 ETD 304 Abu Dhabi 16:20 MSR 613 04:15 Cairo KAC 344 Chennai 05:30 NIA 361 Alexandria 16:50 615 Bahrain 16:30 KAC 417 Manila 04:20 KAC 529 16:55 **JZR** Asyut 05:35 118 New York SAW Damascus **JZR** 560 Sohag 04:45 KAC 542 17:05 KAC 362 Colombo 05:50 Cairo RJA Amman 16:55 **OTR** 1077 05:35 Doha BAW **SVA** 17:15 157 London 06:05 510 Rivadh KAC 675 17:00 KAC Dubai 05:50 303 Mumbai GFA 215 17:30 KAC 204 FDB Lahore 06:20 Bahrain 052 Dubai 17:05 FEG 934 Sohag 05:55 KAC **JZR** 17:35 284 Dhaka 06:35 777 Jeddah KAC 503 Beirut 17:15 UAE 874 Dubai 06:15 8511 JZR 177 17:45 JZR **QTR** Dubai 266 17:15 Doha 06:35 Beirut Amman 06:25 CLX KAC QTR 1080 Doha 18:05 17:20 856 Hong Kong 206 Islamabad 06:40 THY 771 Istanbul 06:25 QTR 17:25 MSR 620 18:30 KAC 1073 KAC 302 Mumbai 06:55 Cairo Doha 773 Riyadh 06:35 KAC JZR 18:30 Jeddah Istanbul 07:05 483 Istanbul **GFA** 212 156 **Bahrain** 06:50 JZR UAE KAC JZR 240 Amman 17:30 1541 07:10 UAE 875 19:05 KAC Dubai 07:15 Cairo 167 Paris 858 Dubai 17:40 JZR 503 07:25 GFA 217 Bahrain 19:05 JZR 164 Dubai 07:15 Luxor JZR 357 Kochi 17:40 KAC 524 744 Dammam 19:05 238 07:15 Al Najaf 07:30 Amman NIA 362 Alexandria 17:50 KAC KAC 354 07:50 063 Dubai 19:10 **Beirut** Bangalore KAC 381 17:50 Delhi **FDB** 053 07:50 123 Sharjah 19:20 KAC **Bahrain** 07:55 Dubai KAC 343 Chennai 18:00 19:30 QTR 8512 Doha 08:05 KAC 384 Delhi 08:00 Dhaka **BAW** 19:40 156 London 08:20 KAC 332 Trivandrum 08:05 Sharm el-Sheikh 18:00 FDB 19:40 054 Dubai 08:30 UAE 855 Dubai 08:25 Bahrain SVA 511 Riyadh 18:15 KAC Madinah 791 08:35 KAC 776 19:45 Ahwaz Riyadh GFA JZR 216 Bahrain 18:20 KAC 513 Tehran 08:45 **ETD** 301 Abu Dhabi 08:55 FDB 057 Dubai 19:50 184 Dubai 18:20 JZR 778 Jeddah 08:50 620 19:50 Sharjah 09:00 JZR 538 18:35 117 SNN/New York 09:00 Cairo IRA 09:05 OMA 20:05 Muscat KAC 785 Jeddah 18:45 KAC 787 Jeddah 09:15 QTR 1070 09:20 KNE 381 20:10 Doha QTR 1081 Doha 19:15 KAC 671 Dubai 09:15 FDB 055 Dubai 09:40 DLH 634 Frankfurt 20:15 Ahmedabad 19:20 KAC 691 Muscat 09:30 SVA Riyadh 10:00 MEA 402 Beirut 20:15 19:20 KAC Alexandria Amman 09:30 561 FDK 803 Damascus 10:00 KAC 662 Abu Dhabi 20:20 MSR 621 Cairo 19:30 JZR 534 09:30 Cairo GFA 213 Bahrain 10:40 189 Dubai 20:25 **GFA** 19:50 218 Bahrain 672 Ahwaz 09:35 KAC 774 Riyadh 10:45 QTR 1088 Doha 20:35 FDB 064 Dubai 19:50 126 Sharjah 09:40 KAC KAC MEA 404 Beirut 10:55 Amman 21:00 ABY 124 20:00 Sharjah JZR 482 Istanbul 09:40 168 PAL 668 Manila 11:00 Paris 21:05 FDB 058 Dubai 20:30 KAC 101 London 09:45 ETD Abu Dhabi **SYR** 341 Damascus 11:00 307 21:10 Dubai 20:35 UAE 856 Dubai 09:50 JZR 561 KLM 445 Sohag 11:10 Amsterdam 21:15 KAC 353 20:55 Abu Dhahi Bangalore **ETD** 10:00 302 KAC 614 Bahrain 11:15 ALK 229 Colombo 21:15 DLH 21:00 KAC Doha 541 10:00 Cairo UAE MSC 403 859 21:15 Asyut 11:15 Dubai OMA 648 Muscat 21:05 KAC 521 Al Najaf 10:00 **FDB** 8053 RBG Alexandria Dubai 21:25 KNE 232 553 11:30 IRA 668 Mashhad 10:05 Riyadh 21:10 KAC JZR 165 11:50 676 Dubai 21:35 MEA 403 21:15 Dubai KAC Beirut Doha KAC SAW **GFA** 1543 Cairo 21:30 701 12:30 219 21:50 Damascus Bahrain VIZ 205 10:30 QTR 22:00 KAC 301 Mumbai 21:40 JZR 239 1082 Amman 12:40 Doha KAC 153 Istanbul 10:30 UAE 12:45 NIA 161 22:10 Lahore 21:45 871 Cairo **OTR** 1071 Dubai Doha 10:35 21:45 ETD Abu Dhabi FDB THY 309 22:10 766 Istanbul 12:50 056 10:35 Dubai DHX 171 Bahrain 21:50 12:55 AIC 981 Chennai/Ahmedabad 22:25 **FDK** 804 **FEG** 933 Sohag **Damascus** 11:00 MEA 406 185 22:55 SVA 513 11:00 ETD 308 Abu Dhabi 22:00 Beirut 13:00 Dubai Riyadh KAC 155 22:15 Istanbul MSR 13:00 241 Amman 22:55 Bahrain 610 Cairo ALK 22:20 230 Colombo MEA 405 KAC 514 **Tehran** 13:10 574 Mumbai 23:00 11:55 KLM 445 Bahrain 22:25 SYR 342 Damascus 12:00 AXB 393 Kozhikode 13:10 Sohag Dubai 22:25 Al Najaf **JZR** 776 Jeddah 12:00 KAC 522 13:40 Dubai 23:35 22:35 **RBG** 554 KAC 672 Dubai 13:55 Istanbul 23:45 Alexandria 12:10 UAE 860 Dubai 22:35 MSC 404 KAC Asvut 12:15 Madinah

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Manila

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ACROSS

- 1. (Akkadian) Father of the gods and consort of Tiamat
- 5. Of or relating to or characteristic of Afghanistan or its people.
- 11. A sudden very loud noise.

16. In a free manner.

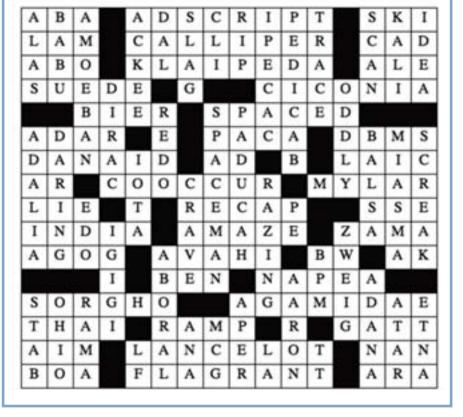
- 15. German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
- 17. Dutch astronomer who proved that the galaxy is rotating and proposed the existence of the Oort cloud (1900-1992).
- 18. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- 19. lons are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the
- 21. (law) The seat for judges in a courtroom.
- 23. An official prosecutor for a judicial district. 24. Appeal or request earnestly.
- 25. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
- 26. Acute delirium caused by alcohol poisoning. 29. European sedge having small edible nutlike
- 32. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- 33. A bet that you can pick the first and second finishers in the right order.
- 37. United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born
- 38. A nihilistic art movement (especially in painting) that flourished in Europe early in the 20th century.
- 42. A human female who does housework.
- 43. The capital of Western Samoa.
- 45. Genus of herbs of southern United States.
- 47. A graphical record of electrical activity of the
- 48. A German machine gun.
- 50. A hard green Swiss cheese made with skimmilk curd and flavored with clover.
- 52. Any of various herbaceous plants whose leaves or stems or flowers are cooked and used for food or seasoning.
- 54. A state in midwestern United States. 56. Lacking either stimulating or irritating charac-
- teristics. 60. United States writer of poems and plays about
- racial conflict (born in 1934). 64. Scottish writer of rustic verse (1770-1835).
- 65. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- 68. A record in which commercial accounts are recorded.
- 69. (zoology) Pertaining to or characteristic of birds.
- 71. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
- 74. Any loose flowing garment. 75. A colloid in a more solid form than a sol.
- 76. The trait of lacking restraint or control. 78. A theocratic republic in the Middle East in
- western Asia. 79. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice. 80. A piece of soft material that protects an
- injured part of the body v 1. 81. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).

