

Sheikh Jaber Causeway nearing completion



Amir, Crown Prince receive Ramadan well-wishers



Kerber in loss, Kvitova wins 'twice' on French Open return



Imsak 03:07 Fajr 03:17 Shorook 04:50 Duhr 11:45 Asr 15:20 Maghrib 18:41 Isha 20:11

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ASSEMBLY MAY WIND UP MID-RAMADAN: SPEAKER

SPECIAL PANEL MEETS WITH PREMIER OVER GRILLING

Min 31°
Max 44°
High Tide 02:57 & 13:27
Low Tide 08:16 & 20:08

conspiracy theories

CYBER-ATTACKS

By Badrya Darwish
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The recent cyber-attacks that affected many countries around the globe made me think about the future of cybercrime, cyber war and our vulnerabilities. How serious can it reach in the future? One of the worst affected by the recent attacks was the NHS system in the UK. The ransomware caused a lot of chaos for doctors, hospitals and patients. Thank God no one died, but it was chaos for a few days. Of course, other firms worldwide were affected too.

Now comes the serious point. First of all, who are these hackers? No one knows. Do they belong to one group? Who commands them? Accusations were thrown left, right and center at certain governments and certain countries, but there was no full proof of who was behind it and I don't buy it. It's easy to cast aspersions without proof, and if they had proof, we would know it.

Could the cyber attackers be a bunch of super intelligent kids hacking the system for fun or profit? Or could it be spy agencies working for certain governments? If these super hackers can invade the US security system and the NSA, how safe should we feel? Maybe this time, it was only certain targets. But this could lead in the future to bigger issues.

How safe are nuclear weapons around the world? And not only nuclear - there are many types of weaponry like biological weapons (germ warfare) owned by different governments and sold to troubled places that could be really vulnerable to attacks by cyber hackers. This time it seemed to be focused on criminals making money. But what if politics enters it? What if groups like Daesh start trying to engage in cyber-attacks?

Everything nowadays is computerized - from airplanes to ships to power plants to hospitals, electricity grids, gas plants, LNG facilities - you name it, it's online. How scary and terrifying it is when you feel that there is no security left in any place in the world, except an African forest. We are entering a new era of global insecurity, unfortunately.

Have a safe week.



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis buy traditional sweet delicacies, popular during Ramadan, at a shop on the second day of the fasting month in Kuwait City yesterday. — Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem said yesterday that the current term of the Assembly is likely to wind up by the middle of Ramadan ahead of the last 10 days of the holy fasting month. Al-Ghanem said that he will invite lawmakers to hold special sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week and the next to debate and approve the state budget and budgets of other government bodies. The Speaker said the Assembly office has not yet decided on the closing date of the assembly but it is expected to be around the middle of the holy month of Ramadan, which falls around June 10.

The assembly has already started to debate the budgets of state institutions and approved about a dozen of them while rejecting two. The budgets committee said yesterday that the government must provide new budgets to replace the rejected one to allow the assembly debate them again. In the meantime, a special assembly panel formed after the grilling of the prime minister yesterday hosted the premier and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah to follow up on the two grillings. Opposition MPs grilled Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah earlier this month over a variety of allegations. The assembly then formed a three-MP panel to follow up on the issues raised during the two grillings. Rapporteur of the committee MP Rakan Al-Nasef said the panel has laid out a mechanism of operation in order to quickly complete its report.

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8 DEAD IN MISSISSIPPI SHOOTING RAMPAGE



BROOKHAVEN: Officers arrest suspect Cory Godbolt yesterday following several fatal shootings Saturday in Lincoln County, Mississippi, officials said. — AP

BROOKHAVEN, Miss: A man who apparently got into a dispute with his wife and in-laws was arrested in a house-to-house shooting rampage in rural Mississippi that left eight people dead, including a sheriff's deputy. "I ain't fit to live, not after what I done," a handcuffed Willie Corey Godbolt, 35, told The Clarion-Ledger.

The shootings took place at three homes Saturday night - two in Brookhaven and one in Bogue Chitto - about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Jackson, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation spokesman Warren Strain said. Strain said charges had yet to be filed and it was too soon to say what the motive was. Authorities gave no details on the relationship between Godbolt and the victims. However, Godbolt himself shed some light on what happened in a video interview with the newspaper

as he sat with his hands cuffed behind his back on the side of a road. Godbolt said he was talking with his wife and members of her family when somebody called authorities.

"I was having a conversation with her stepdaddy and her mama and her, my wife, about me taking my children home," he said. "Somebody called the officer, people that didn't even live at the house. That's what they do. They intervene."

"They cost him his life," he said, apparently referring to the slain deputy. "I'm sorry." The slain deputy was identified as William Durr, 36. The identities of the other victims were not immediately released. Godbolt said he did not intend for police to capture him alive.

"My intentions was to have God kill me. I ran out of bullets," he said. "Suicide by cop was my intention." — AP

2,000 TRAPPED AS FIGHTING RAGES IN PHILIPPINE CITY

MARAWI, Philippines: Two thousand fearful civilians were trapped yesterday inside a southern Philippine city where troops are battling Islamist militants, authorities said, as the death toll from almost a week of fighting neared 100. The military intensified a bombing campaign on parts of Marawi on Mindanao island, one of the biggest Muslim cities in the mainly Catholic nation, as it accused the gunmen of atrocities including murdering women and a child.

The initial fighting prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law on Tuesday across the southern third of the Philippines to quell what he said was a fast-growing threat from terrorists linked to the Islamic State (IS) group. Most of the city's 200,000 residents have

fled because of the fighting, but 2,000 remain trapped in areas controlled by the militants, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee. "They have been sending us text messages, calling our hotline, requesting us to send rescue teams but we cannot simply go to areas which are inaccessible to us," Adiong told AFP.

"They want to leave. They are afraid for their safety. Some are running out of food to eat. They fear they will be hit by bullets, by airstrikes," he said. The military announced on Saturday, the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, that it would step up the bombing.

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ANTI-JIHADIST RAMADAN AD GOES VIRAL

KUWAIT: A video advertisement that depicts a would-be suicide bomber confronted by the faithful has gone viral two days into the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. "Worship your God with love, not terror" is the main message of the three-minute advert posted Friday online by Kuwaiti telecommunications giant Zain, which operates across the Middle East.

"I will tell God everything," says the voiceover of a child at the beginning of the ad as a man is seen preparing a bomb. "That you've filled the cemeteries with our children and emptied our school desks..."

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THE ESSENCE OF RAMADAN

By Hademau Yatera

The word Ramadan is derived from the Arabic root word ramida or ar-ramad signifying strong burning heat and dryness, especially the ground. Thus, the word Ramadan indicates the warm sensation in the stomach as a result of thirst. Spiritually, Ramadan burns out the sins with good deeds, as the sun burns the ground. The hearts and souls of believers are more receptive to the warnings and remembrance of Allah during Ramadan, just as the sand and stones are receptive to the sun's heat. Fasting during the holy month is one of the five pillars of Islam, which also include prayer and charity. To fast, Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, and intimate relations from dawn to sunset.

Muslims traditionally break their fast like the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did some 1,400 years ago, with a sip of water and some dates at sunset. That first sip of water is by far the most anticipated moment of the day. After a sunset prayer, a large feast known as "iftar" is shared with family and friends. Iftar is a social event as much as it is a gastronomic adventure. Across the Arab world, juice made from apricots is a staple at Ramadan iftars.

There is happiness at the time of iftar, or breaking the fast. But the real source of happiness is inner peace.

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ISTANBUL: Turkish soldiers fire a military cannon to mark the end of the day's fasting period on Saturday at the Blue Mosque Square in Istanbul, during the first day of the holy month of Ramadan. — AFP

US MAY BAN LAPTOPS ON INT'L FLIGHTS

WASHINGTON: US Homeland Security John Kelly said yesterday that he was considering banning laptop computers on international flights into and out of the country, amid signs of "a real threat."

Kelly made his remarks during the Memorial Day weekend, one of the busiest travel periods in the US, and at a time when the bombing at a concert in Manchester, England has raised concerns that further attacks-possibly involving explosives packed in electronic devices-might be planned.

"There's a real threat-numerous threats against aviation," Kelly told the Fox News Sunday program, when asked about the likelihood that a wide-reaching ban on large electronics in airplane cabins could be imposed.

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79% OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN REALIZED: SABEEH

'STUDY TO HANDOVER METRO RAIL PROJECT TO KUWAITI INVESTOR'

KUWAIT: Around 79 percent of this year's development plan was completed, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said yesterday, citing a 10 percent increase from last year. Speaking to the press, Sabeeh, who is also Minister of State for Economic Affairs, said that most projects included in the development plan that ended on March 31, are pending, "which is progress towards completion." Moreover, she spoke of the govern-



Hind Al-Sabeeh

ment's resolve to eliminate all hurdles that could impede these projects.

Sabeeh revealed that a grand metro rail project in the works belongs to the Public Private Partnership Authority (PPP), which is considering handing it over to a Kuwaiti investor. On a special bonus pay that the government has introduced to encourage young Kuwaitis to join the private sector, Sabeeh said the monetary sum is still intact. — KUNA

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Oil and Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq said the ministry has collected around KD 1 billion since it started a campaign to collect overdue bills, including KD 33 million collected in May alone. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held at the Ministry of Electricity and Water to celebrate the advent of Ramadan, Marzouq assured all programmed cuts of water or electricity had been halted during Ramadan and stressed that consumers with overdue bills could check with the ministry to reschedule them.

Work permits

The parliamentary budgets and final state-

ment committee stressed that Minister of Social Affairs And Labor and Minister of Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh had not kept her promises on issuing the charters and regulations of issuing work permits and assessing the needed labor.

The committee added that according to the finance ministry's statistics, expats working in Kuwait (including the government and the private sectors) formed 83 percent of the total workforce, while citizens are only 17 percent.



Essam Al-Marzouq

Municipal Council Chairman Muhalhel Al-Khaled said that during its legal tenure of three and a half years, the council has accomplished many projects including contributing to solving the housing problem by releasing more land to be used by the housing authority in building over 275,000 housing units so far. Khaled said the council will hold an ordinary meeting today to review a letter from the council's secretary general Yousif Al-Sogobi about the secretariat general's agenda.



79% OF SHEIKH JABER CAUSEWAY COMPLETED



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced the completion of about 79 percent of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway project. The project is set to open by end of 2018, as the bridge will be the fourth longest in the world with both its Doha and Subbiyah links, said Assistant Undersecretary of Road Engineering at the ministry Ahmad Al-Hessan in a press statement yesterday. The bridge is part of Kuwait's development plan and will aim at reducing traffic and provide more road safety, he noted.

The project of KD 738,750 million cost will create a short cut between Kuwait City and Madinat Al-Hareer (Silk City), which is set to become a main investment area in Kuwait, he added. The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Causeway is one of the largest infrastructure projects to be constructed in the GCC region with an estimated construction value of approximately \$3 billion.

The Main Causeway across Kuwait Bay will link the Shuwaikh Port area on the south side of the bay to the Subbiyah New Town area to the north. The length of the main causeway is 36 km of which 27 km is a marine bridge structure. The Doha Link crosses the south of Kuwait Bay and links Shuwaikh Port with the Doha motorway. The Doha link is 13 km in length and is predominantly a marine bridge structure. — KUNA



Legalese

RAMADAN HOURS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Ask@FajerTheLawyer.com

Ramadan Mubarak to all my readers, I wish them and their families a time of reflection, self-improvement, love, happiness and great food. It is a time where Muslims get together to be compassionate towards each other and others as well, kindness and generosity are encouraged. Ramadan is a religious month yet their laws in Kuwait that affect all of us. Our schedules change, even our work environments change. It all makes sense to those that are used to Ramadan, we wake up late, because we stay up late. We work fewer hours, because we spend more time with family, but for an expat, that is just moved here, Ramadan can be very confusing and maybe even hectic to them. Therefore today I am going to be answering Ramadan related questions.

Working hours

Question: Is it true that only Muslims get fewer working hours for Ramadan and non-Muslims have to work more hours to compensate? What are the maximum working hours per day?

Attorney Fajer: I find this question very strange. As I mentioned above the laws impact everyone, your employer is being unjust and is not following Kuwait labor law which clearly states that "It is forbidden to allow workers to work for more than 48 hours per week or eight hours a day, except in such events as are specified in this Law. Working hours during the month of Ramadan shall be equal to 36 hours per week." It did not refer to Muslim workers but instead all workers alike.

Let me explain the maximum working hours. The working week is six days a week and not five, even though most offices give the 6th day off to the employee as a paid leave. Six working days means six hours per day for Ramadan as the maximum is 36 hours per week.

Eating in public

Question: I moved to Kuwait recently and was not aware that eating and drinking in public was prohibited in Kuwait. My assumption was that fasting was for Muslims only and as a non-Muslim myself I thought I would be able to eat and drink freely. I was told I could not eat at work even though it is a private area and most of us are non-Kuwaiti, do they have the right to do that?

Attorney Fajer: There is a law in Kuwait that was issued in 1968 (nearly 50 years ago), that prohibits people from eating or drinking in public, and prohibits others from assisting people from drinking or eating in public. There is an up to one month jail punishment and/or a fee of up to KD 100 for violators. And yes, your work may enforce the law, and depending on your work place, even though you might not have customers or clients but under law the space may be considered public.

Eid

Question: My boss just told me that I will be working on Eid and was not entitled to the public holiday, he also said that I will not be compensated with overtime, instead I will just get another day off. I do not think that is right, what can I do?

Attorney Fajer: Article 68 of Kuwait Labor Law states that:

"The fully-paid official holidays are as follows:

- Hegeira New Year: 1 day
- Isra' and Mi'raj day: 1 day
- Eid Al-Fitr: 3 days
- Waqfat Arafat: 1 day
- Eid Al-Adha: 3 days
- Prophet's Birthday (Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi): 1 day
- National Day: 1 day
- Gregorian New Year: 1 day

In the event where the worker is required to work during any of the above mentioned holidays, he shall be entitled to a double remuneration and an additional day off."

I think the law is extremely clear that you should be compensated with double your daily wage, which is your monthly salary divided by 26, as well as an additional day off.

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

COMMERCE MINISTRY CONFRONTS COMMERCIAL FRAUD: ROUDHAN



Khaled Al-Roudhan

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan stressed that the ministry is monitoring prices of all goods and combating commercial fraud against consumers. While inspecting some cooperative societies on Saturday, Roudhan, also Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said in a press statement that the ministry is keen on implementing laws and decisions as part of policies aiming to maintain market stability and protect consumers.

The ministry is also launching intensive campaigns at cooperative societies, central markets and commercial shops, and companies producing foodstuffs, meat, vegetables and fruits across the country for the same purpose, he empathized. The campaign aims to monitor prices at markets and protect consumers from any exploitations, he noted. He affirmed the ministry's determination to combat any commercial fraud legally. — KUNA

SUPREME FAMILY COUNCIL MEMBERS DISCUSS DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

KUWAIT: Members of the Supreme Family Council met on Saturday to discuss formation of teams aimed at addressing domestic violence and social changes in the Kuwaiti society. Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares said in a statement a team would be tasked with monitoring medical and social developments of the society and how they were related to objectives of the supreme council. A second team will be preparing and establishing a center to house those subjected to domestic violence, he said. — KUNA

CUCUMBER PRICES UP BY 300%

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Last month, Kuwait Times started a campaign to investigate the price changes of some basic commodities. Starting a month prior to Ramadan, the weekly campaign runs through June 2017.

The survey compares the prices per kilo of five different kinds of commodities sold at co-ops on a weekly basis. These items are the most popular, whose prices usually hike during Ramadan. This year we also added eggs, milk and frozen chicken to the earlier list of minced meat, chicken, tomatoes, lemons and cucumbers.

Comparing the price registered two weeks ago with the prices registered this week, we noticed a significant increase in the price of cucumber; by almost 300 percent. Meanwhile, the price of tomatoes increased by the double.

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



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti shops for fruits at a market on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan in downtown Kuwait City on May 27, 2017. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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

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

POLICE ARRESTS CITIZEN WHO ATTACKED COPS

COP KILLER SENTENCED; AL-FALI DEPORTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun, Meshaal Al-Enezi and agencies

KUWAIT: Security forces arrested a citizen who attacked earlier police officers while trying to arrest him after committing several traffic violations, the Interior ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

Al-Jahra security patrols tried to stop a vehicle in Al-Ouyoon area after its driver committed several traffic violations, the statement said, adding when the driver stopped he turned out to be in an abnormal condition and when security men tried to arrest him a crowd of people gathered in the place, enabling him to escape.

The accused assaulted security men and tried to escape, the statement noted. The statement pointed out that security men managed to arrest the accused, a citizen, and later data inquiring on the vehicle appeared to show various violations by the driver.

Sentenced

Meanwhile, the criminal court yesterday sentenced to death a citizen who deliberately ran over a policeman and killed him during the National Day celebrations last year. The verdict was passed after the forensic medicine report confirmed that the defendant was fully aware and responsible for his actions and after hearing his confessions that clearly showed he had fallen under the influence of radical terrorist groups.

Deported

Separately, the Ministry of Interior said Saturday it deported Mohammad Al-Fali after entering Kuwait with a different name and false personal information. The security authorities discovered the real identity of Fali "and he was immediately deported in less than 24 hours of his attempt to enter the country," the ministry said in a statement. It urged social media users to refrain from publishing

"false" information about Fali issue. The ministry did not elaborate on the case of Fali.

Immigration working hours

The immigration directorate announced that the official working hours in all six immigration departments during Ramadan will be from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm (morning shift), while the afternoon shift in the Capital, Farwaniya and Ahamdi governorates would be from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

Traffic campaigns

Traffic police launched several inspection campaigns during the third week of May, which resulted in filing 37,912 citations, impounding 594 vehicles and two bikes, arresting 60 motorists, deporting seven expats for driving without driver's licenses and locating 25 vehicles that were reported wanted in various cases.



KUWAIT: Hawally municipality inspectors inspected various foodstuff stores, warehouse and restaurants in the area, which resulted in confiscating and destroying 164 kilos of inedible foodstuff including 115 kilos of fish, 49 kilos of desserts in addition to filing five citations.



KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah enters as His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other top officials are seen in the background. — Amiri Diwan photos



Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE RAMADAN WELL WISHERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Al-Sabah

family received state officials, commanders of army, police, national guard and fire department, and diplomats on occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The reception,

held at Al-Sabah family Diwan at Bayan Palace on Saturday, reflected the 'one-family spirit of the Kuwaiti society,' the Amiri Diwan said in a statement. Yesterday, the Amiri

Diwan expressed gratitude to all those who congratulated His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, and Al-Sabah family on occasion of the holy month of

Ramadan. On this occasion, the Amiri Diwan also extended its congratulations to citizens and expatriates, wishing for their well-being during the blessed month. — KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Mahmoud Al-Dousari greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



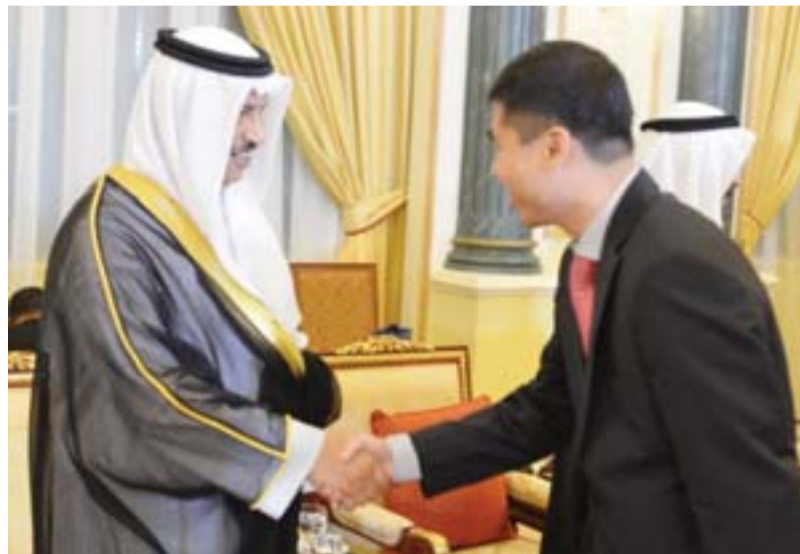
Head of the Court of Cassation and Constitutional Court Justice Yousef Al-Mutawa'a greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



MP Abdullah Al-Roumi greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khedhr greets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di greets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.



Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Hamed bin Saied Al Ibrahim greets His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Al-Fayez greets Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.



Citizens greet senior Al-Sabah family members.



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa Daily Yousuf Al-Marzouq greets His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwait

Heritage



This photo shows some workers standing outside one of the gates of the Kuwait Wall in 1946. Kuwait was in a state of economic recession at the time as a result of the declining pearl diving profession due to the discovery of artificial pearls. The activity of trade coming from the Arabian Peninsula declined as a consequence as well. (source: The 'Picture Post' magazine, volume 32. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Aby Alella, Researcher in Heritage, Ministry of Information)



Jerry Lopez

'ACCEPT AND RESPECT ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE'

By Ben Garcia

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

Jerry Lopez is 54 years of age from Cebu, Philippines. He works as a Mechanical Engineer, and has spent the past 26 years outside of his home country. He has three grown-up children.

"As an engineer, I would like be of help to Kuwait by doing my work diligently and share my expertise with junior engineers. I also work as a lecturer and trainer," he said when asked how he as an expat can contribute to make this country a better place. "If I share the knowledge I have, it can go further beyond my expectations. I am not selfish and love to share the skills I have. I can contribute greatly to this nation if I set a good example to other expatriates residing in Kuwait by adhering to governmental rules and regulations, being friendly with the locals and sharing my knowledge and skills with them to make them responsible citizens, and accept and respect all kinds of people. As an expat engineer, I am also active and participate in the work of any organization providing services to the community, particularly in promoting camaraderie among locals and other expatriates with a common goal of making Kuwait a safe and peaceful place to live in."

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Omar Khalil, 1st place winner of the 2017 Kuwait Microsoft Imagine Cup in April 2017, for his innovative project "Artopia," which allows users to create 3D paintings in augmented reality using their smart phones. His win qualifies him to represent Kuwait in the regional competition in Beirut, Lebanon in May 2017.

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

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Crime

Report

MAN STABBED OVER BROKEN CAR DEAL

KUWAIT: A citizen sustained various injuries after being stabbed in the thigh and arm during a fight with two others in Sabahiya over a deal to sell a used vehicle. According to security sources, the two assailants had bought the vehicle from the man and paid him a down payment before they found out that the vehicle's engine was broken. The seller refused to refund the down payment, which prompted the attack.

Murder threat

A citizen called police reporting that someone was about to kill him, said security sources. Detectives immediately rushed to the scene and interrogated the suspect, who denied any intention to kill his friend and said that he only made such claims in retaliation because he had been calling his girlfriend while playing with his friend's mobile phone.

Thieves caught

Three Asians were arrested in Nogra with the possession of construction materials and equipment that they had stolen from Jaber Al-Ahmed, said security sources, adding that two of them had expired residency visas. Meanwhile, two Asians were arrested for stealing 1.5 tons of charcoal from a citizen's farm in Wafra, said security sources.

Missing jewelry

A female citizen filed a complaint against a friend saying that she had borrowed KD 3,200 from her, and in return kept her jewelry, which is much more expensive, with her until she paid her back. She added that when she returned the money, her friend claimed that the jewelry was stolen. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Bracelets stolen

A female citizen reported that an unidentified woman stole her daughter's golden bracelets while she was shopping in Fahaheel, said security sources. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress to identify the woman.

Dud check

A search is on for a citizen who bought an expensive watch for KD 6,400, but paid for it with a dud check.

Investigation

A wide scale investigation is currently in progress to find out how a suspect who had been arrested for forging permissions to enter oil facilities for eight citizens had fled the country, said security sources. The suspect charged KD 70 per permission, the source said, adding that he was banned from traveling pending further investigations but managed to leave the country.

—Translated from the Arabic press



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

THE DEVIL'S EXCREMENT

By Hassan Al-Essa

"Oil is the devil's excrement. You will see that within ten or twenty years from now, oil will bring us devastation!" This statement was said by Juan Pablo Alfonso, a prominent Venezuelan diplomat, politician and lawyer primarily responsible for the inception and creation of OPEC along with the first Saudi oil minister, Abdullah Al-Turaifi. So, was Alfonso a fortune teller predicting the future of his country when describing the 'black gold' oil as the 'Devil's excrement'?

Venezuela used to be Latin America's richest country until the late 1970s. It used to be the happiest. A weekly flight left from Paris to the Caracas airport. The people enjoyed a luxurious lifestyle that they thought would never end. What happened to Venezuela and its people now? Fearful mafia groups' business in kidnapping people and demanding ransoms is flourishing. Long queues of people stand in line to purchase a can of milk or eggs with a currency that is degrading on a daily basis.

Inflation rates have exceeded 400 percent, new notes are being printed without economic reserves, hospitals lack transfusion bags and sanitizers and crime is prevailing on the streets of a city that used to be the happiest in the continent. Can we blame the late socialist president Chavez for today's Venezuela? Chavez was a stubborn fighter who started his presidency by building houses for the poor and nationalizing many private financial establishments belonging to the capitalists who had been looting the country with hopes of achieving sort of social justice in his country.

However, neither him nor his successor, Maduro managed to

turn the country into socialism like that Castro made in Cuba. He wanted socialism through ballots and referendums and private establishments continued occupying a large portion of economic activities. So, what happened and who is to blame? The United States and its followers imposed economic embargo on the Venezuelan regime when it wanted to make independent political and economic decisions.

The Venezuelan people sufferings did not start with Chavez or with the international US-led financial war against it. Financial corruption snakes that kept changing with each regime were not the only reason, either. All this takes us back to Alfonso's prophecy about the Devil's Excrement. It was the prime ailment as the state got addicted to oil and relied on it as the sole source of national income. The Venezuelan wound opened wide with the oil prices fall in 2014 and, along with corruption and the US economic war, this only added more salt to the wound.

So, will we ever learn any lesson from the bitter Venezuelan experience? Our countries are not richer than Venezuela in natural resources. Our people are not more aware or educated. Our regimes are not as democratic as, or even close to, that in Venezuela. The only two differences are that we are still faithful allies to the US and the fact that, while the Venezuelan people are currently facing facts and dealing with them, we are still afraid of facing such facts and insist on carrying on with long economic and political leaves. We will never sober up and our children will pay for it when they find themselves surrounded by devil's excrements.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HUMANITY LAND

By Arwa Al-Waqian

A quick glance at where one works, goes shopping or visits the hospital for a medical checkup, one will find so many people who had been victims of human trafficking and exploitation that some of us are unaware of. Most porters, cleaners or kitchen labor in various ministries are Indians and Bangladeshis living under extreme conditions with salaries between KD 60 and 120 for 16 hours a week. And just imagine them going back to their accommodation where 4-6 people live in one room. They only have 30 days off a year and have to pay for their own flight tickets.

All the above is complete injustice and dreadful human tragedy that even exceeds those poor workers. In fact, it also includes hospital staff with higher degrees who are also subject to human trafficking such as Indian nurses recruited on condition that they pay KD 9,000 as a commission to the company that brings them to Kuwait and deducts monthly cuts from their salaries over two years to pay that commission off. The same applies to other staffs including technicians, pharmacists and others paying different commissions according to their salaries.

A nurse is paid KD 600-700 and if he or she happens to be married and their families live in Kuwait, they have to pay at least KD 250 for rent leaving them with only KD 100-200, which is barely enough to live though nursing staffs in particular should not go through such tension or hardships. The commission they pay turns their life into hell. The same tragedy applies for security guards in various hotels or ministries. They have to work for 13-16 hours receiving no more than KD 120 without any breaks, weekends or leaves on official occasions.

They have their salaries deducted even if they take one day off. They also live in tragic accommodations without any privacy. Major merchants belonging to the largest Kuwaiti families are trading in human beings. What is happening in Kuwait is a real tragedy. Even after you read my article in this burning summer heat and while going home, you will see the painful scene of ice cream vendors standing under extreme heat for hours to sell ice cream for very cheap prices while you, the customer, sit in the convenience of your air-conditioned vehicle complaining about the heat!

I feel pain when seeing such scenes on a daily basis. There is an example of violating someone's humanity everywhere, though this someone had only come to Kuwait with dreams of providing his family with a decent living. He thought of Kuwait as the land of wealth and dreams. He never knew that the moment he lands here, he would have to let go of his humanity and say goodbye to sleep and comfort for years to come. This country that reaches out with benevolence worldwide is full of images violating the humanity of the hardworking expatriate laborers.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



ZAIN DELIVERS 'MACHLA BOXES' TO KRCS AND ZAKAT HOUSE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced that its volunteers delivered essential food supplies 'Machla Boxes' to Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and Zakat House. The initiative came as part of the company's efforts to support underprivileged families in Kuwait as part of its CSR Campaign during the holy month of Ramadan.

Distributing 'Machla boxes' is one of the main pillars of Zain's annual Ramadan campaign, which comes in line with the company's Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategy. Zain's own team of volunteers packed the boxes - containing essential food supplies - at the company's main headquarters and delivered them to representatives from Kuwait Red Crescent Society and Zakat House.

Zain's distribution plan assures the delivery of essential food supplies to leading charitable organizations who will in turn distribute them to those in need in order to ensure underprivi-

leged families have enough quantities of the most basic supplies during Ramadan. This initiative is part of a series of programs the company is planning to conduct throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan with the aim of having a deep positive impact on the community's various segments, especially the most vulnerable ones.

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

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday lives.

NBK SPONSORS STUDENTS HONORING CEREMONY

KUWAIT: For the tenth year in a row, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) will sponsor the Ministry of Education's ceremony to honor the outstanding high school graduates for the school year 2016-2017. The ceremony is due to be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 under auspices of Education Minister Dr Mohammed Al-Fares at KU's Shuwaikh campus. NBK will also sponsor a UNIEXPO to be organized by Kuwait University's students affairs deanery with participation of over 50 universities, colleges and educational facilities in the period of June 11-13, 2017.



KFH ORGANIZES VISIT TO NURSING HOMES



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized a visit to nursing homes, as part of its social responsibility and within the framework of Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 3'. KFH's Public Relations team handed out gifts to the elderly in continuation of its efforts to communicate with all seg-

ments of the society in the holy month of Ramadan. KFH is keen on strengthening its social charity deeds for public welfare institutions, which is part of the social values. This step contributes in easing the suffering of the elderly while putting a smile on their faces. KFH has been always striving for optimally shoul-



dering the social responsibility, caring for the elderly and offering gifts on various occasions. It is worth noting that KFH underlines its commitment towards assuming the social responsibility, as it firmly believes that it is an important humanitarian role and reflects its Islamic identity.



Two men killed in Oregon train after anti-Muslim rant

BANGLADESH CUSTOMS HIT GOLD BONANZA IN UNLIKELY PLACES

TRUMP GIRDS FOR DEFENSE OF SON-IN-LAW

RUSSIA PROBE PIERCES WHITE HOUSE INNER CIRCLE • KUSHNER DOES NOT PLAN TO CHANGE JOB

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump, just back from his first international trip as US president, geared up to combat concerns yesterday over aides' ties to Russia including explosive reports that his son-in-law sought a secret communications line with Moscow. The latest furor was stirred up after The Washington Post reported late Friday that Jared Kushner - arguably Trump's closest White House aide, and husband to the president's eldest daughter Ivanka - made a pre-inauguration proposal to the Russian ambassador to set up a secret, bug-proof link with the Kremlin.

Kushner, 36, even suggested using Russian diplomatic facilities in the United States to protect such a channel from monitoring, The Post said, quoting US officials briefed on intelligence reports. The report, if confirmed, would raise new questions about the Trump team's relationship with the Russians, who US intelligence agencies say tried to sway the November election in Trump's favor.

News reports said the White House, reeling from the explosive developments in the long-running Russia saga, is creating a new rapid-fire communications unit to respond to the controversy, led by Kushner, senior presidential adviser Steve Bannon and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus. Though Kushner has appeared "subdued", he does not plan to step aside as Trump's senior adviser or reduce his responsibilities, the New York Times reported, citing unnamed people close to him.

'Naive' or 'Sinister'

After some delay, a senior Trump administration official en route back to Washington briefed reporters for almost 25 minutes, on matters from anti-terror cooperation to the administration's view that the summit had been a smashing success - despite huge differences on climate change. Trump plans to make an announcement within the week on his climate position, the official said. But the said official did not address the Kushner reports Saturday.

Trump then returned to Washington Saturday night from his first overseas trip, to the Middle East and Europe. Accompanied by first lady Melania, Trump waved to reporters as he made his way into the White House but made no comment. National Security Advisor H R McMaster refused to talk about the allegations. But he said that in general, "We have backchannel communication with a number of countries. What that allows you to do is communicate in a discrete manner." "I would not be concerned about it," he added.

But a former head of the US National



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump walk from Marine One across the South Lawn to White House in Washington on Saturday as they return from Sigonella, Italy. — AP

Security Agency harshly condemned Kushner's alleged effort to set up a secret communications line, saying if it is true, it would reveal a dangerous degree of ignorance or naivete. "What manner of ignorance, chaos, hubris, suspicion, contempt would you have to have to think that doing this with the

Russian ambassador was a good or appropriate idea?" Michael Hayden said on CNN. He said he leaned toward "naivete" as an explanation, though he did not find it comforting.

Malcolm Nance, a retired naval officer and expert on terrorism and intelligence, said: "This is now sinister. There is no way this can

be explained, from the intelligence perspective." That is indicative of espionage activity of an American citizen that is working in league with a hostile government," he told MSNBC.

The Washington Post said Kushner's secret communications proposal was made Dec 1 or 2 at Trump Tower in New York, according to

intercepts of Russian communications that were reviewed by US officials. Michael Flynn, who was Trump's national security adviser for just 24 days before being fired amid questions about meetings he held with the Russian ambassador, was also present, the newspaper reported.

The Post said the Russian ambassador to the United States, Sergei Kislyak, was surprised by the future White House aide's idea of a secret channel and passed it on to the Kremlin. The New York Times said the channel was never established. Trump returned to Washington to face a cascade of other worries related to the Russia probe in the coming days, including expected testimony by fired former FBI director James Comey before a Senate committee.

In another development, The New York Times reported Friday that Oleg Deripaska, a Russian once close to Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort, has offered to cooperate with congressional bodies probing alleged Russian election meddling.

Not yet a 'target'

Kushner boasts an enormous portfolio of domestic and international responsibilities underscoring his importance as Trump's chief aide-de-camp, despite having no experience in politics before the 2016 White House race. He is the only person currently in the White House known to be under investigation. The Post and other media have been careful to note that their sources did not say Kushner was a "target" of the investigation, nor that he was accused of any wrongdoing. Labeling him a "target" would suggest Kushner was a main suspect of the investigation.

But there have been a number of as yet unexplained contacts - during last year's presidential campaign against Democrat Hillary Clinton and afterward - between other top Trump aides and senior Russian officials, including Flynn, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Manafort and others. The investigation is being led by Robert Mueller, a respected former FBI director who was given broad powers to pursue the case as a special counsel after Trump abruptly fired Comey on May 9.

The Senate and House Intelligence committees also are investigating, but not with an eye to bringing criminal charges. Former CIA director John Brennan revealed this week that intelligence chiefs had been looking into suspicious contacts between Trump campaign associates and Russian officials since mid-2016. Trump denies any collusion with Russia, calling the probe "the greatest witch hunt" in American political history. — AFP

EMBATTLED TRUMP EYES WHITE HOUSE OVERHAUL, OUTSIDE LAWYERS, PR TEAM

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is considering overhauling his White House staff and bringing back top campaign strategists, frustrated by what he views as his team's inability to contain the burgeoning crisis involving alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Expanding teams of lawyers and experienced public relations hands are being recruited to deal with the drumbeat of new revelations about Moscow's interference and possible improper dealings with the Trump campaign and associates. The disclosures dogged the president during his first trip abroad since taking office and threaten to overwhelm and stall the agenda for his young administration.

As he mulls outside reinforcements to his operation, Trump returned late Saturday from his nine-day journey to a White House seemingly in crisis mode, with a barrage of reports hitting close to the Oval Office and involving Jared Kushner, his son-in-law and influential adviser. White House aides prepared for potential changes ahead, with the president dismayed by what he perceives to be his communication team's failures to push back against the allegations. A rally planned Thursday in Iowa was postponed due to "an unforeseen change" in Trump's schedule.

The latest reports in the Russia matter said Kushner spoke with Russia's ambassador to the United States about setting up secret communications with Moscow during the presidential transition. While overseas, Trump's longtime lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, joined a still-forming legal team to help the president shoulder the intensifying investigations into Russian interference in the election and his associates' potential involvement. More attorneys with deep experience in Washington investigations are expected to be added, along with crisis communication experts, to help the White House in the weeks ahead.

"They need to quarantine this stuff and put the investigations in a separate communications operation," said Jack Quinn, who served as White House counsel for President Bill Clinton. During the Monica Lewinsky investigation, the Clinton White House brought on a dedicated group of lawyers and a created a separate media operation to handle investigation-related inquiries so they didn't completely subsume the president's agenda. "I think that was enormously helpful," Quinn said.

Communications Problem

Trump, according to one person familiar with his thinking, believed he was facing more of a communications problem than a legal one, despite the intensifying inquiries. The

person, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss private conversations. As he mulls new additions and outside reinforcements, Trump has entertained bringing his former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and former deputy campaign manager, David Bossie, formally back into the fold. Both Lewandowski and Bossie discussed the prospect with the president before his trip, according to one person told of the conversations.

Lewandowski's return would be a particularly notable development, given the fact that he was fired by Trump after clashing with other staff as well as Trump's adult children. Nonetheless, Lewandowski, who led the small team that steered Trump's primary victory, has the trust of the president - an advantage that many of Trump's aides lack. Trump called his maiden trip abroad a "home run", but while the White House had hoped it would serve as a reset, attention on the Russia probe has only increased.

Recently appointed special counsel Robert Mueller, a former FBI director, is starting off an investigation with a broad mandate that will allow him to probe both the possible Russian influence and whether Trump attempted to obstruct the investigation by firing FBI Director James Comey. Heightening concerns for the White House, Comey is expected to testify before Congress after Memorial Day about memos he kept on conversations with the president that pertained to the investigation.

The White House also grappled with reports that Kushner proposed setting up a secret back channel between the Kremlin and the Trump transition team during a December meeting. Kushner spoke with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the US, about creating the secret line to make it easier to hold sensitive discussions about the conflict in Syria, according to a person familiar with the discussions. The back channel was meant to connect Michael Flynn, who later became Trump's first national security adviser, with Russian military leaders, said the person, who wasn't authorized to publicly discuss private policy considerations and spoke on condition of anonymity. Flynn was fired in February, officials saying he misled Vice President Mike Pence about whether he and the ambassador had discussed US sanctions against Russia in a phone call. — AP

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TO MANY AMERICANS, MEMORIAL DAY HAS LOST ITS MEANING

ANNVILLE, Pennsylvania: Allison Jaslow heard it more than once as the long holiday weekend approached - a cheerful "Happy Memorial Day!" from oblivious well-wishers. The former Army captain and Iraq War veteran had a ready reply, telling them, matter-of-factly, that she considered it a work weekend. Jaslow will be at Arlington National Cemetery

today to take part in the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She'll then visit Section 60, the final resting place of many service members who died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You can see it in people's faces that they're a little horrified that they forget this is what the day's about," said Jaslow, 34, who

wears a bracelet bearing the name of a fallen comrade. "Culturally, we've kind of lost sight of what the day's supposed to mean."

While millions of Americans celebrate the long Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial start of summer - think beaches and backyard barbecues, mattress sales and sporting events - some veterans and loved ones of fallen military members wish the holiday that honors more than 1 million people who died serving their country would command more respect. Or at least awareness. "It's a fun holiday for people. Let's party! It's an extra day off from work," said Carol Resh, 61, whose son, Army Capt. Mark Resh, was killed in Iraq a decade ago. "It's not that they're doing it out of malice. It just hasn't affected them."

Veterans groups say a growing military-civilian disconnect contributes to a feeling that Memorial Day has been overshadowed. More than 12 percent of the US population served in the armed forces during World War II. That's down to less than one-half of a percent today, guaranteeing more Americans aren't personally acquainted with a soldier, sailor, airman or Marine. With an all-voluntary military, shared sacrifice is largely a thing of the past - even as US troops remain in Afghanistan and Iraq nearly 16 years after 9/11.

"There are a lot of things working against this particular holiday," said Brian Duffy, commander in chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "It hurts," Duffy said. For combat veterans and Gold Star families especially, "it hurts

that, as a society, we don't truly understand and appreciate what the true meaning of Memorial Day is." Jaslow's group, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, is trying to raise awareness with its #GoSilent campaign, which encourages Americans to pause for a moment of silence at 3 pm Monday to remember the nation's war dead.

'Super Bowl'

Of course, plenty of Americans already observe the holiday. At Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annullville, about 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia, fresh flowers mark hundreds of graves, and fields of newly erected American flags flap in the breeze. Hundreds of motorcyclists thundered in for a Saturday service. By the end of the weekend, thousands of people will have come to the cemetery to pay their respects. "This is our Super Bowl," said Randy Plummer, the cemetery's administrative officer.

Jim Segletes, 65, a Vietnam-era Marine visiting the grave of his father-in-law, a World War II veteran who died in 2000, said he thinks Americans became more patriotic and aware of military sacrifice after 9/11. "Everyone is more in tune with veterans, more so than when I was in the service," he said. Douglas and Rene Kicklighter, Iraq veterans at the cemetery with their 10- and 12-year-old sons, said they believe most people understand what the holiday's about. But they, too, cringe when they hear: "Happy Memorial Day." "It's not happy," said Rene

Kicklighter, 37, who retired from the Army National Guard. "It's somber. I try to flip the lens on the conversation a bit and gently remind them what it's really about."