- 2. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
- 3. Avoid and stay away from deliberately. 4. An agency of the United Nations responsible for programs to aid education and the health of children and mothers in developing coun-
- 5. A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
- 6. Cooked by frying in fat.
- 7. (British) Informal term for information. 8. Any sail set forward of the foremast of a vessel.
- 9. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- 10. A Mid-Atlantic state.
- 11. Of or in or belonging to the cavity of the abdomen.
- 12. A deposit of valuable ore occurring within definite boundaries separating it from surrounding rocks.
- 13. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- 14. An anxiety disorder associated with serious traumatic events and characterized by such symptoms as guilt about surviving or reliving the trauma in dreams or numbness and lack of involvement with reality or recurrent thoughts and images.
- 20. The highest point of something.
- 22. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or
- 27. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
- 28. A woman sahib.
- 30. Massive thick-skinned herbivorous animal living in or around rivers of tropical Africa.
- 31. A member of the Uniat Church.
- 34. Relatively low in price or charging low prices. 35. A city in southeastern South K
- 36. An ancient city in southeastern Greece. 39. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flow-
- 40. Beat thoroughly in a competition or fight.
- 41. Genus including stone parsley.
- 44. Fish-eating bird of warm inland waters having
- a long flexible neck and slender sharp-pointed bill. 46. Situated at an apex.
- 49. No longer having or seeming to have or
- expecting to have life. 51. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat
- trimmed off.
- 53. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth
- group. 55. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- 57. Held dear. 58. Moving quickly and lightly.
- 59. A drug (trade names Calan and Isoptin) used as an oral or parenteral calcium blocker in
- cases of hypertension or congestive heart failure or angina or migraine.
- 61. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel. 62. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a
- skewer usually with vegetables.
- 63. A particular environment or walk of life. 66. An informal term for a father.
- 67. Rum cut with water.
- 70. Tag the base runner to get him out.
- 72. Either extremity of something that has length. 73. The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.
- 77. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are a very strong speaker and will communicate just what is needed. Words just flow out and you have the attention of an audience, co-workers or authority figures. An emotional impact will bring the subject matter home to your listeners. Everyone knows you are a born doer with an incredible drive to accomplish and achieve in most circumstances. Be careful not to allow others to take advantage of you just now. Your ambitions are backed up by the will to get things done. You can be very emotional and others might find you a bit aggressive. You try hard and you tend to push forward in order to reach your goals. This could be a time of career challenges. Your home life will lay the foundation for greater confidence at work.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You cannot help but overindulge today. This does not necessarily mean food. You enjoy challenges and put yourself in the line of fire often. Although you are not dangerous to yourself or others, you do enjoy overcoming difficult situations. Most people look at problems with great dread but you look at problems as the next challenge to test your skills. You have a natural sense of organization and may come across as being a little too sober in the workplace. When it comes to friends you enjoy the interaction between people. You are always available to help others but you enjoy the contact that brings about laughter, jokes and cheerful chatter. Marriage, contracts and partnerships are seen as keys to happiness, with plenty of lessons.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time during which you are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing-your efforts will be successful. You could have new heights of creativity. You may feel that you can take on any projects after this but remember that life and the current energies seem to enjoy testing us with new things so that we don't always walk away the winner. You should walk in humble ways and just quietly know that you will be able to achieve most anything that is placed in your path. This is also a good time for public relations-vou will accomplish much. There is a satisfaction that comes with helping others. You influence people through your optimism. Enjoy some laughter tonight!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your talents are clearly measurable. You can expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. The original sherlock holmes, you are able to find information and all kinds of secrets. You are research oriented and security minded. The boss or the customer may become much more interested in your talents today. With a shrewd and penetrating mind, you enjoy mental effort and discipline. You could be working long and hard with some project this afternoon. If you are a student, you will find your studies quite interesting. An instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of you is emphasized now. Diet, exercise and work mean more at this time: you want to feel good about yourself and the way you do things.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life. You could gain from subordinates or young people at this time. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects and in all aspects of your life. There is time today to clear away any unfinished business. A few opportunities arise for you to help guide others in the right direction, and you have a good attitude about interruptions. This is a good time; good fortune and plain old luck surround you. As you make correct decisions, find the right path and move forward where career and success are concerned, it is time to turn to the personal side of life. Use exercise and physical activity as a means to release any tension and find ways to laugh



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A lot of energy goes into getting things scheduled and organized. Now is the time to make that outward push to increase your income. This is the best time you will have to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong, for all the cycles are working in your favor. This is also a time when you may marry or take on a new role in the community or with other people. You will be in demand and recognition is inevitable. This is a time during which things will come to you easily. You may find yourself wanting to shoulder more responsibilities connected with your family, neighborhood or personal business affairs. Friends and a social life are in order-an easy and untroubled life can be enjoyed.

WORD SEARCH

Friendship

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word related to friendship.

D	C	В	C	C	A	М	D	K	C	0	F	А	S	R	
N	E	0	0	A	0	N	Υ	0	1	R	G	S	D	Υ	
E	T	Y	N	E	E	M	M	T	1	Ν	Е	1	Н	L	
1	Α	F	F	L	٧	R	P	E	1	Ν	S	Т	M	L	
R	М	R	1	A	Α	1	Ν	A	E	N	A	Н	A	A	
F	М	1	D	D	M	D	Т	S	N	P	1	F	1	E	
L	0	E	E	В	L	1	0	R	М	1	F	F	R	P	
R	0	Ν	U	1	P	L	Т	Y	0	E	0	A	F	T	
1	R	D	N	E	C	A	S	Y	C	P	Н	N	S	Α	
G	D	E	L	0	Υ	Α	L	Т	Y	S	P	U	R	R	
Y	S	G	0	0	D	Т	1	M	E	S	R	U	1	0	
S	C	Н	U	М	Н	0	Ν	Ε	S	Т	Y	F	S	٧	
E	C	N	A	Т	Ν	1	Α	U	Q	C	A	U	E	A	
						-		100		0.0		100			

YHTAPMESSENDNOF ACQUAINTANCE AFFECTION AFFINITY ALLY **AMIGO** AMITY BOYFRIEND BUDDY

CHUM

CLOSENESS

COMPANION HONESTY COMRADE KINSHIP CONFIDE LEND **EMPATHY** LOYALTY FAVOR FONDNESS ROOMMATE FRIENDLINESS FUN

GIRLFRIEND

GOOD TIMES

Daily SuDoku

SHARE SUPPORTIVE SYMPATHY TRUST



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your career decisions may need a little more organization and self-discipline-you will be happy with the results of this effort. You will find a great deal of improvement in your abilities to respond and gain insight. New habits are developed successfully at this time. You may have enough work time now to plan ahead for a vacation. You may enjoy chatting with your co-worker friends about some of their vacation choices. Making money and multiplying what you have are not only fun but also great habits to get into, and you are good at them. You may find requests from friends for advice on money. To prepare for the worldwide changes that you will be involved in the rest of this year, increase your network of friends.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues this morning. You are working within your limitations instead of feeling hemmed in by them. You may be well-advised to accept the counsel of others concerning decisions relating to your career or life path. Careful-there could be a tendency to go too far, expand too fast and overindulge. Counseling will make it easier for you to understand the areas in which adjustments could be made. Enjoy the progress you are now making! There are emotional beginnings and that feeling of a fresh start-perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns-or just getting rid of old ones. Make sure these new patterns are good ones because they will set the tone for guite some time to come!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It may seem like it is forever before you find the answers you need in the workplace today. Your sense of humor is what sees you through as the delays may be outside your control. Customers are rushed-perhaps because of the weather. Many subjects need your attention. One thing at a time and you will be where you need to be. Looking at customers and smiling with the answer they like to hear is supreme. Customers love to hear the words that say you appreciate their patience, etc. You are well-regarded for your attempts to respond quickly to others and remain polite during the frustrations. This evening you will find a great way to relax through a favorite hobby or fun activity. Bicycling or walking with a friend would be helpful and fun.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find that the foggy thinking has lifted, and with a little research you will be able to find the foods, atmosphere or conditions that may have caused the difficulty. This new information will help you understand and correct any physical problems that may exist. You may soon have the opportunity to consider a part-time job. If you can swing it for a temporary assignment, it might just work out to your benefit. You successfully set out to make new friends and go to new places this evening. Be prepared to mingle with some very important people who can give your hopes a big boost. If you have a business card available to hand out to these new people, you will leave a positive impression. Dress as conservatively as possible for this evening's event.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Successful career moves may demand conformity and cost you personal freedom, perhaps toning down a few of your unconventional habits. A kind of magic seems to dawn in your life now. Prosperity and security take center stage in your thinking and you are determined to work hard for the financial results that you seek. You excel as a social being and should make a career out of your deep-seated interest in other people, partnerships and relationships. Strengthen your mastery of difficult problemsolving details. This is a month where you can pull a few strings and gain help from your co-worker friends or your other friends. This may mean research money or small errands that a customer may have requested. Tonight you can enjoy sharing a foot massage.

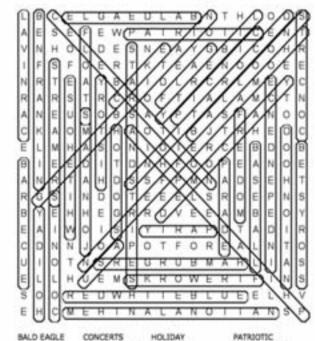


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are riding a high now in terms of taking advantage of the changes that are happening in your life. It is important that you secure any advances you have made recently. In other words, call to confirm things like hard-to-get appointments, price quotes, analysis results, recommendations, etc. There is a change of direction for you, away from the material and glitter, toward inner needs and security. You will find vourself more concerned with maintaining and strengthening your position, rather than pushing outward. This time should be easy and filled with opportunities and friendships. Enjoy them. More demanding times will be coming a little further down the road. Be sure to set aside some prime time for your sweetheart this evening.

Yesterday's Solution

Fourth Of July



BALLOONS BARBECUE BASEBALL BEN FRANKLIN BETSY ROSS CAKE CARNIVAL

DECORATIONS DEMOCRACY HOT DOGS INDEPENDENCE FIREWORKS JOHN ADAMS LIBERTY **FLOATS** NATIONHOOD GREAT BRITAIN PARADE

PHILADELPHIA PICNIC RED WHITE BLUE STARS AND STRIPES NATIONAL ANTHEM STREAMERS HOMAS JEFFERSON USA WHITE HOUSE

COLONIES HESTORY The hidden quote is: THOSE WHO DENY FREEDOM TO OTHERS, DESERVE IT NOT FOR THEMSELVES

8				1	5		2	
				7	9		2	6
			6				9	
		9			8			3
		9				9		
1			5			7		
	6				1			
2	3 7		8	6				
	7		2	6 3				5

Yesterday's Solution

8 5 2 9 8 3 6 4 5 6 3 8 9 4 9 5 8 4 6 3 9 6 2 8 4 5 8 5 9 6 3 8 6 9 5 4 6 8 5 9 4 9

00370

00352

00853

00389

INTERNATIONAL

CALLS

Afghanistan

Albania

Algeria

Andorra

0093

00355

00213

00376

Lithuania

Macau

Luxembourg

Macedonia

Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

New Jahra

West Jahra

South Jahra

North Jahra

North Jleeb

Ardhiya

Firdous

Omariya

N Khaitan

Fintas

Bneid Al-Gar

Ayoun Al-Qibla

Maidan Hawally

Abdullah Salem

Industrial Shuwaikh

Kaifan

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Hospitals

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

25746401

25316254

25623444

25388462

25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

Call MSAL hotline 128

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



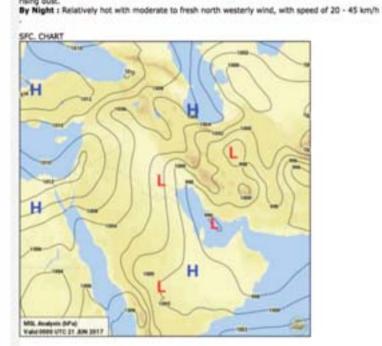
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours lasued 21/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 45 °C

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 30 - 60 km/h causing



Thursday	Friday	54

	Dust			
Expected Weather	Dusty	Hot + causing rising dust over open areas	Hot + causing rising dust over open areas	Hot + causing rising dust ove open areas
Min Temp *C	31	30	31	32
Max Temp *C	45	43	45	46
Wind Direction	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	30 - 60	25 - 50	20 - 45	20 - 45

KUWAIT CITY 32 44 KUWAIT AIRPORT 32 ABDALY 45 BUBYAN 31 ARHAL FAILAKA ISLAND 31 SALMIYAH AHMADI JAL ALIYAH **QAROH ISLAND** 32 35 32 **NUWAISTB** 33 WAFRA SALMY MUTRIBA Max Temp (*C)

Strong Wind and Dust

6.1mm 1.3mm	P (-)	40
Min Temp	(°C)	34
Max Rel I	Hum (%)	23
Min Rel H	fum (%)	08
Max Wind and Direc	d Speed (km/h) ttion	68 N
TOTAL RA	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
*	Sunrise	04:48
	20 800	

Prayer Times	
Fajr	03:13
Sunnise	04:48
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:50
Isha	20:23

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologis	sts	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444	
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222	
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171	
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999	
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700	
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223	
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)		
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660	
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478	
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988	
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166	
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426	
Dr. Manmoud Al-Booz	23031420	
General Practition		
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi		
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	ners	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	ners 24555050 Ext 123	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24555050 Ext 123 24719312	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955	
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955 ii 22616660	

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surge	eons		
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272		
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700		
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60		
Family Doctor			
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581		
Psychiatrists			
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047		
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0		
Gynaecologists & Ol	ostetricians		
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581		
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321		
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539		
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406		
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272		
Dr. Salem soso	22618787		
General Surg	eons		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044		
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 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		

info@soorcenter.com

www.soorcenter.com

Paediatricia	ns	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898	
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300	
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444	
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099	
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514	
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100	
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282	
Dermatology		
Dr. Mohammed Salam		
Bern University	23845955	
Dentists		
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581	
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2	
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444	
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557	
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755	
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111	
Neurologis	ts	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324	
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875	
Gastrologis	ts	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030	
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135	

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

	Endocrinologi	st
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	
	Physiotherapists	&VD
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291	
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288
	Rheumatologis	ts:
31	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060	
31	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
	Internist, Chest & I	Heart
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	
	MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicir Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	
	Assistant Professor Of Medicii Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
	Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology	25339667

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga Argentina	001268 0054	Malawi Malaysia	00265 0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas Bahrain	001242 00973	Martinique Mauritania	00596 00222
Bangladesh	00873	Mauritius	00222
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin Bermuda	00229	Monaco Mongolia	00377 00976
Bhutan	001441	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal Netherlands	00977 0031
Bulgaria Burkina	00359	Netherlands Antilles	
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria Niue	00234 00683
Cayman Islands Central African	001345 00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman Pakistan	00968
Congo	00269	Pakistan Palau	0092 00680
Congo Cook Islands	00242	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern) Czech Republic	0090392	Poland Portugal	0048 00351
Denmark	00420	Puerto Rico	00331
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593 0020	Saint Helena Saint Kitts	00290 001869
Egypt 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
Estonia Ethiopia	00372 00251	Samoa West San Marino	00685 00378
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands	00372 00251 00500	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome	00685 00378 00239
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland	00372 00251 00500 00298	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands)	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00592 00224 00592 00509 0031	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00592 00224 00592 00509 0031	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Turisia Turkey	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00599 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Turikey Turvalu	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00228 00676 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00964 00353 0039	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00964 00353 0039 00225	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 00216 00228 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00502 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00964 00353 0039 00225 001876	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uruguay	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00298 00676 0090 001868 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00964 00353 0039 00225	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 00216 00228 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica Japan	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00964 00353 0039 00225 001876 0081	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uruguay USA	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica Japan Jordan	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00964 00353 0039 00225 001876 0081 00962	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uruguay USA Uzbekistan	00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598
Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica Japan Jordan Kazakhstan Kenya Kiribati	00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00964 00353 0039 00225 001876 0081 00962 007 00254 00686	Samoa West San Marino Sao Tome Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uruguay USA Uzbekistan Vanuatu Venezuela Vietnam	00685 00378 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00866 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001 00998 00678 00678
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GOSSIP