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, was conceived after the Civil War as a way to honor the Union's war dead, with Southern states setting aside separate days to honor fallen Confederate soldiers. By the early 20th century, the holiday had evolved to honor all military members who died in service.

Some veterans say Memorial Day began to be watered down more than four decades ago when Congress changed the date from its traditional May 30 to the last Monday in May to give people a three-day weekend. Arguing that transformed a solemn day of remembrance into one associated with leisure and recreation, veterans groups have long advocated a return to May 30. For years, the late Hawaii Sen Daniel Inouye, a World War II veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, asked Congress to change it back, to no avail.

That leaves it to people like Resh, the Gold Star mother, to spread the message. Invited to speak to high school students in Allentown, Pennsylvania, she said she told them, "What is the true meaning of Memorial Day? Ask any Gold Star family and they'll tell you what it means. It's not about the picnics. It's about the men and women who have given their lives for this country. 'Every day is Memorial Day for us.'" —AP



LOS ANGELES: A scout places a flag beside gravestones at the Los Angeles National Cemetery on Saturday ahead of Memorial Day. —AFP

NEWCOMER MACRON MAKES MARK - WITH TRUMP, WORLD

FRENCH PRESIDENT CEMENTS STATUS AS NEW GLOBAL PLAYER

TAORMINA, Italy: Within days of taking the French presidency, Emmanuel Macron faced a string of diplomatic tests - pushing the Paris climate deal on a skeptical Donald Trump, rallying European allies to do more to fight Syria's extremists, and now hosting Vladimir Putin. Europe has a lot riding on Macron's diplomatic performance. So far, it appears, so good. Macron struck up an unusually chummy rapport in his first meetings with Trump, winning a handshake contest and the US leader's cellphone number, despite their stark political differences. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, too, is warming to the energetic Macron - they've already met three times in the two weeks since Macron took office - and is

2012 to 2014, then as his economy minister. Beyond the important issues Macron's tackling, his body language drew the most public attention on his summit outings.

Symbolic Image

The most symbolic image was his handshake with Trump at their first meeting, in Brussels. After some friendly chatter, the two gripped each other's hands so tightly before the cameras that their jaws seemed to clench. It looked like Trump was ready to pull away first, but Macron wasn't quite ready to disengage. Macron later described the handshake as "a moment of truth" - designed to show that he's no pushover. "My handshake

German friendship. Germany is hoping Macron jump-starts France's economy, a pillar of European unity and the shared euro currency.

British Prime Minister Theresa May was visibly touched when Macron addressed his condolences in English following the Manchester attack that killed 22 people. "We were very shocked, because ... we know how this can hurt the people of your country, but more generally for Europe. Because they attack our young, and very young people," Macron told her. Both leaders pushed to get a separate, unanimous statement on the fight against terrorism by the G-7. The text is appealing to Internet providers and social media companies to more actively fight extremism, an issue widely promoted by Macron during his presidential campaign.

Macron has promised to discuss the Syria crisis today with Russia's president when he visits the royal palace in Versailles. That may be Macron's toughest test so far, amid tensions over Moscow's role in fighting in Syria and Ukraine, and after Putin openly supported rival French candidate Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Front party. "Russia invaded Ukraine," Macron told a news conference Saturday.

On Syria, where extremists plotted attacks against France and where Europe's migrant crisis began, he said, "I said at the G-7 table that I don't regard it as a collective victory that on Syria ... not one of us was capable of being around the table. You have Russia, Iran and Turkey. That is a defeat." "So we must talk to Russia to change the framework for getting out of the military crisis in Syria and to build a much more collective and integrated inclusive political solution," he added. The G-7 called on Russia to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and said they "stand ready to take further restrictive measures in order to increase costs on Russia should its actions so require."

Macron promised he will have a "demanding dialogue with Russia, but it means having a dialogue". At the end of the G-7, Macron appeared to soften his stance on the climate talks, the most problematic issue between the US and the six other nations. Macron showed unfailing optimism.

While Merkel called the G-7 climate talks "very difficult, if not to say, very unsatisfactory," Macron said. "I think Mr Trump is someone who is pragmatic and so I have good hopes that having considered the arguments put forward by various people and his country's own interest he will confirm his commitment (to the accord) - in his own time." "I saw someone who listens and who is willing to work," he added. "For Mr Trump and myself, it was a first experience. I think he saw the purpose of these multilateral discussions."

Optimism, and an almost constant smile on the face, are part of Macron's strategy French voters are now getting used to. The French leader was especially careful to avoid diplomatic or political faux-pas only two weeks before crucial legislative elections. Macron needs to get a majority at France's lower house of parliament to fully implement his pro-European, pro-free market agenda. Meanwhile, his wife Brigitte Macron experienced the role of first lady, symbolizing easygoing French chic, and at ease with other spouses, especially with Melania Trump with whom she was seen chatting. —AP



TAORMINA, Italy: French President Emmanuel Macron speaks during a G7 closing news conference in this Sicilian town on Saturday. —AP

pinning hopes on him to boost Europe's economy and unity. Macron is eager to dispel doubts about his presidential stature that have dogged him since he launched a wild-card presidential bid just six months ago. During his very first days in office, he visited Berlin and a French military base in Mali, where the country's troops are fighting Islamic extremism. Then over this past week, he cemented his status as a new global player at a NATO summit in Brussels and a Group of Seven summit in Italy.

While he has never held elected office before, Macron was helped by his comfortable English and backstage knowledge of international summits gained as top economic adviser to predecessor Francois Hollande from

with him, it wasn't innocent," Macron told newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche, in comments confirmed by his office. "One must show that you won't make small concessions, even symbolic ones."

The next day at the G-7 summit in Sicily, Macron attracted attention for his friendly interactions with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. At their bilateral meeting, Macron, 39, and Trudeau, 45, went on a terrace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, where they posed for photographers, surrounded by flowers. Macron showed proximity with other leaders, joking and making a gentle tap on the arm a habit. He often paid special attention to Merkel - as if making efforts to embody the French-



MOSUL: Iraqi forces advance in Mosul's western Al-Saha neighborhood during their ongoing battle to retake the area from Islamic State (IS) group fighters yesterday. —AFP

IS SNIPERS, SUICIDE BOMBERS SLOWING ADVANCE IN MOSUL

BAGHDAD: The advance of government troops slowed yesterday in the last push to drive Islamic State group militants from remaining pockets of Mosul, two Iraqi military officers said. On Saturday, US-backed Iraqi forces began a new offensive to recapture the Old City from three directions. Hours after announcing the push, the government said two military officers were killed in clashes in the Shafaa neighborhood on the Tigris River.

IS militants have deployed snipers, suicide car bombers and suicide attackers on foot, the officers said. They described the advance on Mosul's Old City as "cautious" and the clashes on Sunday as "sporadic" without giving details on casualty figures from either side. The troops captured Ibn Sina hospital, part of the sprawling medical complex in the Shafaa neighborhood, the officers added. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Mosul's wide-scale military operation was launched in October and its eastern half was declared liberated in January. The push for the city's west began the following month. The IS hold on Mosul has shrunk to just a handful of neighborhoods in and around the Old City district where narrow streets and a dense civilian population are expected to complicate the fight there. —AP

News

in brief

Palestinians ban divorces during month of Ramadan

RAMALLAH: The head of Palestinian Islamic courts yesterday told judges not to grant divorces over Ramadan, fearing the month-long fast could spark rash words that would be regretted later. Judge Mahmud Habash said he based his ruling on "the experience of previous years" when he found that the dawn-to-dusk fast and ban on cigarettes, which began on Saturday, tended to lead to frayed tempers and sharp tongues. "Some, because they have not eaten and not smoked, create problems" in their marriages, he said in a statement, and they can make "quick and ill-considered decisions". According to the Palestinian Authority, 50,000 weddings were celebrated in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 2015, but more than 8,000 divorces were also registered. Endemic unemployment and poverty are said to be major contributing factors. There is no civil marriage or divorce in the Palestinian territories, where only religious courts have those powers.

Ansar Al-Sharia group announces dissolution

TRIPOLI: The Libyan jihadist group Ansar Al-Sharia, which is linked to Al-Qaeda and deemed a terrorist organization by the UN and United States, announced its "dissolution" in a communique published online on Saturday. Washington accuses the group of being behind the Sept 11, 2012 attack on the US consulate in the eastern city of Benghazi in which ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed. East Libyan military strongman Khalifa Haftar earlier this month launched an offensive to oust fighters from their two remaining strongholds in Benghazi. In its communique Ansar al-Sharia said it had been "weakened" by the fighting. The group lost its leader, Mohammed Azawah, in clashes with Haftar's forces in Benghazi at the end of 2014. Most of its members then defected to the so-called Islamic State group. Ansar Al-Sharia later joined the Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi, a local alliance of Islamist militias.

PRESSURE ON ZUMA AS ANC LEADERSHIP MEETS

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's President Jacob Zuma faced further opposition at a meeting of his party's top leadership yesterday but managed to sidestep a no-confidence vote after a turbulent three-day gathering. The meeting in Pretoria comes as Zuma faces growing criticism within the ruling African National Congress, which sharpened after a March cabinet reshuffle when he sacked respected finance minister Pravin Gordhan.

But plans to debate a no-confidence motion in Zuma were blocked by the chairman of the meeting of the ANC's executive committee (NEC), state-owned broadcaster SABC said. Local media reports said several NEC members had tried to force a debate on his future. Speaking to local media on Saturday, ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe said the leadership was aware of reports that there was going

to be blood on the floor. "We've not seen that blood on the floor - yet," he said, while stressing that the removal of Zuma was "not an agenda item". The party leadership was expected to wrap up its talks during the evening.

'In his pocket'

The Sunday Times wrote in its leading article that Zuma has survived a string of scandals "precisely because most of the NEC is in his pocket". "Although his opponents went to this weekend's NEC meeting saying they had never felt stronger, few would be surprised if he survived the guillotine again," it said. It also published a graphic of supposed support and opposition to Zuma within the 107-member NEC, with 45 against and 41 in favor and the rest unknown.

And City Press said Zuma's supporters spent Thursday lobbying commit-

tee members to back him in the event of a no-confidence motion. Aside from his woes within the party, which has seen key ANC allies calling for him to stand down, Zuma has faced growing public anger over a series of government graft scandals, record unemployment and a sluggish economy. The crisis has seen two ratings agencies downgrading South Africa and brought tens of thousands of people onto the streets calling for Zuma's ouster.

Till the year's end

This weekend's meeting of the NEC was the first since the controversial cabinet reshuffle, which triggered unprecedented criticism within the ANC. A string of ANC allies have also urged Zuma to go, among them the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the

South African Council of Churches (SACC). The opposition has also tabled a new no-confidence motion in parliament, which will be debated in the coming weeks.

But the president retains widespread support from ANC members in some rural areas and has been able to rely on lawmakers to survive previous votes of no confidence. "The party will still want the ANC to remain in control over the broad issue of leadership. The ANC will not wish to look as though either the press or opposition parties... have sufficient influence to precipitate" his removal, independent political analyst Daniel Silke told AFP. "This will ramble on until the end of the year when the normal electoral process (to pick a successor) will take place." The ANC is due to elect Zuma's successor in December, ahead of general elections in 2019. —AFP

JFK AT 100: A LEGACY ETCHED IN MINDS OF AMERICANS

WASHINGTON: John F. Kennedy - young, heroic, charismatic - embodied the overflowing promise of possibility of 20th century America, until an assassin's bullet ended his life in November 1963. One hundred years after his birth, the youngest man ever elected president, who once urged Americans to strive for the "New Frontier," is still a political icon, and the country is celebrating his legacy, which lives on most visibly in his family.

"It's an opportunity to reflect on what president Kennedy stood for, and the belief and commitment he had to solve every challenge in front of him," Congressman Joe Kennedy III, a great-nephew of the president, told AFP. The lanky, red-haired grandson of slain attorney general Robert F. Kennedy is part of the family's third generation to carry the political torch, entering the House of Representatives in 2013.

For all but two years since 1947 - nearly a third of the history of the United States - a Kennedy has served in elective office. They are the quintessential American dynasty, the closest thing the country has to royalty. JFK's legacy, said the 36-year-old lawmaker from Massachusetts, is "his call for all Americans, regardless of size or shape or background, to serve their country." "Many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have stopped me to say they

have been inspired by his call to service."

First lady Jackie Kennedy became a global phenomenon, their White House social sessions were the stuff of legend and lawmakers of all political stripes embraced the comity. "There was sort of an aura around the Kennedy White House," recalled Senator John McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee who was a US Navy pilot during JFK's tenure. "It was just a magic time," he told AFP.

Kennedy barely served 1,000 days in office before he was assassinated. His brother Robert was killed on the presidential campaign trail in 1968. Americans ultimately transcended the tragedies. JFK is seen as the president who, perhaps more than any other, most transformed the way the nation viewed itself. Kennedy was its eternal optimist.

'Missed him every day'

The longest-serving public official in the family, liberal lion Ted Kennedy, died in 2009 after serving 47 years in the US Senate. Several Kennedy clan members are still in public life, and more may be on the way. JFK's daughter Caroline Kennedy, who was US ambassador to Japan for three years under president Barack Obama, is considering a run for public office, perhaps for Congress, according to the New York Post. "I've thought about him and missed him

every day of my life," the 59-year-old said of her father. He "inspired a generation that transformed America," she said in a video released by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum to mark the anniversary, which will be celebrated in a series of events in Washington and Boston. She added that people have told her that "he inspired them to work and fight and believe in a better world - to give something back to this country that has given so much to so many."

Robert F. Kennedy Jr, 63, is an environmentalist and a leading proponent of the widely debunked theory that vaccines cause autism. In February, he said he had met weeks earlier with President-elect Donald Trump to discuss possible formation of a "vaccine safety commission". Joe Kennedy said there are "plenty" of younger relatives who might enter politics, without getting into specifics. "The thread running through us is that we're seeking a way to serve," he said.

It was in his 1961 inauguration speech, one of the most famous in US presidential history, that Kennedy issued such a poignant challenge to the nation's younger generations. "My fellow Americans," Kennedy posed on a frigid January morning: "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

Passing the torch

In the era of Trump, an age of political polarization, making comparisons to Kennedy's Camelot can be jarring. "This lack of comity and civility would shock John F. Kennedy, because he had friends in the Republican Party who were very close," said James Thurber, founder of the Department of

Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University in Washington. Thurber also said Kennedy likely would have been tougher than Trump on Russia and its President Vladimir Putin. "He'd be tough with them about what they're doing in Syria and their relationships with Iran. He was a realist," Thurber said. —AFP



DALLAS: This file photo taken on Nov 22, 1963 shows US President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy arriving at Love Field. —AFP

TWO KILLED IN OREGON AFTER ANTI-MUSLIM RANT

PORTLAND SHOCKED BY STABBINGS, SUSPECT'S EXTREME VIEWS EYED

PORTLAND, Oregon: The mayor of Portland, Oregon, hailed as "heroes" two men who were stabbed to death trying to protect two women police say were the target of an anti-Muslim rant by a man on a light-rail train - a crime that shocked this city that prides itself on its tolerance. Police said they'll examine what appears to be the extremist ideology of Jeremy Joseph Christian, 35, who is accused of killing the men Friday. Christian's social media postings indicate an affinity for Nazis and political violence.

The attack happened on the first day of Ramadan, the holiest time of the year for Muslims, and it sent shockwaves through Portland. A memorial where the stabbing occurred grew steadily Saturday and there were night time vigils. "That people feel emboldened to come out and show their racism and bigotry in that way is horrifying to me. It's a gut check for everywhere - and absolutely for Portland," said Christopher Douglas, who stopped at the memorial. "Portland ... floats in a little bit of a bubble of its own liberal comfort and I think the reality is sinking in."

Christian was being held in the Multnomah County Jail on suspicion of aggravated murder, attempted murder, intimidation and being a felon in possession of a weapon. He was arrested a short time after the attack. He will make a first court appearance tomorrow, and it wasn't clear if he had an attorney. A phone at his home in Portland rang unanswered Saturday, and no one came to the door at his parents' home.

Police identified the victims as Ricky John Best, 53, of Happy Valley, Oregon, and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai Meche, 23, of Portland. Police say Best died at the scene and that Meche died at a hospital. Meche's mother, Asha Deliverance of Ashland, Oregon, confirmed on Facebook that her son had been killed. She did not immediately return a call to her business phone listing or a message sent through social media. "He was a hero and will remain a hero on the other side of the veil. Shining bright star I love you forever," she wrote.

Mayor hails 'heroes'

Meche graduated last year from Reed College in Portland with a bachelor's degree in economics, the college said on its website. Mayor Ted Wheeler said at a news conference that Best was an Army veteran and a city employee. "These two men died heroes as a

result of a horrific act of racist violence." Police say Micah David-Cole Fletcher, 21, of Portland was also stabbed in the attack and is in serious condition at a Portland hospital. Police say his injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

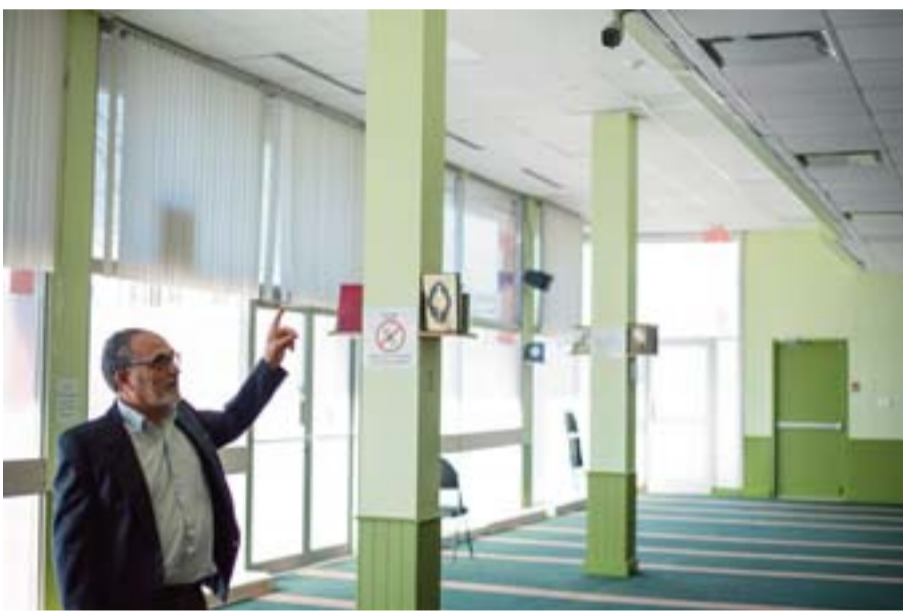
Police said one of the two young women on the train was wearing a hijab. The assailant was ranting on many topics, using "hate speech or biased language," police Sgt Pete Simpson said. Dyjuana Hudson, a mother of one of the girls, told The Oregonian/OregonLive that the

America...must work deliberately to change our political dialogue."

The Portland Mercury, one of the city's alternative weeklies, posted an article on its website saying Christian showed up at a free speech march in late April with a baseball bat to confront protesters and the bat was confiscated by police. The article included video clips of a man wearing a metal chain around his neck and draped in an American flag shouting "I'm a nihilist! This is my safe place!" as protesters crowd around him. The

Kenny Jenkins, said he occasionally saw Christian riding his bike around the neighborhood.

In 2002, Christian was arrested and charged with first-degree robbery and second-degree kidnapping after he rode to a convenience store on his bike and held up employees there with a gun, according to court records and his court-appointed defense attorney at the time, Matthew Kaplan. Kaplan said he remembers the case vividly because Christian was so young, so earnest and had never been in trouble



QUEBEC CITY: Mohamed Labidi, President of the Islamic Cultural Center of Quebec, points at the surveillance camera inside the prayer room on May 25, 2017. —AFP

QUEBEC CITY MOSQUE ATTACK VICTIM: IMAGES STILL HAUNT ME

QUEBEC CITY: Said El Amari doesn't usually go to the mosque on Sundays. But he made an exception on Jan 29 to attend evening prayers at the Islamic Cultural Center of Quebec. That was the day a gunman opened fire inside, killing six people and leaving Canada's Muslim community reeling. "The images still haunt me," says El Amari, who was wounded in the shooting. It began minutes after the



Said El Amari, 40, a victim of the Quebec City mosque attack, poses for a picture.

prayers ended. The 40-year-old father of four was heading toward the exit when he heard the shots and quickly sought refuge in a corner. "Several others had crammed in there to hide," he said. "I was the last one."

When he felt a bullet hit his stomach, he remained standing, his body limp, leaning against a wall. "I knew I was in the killer's sights," he says. "I didn't move, hoping the shooter would think I was already dead." It worked. After emptying a cartridge of bullets on the worshippers, the gunman fled. "I heard people moving in the mosque and I collapsed to the ground," El Amari said.

The alleged shooter, Alexandre Bissonnette, 27, has been charged with 11 counts of murder and attempted murder. A court hearing is scheduled for today in which the prosecution will hand over evidence to the defense. Bissonnette is not expected to attend. Five were seriously injured in the shooting in addition to the six people killed, including a man who remains in intensive care in the hospital after he was shot seven times, including one in the neck.

Living in fear

El Amari spent two months in the hospital, including four weeks in a medically induced coma. When he awoke, he was told the names of the victims and details of what happened at the mosque that evening. "It was very difficult," he says. He had undergone surgery and now has limited mobility, preventing him from returning to his job as a taxi driver. He is set to see a psychologist to assess his mental trauma. Within days of the shooting, the mosque's blood soaked carpets were cleaned and the faithful started returning. But their worries linger. Some may never come back, the center's president, Mohamed Labidi, said. "One man saw his friend shot and killed, it traumatized him," he said. "He finds it too difficult to come alone, without him." El Amari has returned only three times since the shooting. "It took me several weeks" to work up the courage the first time, he said. "We still feel ambivalent, it's like a yo-yo every day," the mosque's co-founder Boufeldja Benabdallah said. "Our fellow citizens have been very generous, and their goodness had done us good," he added.

Security at the mosque has been increased. During each prayer, a man sits close to the entrance and keeps an eye on video from a dozen newly installed security cameras. Members now need an electronic key to enter the premises and other security measures are also in the works. "The extra security helps a little," El Amari says. "But there is always this fear." —AFP

Southeast Community Policing Center



PORTLAND: Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler speak at a news conference on Saturday after a man fatally stabbed two men Friday on a light-rail train when they tried to stop him from yelling anti-Muslim slurs at two young women. (Inset) This police booking photo shows the suspect Jeremy Joseph Christian. —AP

man began a racial tirade as soon as he spotted the girls. Her daughter is African-American and was with a friend who was wearing a hijab, she said. "He was saying that Muslims should die," Hudson said.

The FBI and US Attorney Oregon are working with Portland police. The FBI says it's too early to say whether the slayings qualify as a federal hate crime however Christian faces intimidation charges, the state equivalent of a hate crime. Wheeler decried the charged national political environment surrounding immigration. "Violent words can lead to violent acts," Wheeler said. "All elected leaders in

Oregonian/OregonLive also had video from the April 29 march showing Christian.

Simpson confirmed the man in the videos was Christian and said investigators were aware of them. On what appears to be Christian's Facebook page he showed sympathy for Nazis and wrote last month "May all the Gods Bless Timothy McVeigh, a TRUE PATRIOT!!!" a reference to the man who bombed a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995. Neighbors who live next to Christian's parents' house - which was also his last listed address in court records - said the family was quiet. One neighbor,

before. At the time, the attorney suspected the onset of mental health problems.

Muhammad A Najieb, an imam at a local Muslim Community Center, said Saturday the two young women "could have been the victims, but three heroes jumped in and supported them. He said a fundraising page launched by his group for the families of the dead bystanders, the surviving victim and the two young women had raised \$50,000 in just two hours. "I am very thankful as a Muslim, I am very thankful as a Portlander ... that we stand together here as one," he said. —AP

CANADA OPPOSITION PICKS YOUNG SOCIAL CONSERVATIVE

OTTAWA: Canada's official opposition Conservatives on Saturday chose a little-known, 38-year-old leader to fight a 2019 election against Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau but only after a fierce contest that revealed internal divisions. On the 13th and final round of balloting, many more than political observers predicted, former House of Commons speaker Andrew Scheer edged out ex-foreign minister and favorite Maxime Bernier by 51 percent to 49 percent.

Scheer is younger and much less well-known than the 45-year-old Trudeau, an avowed feminist who took power in Nov 2015 promising a more inclusive kind of politics. Polls show the Liberals are still well ahead of opposition parties. Scheer must now try to heal a rift between the socially conservative wing he represents and others who prefer a more centrist approach. "We all know what it looks like when conservatives are divided. We will not let

that happen again," Scheer told a televised news conference after the final results were announced in a Toronto convention center. "Imagine what we will do when we are all working together. We can't go through another four years of Justin Trudeau."

The race had moments of Trump-like populism with a reality TV star and a candidate critical of immigration getting early attention. But Scheer and Bernier were more mainstream politicians, suggesting the wave of populism that swept Donald Trump to the US presidency will not extend to Canada. The right-of-center Conservatives held power for nearly a decade under former Prime Minister Stephen Harper before the center-left Liberals won in 2015.

Scheer, who like Harper is based in western Canada, attacked Trudeau for running up large budget deficits and accused him of being soft on what he called "radical Islamic terrorism." Although Scheer says he will not reopen contentious debates

on issues like abortion, which is legal in Canada, the Liberals quickly accused him of harboring an extreme and divisive agenda. "The challenge will be to attack Justin Trudeau's weaknesses, but also to bring Conservatives who have left the party back into the fold," said Queen's University political science professor Jonathan Rose.

The race was determined by calculating support from delegates and Conservative associations in all of Canada's 338 parliamentary constituencies. Results showed Scheer polled better than expected in Quebec, the predominantly French-speaking province which holds 78 of the 338 seats in the House of Commons and is vital to any party's prospects. None of the challengers has the high profile of Trudeau, whose approval ratings remain higher than any opponent on the left or right, despite rising dissatisfaction with the economy and a series of spending and entitlement controversies. —Reuters



TORONTO: Andrew Scheer, newly elected leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, is showered in confetti during his acceptance speech at the party's convention on Saturday. —AFP

BETTER TIMES? HONG KONG'S BRITISH NOSTALGIA TRIP

HONG KONG: From its rattling trams and race-courses to its legal system and the ubiquitous consumption of Spam, Britain's colonial legacy still resonates through Hong Kong. But almost 20 years since the city was handed back to China under a deal that made it semi-autonomous, colonial emblems have become a symbol of protest. The old Hong Kong flag, emblazoned with the Union Jack and a dragon and lion motif, is waved by anti-China activists and local football supporters alike in the face of what many see as growing Beijing interference in politics, education and media.

Some angry young campaigners are promoting independence for Hong Kong - but activist Alice Lai says she would rather rejoin Britain. The 39-year-old artist and designer regularly flies the colonial flag at political rallies and heads a small protest group called HK-UK Reunification Campaign. "Hong Kong and the UK coexisted in a proven, well-functioning system for close to two centuries," says Lai. "China is simply unfit to be governing Hong Kong - it's a different way of thinking, a different way of life."

Discontent is fuelled by a yawning wealth gap and lack of affordable housing as mainland investors drive up prices. Retired bank worker Sarah Ng says she felt life was "fairer" before. "During the past 20 years things have gradually changed. Living standards, people's liberties - it's a disaster," she said.

Selective memory

Britain raised the flag over Hong Kong Island in 1841 during the first Opium War against China, which was pushing back against the destructive trade. It was ceded the Kowloon peninsula in 1860 after a second Opium War and extended north into the rural New Territories in 1898, leasing the area for 99 years. In 1997 that lease expired and Britain returned Hong Kong in its entirety to China under a 50-year agreement designed to protect its semi-autonomous status, freedoms and way of life.

Historian John Carroll says British rule in the city, for the most part, "avoided the kind of excesses" seen in other parts of the empire. He believes much of the current nostalgia is because people focus on recent history. The 1980s and 1990s in Hong Kong were a time of prosperity, democratic reform and global interest in its culture: Bruce Lee's kung fu movies or the works of film directors such as John Woo and Wong Kar-wai.

But there were darker times earlier on. Violent anti-colonial riots in 1967 in an era of poverty and corruption led to widespread arrests and censoring of the Chinese press. Activists were beaten by police and jailed. Carroll also points out that democratic reforms were partial and came very late. "I do think it ironic that some people are calling for a return to the UK, given that it deprived Hong Kong people of these rights for so long," he says. — AFP



HONG KONG: This combination of pictures shows Hong Kong residents expressing their views on whether they prefer Hong Kong before or after the 1997 handover from British to Chinese rule. — AFP



JOLO: Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte gives a speech to soldiers of the Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu at Camp Teodulfo Bautista on Saturday. — AFP

DUTERTE VOWS TO IGNORE TOP COURT ON MARTIAL LAW

PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT MEETS SOLDIERS

JOLO, Philippines: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has said he will ignore the Supreme Court and congress as he enforces martial law across the southern third of the country, even though the constitution gives them oversight. Duterte on Tuesday imposed martial law in the Mindanao region, home to 20 million people, following deadly clashes in a mostly Muslim-populated city involving militants whom he said were trying to establish a caliphate for the Islamic State group.

"Until the police and the armed forces say the Philippines is safe, this martial law will continue. I will not listen to others. The Supreme Court, congress, they are not here," Duterte told soldiers on Saturday. "Are they the ones dying and losing blood, bleeding, hemorrhaging because there is no help, no reinforcement? It's not them."

The 1987 constitution imposes limits on martial law to prevent a repeat of the abuses under dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was deposed

by a famous "People Power" revolution the previous year. The charter requires the president to submit a report to congress on why martial law has been declared. Congress can then revoke a president's declaration of martial law, which is limited to 60 days. If a president decides to extend martial law, congress can again review and revoke.

But Duterte threatened to ignore the mechanisms in place for extension. "They say after 60 days I should go to congress: I don't know," he said. The Supreme Court can also rule on martial law's legality if a case is filed before it, but Duterte said the judges would not understand the situation. "The Supreme Court will say they will examine into the factual (basis). Why, I don't know. They are not soldiers. They do not know what is happening on the ground," Duterte said Saturday on Jolo, a southern island that is under martial law.

A day after declaring martial law, Duterte

described the nine years of military rule under Marcos as "very good" and said his would be similar. Duterte also told soldiers on Friday they would be allowed to conduct searches and arrests without warrants. "During martial law, your commanders, you, you can arrest any person, search any house. There is no more warrant needed," he told troops. His comments contradicted a government statement released on Saturday to explain martial law. "Warrants of arrest or search warrants should be issued," the statement from the government's information agency said. "No person may be arrested and detained without orders coming from these civil courts."

Duterte has overwhelming support in congress, which is this week widely expected to endorse his initial declaration of martial law. However the Supreme Court chief justice, Maria Lourdes Sereno, on Friday expressed concerns about the declaration. — AFP

MEDIA FRENZY AS AUSSIE DRUG TRAFFICKER CORBY BACK HOME

BRISBANE: Australian Schapelle Corby battled a media storm as she returned home from Bali Sunday 12 years after her conviction for drug trafficking, in a dramatic end to a saga that captivated her homeland. The beauty school dropout hit Australian headlines when she was arrested in 2004 at Bali airport aged 27 with several kilos of hashish stashed in her surfing gear, and was jailed the following year for 20 years. Her sentence was cut due to regular remissions and after an appeal to the president, and she served nine years behind

bars. She was released early in 2014 but was required to remain on Bali for three years under the conditions of her parole.

Corby and her sister Mercedes concocted an elaborate plan to avoid the cameras after they touched down in the eastern city of Brisbane early Sunday morning, using multiple vehicle convoys to confuse the media when they departed the airport. A member of her security team read out a family statement at the airport, where they expressed their "gratefulness and

relief that this morning we mark Schapelle Corby's return to Australia." "We would like to say thank you to Schapelle's supporters for all the faith, love and support they have shown over the years... Priority of focus will now be on healing and moving forward."

Corby, now 39, has maintained her innocence, insisting the drugs had been planted, and received much support back home where some believed she had been set up or was the victim of a supposedly corrupt justice system. Her final day on the Indonesian resort island was a blaze of media attention, as she was hustled out of a villa with her face hidden under a scarf and chased by a huge pack of journalists before boarding a flight home. She managed to outsmart the media by heading back to Brisbane on a different flight than had been widely expected, apparently to avoid travelling with a large contingent of reporters.

Shortly after landing in Australia, live television broadcasts followed one of the vehicle convoys believed to be carrying Corby and Mercedes. It was not clear where Corby was headed, with media camped out outside her mother Rosleigh Rose's home in Loganlea, south of Brisbane. In bizarre scenes, her sister, other family members and friends - two wearing ghoulish masks - gathered at the house, while further south at Mercedes' home on the Gold Coast, reporters waiting outside said a Corby-lookalike had turned up. "I do not know where she is," a woman at the Gold Coast home who called herself 'Aunty Jen' told Brisbane's Courier Mail. "I nearly fell out of bed when I saw the (television) coverage... I didn't realize it was going to be as huge as this." — AFP



LOGANLEA, Australia: A television reporter does a live report while waiting for the return of Schapelle Corby to her mother's home yesterday. — AFP

TOUGH TIMES FOR BLIGHTED SOUTH AFRICA MINING TOWN

CARLETONVILLE, South Africa: At the end of a narrow road stands the dilapidated husk of a golf clubhouse, now overrun with tall weeds and creepers. It stands as a reminder of better times for the once booming mining town of Blyvooruitzicht, an hour's drive southwest of Johannesburg. Joseph Rammusa, 53, was proud to have been the club's president - its last, because in 2013, the once-prosperous town suffered a dramatic reversal of fortune.

"I was called to come in the office, I was given a letter that needed to be printed urgently," said Rammusa, a former clerk at the town's mine. "I started looking at the letter, I was taken aback. I realized that the mine was placed under provisional liquidation." For more than 60 years, Blyvooruitzicht sat on one of South Africa's richest gold deposits. But a diminishing return on investment prompted the owner to shut the mine, throwing all 1,700 workers out of a job - and leaving the site to looters and decay. "Things started to fall apart," said Rammusa.

No redundancy pay

The newly unemployed staff did not receive any redundancy pay because of a dispute between two mine operators - DRD Gold and Village Main Reef. The town of 6,000 people was even threatened with the disconnection of its water and electricity supplies, which had both previously been paid for by the mining company. Also left behind was an open-air mine dump, which now means that even the slightest breath of wind covers the town with a cloud of toxic dust.

Armed gangs also do battle to control the abandoned mine shafts, which they exploit illegally using casual untrained miners known locally as "zama zamans". Four years on from the mine's closure and the situation in the town has deteriorated dramatically. "We're just struggling to get something to eat, to get water from the municipality. Same with electricity (and) we're battling even to get our children to school," said Elliot Matshoba, 51, a former safety officer at the mine.

'Abandoned here'

The outlook for the environment is not much better - taps only run intermittently and sewage flows through the streets. "We're in a 'no man's land'. The government says there's nothing it can do for us. It's very painful because no one seems to care," said residents' spokesman Pule Molefe, 38. "It's like we are abandoned here. All we need is for the government to step in and take over and manage and protect what's there."

The town's predicament is not uncommon in South Africa. The ruinous and abrupt closures of mines, which have pro-

vided the majority of the country's wealth, have increased in recent years as commodity prices have fluctuated unpredictably. Michael Clements, from Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) which has investigated the impact of mine closure, said that "communities are simply left in a vacuum". "You have local government that is not able to step up into that role, particularly when there is a premature and sudden closure like in Blyvoor," she said.

Grimly holding out

In 2015 and 2016, 40,000 people in the mining sector lost their jobs - one tenth of the industry's total head count. In Kroondal, near to the capital Pretoria, some 4,000 workers at a platinum mine were laid off following a strike. Because they did not agree to a deal signed by their union, they received no compensation. For seven years, a hardcore of holdouts have occupied a building on the site of the Kroondal mine in the hope of securing a payout, with some 200 people living in abject squalor.

Tuberculosis is rife in the men's sleeping quarters and many of them have contracted the disease. "It is really a huge challenge because when it comes to food, everyone here is living on his own. We live on jackals, monkeys, cats - unless we get someone to assist us with food," said the men's representative, Elpideo Mutemba.

'Criminally liable'

The mine owner, Sibanye Gold, is seeking an expulsion order to evict what it calls "squatters" - but until a decision is made it has continued to supply the site with electricity and water as a goodwill gesture. The head of DRD Gold, Niel Pretorius, said that "it can't be expected of corporations to fix what they didn't break," blaming the situation in Blyvoor on the trade unions that he accused of "irresponsible behavior".

The mining companies have long been considered untouchable because of their economic clout but three mine companies linked to Blyvoor are now the subject of a criminal lawsuit over their environmental records. For the first time the state is participating in the action against them - and prosecutors have decided to take the case forward. Mariette Liefferink, executive director at the Federation for a Sustainable Environment, said the case could mean that mine directors are held criminally liable.

Joseph Rammusa, who is keenly awaiting the outcome of the case, is also holding onto the hope that there could be an unexpected future lying ahead. "The company has started working to open the mine again," said Rammusa. "Not everybody will be employed but at least those being employed will bring life in the village." — AFP



CARLETONVILLE, South Africa: Nkutu Sonwabo, a former Blyvooruitzicht gold miner, walks out of his house on March 23, 2017. — AFP

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BANGLADESH CUSTOMS HIT GOLD BONANZA IN UNLIKELY PLACES

DHAKA: Bangladesh detectives hit the jackpot when they stopped Mohammad Belal at Chittagong airport carrying some surprising excess baggage. Under questioning, the 37-year-old admitted he had a dozen chunks of

gold weighing 1.4 kilograms, or three pounds, stashed in his rectum. Gold smuggling in Bangladesh is at a record high, officials say, with the country emerging as a major route into neighboring India, which has slapped

high taxes on gold imports. Authorities have seized 1.1 tonnes of the precious metal at airports in the past three years - an unprecedented haul. Investigators believe it is the tip of a golden iceberg. They say it is bought by jewellers or smuggled into India, the world's biggest buyer of gold, and is also bankrolling a booming trade in drugs and illegal cattle. As monitoring has been stepped up, barely a day passes without another seizure.

Detectives on Wednesday discovered 13 stone-sized gold tablets hidden in the wig of a 45-year-old man as he passed through Dhaka's international airport. Smugglers are increasingly resorting to more drastic methods to evade detection, officials say. "Hiding gold bars in electronic appliances, wheelchairs or in toys has become old tactics. Now they are increasingly using their rectum to carry gold," Moinul Khan, Bangladesh's customs intelligence chief, told AFP. "We give them a lungi (cloth worn by men around the waist) and a polythene bag, ask them to defecate and there comes gold from the anus. Some women were even found having carried gold in their vaginas."

More than 100 people - mostly Bangladeshi migrant workers - have been arrested since 2014 for gold smuggling at the

country's three international airports, police say. Khan said smuggling networks often included air hostesses, airport ground staff and cleaners and corrupt security personnel. "They have a huge network involving a lot of people," he said.

Gold mafia

Despite heightened vigilance plenty of gold is finding its way onto the black market, Khan said. An aide to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last year told the Bangladesh Jewellers Samitee (BJS), a lobby group representing local jewellery shops, that authorities could only expect to detect 10 percent of the gold smuggled through its porous borders. Bangladesh - a low-lying nation on the Bay of Bengal - does not have any gold mines of its own and relies on imports to fashion rings and other treasures for its booming middle class.

The country has imposed strict quotas and huge customs duties on gold, effectively choking off legal bullion imports for flourishing jewellery outlets. The BJS has repeatedly called on the government to allow the bulk import of bullion at reasonable rates. Khan said a "sizeable amount" of smuggled gold was sold to local jewellers. Detectives and cus-

tom agents recently seized nearly half a tonne of gold from outlets of one of Bangladesh's biggest jewellers after the company failed to provide import documents.

The jewellers' association said it sources its gold from individuals pawning personal items, an explanation detectives reject. "We don't buy gold from the black market," the association's president Gangacharan Malakar told AFP. "The raids are conspiracies to destroy a vital industry which employs 2.2 million people." Malakar pointed the finger at India - the world's largest buyer of gold - saying most of the bullion smuggled into Bangladesh, mostly from the Gulf, was destined for the Indian market.

Huge taxes on gold imports into India have fuelled a smuggling industry at the leaky border, said Mustafa K Mujeri, former chief economist of Bangladesh's central bank. "This is a dangerous, powerful and politically-backed gold mafia. They don't leave any evidence, and play with blood money," he said. Khan said gold was financing other illicit trade near the border, including livestock smuggled illegally from India. "Bangladesh is an obvious transit point of many illicit transactions, such as drug trade, human trafficking and cattle smuggling," Mujeri said. —AFP



DHAKA: This picture taken on May 24, 2017 shows a shopper browsing in a gold jewelry shop. —AFP

DIVISIVE B'DESH SCULPTURE REINSTALLED AFTER OUTCRY

OPONENTS PROTEST STATUE RETURN

DHAKA: Bangladesh yesterday reinstated a controversial statue deemed un-Islamic by religious hardliners on the grounds of the

Supreme Court, just days after its removal had sparked angry protests by secular groups. The sculpture of a blindfolded, sari-clad

woman holding scales had been in place for less than six months when authorities removed it early Friday under pressure from hardliners,

who said it was based on the Greek goddess of justice. Its removal from the front plaza of Bangladesh's top court triggered violent clashes between police and secular groups, who saw the move as further evidence of creeping Islamization in the officially secular country.

But the sculpture's creator Mrinal Haque, who had accused authorities of bowing to hardline groups, said he was asked to reinstall the statue at a different location on the court grounds. "We have just placed the sculpture in front of the Annex Building of the Supreme Court," Haque told AFP yesterday. "I wasn't given any clarification but was only ordered to relocate it," he said, adding the new location was at the back of the court where hardly anyone could see it.

Opponents of the statue - who have been demanding for months that it be destroyed and replaced with a Holy Quran - gathered outside the courthouse yesterday to protest against its return. Several were arrested by police, Islamist groups said, drawing hundreds of protesters to Dhaka's main mosque to demand their release. "Police arrested nine of our peaceful activists. If they are not released immediately, we will call for a stronger countrywide movement," said Hasibul Islam, spokesman for the student-based Islamist party Islami Shasantantra Chhatra Andolan. The government risked "falling into danger" by trying to balance the interests of Islamist and secularist groups, he added.

Islamist groups held months of mass protests demanding the statue be removed. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who leads the secular Awami League party, initially kept her distance from the affair. But she broke her silence last month to describe the statue as "ridiculous" after inviting top Islamist leaders to her residence. Analysts say Hasina's stand was intended to woo Islamists and conservative rural voters, before a general election expected next year. Bangladesh has seen increasing tensions between hardliners and secularists in recent years, with a number of atheist bloggers, religious minorities and foreigners murdered by extremists. —AFP



DHAKA: A statue denounced by religious hardliners as "un-Islamic" is pictured on the grounds of the Supreme Court in Dhaka after it was reinstalled yesterday. —AFP



Supporters of Bangladesh Islami Sashontanra Andolon shout slogans against the reinstallation of the Lady Justice statue near the Supreme Court complex in Dhaka yesterday. —AP



RATHSUNA TRAL: Indian Kashmiri villagers carry the body of rebel commander Sabzar Ahmad Bhat during his funeral near Srinagar yesterday. —AP

INDIA SLAPS RAMADAN CURFEW IN KASHMIR TO STOP PROTESTS

SRINAGAR: Authorities clamped a curfew across most of Indian-administered Kashmir for the first day of Ramadan yesterday and partially cut telephone services to thwart protests over the killing of a top rebel commander. The lockdown in the mainly Muslim region crippled life on the first day of the Islamic holy month after widespread violence on Saturday over the killing of Sabzar Ahmad Bhat in a gunfight with government forces.

Government forces in riot gear erected barricades in the main city, Srinagar, and other towns in southern Kashmir to prevent people from reaching the commander's funeral. But thousands of mourners defied the security curbs yesterday to attend the burial of the rebel commander in his hometown amid anti-India and pro-independence slogans. Srinagar's central mosque remained shut and devotees were barred from offering prayers on the first day of the Ramadan fasting period. "Restrictions have been put in place in some areas to maintain law and order," police chief Shesh Pal Vaid told AFP.

Bhat, head of the Hizbul Mujahideen militant group, and a 16-year-old associate were killed in a gunfight near his native village in Tral area. A protester was shot dead

by troops during clashes as hundreds of villagers tried to break the security cordon to help the militants to escape. Clashes spread to other districts, leaving dozens injured. Last year nearly 100 protesters were killed after militant chief Burhan Wani was killed, triggering months of anti-India protests. Bhat took over as the leader.

"Forces have blocked all roads to restrict people to their areas," Bashir Ahmad, a resident of Pulwama told AFP, a neighboring district of Tral. Authorities snapped Internet mobile services and calling services Saturday just hours after a month-long ban on 22 social media sites like Facebook and Twitter ended. Anti-India sentiment runs deep in the Kashmir valley, where most people favour independence or a merger with Pakistan.

Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947, with both nations claiming it in its entirety. An armed rebellion broke-out in 1989 that later weakened. But over the last year there has been an upsurge in protests against Indian rule. Several armed groups are fighting Indian forces. Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the nearly three decade-old conflict. —AFP

SRI LANKA STEPS UP RELIEF AS MONSOON TOLL EXCEEDS 150

COLOMBO: Emergency teams rushed food and water yesterday to half a million Sri Lankans displaced by the island's worst flooding for more than a decade, as the death toll climbed to 151. Government spokesman Rajitha Senaratne said relief operations had intensified following a break in the monsoon rains, with medical teams reinforcing hospitals in affected districts. The official death toll had climbed to 151 with 111 people still listed as missing, Senaratne said. Another 95 were in hospital.

"Aid is now getting into the remotest areas which remained inaccessible in the past two days," Senaratne told reporters, adding there were help lines people could call if they needed assistance. Most victims were killed by landslides, not the flood waters, as their homes on hillsides were buried under torrents of mud and rock. Nearly 2,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. Almost half a million people had been forced from their homes and were sheltering in government buildings or with friends and relatives.

The floods and landslides in the south and west of the island were the worst for 14 years.

Water levels in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka's gem district east of Colombo, had subsided but many villages in Kalutara south of the capital were still under water, officials said. Residents in the south of the island also face the threat of crocodile attacks after a river known for its dangerous wildlife burst its banks overnight. The charity Save the Children said about a tenth of those displaced were aged below five.

It raised fears of stagnant floodwater becoming breeding grounds for dengue-spreading mosquitos and noted that young children were more vulnerable. Medical teams were sent to the worst-hit areas to help prevent an outbreak of waterborne diseases. "We have the expertise to deal with this situation," Senaratne said, adding cholera and diarrhoea had been successfully prevented in past floods. The government withdrew an evacuation order for thousands of residents in the southern district of Matara as water levels subsided.

India ships aid

The military has deployed helicopters, boats and amphibious vehicles to distribute aid pouring in from residents in areas unaf-

ected by the floods. The government appealed for bottled water, new clothes and dry rations for those displaced. Sri Lanka has also sought international assistance, with India rushing a second naval ship laden with supplies. The navy vessel Shardul called at Colombo yesterday with a large consignment of medicines, inflatable boats and medical teams to join the relief operations.

The United Nations said it would donate water containers, water purification tablets and tarpaulin sheets while the World Health Organization will support medical teams in affected areas. Pakistan said it was in talks with Colombo to send relief supplies. Islamabad recently gave 10,000 tonnes of rice to Sri Lanka to help drought victims. The meteorological department said the rains ended a prolonged drought that had threatened agriculture as well as hydropower generation. The flooding is the worst since May 2003 when 250 people were killed and 10,000 homes destroyed after a similarly powerful monsoon, officials said. Monsoon rains last year caused flooding and landslides, killing more than 100 people. —AFP



COLOMBO: People wade through a flooded street yesterday. —AP

ANTI-JIHADIST RAMADAN AD GOES VIRAL

Continued from Page 1

The video featuring Emirati pop star Hussain Al-Jassmi has registered nearly two million views on Zain's YouTube page and more than 4,000 shares on Facebook. It features images from bombings across the region claimed by Al-Qaeda or the Islamic State group. But it ends on a positive note with footage of a happy wedding and cheerful children dressed in white.

"We will encounter their hatred with songs of love," concludes a caption superimposed on a black background. Gulf monarchies are part of the US-led coalition bombing IS extremists in Syria and Iraq. Some of them have also been targeted by attacks.

The month of Ramadan began on Saturday. During that time, believers abstain from eating, drinking — even water, smoking and sexual relations between sunrise and sunset. The fast is conceived as a spiritual struggle against the seduction of earthly pleasures. — AFP

US MAY BAN LAPTOPS ON INT'L FLIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

The US homeland security chief said terrorists are "obsessed" with the idea of "knocking down an airplane in flight—particularly a US carrier, if it's full of mostly US folks." A ban could seriously disrupt flights between Europe and the US. Some 3,250 a week are expected this summer between European Union countries and the US, according to aviation industry figures.

If the laptop ban Kelly discussed is put in place, it would greatly expand on a rule he announced March

21, banning electronic devices larger than a smartphone from the cabins of flights from 10 airports in the Middle East and North Africa. Countries affected by that rule are Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco.

In March, Britain took similar measures targeting a smaller list of countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. In Europe last week, during President Donald Trump's nine-day foreign trip, Kelly met with European Commission officials in Brussels to discuss a possible laptop ban in airplane cabins. — AFP

ASSEMBLY MAY WIND UP MID-RAMADAN: SPEAKER

Continued from Page 1

He said the government plans to form a team to deal with the committee during the summer recess, adding that the government promised to answer the committee questions in writing. The committee also plans to meet with the lawmakers who grilled the prime minister to discuss the government responses with them.

The Assembly Public Utilities committee yesterday discussed with the government the traffic problem in the country and ways to resolve it. Member of the committee MP Khalil Al-Saleh said that the committee stressed that the government did not provide sufficient funds to the Ministry of Public Works to resolve the traffic problem.

He said the committee is expected to call on the gov-

ernment to have only one company for busses instead of the existing three in a bid to help solve the traffic problems. He said that he plans to submit a draft law calling to change the timing of government offices from 9 am to 5 pm to help reduce the traffic jams.

Islamist MP Mohammad Hayef sent a series of questions to the interior minister about the entry of Shiite cleric Mohammad Al-Fali who was deported from the country several years ago.

Hayef said that it was reported that Fali entered the country using a different name with a different passport apparently issued by Iran. After discovering his identity, Fali was asked to leave the country which he did on Thursday. Hayef asked who allowed Fali to enter and who issued him a visit visa. He also inquired how Fali managed to enter the country without the security agencies being able to identify him.

THE ESSENCE OF RAMADAN

Continued from Page 1

If our mind is peaceful, we shall be happy all the time, regardless of external conditions, but if it is disturbed or troubled in any way, we shall never be happy, no matter how good our external conditions may be. External conditions can only make us happy if our mind is peaceful. We can understand this through our own experience. For instance, even if we are in the most beautiful surroundings and have everything we need, the moment we get angry any happiness we may have disappears. This is because

anger has destroyed our inner peace.

Fasting enables the believer to guard against Satan, his archenemy. It also helps him against human evil by putting the patience and perseverance gained from fasting into use with forbearance and forgiveness. Fasting helps one find inner peace.

Courtesy of the TIES Center: The TIES Center is a social and educational hub for expats in Kuwait whose motto is: Tolerance, Information, Empowerment, Solidarity. For more information, please call 252301015/6 or log onto: www.ties-center.net

MANCHESTER POLICE MAKE NEW ARREST; BOMBER'S NETWORK STILL AT LARGE

MANCHESTER: A British minister said yesterday members of suicide bomber Salman Abedi's network could still be a large, as thousands defied the terror threat to take part in an annual half marathon. As runners pounded the streets of the northwestern English city, police arrested a 25-year-old man in the eastern Old Trafford area, bringing the number now detained on UK soil in connection with the attack to 12.

Manchester-born Abedi, a 22-year-old of Libyan origin, killed 22 people on Monday evening when he targeted a pop concert by US teen idol Ariana Grande. A third of the those slaughtered were children and another 116 people were injured. Asked by the BBC if some of Abedi's network were still at large, British Home Secretary Amber Rudd said: "Potentially."

"The operation is still really at full-tilt in a way and so until the operation is complete we can't be entirely sure that it's closed." Authorities in Libya have detained Abedi's brother and father, while British investigators appealed to the public late Saturday for details of the bomber's movements in the days before the attack, which has been claimed by the Islamic State group.

Police released photographs from security cameras showing Abedi on the night of the massacre, wearing jeans and trainers, a black bodywarmer and a baseball cap, with the straps of his backpack visible on his shoulders. The police statement said one of the last places he went to was a "city centre flat and from there he left to make his way to the Manchester Arena" where the attack took place. — AFP

MODI'S COW SLAUGHTER BAN TO BE CHALLENGED

NEW DELHI: A southern Indian state announced yesterday it would go to the supreme court to challenge a federal ban on the sale of cows for slaughter, stepping up a showdown with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Cows are considered sacred by some Hindus in India and the prime minister has pushed for greater protection of the animals since taking power in 2014. On Friday the federal environment ministry issued a nationwide order banning the sale and purchase of cattle from markets for slaughter.

"We are finalizing our legal response and will file a plea in the Supreme Court next week," Kerala state's Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar said.

The slaughter of cows, and the possession or consumption of beef, is already banned in most Indian states, with some imposing up to life imprisonment for infringements. Cases of slaughtering cows have triggered communal violence. But Kerala and a handful of other states—despite having Hindu majorities allow the slaughter and the consumption of beef. — AFP

2,000 TRAPPED AS FIGHTING RAGES...

Continued from Page 1

"In as much as we would like to avoid collateral damage, these rebels are forcing the hand of government by hiding and holding out inside private homes, government buildings and other facilities," said military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla.

"Their refusal to surrender is holding the city captive. Hence, it is now increasingly becoming necessary to use more surgical airstrikes to clear the city and to bring this rebellion to a quicker end."

The militants have killed at least 19 civilians, including three women and a child who were found dead near a university, regional military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Joar Herrera told AFP.

"These are civilians, women. These terrorists are anti-people," Herrera said. An AFP photographer saw eight bodies dumped off a bridge on the outskirts of Marawi yesterday, with local residents identifying them as employees of a rice mill and a medical college. It was unclear whether those eight were included in the military's count of civilian deaths.

Fifteen soldiers, two policemen and 61 militants have died in the fighting, according to authorities. This brings the combined official death toll to at least 97.

The violence began when dozens of gunmen went on a rampage throughout Marawi in response to an attempt by security forces to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as the local leader of IS. The United States regards Hapilon as one of the world's most dangerous terrorists and has offered a bounty of \$5 million for his capture.

The gunmen on Tuesday planted black IS flags, took a priest and up to 14 other people hostage from a church, and set fire to buildings. Authorities said Saturday the fate of those hostages remained unknown. Duterte and military chiefs have said most of the militants belong to the local Maute group, which has declared allegiance to IS and which the government estimates has about 260 armed followers. Duterte has said local criminals are also backing the Maute in Marawi. Cooperation between Islamist militants, criminals and corrupt politicians is common across Mindanao, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has claimed more than 120,000 lives since the 1970s. — AFP



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Focus

HYUNDAI MULLS CHINA
BRANDING REBOOT
AFTER MISSILE ROW

By Hyunjoo Jin and Jake Spring

Bruised by anti-Korean sentiment in its biggest market and losing ground to local automakers, Hyundai Motor will open its first Chinese brand store, and may locally assemble its premium Genesis cars and accelerate the launch of a sport-utility vehicle (SUV), people familiar with the plans said.

The measures are aimed at rebooting the South Korean firm's branding in China, where many see Hyundai as a lower-end maker of city taxis. Hyundai and its affiliate Kia Motors were not long ago ranked third among foreign car brands in China, but recent sales have been hit by a consumer backlash over South Korea's deployment of a US anti-missile defense system which Beijing opposes.

Analysts say the diplomatic row masks broader problems for Hyundai/Kia in China: poor brand recognition and a model line-up struggling against local brands' cheaper SUVs. "Hyundai has an in-between brand that doesn't have a clear identity in China, and there's the backdrop of poor China-Korea relations," said James Chao, Shanghai-based Asia-Pacific chief of consulting firm IHS Markit Automotive.

"Newly introduced SUVs should help, but they are late to the game." Even before the missile systems row, Hyundai/Kia's China market share tumbled to 8.1 percent last year, the lowest in eight years. This year, it has slid further to 5 percent. To help its identity crisis, Hyundai will in September open a brand experience centre in Beijing's 798 Art District, a trendy hub of refurbished factory buildings. Hyundai has three similar centres in Seoul and one in Moscow.

"We're not going to show a real car. This space is only for focusing on brand building," Xu Jing, the Hyundai executive in charge of the project, told Reuters. The centre was planned before the recent political tensions, but its completion is now a key plank in Hyundai's efforts to regain a lost position in China as local automakers and European brands gain ground. Volvo-owner Geely and Great Wall Motor are also looking to move upmarket.

The branding store ventures into territory traditionally held by premium names such as Daimler's "Mercedes me" stores and BMW's brand centres, already in China.

Making genesis

Hyundai is also considering using complete knock-down (CKD) kits shipped from South Korea to assemble Genesis cars in China - more than halving import tariffs to 10 percent - two people familiar with the matter said. Building Genesis cars from kits in China would also prevent technology leaking to its local joint venture partner, BAIC, one of the people added.

The kits are a first step, said one Hyundai insider. "We are agonizing over how to source local parts and secure enough sales to build the Genesis cars." Hyundai launched its Genesis luxury sedan in 2008, and two years ago spun it off with the larger Equus sedan into a standalone premium brand. Brand chief Manfred Fitzgerald said last year Genesis would launch in China within 2-3 years.

Hyundai has not decided which Genesis model it will build in China first, but plans to have six models including a sports sedan and two SUVs under the premium marque by 2020.

"While the Genesis brand is reviewing a variety of strategies for the China market, no specific decisions have been made yet," Hyundai said in a statement. Hyundai sold 74 Genesis sedans in China last year, down from 1,016 in 2015. It sold a single Equus, down from 10 the previous year, according to export data seen by Reuters.

Recovery time

Hyundai may also bring forward by a month, to November, the launch of a small SUV, codenamed NU, to be built at its fourth factory in China, one of the people told Reuters. And Kia is considering launching the Stinger, its first sports sedan, in China, people with direct knowledge of the matter said, though there are no plans to build the model there.

Hyundai said it also plans to apply new, cutting-edge technologies such as connectivity and advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) to many products from the second half of this year, and soon introduce six new-energy vehicles. Since starting to make cars in China in 2002, Hyundai has aggressively chased sales and market share by selling both older and new versions of models including the Elantra and Sonata sedans and Tucson SUV.

Among foreign car brands, Hyundai's China sales lag only those of General Motors and Volkswagen, but it's generally seen as more lower-end than American, German and Japanese rivals. Beijing Hyundai has supplied around a fifth of the capital's taxis. The volume sales model "did wonders for sales growth, but dented the Hyundai image in the minds of Chinese buyers," said Michael Dunne, president of consultancy Dunne Automotive. "(Having a) weaker brand ... than Japanese automakers, I think it might take more time to restore the brand and sales," said Han Sang-yun, director at S&P, noting Japanese car makers took a year to bounce back in China after a 2012 consumer backlash over a territorial dispute between Beijing and Tokyo. —Reuters

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EURO ALLIES SEE THE TWO SIDES OF TRUMP

By Noah Barkin

In Sicily, Donald Trump listened attentively during complex G7 debates over trade and climate change, smiled for the cameras, and for the most part refrained from provocative tweets. In Brussels, he bashed NATO partners for not spending more on defense, shoved the prime minister of Montenegro and renewed his attacks on Germany's trade surplus with the United States.

America's allies witnessed the two sides of Trump on his first foreign trip as US president, a nine-day tour that began with sword dancing in Saudi Arabia and vague pledges in Israel to deliver Middle East peace. As Trump headed home, European officials were left with mixed feelings: relief that he had been patient enough to listen to their arguments and unsettled by a Jekyll-and-Hyde figure who is still finding his way on the big policy issues.

"It all fits with his strategic ambiguity approach to life," said Julianne Smith of the Centre for a New American Security. "It may do wonders when dealing with adversaries. But it doesn't work when dealing with allies," she said.

Other leaders of the Group of Seven nations had viewed with trepidation their summit, held at a cliff-top hotel overlooking the Mediterranean, after four preparatory meetings failed to clear up differences with the Trump

administration on trade, how to deal with Russia and climate change.

But in the end, officials said, the result was better than they had feared. The final communique acknowledged a split between the United States and its six partners over honoring the 2015 Paris accord on climate change. That followed a debate with Trump that German Chancellor Angela Merkel described as "very dissatisfying".

However on trade, Trump bowed to pressure from allies to retain a pledge to fight protectionism. And on Russia, he did not insist on removing - as some allies had feared - the threat of additional sanctions for Moscow's intervention in Ukraine. "I found him very willing to engage, very curious, with an ability and desire to ask questions and to learn from all his interlocutors," said Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, the G7 summit's host.

NATO "disaster"

Still, there was irritation at Trump's refusal to show his hand on the Paris agreement to curb carbon emissions. Near the end of the summit, he tweeted teasingly that he would make a decision on Paris next week, leaving delegations to scratch their heads about why he could not commit in Taormina. The most critical words were reserved for Trump's appearance at NATO headquarters in Brussels, which was described as a "disaster" by more than one European official.

With the leaders of America's NATO

partners standing like school children behind him, Trump upbraided them for not spending more on defense and repeated the charge that some members owed "massive amounts of money" from past years - even though allied contributions are voluntary.

Most disturbingly for allies, Trump did not personally affirm his commitment to Article 5, NATO's mutual defense doctrine, after pre-trip signals from the White House that he would do just that. Trump also failed to mention Russia, which remains NATO's *raison d'être* in the eyes of most Europeans.

It was a speech that reminded some of Trump's doom-laden inauguration address in January, one that seemed written for the hardest of his hard-core domestic audience. "Proud of @realDonaldTrump for telling NATO deadbeats to pay up or shut up," former Republican governor Mike Huckabee tweeted in response.

Trump's appearance in Brussels was particularly galling to the Germans, who after months of painstaking relationship building with Trump - including Merkel's invitation to his daughter Ivanka for a G20 women's summit in Berlin - found themselves under attack from him on two fronts.

Before heading to NATO, Trump criticized Germany's trade surplus in a private meeting with senior European Union officials. "If Trump really wants to go down a path of isolation, it will only speed up China's rise to the top," one senior German official grumbled.

Zero-sum

Beyond the rhetoric, Trump's body language also confounded his hosts. He muscled aside Montenegrin Prime Minister Dusko Markovic as NATO leaders walked into the alliance's new headquarters for a photo session. And he engaged in two alpha-male handshakes with France's new 39-year-old President Emmanuel Macron, who seemed to get the better of Trump on both occasions.

The macho posturing in Europe contrasted to the images, a few days earlier, of Trump and his team swaying, swords in hand, with the absolute rulers of Saudi Arabia at a lavish welcome ceremony given by King Salman. Summing up the tour on Saturday, Trump's advisers seemed most enthused about the Saudi leg, where he clinched a \$110 billion arms deal and forged what one aide described as a "personal bond" with the king.

"The president was able to make some of the most amazing deals that have really been made by any administration ever," enthused his economic adviser Gary Cohn.

Daniela Schwarzner, research director at the German Council of Foreign Relations in Berlin, said the trip had confirmed Trump's "zero-sum game" view of the world in which you are either a winner or a loser and relationships are transactional. "His rhetoric and actions suggest he does not consider it a priority to build good and engaging relations with allies the US so far considered its most important ones," she said. —Reuters

CLACTON-ON-SEA: HOTBED OF EUROSKEPTICISM

By Antoine Pollez

Having voted for Labor, the Conservatives and then the euroskeptic UK Independence Party, voters in a faded seaside town are running out of places to turn in Britain's upcoming general election. Since its golden age in the 1960s, Clacton-on-Sea in the southeastern English county of Essex has struggled to reinvent itself, a decline witnessed by 77-year-old John. "There used to be a lot of hotels in Clacton, but they are all bedsites now," he told AFP on the terrace of a fast-food restaurant.

The pier is "dead" in winter, he said, but "in the summer, you'll find lots of eastern Europeans working there," added the former delivery driver, who moved from London 10 years ago.

Despite supporting Labor for most of his life, John went against party policy in the 2016 referendum, voting to leave the European Union, believing Britain "can do better on our own".

'London Mentality'

The pensioner is typical of many of the town's residents, according to Nigel Brawn, head of communications for the wider district of Tendring. Brawn explained that town has welcomed hundreds of pensioners who could no longer cope with the cost of living in the capital, an hour-and-a-half away by train. "They bring with them the immigration issue; they felt it was a huge issue in London and they've still got that mentality. But it's not such an issue here," he added, pointing out that only four percent of the town's population are immigrants.

He believes the perspective of immigration is why the town voted 69 percent in favor of Brexit, compared with 52 percent nationally. In 2014 the Clacton constituency elected Douglas Carswell, UKIP's sole MP, who has since resigned from the party and will not stand in the June 8 vote.

"To be frank with you, minorities mostly won't find a job here," said Sri Lankan-born Ramasamy, who opened his own grocery store after being unemployed for several months. "They don't want to waste their time in the place, that's why you don't find many minorities here."

'Not Favorite'

He said UKIP's success in the area was down to the figure

of Carswell, who defected to UKIP from the Conservatives, more than to anti-immigrant feeling. "He is popular here, wherever he goes, it's that simple," Ramasamy told AFP. "When he was in the Conservatives, he got the vote, when he went to UKIP he got the vote. Even if he went to Labour then he'd still get the vote."

London lawyer Paul Oakley will stand for UKIP this year, but only after a chaotic selection process. "People in Clacton have voted for a UKIP MP twice, I don't see any reason why they wouldn't vote for the UKIP MP for the third time," said party leader Paul Nuttall, although the candidate himself is less confident.

"I'm not the favorite, the favorite is the Conservative candidate," Oakley conceded to AFP. He admits to having "no links with the constituency," having being parachuted in from the capital. In a nearby cafe, anger over the European

Union was as raw as ever among two party supporters. "We are talking about Brexit. What has happened in that year? Nothing!" said 82-year-old Joan Wrigley, sitting next to her husband who was proudly wearing a UKIP badge.

"We are still paying vast amounts of money into the EU."

'Broken promises'

In the neighboring town of Jaywick - "the most deprived area in the United Kingdom" according to official statistics - Barbara explained why UKIP appealed to so many locals.

"People were disillusioned by the Conservatives and Labor, so they wanted something new," the charity worker told AFP. However, she believes that the party will suffer next month. "They didn't give us what they promised," she said. "They promised to regenerate the area, and that hasn't happened." —AFP



This file photo taken on May 20, 2017 shows UK Independence Party (UKIP) leader Paul Nuttall (left) walking with the party's candidate for the Clacton constituency, Peter Oakley (right), as they campaign in Clacton-on-Sea, eastern England. —AFP

SPARTA APPOINT ITALIAN COACH STRAMACCIONI



PRAGUE: Sparta Prague have appointed Italian Andrea Stramaccioni to replace out of contract Petr Rada as coach on a two-year deal, the Czech top-flight side said yesterday. The 41-year-old has managed Inter Milan and Udine in the Serie A, as well as Greek side Panathinaikos. Sparta have won 12 titles in the Czech league which emerged following the split of former Czechoslovakia in 1993, the last one in 2014. They finished third this season which ended on Saturday, clinching a spot in the Europa League third play-off round. Foreign coaches—other than Slovak—are rare in the Czech league, with Stramaccioni being only the fourth in the history of the top flight. — AFP

COSTA WILL ONLY LEAVE CHELSEA FOR ATLETICO

LONDON: Diego Costa claims he will only leave Chelsea to return to Atletico Madrid this summer, turning his back on long-term speculation of a blockbuster move to China. Costa scored 22 goals this season in firing Chelsea to the Premier League title for the second time in three seasons at the club. Yet, the Brazilian-born striker has struggled to settle in London and had a training ground bust-up with Chelsea boss Antonio Conte in January fuelling rumours he could be the latest star of European football to be snapped up by China's football boom. However, after losing out to Arsenal in Saturday's FA Cup final, Costa said only a return to Atletico, where he won La Liga in 2013/14, would tempt him away from Stamford Bridge. "If the club really want to sell me and there is an offer from a different club, I will stay," he said. "If the offer is from Atletico, I will think about it that much is clear. "I am going to choose my future, not them. I won't change city or country for another that isn't Spain. "If the club want to sell me, there is only one team and I have made that very clear." Costa nearly rejoined Atletico last year, but the Spanish side failed to meet Chelsea's valuation. — AFP

HAKUHO CAPS 38TH TITLE WITH PERFECT RECORD

TOKYO: Grand champion Hakuho celebrated his 38th Emperor's Cup with a win over Mongolian compatriot Harumafuji yesterday to finish the Summer Grand Sumo Tournament undefeated. Hakuho forced out Harumafuji (11-4) in the day's final bout at Ryogoku Kokugikan to improve to 15-0 a day after securing his first title in a year with a win over ozeki Terunofuji. Hakuho won the summer tourney last year but has struggled with foot and thigh injuries since then and missed much of the March tournament due to injury. Hakuho won his 33rd title in 2015 to break Taiho's record for the most Emperor's Cups in the history of sumo. The 32-year-old Mongolian has said he would like to win 40 championships. In other bouts, sekiwake Takayasu, who is bidding for promotion to ozeki, lost to Terunofuji (12-3) to drop to 11-4. — AP



GOLF

S AFRICAN BURMESTER MAKES LATE CHARGE

WENTWORTH: South African Dean Burmester was one of the few early starters to make an impression on the leaderboard as the final round of the European PGA Championship got underway at Wentworth yesterday.

The 27-year-old had five birdies in his first nine holes to move to four-under par, four off the lead, and record an outward nine of 30. Burmester recorded his first win on the European Tour in March when he won the Tshwane Open in Gauteng South Africa but he also has seven wins on the Sunshine Tour.

Scotland's Stephen Gallagher was one shot back after six holes, which included four birdies and a bogey, and Sweden's Alex Noren pulled back shots at the first two holes to also be three-under the card. Two-time winner Luke Donald had finished a miserable week with a double bogey on the par-5 18th leaving him at 12-over for the tournament—his chances wrecked by a disastrous 81 on Saturday. Other notable early finishers were European Ryder Cup captain Thomas Bjorn who was in the club-

house on five-over par and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee who finished his week on 282, four-over par.

Last year's US Masters winner Danny Willett was another to finish early—he signed for a closing 73 to leave himself on a disappointing six-over par and out of the running. The leaders were still to go out with Australia's Andrew Dodt heading the field at eight-under par, a shot ahead of Branden Grace of South Africa. Dodt led courtesy of a 68 on Saturday, four-under par, whilst Grace continued to shrug off Thursday's free drop controversy with a 70. English veteran Lee Westwood and Italian Francesco Molinari were a further two shots back with Westwood aiming to win the title for the first time at the 24th attempt.

Also in range were Shane Lowry of Ireland, Hideto Tanihara of Japan, who had a third round 67 and Henrik Stenson, the British Open champion, who were on four-under. The European Tour's flagship event carries a prize of one million euros (\$1.1 million) to the winner. — AFP

FENG SEIZES ONE-SHOT LEAD AT LPGA VOLVIK

CHICAGO: China's Feng Shanshan fired six birdies in a six-under par 66 on Saturday to grab a one-stroke lead going into the final round of the LPGA Volvik Championship in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Feng's 15-under par total of 201 put her one stroke in front of American Lizette Salas, who carded a 67 for 202. Norway's Suzann Pettersen was a further stroke back after a 69 for 203, with overnight leader Park Sung-Hyun (72) tied on 204 with fellow South Korean Lee Jeong-Eun (68) on 204. Feng, who claimed the most recent of her six LPGA titles at the Japan Classic last year, has three top-10 finishes this season.

She grabbed a share of the lead with back-to-back birdies to cap her round, and was alone at the top after Salas bogeyed the par-five 18th.

"I started the round a little slowly. I was only one-under through eight holes and then I made two putts in a row on the ninth and 10th," Feng said. "After that I was just feeling like, 'Oh, I can start making birdies,' and I was more comfortable."

Down by one when she arrived at 18, Feng admitted she felt some pressure hitting her wedge into the final hole, but

stuck her approach close and converted the birdie. "I'm feeling good about my condition right now and what I've done the first three days, so I am looking forward to the final day," she said. Salas finished the day with seven birdies and two bogeys in her five under effort.

"I hit the ball amazing today, I putted really great," said Salas, who nevertheless admitted that bogey at the last rankled.

"Finishing like that really just gets under my skin," she said. "I think that is going to be an extra push for tomorrow, too."

"I had a two-shot lead and now I'm one back. But that's golf. You hit great ones, you hit bad ones, and unfortunately that bad one was on my last hole today." Pettersen kept herself in striking distance with four birdies and one bogey in her three-under effort. LPGA rookie Park, who came into the day with a two-stroke lead, had two bogeys and two birdies in her even par round.

With afternoon and evening storms predicted for Sunday, starting times for the final round have been moved up in hopes of beating the weather. Players will go off in groups of three from both the first and 10th tees to speed the round. — AFP



ANN ARBOR: Shanshan Feng of China watches her drive on the fourth hole during the second round of the LPGA Volvik Championship on Saturday at Travis Pointe Country Club Ann Arbor, Michigan. — AFP

SIMPSON LEADS CASEY, LEE BY TWO AFTER 54 HOLES AT COLONIAL

TEXAS: Webb Simpson lipped-out a birdie chance at the final hole and had to settle for a two-stroke lead over Paul Casey and Danny Lee after the third round of the Dean & DeLuca Invitational in Fort Worth, Texas on Saturday. 2012 US Open champion Simpson's 15-foot putt was headed for the centre of the hole but broke sharply at the end, caught the low side of the cup and spun out.

But that was about the only lament the American had after carding 67 to post a nine-under-par 201 total on another breezy day at Colonial Country Club.

"I'm happy with the day," Simpson, a four-times PGA Tour winner, told PGATour.com. "I kept the ball in the fairway, putted well, putted consistent. I'm trying to shoot under par every day and today was another good one." Englishman Casey (68) and South Korean-born New Zealander Lee (69) were the closest pursuers on seven-under after finding the final green less frustrating, both making birdie.

Americans Stewart Cink (66) and Kevin Kisner (70) were three off the pace, while defending champion Jordan Spieth (68) and

Masters champion Sergio Garcia (71) were five behind. Spieth played the final seven-plus holes with a stand-in caddie after his regular looper Michael Greller fell ill in the oppressive heat and humidity. Trainer Damon Goddard carried the bag the rest of the way.

"Michael went down with heat exhaustion," said Spieth. "When we were walking down the 11th he said 'this is my last hole.' I thought he was acting a little strange, a little quiet." Casey, who like Lee has just the one PGA Tour win, has seen his putting touch improve recently. — Reuters



FORT WORTH: Webb Simpson plays his shot from the sixth tee during Round Three of the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational at Colonial Country Club on Saturday in Fort Worth, Texas. — AFP



GOLD COAST: The South Korean team celebrates during the Sudirman Cup presentation ceremony in Gold Coast yesterday. South Korea won badminton's Sudirman Cup for the first time in 14 years with an emotional 3-2 victory over 10-time champions China. — AFP

BADMINTON

S KOREA UPSET CHINA TO WIN SUDIRMAN CUP

GOLD COAST: South Korea yesterday won badminton's Sudirman Cup for the first time in 14 years with an emotional 3-2 victory over 10-time champions China at Australia's Gold Coast. The South Koreans claimed their fourth cup in the biennial tournament with a charged 21-17, 21-13 win by Choi Sol-Gyu and Chae Yoo-Jung in the mixed doubles match. The victory—their first in the world mixed teams competition since Eindhoven in 2003 — ended China's 14-year grip on the Sudirman Cup.

China were on a streak of six straight victories and boasted an assembly of stars. They were red-hot favourites to add an 11th title and few gave South Korea a chance of topping the podium in Australia.

It was stunning achievement for South Korea and their young and relatively inexperienced players, coming less than a year after they limped out of the Rio Olympics with just one bronze medal. "Before the event we were asked about our men's doubles players, and we were called a weak team," head coach Kang Kyung-jin said. "We tried to build our team spirit. We were in it together, and we believed we could do it."

South Korea, who also won the Sudirman Cup in 1991 and 1993, fought back from 2-1 down in the final to claim victory.

Upon winning match point the entire South Korean team descended on Choi and Chae and swamped them in celebration, with Chae eventually climbing off the floor in tears.

"I was nervous," Chae said. "We hadn't played well earlier, but it was the last match, and I thought there was nothing to lose. "I was thankful to my team-mates for keeping us in the tie and taking it to the last match."

It was an outstanding performance by Choi and Chae, ranked 14th in the world, against the second-ranked Chinese combination of Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong.

Rio Olympic champions Fu Haifeng and Zhang Nan gave China a confident start, rolling through the opening men's doubles match 21-14, 21-15 in 42 minutes.

World bronze medallist Sung Ji-Hyun levelled the final when she mastered He Bingjiao in the women's singles 21-12, 21-16 in 49 minutes. Chen Long, the reigning Olympic champion, two-time World champion and All England champion, was too strong for Jeon Hyeok-Jin and took 47 minutes to wrap up a 21-10, 21-10 victory to give China a 2-1 lead.

But third world-ranked pair Chang Ye-Na and Lee So-Hee took the final into a fifth match with a 21-19, 21-13 win over Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan in a 55-minute women's doubles rubber. — AFP



GOLD COAST: Choi Sol-gyu of South Korea hits a return during the mixed doubles match with partner Chae Yoo-jung against Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong of China (not pictured) at the 2017 Sudirman Cup badminton tournament at the Gold Coast Sports Centre yesterday. — AFP

YACHTING

TWO WINS FOR USA IN DRAMATIC START TO AMERICA'S CUP

HAMILTON: Oracle Team USA rallied to edge Emirates Team New Zealand Saturday as the 35th America's Cup got underway with two wins for two-time defending champions Oracle and a collision involving Ben Ainslie's Land Rover BAR. The drama unfolded under picture-book skies on Bermuda's Great Sound, where near gale-force winds had prevented the scheduled start on Friday. For the first time the defending champions are competing in the qualifiers, and Team USA didn't disappoint.

They delivered the first of two thumpings handed out to Groupama Team France before taking on New Zealand in a rematch of the 2013 America's Cup when the US outfit won

eight straight races to seal one of the biggest comeback triumphs in sport.

Team USA skipper Jimmy Spithill caught New Zealand as they rounded the mark into the penultimate leg and went on to win by six seconds. A closely fought start launched a fascinating contest that saw Team New Zealand take a 20-second lead at gate three. But by gate five Spithill had closed the gap and they came toward the mark virtually side-by-side.

Team USA came out of the turn in front and held on for the win. "The boys worked very, very hard today," Spithill said. "It was a physical day. A couple of big races. But we're in good shape for tomorrow." After the first day of round-

robin qualifiers Team USA were tied atop the standings with Britain's Land Rover BAR, both on three points. The British syndicate came into the qualifiers with two bonus points from the America's Cup World Series, from which Team USA brought one point. They quelled the doubts raised by lackluster practice race showings with an impressive victory over Sweden's Artemis Racing, but the day would end badly for Ainslie's BAR.

They were penalized for a scary pre-start collision with SoftBank Team Japan and with visible damage to one hull finished 48 seconds behind the Japanese in the final race of the day.

The crash came after four-time Olympic gold medallist Ainslie slammed

into Team New Zealand during practice racing last week, costing the Kiwi team valuable time on the water as they made repairs. Ainslie called the incident "unfortunate". "We had a sideways slip just as Dean (Barker) came in and got the leeward overlap. No one wants that, certainly in our position as we picked up a penalty and the damage. Thankfully, the most important thing is that no one got hurt." Team Japan tactician Chris Draper said there were "a couple of bruises" among SoftBank crew members and some compression damage to his boat's carbon fiber hull.

'SIZEABLE HOLE'

But the more serious damage was to

BAR—who could have trouble making repairs in time for their scheduled races on Sunday against heavy hitters Team USA and Team New Zealand.

"The boat is pretty badly damaged, with a sizeable hole in the port hull," Ainslie said. "By the time we got to the dock she was on her way down." In other races, Artemis-whose stock has risen with some impressive practice performances this month defeated Team Japan by 13 seconds. New Zealand gained their first point with a dominant victory over France—officially unveiling the bicycle-style grinding system they've installed in place of arm-driven winches to power the catamaran's hydraulics system. — AFP

HIGHLANDERS TO TEST UNBEATEN CRUSADERS IN SUPER CLASH

SYDNEY: The Canterbury Crusaders will pitch their unbeaten 13-match run against the in-form Otago Highlanders in an enticing Super Rugby showdown after yet another New Zealand rampage this weekend. The seven-time champions registered a 41-19 bonus-point victory over the hapless Melbourne Rebels to protect an 11-point lead at the top of the all-conquering New Zealand conference with one week remaining until the break for the international Test window.

The Crusaders look set to finish top of the regular season standings, but they face a test of their title credentials against the Highlanders at home next weekend. The Highlanders flexed their muscles with a 44-28 win over Australia's NSW Waratahs in Dunedin for their ninth consecutive win, and fancy their chances of ending the Crusaders' march.

The benchmark Crusaders scored six tries to three and although they encountered stiffer resistance from the Rebels in the second half after leading 31-7 at half-time, they still won by 22 points.

The latest victory equalled the 13-match unbeaten record of the 2002 Crusaders—who featured current coach Scott Robertson. "We wanted to come away with a performance we were proud of and we wanted to play quick and fast rugby, and we did that," Robertson said.

"We probably didn't always execute when we could have and left a lot of tries out there but that was pleasing all the same." The Crusaders' free-wheeling win stretched New Zealand's dominance to 20-0 over Australian opposition this season and it has been a full year since the last Australian vic-

tory over a Kiwi team.

Defending champions Wellington Hurricanes were too clinical for South Africa's Northern Bulls in Pretoria, winning 34-20 despite playing without key fly-half Beauden Barrett. Barrett withdrew as a precaution after suffering a head knock while playing last weekend.

Barrett is the successor to retired New Zealand rugby legend Dan Carter, and is set to play a major role when the All Blacks confront the British and Irish Lions next month. The Hurricanes scored five tries to two in beating the troubled Bulls and remain second in the New Zealand standings behind the Crusaders.

The Highlanders supplanted the Waikato Chiefs from third spot in the Kiwi conference with their six-tries-to-four win over the Waratahs.

Otago were trailing 13-14 at half-time, but when Waratahs lock Dean Mumm was sin-binned early in the second half, the Highlanders pounced with two tries and never looked back.

Rieko Ioane made his case for All Blacks selection for the British and Irish Lions Tests as the Auckland Blues and Chiefs fought out a frustrating 16-16 draw. The draw was costly for the Chiefs, who slipped down to fourth spot in the New Zealand conference.

Top South African contenders Golden Lions will look to keep the Crusaders in their sights on the overall standings with a big victory over the Southern Kings in Johannesburg later Sunday.