Steinfeld wants Sheeran collaboration

ailee Steinfeld wants to collaborate with Ed Sheeran. The 'Starving' singer would love to work with the 'Castle On The Hill' hitmaker as he is "amazing and unbelievably talented". She said: "One day ... I love Ed so much. He is amazing and unbelievably talented." And the 20year-old singer and actress also spoke out in criticism of sexism in the showbiz industry. She told the Metro's Guilty Pleasures: "I have seen it time and time again. Maybe it's been happening for a lot longer than I have been able to understand, but now that I do, it's important to band together." Meanwhile, Hailee previously revealed she is "obsessed" with music. Reflecting on her transition from movies into music, she said: "The idea of performing and entertaining [was already there]. I started with both [acting and singing] around the same time. "The acting kind of happened first, and the music was more of a side project until I did that little movie called

'Pitch Perfect 2', which gave me the opportunity to go into music, which I've been doing the last few years and I'm obsessed." However, the brunette beauty admits it is "challenging" balancing her acting and singing careers. She explained: "It's definitely been a balancing act for the last couple of months. It's challenging. I'm finding the more I do both at the same time, I see how they conflict. Timing wise, it's hard. Luckily, it's been pretty seamless up until this point. "I'm happiest when I'm doing both at the same time. I don't see myself doing one and not the other. Whether it's creating a soundtrack for a film or singing, whatever it is, I would love to integrate the two in the future!".

Stormzy raps emotional opening lines on Grenfell Tower charity single

tormzy was given the honor of having the first verse on the Grenfell Tower charity single 'Bridge Over Troubled Water'. The 23-year-old grime superstar - who hails from Croydon, London, and was born Michael Owuo Jr. - spits lyrics about the horrific tragedy last week, which saw a 27-storey block of flats in west London engulfed in flames, leaving over 70 people dead. The 'Big for Your Boots' hitmaker pays a touching tribute to those who lost their lives saying he will "never forget them" and will be there for the victims when "troubled waters" arise. He emotionally raps: "Yeah. I don't know where to begin so I will start by saying I refuse to forget you. "I refuse to be silenced. I refuse to neglect you. That's for every last soul up in Grenfell even though I've never even met you. "That could have been my mum's house or that could have been my nephew. That could have been me up there



Gibson wants Damon

to join Fast and

Furious franchise

rese Gibson wants Matt Damon and Denzel

Washington to join the 'Fast and Furious' franchise.

The 38-year-old singer and actor - who joined the

series in the 2003 movie '2 Fast 2 Furious' as Roman Pearce

admits he wants to take the films to a new location and is

also keen to see the franchise attract some new talent.

Speaking to ExtraTV.com, Tyrese said: "I would love to take

it to Africa, I would love some Cape Town and Johannesburg. "And I would love Matt Damon and Denzel

Washington to join the franchise. I really feel like they could contribute." Tyrese also revealed that the behind-

scenes-clips of the latest movie, 'The Fate of the Furious', will give fans a real insight into life on the set. Tyrese said:

"There's way more scenes, way more funny, a lot of stuff that was just chopped out. "The director's cut is gonna be

crazy. There is a whole lot more footage of Havana, Cuba

and make the movie." Meanwhile, in May, Vin Diesel dedi-

cated the 'Fast and Furious' Generation Award to his late

co-star Paul Walker at the MTV Movie & TV Awards. The

actor starred as Brian O'Conner in the action film franchise

and tragically died at the age of 40 in 2013 after the

Porsche Carrera GT he was driving in crashed. In a heartfelt

speech, he said: "In 2002, I was standing on this stage, and

MTV had given Paul Walker and I an award for Best Duo.

And now, 15 years later, I'm with my whole family, and

you're giving us the Generation Award. "Most importantly,

I got to thank our generation. I got to thank, a generation

that was willing to accept this multicultural franchise

where it didn't matter what color your skin was or what

country you are from, when you're family, you're family."

waiving my white plain tee up there with my friends on the ground trying to see up there. "I just hope that you rest and are free up there. I can't feel your pain but I see what it is. I went to the block just to chill with the kids. When troubled waters coming running past I'm gonna be right there... James Blunt then chimes in with the original lyrics to the Simon & Garfunkel classic followed by Emeli Sande and Bastille. Paloma Faith has a line, but Emeli has the biggest part in the song and reappears throughout. James Arthur and Ella Eyre then sing their dramatic parts, before the star-studded contributors, which includes Robbie Williams, Leona Lewis, Rita Ora, Craig David, The Who's Roger Daltrey, The Libertines' Carl Barat, Matt Terry, Stereophonics frontman Kelly Jones, Louisa Johnson, Gareth Malone, Geri Horner and Jessie J among many more, perform the climatic chorus. They collectively sing: "Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down." And Emeli finished off the 3.54 track repeating the poignant words. Instrumentation is provided by 'Britain's Got Talent' winner Tokio Myers, The Who guitarist Pete Townshend, Nile Rodgers and Queen's Brian May. The recording of the track, which will raise money for the survivors of the blaze who have been left homeless and bereaved, was launched by 'X Factor' boss Simon Cowell who lives nearby Grenfell Tower and was left heartbroken by the disaster. The 57-year-old music mogul wrote on Twitter: "Thank you to everyone for their help and support in making this happen. (sic)" Artists for Grenfell's 'Bridge Over Troubled Waters' is available to download on iTunes and stream on Spotify, and donations can be made to help by vising artistsforgrenfell.com.



Dave Grohl teases pop collaboration

ave Grohl has hinted Foo Fighters' new album features vocals from "the biggest pop star in the world". The 'Learn To Fly' rockers announced on Tuesday they are to release their new record 'Concrete and Gold' later this year, and now the band's frontman has teased a "surprising" collaboration with a mystery pop singer who lends their vocals to one of the album's "heaviest songs." Dave said: "We have a bunch of guests that we haven't told anybody about yet, some of them will really surprise you. But there is one, who is probably the biggest pop star in the world, and I'm not kidding, sings back-ups on one of the heaviest songs on the record, and we are not telling anybody who it is." The hint has led fans to speculate that it could be 'Shape of You' hitmaker Ed Sheeran, whose recent album 'Divide' has been dominating the charts since its release in April. And with both Ed and Foo Fighters preparing to take to the stage at Glastonbury festival in the UK over the weekend, fans have also began speculating a live debut of their possible collaboration. It's not just the 26-year-old musician that fans are hoping joins the 'Walk' hitmakers on stage at the famous festival either, as Dave also hinted they could join forces with fellow rock band Queens of the Stone Age. Speaking about the band's new album with Annie Mac on UK radio station BBC Radio 1 on Tuesday, 48year-old Dave said: "It was great because we were one block away from Queens of the Stone Age while they were making their record, so every day we would sneak over to each other's studios and steal donuts and coffee. And we were listening to each other's records thinking 'you know what, rock and roll is alive and well'. "These two records, honestly, Queens of the Stone Age and Foo Fighters should just join forces and take over the world right now." To which Annie said: "Well we are hoping that that happens in some way at Glastonbury, live on the Pyramid Stage, I'm just going to put it out there." Dave then replied: "We'll see what happens."



Geri Horner proud to be part of Grenfell Tower single

eri Horner is "proud" to be part of the Grenfell Tower charity single. The former Spice Girl is thrilled to hear how the track - a cover of Simon & Garfunkel's 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' - has come together and took to Twitter yesterday to urge her fans to download the track and donate to the victims of the devastating fire in west London, which killed over 70 people. Geri wrote: "Proud to be a part of this & support those affected by the Grenfell tragedy. You can also make a donation here: http://artistsforgrenfell.com (sic)". Paloma Faith shared a poignant message alongside the link to donate. She wrote on the social media site: "In light of the terrible tragedy at Grenfell a few of us came together to raise some money for the victims. https://artistsforgrenfell.com/ ... You cannot fight fire with Townshend, Nile Rodgers and Queen's Brian May. fire. The most dignified and loudest protest is calm, peaceful and defiant. Remember Martin Luther King." Craig David

- who also took part in the track - took to social media to offer his thoughts and prayers to those who had been affected by the fire, writing: "My thoughts and prayers are with everyone whose lives were affected by the Grenfell Tower fire (sic)" Whilst Matt Terry, 2016's 'X Factor' winner, thanked fans as the song climbed to number 1 in the UK iTunes charts. He wrote: "Guys thank you ... Bridge Over Troubled Water is Number 1. This is such an incredible cause and I love it when we all stand together (sic)" The cover of 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' also features performances from the likes of Stormzy, Robbie Williams, Leona Lewis, Rita Ora and The Who's Roger Daltrey whilst musical accompaniment was provided by 'Britain's Got alent' winner Tokio Myers, The Who

Winslet would love to work to DiCaprio again

'ate Winslet wants to work with Leonardo DiCaprio again - when she's 70. The Oscar-winning actors became firm friends when they worked on James Cameron's 1997 box office sensation 'Titanic' and they reunited a decade later on 'Revolutionary Road'. While they currently have no plans to team up on screen again in the future, Kate would jump at the chance to do so, even if she has to wait a long time. She told E! News: "There's nothing that Leo and I have planned. But as always I would love to work with him again one day but who knows? "It might not happen until we're 70." Kate can next be seen opposite Idris Elba in 'The Mountain Between Us' - in which they play two strangers who survive a plane crash on a snow-covered mountain and have to work together to survive - and she admitted her friend Leonardo warned her she was "crazy" for taking on the role because it involved shooting in temperatures of -38 degrees Celsius. But despite the tough conditions, the British actress insists it was nothing compared to what her pal went through when he shot 'The Revenant'. She said: "Leonardo and I did speak before filming and he did sort of say to me 'Oh my God, you are crazy. It's going to be freezing cold. Do you honestly know what you are sending yourself up for?' "I would send him little photos of me saying 'Thinking of you' as I am lying in the freezing snow covered ice and he would just send back slightly worried emojis. "How could I ever compare anything to what he did in 'The Revenant'? He did climb proper naked inside a horse carcass and I didn't do anything like that. "I have to hand it to him but I always have to hand it to him because he's my friend." While filming in the freezing cold, the actress says she has flashbacks to the watery shoot of 'Titanic' but claims 'The Mountain Between Us' was "much harder". She said: "This was much harder than 'Titanic' because we really were at



10,000 feet and it really was -38 degrees Celsius. "I definitely had 'Titanic' flashbacks. How could I not? Freezing cold. Me falling into that cold water. "It was definitely reminiscent of certain other rather challenging, strenuous experiences I had 20 years ago." — Bang Showbiz

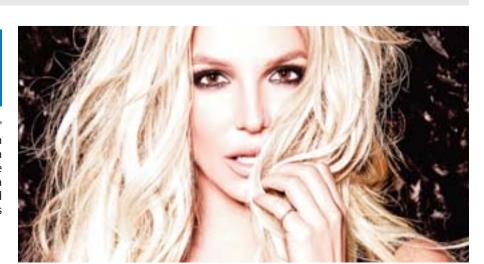


Britney wants Beyonce collaboration

ritney Spears wants to collaborate on a song with Beyonce. The pair featured on a famous Pepsi TV commercial along with Pink in 2004 bringing girl power to Queen's hit song 'We Will Rock', but the 'Slumber Party' singer wants to get on a track all by herself with the 35-year-old R&B superstar. The blonde beauty, also 35, told The Bangkok Post: "She's so fierce and her music is amazing." Britney also confessed that while she is always working on

new tunes she won't be dropping any new stuff this year. She said: "I'm constantly working on music, but no plans to release anything this year." The 'Make Me' hitmaker previously praised Beyonce for using her latest record 'Lemonade' as "therapy". The brunette beauty has a lot of "respect" for the ' and can emphasize with the way she used her music on the visual LP to address marital issues with her rapper husband Jay-Z. Talking about the record, on which

Beyonce referenced "Becky with the good hair" and appeared to claim Jay had been cheating on her, Britney previously said: "I'm a little late on that, but it's good, really angry, a really hardcore album. Most of the time it almost feels like a therapy album. I respect that. She's an artist and that's what she needs to touch on at this moment in her life."



MUSIC & MOVIES

BANGLADESHI ACTRESS' FILM TO FAITH TALE PROVES SMASH HIT

n Bangladesh, where morality tales top bestseller lists, the real-life transformation of Naznin Akter Happy from an actress embroiled in scandal to a fully-veiled ultra-conservative Islamic preacher has proved sensational. An expose shedding new light on the 22-year-old's moment of revelation is flying off shelves in the conservative country, where a stricter interpretation of Islamic morals has gradually taken root in recent years. "From Happy to Amatullah"-or female servant of Allah-is a rare, extensive interview with the reclusive young woman who today only surfaces to preach a puritanical vision of Islam on social media. Readers hungry for celebrity intrigue and divine intervention have rushed bookstores to snap up a copy, with thousands sold since its release in June and publishers scrambling to reprint.

"We've been swamped by orders for the book from all parts of the country," said Mohammad Obaidullah, owner of Maktabatul Azhar, a publishing house specializing in Islamic books. "Everyone wants to know what prompted her to quit the celebrity lifestyle for the ordinary life of a devout Muslim." Happy was a star in Dhallywood, the Bengali-language film industry, shooting to fame in her 2013 debut "Kichu Asha Kichu Valobasha" (Some Hopes, Some Loves). But it was the controversy surrounding shock rape allegations she leveled against star fast bowler Rubel Hossain in late 2014 that made Happy a household name across cricket-mad Bangladesh.

Happy alleged she was involved in an "intimate affair" with the then 25-year-old cricketer, whom she accused of walking away from a promise of marriage. The revelations proved scandalous in the Muslim-majority country, where sexual relationships outside marriage are frowned upon and allegations of coercion can be seen to restore honor. Rubel claimed he was being blackmailed but was remanded in custody. He was released a few days later to play in the World Cup, and a court



This photo taken on January 8, 2015 shows Naznin Akter Happy, at a court in Dhaka after making rape allegations against cricket star Rubel Hossain.

later found no evidence to convict him. Every twist received saturation coverage, spurring gossip long after Happy dropped the charges, saying she had forgiven Rubel.

Erasing her past

After so long in the public eye her sudden appearance in the black burka worn by only the most devout Bangladeshis fanned even greater curiosity about the young woman's life. Happy was weathering the Rubel scandal and part-way through shooting a new movie when the actress claims she had an "epiphany" that altered her life. Overnight, she committed to joining Tablighi Jamaat-a Sunni Islam evangelical movement that boasts millions of adherents in Bangladeshand began severing all ties to her past life. "That night she



This photo shows Naznin Akter Happy, walking through a police station in Dhaka as she filed a rape case against cricket star Rubel Hossain. — AFP photos

started deleting thousands of photos of herself she posted on Facebook. She then cut ties with the movie world," said Abdullah Al Farugue, who co-authored the book with his wife Sadeka Sultana Saqi, who was granted access to Happy for the interview. "She renamed herself Amatullah. She started to wear a full-veiled burka and now even covers her hands and toes with socks." Happy turned her back on her fans and a stunned film industry to embrace the austerity of a missionary's life, retreating to a madrassa to study the Quran where nobody would see "even the nails of my fingers".

Determined to erase her past entirely and cement her pious makeover, Happy even fought unsuccessfully to stop the release of her final film "Real Man", arguing it starred a completely different person. "I felt like a newborn baby,"

she wrote in the book, about the moment she donned the burka and abandoned her former name and identity. "Now, I have no ties with my previous life. That's the tale of a different person."