The Coastal Sharks are nine points behind the Lions in Africa 2 conference after a 22-10 win over Africa 1 group leaders Western Stormers in Durban. — AFP

RUGBY

BANKS BRACE STEERS BRUMBIES TO VICTORY

BUENOS AIRES: ACT Brumbies full-back Tom Banks scored two tries in two minutes to set up a 39-15 Super Rugby triumph over Jaguares in Buenos Aires Saturday, and near-certain playoff qualification. The Australians outscored the error-prone Argentines by six tries to two at Estadio Jose Amalfitani to secure a bonus point and a nine-point lead over NSW Waratahs in the Australian conference.

A clinical victory in South America completed a tour that yielded nine points from a possible 10 after a 19-10 win over Southern Kings in South Africa last weekend. Brumbies and arch-rivals Waratahs have three fixtures left and the odds are stacked in favour of the Canberra outfit making a fifth consecutive knockout-stage appearance.

Banks scored the victory-clinching try against the Kings and struck twice midway through the first half in Argentina to turn a three-point deficit into a 17-10 lead.

He ran a brilliant line, took a pass from scrum-half Joe Powell and darted over on 25 minutes for his first try.

Almost immediately after, Jaguares winger Bautista Ezcurra failed to hold a high ball and when Brumbies flanker Chris Alcock kicked to the corner, Banks was there to score spectacularly.

Fly-half Wharenui Hawera kicked a penalty before half-time for a 20-10 advantage over opponents reduced to 14 men when skipper and hooker Agustin Crevey was yellow-carded for a cynical foul.

It was not what Jaguares supporters had expected after a promising start in a stadium also used by a leading football club.

Fly-half Nicolas Sanchez scored a penalty and, after skipper and lock Sam Carter claimed a pushover try converted by Hawera, Argentine lock Tomas Lavanini bulldozed across the line.

With star Sanchez receiving treatment for a cut, temporary replacement Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias kicked the conversion for a lead they held until Banks turned tormentor. Any hopes Jaguares had of staging a dramatic second-half comeback faded on 56 minutes as relentless pressure culminated in winger Henry Speight scoring a fourth Brumbies try.

Substitute Andrew Muirhead added two more in the final 10 minutes, both of which Hawera converted to compensate for three earlier missed shots at goal. All Jaguares could manage was a pushover try by replacement lock Guido Petti two minutes from time.

While a revitalised Brumbies outfit can return home confident of more success when they host Melbourne Rebels next weekend, the outlook for Jaguares is bleak.

After getting off to a great start with four wins in five matches, they have lost six of the last seven, including three in Buenos Aires. The drubbing by Brumbies was the second heaviest in Argentina since debuting last year-Otago Highlanders of New Zealand achieved a 26-point victory last season. — AFP



BUENOS AIRES: Australia's Brumbies centre Tevita Kuridrani (C) is tackled by Argentina's Jaguares centre Jeronimo De La Fuente (L) and wing Bautista Ezcurra during their Super Rugby match at Jose Amalfitani stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Saturday. — AFP



WASHINGTON: Trea Turner #7 of the Washington Nationals is tagged out at second base for the first out of the fifth inning after attempting to steal against Cory Spangenberg #15 of the San Diego Padres at Nationals Park on Saturday in Washington, DC. — AFP

BASEBALL

STRASBURG STRIKES OUT 15 AS NATIONALS BEAT PADRES

WASHINGTON: Stephen Strasburg struck out a career-high 15 while allowing three hits over seven innings to lead the Washington Nationals over the Padres 3-0 on Saturday. Strasburg (6-1) also singled and scored Washington's first run on Bryce Harper's third-inning grounder while Michael A. Taylor hit a two-run homer for the second consecutive game. Matt Albers and Koda Glover provided hitless relief, with Glover getting his fifth save. Clayton Richard (3-6) gave up three runs and 10 hits in six innings.

ANGELS 5, MARLINS 2

Mike Trout hit his major league-leading 16th homer, a first-inning drive into the left field beer garden estimated at 443 feet. J.C. Ramirez (5-3) limited Miami to an unearned run in seven innings. Cameron Maybin put Los Angeles ahead to stay in the third when he tripled and scored on Andrelton Simmons' groundout. Maybin also singled, stole two bases and scored three times. Vance Worley (0-2) allowed two runs and two hits in five innings.

RED SOX 6, MARINERS 0

Brian Johnson (2-0) pitched a five-hitter, struck out eight and walked none in his first big league appearance at Fenway Park as Boston stretched its winning streak to a season-high six games. He became the first Red Sox pitcher to throw a shutout in his first Fenway start since Pedro Martinez on April 11, 1998. Xander Bogaerts' RBI single triggered a three-run first inning and Bradley hit a two-run homer in the sixth Rob Whalen (0-1) gave up five runs and seven hits over 5 1/3 innings in debut for Seattle, which has lost seven of eight.

YANKEES 3, ATHLETICS 2

Rookie Jharel Cotton (3-5), brought up before the game, held the Yankees hitless until Matt Holliday's tiebreaking, two-run homer with two outs in the sixth. New York won with only two hits - the first time the Yankees have done that with so few at home since 1988. Sabathia (5-2) gave up two runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings, struck out nine and walked three. He has won three straight starts for the first time since 2013. Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge was in the right spot for a pair of key catches to boost the AL East leaders, who won with just two hits.

BLUE JAYS 3, RANGERS 1

Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer in the fifth off Yu Darvish (5-3) as Toronto matched its longest winning streak this season at five. Shin-soo Choo homered on the first pitch of the game from Marco Estrada (4-2), who allowed four hits in six innings. Roberto Osuna threw a perfect ninth for his ninth save, completing a six-hitter.

WHITE SOX 3, TIGERS 0

Tyler Danish (1-0) worked around six walks in a doubleheader opener while allowing three hits over five innings for his first major league win. David Robertson finished the four-hitter for his

sixth save in seven chances. Michael Fulmer (5-3) allowed nine hits in his first complete game this season. Tim Anderson scored on a double play in the fifth and Leury Garcia hit an RBI triple in the eighth and scored on Jose Abreu's single.

TWINS 5, RAYS 3

Brian Dozier hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Tommy Hunter with two outs in the eighth, an inning that began when Danny Farquhar (2-2) walked Chris Gimenez. Taylor Rogers (2-1) followed with a perfect bottom half and Brandon Kintzler got his 13th save, despite a two-out home run by Colby Rasmus.

PHILLIES 4, REDS 3

Tommy Joseph hit a solo homer in the fourth inning and a game-ending single in the ninth off Michael Lorenzen (3-1) as Philadelphia won for the third time in 13 games. Cesar Hernandez and Michael Saunders also homered for the Phillies. Hector Neris (2-2) pitched a scoreless ninth, combining with Edubray Ramos, Pat Neshek and Joaquin Benoit for 3 2/3 shutout innings.

BREWERS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Chase Anderson (3-1) didn't allow a hit until Nick Ahmed singled up the middle off the glove of second baseman Eric Sogard leading off the eighth. Anderson (3-1), who then left, struck out a career-high 11 and walked three, throwing a career high 114 pitches. Jett Bandy hit a three-run double off Zack Greinke (6-3) in the fourth and Jesus Aguilar homered. Arizona had won its previous five games.

ROYALS 5, INDIANS 2

Alex Gordon hit a tying single off Boone Logan in the sixth inning and scored on Alcides Escobar's two-run double against Nick Goody.

Danny Salazar (3-5) walked Whit Merrifield starting the inning. Jason Vargas (6-3) allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings. Kelvin Herrera worked the ninth for his second save in two days and No. 11 on the season.

DODGERS 5, CUBS 0

Chase Utley drove in three runs with a pair of two-out singles while Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer in a four-run fifth inning and Brandon McCarthy (5-1) and Ross Stripling combined on a three-hitter as Los Angeles won for the eighth time in 10 games. McCarthy (5-1) allowed two hits in six innings, and Stripling for nine outs for his first big league save. Chicago has been shut out in three consecutive road games. John Lackey (4-5) gave up five runs, six hits and four walks in six innings.

ASTROS 5, ORIOLES 2

Dallas Keuchel (8-0) returned from a disabled list stint caused by a pinched nerve in his neck and became the major leagues' first eight-game winner, allowing one run and four hits in six innings with eight strikeouts. Will Harris struck out two in a perfect ninth for his second save. George Springer hit a two-run homer for a 4-1 lead in the fourth against Wade Miley (1-3), who gave up four runs and eight hits in five innings.

PIRATES 5, METS 4

John Jaso singled home the tying run against Addison Reed in the ninth inning and the winning run off Josh Edgin with two outs in the 10th. Tony Watson (3-1) struck out Travis d'Arnaud to strand two runners in the 10th as the Pirates loaded the bases in the bottom half against Tyler Pill (0-1), who made his big league debut. On manager Terry Collins' 68th birthday, the Mets blew a save for the fifth time in their last seven chances. — AP

MLB results/standings

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

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	30	18	.625
NY Yankees	28	18	.609	Atlanta	21	26	.447
Boston	27	21	.563	NY Mets	20	27	.426
Baltimore	25	22	.532	Miami	17	30	.362
Tampa Bay	26	26	.500	Philadelphia	17	30	.362
Toronto	23	26	.469	Central Division			
Central Division				Milwaukee	26	23	.531
Minnesota	26	19	.578	St. Louis	24	22	.522
Cleveland	24	23	.511	Chicago Cubs	25	23	.521
Detroit	23	26	.469	Cincinnati	23	25	.479
Chicago White Sox	22	26	.458	Pittsburgh	23	27	.460
Kansas City	21	27	.438	Western Division			
Western Division				Colorado	32	19	.627
Houston	34	16	.680	Arizona	31	20	.608
LA Angels	26	26	.500	LA Dodgers	30	20	.600
Texas	24	26	.480	San Francisco	21	30	.412
Oakland	22	26	.458	San Diego	18	33	.353
Seattle	21	29	.420				

NEW PAKISTAN SKIPPER SARFRAZ FACES TROPHY ACID TEST

KARACHI: New captain Sarfraz Ahmed will face his stiffest test yet when he leads fancied Pakistan in the Champion's Trophy starting with a highly-charged clash against India.

After qualifying by the skin of their teeth, Pakistan will need to overcome serious batting deficiencies to be competitive following their struggles in the one-day format in recent years. Pakistan's tournament in England starts with the toughest of games against arch-rivals India, the defending champions, in Birmingham on June 4.

They are looking to halt a slump that began with a first-round exit from the 2015 World Cup, prompting all-rounder Shahid Afridi and skipper Misbah-ul-Haq to exit the one-day scene.

Test specialist Azhar Ali then led Pakistan to an embarrassing 3-0 white-

wash in Bangladesh and 4-1 reverses to both England and Australia before Sarfraz was handed the reins. The wicketkeeper-batsman is credited with injecting new energy after winning three of his first four games, two against the West Indies and one against lowly Zimbabwe.

But former captain Ramiz Raja believes the team lacks the skill-set needed to regularly beat top sides in modern limited-overs cricket, which tilts heavily towards batting. "They say a captain is as good as his team and this side lacks power-hitting skills," Raja told AFP.

"Also to win he needs to find wickets with the new ball. He has to be in control of his emotions—he must have a flexible plan based on discipline to create a winning environment." Pakistan squeezed into the eight-team tournament cour-

tesy of their clean-sweep against minnows Zimbabwe in May 2015, while also profiting from England's whitewashing of the West Indies. But the animated Sarfraz, who was often spotted screaming instructions at his fielders during the West Indies series, warned that Pakistan cannot be counted out. "It's true we are (ranked) number eight but we are capable of giving a tough time to our opponents," Sarfraz told AFP. "We will overcome our weaknesses during our preparations in a camp in Birmingham and will be noticed for our fight."

CLEARING THE ROPES

Pakistan's biggest task will be matching the big-hitting of other teams.

Pakistan is "playing the style or brand that belongs to the 1990s when the game has moved on, so we need a huge

lift in that area", head coach Mickey Arthur said. For Raja, the problem lies in the number of dot deliveries (balls from which the batting side does not score) that allows the run-rate to dry up.

"I would recommend Sarfraz to bat at four or five just to shake things up," he said. Veteran Shoaib Malik and all-rounder Imad Wasim will be required to give impetus to the batting line-up.

But the team is lacking the services of explosive opener Sharjeel Khan, who is currently facing a tribunal for spot-fixing and could face a life ban if found guilty. Infant terrible Umar Akmal, the other batsman seen as capable of consistently clearing the boundary, was kicked out of the squad and sent home for failing two fitness tests.

The bowling department is in better shape. New boy Shadab Khan can spring

a few surprises with his leg-spin in an attack led by Mohammad Amir, whose swing and accuracy was almost back to its former best in the West Indies. Pakistan have never won the Champions Trophy but they reached the semi-finals in 2004 and 2009.

On both occasions they got the better of India, their only wins against their bitter rivals in a multi-national ICC event.

For Sarfraz, Pakistan's opener against India will set the tone for the rest of their tournament. "We all know how lively these Pakistan-India matches are, so we will turn up fully motivated to have a winning start," he said.

They also face South Africa, on June 7 in Birmingham, and Sri Lanka on June 11 in Cardiff. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals. —AFP

ENGLAND HOPE CHAMPIONS TROPHY PROVIDES ELUSIVE TITLE

LONDON: In 42 years of trying England have never won a major global one-day international trophy but hopes are high they can finally put an end to that damning statistic as the host nation of next month's Champions Trophy.

Eoin Morgan's men have come a long way in a short space of time since a humiliating first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand saw them labelled "an analogue team in a digital age". Proof of their resurgence came when they posted a world record ODI score of 444 for three against Pakistan at Trent Bridge last year. England, who once disdained the Indian Premier League, are now happy to let players miss internationals so they can extend their time in the lucrative Twenty20 event. In all-rounder Ben Stokes they have one of the world's best, with the Durham hero paid a record \$2.16 million to take part before being named the tournament's most valuable player on the field as well. And even when Stokes fails to fire, England can still find a way to win games—as they showed with a 72-run victory over top-ranked South Africa in the first ODI of a three-match warm-up series at Headingley on Wednesday. "We've got the team that is capable of (winning our next seven matches)," said all-rounder Moeen Ali.

'LIMIT THE DAMAGE'

Their displays have been noted, with Kane Williamson, the captain of an enduringly competitive New Zealand, saying: "They are the best England one-day unit I've played against. The power in their batting line-up is a real strength, but it's one-day cricket and things happen that aren't expected." England, whose only major International Cricket Council trophy is the 2010 World Twenty20, are well aware of that point. As if losing three World Cup finals, the last in 1992, was not bad enough, England have also been beaten in two title-deciding matches in the Champions Trophy, the 'mini World Cup', on home soil when well-placed.

In 2004, they reduced the West Indies to 147 for eight chasing 218 only to suffer a two-wicket defeat. Yet what happened at Edgbaston four years ago, in the last Champions Trophy final, was arguably even worse. England, with many of the current squad involved, eventually needed 20 off 16 balls with six wickets in hand—an unlovable position from which they duly lost to India, who will be a tough proposition again under the leadership of Virat Kohli.

With scores of 300 barely a 'par score', bowlers could yet play a decisive role.

"No team has mastered the art of bowling at the death," South Africa coach Russell Domingo told the Sunday Times. "It's how you bowl up front and in the middle that limits the damage later."

Reigning world champions Australia, albeit the players are in a pay dispute with their board, boast some impressive weapons in an attack headed by left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc, while Domingo can field the likes of Morne Morkel and Kagiso Rabada.

Spin could play a part too, with India's Ravi Ashwin eager to pose problems. But the joy of the Champions Trophy, a sprint compared to the marathon of a World Cup, is that Pakistan and Sri Lanka will fancy their chances while Bangladesh—who knocked England out of the 2015 World Cup—could have a say in the destiny of the title. England will look to underline just how much they have moved on from that match when they face the Tigers in the tournament opener at The Oval on Thursday. But thoughts about who might win were put on hold following the Manchester terror attack that killed 22 people. The tournament, as with so much of public life in Britain, goes on with its fixtures unchanged but with no one unaffected. "We will make this a safe, secure tournament. Don't let the terrorists have their way," said ICC anti-corruption and security chief Ronnie Flanagan. "Sport can be a wonderfully positive influence in the face of adversity and terrorism." —AFP



LONDON: India's captain Virat Kohli bats during the ICC Champions Trophy Warm-up match between India and New Zealand at The Oval in London yesterday. — AFP

CRICKET

INDIA 'TO ENJOY' CHAMPIONS TROPHY AFTER MONEY ROW

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli says India will go out "to enjoy" their cricket as they aim to defend their Champions Trophy crown against the backdrop of a row over money with the international board. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) backed out of a threat to boycott the 50-over tournament in a revenue-sharing dispute with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

But they only named a squad two weeks after the original deadline for the tournament which starts on June 1. Kohli said the team were determined to keep their hunger for success. "The hunger to win and ruthlessness is what we speak about all the time," Kohli told reporters before India left for England. "The first challenge is to not think about that you are defending the title. When we went out there the last time we just wanted to enjoy," said Kohli. "We were a young unit. We ended up winning the tournament and creating a

team which has done so well so far."

The BCCI are angry at the new ICC revenue model agreed last month that reduced the powers of cricket's "Big Three"—Australia, England and India. The BCCI believes it will lose \$277 million in revenue over the next eight years. Former India captain Kapil Dev said he hoped the row would not affect performances on the field. "I hope all this talk doesn't impact the players. But today, media putting so much focus on everything it must be having some effect on them when they read and see the news," Kapil, the 1983 World Cup winning captain, said. "As a sportsman I just want to be bothered about cricket on the field. "Whatever happens otherwise, let the administrators take care of that," the legendary all-rounder said.

The BCCI are seeking a better deal before the ICC ratifies the new structure at its annual conference next month.

"See, we are just trying to get the board its

rightful share," a senior board official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "But trust me the revenue matter had nothing to do with the Champions Trophy. "We work for the best interest of the players and our wishes are with them to defend the title and play the brand of cricket that they have been playing." India, who beat England in the 2013 Champions Trophy final, are on a roll, winning 10 of the 13 Tests played against New Zealand, England, Bangladesh and Australia in a marathon home season.

The side also won their three-match one-day series against England 2-1 and most of their players have just been involved in the high-octane Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament. India are in Group B along with South Africa and Sri Lanka and start their campaign with a mouth-watering clash against fierce rivals Pakistan at Edgbaston, Birmingham, on June 4. —AFP

GOVERNMENT TO MEDIATE IN AUSTRALIA PAY ROW

SYDNEY: Sports Minister Greg Hunt said yesterday the federal government was prepared to provide mediation between Cricket Australia and players over the pay-dispute stalemate.

CA chairman David Peever has turned down the Australian Cricketers' Association's request for independent mediation and there are fears the stand-off could potentially lead to a players' boycott of the showpiece Ashes series later in the year. Hunt said the government was hesitant about being too interventionist in contract disputes in professional sport.

But he said there was scope to act as a mediator if the dispute looked likely to threaten the home Ashes series.

"If it got to a last-minute situation, I suspect that we would offer to provide good officers brokering between the parties, but there's six months between now and the Ashes," Hunt told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "It would be unthinkable that in the end we wouldn't have a full team. "I do not see either the players or the administration returning to the late 1970s where we had a second-rate team. "The players love playing for Australia, Cricket Australia knows this is not just fundamental to sport, it is part of our

national identity. I'm very confident they will reach an agreement."

Hunt added that while Canberra would offer to mediate if there was a "fundamental threat", "all the advice I have is that with six months to travel, the Ashes will be proceeding with a full Australian team." "And on Boxing Day (Melbourne fourth Test) you'll have Steve Smith, David Warner and the rest of the team out there."

The ACA has described CA's rejection of the players call for mediation as lacking in common sense.

"The CA strategy is to refuse to deal with the ACA and go directly to individual players to try and break the model," a spokesman said on Saturday. "This is despite the players repeated insistence for CA to respect their request and mediate with the ACA. "To refuse mediation at a time when it's the only sensible way forward shows a clear lack of common sense."

CA is determined to scrap revenue-sharing after 20 years, saying more funds are needed for the game's grassroots, and that the offer it has on the table provided hand-somely for players.

But the ACA is equally resolved to keep revenue-sharing, saying the system was not broken and did not need fixing. — AFP



LONDON: New Zealand's Luke Ronchi bats during the ICC Champions Trophy Warm-up match between India and New Zealand at The Oval in London yesterday. — AFP

SRI LANKA HOPE FOR MALINGA MAGIC AT CHAMPIONS TROPHY

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka have turned to old warhorse Lasith Malinga to put fight into their Champions Trophy campaign and reverse their decline in the one-day game.

The islanders have missed Malinga—one of the world's great fast bowlers through injury and their performances have suffered. Sri Lanka won a series against Zimbabwe and West Indies last year but were beaten in one-day contests on tours of England and South Africa in 2016-17 season.

So selectors have turned to Malinga and brought back fit-again all-rounder Angelo Mathews to lead the side for the 50-over tournament starting June 1. Malinga, 33, was a surprise choice considering he has played hardly any international cricket in the past 18 months. He has won the Indian Premier League title with the Mumbai Indians however. Malinga was the only player excused from the high altitude training camp for Sri Lanka's England-bound players because of the IPL campaign. "His fitness is improving and we are hoping that he will be able to deliver the full quota of 10 overs (a match) in England," said Sri Lanka Cricket president Thilanga Sumathipala.

Sri Lanka have also made Allan Donald fast bowling coach for the tournament after bringing back Graham Ford for a second coaching stint with the team since early 2016.

Donald said he has high hopes for the pace attack of Suranga Lakmal, Nuwan Pradeep, Nuwan Kulasekera, Thisara Perera and Malinga. "The Sri Lanka attack has what it takes to win the tournament," said Donald, the

first South African to 300 Test wickets. "Sri Lanka has a lot of skills. A lot of leadership with the ball ... what is there to be scared of?"

SCOTLAND SHOCK

Ford has played down the team's chances in the eight-nation event however, calling them the tournament "underdogs".

"Sometimes that is a good place to be. We've certainly got a chance of upsetting one of the so-called better nations. We will just be going one game at a time," said the South African. Those hopes hit an early rock when world's sixth ranked one day team were beaten by minnows Scotland in a preparatory 50-over game in Kent this week.

Sri Lankan quicks, without Malinga, failed to defend a 287-run score and Scotland cantered home in 42.5 overs. Sri Lanka made some amends by winning the second match against Scotland by nine wickets to end the two-match series on 1-1.

Sri Lanka's best show in the Champions Trophy was when they hosted the event in 2002. They shared the title with India after the final was twice rained off.

But skipper Mathews, who last played an ODI in the home series loss to Australia in August 2016, remains upbeat.

"We will definitely improve day by day and I am sure the boys are up to the challenge," said Mathews. "We don't have time for hiccups in a tournament like this." Sri Lanka are in Group B with India, Pakistan and South Africa. They begin the Champions Trophy against the Proteas at The Oval on June 3. —AFP



LONDON: Umpire Bruce Oxenford wears a protective arm guard during the ICC Champions Trophy Warm-up match between India and New Zealand at The Oval in London yesterday. — AFP



CHEVROLET ALGHANIM BROADCAST EUROPA CUP FINAL IN SAFAT AL-RAI SHOWROOM HOSTING MANCHESTER UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: As part of its on-going activities to build a long-term relationship with the youth of Kuwait, Chevrolet Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, was honored to invite the official Manchester United Supporters Club to Safat Chevrolet Alghanim showroom in Al-Rai on May 25th and host the exciting televised match between their beloved football club and its challenger, AFC Ajax.

The event reflects the Chevrolet brand's commitment to be an integral part of the Manchester United brand as one of the biggest General Motors' divisions and car manufacturers; the car brand continues to be one of the club's proud sponsors, supplying the team with jerseys for 7 years throughout their tournaments. The total value of the sponsorship has been estimated to be over 175 million Pound Sterling, which means that the company will be paying a whopping 25 million Pound Sterling each year.

Kuwait's Manchester United Supporters Club is considered to be the oldest fan club in the country compared to other local clubs. It was founded more than four years ago, and has been officially recognized by Manchester United on November 27th, 2012, after the club members' official visit.

The undertaking complements Chevrolet Alghanim's sports initiative and solidifies its dedication to be a vital part of the youth's lifestyles and passion. The event saw the attendance of more than 100 Manchester United supporters who were treated with refreshments as they supported their beloved football team through a stunningly giant display screen, cumulatively creating a enjoyable atmosphere bolstered by the club member's enthusiasm for the game.

Inspired by the game's competitive spirit, Chevrolet Alghanim also announced a special Instagram contest where it had invited the participants for a chance to win X-CITE vouchers, a red iPhone 7, and a Sony PS4.

Displayed in the showroom were limited editions of youth-oriented cars in conjunction with the event such as the Camaro - Manchester United edition with its daring exterior and unique colors. A Silverado was also on display with a new accessories packages that included a hood scoop, front bumper with LED lights, fender flares, off-road wheels and tires, rear tailgate scoop, and bed cover.

Chevrolet Alghanim looks forward to supporting the interest of the youth of Kuwait in future events as part of its ongoing promise to build supportive relationship and trust for many years to come.



EUGENE: Mo Farah celebrates as he reaches to the finish line in the men's 5,000 meters in his last race in the US at the IAAF Diamond League Prefontaine Classic at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., Saturday. — AP

ATHLETICS

FARAH, BOWIE AND BAKER WIN AT PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

EUGENE: Mo Farah pounded his chest after crossing the finish line on a US track for perhaps the final time.

Farah won the 5,000 meters at the Prefontaine Classic at Oregon's Hayward Field on Saturday in 13 minutes, 0.70 seconds. The British distance specialist who defended his Olympic titles in both the 5,000 and 10,000 at the Rio Games last year plans to retire from track races after the world championships in London this August. He's said that after that he'll likely focus on the marathon.

American Ronnie Baker bested both countryman Justin Gatlin and Canadian Andre De Grasse

to win the men's 100, while Tori Bowie prevailed over a strong field that included Allyson Felix and Jamaican Elaine Thompson to win the 200 in a brilliantly sunny but breezy day.

Farah, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth late last year, was the star of the Diamond League's lone stop in the United States, holding off Ethiopian Yomif Kejelcha and Kenyan Geoffrey Kamworor. He beamed when he said the victory answered those naysayers who scoff that he is too old at 34.

"If I wasn't enjoying it, I wouldn't be winning," Farah said, holding his toddler son Hussein. "I'm happy, I'm enjoying and I work hard. As long as

you work hard and you believe in yourself you can come up with the results."

Considered one of the strongest 5,000 fields in recent memory, Farah was joined in the race by Paul Chelimo, who won silver in the 5K in Rio, and Kenyan Paul Tanui, the silver medalist in the 10K. The field was crowded with 29 entrants.

Farah started moving up in the pack at the halfway point and with two laps to go he took the lead among some jostling by his challengers. Crossing the finish he pounded his chest in victory. Baker, a two-time NCAA champion in the 60, was happy to spoil the Pre's anticipated showdown between Gatlin and De Grasse. He won in a wind-aided 9.86 seconds. "I felt great," Baker said. "I felt like I had a really good start for the first time in a long time, so that was amazing and after that I just went through my motions, executed and came out with a victory."

De Grasse finished fourth while Gatlin was fifth. Gatlin, who came in second to Usain Bolt at the Olympics last year, said he's working toward the US national championships next month in Sacramento, California. He had a strong finish to win the Golden Grand Prix last week in Japan, and he said he had a good start in the Pre.

"Now I've just got to piece them together," he said. Americans Devon Allen, Aries Merritt and David Oliver challenged Olympic champion Omar McLeod of Jamaica in the 110 hurdles, with McLeod coming out on top in 13.01 seconds. Ronald Levy was second and Allen - who was running on his home college track - was third.

Allen, who also played football at Oregon, decided to go pro in track last November after making the US Olympic team.

Russian Sergey Shubenkov, the 2015 world champion, encountered issues with obtaining a visa in time to compete in the event. Prefontaine director Tom Jordan said that for the first time in nearly a decade, some 10 athletes were denied or faced delays in obtaining visas for the event, the lone U.S. stop on the elite Diamond League series. Morolake Akinosun won the women's 100 in 10.94. The race featured Tianna Bartoletta, who won the gold medal in Rio in the long jump and finished second to Brittney Reese in that same event at the Pre on Friday night.

Bowie seemed as surprised as anyone that she won the 200, describing the race as "practice" for nationals. She finished in a meet record 21.77 seconds. — AP

TEEN POLE VAULT SENSATION DUPLANTIS EYES NEW HEIGHTS

EUGENE: His first taste of elite competition may have ended in defeat, but schoolboy pole vault sensation Armand Duplantis is adamant that he can challenge for a medal at the World Championships later this year.

Still only 17, Duplantis, known popularly as "Mondo", has jumped higher than any other pole vaulter in 2017, leaping a world-leading 5.9 metres (19 feet 4.3 inches) at the Texas Relays in April.

On Saturday the teenage high school student from Louisiana served further notice of his rich talent with a fourth place finish at the Prefontaine Classic Diamond League meeting in Eugene, Oregon.

Duplantis, who has chosen to represent Sweden in elite competition because of his Swedish mother, posted a creditable jump of 5.71m. The event was won by Sam Kendricks of the United States in 5.86m with world record holder Renaud Lavillenie of France second in 5.81. Duplantis however was far from discouraged following his outing. "It shows me I can jump high right now," Duplantis said.

"I don't want to say that I'm better than Kendricks or Renaud but of course I have a chance against them (at the world championships)," he added.

Duplantis' display was just the latest stop on a remarkable rise that has seen him described as the "Tiger Woods of the Pole Vault."

His world leading jump in Texas last month is a US high school record and a

world junior record. It would also have been good enough to win the bronze medal at last year's Olympics.

Despite the fact that no 17-year-old has ever jumped higher, Duplantis believes there is room for improvement. "It didn't feel at all like a perfect jump. Not even close actually. I watched some video and it was a pretty good jump but I didn't think it was close to perfect," he said. "I have a better jump in me for sure."

Pole-vaulting is in the Duplantis family genes. Father Greg was a competitive pole vaulter; Mondo was exposed to the sport as a four-year-old, practising on a makeshift runway and pit set up in his family's back yard. "When you have a pole vault pit in your back yard, you're going to try it," Duplantis said.

"I fell in love with pole vault at a young age and stuck with it." Duplantis has already surpassed his father's personal best. "He bet me that if I jumped 19 feet he'd get me any kind of car I want. And I did it in my sophomore year," Duplantis said. "And he didn't get me any car I want by the way. It's funny. I look up to my dad my whole life. And then to know that I'm better than him at 17 years old."

Participating in the world championships will mean that Duplantis misses the first week of high school. "But I'm not stressing," Duplantis said. "I don't stress about school, even if I have a test of something. School is the second thought right now." — AFP



EUGENE: Armand Duplantis of Sweden warms up for the pole vault during the 2017 Prefontaine Classic Diamond League at Hayward Field on Saturday in Eugene, Oregon. — AFP

DEFIANT RUNNERS, SPECTATORS UNITE IN FORCE DESPITE TERROR THREAT

MANCHESTER: Tens of thousands of runners and spectators from Manchester and further afield packed the city yesterday in an impressive show of defiance days after a suicide bomb killed 22 people and left dozens wounded.

American Dathan Ritzenhein and Ethiopian great Tirunesh Dibaba won the men's and women's Great Manchester Run races respectively after all the competitors observed a minute's silence and poet Tony Walsh read out a poem including the line "Do something the city will remember." "There is a spirit and history of community here. Choose love," Walsh told the BBC prior to reading his poem.

The races-with over 30,000 runners young and old taking part-took place with the British Government having lowered the terror level from critical to severe on Saturday.

Some of the star names such as Peter Hook-bassist for iconic Manchester band Joy Division evolving into New Order-and former boxing world champion Anthony Crolla had relatives caught up in the bombing at the Manchester Arena on Monday.

Hook-running in his 11th Great Manchester Run-said his daughter Jessica had been at the Ariana Grande concert and his wife had become distraught when she took the call to be told there had been an incident-

fortunately for them it all ended well.

"It is important to support people and the grieving families," he told the BBC.

"Fortunately our 18-year-old daughter Jessica arrived home before it was on the television. "Physically she was fine but she's suffered all week in other ways. My heart bleeds for other families. "Hopefully this makes people feel a bit better."

'MESSAGE OF DEFIANCE'

Crolla, who held the WBA lightweight belt from 2015 to 2016, had a 17-year-old female relative at the concert. "She is ok but she saw things you wouldn't want anyone to see, let alone a 17-year-old girl, of body parts and other such horrors," the 30-year-old told the BBC.

One of the 22 people killed was 29-year-old Martyn Hett, who had been a devotee of long running British soap opera Coronation Street and especially one of its iconic characters Deirdre Barlow-to the extent he had a large tattoo of her on his left leg.

"I met him (Martyn Hett) one night and I saw his tattoo of Deirdre Barlow and I didn't know what to say to him," said one of the cast members Bruno Langley, running in the race with several of his fellow actors to raise funds for a children's hospital. — AP

TEN-MAN UNITED STATES BOOK PLACE IN ROUND OF 16 AT U20 WCUP

SEOUL: A United States team reduced to ten men sealed top spot in Group E of the FIFA Under-20 World Cup yesterday with a 1-1 tie with Saudi Arabia in Daejeon, South Korea.

A Brooks Lennon first-half goal secured the vital point for the US to set up a second-round showdown with New Zealand on June 1. The Americans took the lead five minutes before the break. Luca de la Torre saw his shot saved but Brooks slotted home the rebound from close

range. Central defender Cameron Carter-Vickers was sent off on the stroke of half-time for a second bookable offence.

Saudi Arabia struggled to take advantage of its extra man though US goalkeeper Johnathan Klinsmann saved well from a fierce Abdulrahman Al Yani shot midway through the second half.

Klinsmann could do little about the equalizer that came after 74 minutes. Abdullah Al Amri was left unmarked on the edge of the six-yard box to

meet Sami Al Naji's right-sided corner with a powerful header into the far corner.

The Saudis pushed forward in search of victory but were left frustrated. The U.S. took first place in the group with five points, one ahead of Senegal who tied Ecuador 0-0.

Saudi Arabia was third and also progresses to the last 16 ahead of Argentina as the fourth of the four best third-placed finishers that progress along with the top two teams from each of the

six groups. In Group E, France maintained its perfect record with a 2-0 win over New Zealand. Monaco winger Allan Saint-Maximin scored both goals.

France will take on Italy on June 1 for a place in the last eight. New Zealand stayed in second with Honduras moving into third with a 2-0 win over Vietnam though the Central Americans are eliminated. The final takes place on June 11 in Suwon. — AP



MADRID: Barcelona players and staff pose with the trophy at the end of the Spanish Copa del Rey (King's Cup) final football match FC Barcelona vs Deportivo Alaves at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on Saturday. Barcelona won 3-1. — AFP

BARCELONA WIN COPA DEL REY IN LUIS ENRIQUE'S LAST GAME

MADRID: The Luis Enrique era in Barcelona came to an end with the coach lifting one last trophy. The coach raised the Copa del Rey after Barcelona defeated Alaves 3-1 in the final on Saturday.

Lionel Messi, Neymar and Paco Alcacer scored in the first half as Barcelona won its third straight copa and 29th all-time.

Luis Enrique capped his three-year stint with the club with his ninth title out of a possible 13.

He celebrated by waving his winner's trophy and singing the club's anthem in front of the Barcelona fans who traveled to the final in Madrid.

"We finished the season how we wanted to finish it," Luis Enrique said. "I leave with the feeling of mission accomplished."

It was the final competitive match at Atletico Madrid's Vicente Calderon Stadium, which will be demolished to

give way to a housing complex. Atletico moves into a new venue next season.

Alaves, the minnow Basque Country club promoted to Spain's top flight this season after 10 years in the lower divisions, was playing in the final of a major tournament for only the second time in its 96-year history. The other was the UEFA Cup 16 years ago, when it lost to Liverpool 5-4 in extra time.

Barcelona dominated and opened the scoring in the 30th minute with a well-placed shot by Messi from just outside the box after a pass by Neymar.

Alaves, which beat Barcelona in the Liga, equalized three minutes later with a superb free kick shot by Theo Hernandez.

But Barcelona regained control with a couple of goals just before halftime. Neymar scored after a pass by Andre Gomes in the 45th and Alcacer added to the lead from

inside the area after a great slalom run by Messi three minutes into stoppage time.

Alaves almost opened the scoring when Ibai Gomez struck the post after a blunder by Barcelona defender Gerard Pique just before Messi's goal.

"There are mixed feelings," Alaves coach Mauricio Pellegrino said. "We are disappointed with the result, we had high hopes, but we are happy for what we did the entire season."

It was only the second title for Barcelona in a relatively disappointing season. It was eliminated by Juventus in the quarterfinals of the Champions League and lost the Spanish league title to Real Madrid in the final round last weekend. Its other title was the Spanish Super Cup.

Luis Enrique, who made the surprising announcement in March that he was leaving Barcelona so he could get some rest, never lost a Copa del Rey home-and-away series

since he took over the club, a run of 12 straight triumphs ahead of the final.

Defender Javier Mascherano had to be substituted less than 10 minutes into the game with a head cut after colliding with an Alaves defender. He also injured his right knee on the play, and was on crutches during the title celebrations. Barcelona played without striker Luis Suarez because of a suspension.

Before the game, five members of a radical group of Barcelona supporters were arrested after they allegedly robbed and trashed a small store in the Spanish capital.

Barcelona's victory meant Athletic Bilbao will earn the final spot from Spain in the Europa League. Athletic finished seventh in the Spanish league, outside of the automatic qualification spots, but it earned a berth because Barcelona will play in the Champions League. Alaves needed to win the Copa del Rey title to qualify. — AP



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Maxwell (C) holds the trophy as he celebrates winning the French Cup final football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Angers (SCO) on Saturday at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris. — AFP

LAST-GASP OWN GOAL HANDS PSG FRENCH CUP

PARIS: Unfortunate Issa Cissokho headed agonisingly into his own net in stoppage time to give Paris Saint-Germain a 1-0 win over Angers in the French Cup final at the Stade de France on Saturday. Extra time loomed at France's national stadium where French President Emmanuel Macron was among the spectators when Cissokho turned an Angel Di Maria corner past his own goalkeeper while under pressure from Blaise Matuidi at the near post.

It was a desperately harsh way for Angers to lose, as PSG ended a frustrating season by winning a third consecutive French Cup and a record 11th overall in the centenary edition of the tournament. "Luck was on our side tonight," conceded PSG defender Serge Aurier. "This title is even more important because everything hasn't been rosy this season, but we were lucky to win titles."

"It goes in the trophy cabinet so it's magnificent." It joins the League Cup in the PSG trophy cabinet and provides some more consolation for the capital side after a season that will be best remembered for their failures elsewhere.

Unai Emery's side missed out on the league title to Monaco after winning Ligue 1 in each of the previous four campaigns and exited the Champions League in humiliating fashion to Barcelona in the last 16. That 6-1 defeat at the Camp Nou after they had won the first leg 4-0 at

home will be a lasting stain on PSG's reputation and that of Emery. However, their status as domestic Cup specialists remains very much intact after this victory against a hard-working Angers side who were appearing in their first French Cup final in 60 years.

'CRUEL'

Defeat means they have still never won a major trophy, while PSG have now lifted the French Cup six times just since 2004 and have won their last 32 domestic Cup ties.

It also means Bordeaux, who came sixth in the league, go into next season's Europa League, with Paris already assured a Champions League berth after coming second.

"When you lose it's always cruel," said Angers coach Stephane Moulin. "We were only one minute away from extra time. Two words spring to mind, disappointment and great pride, because the players delivered a high quality final. "We were up against a rival who were superior to us this evening but they were unable to show it in terms of goals."

Given the gulf in resources between the two teams, it would have been an almighty shock had Paris not come out on top, although they were pushed all the way by a side who finished 12th in Ligue 1. — AFP

RODGERS HAILS 'HISTORIC' CUP WINNERS CELTIC

GLASGOW: Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers praised the bravery of his players as they created history by defeating Aberdeen 2-1 to lift the Scottish Cup and end the entire season unbeaten.

The Hoops fell behind to an early Jonny Hayes strike before Stuart Armstrong's leveller and Australian international Tom Rogic's dramatic stoppage time strike sealed only the fourth domestic treble in the club's 129-year history. "The players showed remarkable courage to go and play and get the result," Rodgers said after his side sealed their first clean sweep since 2001.

"It was a very tough game and to win it the way we did was special. "We had to really respond and show why we are champions, to come from behind to play the way we did in the second half. "It is a fantastic achievement and it will take a few days to sink in."

A record-extending 37th Scottish Cup win was the cap on a remarkable season as the Glasgow giants become the first Scottish team to land all three honours and end an entire season unbeaten domestically.

"It is a monumental achievement and the players have made history," Rodgers said.

"Coming in my job was to try and impose an identity in how we play. "We have created that. Over the course of the season, our work, our game model and now we can build on that. "We set a standard right back at the beginning which has only fallen short in one training session and that was on Thursday."

UNBEATEN

"Whether there was maybe a little bit of floating about in the mind having won the league and a wee bit of a celebratory feel, but the session was cut short. "In every game we have found a solution. That's 47 games domestically unbeaten - it's an incredible achievement by them. "Thankfully I took over a group of players who were very keen, hungry, coachable and willing to learn."

Rodgers now joins legendary manager Jock Stein and Martin O'Neill as only the third Celtic manager to lead the Glasgow giants to a clean sweep in the week the club celebrated the 50th anniversary of their European Cup win.