Turning a new page

The entire incident involving Rubel has been airbrushed from the book by the authors, who said they did not want to "embarrass" Happy, who is now married. "She has turned a new page since then. She no longer wants to dwell on the past," Al Faruque said. But even without these details the moral lessons implied-that Happy was seeking some sort of redemption in the scriptures-have resonated with Bangladeshi readers. The moderate Islam practiced in Bangladesh for generations has been slowly replaced by a more orthodox version of the faith in recent years.

The burka most associated with the rigid Islam of Afghanistan and the Gulf is becoming more commonplace, new mosques and madrassas are flourishing and hardliners have won symbolic victories in their push to overhaul Bangladesh's secular constitution. "From Happy to Amatullah" is just the latest addition to a thriving genre of Islamist literature in Bangladesh, where authors have captivated readers weaving piety into plots lamenting modern women and Western lifestyles.

Kasem bin Abubakar, who pens chaste love stories tinged with Islamic values, is one of the country's best-selling authors. Suggestions Happy's transformation could be a publicity stunt destined to end as quickly as it began have been denied by her promoters. "We asked her whether she would go back to the glamour world. She said she won't jump into that hellfire again," said Al Faruque. — AFP

This file photo shows Christopher Miller, left, and Phil Lord pose for a photo at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards at TAO Downtown, in New York. — AP

Han Solo 'Star Wars' spinoff movie loses its directors

spinoff movie of the "Star Wars" franchise about the early e of smuggler and crack pilot Han Solo has lost its two directors, the production company behind the project said Tuesday. Directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller left the project due to creative differences, Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy said. Lord and Miller "are talented filmmakers who have assembled an incredible cast and crew, but it's become clear that we had different creative visions on this film, and we've decided to part ways," Kennedy said.

"A new director will be announced soon," said Kennedy, who is also the film's producer. In a statement, Lord and Miller also cited "creative differences". "Unfortunately, our vision and process weren't aligned with our partners on this project. We normally aren't fans of the phrase 'creative differences' but for once this cliche is true," they said. "We are really proud of the amazing and world-class work of our cast and crew," they added. The surprise announcement came as filming is underway at London's Pinewood Studios for the untitled movie, which is scheduled to come out several months ahead of "Star Wars: Episode VIII" in December 2018.

'Culture clash'

Variety magazine-which said the directors had been firedcited an anonymous source saying that the directors chafed at Kennedy's tight control on the set. "It was a culture clash from day one," the source told Variety. "She didn't even like the way they folded their socks." "Kathy, her team and [writer/producer] Larry Kasdan have been doing it their way for a very long time. They know how the cheese is made and that's how they want it made," the source said. "It became a very polarizing set. In the movie, Alden Ehrenreich stars as Solo, a role that made Harrison Ford a Hollywood superstar in the original 1977 movie and its sequels.

The movie also stars Woody Harrelson, Thandie Newton, Emilia Clarke and Donald Glover as Solo's pal Lando Calrissian. The film is set in the period before the original 1977 movie, which was released as "Star Wars" but was later retitled "Episode IV: A New Hope." This is the second of a series of standalone films that began with "Rogue One," released in December, which earned \$1 billion worldwide. Lord and Miller took over the Han Solo directing job after co-directing the box-office hits "The Lego Movie" and both "21 Jump Street" and "22 Jump Street." Lucasfilm, founded by filmmaker George Lucas, is the production company behind the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" franchises. It was bought by Disney in 2012. — AFP

Hollywood legend Daniel Day-Lewis announces retirement from acting

scar-winning actor Daniel Day-Lewis, one of the most acclaimed performers of his generation, has announced he is retiring. In a statement the 60year-old star's spokeswoman, Leslee Dart, said he "will no longer be working as an actor," trade magazine Variety reported. "He is immensely grateful to all of his collaborators and audiences over the many years," Dart said. "This is a private decision and neither he nor his representatives will make any further comment on this subject." Day-Lewis, a master of method acting known for being extremely selective about his roles, is the only performer to have ever won three best actor Oscars.

He earned a golden statuette for "My Left Foot" (1989), in which he plays writer and artist Christy Brown, who was confined to a wheelchair because of cerebral palsy; a second one for "There Will Be Blood" (2008), in which he plays a fierce oil man; and a third for the lead role in Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" (2013). He also earned Oscar nods for "Gangs of New York" and "In the Name of the Father."

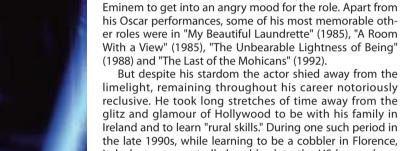
Away from the limelight

His last film is slated to hit theaters in December. The movie-which saw the actor reunite with "There Will Be Blood" director Paul Thomas Anderson-is about 1950s London, with Day-Lewis playing a fashion designer. Born in London, Day-Lewis is the son of British poet Cecil Day-Lewis and actress Jill Balcon. He made his film debut in 1971 in "Sunday Bloody Sunday" but then turned to the



stage. He appeared on screen again more than a decade later in 1982, when he landed his first adult role.

His strong on-screen presence and remarkable range quickly set him apart, earning him praise from critics and audiences alike. He was said to be so deeply invested in his roles that he would stay in character even when not shooting-as was the case with "Gangs of New York," when he kept the New York accent and would be seen sharpening



With a View" (1985), "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" (1988) and "The Last of the Mohicans" (1992). But despite his stardom the actor shied away from the limelight, remaining throughout his career notoriously reclusive. He took long stretches of time away from the glitz and glamour of Hollywood to be with his family in

his knives at lunch. He also reportedly listened to rapper

Ireland and to learn "rural skills." During one such period in the late 1990s, while learning to be a cobbler in Florence, Italy, he was reportedly lured back to the US by producer Harvey Weinstein, director Martin Scorcese and actor Leonardo DiCaprio to take on the lead role in "Gangs of

"I was very happily out of the world of filmmaking," Day-Lewis said at the time. "I was just happily working away at other things." In a sign that acting would not be his lifelong passion, he told a magazine in 2005: "In every actor's life, there is a moment when they ask themselves, 'Is it really seemly for me to still be doing this?" The actor is married to Rebecca Miller-the daughter of playwright Arthur Miller-a US actress and writer with whom he has two children. From 1989 to 1994 he had a tumultuous relationship with French actress Isabelle Adjani, with whom he has one son. — AFP



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Optimus Prime and Bumblebee, foreground, in a scene from, "Transformers: The Last Knight." — AP photos



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Megatron and Josh Duhamel as Lennox in a scene from, "Transformers: The Last Knight."

New Chris Cornell music video, filmed before death, released

■hris Cornell's final music video, filmed before the singer died in May, was released Tuesday. The video for "The Promise" was released to coincide with World Refugee Day. The clip was filmed in Brooklyn, New York. Eric Esrailian, who produced the video, said Cornell filmed the video shortly before he died. Esrailian added that the rock singer wanted the video to be released on World Refugee Day.

Cornell and his family toured refugee camps in Greece in April. and there they decided that The Chris and Vicky Cornell Foundation would focus its efforts on child refugees. Cornell was the lead singer of Soundgarden and Audioslave. Authorities say he killed himself following a concert in Detroit. He was 52. — AP

File photo shows **Chris Cornell plays** guitar during a portrait session at The **Paramount Ranch** in Agoura Hills, Calif. — AP



Glastonbury opens doors with Radiohead, Sheeran on bill

e gates to the Glastonbury Festival swung open Wednesday for five days of the world's biggest greenfield music fest, headlined this year by Radiohead, the Foo Fighters and Ed Sheeran. Some 175,000 people were expected to descend on Worthy Farm outside Glastonbury in Somerset, southwest England, in sizzling temperatures but with reinforced security measures after a string of terror attacks in Britain. "Hooray! Welcome to Glastonbury!" said founder Michael Eavis, greeting those gueueing outside as the green metal gates opened. Shows on the seven biggest stages start on Friday, but rucksack-lugging revelers like to get there early to secure a decent spot to pitch their tents in.

There were some checks but there are so many people and it is so hot. The queues were better than I thought they would be," said Anna Harris, 25, from south London, who was among the first to get in. Tickets cost £238 (\$300, 270 euros) and all 135,000 have sold out, with a further 40,000 people accredited to attend. "It's like going to another country, a hip and thrilling Brigadoon that appears every year or so," the festival said. "You enter a huge tented city, a mini-state under canvas. British law still applies, but the rules of society are a bit different, a little bit freer. Everyone is here to have a wild time in their own way."