"It is a huge honour when you consider what they've achieved and you see how difficult it is," the Celtic manager said. — AFP



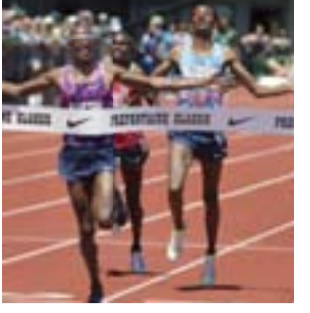
BERLIN: Dortmund's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the German Cup (DFB Pokal) final football match Eintracht Frankfurt v BVB Borussia Dortmund at the Olympic stadium in Berlin on Saturday. — AFP

Sports

**S Korea upset
China to win
Sudirman Cup**



**Farah, Bowie and
Baker win at
Prefontaine Classic**



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STRASBURG STRIKES OUT 15 AS NATIONALS BEAT PADRES

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KERBER IN HISTORIC LOSS, TEARFUL KVITOVA RETURNS



PARIS: Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova serves the ball to US Julia Boserup during their qualification round match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Tennis Open yesterday. — AFP

PARIS: Angelique Kerber became the first top seed to lose in the opening round at Roland Garros yesterday as tearful Petra Kvitova swept to victory in her first match since surviving a knife attack which almost ended her career.

German world number one Kerber dropped serve six times on her way to a 6-2, 6-2 defeat to Russia's Ekaterina Makarova.

Before this year, the earliest exits suffered by a top seed in Paris came in the second round—Justine Henin in 2004 and Serena Williams in 2014. "At the end of the match, it was really tough as I knew she wouldn't give it to me—I had to win it," said Makarova, a former semi-finalist at the Australian and US Opens.

It was the second successive first round exit at Roland Garros for Kerber, the reigning US Open champion—last year, she fell to unseeded Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.

It also continued a miserable spell for the 29-year-old on clay in 2017. She lost her opener in Stuttgart where she was the defending champion, suffered a thigh injury in the third round in Madrid and lost first time out in Rome. Yesterday, she fell a double break down to trail 5-1 to her Russian opponent who she was facing for the 12th time. Makarova, now ranked 40 after reaching a career high of eight, was a double break ahead again for 3-0 in the second set.

Four successive breaks of serve followed

before Makarova saved seven break points in the crucial eighth game to cause the upset. Kerber's defeat makes the women's draw even more open with Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenka all not playing.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova downed outclassed Julia Boserup of the United States 6-3, 6-2, falling to her knees in celebration in the moment of victory before weeping at the net. "I'm really glad to have made the decision to play here," said 27-year-old Kvitova, who was seriously hurt when she fought off a knife-wielding burglar at her home in the eastern Czech town of Prostějov in December. "I won the match today but I knew I had already won," she added in reference to the initial nightmare scenario in which she feared she'd lose the fingers on her left playing hand.

20 YEARS FOR VENUS

Kvitova, the 15th seed and a semi-finalist in Roland Garros in 2012, fired nine aces and 31 winners past Boserup, making her debut at the tournament at the age of 25.

Olympic champion Monica Puig sent veteran Italian Roberta Vinci to her 10th first round loss in 13 visits to Paris, winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Madison Brengle of the US defeated Germany's Julia Goerges 1-6, 6-3, 13-11 in a tie stretching to almost three hours.

Goerges went down blazing—she hit 79

winners but 90 unforced errors. Venus Williams marks her Roland Garros 20th anniversary later yesterday. Three weeks shy of her 37th birthday, the American star, who made her debut in the French capital in 1997, kicks off her latest campaign against China's Wang Qiang.

Williams, seeded 10, has played every year since 1997 with the exception of 2011 and despite her senior citizen status, she is still a contender at the Slams as her run to the Australian Open final in January proved.

Her staggering longevity is illustrated by the fact that her potential second round opponent is compatriot Amanda Anisimova who, at just 15, is the youngest main draw competitor since 2005. When Venus was losing the 2002 Roland Garros final to Serena, Anisimova was just nine months old.

"I'm here as I still have a lot to give. That just wraps it up," said Venus, who has never got beyond the quarter-finals in Paris since her runners-up spot 15 years ago.

The standout match in the men's singles sees Austrian sixth seed Dominic Thiem, a semi-finalist in 2016, take on unpredictable Bernard Tomic of Australia. Thiem is regarded as a potential champion should world number one Andy Murray, defending champion Novak Djokovic or nine-time champion Rafael Nadal slip up. — AFP

KHAN WANTS BROOK BOUT AFTER SPENCE JR TAKES TITLE

LONDON: Britain's former light-welterweight world boxing champion Amir Khan wants to end years of failed negotiations and finally take on compatriot Kell Brook he told Sky Sports.

The 2004 Olympic lightweight silver medalist announced this in the wake of Brook losing his IBF welterweight title to the impressive unbeaten American Errol Spence Junior at Sheffield United's Bramall Lane ground late Saturday.

Spence Jr—who has not looked back since losing in the 2012 Olympic quarter-finals—has been called the 'real deal' by American boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard and forced the referee to stop

the fight in the 11th round after an absorbing no-holds barred contest.

Khan, who held the WBA belt from 2009-12 and the IBF version in 2011, said he would like to fight Brook at welterweight provided the latter's left eye injury was not so severe he would have to hang up his gloves. "I'd like to fight him at 147," 30-year-old Khan told Sky Sports. "It depends on Kell's eye, and also the dates—there are a lot of pay-per-view fights on." "The fight between me and Kell Brook is a pay-per-view fight. I really believe that fight next summer would make sense.

"I'm sure he's going to go into another

fight that is going to be a nice, tune-up fight. Maybe next summer we could be back." Brook's promoter Eddie Hearn said his 31-year-old pugilist could have suffered a broken left eye socket. If it is the case it is the same injury Brook—who had hoped to fulfil a prophecy by his uncle years ago he would successfully defend his title at the ground of the club he supports—suffered but to his right eye in his previous bout against Kazakh middleweight superstar Gennady Golovkin.

"I think it's the same injury as the Golovkin fight but the other eye, which is unbelievable, but it was caused by Errol," said Hearn. — AFP



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Kuwait Times ^{55th} ANNIVERSARY BUSINESS

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BEIJING: This picture taken on May 25, 2017 shows a guard closing a gate to a construction project in Beijing's central business district, as China Zun (2nd L), the city's tallest building, is seen in the background. — AFP

PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS TURNS 10

MAKING A MARK DESPITE LIMITED RESOURCES AND UNUSUAL STRUCTURE

PARIS: Armed with an ever-lengthening list of prestigious names on its teaching staff and a constantly improving ranking, the Paris School of Economics—which celebrates its 10th birthday this year—is making its mark in the world of economics research, despite limited resources and its unusual structure. Conceived from the very beginning as France's answer to the London School of Economics or even Harvard, the idea of a PSE was long championed by France's top economic thinkers such as Daniel Cohen and Thomas Piketty, author of the best-seller "Capital in the Twenty-First Century".

"At the time, economic research in Paris was very splintered," said Pierre-Yves Geoffard, the school's director since 2013. "There were successful institutions, but they didn't have international visibility because they lacked the critical mass." Aware of such shortcomings, six elite

institutions decided to combine their strengths and set up something of a higher education joint venture—the Ecole d'Economie de Paris or Paris School of Economics. "The idea was to make these different institutions work together to cover all of the field of economics and give more weight to their work," said Piketty.

As each of the institutions—the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS), the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) and the University of Paris 1 - Pantheon-Sorbonne—had their own proud traditions, merging their economics programs was never going to be easy.

Ranked seventh globally

There were also concerns about the

finances, but the French state chipped in and the PSE found private sponsors, including insurer AXA.

When the school was inaugurated in 2007, there were doubts in education circles as to whether project would succeed. Ten years later, those doubts have largely been dispelled. The PSE has catapulted itself to seventh place in the industry-standard Repec rankings of university economics departments. It is the second outside of the United States, behind Oxford.

"We have succeeded within a number of years in establishing ourselves in the academic world," said Geoffard. Its success helped "bring foreign researchers to France and stop a part of the brain drain from the country," he added. PSE, where all of the courses are conducted in English, has a teaching staff of 145 drawn from 18 countries. More than half of its 400 masters

and doctorate students are from outside of France. True to its motto of "economics serving society", PSE economists lead dozens of consultancy missions for private firms and public institutions. It also participates in numerous research projects in order to contribute to the public debate on issues.

New building

"They are very active," noted Frederic Lebaron, a professor at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines. Nevertheless, Lebaron feels the PSE "lacks diversity in its research subjects," and also "standardises" the Anglo-Saxon model of economic thinking. Such a charge is rejected by Piketty, whose book "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" explored wealth and income inequality. "We are trying to develop a vision

of the economy which is multidisciplinary, which creates links with history and sociology," he said. Financial constraints haven't helped.

The PSE has an annual budget of just 9 million euros (\$10 million), although the salaries of many staff are covered by the founding institutions. In any case, it is a very long way from its Anglo-Saxon counterparts in terms financial firepower.

"To attract foreign researchers, that can be a problem," said Geoffard, who praised the amount accomplished by professors and students with the limited resources. PSE's structure also means that it doesn't award degrees—they carry the name of one of the founding institutes. PSE had also been hampered by being dispersed across numerous sites, but it opened a new building in February in southern Paris. — AFP

YOUNG CHINESE IN THE RED AS EASY CREDIT DRIVES UP DEBT

BEIJING: When Wu Qi and her husband traded in their Mazda 3 for a more expensive Mercedes Benz sedan, they applied for a 200,000 yuan (\$29,000) bank loan to help pay for it. They got the money within minutes. Quick and easy access to credit has encouraged many young Chinese to go into the red to buy cars and apartments they could not otherwise afford.

They are the faces of China's growing addiction to debt, which along with government and corporate borrowing, has raised fears of a looming crisis and prompted Moody's ratings agency to slash the country's credit score last week for the first time in nearly three decades. "It is very easy—the car company encourages you to borrow the money and enjoy the car," said Wu, 39, adding the couple is also paying off a one million yuan mortgage for a three-bedroom flat in Beijing.

Since Chinese leaders turned on the credit taps in late 2008 to shield the country from the global recession, household borrowing has soared and pushed China's overall debt liabilities above 260 percent of gross domestic product—compared with about 140 percent before the crisis hit. But slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy has raised concerns that years of risky lending could lead to a disas-

ter worse than the US sub-prime collapse. "While such debt levels are not uncommon in highly rated countries, they tend to be seen in countries which have much higher per capita incomes, deeper financial markets and stronger institutions than China's," Moody's said.

Rapid rise

Household debt has become the major driver of China's credit growth, expanding by an average of 19 percent a year since 2011, said Chen Long, an economist at Gavekal Dragonomics. If it continues to grow at this pace, household debt would reach roughly 66 trillion yuan by 2020 — more than double the current level—and potentially 70 percent of GDP versus 30 percent back in 2013.

"Other countries have usually taken decades to complete such an increase," said Chen. "For bank lending to households to rise very rapidly usually means lending standards are loosened so credit is extended to both more and less creditworthy consumers." Mortgages make up the bulk of household debt. Chinese have long favored putting their savings into bricks and mortar due to the low bank deposit rates on offer, volatility in the stock market and strict rules that make it difficult to invest money abroad. "It's a safe

choice," said homeowner Charlie Liu, 26, who also rents out her flat on Airbnb to help cover the repayments on her 1.4 million yuan mortgage.

But as apartment prices have soared—often doubling within a few years, particularly in major cities—fears of a real estate bubble have mounted. The government has responded by periodically tightening restrictions on property purchases and hiking minimum down payments—up to 80 percent for a second home in Beijing, according to state media—to stabilize the market.

But prices continue to rise, forcing young homebuyers deeper into debt. Wang Yuchen, 28, borrowed three million yuan from the bank in August to buy a 4.75 million yuan apartment in Beijing. Lacking enough cash, Wang turned to his parents and friends to help pay the deposit. "In 2012 I could have bought the same apartment for 1.5 million yuan," Wang said. "I'm a little bit worried but there's nothing I can do. Last year I was getting married and it's tradition in China that you have to have your own house to get married."

Cheap loans

Borrowing money for a car is also becoming more popular as consumers, particularly



BEIJING: This picture taken on May 26, 2017 shows a woman using an umbrella as she walks past a Ferrari and Maserati store. — AFP

millennials, take advantage of very low interest rates. Auto financing has been soaring by 40 percent a year and high-speed growth in the sector is expected to continue, said Ron Zheng, an automotive expert at Roland Berger consultancy. "Before I bought this new car I never thought I would change my old car because nowadays you can hire a car using (ride-hailing app) Didi and Uber which is quite convenient," said Wu. "And then I found that a new car is not that expensive."

Facing dire warnings, Chinese policymakers are taking action to tighten balance sheets, halt risky lending and dispose of bad loans. But there are doubts about Beijing's willingness to clean house given its heavy reliance on freewheeling credit to drive economic growth. "We will see how it can extricate itself from the same 'grow now ask questions later' trap that all other command economies have slipped into in the past," said Michael Every, senior Asia-Pacific strategist for Rabobank. — AFP



NEW YORK: In this Friday, Nov 13, 2015, file photo, the American flag flies above the Wall Street entrance to the New York Stock Exchange. —AP Photos



TOKYO: People stand in front of an electronic stock board of a securities firm.

TRADING PLACES: EUROPE STRONG AND STABLE

NBK WEEKLY REPORT

UNITED STATES

Forget Trumpflation

KUWAIT: It was all about oil prices this week as the OPEC and non-OPEC producers agreed to extend the production cut deal by nine months into 2018. Even though this was the widely expected scenario, the disappointment reflected in the price reaction appeared to be twofold with cuts not being deepened and no new producers joining the agreement. Nonetheless, it kept some optionality open for cuts being extended beyond the additional nine months should prices decline. Long story short; as oil held its biggest loss in three weeks following the meeting, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister said the cuts are working and stockpile reductions will accelerate in the third quarter, with inventories falling to the five-year average early next year.

Moreover, according to Russia's Energy Minister Alexander Novak, producers have more tools to further support prices if needed. Back in the US, the 2018 initial budget plan indicated cuts of approximately USD 3.6trn over the next ten years by shrinking benefits provided to poorer segments of the US population. Given the linkage of this budget to expected tax reforms, the possibility of lengthy debates in Congress and likelihood of the final numbers looking very different remains very high for now.

On the monetary policy front, the FOMC meeting minutes were released last Wednesday disappointing dollar bulls. The minutes reflected a Fed that sees the first quarter softness as transitory and is prepared to hike in June depending on the data. Moreover, the balance sheet reduction was confirmed as the FOMC intends to gradually reduce the balance sheet assets size. On this matter, Philadelphia Fed President Harker expects the Fed's unwinding of its balance sheet will be "predictable, slow, and as boring as possible...according to his statement, "it will be the policy equivalent of watching paint dry."

Fed's Bullard was slightly on the dovish side saying that US prices are noticeably lower than what they would be if the Fed had reached its 2% inflation target, a trend he considers "worrisome". Bullard also said the Fed's expected rate hike path is "overly aggressive". Dallas Fed President Kaplan was slightly more hawkish saying that he sees two more Fed hikes this year as a base case and that he will advocate raising rates when

he sees an opportunity to do so. He also indicated that his economic growth forecast was lower than the 3% figure assumed in the Trump administration's budget proposal.

In Europe, investors' Sentiments remain strong. The manufacturing PMI for the whole Euro area rose to a multi-year high in May, and German business sentiment stands at its highest level in decades. Taken at face value, the strength of the PMIs suggests that the Eurozone economy is booming. Even ECB members seemed less pessimistic over the potential negative effect from the Brexit negotiations on Europe state of affairs. One member stated that "Brexit" will not derail the Eurozone's economic revival as he believes the UK has

range the entire week as it opened on 1.1200 and reached a high of 1.1267 on the back of Chancellor Angela Merkel mentioning that the "Euro is too weak". The currency closed the week at 1.1178.

The Sterling Pound was weaker as the Conservative Party's lead in opinion polls continues to narrow. The latest polls showed the Conservatives with 43% of the vote against 38% for the current opposition Labor Party. This is the smallest gap since April 2016 and equates to a mere 2 seat majority if this level of support was reflected evenly across the country. This compares to the 17 seat majority the Conservatives currently hold. The currency reached a low of 1.2858 amid the political mess, yet held firm

both slipped further than expected. New homes sales were down 11.4% on the month and existing sales were down by 2.3%. April's 569,000 new home sales follows an upwardly revised 642,000-unit pace in March which marks the cycle-high, the highest since October 2007.

Sales of existing homes on the other hand were also coming down from hitting a cycle high of 5.7 million-units in March. April re-sales were running at a 5.57 million unit pace. The mild winter weather in the Midwest and Northeast allowed an earlier start for the spring selling season, pulling transactions that usually take place in April into earlier months. During the first four months of the year, new home sales were up

and March orders were revised much higher. The second estimates of the first quarter US GDP saw an improvement with the economy expanding 1.2% as personal consumption expenditures was revised from just 0.3% to 0.6%, adding 0.2% to the headline number. Fixed investment and net exports also added more to Q1 growth than first reported, while government spending was less of a drag.

UK: Revised GDP Growth

News out of the UK continue to depict a negative first quarter for the country. Whether new opinion poll showing Prime Minister May's lead over the opposition had narrowed by five points, the election race could continue to tighten and put pressure on the economy. This week's British Second Estimate GDP was revised to 0.2%, down from 0.3% back in April.

The soft reading comes at a time when other key indicators are missing their estimates, raising concerns that Brexit is finally taking a toll on the British economy. Consumer spending had its worst quarter since 2014, as nervous consumers are holding back. With the gap between nominal wage gains and inflation set to widen in the coming quarters, GDP growth is likely to remain subdued for the rest of the year. In response to the weaker data, investors have started pricing a more dovish Bank of England as the slowdown in UK activity becomes more visible, and see room for further sterling weakness.

EUROPE & UK

Battle at the Heart of the ECB

The ECB said in its financial stability report that "risks to financial stability from financial markets remain significant, mainly owing to the possibility of a further rapid repricing in global fixed income markets. Such an abrupt repricing could materialize via higher yields in advanced economies, in particular, the United States."

In the minutes of the ECB's April meeting, Peter Praet called on ECB members to be "particularly cautious" on what the central bank's next steps, as any clues could shock financial markets that have become accustomed to mass bond-buying. Benoit Coeure, meanwhile, said in an interview published this week that the ECB needed to change its communication on the recovery soon, or risk losing its credibility.

ECB President Mario Draghi stuck to his view in a speech on Wednesday that tapering comes before raising interest rates. He says negative side effects from QE are larger than from negative rates as the latter are more contained: "Our current assessment of the side effects suggest therefore that there is no reason to deviate from the indications we have been consistently providing in the introductory statement to our press conferences."

Europe's data remain solid

In Europe, data released this week was more upbeat, with Germany's IFO Business Climate Indicator rising to 114.6 in May, the highest level since April 2011, and the manufacturing PMI rising to 59.4 as exporters continued to benefit from EUR weakness. Q1 GDP for Germany was confirmed at 0.6% q/q as expected, with investment and net exports being the key drivers of growth. France's services PMI ready also beat expectations in May, rising to 58.0, while the manufacturing PMI was only a touch softer than April at 54.0.

ASIA

China Downgraded

Moody's investors Service downgraded China's credit ratings today. The rating agency elaborated by saying it expects the financial strength of the world's second-largest economy to wear away in the coming years as growth slows and debt continues to increase. The one-notch downgrade in long-term local and foreign currency issuer ratings, to A1 from Aa3, comes as the Chinese government grapples with the challenges of rising financial risks stemming from years of credit-fueled stimulus.

Japan CPI higher than expected

The headline CPI rose 0.4% y/y in April in line with a consensus estimate of +0.4% and up from 0.2% previously. The headline CPI ex-fresh food rose 0.3%, up from 0.2% and below the consensus estimate for 0.4%. The headline CPI ex fresh food & energy was unchanged, up from -0.1% and in line with the consensus estimate. The timelier Tokyo CPI was up 0.2% in May versus 0% consensus and up from -0.1% previously. The Tokyo CPI ex-fresh food increased 0.1%, up from -0.1% and above the consensus of unchanged. The Tokyo CPI ex-fresh food & energy was unchanged, up from -0.1% and in line with the consensus estimate. The services PPI rose 0.7% y/y in April, down from 0.8%.



more to lose than the EU by leaving the bloc: "Brexit is very significant for the UK, but in view of the relative size, it's much less meaningful for the rest of the EU."

On the foreign exchange side, the dollar index opened the week at 97.215 and lost ground to most of its rivals reaching a 6 months low of 96.802 as investors worried about the political uncertainty of the US and the dovish Fed meeting minutes. The index closed the week at 98.00 Higher by over five percent year to date, the Euro traded in a narrow

of the 1.2815 support levels. The pair ended the week at 1.2900. In the commodities complex, oil held its biggest loss in three weeks after OPEC's move to prolong supply cuts for nine months disappointed investors hoping for more than the plan that had been flagged days before the group's meeting. Brent and West Texas closed at 52.15 and 49.80 respectively.

Mixed housing due to the lack of new supply

New and existing home sales in April were released this week, and

11.3% compared to the same period last year. Existing home sales were up 4.1% compared to the first four months of last year.

It seems that low supply levels held down existing-home sales in April and also pushed the median number of days a home was on the market to a new low of 29 days according to the same report.

In other data, the recent statistics from the manufacturing sector have been mixed. Headline durable goods orders slipped 0.7% in April, which was a smaller drop than expected,

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.735
Indian Rupees	4.724
Pakistani Rupees	2.904
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.987
Nepali Rupees	2.958
Singapore Dollar	221.620
Hongkong Dollar	39.062
Bangladesh Taka	3.766
Philippine Peso	6.118
Thai Baht	8.887

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.227
Qatari Riyal	83.661
Omani Riyal	791.060
Bahraini Dinar	808.820
UAE Dirham	82.931

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.740
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.223
Tunisian Dinar	127.360
Jordanian Dinar	429.340
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.029
Syrian Lira	2.170
Morocco Dirham	31.708

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.400
Euro	342.450
Sterling Pound	391.760

Canadian dollar	227.500
Turkish Lira	85.870
Swiss Franc	314.790
Australian Dollar	228.910
US Dollar Buying	303.200

GOLD

20 Gram	257.510
10 Gram	131.680
5 Gram	66.680

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.050
Canadian Dolla	226.790
Sterling Pound	390.765
Euro	341.475
Swiss Frank	297.590
Bahrain Dinar	806.440
UAE Dirhams	83.175
Qatari Riyals	84.395
Saudi Riyals	81.975
Jordanian Dinar	428.755
Egyptian Pound	16.931
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.989
Indian Rupees	4.718
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Bangladesh Taka	3.774
Philippines Peso	6.099
Cyprus pound	167.795
Japanese Yen	3.730
Syrian Pound	2.420

Nepalese Rupees	3.945
Malaysian Ringgit	72.115
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.765
Thai Bhat	9.920
Turkish Lira	85.320

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.383951	0.393951
Czech Korune	0.004919	0.016919
Danish Krone	0.041857	0.046857
Euro	0.335751	0.344751
Norwegian Krone	0.032315	0.037515
Romanian Leu	0.084361	0.084361
Slovakia	0.009099	0.019099
Swedish Krona	0.031074	0.036074
Swiss Franc	0.306288	0.317288
Turkish Lira	0.079991	0.090291
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.218864	0.230864
New Zealand Dollar	0.209171	0.218671
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.221136	0.230136
Georgina Lari	0.137483	0.137483
US Dollars	0.300300	0.304700
US Dollars Mint	0.300800	0.304700
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003387	0.003971
Chinese Yuan	0.042901	0.046401
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037137	0.039887

Indian Rupee	0.004110	0.004798
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002660	0.002840
Kenyan Shilling	0.003034	0.003034
Korean Won	0.000262	0.000277
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067124	0.073124
Nepalese Rupee	0.003007	0.003177
Pakistan Rupee	0.002701	0.002991
Philippine Peso	0.005995	0.006295
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.215041	0.225041
South African Rand	0.017717	0.026217
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001631	0.002211
Taiwan	0.009744	0.009924
Thai Baht	0.008590	0.009140

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.800857	0.809357
Egyptian Pound	0.014004	0.019912
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423976	0.432976
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.002527
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020309	0.044309
Nigerian Naira	0.001259	0.001894
Omani Riyal	0.784229	0.789909
Qatar Riyal	0.082800	0.084250
Saudi Riyal	0.080087	0.081387
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.122874	0.130874
Turkish Lira	0.079991	0.090291
UAE Dirhams	0.081452	0.083152
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069

POPE VISITS FACTORY WORKERS, HIGHLIGHTS DIGNITY OF WORK

GENOA: Pope Francis highlighted the struggles that workers face in a globalized economy with a visit Saturday to a troubled steel factory in Genoa, where he stressed how jobs give people a sense of human dignity and denounced those who exploit workers. The visit put a focus on the plight of those whose lives have been made precarious by years of economic crisis, including in Italy where a high jobless rate, especially among young adults, has driven many to leave the country.

Speaking to 3,500 industrial workers, many in uniforms or hard hats, Francis distinguished what he called the "real entrepreneur," a person who "shares the labors of workers and shares the joys of work" to create something together, from speculators who are not bothered when they fire workers in search of profits. "One sickness of the economy is the gradual transformation of entrepreneurs into speculators," the pontiff said. "The speculator doesn't love his business, doesn't love the workers, but

only sees the business and workers as the means to make profit." He decried a political system that "sometimes seems to encourage" speculators, "not those who invest and believe in work."

Francis also denounced those who claim that workers do their jobs only for the money, saying that "denies the dignity of work." It is by working that "our humanity flourishes," he argued. He listened to workers express their fears, including about technological transfor-

mations that threaten to leave many more without work in the future. He told them people must not resign themselves to "an ideology taking root everywhere that images a world where only half or maybe two-thirds of the workers will work and the others will be maintained by a social check."

"Without work for everyone, there will not be dignity for everyone," Francis said. Francis, an Argentine whose parents left Italy in the early 20th century, also

referred to his personal feelings aroused by visiting the port city, the departure point in the past for Italians seeking new lives in North and South America. "It's the first time I come to Genoa."

And being so close to the port reminds me of where my father departed from," he said. "This gives me a great emotion." The pontiff's day also included lunch with homeless people, refugees and prisoners and a Mass before a crowd estimated at 80,000 people. — AP



PORTLAND: Tribal leaders from the Pacific Northwest pose for a picture during a meeting of the Members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. — AP

MINORITY ADVOCATES SAY TRUMP'S BUDGET WILL HURT THEIR CAUSES

WASHINGTON: Advocates for minority communities say President Donald Trump's proposed budget answers the question he famously posed to black Americans during his campaign: "What the hell do you have to lose?" His \$4.1 trillion spending plan for the budget year beginning Oct. 1 generally makes deep cuts in safety net programs, including Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and Social Security's disability program.

"Here is the reality: Many poor black families and brown families and Asian families and indigenous families will be devastated by this budget," said Bishop Dwayne Royster, founder of Philadelphia's Living Water United Church of Christ. The White House said its budget would put the country back on track for a healthy economy. "We're not going to measure compassion by the amount of money that we spend, but by the number of people that we help," White House budget director Mick Mulvaney said this past week. Critics decry the priorities in Trump's budget, which Congress is unlikely to pass as submitted. Still, it will serve as a guidepost for what the White House wants lawmakers to deliver to the president.

"It is an attack of unimaginable cruelty on the most vulnerable among us, the youngest, the oldest, the poorest, and hardworking people who need a little help to gain or hang on to a decent middle-class life," Hillary Clinton said Friday. Trump's budget would slash Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provide health insurance for millions of poor families, by \$616 billion over the next decade. It would cut the food stamp program by \$191 billion over the next decade and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program by \$22 billion.

'Wealthy friends'

"Great nations are known by how they care for the old and the vulnerable, not by how much they can take away from them to give to their wealthy friends," NAACP Chairman Leon W. Russell said. Several people pointed to the targeting of the Education Department for a 13 percent cut as particularly troubling.

That "will undoubtedly hurt our most vulnerable children, especially those from low-income and working-class Black families, who rely on access to special education programs, well-trained teachers, smaller class sizes, literacy grants, and before and after school programs—all of which will be at risk for cuts or elimination," said Jacqueline Cooper, president of the Black Alliance for Educational Options.

The head of the Congressional Hispanic

Caucus, Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-NM, said Trump's budget "wastes billions of dollars on a costly and ineffective border wall and deportation force" while proposing cuts to programs that have been essential to helping Hispanic families. The budget seeks \$2.6 billion for border security technology, including money to design and build a wall along the southern border. Trump repeatedly promised voters during the campaign that Mexico would pay for a wall, a notion that Mexican officials have rejected.

Civil rights enforcement

NAACP officials said Trump's proposal would gut civil rights enforcement in the federal government. It would defund and cut at least 10 percent of key civil rights enforcement positions across the government, including positions at the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Legal Services Corporation, which helped more than 2 million low-income individuals with legal representation last year, advocates said. "I am not sure what is more insidious - regurgitating the sham of old trickle-down theories of economics or purposely refusing to adequately fund civil rights positions necessary to protect individuals from voter suppression, job discrimination or police brutality," Russell said.

The budget does maintain the same funding for historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions from President Barack Obama's administration. It reinstates year-round Pell Grants and increases charter school spending, which the Thurgood Marshall College Fund "can utilize to build and strengthen K-12 pipeline initiatives that operate on several HBCU campuses," said the fund's president, Johnny Taylor.

But United Negro College Fund President Michael Lomax noted that HBCUs will be hurt in other ways. "In fact, the proposed budget would cut federal financial aid lifelines that thousands of HBCU students depend on to attend college and earn their degrees," Lomax said. Native American groups, who say their needs are perpetually underfunded, say the cuts would worsen their plight.

"Tribes have had to endure too many budget cuts over the years as it is, but this proposal cuts even deeper," said Fawn Sharp, president of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, which represents 57 Native American tribes in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, California, Montana and Idaho. "It is so severe that it's absolutely illogical and unreasonable." — AP

HOPES OF 'TRUMP-O-NOMICS' VS THE SLOW-GROWTH REALITY

ANALYSTS ARE CASTING DOUBT ON THAT GOAL

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's economic and tax agenda assume growth in the world's largest economy will see a sustained rebound to double the current rate. But analysts are casting doubt on that goal given the current tepid pace of the American economic expansion, as well as limitations on the potential to fuel growth—especially without also igniting inflation. While the Commerce Department on Friday revised the estimate of first quarter growth up by a hearty half-point to 1.2 percent, that is still well below the 2.1 percent in the final quarter of 2016.

First quarters are generally slower than the rest of the year, and consumption in the January-March period while doubling to 0.6 percent growth, was still at its lowest point since the end of 2009. Business investments were stronger, thanks in no small part to a stunning 28.4 percent spike in spending on structures, like oil wells and mines, a sector the Trump administration hopes to boost. But "Trump-o-nomics" is founded on the belief that growth will hit three percent and stay there for a decade.

Indeed, this assumption underlies the Trump administration's recent fiscal plans. Economists do expect growth to pick up in the second quarter, with the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank's "nowcast" on Friday predicting expansion at an annual rate of 3.7 percent. "Second quarter growth could be in the three percent range, but that would still only mean the first half growth rate was not much more than two percent," economist Joel Naroff wrote in a research note. "If the economy is going to grow at three percent for as long as the eye can see, businesses better spend lots of money on capital goods," he continued. "Well, that is not happening."

Nebulous forecasts

The Trump administration expects to goose the economy by slashing taxes and regulations and favoring exports. "I've heard lots of economists tell us why that's not going to be the case," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Thursday in Senate testimony. "But we are committed to having policies to get us back to what



WASHINGTON: In this May 23, 2017, photo, Budget Director Mick Mulvaney holds up a copy of President Donald Trump's proposed fiscal 2018 federal budget as he speaks to members of the media in the Press Briefing Room of the White House. — AP

are appropriate growth rates in this country." Still, history does not help his case: on average since 2000, annual growth in the United States has not exceeded two percent, thanks to the Great Recession of 2008-2009, sluggish productivity growth and an aging population.

And the problem of an older population cannot improve if Trump continues to pursue the harsh immigration practices he campaigned on. Over the period since 1947, annual growth averages 3.2 percent. Mnuchin was put on the defensive in a recent Congressional hearing by Democrats who faulted the math in the draft budget released last week. Some vigorously derided the administration's double counting of growth projections.

Mnuchin repeated the White House position that the tax cuts will finance themselves without increasing the deficit thanks to higher economic growth which in turn will be generated by the

tax cuts. This is a mathematical leap that "would make Bernie Madoff blush," Democratic Senator Ron Wyden said, invoking the infamous Wall Street swindler, responsible for the biggest Ponzi scheme in history. New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez called the calculations "very nebulous." Mnuchin assured the committee there was no double counting and it was not a mistake, but said "we're not far enough along in tax reform to have modeled in the impact."

The Federal Reserve views the administration's economic plan as a factor of great uncertainty, but which could push growth higher than expected, and would therefore pose an upside risk for inflation as well. With two more rate hikes anticipated for this year, coupled with the expected reduction in assets accumulated after the 2008 crisis that will further tighten the credit cost, the Fed is likely to hamper Trump's growth ambitions. — AFP



RENO, Nevada: In this Jan 13, 2010 file photo, two young wild horses play while grazing. — AP

WILD HORSES COULD BE SOLD FOR SLAUGHTER UNDER NEW BUDGET

PALOMINO VALLEY: President Donald Trump's budget proposal calls for saving \$10 million next year by selling wild horses captured throughout the US West without the requirement that buyers guarantee the animals won't be resold for slaughter. Wild-horse advocates say the change would gut nearly a half-century of protection for an icon of the American West and could send thousands of free-roaming mustangs to foreign slaughterhouses for processing as food.

They say the Trump administration is kowtowing to livestock interests who don't want the region's estimated 59,000 mustangs competing for precious forage across more than 40,000 square miles (103,600 square kilometers) of rangeland in 10 states managed by the US Bureau of Land Management. The budget proposal marks the latest skirmish in the decades-old controversy pitting ranchers and rural communities against groups that want to protect the horses from Colorado to California. "This is simply a way to placate a very well-funded and vocal livestock lobby," Laura Leigh, president of the nonprofit protection group Wild Horse Education, said about the plan. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and other interests have been urging the BLM for years to allow sales of wild horses for slaughter to free up room in overcrowded government corrals for the capture of more animals.

Doug Busselman, executive vice president of the Nevada Farm Bureau, blamed the stalemate on the "emotional and anti-management interests who have built their business models on prevent-

ing rational and responsible actions while enhancing their fundraising through misinformation." Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama also grappled with the spiraling costs of managing the nearly 60,000 horses on the range and 45,000 others in US holding pens and contracted private pastures.

Over the past eight years, the BLM's wild-horse budget has more than doubled - from \$36.2 million in 2008 to \$80.4 million in 2017. Trump's proposal anticipates the \$10 million savings would come through a reduction in the cost of containing and feeding the animals. The savings also would include cutbacks involving roundups and contraception programs. The 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act allows older, unadoptable animals to be sold. But for years, Congress has approved budget language specifically outlawing the sale of any wild horses for slaughter.

Horse slaughterhouses are prohibited in the US but legal in many other countries, including Canada, Mexico and parts of Europe where horse meat is considered a delicacy. A year ago, then-BLM Director Neil Kornze said the horses represented a \$1 billion budget problem for his agency because it costs \$50 million to round up and house every 10,000 horses over their lifetime. Still, he said the agency had no intention of reversing the long-standing policy. The Trump administration wants a change, saying through the BLM that the "program is unsustainable and a new approach is needed, particularly when overall federal funding is so constrained." It says the budget would allow the

agency to manage the wild-horse program in a more cost-effective manner, "including the ability to conduct sales without limitation."

Budget constraints

The BLM rounded up more than 7,000 horses in 2012, but only about 3,000 in each of the past two years due primarily to budget constraints.

As of March, the BLM estimated that more than half the horses roaming the range - 34,780 - were in Nevada. An additional 13,191 burros were on the range - about half in Arizona. The BLM asserts that US rangeland can sustain fewer than 27,000 horses and burros.

"The original intent of the act was to make sure those animals had a healthy presence on the range, but also that they be kept at a number that is sustainable," said Ethan Lane, executive director of the National Cattlemen's public lands council. "You have horses starving to death ... and irreversible damage to Western rangelands." The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said Trump's budget proposal was shocking.

"Wild horses can and should be humanely managed on-range using simple fertility control, yet the BLM would rather make these innocent animals pay for draconian budget cuts with their very lives," ASPCA President Matt Bershadker said. Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Campaign, said the plan could put the horses on the brink of extinction. "America can't be great if these national symbols of freedom are destroyed," she said. — AP

WITH NEW LAW, LYFT, UBER SET TO RETURN TO AUSTIN

AUSTIN: Ride-hailing giants Uber and Lyft, which left Texas' tech-savvy capital city a year ago over local fingerprint requirements for drivers, are set to return after state lawmakers intervened. Both companies say they'll be rolling on Austin's streets again Monday, when Gov. Greg Abbott is expected to sign into law a bill that puts the state - not local governments - in charge of regulating the ride-hailing industry.

Local leaders in Austin, the conservative state's most liberal city, argued unsuccessfully that its tech-driven economy was uniquely positioned to launch capable alternatives that could fill the gap. "Austin is an incubator for technology and entrepreneurship, and we are excited to be back in the mix," Uber spokesman Travis Conside said Thursday. "... We know that we have a lot of work to do in the city, but we couldn't be more excited for the road ahead."

Uber and Lyft fled Austin after losing a bruising and expensive fight to replace the city's ordinance that required fingerprint-based background checks of drivers, a variety of data reporting and other requirements. Advocates for fingerprinting say it's the best way to weed out drivers with criminal records. Uber and Lyft have argued their background checks suffice and that fingerprint databases can be out of date. Fingerprinting can also slow down the process of adding new drivers.

Austin became the chosen battleground as similar debates cropped up in similar large cities around the country, and the companies spent about \$9 million on the campaign before they were rejected by the city's voters. The companies followed through on threats to leave rather than submit to the local rules, and quickly turned their efforts to lobbying for statewide regulations. — AP

MORE RECORDS AS STOCKS RISE FOR 7TH DAY

NEW YORK: US stocks made the tiniest of gains Friday as media companies and sellers of beauty products and food ticked higher. Major indexes added to their winning streak and record highs. Stocks spent the day flipping back and forth between small gains and losses. Beauty products maker Ulta rose after a strong first-quarter report and competitor and Coty climbed as well. Media companies including Comcast and Disney also advanced while video game and drug companies slipped. The market has been steady in recent months, and with investors looking forward to the Memorial Day holiday

Monday, trading was light. It was the seventh gain in a row for the Standard & Poor's 500 index and Nasdaq composite following their biggest loss this year. "Investors have been conditioned over multiple years to buy the dip any time there's a market pullback," said Jason Draho, the head of American tactical asset allocation for UBS Wealth Management. He said that's one reason stocks have been so steady lately.

Big moves

The S&P 500 index added 0.75 points to 2,415.82. The Dow Jones industrial

average dipped 2.67 points to 21,080.28. The Nasdaq composite rose 4.94 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,210.19. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks fell 1.14 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,382.24. Some of the market's biggest moves were based on company earnings, and many of those came from consumer-focused companies. Ulta Beauty gained \$9.36, or 3.1 percent, to \$302.40. Costco Wholesale rose \$3.13, or 1.8 percent, to \$177.86 after the warehouse club had a strong quarter as sales and member payments both increased.

Uggs maker Deckers Outdoor turned in

earnings that were stronger than expected, and its stock gained \$10.64, or 18.8 percent, to \$67.21. GameStop's first-quarter results were stronger than analysts expected, but sales of new software and wireless devices were disappointing. The stock gave up \$1.40, or 5.9 percent, to \$22.22. Video game publishers also fell. Activision Blizzard lost 94 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$58.28 and Electronic Arts slid \$1.70, or 1.5 percent, to \$112.13. Take-Two Interactive Software shed \$1.46, or 1.9 percent, to \$77.07.

The VIX, an index that is called Wall Street's "fear gauge" because it measures how much volatility investors expect, fell for the seventh day in a row. After a huge spike last Wednesday, the 27-year-old index is trading near all-time lows. It sank to 9.81 Friday. The only time it was lower was late December 1993.

The Commerce Department said the US economy grew 1.2 percent in the first quarter, which was still weak but better than it originally estimated. Draho, of UBS Wealth Management, said that when the economy is steady, the market usually is, too. The US economy and stock market have both been moving up for eight years. Draho said that as a bull market gets older, stocks don't move in the same direction as often. When one stock or one sector rises and another falls, that makes the overall market flatter and less volatile.

Crude oil bounces

Crude oil prices bounced back from a sharp drop the day before. Benchmark US crude rose 90 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$49.80 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, added 69 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$52.15 a barrel in London. On Thursday a group of 24 nations including the OPEC countries agreed to a nine-month extension of a cut in oil production. But energy companies, which have lagged the market dramatically this year, hardly budged. The S&P 500's energy company index is down 12 percent in 2017 while the broader S&P 500 is up almost 8 percent.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline added 3 cents to \$1.64 a gallon. Heating oil gained 1 cent to \$1.56 a gallon. Natural gas rose 5 cents to \$3.24 per 1,000 cubic feet. The dollar sank to 111.19 yen from 111.80 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1176 from \$1.1205. As the dollar weakened, gold rose \$11.70 to \$1,268.10 an ounce and silver gained 13 cents to \$17.32 an ounce. Copper fell 3 cents to \$2.57 a pound. Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note held steady at 2.25 percent. Germany's DAX lost 0.2 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain rose 0.4 percent. The French CAC 40 fell by a fraction of a percentage point. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index shed 0.6 percent but the South Korean Kospi climbed 0.5 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was nearly unchanged. —AP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Sunday 28 May 2017									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low				
Price Index	↑ -37.87	6,649.66	6,687.53	6,692.96	6,642.95				
Weighted Index	↑ -1.21	401.00	402.21	402.29	400.53				
KSX 15	↑ -1.85	912.97	914.82	916.87	911.16				
Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48	→	0.0	
IFG	299	299	0	0	2	1	299	▲	30.0
NAPESCO	1,579	1,510	3,526	5,294	4	1,510	▼	-68.0	
ENERGYH	42.8	34.5	31,800	1,127	7	36.0	▼	-7.0	
GR	37.8	26.6	462,401	17,069	11	37.8	▲	0.6	
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	→	0.0	
Oil & Gas			497,772	23,491	23	1026.00	▲	-20.23	
KFOUC	295	295	10	3	1	295	▲	8.0	
BPCC	596	591	37,000	20,352	2	591	▼	-4.0	
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	→	0.0	
ALOURAN	344	332	330,561	110,315	10	344	▲	10.0	
Basic Materials			367,571	130,710	13	1298.48	▲	15.04	
KCEM	440	440	1,000	440	1	440	→	0.0	
CABLE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	→	0.0	
SHIP	224	224	20	4	1	224	▲	12.0	
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	→	0.0	
PAPER	340	305	24,881	7,878	4	305	▼	-5.0	
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	→	0.0	
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	268	→	0.0	
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	258	→	0.0	
KEMAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	→	0.0	
NCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	→	0.0	
EQUIPMENT	49.0	46.2	30,200	1,436	4	46.9	▼	-0.6	
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	125	→	0.0	
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	→	0.0	
SALMOOKH	57	57	50,000	2,800	2	57	→	0.0	
ADLY	730	685	7,884,908	5,573,005	257	690	▲	40.0	
EDU	300	300	28,879	8,564	4	300	▼	-1.0	
CLEANING	90	44.0	316,357	14,201	16	44.2	▲	1.8	
RCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	→	0.0	
KOPC	160	160	5,000	800	1	160	→	0.0	
HUMANSOFT	4,000	3,950	170,345	674,190	21	3,975	▼	-75.0	
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	→	0.0	
QFC	54	54	2,000	108	1	54	▲	8.4	
MAYADEN	28.0	28.0	83,910	1,784	5	28.0	→	0.0	
COG	585	570	125,000	72,081	24	576	▼	-23.0	
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	→	0.0	
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	875	→	0.0	
ALAFRO	315	315	460,000	144,000	19	315	▲	1.0	
MUBARRAQ	78	78	116,302	9,014	4	78	▼	-2.2	
LOGISTICS	55	50	705,359	35,999	35	51	▲	0.1	
SCFM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	→	0.0	
GCEN	75	71	70,500	796	3	71	▼	-3.2	
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	→	0.0	
FCEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	→	0.0	
RWEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	103	→	0.0	
SPEC	90	90	10	1	1	90	▲	1.9	
Industrials			8,993,171	8,548,116	403	1818.13	▲	-8.73	
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	184	→	0.0	
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	→	0.0	
PAFOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	→	0.0	
CATTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	226	→	0.0	
DANAH	74	73	25,100	1,820	3	74	▲	1.0	
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	→	0.0	
Consumer Goods			25,100	1,820	3	1141.63	▲	1.25	
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	318	→	0.0	
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	→	0.0	
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	259	→	0.0	
Health Care			0	0	0	1487.15	→	0.00	
KCN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,200	→	0.0	
KHOI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	→	0.0	
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	→	0.0	
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.8	→	0.0	
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	→	0.0	
IFAIR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	→	0.0	
OUAFUEL	122	122	3,096	256	3	122	▼	-1	
MUNTAZAHAT	82	77	73,188	5,639	3	82	▼	0	
JAZERA	474	474	500	237	1	474	▼	-1	
SOOR	119	117	3,570	418	4	117	▲	1	
FUTUREXID	105	105	0	1	1	105	▼	-11	
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	129	→	0.0	
ZMAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	→	0.0	
Mazzah	990	990	100,000	100,000	3	990	▼	-5	
Consumer Services			187,336	113,470	15	872.02	▲	-8.48	
ZAN	431	420	530,790	227,968	28	428	▼	-3	
OOREDOO	1,220	1,220	490	598	1	1,220	→	0	
HITSTELEG	40.7	37.8	118,770	4,512	5	40.5	▲	3	
VIVA	849	837	23,136	19,427	16	840	→	0	
Telecommunications			673,179	252,804	51	611.00	▲	0.08	
NBK	680	680	1,548,590	1,050,071	77	680	▼	-8	
GBK	243	240	813,478	196,563	10	240	▼	-4	
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	345	→	0.0	
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	→	0.0	
ALMUTAHED	430	420	8,500	3,520	3	430	→	0.0	
KIB	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	246	→	0.0	
BURG	330	329	250,261	82,596	18	329	▼	-1	
KFN	491	488	501,409	441,304	90	488	▼	-4	
BOUVEYAN	407	404	152,785	61,852	14	406	→	0	
ALB	205	203	722,714	147,144	29	204	▼	-1	
ITHAR	44.0	43.1	886,820	38,519	26	43.2	▼	-1	
WARBANK	248	245	331,346	81,483	17	246	▼	-2	
Bank			8,613,903	2,109,110	257	913.38	▲	-8.11	
KNB	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	248	→	0.0	
GNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	→	0.0	
ANS	495	495	2,000	990	1	495	▲	5.0	
WNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	→	0.0	
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	→	0.0	
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42	→	0.0	
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	→	0.0	
BKOWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	→	0.0	
Insurance			2,980	990	1	1063.71	▲	1.78	
Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
SOKOOL	50	47.1	415,948	207,000	23	50	▲	2.8	
KRE	85	54	2,135,100	115,965	39	54	→	0.0	
URC	89	82	20,040	2,494	3	82	▼	-7.0	
NRE	122	103	9,062,463	962,432	220	104	▼	-8.0	
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	388	→	0.0	
TAM	410	410	465,596	190,878	5	410	▼	-30.0	
AREEC	170	163	962	88	2	170	→	0.0	
MASALEH	47.0	40.0	800	33	3	45.5	▼	-6.5	
ARABREC	34.4	32.7</							

BRITISH PM MAY RETREATING FROM GLOBALIZATION: OSBORNE



TAORMINA, Italy: In this May 26, 2017 file photo, British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during a news conference in the Sicilian town. — AP

LONDON: Prime Minister Theresa May is offering voters a retreat from globalization in one of the most significant developments in recent British political history, former finance minister George Osborne said on Saturday. Osborne, who was sacked by May as finance minister after the June 23 Brexit vote, criticized May's plan to cut annual net migration to the tens of thousands and said her pre-election social care proposals were clearly badly thought through.

May rejected "untrammelled free markets" and promised to rein in corporate excesses in pre-election pledges earlier this month. The leader of the opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, has pledged to nationalize water, mail and rail companies. "Both Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn are offering, in very different ways, a retreat from international liberalism and globalization," Osborne, who now edits the Evening Standard newspaper, told the BBC. "And that's quite a development in British politics, and I think there are quite a lot of people who are uncertain whether that is the right development," he said.

May last year praised free markets and free trade in speech to party activists but also said that she would be prepared to intervene where markets were dysfunctional or where companies were exploiting the failures of the market. On his first day as a newspaper editor earlier this month, Osborne taunted May over her snap election strategy and "unrealistic" Brexit stance. Once considered a potential future prime minister, the 46-year-old was dismissed last year by fellow-Conservative May after helping to lead the doomed campaign for Britain to stay in the European Union.

In addition to his job as an editor, Osborne has a part-time job with a salary of 650,000 pounds (\$832,000) a year for working 48 days at asset manager BlackRock, and has earned hundreds of thousands of pounds giving speeches. Osborne was critical of May's plan to reduce immigration. "Which section of industry is not going to have the labor it currently needs? Which families are not going to be able to be reunited with members of their families abroad?" he told BBC. — Reuters

INSURERS CONTINUE TO HIKE PRICES AND ABANDON ACA MARKETS

KANSAS: People shopping for insurance through the Affordable Care Act in yet more regions could face higher prices and fewer choices next year as insurance companies lay out their early plans for 2018. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina are asking regulators for a 23 percent price hike next year because it doesn't expect crucial payments from the federal government to continue.

That announcement comes a day after Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City said it will leave the individual insurance market next year, a decision that affects about 67,000 people in a 32-county area in Kansas and Missouri. The Kansas City company's decision also will leave shoppers in 25 counties with no options for coverage sold on public insurance exchanges, unless another insurer steps in, according to data compiled by The Associated Press and the consulting firm Avalere. The law's insurance exchanges are the only place where people can buy coverage with help from an income-based tax credit. Other insurers around the country, such as Aetna and Humana, have already said they will not offer coverage on exchanges next year, though several, including Centene, say they will.

Options are growing thin in many markets. The Kansas City insurer's decision means that only 10 of Missouri's 115 counties will have more than one insurer selling coverage on the exchange next year. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina sells coverage in all 100 North Carolina counties, and it is the lone option in 95. It said Thursday that its participation for next year is not guaranteed. Insurers still have a couple months to consider their options before finally committing to selling coverage in 2018.

Cost-sharing help

The North Carolina insurer said it expects no help from federal cost-sharing reduction payments next year, and that's reflected in its initial rate request that calls for a 23 percent price increase, on average. If it could be assured of the subsidies that are part of the law and have been paid in

the past, it said prices would rise about 9 percent. The insurer covers more than 460,000 people who bought coverage on the exchange. It said about two thirds of those customers get cost-sharing help, but the price increase for providing insurance without this help will be spread over all of its customers in that market. "Many ACA customers will pay more for coverage that is already a large portion of their household income," said Brian Tajjili, director of actuarial and pricing services for the insurer.

The government has been giving insurers money to help customers with modest incomes cover out-of-pocket expenses like co-payments and deductibles. But the future of those payments, which are separate from the income-based tax credits that help people buy coverage, is in political limbo. Republicans had sued the Obama Administration to stop the subsidies, and that case is now tied up in court. President Donald Trump's administration has sent mixed signals over how it will pursue the case or whether the payments will continue. Insurers want some assurance that the payments, which total about \$7 billion, will continue through 2018. Tajjili said his company wants to see some sort of a legal guarantee, like Congress appropriating the money, in order to feel comfortable that the payments will actually be made through 2018.

Some of the biggest companies on the exchanges have yet to announce their coverage plans for next year. Those include Anthem Inc., which covers more than 1 million people through Affordable Care Act exchanges, offering Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance in large states like New York, California and Ohio. Many insurance companies have faced large financial losses selling this type of insurance and have responded by either raising prices or abandoning that kind of coverage altogether. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina said earlier this year that it lost \$38 million on ACA plans last year and more than \$400 million between 2014 and 2015. — AP



ATHENS: This file photo taken on August 21, 2015 shows Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras arriving for a meeting at his party's Headquarters. — AFP

GREEK PM FACES SARTORIAL TWEAK OVER EU DEBT DEAL

TSIPRAS'S AVERSION TO TIES HAS BEEN WELL NOTED

ATHENS: A possible EU-IMF deal on June 15 over debt relief designed to boost Greece's recovery is also set to leave a mark albeit temporary on Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras's chest. Tsipras will not shave his hair or slap on an IMF tattoo, but he has promised to wear a tie for the first time since entering politics.

Tsipras's aversion to ties has been well noted by friends and adversaries, and has even led to ribbing by fellow leaders over the years. Government lore has it that Tsipras, a former Communist youth leader, last wore a tie while on military service in 2004. "He was a young leader of the left. Ties do not fit that profile. And from a certain point onward, it became a political statement," said a government source.

"He does, however, know how to tie a tie," the source added. In 2015, shortly before he became prime minister, reporters asked Tsipras whether the responsibilities of his new post would lead him to adopt a more formal dress etiquette. Tsipras who until then wore casual shirts and roll

necks replied that he would put on a tie "only when (Greece's) debt is cut."

After Tsipras became premier when he was 40, making him Greece's youngest leader in over a century, many of his new ministers also untied the knot. About half the cabinet's men emulated the new PM in not wearing ties at their investiture ceremony, a first for Greece. "Not only we will not wear a tie but we will prompt others to remove theirs," one of Tsipras's rowdier backers, deputy health minister Pavlos Polakis, recently wrote on Twitter.

Less amused

When Tsipras first began meeting his counterparts, then Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan evidently took note. So when Tsipras visited their respective countries in February and November 2015, they each presented him with a tie. "When the moment arrives for Greece to exit the crisis. We want Alexis to be able to wear an Italian tie," a

playful Renzi said in Rome during their official statements. Erdogan was less amused when Tsipras visited Istanbul in May 2016 and neglected to put on the Turkish president's gift. "Where is (the) kravatz?", a stony-faced Erdogan asked in a show of offence, using the Turkish word for tie, as they shook hands in front of the cameras. "Kravatz. Yes, but next time," replied Tsipras, flashing his winning smile. When Tsipras visited Brussels in May 2015, European Commission President

Jean-Claude Juncker decided to take matters in his own hands. As Tsipras walked up for their official photograph, Juncker cheekily stretched his own tie over the Greek leader's shirt, to the delight of gathered journalists. This month, Tsipras hinted that the possibility of a breakthrough on the long dispute over debt relief mainly between the IMF and the euro zone's most powerful member, Germany would at last force him to live up to his sartorial promise. "Looks like I will have to wear a tie," he told reporters in parliament. —AFP

RALLY FOR 'JOB DIGNITY'

MADRID: Tens of thousands of people rallied in Madrid on Saturday for a "march of dignity" to demand better wages and job security as Spain's economy improves. Demonstrators from all over the country marched down Madrid's main avenue, the Gran Vía, behind a banner reading "bread, work, homes and equality." Dozens of trade unions and leftwing groups joined the protest. Organizers put the turnout at 200,000, while the local prefecture at only 6,000. An estimate by

AFP journalists put it in the tens thousands. Labor reforms adopted in 2012 by the conservative government of Mariano Rajoy have helped to spur growth and bring unemployment down from 27 percent at the start of 2013 to 18.7 percent in the first quarter of this year. But critics say the downside is that many jobs are precarious, with no guarantee of working hours, and are often poorly paid. The minimum wage in Spain is 825 Euros per month. — AFP

WHITE HOUSE ADVISER DIFFERS WITH COAL-LOVING PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON: The president's chief economic adviser is casting doubt on the future of US coal, saying it "doesn't really make that much sense anymore as a feedstock," directly contradicting President Donald Trump's repeated promises to revive the struggling coal industry. Briefing reporters Thursday night on Air Force One, Gary Cohn singled out natural gas as "such a cleaner fuel."

By exporting more natural gas and investing in wind and solar energy, the US "can be a manufacturing powerhouse and still be environmentally friendly," Cohn said. Cohn's comments were at odds with his boss, who campaigned as coal's champion and decried what he and other Republicans called a "war on coal" by former President Barack Obama.

As president, Trump has unraveled a number of Obama-era energy restrictions, including a landmark plan to restrict climate-changing emissions from coal-fired power plants. Trump also has reversed an Obama plan to prevent coal mining debris from being dumped into nearby streams and lifted a moratorium on coal-mining leases on federal lands. Sen Joe Manchin, D-W Va, a long-time coal advocate, said he was taken aback by Cohn's remarks, which sounded more in line with the Obama administration than Trump.

"I completely disagree with his statement," Manchin said, adding that he plans to meet with Cohn "to explain the role that coal has and will continue to play in making this country great." Melinda Pierce, legislative director for the Sierra Club, the nation's largest environmental group, said Cohn's comments were accurate. "Coal is increasingly not competitive as the market, the international community and public opinion reject this dirty fossil

fuel that makes our families sick, pollutes our air and water and threatens our climate," Pierce said.

"The Trump administration's policies are completely at odds with these facts and need to catch up to reality instead of putting polluter profits ahead of the health of our communities," she said. That's unlikely to happen. Throughout the presidential campaign, Trump railed against the Obama administration policies as he campaigned in economically depressed swaths of states like West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Trump won all three states and swept eight of the top nine coal-

producing states. The New York billionaire has frequently celebrated his popularity in coal country.

Cleaner energy sources

At a ceremony in March, Trump was flanked on stage by more than a dozen coal miners as he signed an executive order that eliminated a host of Obama-era restrictions on fossil fuels, breaking with leaders across the globe who have embraced cleaner energy sources. "That is what this is all about: bringing back our jobs, bringing back our dreams and making America wealthy again," Trump said. The miners "told me about the efforts to shut down their mines, their communities and their very way of life. I made them this promise: We will put our miners back to work," Trump said. "My administration is putting an end to the war on coal."

Trump's promise runs counter to market forces, including US utilities that have converted coal-fired power plants to cheaper, cleaner-burning natural gas. Democrats, environmental groups and scientists said Trump's executive order ignores the realities of climate change. While Republicans have blamed Obama-era environmental regulations for the loss of coal jobs, federal data shows that US mines have been shedding jobs for decades amid increasing automation and steep competition from natural gas.

Another factor is the plummeting cost of solar panels and wind turbines, which now can produce emissions-free electricity cheaper than burning coal. According to an Energy Department analysis released in January, coal mining now accounts for fewer than 75,000 US jobs. By contrast, renewable energy - including wind, solar and biofuels - accounts for more than 650,000 US jobs. — AP



WASHINGTON: Sen Joe Manchin, D-W Va responds to questions during a television news interview on Capitol Hill. — AP

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on 28th May 2017. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr Abdulaziz Al Ashkanani. The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are :-

- Maha Husain Mohammed Oriqat KD 7000/-
- Ahmed Fathy Abdelgalil Abdelghafar K D 7000/-
- Abdulwahab Abdulrazaq AlAjeel KD 7000/-

- Saad Sheheb Marzoq Bohaqtah KD 7000/-
- Mahmoud Ateyah Marzouq Belal KD 7000/-

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

BB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced today the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Ahlam Jassem Hasan
2. Nazzal Zaid Al Mutairi
3. Surayya Shafaquet Lokhanwala
4. Herschel Ria Fernandes
5. Abeer Ali Al Ghanim

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three

months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

AUB MAKES A CUSTOMERS' DREAM COME TRUE WITH KD 250K PRIZE

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading Shari'ah compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 24 May. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car. On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to

the Al Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300". The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 was Khaled H E Al Ahmad.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Sabria Haji Ghlooum Hussein, Ali Jassim Ali Al Mutawaah, Meshal Abdulhameed Othman Al Wadi, Sulaiman Adnan Sulaiman Sous, Humoud Malek Bader, Ahmad Mostafa Gholoum Dashti, Minor Mariam Naser Hamad Al Ammar U.G.F, Mamon Ahmad Kamel Swweis, Asha Daryani, Mohammad Rashed Rasheed Rasheedi, Rabeeh Yousif Mbrek Al Azmi, Ali Mohd Salim Bolooshi,

Mariam Mihammad Abdulghani Al Abdulghani, Abd Alrasoul Ali Bader Khan, Al Fahdah Abdul Raheem Hussain Al Zaabi, Minor Naser Jamal Mudhi Al Khashab, Naser Haji Ebrheem Al Muzayyan, Ahmad Shah Haji Khan Mohd, Muhammad Tahir Muhammad Aslam, S Mohd Jaffar Alawi Ahmed Hashim, Hasan Ahmed Abdulla Al Banna, Amal Abdulrasool Mohammed Turki, Isam Mohamed Ahmed Ali Matar, Muhammad Tahir Muhammad Aslam and S Salman Jaffar Yousif Al Mahfoodh

Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al Hassad

Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year." Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis. Al Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions.

DOOSAN INFRACORE RANKED 6TH LARGEST CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER



KUWAIT: Doosan Infracore (DI) represented by Bahrah Trading Company (BTC), one of the Al-Sayer Holding Companies rose to the global 6th place in 2016, posting \$4.93 billion in construction equipment sales, up two points from the 8th place recorded in the previous year's according to the Yellow Table released recently by KHL a British construction heavy equipment media group.

DI's impressive performance in 2016 is attributed to the growth of its subsidiary Doosan Bobcat, the recovery of the Chinese excavator market, and the upturn in its performance in emerging markets overall. Doosan Bobcat's sales in Europe and emerging markets jumped by 6.3% and 4.4% respectively in 2016 over the previous year, while the company's overall sales have increased by an average annual growth rate of 3.3% since 2011.

The company focused on enhancing and expanding its sales network in the markets last year, thus raising its emerging market coverage from 82% in 2012 to 93%

in 2016 Doosan has been maintaining No.2 position in Heavy construction equipment last 3 years continuously in the Kuwait market thanks to the excellent product quality from the Korean manufacturer and the aftersales backup provided by BTC.

Doosan's impressive range of Earthmoving machines-excavators, Loaders, Articulate Dumpers etc., provides the inevitable muscle for any project execution meanwhile Bobcat, the first skid steer to be built and more than 5 decades on is still the best in the world market with 50% market share and has become the industry bench mark name for Skid-Steer Loaders.

BTC, the authorized distributor for Doosan Bobcat in Kuwait, is the market leader in transportation, industrial and material handling equipment and construction machinery, representing globally leading brands. BTC's service is built around top quality products and industry leading support. The commitment to customers and dedication to their satisfaction have placed BTC at the forefront of local industry in Kuwait.



FREE BRAKE AND SUSPENSION CHECK-UPS AT MERCEDES-BENZ

KUWAIT: Highlighting the importance and safety of a well maintained and fine-tuned vehicle all year around, AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Company, the Authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, is offering complimentary brake and suspension visual check-ups throughout Ramadan.

Valid from 27th May until 27th June 2017, the special offer applies across the full range of Mercedes-Benz coupEs, SUVs, cabriolets, road-

sters and sedans, and is available at authorized Mercedes-Benz service centers in Shuwaikh, Al Rai and Ahmadi. Up to the minute tools and diagnostic equipment and a team of qualified technicians ensure all vehicles receive optimum appraisal, while customers can benefit from a 35 percent discount on genuine Mercedes-Benz parts related to brakes and suspension.

AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi places great impor-

tance on driver safety & comfort and well maintained vehicles all year around, especially during Ramadan when fatigue levels are higher than usual. With complimentary Wi-Fi, and latest collection of lifestyle accessories at its service centers, Mercedes-Benz customers can relax while their car is being checked for brake and suspension and consultations are provided by trained technicians.



ABK PRESENTS CARDHOLDERS WITH FREE CAR SERVICE OFFER

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) today announced yet another new and exciting offer for its cardholders seeking to travel throughout the summer season. ABK cardholders are eligible to receive free airport transfers upon booking an 'Airline Ticket and Hotel' package through Qiblah Travel and Tourism. The offer is valid from May through to the 30September, 2017. In order to benefit from the offer, ABK customers must make their bookings through the

Qiblah Travel, either by visiting their offices or by contacting them on 22317733, and payments must be made using any one of ABK's credit, debit or prepaid cards. Customers are also required to give a 48 hour notice period prior to the flight in order to ensure availability of a car. ABK will continue to present its cardholders with unique offers and promotions, which guarantee added value, along with the superior banking services offered by the Bank.

OOREDOO '50% OFF' SET THROUGHOUT RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, announced that it will extend its exclusive 50% Off* offer on Shamel post-paid plans for another month, in line with the generous spirit of the holy month of Ramadan. The exclusive offer gives customers all the benefits of Shamel plans for

half the price when they commit for a period of 24 months. The plans include unlimited local calls, unlimited internet and free roaming packs that range from 12 to 24.The discounted plans range between KD 10 to KD 45 per month.

The offer stems from Ooredoo's core values of caring, connecting and challenging, as the company aims to enrich customers' lives through telecommunication technology. Ooredoo's plans aim to complement the lifestyle of customers based on their usage and needs. The plans are also available for customers who commit for 12 months with a 25% discount. The plans additionally include a number of Shamel's exclusive features, such as Ooredoo subscribers can now enjoy the privilege of freezing their contract for up to 3 months a year when they travel, without worrying about paying bills for months that they don't use. Additionally, Ooredoo now allows customers to transfer contracts to other customers even during the contract period, with no penalties or extra fees.

All Shamel subscribers in the plans included in the offer can enjoy unlimited calls, and customers with plans that have limited internet can enjoy data rollover, to ensure that they are making full use of their internet package. The new discounted Shamel plans can be purchased from Ooredoo's online store www.ooredoo.com.kw or by visiting any of Ooredoo's branches and authorized resellers across Kuwait.

ETIHAD CARGO AND INTRADCO GLOBAL HELP BRING ENDANGERED RHINOS HOME

ABU DHABI: The critically endangered black rhino has returned to the wilds of Rwanda with the help of Etihad Cargo and animal transport specialist Intradco Global. On behalf of African Parks, a conservation non-profit organization that manages national parks and protected areas on behalf of governments across the continent, Intradco chartered two Etihad Boeing 777 freighters to transport the 19 black rhinos from Johannesburg to the Rwandan capital, Kigali. Upon touching down at Kigali International Airport (KGL), the rhinos were carefully transferred to trucks to continue the final leg of their journey by road, under police escort.

Ten rhinos travelled on the first flight, and nine on the second, along with the three vets and two attendants who accompanied them for the duration of their entire journey from Johannesburg to Akagera National Park. The rhinos, which can weigh up to 2,500 kg each, were transported in special pallets which also contained their feed for the journey. The temperature on the aircraft is specified by the vet to ensure the animals do not overheat or become stressed.

The project to return the rhinos took place over the first two weeks of May, and represents a historical moment for the country after the species disappeared in 2007 following decades of widespread poaching. The complex logistics involved in this remarkable homecoming required the expertise of Intradco's specialists who spent more than a year planning the journey with Etihad Cargo, who operated the flights.

Mission successful

Intradco worked closely with African Parks and the Akagera team to ensure all permits and clearances were in place including valid CITES documentation (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) - a requirement when transporting listed species such as black rhino. Tom Lamb, Intradco project manager, accompanied the animals on both flights and travelled with the team for the five-hour drive to Akagera National Park where they were successfully released.

Commenting on the project, Mr Lamb said: "It is a brilliant achievement to return the extremely rare eastern black rhino to Rwanda after a 10-year absence. There are only 1,000 left globally so moving two per cent of the world's population was a big responsibility and challenge, and an incredible project to be a part of."

"It was a privilege to be able to accompany the rhinos on their homecoming and witness their release back into the wild. We would also like to thank Etihad Cargo for their role in operating the two flights and for their meticulous care and attention."

David Kerr, Senior Vice President Etihad Cargo, said: "We are proud to play this integral role in returning an endangered species to its home. Last year Etihad Airways became one of the first airlines to sign the Declaration of the United for Wildlife International Taskforce on the Transportation of Illegal Wildlife Products, known as the Buckingham Palace Declaration, as a demonstration of our support for preventing



illegal wildlife trade - estimated to be worth up to US\$20 billion today. As a key mode of transport for carrying this caught wildlife across borders, it is the responsibility of the aviation industry to take action to prevent this."

JesGruner, Akagera Park Manager, said: "Together with the Rwanda Development Board and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, we have spent the last three years preparing for this his-

toric event, ensuring that the park is safe for the arrival of the rhinos and for their long-term future so they can breed and thrive. "Akagera has transformed since African Parks assumed management in partnership with the Rwanda Development Board in 2010, overhauling law enforcement and reducing poaching to an all-time low in just six years, thus making it safe to bring these eastern black rhinos back home."



DIGITAL SHADOWS RESEARCH REVEALS PASSWORD, USERNAME REUSE AS THREAT

DUBAI: Digital Shadows, the industry leader in digital risk management, yesterday unveiled research into some of the main techniques cybercriminals are using to target organizations using stolen credentials which have been reused across a variety of sites and online forums. The report "Protect your customer and employee accounts: Seven Ways to Mitigate the growing risks of account takeovers" also outlines what measures organizations can implement to protect against such attacks.



Rick Holland

LinkedIn and Dropbox, but also from tens of thousands of smaller breaches," said Rick Holland, VP Strategy at Digital Shadows. "But it is critical that businesses arm themselves with the necessary intelligence and insight to manage their digital risk and prevent this problem credential exposure

ally by employees using the same details across multiple sites and platforms. Now criminals are recognizing that employees often have poor username and password discipline to use these in mass automated credential stuffing attacks aiming to gain access to corporate networks.

"Many organizations are suffering breach fatigue due to the huge numbers of credentials exposed via not only high profile incidents like those suffered by Myspace, Facebook and Twitter, but also from tens of thousands of smaller breaches," said Rick Holland, VP Strategy at Digital Shadows. "But it is critical that businesses arm themselves with the necessary intelligence and insight to manage their digital risk and prevent this problem credential exposure



from escalating into an even more severe problem."

The report also suggests that while multi-factor authentication (MFA) can help to protect organizations and their customers from account takeovers, it cannot be seen as a silver bullet to solve the problem of account takes over. "Enterprises - and the companies that work for and with them - need to be better prepared for this sort of brute force attack," added Holland. Other steps businesses should take to protect against credential stuffing include:

- Monitor for leaked credentials of your employees. Troy Hunt's <https://www.haveibeenpwned.com> is a great resource for this, alerting you to instances of breaches including your organization's email domain.
- Monitor for mentions of your company and brand names across cracking forums. This can help to inform the security solutions you invest in. Use Google Alerts for this - Johnny Long some great tips for doing so and it can help identify the specific risks to your business.
- Monitor for leaked credentials of your customers, allowing you to take a more proactive response.
- Deploy an inline Web Application Firewall. Commercial and open source web application firewalls, like ModSecurity, can be used to identify and block credential stuffing attacks.
- Increase user awareness. Educate your staff and consumers about the dangers of using corporate email address for personal accounts, as well as reusing passwords.
- Gain an awareness of credential stuffing tools. Keep an eye on the development of credential stuffing tools, and of how your security solutions compare to their capabilities.
- Implement multi-factor authentication that doesn't leverage SMS. This can help to reduce account takeovers, but make sure this is balanced against the friction it can cause.

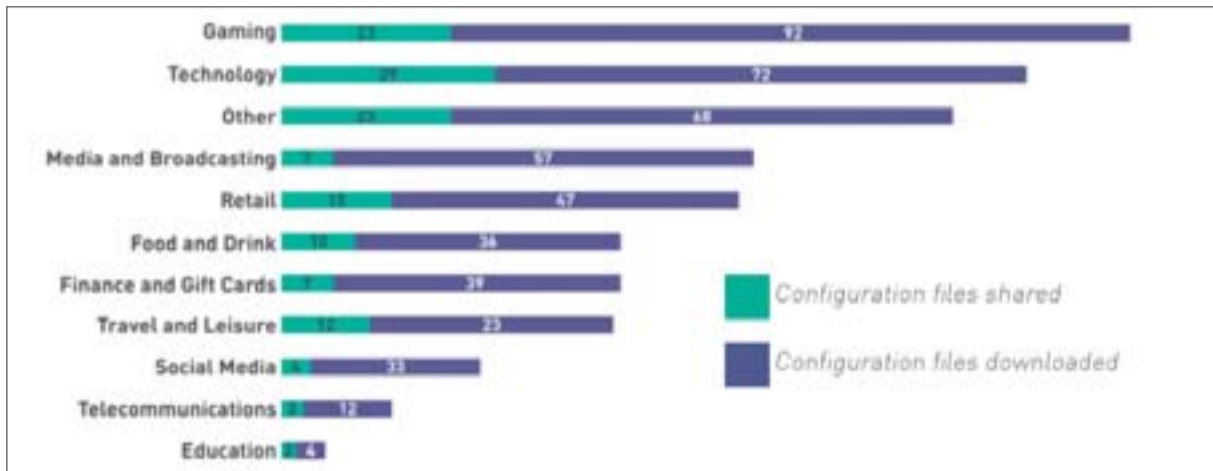


Figure 10: The most prevalent sectors, based on the number of configuration files shared (green) and downloaded (purple) for organizations

GOOGLE LINKS ONLINE, OFFLINE WORLDS IN NEW AD CHALLENGE

GOOGLE ATTRIBUTION HELPS MEASURE IMPACT OF MARKETING

SAN FRANCISCO: Google is testing a way to tie online ads to brick-and-mortar store purchases, a move whetting marketing appetites while fueling privacy worries. A product called "Google Attribution" was unveiled at a marketing conference this month in San Francisco by the internet giant. Google has long been able to determine when users click on an ads and make a purchase, but linking online and offline habits takes its analytics a step further.

Google senior vice president Sridhar Ramaswamy, who announced that Attribution is in test mode with a limited number of partners and will be rolled out to more advertisers in coming weeks, touted the tool as being able to answer the long-challenging question of whether marketing campaigns are working. "Google Attribution makes it possible for every marketer to measure the impact of their marketing across devices and across channels," Ramaswamy said.

"Data-driven attribution uses machine learning to determine how much credit to assign to each step in the consumer journey—from the first time they engage with your brand for early research down to the final click before purchase." Real-world customer email addresses or loyalty plan information can be woven with Google data from services such as AdWords, Google Analytics and DoubleClick Search to provide "a complete view" of marketing performance, according to the com-

pany. Using artificial intelligence, or machine learning, to better analyze and understand consumer behavior to target ads and promote sales was a major theme of the conference.

Ad holy grail

For several years now, AdWords has enabled advertisers to measure visits to real-world stores stemming from online campaigns, Ramaswamy noted. "Still, measuring store visits is just one part of the equation," Ramaswamy said. "You also need insights into how your online ads drive sales for your business." Real-world transactions matched back to Google ads are handed in "a secure and privacy-safe way," with store sales information reported in aggregated and anonymized forms to protect individual privacy, according to the company.

Tying online activity to offline shopping decisions has been a "holy grail" for advertisers for quite some time, and comes with worrisome privacy implications, according to ACLU senior policy analyst Jay Stanley. Attribution threatens to intrude on a core tenant of privacy, that people can have dealings with one party not spill over into affairs with other parties they interact with, Stanley contended. "This is an evolution, not a revolution; another step toward increased monitoring of individuals," Stanley said.

"Each step raises the question 'Where does this all stop?'" Stanley expected Google to be on its

best behavior when it came to handling the growing trove of information about users, but that even the best of intentions could crack under the "enormous hydraulic pressure of the profit motive." "We have the full fury and genius of the capitalist system being driven toward monitoring people in ever increasing detail and companies are competing to do so," Stanley said. "It will not stop without some sort of rules in which we as a society express our values through legal protections."

More tempting ads?

Google and Facebook dominate the online ad world, and what one does to prove its worth to advertisers is likely to be copied by the other, according to Silicon Valley analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group. Attribution promised to give Google a way to assure advertisers they are getting their money's worth at the firm's online venues. "The big problem is that showing conversion from ad consumption to purchase has been horrible," Enderle said of online marketing.

"This has been a problem for a long time. Google is trying to make a metric so they get credit for it when you do purchase after viewing an ad." Data showing which ads are translating into real sales should mean that the relevance of ads people see online will improve as marketers abandon mis-aimed or ineffectively tailored messages, the analyst reasoned. — AFP



KENTUCKY: In this photo provided by Travis Kalanick, Uber Chief Executive Officer, Kalanick, center, poses with his mother, Bonnie, right, and father, Donald Kalanick, left, at the Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Kentucky. — AP

MOTHER OF UBER CEO DIES IN BOAT ACCIDENT

FRESNO, California: The mother of the CEO of the ride-hailing company Uber died in a boat accident in a California lake, the company said. Bonnie Kalanick, 71, died after the boat she and her husband, Donald, 78, were riding in hit a rock in Pine Flat Lake and sank, Fresno County authorities said. They are the parents of Travis Kalanick, 40, who founded Uber in 2009. The company has since grown to become an international operation with a market value of nearly \$70 billion.

The Kalanicks, from the Northridge neighborhood of Los Angeles, have been longtime boaters. In a memo to Uber staff, Liane Hornsey, the chief

human resources officer, called the Friday evening accident an "unthinkable tragedy." She wrote that "everyone in the Uber family knows how incredibly close Travis is to his parents." Officers were called to the scene and found the couple on a shore of the lake, the Sheriff's office said in a statement.

Bonnie Kalanick died at the scene, and her husband suffered moderate injuries, the sheriff's office said. An autopsy of Bonnie Kalanick is planned, the office said. Donald Kalanick is being treated at a hospital and is in stable condition, the company said. The couple's other son, Cory Kalanick, is a firefighter with the Fresno Fire Department. —AP

TOP 10 TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR CLOUD OPTIONS OPEN

By James Stanbridge, Vice President Infrastructure Cloud, Oracle APAC & EMEA

With cloud compute services expected to almost triple from \$23.3 billion in 2016 to \$68.4 billion in 2020, according to Gartner, infrastructure cloud is the new high growth area. As companies move to adopt IaaS, maintaining choice is essential. Oracle's James Stanbridge suggests 10 key questions every company should ask themselves to ensure they gain the maximum benefit as they migrate to cloud. The number one topic of discussion in every customer meeting I attend is cloud, whether that's in Munich or Mumbai companies are struggling to define and execute their cloud strategy and migration paths.

Having been in this business for 25 years, I sometimes wonder that this conversation isn't obsolete. The challenge is, there's no nice neat answer that maps a company's requirements to a product catalogue. In fact, that's the wrong way to think about it, but I see peers in the industry do it all the time. Every company's cloud journey is unique and starts from a different place, for different workloads, with different legacy infrastructure and corporate strategy. As an example, a SaaS model for CRM or HR systems may be considered mature.

Adoption or extension into platforms or infrastructure would be nascent or baby steps for many. Some have built their entire business model on developing their own apps on PaaS and IaaS. Perceived privacy and security concerns make public cloud a seemingly risky proposition for others. It will vary based on where the decision maker sits in the organization. At the business end - Sales, Service, Marketing, HR and Finance - the focus is on speed, and the customer and user experience. In the IT team, there are additional criteria around integration, system performance, reliability, and security that need factoring in.

Plus, there may be the need to deliver raw power in a lego brick model around compute, network and storage, all at a hyper scale for things like risk modeling, research and development, or big data crunching. Most companies want to do more than access the economic benefits of being able to dispense with running their own data centers. As a basic, they want to modernize; most want to take the opportunity to transform and innovate. It generally comes down to a mix of these 3 things,

- De-risk
- Move from CAPEX to OPEX cost model and
- Some performance or price advantage

In fact, de-risking is typically the number 1 issue that instigates many of the conversations I have. Often called the "IT Debt", this is the cost of running legacy hardware and software way beyond its expected life. It's too expensive to replace, and sits ticking away like a time bomb. CTOs and CIOs know this, and hence, is a key driver for the move to cloud. So what are the 10 questions you ask yourself to ensure you give yourself choice as you migrate to cloud?

Strategic alignment

Ensure your cloud goals tie to your business strategy and vision. Sounds obvious, but especially IT folks, can get blinded by the latest and greatest. Do you want to be an innovator, or is your focus actually on de-risking, cost savings and CAPEX to OPEX cost models?

Mindset

You are not going to get to the future, by holding on to the past. You will need a change in mindset; are you prepared to do things differently?

Be prepared to change

Some companies may not be able to shift their enterprise workloads to public cloud services due to data security, compliance or latency concerns. These workloads can continue to be run on-premise through in-a-box type cloud solutions that, in some cases, can offer the same cost structure and flexibility as the public cloud. Other organizations may choose to embrace a hybrid cloud model for development and testing to validate the business case of using public and private clouds. In most cases, it will be a bit of this and a bit of that, and the mix will most likely change over time.

Find the perfect partner

Business is complex. You need cloud solutions optimized to run an enterprise workload to get all the value of cloud from an economic perspective, and have all your security and data concerns taken into account. Can you find a vendor, managed cloud provider or broker that can help you understand the full range of opportunities that cloud provides as well as what the future of enterprise cloud looks like? Ideally they need to also offer various routes that enable you to extend your existing structure and

embrace cloud rather than go for radical change. At a point in time, there will be a case for convergence and rationalization, but only when at a point appropriate on your roadmap.

Security features must take centre stage

The conversation around Cloud should start here rather than for these areas to be bolted on solutions after the main architecture is decided.

Management is critical

Will you have visibility into and across all of the cloud elements you are adding into your infrastructure, so you can ensure they are delivering value, and are meeting corporate requirements on security, privacy and so on? At a base level, you also don't want cloud test and dev environments being running when not in use - that doesn't bring the economic advantage you turned to cloud for in the first place.

Business moves fast; can your cloud portfolio?

It has to be able to pivot with you and have the flexibility to change to take you to the future, whatever that is. You need to be able to switch back and forth between on premises and cloud, and mix and match a variety of options as your approach to cloud matures.

Are you prepared to be at the cutting edge?

One of the key benefits of cloud is its capacity for quickly adding in new features and capabilities in weeks or months rather than year long release cycles. But don't panic, operating in constant change is the new stable.

Transparency

If you find you are actually locking yourself into a provider, you won't realize the risk mitigation, and will likely lose some or all of the financial and performance gains you anticipated. Ask what a migration from this cloud to that one would look like in 6 months time?

Governance will be your best friend

When you need to audit, down the NIC level, when you need to attest to exactly what and where your data is, will your provider be part of your solution or the problem itself?

You need to adopt cloud in a way that meets where you are today as well as allowing room for growth. Most likely that will mean a hybrid cloud structure for a time, and it will include the need to use multiple tiers of cloud services.



ARGENTINA: Agustin Zanolli, a 23-year-old quadriplegic mechanical engineering student, flies a racing drone using his mouth to operate a special remote control device made by aeronautical engineer Daniel Sequeiros, during a practice session in Cordoba, Argentina. — AFP

FRACTIOUS POLITICS LEADS FAR CRY VIDEO GAME TO US

SAN FRANCISCO: The latest edition of the blockbuster shooter video game "Far Cry" plays out on US soil, inspired by angry political divides and intense isolationist passions in rural America. French video game powerhouse Ubisoft on Friday officially unveiled "Far Cry 5", which pits players against a dangerous, violent cult calling the shots in a fictional setting of Hope County, Montana.

Previous "Far Cry" games have been set in exotic spots in places including jungles of Africa, Himalayan mountains, and an archipelago in the South Pacific. The idea of bringing the action game to the US had been considered early in the franchise, but the idea was shelved after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the proclaimed end of the Cold War ushered in a calmer political atmosphere, according to executive producer Dan Hay.