Glastonbury started off as a loss-maker in 1970, with 1,500 people paying one pound to watch Marc Bolan top the bill, with free milk from the farm to tempt music-loving hippies. It is now one of the world's landmark music festivals, with dozens of stages, fields and areas. The site has a perimeter of about 8.5 miles (13.5 kilometers). Radiohead top the bill Friday on the main Pyramid Stage, backed up by The XX, Royal Blood and Kris Kristofferson. On Saturday, the Foo Fighters are headlining, after sets by The National, Katy Perry, Run the Jewels and Craig David.—AFP

In 'The Last Knight,' round 5 for the Transformers

concussed serenity sets in somewhere in the middle of the ceaseless ballet of metal and machismo in Michael Bay's "Transformers: The Last Knight." Freed of concerns like plausibility or story, you can simply gape in wonder at the ruthlessly thunderous images in front of you. Maybe that's the feeling of brain cells dying a painful, anguished death. It's a sensation I imagine cornered boxers sometimes experience while blow after blow rains down upon them. Dazed by the unrelenting digital demolition on screen, thoughts go through your head like: 'Can this movie literally crush me?' 'Is death by Dolby possible?' and 'You know, it's really time to get

By the time you've scraped yourself off the floor after all 149 minutes of the 3-D "The Last Knight," you feel the need to compensate for the sheer gluttony of destruction, of unrelenting bigness. Maybe fast for a little while, you think, or just sit quietly in a corner. Bay might be spinning another tale of Autobot v. Decepticon in which the fate of the planet hangs in the balance, but his real battle is conquering you, the moviegoer. And make no mistake about it. He's gonna win. "Transformers: The Last Knight, is, if nothing else, a pummeling. The fifth in the franchise and second in the "Wahlberg Years" (Mark Wahlberg replaced Shia LaBeouf as lead in the last installment), "The Last Knight" continues the Hasbro toy adaptations and expands further into the alien machines' mythology.

The script by Art Marcum, Matt Holloway and Ken Nolan ropes in a backstory involving Arthurian legend, suggesting the magic of Merlin was nothing but Transformer technology. Centuries later, the continual arrival of Transformers on Earth connects to these ancient events. There are crucial objects - Merlin's staff, a talisman that attaches itself to Wahlberg's Autobot-defending Cade Yeager - that bring constantly arriving Transformers, plummeting in space ships from the sky, and eventually, the vengeful leader of their home planet, Cybertron.

Human population

With Optimus Prime away on holiday (or searching for

something or other back on Cyberton), the human population has turned against the Transformers. One can see why. They're swaggering, bickering bags of bolts who eschew their best parlor trick (transforming into cars and trucks) for avalanches of ammo. There is, for a moment, a touch of metaphor for immigrant empathy in their unfortunate status, but it quickly gets buried in the mounting debris. That is, at any rate, what I could make out. Stonehenge has something to do with the plot, too, as does Anthony Hopkins, who plays the latest in a long line of guardians to these mysteries. There's also an Oxford scholar (Laura Haddock) skeptical of Round Table legend, and, briefly, an elite scientist (Tony Hale) whose insistence on solving intergalactic problems with silly things like physics is, here, a joke. "Transformers" is like the anti-"Martian":

"This here's a big boy zone," announces the Autobot commando Hound (John Goodman) in a junkyard. But he might as well be providing the movie's ethos. Later there's a submarine chase and a planetary battle in the air as "The Last Knight" - an exercise in enormity - insatiably hurtles toward feats of greater and greater grandiosity. It's an empty pursuit; there's no explosion big enough to give Bay the fix he needs. But what makes the "Transformers" movies different from other blockbuster colossuses is Bay. Whatever his deficiencies in other areas (coherence, emotions, women), he remains the most proficient master of big-screen rock 'em sock 'em mayhem. His manipulation of scale is unsurpassed, as is his ability to synthesize obscene amounts of visual effects into an astonishingly fluid choreography of color and chaos. After two and half hours of pulverizing action, there's nothing to do but raise the white flag, admit defeat, and shudder as you pass the theater for the latest "Cars" movie. No more, please. "Transformers: The Last Knight," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "intense sequences of scifi action violence, brief sexual humor and language." Running time: 149 minutes. Two stars out of four. — AP

FASHION













FASHION EVERY WHICH WAY AT ABBREVIATED MILAN FASHION WEEK





Models present creations for fashion house Giorgio Armani during the Men's Spring/Summer 2018 fashion shows in Milan, on June 19, 2017. — AFP photos

t was every man for himself at Milan Fashion Week. Runway shows for next spring and summer menswear collections were crammed into three days, ending Monday, with some fashion houses opting for presentations, others skipping menswear for combined men's and women's shows in September and yet others taking a break during creative transitions. The abbreviated calendar proved somewhat disorientating, leaving the feeling that something was missing.

Likewise, trends seemed to be going every which way. Many designers, for example, seemed not to have gotten the memo that these were warm-weather collections, with a plethora of winter fabrics like corduroy and velvet hitting the runway along with heavier gear like overcoats, beyond the seasonal bomber or duster.

One thing everyone agreed on: Millennial engagement. Some houses did that by inviting young personalities to either walk the runways or sit in the front row, while others sought to attract them with proportion plays, mixed media and other youthful touches. Armani invited Liam Payne of One Direction to see his preview show; Ferragamo seated Italian rapper Ghali in its front row; Fendi hosted actor Tommy Dorfman; and Dolce & Gabbana put no fewer than 106 style-setters from around the globe on their runway.

Made in Armani

Wind-swept and beach-ready describe Giorgio Armani's looks for next season, even if most are meant for an urban setting. The collection opened with a sweeping, double-breasted linen trench with a kaftan feel, setting a casual note. The materials - from crinkled linen to crumpled silk — also



contributed to the carefree mood.

The designer, who turns 83 next month, is securing his legacy of elegance. There was little that would challenge the norms of an Armani dresser, but plenty of fresh detail to maintain their interest. Tapered pants closed with a buckle. A shiny silken suit had a relaxed shawl collar and open pockets. A crinkly white trench was worn over a gray trouser, both with optical effects giving the impression of shimmery waves.

For fun, there were silky combinations of aqua green and magenta top and bottom combinations, broken up by gray hoodies, and he played with proportions on youthful hybrid tops featuring knit fronts and shirt cloth backs. For serious business, Armani sent five classic suits with ties down the runway. For the final flourish, the designer reprised the key looks in all white versions. —AP





Wella Professionals host annual stylist Ghabqa



n Tuesday Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa Commercial Co (AAW) and Wella, one of the world's leading beauty and styling suppliers, hosted a Ramadan Ghabqa catered to stylists and beauty-enthusiasts in Kuwait. Highlighting key trends and styles for the summer, AAW introduced Wella's upcoming heat-protection collection, EIMI, and their plans to donate all salon sales of the product-line to the Kuwait Cancer Control Center.

Held at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Wella presented emerging styles of this year' summer trends to combat heat and humidity and keep your hair shiny and soft with it's new product line, EIMI, presented alongside a cat-walk styled Ghabqa dinner. Guests included fashion, beauty, and makeup Instagram sensation, Ahood Alenezi alongside stylists, beauty-enthusiasts and salons in Kuwait. EIMI by Wella Professionals is the first word in styling. With EIMI you can truly be yourself, interpreting the latest global trends, speaking the language of style and individuality. In addition to brand new products, EIMI also incorporates all your favorite products from Wella Professionals to complete a comprehensive lineup of styling products. Say Style, Speak EIMI!

The Ghabqa, hosted by Wella Professionals featured a catwalk and showcase into old, present, and new Wella products up-to-date with the latest global hair trends for summer. Activities during the evening included an oriental band, catwalk, traditional Ghabqa dinner, and stylist teachings through product presentations and a hands-on workshop.



TRAVEL



Photo shows a view of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Pillar (Basilica del Pilar) from Calle Alfonso in Zaragoza, Spain.



Photo shows a view of the Plaza del Pilar in Zaragoza, Spain.— AP photos

Zaragoza: Goya, tapas in El Tubo and 2,000 years of history

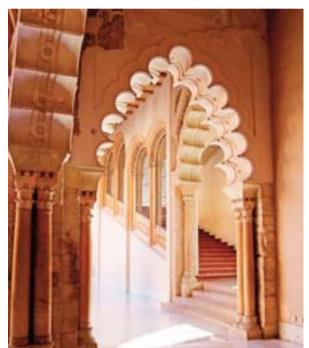


Photo shows sunlight illuminates the ornate archways of from art and musical events to markets promoting local the Aljaferia palace in Zaragoza, Spain.