Political tumult that gained momen-

tum during the past couple of years while the latest installment of the game was being developed brought a feeling that American society wasn't as safe and secure as one might hope, according to Hay. He said the 2008-2009 economic crisis, Brexit, anti-immigrant agendas, and the divisive but victorious election campaign of US President Donald Trump has changed the climate.

Freedom, faith and firearms

Hay and his team spent two weeks in Montana, seeking out people and groups distrustful of outside authority and inclined toward their own communities. "When we were in Montana we met very real people," said Hay. "When they talk, they give you pearls of wisdom." The pillars of "Far Cry 5" became freedom, faith, and firearms, according to its creators. —AFP

IN CANADA, PARKS THRIVE BUT CONSERVATIONISTS CRY FOUL



BANFF, Canada: This picture shows Banff National Park in Alberta. — AFP photos

BANFF, Canada: On a highway in Banff National Park in western Canada, tourists hastily park their cars to catch a glimpse of a bear at the edge of the forest. "We've seen some amazing animal life up here, much more than a lot of other places that we've gone camping," Tony Garland, a 60-something American who drove up from Seattle, said. Garland is part of a wave of American and Asian tourists flowing into Canada's national parks, known for their awe-inspiring beauty, in part thanks to a favorable exchange rate.

Record attendance is expected this year—admission is free for both locals and foreign tourists as part of celebrations marking the country's founding 150 years ago. But while the expected influx will be a boon to the tourism industry, the increased traffic also means more reckless behavior by visitors—approaching or feeding wild animals, stomping on flora, and littering along park roadways.

That behavior has raised concerns about how best to ensure the natural wonders of the country's more than 40 treasured national parks are protected. "Since January, we've doubled the number of

reservations for campsites from what it was at the same time last year," said Parks Canada's Banff tourism manager Greg Danchuk. "We have a responsibility to do both, to preserve nature and provide opportunities for people to visit," said Danchuk.

More money, more problems

Canada's national parks contribute Can\$1.5 billion (US\$1.1 billion) annually to the economy, and employ 22,700 people, according to government figures. In its March budget, the federal government increased funding for Parks Canada by more than Can\$300 million over the next two years. But critics say that money is not going towards conservation efforts, and accuse the government agency of putting commercial interests first in recent years.

"By law, Parks Canada... actually have to put nature first and they haven't been," said Anne-Marie Syslak, executive director of the Alberta chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS). "Too many people too fast without conservation as the priority—it's a real risk for these parks." Garland acknowledged that he'd seen some

dodgy behavior during his visit to Banff, located in the Rocky Mountains and the most popular of Canada's parks, with four millions visitors last year.

"Some of the people don't seem to be

that educated (about wildlife)," he said. "They get out of their cars and go near the bears, which is kind of crazy."

Edward Johnson, an ecology professor at the University of Calgary in Alberta, said

many communities on the edges of the towering Rocky Mountains, once full of miners and oil workers, have repurposed themselves as tourist havens. In Johnson's view, tourism and conservation are not mutually exclusive—monies spent locally by tourists can be used to support conservation efforts, for example. "The more people who want to come out and see natural areas, the more likely you're able to preserve more natural areas," he explained, while adding: "It's a double-edged sword."

Johnson said studies on the impact of development over the long term are insufficient. "You have to think carefully about your development and make everyone aware of what the consequences are, one way or the other," he said.

Also, Parks Canada is still spending more on tourism promotion than on conservation. "Tourism and conservation should lie hand in hand," echoed Syslak, "because people are coming to these areas for their natural beauty and wildlife." "We also have a responsibility to be stewards of these lands so that we have these animals and we keep these places in a good state for the future," she said. —AFP



BANFF, Canada: Visitors walk on frozen Lake Louise at Banff National Park in Alberta.



BANFF, Canada: People stroll through the town of Banff inside Banff National Park, Alberta.



ITALY: US President Donald Trump smiles as he is introduced to speak to US military troops and their families at Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sigonella, Italy. — AP

TRUMP TELLS 'CONFIDANTS': US WILL LEAVE PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has told "confidants," including the head of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt, that he plans to leave a landmark international agreement on climate change, Axios news outlet reported on Saturday, citing three sources with direct knowledge. On Saturday, Trump said in a Twitter post he would make a decision on whether to support the Paris climate deal next week.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A source who has been in contact with people involved in the decision told Reuters a couple of meetings were planned with chief executives of energy companies and big corporations and others about the climate agreement ahead of Trump's expected announcement later in the week. It was unclear whether those meetings would still take place.

"I will make my final decision on the Paris Accord next week!" he tweeted on the final

day of a Group of Seven (G7) summit in Italy at which he refused to bow to pressure from allies to back the landmark 2015 agreement. The summit of G7 wealthy nations pitted Trump against the leaders of Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Japan on several issues, with European diplomats frustrated at having to revisit questions they had hoped were long settled.

Trump, who has previously called global warming a hoax, came under concerted pressure from the other leaders to honor the 2015 Paris Agreement on curbing carbon emissions. Although he tweeted that he would make a decision next week, his apparent reluctance to embrace the first legally binding global climate deal that was signed by 195 countries clearly annoyed German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "The entire discussion about climate was very difficult, if not to say very dissatisfying," she told reporters. "There are no indications whether the United States will stay in the Paris Agreement or not." —Reuters



INDIA: An Indian mahout bathes an elephant amid rising temperatures in Allahabad. — AFP

INDIA REPORTS FIRST THREE CASES OF THE ZIKA VIRUS

PEOPLE INFECTED BY THE ZIKA VIRUS NEVER GET SICK

NEW DELHI: India has reported its first three cases of the Zika virus, including two pregnant women who delivered healthy babies. Health Ministry officials said yesterday that the three patients in western Gujarat state had recovered. "There is no need to panic," Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, a top Health Ministry official, told reporters. The World Health Organization said in a statement Friday that the three cases that India reported to the WHO on May 15 were detected through routine blood surveillance in a hospital in Ahmadabad, Gujarat's capital.

Two cases were detected in February and November last year, while a third case was detected in January this year. Swaminathan, who heads the Indian Council of Medical Research, said the three patients had not traveled overseas and had acquired the infection locally. Zika is transmitted by the daytime-active *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes.

The medical journal *Lancet* has said 2.6 billion people living in parts of Asia and Africa could be at risk of Zika infection, based on analysis of travel, climate and mosquito patterns in those regions. The vast majority of people infected by the Zika virus never get sick, and symptoms are mild for those who do, so surveillance systems may have missed cases. Although Zika was first identified in 1947, the virus wasn't considered a major health threat until a major outbreak in Brazil in 2015 revealed that it can lead to severe birth defects when pregnant women are infected. The WHO says that although Zika causes only mild symptoms in most people, it sometimes causes complications including microcephaly and Guillain-Barre syndrome. Babies born to Zika-infected mothers have been found to have



BRAZIL: In this file photo, an *Aedes aegypti* mosquito known to carry the Zika virus, is photographed through a microscope at the FioCruz institute in Recife, Pernambuco state, Brazil. — AP

microcephaly, or a birth defect where the head is abnormally small and brains might not have developed properly. Guillain-Barre syndrome is a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system.

The WHO said the three were the first cases of Zika virus infections from India and provided evidence on the presence of the virus in the country. "These findings suggest low level trans-

mission of Zika virus and new cases may occur in the future," it said.

The WHO said there was significant risk of the further spread of the virus and recommended that governments push ahead with efforts to control mosquitoes. However, the agency did not recommend any curbs on travel to India. Last year, the WHO declared the spread of Zika a global public health emergency. — AP

WALKING LINKED TO IMPROVED BRAIN FUNCTION

CANADA: A moderate-intensity walking regimen may reduce symptoms of mild cognitive impairment that are linked to poor blood vessel health in the brain, a small study suggests. Participants with vascular cognitive impairment, sometimes called vascular dementia, who walked three hours per week for six months had improved reaction times and other signs of improved brain function, the Canadian team reports in *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

Vascular cognitive impairment, or VCI, refers to mildly impaired thinking or more advanced dementia that's due to the same kinds of blood vessel damage seen with heart disease elsewhere in the body. It is the second most common cause of dementia after Alzheimer's disease. "It is well established that regular aerobic exercise improves cardiovascular health and cerebrovascular health," the study's senior author Teresa Liu-Ambrose told Reuters Health in an email.

"More specifically, it reduces one's risk of developing chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes (type II), and high cholesterol. These chronic conditions have a negative impact on the brain—likely through compromised blood flow to the brain," said Liu-Ambrose, a researcher with the Aging, Mobility, and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The brain is a highly metabolic organ and to keep it healthy, it requires good blood flow to deliver the necessary nutrients and oxygen to its

tissues, she added. "It is worth noting that in our study, reduced blood pressure (secondary to exercise) was associated with improved cognitive function," Liu-Ambrose said. Aerobic exercise may also benefit the brain by increasing growth factors, which are substances made by the body that promote cell growth, differentiation and survival, she said.

Liu-Ambrose and colleagues randomly assigned 38 older adults with mild VCI to one of two groups. One group followed an aerobic training program consisting of three one-hour walking classes each week for six months, while the other group continued with their usual care. In addition, both groups were given information about vascular cognitive impairment and tips for eating a healthier diet.

Before the exercise program began and at the end of six months, all the participants also had functional MRI brain scans and other tests that measured neural activity and cognitive ability. People in the aerobic training group had significant improvements in their reaction times on the cognitive tests, and showed changes in their brain activity that made them resemble healthy brains more. The comparison group showed no changes. Overall, exercise appears to be a promising strategy for promoting cognitive health in older adults, Liu-Ambrose said.

"While more research is needed to better understand how it brings about its benefits and what factors may impact the degree of benefit observed, there is minimal negative conse-

quence of exercising," she said. Liu-Ambrose said she doesn't know if exercise can actually prevent VCI because there have been no studies to determine that. "However, population based studies do suggest that physical activity does reduce the risk of developing VCI."

"Moreover, as mentioned earlier, aerobic exercise is very effective in reducing vascular risk factors associated with VCI, such as high blood pressure." The study was small, and because participants had to be able to walk for up to an hour, it's possible they were physically healthier than average, the authors note. The socializing involved in the walking classes might have also had some effect, they add.

"Given the small sample size, one needs to be cautious about interpreting the results of this pilot study. However, it is encouraging to see that the six-month aerobic exercise program improved certain aspects of cognition and showed changes on functional brain imaging," said Dr. Joe Verghese, director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for the Aging Brain at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

"The effect of exercise in this, and other studies seems to be on improving executive functions, which are required for planning, thinking and judgment," Verghese, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

"The findings, if confirmed in larger studies, may have implications in advising exercise in older patients with vascular risk factors for brain protection," Verghese said.



HOMESTEAD: A general view of the Turkey Point Nuclear Reactor Building in Homestead, Florida.

WHY NUCLEAR COULD BECOME THE NEXT 'FOSSIL' FUEL



HOMESTEAD, United States: A gray dinosaur statue outside south Florida's largest power plant is meant to symbolize two decommissioned fossil fuel reactors, but it also could be seen to represent a nuclear industry crumbling under mounting costs. Almost a decade ago, Turkey Point was aiming to become one of the country's largest nuclear plants. Florida Power and Light had argued that such expansion was needed to maintain diverse energy sources and to supply Florida's booming population for years to come, while touting nuclear as a clean form of energy.

But now, just three reactors are in operation - one natural gas and two nuclear reactors, built in the 1970s. And plans to build two more nuclear reactors—first announced in 2009 — are essentially on hold for at least four years, according to filings with the state's Public Service Commission. "Right now our only focus is on getting all the approvals we need," company spokesman Peter Robbins said. "We are not buying construction materials."

Westinghouse bankruptcy

Earlier this year, the bankruptcy of Westinghouse, builder of the AP1000 reactor—the model scheduled for use at plants in South Carolina and Georgia as well as Turkey Point—rattled the industry. Both projects are now years behind schedule and billions of dollars over budget. "We are very closely monitoring the two new nuclear projects going on," Robbins said.

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy estimates that construction on Turkey Point has been delayed until 2028 at the earliest, with costs expected to balloon to over \$20 billion. FPL has refused to publicly revise its pro-



HOMESTEAD: Juan Madruga, left, and Pehter Rodriguez, right, of Florida Power and Light work on the Turkey Point Nuclear Reactor in Homestead, Florida.

jections at Turkey Point, for now. "We don't think there is value in coming up with a new cost or schedule until those reactors are closer to completion," Robbins said.

Controversial project

The project has been controversial from the start, and casts the spotlight on wider con-

cerns about nuclear power. Critics have pointed to the rising seas from climate change, risks of storm surge, radioactive waste and threats to drinking water and wildlife at the site, nestled near Everglades National Park, as reasons to stop nuclear expansion. Complaints have also centered on the difficulty of evacuating the densely populated area around the plant

in case of emergency. Miami-Dade County is home to 2.6 million people.

"Investing tens of billions of dollars on a power plant that will be underwater one day, along with the highly radioactive waste it will produce, makes no sense," said fishing captain Dan Kipnis, one of the activists who is fighting to stop the project. Legal challenges to the

plant's planned expansion began in 2010, and continued this month with a hearing before the Atomic Safety Board.

Over the course of the two-day hearing, environmental scientists and lawyers wrangled over whether the porous limestone in Florida could really contain wastewater injected underground, without allowing toxic chemicals to seep upward into drinking water. Currently, Turkey Point's two nuclear reactors use a series of cooling canals to treat wastewater. These canals were confirmed last year to be leaking into a nearby national park, after a radioactive isotope, tritium, was found at up to 215 times the normal levels in the waters of Biscayne Bay. The three-judge safety board panel is expected to rule by year's end on whether an operating license should be granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Time never came

Throughout Florida, FPL is expanding its solar installations, and is shuttering coal plants. Its energy mix is 70 percent natural gas, 17 percent nuclear, with the rest divided between solar, oil and coal. Meanwhile, the ever-dropping cost of natural gas is making nuclear less attractive every day, analysts say. "Most people think Turkey Point will never get built," said Mark Cooper, senior research fellow at the Institute for Energy and the Environment, Vermont Law School, referring to FPL's proposed two new nuclear reactors. "It turns out it was not the environmentalists, it was not the lawsuits," Cooper said. "They could not deliver a safe, economically viable product. They couldn't do it in the '80s and they can't do it today," said Cooper. "Nuclear power is a technology whose time never came." — AFP

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PAGE

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GRAND HYPERMARKET OPENS ITS 43RD BRANCH REGIONALLY IN MAHBOULA



Leading UAE-based business group, Regency, launched the 43rd branch of its flagship store, Grand Hypermarket in Mahboula, block 2, on Wednesday. Sheikh Dawood Salman Al-Sabah inaugurated the branch at a ceremony attended by top-level government officials, leading business figures, in addition to Jassim Mohammed Khamis Al-Sharah (Chairman of Grand Hypermarket, Kuwait), Dr. Anwar Ameen (Regency Group Managing Director), Aboobacker Mohammed (Regency Group Executive Director), Ayyoob Kachery (Regional Director), Mohammed Suneer (CEO), Thahseer Ali (General Manager), Abbas Khan (General Manager, Dubai Region), and other management representatives.

As part of the inaugural offer, the new outlet has announced huge discounts, in addition to the special offers that have been planned at all the other outlets during Ramadan. The inaugural event saw a huge turnout of guests, who dared the sand storm and the unfriendly weather to attend it. Grand Hypermarket has a strong reputation in the market for providing a wide range of products including food stuffs, world-class electronic appliances, home appliances, footwear, health and beauty items for affordable prices. As part of its regional expansion plans, the Regency group will be launching branches of Grand Hyper, Grand Supermarket and Grand Fresh in the UAE, Oman and Qatar. In Kuwait, a new Grand Hypermarket will soon be opened in Mahboula, near Express Bakery on block 1."



THE SULTAN CENTER OPENS AT THE BOULEVARD MALL

The Sultan Center held an opening ceremony on May 25, 2017 to celebrate the opening of its thirty-ninth store in Kuwait at the Boulevard Mall located in the heart of Salmiya. The opening was held under the attendance of TSC management, suppliers, customers and media representatives.

With over 35 years of experience and expertise in the retail industry, TSC continues to pave the way for customers to enjoy a unique shopping experience.

The new TSC store features a vast variety of groceries, consumer goods, fresh fruits and vegetables both local and international, a full-service meat seafood counter featuring an abundant variety of meat cuts and the freshest seafood varieties, a deli counter featuring local favorites, cheeses, cold cuts, salads and a variety of ready-to-serve entrees. The store also houses a sushi bar and hot food section with options to dine in or take-a-way.

There is an in-store bakery where customers can select from a range of freshly baked artisan breads, croissants, cakes and pastries, including a coffee bar where customers can either sit back relax and enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee or take it on the go. The upper level of the store show cases a collection of home center, housewares, linen, outdoor, stationery, health and beauty and cleaning products.

Commenting on the new opening, Mr Abdelsalam Bdeir, CEO said, "we are pleased to announce the opening of The Sultan Center Boulevard, and we look forward to offering the neighborhood community an inspiring new shopping destination. We are committed to providing our customers with quality, variety, freshness, services and value. Customers who visit TSC Boulevard will enjoy low prices and shocking promotions across the store, in a great shopping experience".

The store staff is highly trained and ready to assist all customers. Ample parking and carry-out services are available and the store is easily accessible from 5th Ring Road and the Arabian Gulf street. The store is opened 24 hours daily. This Ramadan, discover what awaits you at TSC Boulevard, your family shopping designation.





KIB LAUNCHES RAMADAN CAMPAIGN 'YOU ARE THE HEROES OF OUR STORY'

As part of its leading role as an Islamic financial institution and an active member within the local community, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of its Ramadan campaign, under the title "You are the heroes of our story". The campaign comprises a series of community-based activities, including sports, social and religious activities, set to take place throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan.

"Every year, we are committed to carrying out a diverse and comprehensive program of community-based initiatives during Ramadan, targeting our customers, our staff and their families," said Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at the Bank. "This year, our campaign is entitled "You are the heroes of our story", and it includes a series of television ads which showcase KIB's relentless commitment to giving back to the community over the past ten years, since our transformation to a full-fledged Islamic bank.

"It is this commitment to giving that has enabled KIB to stand out and carve a special

place for itself within the banking sector, as it has allowed us to always remain close to our customers and the Kuwait community at large." Najia further added that KIB has always focused on supporting youth and sports activities during Ramadan. This year, the Bank will be sponsoring the late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan annual football tournament and the Al-Qattan tournament, and will be participating with a team of notable international and local athletes in Al-Roudan Tournament.

The Bank will also be organizing its annual football tournament for its own employees. In addition to sports-focused activities, throughout Ramadan KIB will be carrying out a diverse program of community initiatives, which seek to embrace and preserve the long-held local traditions and customs of the Holy Month, which have been passed down from generation to generation. In addition to upholding local traditions such as the distribution of Girqian and the annual Ghabqah held for KIB employees, a team of KIB employees will be spearheading a number of social initiatives, such as organizing

iftar meals for those in need and visiting hospitals and various community centers.

Furthermore, KIB is organizing several religious seminars for its staff in Ramadan. The seminars will be conducted by Chairman of the Fatwa and Shari'ah Supervisory Board, Sheikh Dr. Khalid Mathkour Al-Mathkour, and Deputy Chairman of Fatwa and Shari'ah Supervisory Board, Sheikh Mustafa Sayed Hassan Al-Zalzalah. The Board will also be supervising the annual Ramadan Quran Memorization Competition, held for KIB employees and customers, and their children.

Najia concluded his statement by stressing the important role KIB plays within the local community, particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The Bank continues its ongoing commitment towards supporting different segments within the local community, through organizing and participating in various humanitarian, religious and community-based activities and initiatives.



OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 01:15 Attila
- 02:45 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
- 05:00 Double Team
- 07:00 Forbidden Empire
- 09:00 Escape
- 10:30 Pompeii
- 12:30 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
- 14:30 Double Team
- 16:15 Harlock: Space Pirate
- 18:15 Digstowen
- 20:00 I Am Number Four
- 22:00 Ladder 49

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Wildest Islands
- 01:40 Wildest Islands
- 02:35 Wildest Islands
- 03:25 Wildest Islands
- 04:15 Wildest Islands
- 05:02 Wildest Islands
- 05:49 River Monsters
- 06:36 Going Ape
- 07:00 Going Ape
- 07:25 Cats 101
- 08:15 Wildest Africa
- 09:10 Wildest Islands
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Cats 101
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Wildest Africa
- 13:45 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 14:40 Wildest Islands
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 17:25 Animal Cops Houston
- 18:20 Lone Star Law
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Cats 101
- 21:05 Animal Cops Houston
- 22:00 Lone Star Law
- 22:55 Wildest Islands
- 23:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)

BBC FIRST

- 00:10 Eastenders
- 00:40 New Blood
- 01:35 Blackout
- 02:25 Southcliffe
- 03:20 Class

- 07:40 Bondi Ink
- 08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 09:20 Sweat Inc.
- 10:10 Hungry Investors
- 11:00 Framework
- 11:50 Catch A Contractor
- 12:40 Disaster Date
- 13:05 Disaster Date
- 13:30 Lip Sync Battle
- 13:55 Lip Sync Battle
- 14:20 Life Or Debt
- 15:10 Bondi Ink
- 16:00 Tattoo Disasters
- 16:30 Tattoo Disasters
- 16:55 Disaster Date
- 17:25 Disaster Date
- 17:50 Hungry Investors
- 18:39 Impractical Jokers
- 19:03 Disaster Date
- 19:27 Bondi Ink
- 20:13 Tattoo Disasters
- 20:37 Tattoo Disasters
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 Frankenfood
- 22:00 Frankenfood
- 22:25 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 22:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 23:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

- 00:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 00:30 Invent It Rich
- 01:20 Invent It Rich
- 02:10 Storm Chasers
- 03:00 Storm Chasers
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 Ultimate Survival
- 05:30 Ultimate Survival
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Awesome Adventures
- 07:50 K9 Cops
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 Invent It Rich
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 K9 Cops
- 12:00 Ultimate Survival
- 12:50 How It's Made
- 13:15 How It's Made
- 13:40 Storm Chasers
- 14:30 Kenny The Shark
- 14:55 Awesome Adventures
- 15:20 K9 Cops
- 16:10 Invent It Rich
- 17:00 Quax
- 17:25 Quax

- 05:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:25 Hank Zipzer
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 The 7D
- 06:00 Jessie
- 06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 06:55 The Zhuzhus
- 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 Dog With A Blog
- 11:05 Dog With A Blog
- 11:30 Gravity Falls
- 11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:00 Welcome To The Ranks
- 12:15 The Zhuzhus
- 12:40 Hank Zipzer
- 13:05 Star Darlings
- 13:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Jessie
- 14:25 Hank Zipzer
- 14:50 Sunny Bunnies
- 14:55 The Zhuzhus
- 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 Bizaardvark
- 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 Austin & Ally
- 20:10 Jessie
- 20:35 Crackle
- 20:40 Disney The Lodge
- 21:05 Bizaardvark
- 21:30 That's So Raven
- 21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 22:00 Shake It Up
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost

Disney Junior

- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:15 Calimero
- 00:30 Art Attack

- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Gold Divers
- 06:50 Street Outlaws
- 07:40 Misfit Garage
- 08:30 Legend Of Croc Gold
- 09:20 Garage Gold
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Fast N' Loud
- 11:25 Diesel Brothers
- 12:15 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 13:05 How Do They Do It?
- 13:30 Garage Gold
- 14:20 Gold Rush
- 15:10 What On Earth?
- 16:00 Gold Divers
- 16:50 Misfit Garage
- 17:40 Street Outlaws
- 18:30 How Do They Do It?
- 18:55 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 What On Earth?
- 20:10 Garage Gold
- 20:35 Garage Gold
- 21:00 Gold Divers
- 21:50 Rebel Gold
- 22:40 Outback Truckers
- 23:30 Misfit Garage

itv HD CHOICE

- 06:00 Gravity Falls
- 06:25 Supa Strikas
- 06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:15 Milo Murphy's Law
- 07:25 Danger Mouse
- 07:40 Supa Strikas
- 08:05 Two More Eggs
- 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
- 15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 15:55 Right Now Kapow
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Disney11
- 17:15 Mech-X4
- 17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
- 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:10 Gravity Falls
- 18:35 Mighty Med
- 19:00 Atomic Puppet
- 19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Mech-X4
- 20:45 Disney11
- 21:10 Walk The Prank
- 21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 22:35 Booster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

- 00:00 Second Wives Club
- 00:55 Botched
- 01:50 El News
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:50 Botched
- 04:40 Botched
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 So Cosmo
- 06:55 El News
- 07:25 So Cosmo
- 08:20 So Cosmo
- 10:10 El News
- 11:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:40 El News
- 15:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 16:00 Second Wives Club
- 19:00 Fashion Police
- 20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 22:00 Fashion Police
- 23:00 El News
- 23:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

food

- 00:00 Kids BBQ Championship
- 01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 02:00 Dinner At Tiffani's

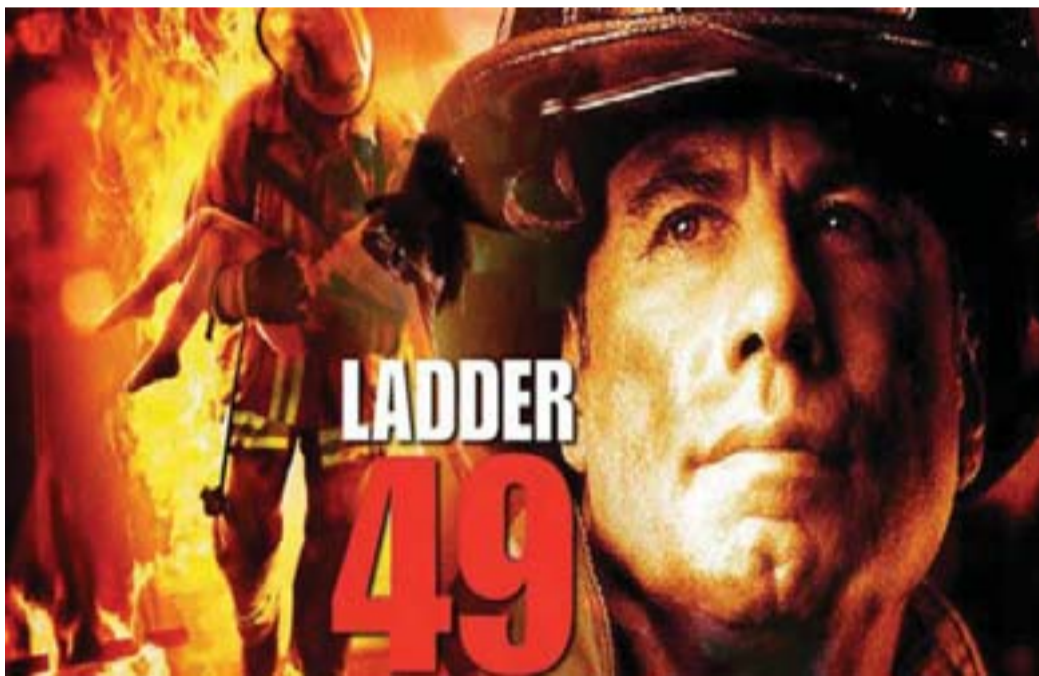
- 02:30 Dinner At Tiffani's
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Kids BBQ Championship
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table
- 09:30 Siba's Table
- 10:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 10:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 11:00 The Kitchen
- 12:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:00 Siba's Table
- 13:30 Siba's Table
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Iron Chef America
- 20:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 21:00 Mystery Diners
- 21:30 Mystery Diners
- 22:00 The Big Eat - Middle East
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Guy's Grocery Games

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:10 Cash Trapped
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 03:25 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
- 04:20 Surprise Surprise
- 05:15 Coach Trip
- 05:45 Coach Trip
- 06:10 Cash Trapped
- 07:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 08:00 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
- 09:00 Surprise Surprise
- 10:00 Coach Trip
- 10:30 Coach Trip
- 10:55 Cash Trapped
- 11:50 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 13:45 Coronation Street
- 14:15 Cash Trapped
- 15:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 16:00 Jekyll And Hyde
- 16:55 Shoot The Messenger
- 17:50 Coach Trip
- 18:20 Coach Trip
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 19:45 Coronation Street
- 20:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 21:00 Jekyll And Hyde
- 21:55 Shoot The Messenger
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Coronation Street
- 23:40 Coronation Street

HISTORY HD

- 00:20 Ice Road Truckers
- 01:10 Pawn Stars
- 01:35 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 02:00 Storage Wars Miami
- 02:25 Storage Wars Miami
- 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 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 11:50 Duck Dynasty
- 12:15 Duck Dynasty
- 12:40 Swamp People
- 13:30 Ax Men
- 14:20 Mountain Men
- 15:10 Lost In Transmission
- 16:00 Storage Wars
- 16:25 Storage Wars
- 16:50 Pawn Stars
- 17:15 Pawn Stars
- 17:40 Storage Wars Miami
- 18:05 Storage Wars Miami
- 18:30 Pawn Stars
- 18:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
- 21:50 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen
- 22:40 Mummies Alive
- 23:30 American Pickers



LADDER 49 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 04:05 Doctors
- 04:35 Eastenders
- 05:05 The Musketeers
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Eastenders
- 07:00 Casualty
- 07:55 New Tricks
- 08:45 The Musketeers
- 09:40 Death In Paradise
- 10:35 Doctors
- 11:05 Eastenders
- 11:35 New Tricks
- 12:30 The Musketeers
- 13:25 Death In Paradise
- 14:20 Doctors
- 14:50 Eastenders
- 15:20 New Tricks
- 16:15 The Musketeers
- 17:10 Death In Paradise
- 18:05 Father Brown
- 19:05 New Tricks
- 20:00 The Collection
- 21:00 Rillington Place
- 22:00 Silent Witness
- 23:00 Silent Witness

- 17:50 Dirty Jobs
- 18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 22:00 Dirty Jobs
- 22:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 23:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival

ID

- 00:30 Alaska Haunting
- 01:20 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
- 02:10 Who Killed Jane Doe?
- 03:00 Killing Richard Glossip
- 03:48 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 04:36 Murder Chose Me
- 05:24 Murder Book
- 06:12 Blood Relatives
- 07:00 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 07:25 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 08:40 Blood Relatives
- 09:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 10:20 I'd Kill For You
- 11:10 Murder Comes To Town
- 12:00 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
- 12:25 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
- 12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 13:40 Blood Relatives
- 14:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 15:20 I'd Kill For You
- 16:10 Nightmare Next Door
- 17:00 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
- 17:25 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
- 17:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 18:40 Blood Relatives
- 19:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 20:20 I'd Kill For You
- 21:10 A Crime To Remember
- 22:00 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
- 22:50 Killing Richard Glossip
- 23:40 Murder Chose Me

Disney HD

- 00:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:25 Hank Zipzer
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:55 Hank Zipzer
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Street Outlaws
- 01:10 Heavy Rescue
- 02:00 Guy Martin: Fastest Man On Two Wheels
- 02:50 What On Earth?
- 03:40 Misfit Garage
- 04:30 Garage Gold

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 The Haunting Of...
- 01:00 Paranormal State
- 01:30 Paranormal State
- 02:00 American Murder
- 03:00 Jack The Ripper
- 04:00 The Haunting Of...
- 05:00 Paranormal State
- 06:00 Paranormal State
- 06:30 The First 48
- 07:00 My Crazy Ex
- 08:00 Evil Up Close
- 09:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 13:00 My Crazy Ex
- 14:00 Evil Up Close
- 15:00 Homicide Hunter
- 16:00 Crime Stories
- 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 19:00 Evil Up Close
- 20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 21:00 Homicide Hunter
- 22:00 Cold Case Files
- 23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:05 Disaster Date
- 00:30 Disaster Date
- 00:55 Tosh.0
- 01:20 Tosh.0
- 01:45 Lip Sync Battle
- 02:10 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 03:25 Framework
- 04:15 Hungry Investors
- 05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 05:55 Catch A Contractor
- 06:50 Life Or Debt



LIFE OF A KING ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL



WAR HORSE ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 00:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 00:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 01:10 Glamour Puds
- 01:40 Croatia's Finest
- 02:05 Food School
- 02:35 The Food Files
- 03:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 03:30 Poh & Co.
- 03:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 04:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 04:50 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 05:45 Glamour Puds
- 06:15 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 06:40 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 07:10 Croatia's Finest
- 07:35 Food School
- 08:05 The Food Files
- 08:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 09:00 Poh & Co.
- 09:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 10:20 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 11:15 Glamour Puds
- 11:45 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 12:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 12:40 A Is For Apple
- 13:05 Food School
- 13:35 The Food Files
- 14:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 14:30 Poh & Co.
- 14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:50 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 16:45 Glamour Puds
- 17:15 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 17:40 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
- 18:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 20:00 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 21:00 Glamour Puds
- 21:30 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 22:00 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
- 22:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 23:20 Food School
- 23:50 The Food Files

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:30 A Bug's Life
- 03:15 Max
- 05:15 Sky High
- 07:00 A Bug's Life
- 09:00 Chicken Little
- 11:00 Sky High
- 13:00 Rio
- 15:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 16:30 Turner & Hooch
- 18:15 Herbie Fully Loaded
- 20:00 Tom And Huck
- 21:30 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 23:00 Herbie Fully Loaded

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:00 Peggoland
- 02:45 Twins
- 04:30 The Beautician And The Beast
- 06:15 Cheech & Chong's The Corsican Brothers
- 07:45 Baby's Day Out
- 09:30 Twins
- 11:15 The Beautician And The Beast
- 13:00 Cheech & Chong's The Corsican Brothers
- 14:30 Baby's Day Out
- 16:15 Three Men And A Little Lady
- 18:00 Other Plans
- 19:30 The Golden Child
- 21:00 She's Funny That Way
- 22:30 A Short History Of Decay

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:00 Gone With The Bullets
- 02:00 Still Alice
- 04:00 Fast Girls
- 06:00 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
- 08:00 I Am Bolt
- 22:00 2001: A Space Odyssey
- 12:15 Still Alice
- 14:00 Life Of A King
- 16:00 Searching For Bobby Fischer
- 18:00 Love & Mercy
- 20:00 Get On Up
- 22:15 Words And Pictures

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 01:00 Genius
- 02:00 Brain Games
- 02:30 Brain Games
- 03:00 Monster Fish
- 04:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 05:00 Time Scanners
- 06:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 07:00 Inside
- 08:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
- 09:00 Time Scanners
- 10:00 Scam City
- 11:00 Lawless Island
- 12:00 Primal Survivor
- 13:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 14:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
- 15:00 Border Wars
- 16:00 Scam City
- 17:00 Lawless Island
- 18:00 Primal Survivor
- 19:00 Mega Factories
- 20:00 Scam City
- 20:50 Lawless Island
- 21:40 Primal Survivor
- 22:30 Mega Factories
- 23:20 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
- 02:45 The Tale Of Despereaux
- 04:30 Big Baby
- 06:00 Ratchet And Clank
- 07:45 Yugo & Lala 2
- 09:15 Robosapien: Rebooted
- 11:00 Egon And Donci
- 12:30 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
- 14:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 15:45 Robosapien: Rebooted
- 17:30 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
- 19:15 Worms
- 20:45 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 22:15 Yugo & Lala 2
- 23:45 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:45 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn
- 03:45 One Fine Day
- 05:45 October Sky
- 07:45 Goldfinger
- 09:45 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 11:30 War Horse
- 14:00 Enemy Of The State
- 16:15 Unstoppable
- 18:00 Con Air
- 20:00 Twister
- 22:00 The Finest Hours

NAT GEO WILD HD

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 28/05/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 44 °C

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h causing raising dust over open areas
By Night: Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	hot	hot + raising dust	dusty	dusty
Min Temp °C	32	33	33	32
Max Temp °C	45	45	44	44
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	25 - 45	50 - 70	50 - 70

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	30		43	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31		44	
ABDALY	29		46	
SUBYAN	28		45	
JAHRRA	30		46	
FAILAKA ISLAND	29		44	
SALMIYAH	30		38	
AHMADE	30		39	
JAL ALIYAH	27		45	
QAROH ISLAND	29		36	
UMH AL-HARADEM	29		35	
HUWASIB	31		44	
WAFRA	29		46	
SALMY	27		45	
MUTRIBA	27		46	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	45
Min Temp (°C)	28
Max Rel Hum (%)	20
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:50
Sunset	18:40

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:17
Sunrise	04:50
Zuhr	11:45
Aar	15:20
Sunset	18:40
Isha	20:10



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

CROSSWORD 1622



ACROSS

1. God of the earth.
4. The political doctrine that supports the rights and powers of the common people in their struggle with the privileged elite.
12. An accountant certified by the state.
15. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
16. Disappear gradually.
17. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
18. A resource.
19. A state of extreme confusion and disorder.
20. With rapid movements.
22. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
24. Having a claw or claws.
25. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
26. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
28. Being nine more than ninety.
29. A family of birds coextensive with the order Rheiformes.
34. Lake in northwestern Russia near the border with Finland.
38. A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
39. A standard or model or pattern regarded as typical.
40. An informal term for a father.
41. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit with poisonous seeds.
45. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
47. Small slender gull having narrow wings and a forked tail.
48. The fatty flesh of eel.
50. (slang) A gangster's pistol.
51. A person who eats human flesh.
53. Enclose or unfold completely with or as if with a covering.
55. (astronomy) An indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels.
57. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
58. (Welsh) Corresponds to Iris Ler.
60. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
62. An association of people to promote the welfare of senior citizens.
66. The univalent unsaturated organic radical C3H5.
69. A long wandering and eventful journey.
71. An adherent of any branch of Taoism.
72. A framework that supports climbing plants.
76. An upright tripod for displaying something (usually an artist's canvas).
77. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
78. A member of a North American Indian people of the Gila river valley in Arizona.
80. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
81. A tool with a flat blade attached at right angles to a long handle.
82. Seed of amaranth plants used as a native cereal in Central and South America.
83. The force of workers available.

DOWN

1. Deciduous South African tree having large odd-pinnate leaves and profuse fragrant orange-yellow flowers.
2. Any plant of the genus Erica.
3. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
4. Having nine hinged bands of bony plates.
5. Do something to an excessive degree.
6. A genus of Ploceidae.
7. Untie the lashing of.
8. Lacking excess flesh.
9. A belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by some group or school.
10. A white trivalent metallic element.
11. (South African) An ear of corn.
12. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
13. The rate of moving (especially walking or running).
14. Advanced in years.
21. (music) The speed at which a composition is to be played.
23. Relatively nontoxic South African herb smoked like tobacco.
27. The person (or bank) who is expected to pay a check or draft when it is presented for payment.
30. A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
31. Quietly in concealment.
32. A wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric with pictorial designs.
33. Give expression or emotion to, in a stage or movie role.
35. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
36. One of the proteins into which actomyosin can be split.
37. Wild and menacing.
42. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
43. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
44. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
46. Produce ankylosis by surgery.
49. Having come or been brought to a conclusion.
52. (used with singular count nouns) Colloquial for 'not a' or 'not one' or 'never a'.
54. The sacred city of Lamaism.
56. Not out.
59. An extensive grassy and nearly treeless plain (especially in Latin America).
61. A trivalent metalloid element.
63. State in northeastern India.
64. Female ruff v 1.
65. A tower for guiding pilots or marking the turning point in a race.
67. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
68. Large European dormouse.
70. Not only so, but.
73. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
74. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
75. Fiddler crabs.
79. A heavy precious metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is one of your challenging days. However, others will give you encouragement and are willing to lend a helping hand if things get too stressful. This could mean that today is the day for the big garage sale or the swim meet or any other group interaction. Some sort of temporary obstacle could appear making everyone feel a bit frustrated-rain, perhaps. Some project could be put on hold making everyone jump through hoops to find an alternate path. Satisfaction is as close as the phone. You are achievement oriented and may have difficulty understanding any interruptions but you will be pleased with the outcome of this day. You find ways to get your goals met, regardless of whatever occurs in the process. Satisfied sighs end this day.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Reading the news or hearing some news report causes in-depth discussions to arise around the table this morning. Probing conversations find you at your mental best. You have a feeling that with the right amount of persuasion, coupled with the necessary knowledge and financial backing, you could succeed at anything. Today you toss a few ideas around with your friends or your mate. The results run more in your favor than you thought they would-congratulations. Now it is your turn to work out the details. This could be anything from a new project to rearranging the furniture. Your analytical abilities are good and you appear in control of your life. Now could be the time to make arrangements for a special date-perhaps flowers.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are curious about the happenings today and may find it quite difficult to hold back from asking questions. You may wonder where some activity is headed. Just be yourself and do whatever it is you feel you need to do in order to be productive in your own projects; all will be understood soon enough. If people need time to prepare the surroundings for a party or gathering, you might enjoy walking around a shopping mall with a friend or going to a movie for a couple of hours. Fun times with friends and family are what today is about. Making new friends or visiting with people from the past gives you a marvelous opportunity to gain some material for a short story. You could have a great passion for writing once you start.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are in a fun mood-willing and able to dive in and join a group of friends or family or take your turn at a hike with young people for a time during the day. You might even remember to take a few pictures. You can see whatever is needed and you make the right choices regardless of the subject matter. Whatever you are doing, you can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition. You are good at concentrating on the issues at hand and determining your priorities-sometimes through difficult choices. You are a good mentor. Focus your energies on a few specific areas. You could push forward successfully with your plans. Romance is in the picture later today. A harmonious relationship is long lasting.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may feel like you are going to fall on your face trying to prove a point this morning. Back away for a little while and make your ideas known again when you have the facts and statistics that others can see. Your presentation is correct but needs better support. Eventually, you will see a satisfaction with the results of your efforts. While your confidence and energies are high, a creative project could begin. New ways to advertise or to sell to the public are fun projects you attempt with successful outcomes. There is something special about contributing to the welfare of another, and that is what you endeavor to do this afternoon-help another. This might include charity but more than likely will involve a neighbor. You may want to share a vegetable garden.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your mind is stimulated and there is great wit at hand this day. Your inclination and ability to solve complex problems and puzzles amaze others. If you are able to channel this mental energy productively, you will accomplish much around the home front. You display an urge to be complimented and so you might put yourself in charge of a decoration or entertainment committee. Your disposition is open and welcomes all opportunities to grow and enjoy organizing and leading others in a positive event. You enjoy every moment of finding the right foods or the right entertainment. If the project you take on is only as simple as a backyard party, everyone will enjoy the results of your effort. A little networking for new ideas is good.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There could be some hesitancy with regard to decision making this day. Challenges at this time will require your patience. Take your time when making important choices or decisions and stay as flexible as possible. A mate or relative may need your energies for a project today. You feel good about being helpful. Get outside for a while in the afternoon-perhaps walking to a music store or bookstore. Read something funny; merge your sense of humor into the afternoon and express your sense of humor. Focus is easier to come by when the pressures are relaxed. Create fun this evening. You might have fun with a friend tonight in the telling of stories. It could be that you and a friend will enjoy a comedy club-unrestrained laughter and lots of smiles.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are usually full of enthusiasm and creative energy. You never seem intimidated by failure and will rise above any problems that may come your way. This may be one of those days that test your endurance and creative ability to help a troubled child. If this child sees that you struggle to find answers, you may have more problems to solve. You tend to have a quick wit and if you remember this talent, relax and use your wit to solve these trials. Romance and recreation take on an unusual slant this afternoon. Something you do in the form of taking a chance may bring you a new friend or a new recreation you will enjoy time and time again. You are sensitive to others and you will enjoy adult interactions this evening.



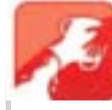
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

While others could get on your nerves today, patience and a willingness to accomplish your chores will get you through the morning unscathed. A lunch date with a friend is highly rewarding. This is a good opportunity to see and chat with each other and bring each other up to date with the happenings of late. This afternoon would afford you time to read, go to a movie, pull weeds or perhaps bicycle ride through the park. Most people want to have a feeling of importance-how do you get your feeling of importance this achievement of self-importance may be the topic of discussion around the dinner table this evening. You enjoy your friends and your family and this is where you find your satisfaction of importance.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have an increased desire now to succeed in everything you set out to achieve. There is a feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough. There are optimism, faith and an urge to take all sorts of chances. You are appreciated for your ability to find the crux of a problem and get things accomplished. Others value your ability to make practical decisions concerning group issues. Today is a good time to plan on how you will plot your path to that higher-paying job or how to gain the recognition you have earned. You are apt to spend a great deal of time with co-workers and people apart from work. This may involve a volunteer organization that is looking for financial aid. Everything reveals you at your best this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any scenario. If you need it, good advice from an older person is available. There are optimism, faith and a tendency to put your good ideas out for others to digest. This is a time of exploring new places to enjoy or create a garden. Your restlessness motivates you to organize your surroundings, and this afternoon you may decide to reorganize a large area of your living quarters. You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project requiring a conservative mind-a wedding or some other celebration. You attract favorable communication through your own self-confidence. Relax and enjoy some quiet time tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

High energy this morning could find you burning yourself out towards the afternoon. Perhaps this is not the best time to joke around or have a big lunch with your friends. A light lunch and a brisk walk will have you feeling good and ready to return to completing the items on your list. Later today you may enjoy an afternoon nap or an opportunity to read or listen to your music. As you return to some temporary job or religious setting, you will find that many people appreciate your viewpoint. This evening seems to have agreeable energies surrounding your choice of activities. Later, you may be able to enjoy playing with a hobby. If you have kids you may find it fun to take them on a discovery trip to the backyard. A loved one wants your time tonight.

WORD SEARCH

Mystery Christmas Carol #2

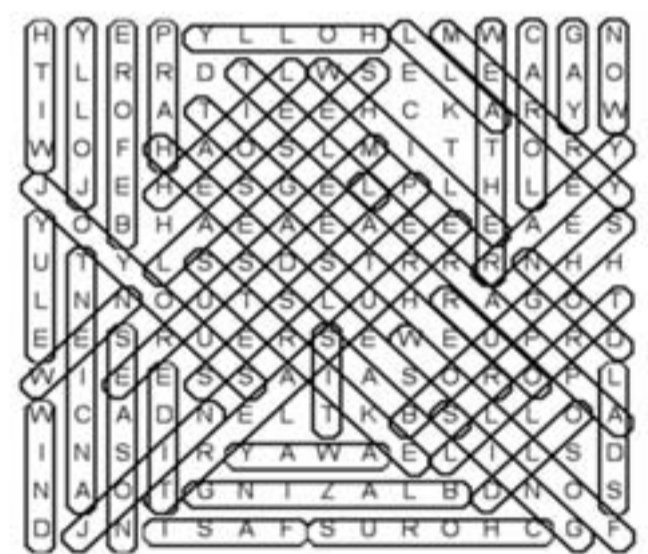
The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it? Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will spell the name of the Christmas Carol.



- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| ALL | CATTLE | HEAVEN | LOWING | STAY |
| AND | CHILDREN | HIS | MAKES | SWEET |
| ASK | CLOSE | JESUS | MANGER | TAKE |
| ASLEEP | CRIB | LAI | MORNING | TENDER |
| AWAY | CRYING | LAY | NEAR | THEE |
| BABY | DEAR | LITTLE | NIGH | THERE |
| BED | DOWN | LIVE | POOR | THY |
| BLESS | FOREVER | LOOK | PRAY | WAKES |
| BRIGHT | FROM | LOOKED | SIDE | WHERE |
| BUT | HAY | LORD | SKY | WITH |
| CARE | HEAD | LOVE | STARS | |

Yesterday's Solution

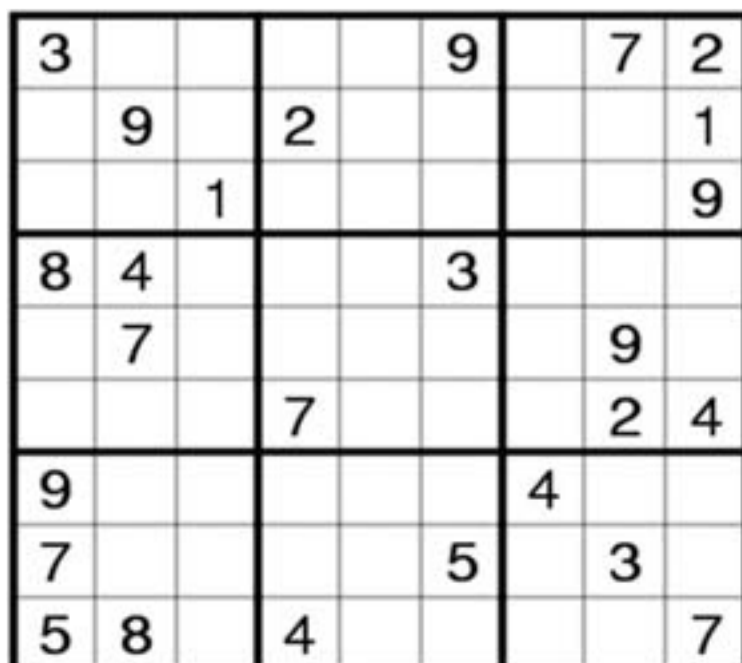
Mystery Christmas Carol



- | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| ALL | FOLLOW | MEASURE | TIDE |
| ANCIENT | GAY | MERRY | TIS |
| APPAREL | HAIL | NEW | TOGETHER |
| AWAY | HARP | NOW | TREASURE |
| BEFORE | HEADLESS | OLD | TROLL |
| BLAZING | HOLLY | OUR | WEATHER |
| BOUGHS | JOIN | PASSES | WHILE |
| CAROL | JOLLY | SEASON | WIND |
| CHORUS | JOYOUS | SING | WITH |
| DON | LADS | STRIKE | YEAR |
| FAST | LASSES | TELL | YULE |

The Mystery Christmas Carol is: DECK THE HALLS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



GOSSIP

Ariana Grande's fans 'sticking together' after tragedy



Ariana Grande's fans are "sticking together" following the terrorist attack at her concert. 22 people died and over 50 were injured when a bomb was set off at Manchester Arena just after Ariana had finished performing last week and, following the atrocity, her fans have vowed to come through the tragedy together. Ryan Dizon, who runs the Twitter fan account Ariana Grande Today, told Rolling Stone: "We were devastated. Most importantly, we were thinking of Ariana and her team. They're the reason we're a family. It's really important that we all stick together!" Ryan was not at the concert but many of his friends and followers were and he spoke of the confusion which followed the attack as people tried to find out who had been killed and injured. He said: "We didn't know who it was. It could be one of our friends on the Internet. It could've been anyone." Ryan believes that fans and stars have to be more security conscious now, citing the shooting of popstar Christina Grimmie at a meet-and-greet following a gig last year. He said: "I think it's time for us to open our eyes and be more aware and cautious of what's happening. "That was terrifying, especially for her fans. I definitely felt what they felt when that happened last

year." Ariana, 23, immediately flew home to the US following the atrocity but has revealed plans to return to the city to meet those affected and raise funds for the victims and their families. In a lengthy Twitter post, she said: "My heart, prayers and deepest condolences are with the victims of the Manchester Attack and their loved ones. There is nothing I or anyone can do to take away the pain you are feeling or to make this better. However, I extend my hand and heart and everything I possibly can give to you and yours, should you want or need my help in any way. "The only thing we can do now is choose how we let this affect us and how we live our lives from here on out. "I'll be returning to the incredibly brave city of Manchester to spend time with my fans and to have a benefit concert in honor of and to raise money for the victims and their families. I want to thank my fellow musicians and friends for reaching out to be a part of our expression of love for Manchester. I will have details to share with you as soon as everything is confirmed."

Harry Styles 'adopted' by Mick Fleetwood

Harry Styles has been "adopted" by Mick Fleetwood. The One Direction singer - whose debut solo album recently topped the charts in the US and UK - is a huge fan of Fleetwood Mac and Stevie Nicks revealed Mick, 69, sees him as the "son he always wanted". Speaking to Event magazine, she said: "When we did the last Fleetwood Mac show, on my birthday [at London's O2 in May 2015], it was the nicest birthday I'd had in 10 years. Harry Styles brought back a cake. Mick [Fleetwood] has kind of adopted him. There are just women in Mick's family and Harry is that tall, lanky musical son he always wanted, so they keep in touch." Stevie, 69, is also close to 23-year-old Harry and recently joined him on stage at The Troubadour in Los Angeles, where

they performed three songs together, including a duet of 'Landslide'. Harry is not the only One Direction singer who has been "adopted" by his idols; Niall Horan recently revealed he and The Eagles star Don Henley call each other "dad" and "son". He said: "Don Henley and I talk every couple weeks or so. It's mad. I call him 'Dad'. He calls me 'Son'." Don added: "Niall is a solid guy whose focus is right where it ought to be: on songwriting. "He's got the Irish charm and a healthy, self-effacing sense of humor, which is an essential survival tool in this business. I think that Niall will evolve into a resonant, thoughtful voice for his generation."



Peter Andre slowly learning script



Peter Andre is "slowly" learning his lines for his debut movie role. The 44-year-old singer will make his big screen debut in 'The Undoing' and has developed a painstaking process to ensure he's word-perfect when filming begins on the project next year. He explained in his column for new! magazine: "I'm slowly learning the lines and I have my own way of learning them. First, I read the script out loud over and over. Then, after a few weeks, I read it into a Dictaphone and listen back to it religiously (no, I don't like the sound of my own voice) and lastly, I write it down. Let's hope it works!" Peter is determined to make a success of his new acting career, so much so that he's also vowed to hire an acting coach to help him. He said: "Whatever happens, and I know it's early days, I'll get with an acting coach here in the UK and really work hard at it so I can deliver it the best I can." The 'Mysterious Girl' hitmaker - who has children Junior, 11, and Princess, nine, with ex-wife Katie Price and Amelia, three, and Theo, six months, with spouse Emily - announced on Twitter last month that he's landed a "damn big part" in the movie. He posted: "Finally. I've received (after months of talks) my first ever film script. Start filming in LA next year, and...it's a damn big part... wahoo! I've only waited 44 years. @jhickox I'll see you soon brother. Told you I had big fish to fry (sic)" And the film - which is going to be directed by James D.R. Hickox - appears to be in the horror genre, as the poster features a shadowy figure walking down an abandoned corridor and the phrase, 'There are some things you don't want to know ... this is one of them', is printed on the poster.



Gary Numan's miserable songs

Gary Numan's new album is "heavy and miserable". The 'Are Friends Electric' hitmaker will release 'Savage', his 21st studio LP, later this year and has told fans it will feature "horrible" themes. He said of the record: "It's hard to put into words really ... It's another electronic album ... heavy, and miserable lyrics about horrible things you know, lots of death and dying and why I hate God..." Asked if it features anything about controversial US president Donald Trump, he added: "Not specifically but the entire theme of the album is based on his attitude to global warming." The 59-year-old musician - who has daughters Raven, Persia, and Echo, with wife Gemma - insists he doesn't think about his career "legacy" and thinks the idea would be "damaging" to his kids, who dream of fol-

lowing in his footsteps. Asked if he thinks about his legacy, he told BANG Showbiz: "Not really, no. I never wanted to leave anything behind, I just want to be here, have some fun, go away really. "I don't want the kids to feel like they have anything to live up to or they would be compared in any way good or bad. "That's the problem with legacies, it actually creates a wake of damage behind you and it's not always a good thing. "You see it with racing drivers, you know, a racing driver, a son of a famous racing driver. You think would have a lot of opportunity because of that but it can actually work against you the comparisons and so on. And I think that would be quite difficult, I wouldn't want that but I don't know how you would stop it."

Pattinson ditches his British accent for roles

Robert Pattinson has ditched his British accent in order to get more film roles. The 31-year-old actor has decided to hide his native tongue to try and get the edgier parts in movies and thinks his secrecy has paid off as he's just finished shooting his new



gritty drama 'Good Time', which is directed by Josh and Benny Safdie. Speaking at Cannes Film Festival, Robert said: "A lot of their casting seems like street casting and I just always want to look like I've been street cast. "And I thought maybe if I'm in that movie it'll look like I'm street cast. Try and trick everybody. I would do an impression. I would have another character to go to an audition to play a different character." The 'Twilight' hunk portrays Constantine 'Connie' Nikas in 'Good Time' and has admitted he went to extreme lengths to ensure no one recognized him while he was shooting the film because he wanted to keep the "ghost-like persona". He said previously: "I was so nervous about people finding out about the shoot and paparazzi being there just destroying the whole illusion of it. "It was interesting. Even with the makeup and the look and everything. We experimented with looks and we did these pockmarks on my skin and no one recognized me. "We shot an entire movie on the streets of New York, and not even a single person took a cell phone picture. It was crazy."

Paris Jackson praises Emma Watson

Paris Jackson's "role model" is Emma Watson. The aspiring actress was delighted to meet the 'Beauty and the Beast' star at the recent MTV Movie & TV Awards in Los Angeles and hopes they can collaborate professionally in the future. She told Grazia magazine: "I love her, and it would be great to work with her in the future. She's my role model." Onlookers at the event say Paris approached Emma at her table during a break in the ceremony, and was delighted when the former 'Harry Potter' star gave her her phone number and said the 'Star' actress could call her for help and advice. The source said: "Paris rushed over to Emma's table during an ad break and gushed about how inspired she is by her work. "She was a huge fan of 'Harry Potter' growing up and was thrilled when Emma offered to be on hand with advice, now that Paris has moved into acting. "They swapped numbers and Emma blew her a kiss

before Paris ran back to her table." It was previously claimed the 19-year-old star - who is the daughter of the late Michael Jackson - has shunned advice from making it big from her own family members. A source said: "She's not leaning on the family at all for advice. She sees people not willing to work hard, not willing to take things to the next level ... Laziness and reliance on the family name." Paris' attitude is, in part, motivated by her father's experiences with the other members of the Jackson family. The insider explained: "Paris has realized a lot of what her dad experienced with his family - bitterness, jealousy, manipulation, even hate." However, one person Paris has been willing to take advice from is her older brother Prince. A source said: "Prince, believe it or not, has been the single individual who has been guiding his sister. For a time, Paris wanted to honor her father by becoming a singer."



Kasabian chosen to hang out with Cypress Hill

Kasabian felt "special" when they hung out with Cypress Hill. The 'I'm in Love with a Psycho' hitmakers were invited to join the US group backstage at a festival because frontman Tom Meighan is such a big fan and impressed them with his knowledge of their lyrics. Asked who they like to hang out with at festivals, guitarist Serge Pizzorno said: "It's always hard to find bands who can keep up. A lot of people sort of vanish, but we had a good time in South America with Alt-J, of all people. "We had a really good time with them boys, they're good lads. "We got friends with Cypress Hill because Tom is a massive fan - we hung around with them, smoked a lot of weed with them and it was great. They were sound. "The thing with them is not everyone was invited and you felt special. "That's down to Tom knowing every lyric of every song they'd ever done and them going, 'What the is this kid doing?'" Kasabian enjoy playing festivals and Serge used to particular-

ly love Australia's Big Day Out, which travels around the country, meaning they had a lot of down time between performances. He said: "It was like a travelling circus, it was incredible. "You're there for three weeks and you have a lot of time off in between. "You do a gig, have four days off to do whatever you want and then you go and do a gig again. "We had a really good time with Tame Impala, we hung around with them a lot and the Muse boys were out there, that was a good one." And Kanye West's antics on the tour was astonishing to the group. Serge told Q magazine: "That was... Interesting. Just to see someone come on stage whenever he wanted was quite funny. "That's the only time I've ever seen that, when someone goes, 'Yeah, two hours... Nah, we'll wait a bit longer.' It was a lot of mad nights in Australia."



GOSSIP

Jenkins' support for Snyder



Patty Jenkins wants the "world to wrap their arms around" Zack Snyder and his wife Deborah. The 51-year-old filmmaker recently stepped down from 'Justice League' to grieve for his late daughter Autumn, who died by suicide in March, and 'Wonder Woman' director Patty has urged everyone to send love to Zack and producer Deborah. Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, she said: "It touches my heart. It's been difficult, all of us knowing this news for a long time and knowing that the world didn't. Zack is one of the nicest people you will ever meet in your life. I want the world to wrap their arms around him and embrace him, he and Debbie." Producer Charles Roven added: "He's a great guy. The events were very sad and obviously we all understand the choice he needed to make. It was great that the response from the fans was very warm." 'Justice League' is currently in post-production

and while Zack and Deborah initially thought returning to work was a good idea, they have now decided they both need to take time off. Zack previously explained: "In my mind, I thought it was a cathartic thing to go back to work, to just bury myself and see if that was the way through it. The demands of this job are pretty intense. It is all-consuming. And in the last two months, I've come to the realization ... I've decided to take a step back from the movie to be with my family, be with my kids, who really need me. They are all having a hard time. I'm having a hard time ... "Here's the thing, I never planned to make this public. I thought it would just be in the family, a private matter, our private sorrow that we would deal with. When it became obvious that I need to take a break, I knew there would be narratives created on the internet. They'll do what they do. The truth is ... I'm past caring about that kind of thing now."

Snyder - who directed the flick - has now handed the reigns over to Joss Whedon, who will "adhere to the style and tone and the template that Zack set". Warner Bros Pictures president Toby Emmerich added: "What they are going through is unimaginable, and my heart - our hearts - go out to them ... "The directing is minimal and it has to adhere to the style and tone and the template that Zack set. We're not introducing any new characters. It's the same characters in some new scenes. He's handing the baton to Joss, but the course has really been set by Zack. I still believe that despite this tragedy, we'll still end up with a great movie."

Dewan Tatum can't live without eyelash curlers

Jenna Dewan Tatum can't live without her eyelash curler. The 36-year-old actress and dancer has admitted the one thing she will never be able to function without is the Shu Uemura appliance that helps her to get curvier and longer looking eyelashes. The brunette beauty revealed the news in a quick fire round of 27 questions posed to her by Buzz Feed, and when she was asked about the most important item she cannot survive without, she said: "A Shu Uemura eyelash curler." And if the 'Step Up' actress - who has three-year-old daughter Everly with her husband Channing Tatum - was to describe her style it would be super girly yet sexy. When asked to sum up her fashion sense in three words, she replied: "Fairy, fierce, glitter." But Jenna is not afraid to admit she likes a touch of sparkles as 47-year-old

singer Jennifer Lopez advised her to just "be you" in "everything" she does and to bring her "best self forward". She explained: "Jennifer Lopez actually gave me a really good piece of advice, where she's like, 'Be you-people want to see you. In everything, from when you're acting to everything, just remember to be you. Bring your best self forward.'" And the star has taken on board the 'Ain't Your Mama' hitmaker's words of wisdom as she only wants to "really enjoy" her future and to continue to push herself to achieve more with her life than she ever thought she could. Speaking about her plans for the upcoming years, she said: "I hope to really enjoy what is happening, to create more than I could even imagine in my mind, and lots of quality family time."



Priyanka Chopra regrets wearing hair extensions

Priyanka Chopra regrets wearing "a lot of extensions" in her hair. The 34-year-old actress has acknowledged she has dark, thick tresses, but she has revealed one time she wanted to accentuate her locks even more by adding false hair pieces, which were curled, because on reflection she thinks the overall appearance was too over the top. Speaking to PEOPLE about her fashion faux pas, the 'Quantico' star said: "I have a lot of hair. And sometimes it can become really big. There was a time where I liked a lot of extensions and a lot of curls and just a lot of everything going on in there." However, the brunette beauty believes she has had better styling moments more recently, and counts her ensemble at this year's Met Gala, where she sported a camel trench coat-style dress, and her red Jason Wu gown she adorned at the Emmy awards last year as the best outfits she has ever worn. Speaking about her more favorable garments, she said: "It's a toss-up between my Met Gala trench coat and this beautiful Emmy Jason Wu red custom gown that I wore last year at the Emmys. So it's a little bit of a toss-up right now." But the 'Baywatch' star - who portrays Victoria Leeds in the comedic film alongside Zac Efron and Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson' - doesn't think her looks are the best part of her body, as she believes her brain is because it can make someone the "best version" of themselves. When asked about her preferred area, she said: "I think if you have the ability to sort of thing right you can make yourself the best version of you."

Hadid bags three major fashion campaigns

Bella Hadid has landed three ambassadorial roles for major fashion brands. The 20-year-old model has been announced as the brand ambassador for the luxury label Giuseppe Zanotti, Bulgari and Nike, within one week, and the brunette beauty is set to appear in a beauty, footwear and jewelry campaign for all three brands over the upcoming months. The catwalk icon's partnership with the 60-year-old shoe designer on his eponymous footwear company will see her model his latest creations in Giuseppe Zanotti's Autumn/Winter 2017 commercial alongside fellow model Miles McMillan. And the creative mastermind has revealed his new capsule will depict a "strong, sensual point of view" he tries to reflect in every design. The Italian mogul said: "My Fall 2017 collection is a celebration of individual

style - something that is independent of time and place and trends. The campaign reflects the strong, sensual point of view I put into every shoe. It's modern yet full of emotion and soul." And the fashion muse's collaboration with the luxury Italian jewelry company Bulgari, will see her represent the brand in the fashion house's new Goldea fragrance advert. The news of her joint venture with the designer company was shared on Instagram with a photograph of Bella sporting a champagne coloured, strapless gown, at the launch night of the new product, which took place at Palazzo Nunez Torlonia in Rome. The image was captioned: "Queen of the Roman Night @bellahadid enchanted the guests at Palazzo Nunez Torloni during tonight's unveiling of Goldea, The Roman Night #GoldeaRomanNight (sic)." Bella's partnership with Nike comes a few months after she was announced as the face of the sportswear giant, and will see her appear in the commercial for the Nike Cortez trainer to celebrate the design's 45th anniversary. Meanwhile, Bella has admitted her busy schedule does leave her feeling overworked, and although she used to ignore her tiredness and continue to work, she has admitted she has to take time out of her busy schedule to recharge her batteries. Speaking previously, she said: "When I'm really intense I will honestly work for four months straight and then I'll have one weekend off and then I'll go straight back to work. "People think that in between I have so much time off but I only ever take two days off every two weeks, at the maximum. "I'm a workaholic, I really love it but I'm exhausted a lot and it really takes a toll on you sometimes."



RIHANNA SUPPORTS YOUNG DESIGNERS WITH 'CLEVER PERSPECTIVE'

Rihanna loves "seeing the mind of someone" through their fashion designs. The 29-year-old singer is open to wearing garments created by budding designers but she has revealed she looks for specific elements in the young talent such as "originality", creativity, perspective and an insight into their thought process, which is reflected onto their creations, before she supports them and dons their clothes. Speaking to Elle.com, the

brunette beauty said: "I look for originality. I look for a creative, clever perspective. I love that. I love just seeing the mind of someone reflected onto a piece of clothing. It says a lot about what's going on in their minds." Designer Pyer Moss's Kerby Jean-Raymond has claimed there is "no other celebrity" who is willing to take as many risks with her joint ventures or style like Rihanna, and he has praised her for taking the chance to wear his camouflage leather jacket with confidence because it helped to launch his career. He said: "There is no other celebrity, actress, or singer like her who is willing to take risks. She wears things right off the runway. She just takes a lot of risks and is confident in it." The 'Work' hitmaker also joined forces with the talented creative mastermind Matthew Adams Dolan on her Fenty x Puma collections, and has adorned his garments as well, and Matthew has hinted he is grateful for Rihanna's backing because the partnership propelled his future in the fashion business. Speaking about his collaboration with the Bajan star, he said: "It was definitely surreal. It happened at a time when I had just finished almost ten years of college, was working as a cashier and applying for every design job I could find. "At the time I had not even considered starting my own business at all, so it definitely played a huge part in making that decision. I am so grateful for all of the encouragement and advice from all parties involved, which ultimately led to taking that leap."



Armada Group and BAQA bring urban edge to Kuwait fashion scene

Elegant, urban fashion concept BAQA has breezed on to the Kuwait fashion scene with the grand opening of its store in the Avenues Mall earlier this month. The Turkish urban couture brand flung open the doors to its first venture into Kuwait with a glittering event attended by VIPs, dignitaries, distinguished members of the media, influencers and bloggers. BAQA has partnered with local firm the Armada Group to bring its clothing line, inspired by arts, design and architecture to the fashion

ists of Kuwait, with an emphasis on blending style and comfort.

Attendees at the glamorous opening were given the opportunity to browse and purchase the elegant, deluxe designs created by European and Turkish designers to provide a perfect mix of luxury and functionality for women with their own values, while enjoying the entertainment and light refreshments.

BAQA'S latest collection was unveiled at the launch

and consists of light coats, vests and dresses designed to reconstruct the feminine silhouette with flounces, ruffles, laceworks and puckers while introducing breathable design. BAQA designers take an architect's approach to their work, resulting in a unique urban look and a way of life."

"It's an honor to bring the brand to Kuwait, a destination that is evolving but not losing touch with his heritage and roots and that is a reflection of BAQA. Kuwait is

a global shopping hub where women know what they want and they know what style means. In that respect this represents the perfect fit for our brand," said Hussain Karakoc, Creative Director of BAQA. "We look forward to interacting with our clientele and partners in Kuwait on a regular basis. We would like to thank the Armada Group for their efforts and support in this venture." Visit the BAQA store at Avenues Mall, located in the second avenue, and follow @baqa_gcc on Instagram.



Manager: Allman tried to keep playing music until the end

As Greg Allman neared the end of his life, he tried to maintain some privacy about what was coming. "He kept it very private because he wanted to continue to play music until he couldn't," said Michael Lehman, the rock star's manager. Allman, whose bluesy vocals and soulful touch on the Hammond B-3 organ helped propel The Allman Brothers Band to superstardom and spawn Southern rock, died Saturday at his home near Savannah, Georgia, at age 69, Lehman said. Allman died peacefully and surrounded by loved ones. Lehman, told The Associated Press. He blamed liver cancer for Allman's death.

He announced on Aug. 5 that he was "under his doctor's care at the Mayo Clinic" due to "serious health issues," and canceled his shows later that year. In March, he canceled performances for the rest of 2017. Funeral arrangements had not been finalized Saturday. But Lehman said Allman would be buried alongside his late brother, founding Allman Brothers guitarist Duane Allman, at Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon, where the band got its start nearly five decades ago. "That's in his wishes," Lehman said. Tributes to Allman poured out Saturday.

Southern rock and country musician Charlie Daniels said via Twitter, "Gregg Allman had a feeling for the blues very few ever have had to believe that magnificent voice is stilled forever." Born in Nashville, Tennessee, Allman was raised in Florida by a single mother. Allman idolized his older brother, Duane, eventually joining a series of bands with him. Together they formed the nucleus of The Allman Brothers Band. The original band featured extended jams, tight guitar harmonies by Duane Allman and Dickey Betts, rhythms from a pair of drummers and the smoky, blues-inflected voice of Gregg Allman. Songs such as "Whipping Post," "Ramblin' Man" and "Midnight Rider" helped define what came to be known as Southern rock and opened the doors for such stars as Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Marshall Tucker Band.

In his 2012 memoir, "My Cross to Bear," Allman described how Duane was a central figure in his life in the years after their father was murdered by a man he met in a bar. Although Gregg was the first to pick up a guitar, it was Duane who excelled at it. So Gregg later switched to the organ. They failed to crack success until they formed The Allman Brothers Band in 1969. Based in Macon, the group featured Betts, drummers Jai Johanny "Jaimoe" Johanson and Butch Trucks and bassist Berry Oakley. Their self-titled debut album came out in 1969, but it was their live album "At Fillmore East" in 1971 that catapulted the band to stardom. Duane Allman was killed in a motorcycle accident in October 1971, just months after recording the Fillmore shows. Another motorcycle accident the following year claimed Oakley's life.

Husband and singing partner

In a 2012 interview with The Associated Press, Gregg Allman said Duane remained on his mind every day. Once in a while, he could even feel his presence. "I can tell when he's there, man," Allman said. "I'm not going to get all cosmic on you. But listen, he's there." The 1970s brought more turmoil: Allman was compelled to testify in a drug case against a former road manager for the band and his marriage to the actress and singer Cher was short-lived even by show business standards. In 1975, Cher and Allman married three days after she divorced her husband and singing partner, Sonny Bono. Cher requested a divorce just nine days after their Las



In this file photo, singer Gregg Allman arrives at the 45th Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.



In this May 6, 2016 photo, Greg Allman performs at the Joint at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla. — AP photos

Vegas wedding, although she dismissed the suit a month later.

Together they released a widely panned duets album under the name "Allman and Woman." They had one child together, Elijah Blue, and Cher filed for legal separation in 1977. Cher said via Twitter on Saturday, "IVE TRIED.WORDS ARE IMPOSSIBLE." The Allman Brothers Band split up in the 1980s and then reformed several times over the years. Starting in 1990, the reunited band began releasing new music and found a new audience. In 1995 the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and won a Grammy Award for best rock instrumental performance for "Jessica" the following year.

In 2000, Betts was ousted from the band via fax for alleged substance abuse and poor performance. Butch Trucks died in January 2017. Authorities said he shot himself in front of his wife at their Florida home. Lehman said Allman had recently finished what would be his final album, titled Southern Blood and scheduled for release in September. "He actually just listened to a few tracks of it last night and was really passionate and excited for that record to be complete," Lehman said. In his memoir, Allman said he spent years overindulging in women, drugs and alcohol before getting sober in the mid-1990s. He said that after getting sober, he felt "brand new" at the age of 50. However, he ended up with hepatitis C which severely damaged his liver. He underwent a liver transplant in 2010.

The statement on Allman's website says that as he faced health problems, "Gregg considered being on the road playing music with his brothers and solo band for his beloved fans essential medicine for his soul. Playing music lifted him up and kept him going during the toughest of times." After the surgery, he turned music to help him recover and released his first solo album in 14 years "Low Country Blues" in 2011. "I think it's because you're doing something you love," Allman said in a 2011 interview with The Associated Press. "I think it just creates a diversion from the pain itself. You've been swallowed up by something you love, you know, and you're just totally engulfed." The band was honored with a lifetime achievement Grammy in 2012. — AP

Reaction to the death of music legend Gregg Allman

- "IVE TRIED.WORDS ARE IMPOSSIBLE GUI GUI FOREVER, CHOOCH" - Allman's ex-wife Cher, via Twitter.
- "My southern-rock heart is breaking. He showed me his tattoos... his voice... his voice.... his soul!" - musician Melissa Etheridge, via Twitter.
- "Gregg Allman had a feeling for the blues very few ever have had to believe that magnificent voice is stilled forever" - country legend Charlie Daniels.
- "I am truly honored to have been fortunate enough to have written many songs with him and equally honored to have traveled the world with him. ... I've lost too many lately (friends) lately and this one is gonna be hard to get past. There is some comfort in knowing that millions of people all over the world feel the same way." - Warren Haynes, guitarist for The Allman Brothers Band and Gov't Mule, in a lengthy Facebook post.
- "My first concert in 1983 was Gregg Allman. I am so very saddened to hear of Gregg's passing today. One of a kind voice and musician." - blues-rock guitarist Joe Bonamassa, via Twitter.
- "My heart breaks today at the passing of soul brutha Gregg Allman. Blessings and peace to all the Allman family. - KU" - country star Keith Urban, via Twitter.
- "So sad to hear Gregg Allman passed away I admire him so much & had the honor of jamming with him recently. A gentle soul with so much soul." - rocker Peter Frampton, via Twitter.
- "It's all just too much. #GreggAllman Rest In Peace Midnight Rider" - longtime E Street Band guitarist Nils Lofgren, via Twitter.
- "A very sad show day for me. Gregg was a guy that showed me more respect in our business than anyone else. He also taught me how to please an audience with your voice and pour your heart out and never regret. Ride in Peace my friend!" - Doug Gray, lead singer of The Marshall Tucker Band, in a statement.
- "So sad to hear about Gregg Allman passing - a great musician. Love & Mercy, Brian" - pop legend Brian Wilson, via Twitter.
- "Eternal love and life to Gregg Allman. RIP" - musician John Mayer, via Twitter.
- "Gregg Allman, thank you for everything. You're our blue sky, our sunny day, and The Farm will miss you." - Twitter account of Bonnaroo music festival.
- "I'm so very saddened to hear of the passing of rock & blues legend Gregg Allman. He was such a huge influence on me!" - country star Travis Tritt, via Twitter.
- "Broken heart. Gregg Allman I will miss you. #RipGreggAllman" - musician Sheryl Crow, via Twitter.
- "What a legacy @GreggAllman leaves behind. Jam on in the great hereafter." - country star Brad Paisley, via Twitter.
- "RIP Gregg Allman, what a voice... Listening to Allman Brothers 'Live at Fillmore East,' a record that never gets old." - Maroon 5 guitarist James Valentine, via Twitter.
- "(It's) 'a sad, sad day for music and all of us that loved Gregg. I hope he's at peace ... He's left such an incredible legacy, between the great music that he's written and the great voice that he had." - Keyboard player Chuck Leavell, who played with The Allman Brothers Band, in an interview with The Telegraph newspaper of Macon, Georgia.
- "Goodbye, Brother Gregg. When @amandashires was pregnant, @GreggAllman pointed at her belly and said 'It's gonna be a girl. I'm never wrong.'" - Jason Isbell, former member of the Drive-By Truckers, via Twitter.
- "He was loved very dearly by B.B. (King) and B.B. always considered it an honor to perform with him ... His contribution to music will long live on the hearts of so many...He will be missed...THANK YOU GREGG!" - Dell Long, former publicist for blues legend B.B. King, in an emailed statement. — AP



In this May 18, 2017 file photo, actor Michelle Williams, from left, director Todd Haynes, and actors Julianne Moore, Jaden Michael and Millicent Simmonds pose for photographers during the photo call for the film 'Wonderstruck' at the 70th international film festival, Cannes, southern France. — AP/AFP photos



(From left) US actress Elle Fanning, US actress Kirsten Dunst, Irish actor Colin Farrell, Australian actress Nicole Kidman and US director Sofia Coppola pose as they arrive on May 24, 2017 for the screening of the film 'The Beguiled' at the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



(From left) French actor Gregory Gadebois, French actor Misha Lescot, French producer Florence Gastaud, French director Michel Hazanavicius, French-Argentinian actress Berenice Bejo, French actress/director and Swiss director Jean-Luc Godard's ex-wife Anne Wiazemsky, French actor Louis Garrel and French-British actress Stacy Martin pose as they arrive on May 21, 2017 for the screening of the film 'The Redoubtable (Le Redoutable)' at the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.

Films in the running for Palme d'Or at Cannes

From the tale of a mysterious beast to a migrant who finds he can levitate after being shot on a border fence, these are the movies that ran for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes film festival.

Wonderstruck

Todd Haynes' tender childhood mystery about two deaf children living parallel lives in the 1920s and 1970s drew tears at its premiere. Nevertheless hardbitten critics thought it was not quite up to his previous outing "Carol", which got six Oscar nominations.

Jupiter's Moon

Hungarian director Kornel Mundruczo gave the European migrant crisis a magical realist twist with a refugee discovering he has amazing powers after he is shot by a cop at the border.

The Beguiled

There was no shortage of zippy lines in Sofia Coppola's starry American Civil War-set battle-of-the-sexes thriller. A remake of a 1971 movie with Clint Eastwood, wounded Union soldier Colin Farrell seduces the women around him, including Nicole Kidman and Kirsten Dunst, who turned in another stand-out performance.

Redoubtable

Michel Hazanavicius, the man behind the whimsical multi-Oscar winner "The Artist", turns legendary New Wave movie director Jean-Luc Godard's fall from grace into a breezy comedy.

Okja

Billed as a family film in the mould of "E.T.", critics hugely enjoyed Bong Joon-ho's "creature feature" about a girl who tries to protect a giant genetically modified pig. But some doubted the family tag, baulking at a few scenes that might give the kids nightmares.

The Meyerowitz Stories

Adam Sandler has won some of the best reviews of his career for Noah "While We're Young" Baumbach's story about a New York boho family trying to deal with their cantankerous artist father played by Dustin Hoffman. Ben Stiller, Emma Thompson and Candice Bergen completed the top-notch cast.

You Were Never Really Here

Scot Lynne Ramsay's nightmarish, beautifully shot story of a New York tough guy out of his depth in a swirling story of political corruption and sex-trafficking finally got critics excited as the festival closed. Joaquin Phoenix turns in a bravura performance as the traumatized, reeling hard nut to a soundtrack by Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood.

Loveless

Russian director Andrey Zvyagintsev's much-admired film about a couple who want rid of their young son was seen as an indictment of the moral rot eating away at Russian society under President Vladimir Putin. The Guardian called it a "stark, mysterious and terrifying... masterpiece".

Good Time

"Twilight" heartthrob Robert Pattinson won a whole new wave of older and more discerning fans with his nimble turn as a bank robber in this grindhouse romp by New York brothers Benny and Josh Safdie.

Happy End

French legends Isabelle Huppert and Jean-Louis Trintignant offer another acting masterclass in two-time Palme d'Or winner Michael Haneke's unsparring study of a callous, wealthy family set near Calais in northern France against the backdrop of the migrant crisis.

The Square

Swedish director Ruben Ostlund's often hilarious art world

satire explores political correctness, artistic liberty and free speech. One set-piece featuring a wild, bare-chested man at a posh gala dinner has already entered festival legend.

The Killing of a Sacred Deer

Nicole Kidman said she wouldn't be taking her kids to watch this one, and she stars in it. Which is no surprise as a mother who has to sacrifice one of her children in Greek maestro Yorgos Lanthimos' icy thriller inspired by Euripides' Iphigenia which divided critics.

Rodin

Gerard Depardieu has already had a go at playing France's greatest sculptor. This time Vincent Lindon picks up the chisel to portray the artist in a biopic that marks the centenary of his death but left critics cold.

In The Fade

Diane Kruger is an avenging mother who goes after the right-wing extremists who killed her German-Turkish husband and son in Fatih Akin's rage-filled tale set in his hometown Hamburg.

Amant Double (The Double Lover)

No one does erotic thrillers like French director Francois "Swimming Pool" Ozon. And his latest about a young woman who falls in love with her therapist is a bubbling Hitchcockian cauldron of psycho-sexual twists and tropes.

120 Beats Per Minute

Robin Campillo, who wrote the Palme d'Or-winning "The Class" in 2008, hit gold again with this stirring portrait of ACT UP activists in Paris during the dark days of the AIDS epidemic in the 1990s.

Radiance

A love story by Japan's Naomi Kawase about a woman who

writes audio commentary for blind people and who falls for a partially-sighted photographer was praised for its insight and gentle humor.

The Day After

The prolific South Korean director Hong Sang-soo's black-and-white talkie is one for his fans, with all his usual ingredients-lots of long dinner soju-sodden party conversions, mistaken identity and infidelity.

A Gentle Creature

A woman's journey to learn the truth about her husband held in a remote Siberian prison is a slow descent into the hell, with Ukrainian director Sergei Loznitsa putting modern Russia in the dock. — AFP

winners

The Cannes film festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or prize, will be awarded late Sunday. Here's list of the previous 10 winners:

- 2016: "I, Daniel Blake" by Ken Loach (Britain)
- 2015: "Dheepan" by Jacques Audiard (France)
- 2014: "Winter Sleep" by Nuri Bilge Ceylan (Turkey)
- 2013: "Blue is the Warmest Color" by Abdellatif Kechiche (France)
- 2012: "Amour" by Michael Haneke (Austria)
- 2011: "The Tree of Life" by Terrence Malick (US)
- 2010: "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives" by Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Thailand)
- 2009: "The White Ribbon" by Michael Haneke (Austria)
- 2008: "