Photo shows diners strolling 'El Tubo,' the narrow grid of

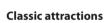
alleys lined with tapas restaurants and bars in Zaragoza,

By Michelle Locke

tepping out on a lazy Sunday, I stroll past remnants of a Roman wall and watch couples taking selfies with a statue of city namesake Caesar Augustus. Then I'm brought up short by the shimmering reflection of a 16th-century tower caught on the sleek glass walls of a very modern fountain celebrating the Hispanic world. That's 2,000-odd years of history in about a block, and just one of the reasons Zaragoza should be on your list of Spanish cities to explore. Sure, it may be best known as the halfway point between Madrid and Barcelona. But with its treasure trove of architecture, art (and tapas, too), Zaragoza is worth a closer

The Goya Museum, which reopened in 2015 after extensive reorganization, is a good way to get acquainted with the works of the famous Spanish painter, who was born near here. The museum is set in a Renaissance nobleman's home and includes works by Goya's rivals and mentors as well as an extensive collection of his etchings, 23 Calle Espoz y Mina. Open most days at 10 am, closing at 2 pm on Sundays and holidays. Admission about \$5.

Las Armas is an outdoor space that hosts everything products,66 Calle Las Armas. Some events ticketed.



Plaza del Pilar, a huge public square, is the defining feature of Zaragoza. It is home to two cathedrals and a museum displaying remains of a Roman forum. Just beyond it is the River Ebro with its tree-lined pathways. Basilica del Pilar, topped with brightly colored cupolas, is a cathedral featuring ceiling paintings by Goya. You'll also find two unexploded bombs on display; they were dropped during

the Spanish Civil War. Open most days, free admission. About \$3 to visit the cathedral's museum, closed on Sundays, and about \$4 to access the tower, closed on Mondays. Next door is the Cathedral of the Savior, which has a tapestry museum (entrance about \$5) featuring wallsized Flemish tapestries from the 16th to 18th centuries. La Aljaferia, originally built as a country retreat for the city's Islamic rulers and later the palace of Aragon's Catholic monarchs, is now home to the regional parliament. It features a beautiful and tranquil garden - and a room where trials of the Spanish Inquisition were held. Open daily, but closed during parliamentary sessions, held some Thursdays and Fridays, admission about \$6.



Photo shows an octagonal tower, built by the Moors in the 16th century, now part of the 18th-century Church of San Juan de Panetes, reflected in the glass walls of the 20th-century Fuente de la Hispanidad in Zaragoza's Plaza del Pilar in Spain.

Fancy a tapas crawl? Head for "El Tubo," the series of tubes (narrow alleys in reality) that hums with chatter and the smell of crispy fried things as darkness falls. The district is not far from Plaza del Pilar; look for Calle Estebanes and Calle Libertad, the two main streets. Don't show up hungry between 5 pm and 8 pm, though, as most of the restau-

rants will be closed. The Zaragoza Card offers convenience and a discount. Prices start at about \$22 for a 24-hour pass. Zaragoza is easily reachable by train from Madrid or Barcelona. — AP



Photo shows a view of Zaragoza's Basilica del Pilar from the banks of the River Ebro. Tree-lined paths make the riverside a pleasant place for a stroll.

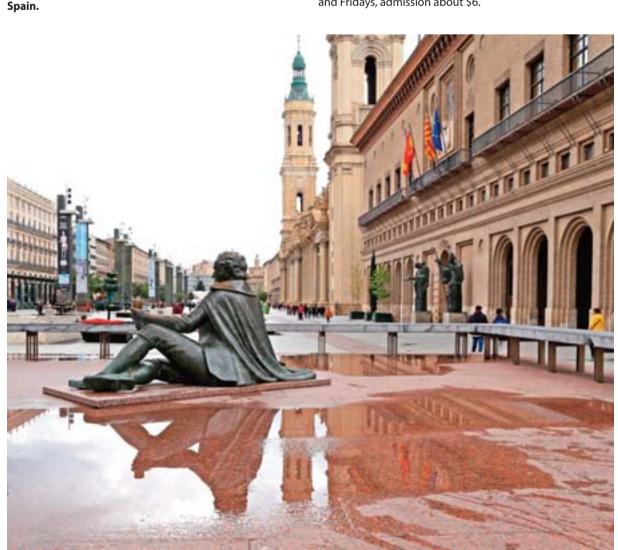


Photo shows a statue in Plaza del Pilar in Zaragoza, Spain.



A couple takes a selfie in front of a statue of Caesar



This photo shows a painting in an unexpected place, a small, roll-up security gate on a doorway near the 'El Tubo' tapas crawl district in Zaragoza, Spain.



Photo shows graffiti and other markings left behind by prisoners locked in the Aljaferia tower in Zaragoza, Spain, during the Spanish Inquisition.



A couple takes a selfie in the arms of a sitting sculpture in Zaragoza, Spain's Plaza del Pilar.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

Zaragoza: Goya, tapas in El Tubo and 2,000 years of history





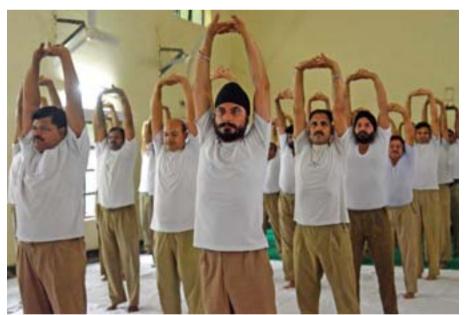
An Indian Sadhu or Hindu holy man performs Yoga to mark International Yoga Day at Kamakhya temple in Gauhati, India.



An Indian Sadhu or Hindu holy man performs Yoga.

Indian students take part in a yoga session on International Yoga Day in Chennai yesterday. — AP/AFP photos

YOGA PRACTITIONERS PAUSE TO STRETCH AND POSE FOR INT'L EVENT

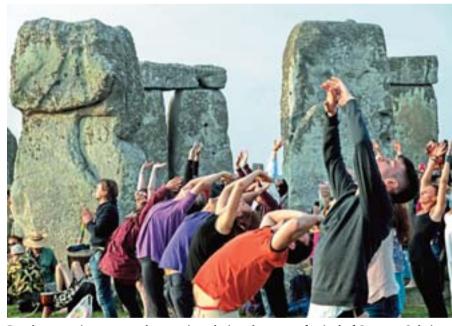


Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel take part in a yoga session on International Yoga Day at BSF headquarters in Khasa on the outskirts of Amritsar.

oga practitioners took a relaxing break to bend, twist and pose yesterday morning for the annual event celebrating the practice, especially in the country where it began. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined 50,000 students and other residents for a mass yoga session in the pouring rain in the northern city of Lucknow to mark International Yoga Day. Similar yoga displays were organized in villages, towns and cities across India and in many other countries.

The United Nations designated International Yoga Day in 2014. In Myanmar, people performed exercises near the Shwedagon pagoda, the landmark Buddhist stupa in Yangon. The practice began in ancient India, and Modi has described yoga as free health insurance and exhorted people to make it a part of their daily lives. Even in the rain, "there is no let down in the enthusiasm of the volunteers," said Lucknow District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma,

Modi, dressed in white, instructed the children at the outdoor yoga session at Rama Bai Ambedkar Ground. Occasionally, he paused to correct a child's posture. "It was a very nice gesture of prime minister to come out of the dry comfort of his waterproof tent and do yoga with us in the open," said 18-year-old student Neha Prakash. "It was not easy. The yoga mat was wet and slippery and water puddles were all around." — AP



Revelers practice yoga as the sun rises during the pagan festival of Summer Solstice at Stonehenge in Wiltshire, southern England.



Indian yoga practitioners participate in a mass yoga session on International Yoga Day in Guwahati.



Indian sports students practice yoga during a session to mark International Yoga at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad.





Indian yoga practitioners participate in a mass yoga session on International Yoga Day in New Delhi.



Yoga master Tao Porchon-Lynch, 98, takes part in a mass yoga session on International Yoga Day at the Shree Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore.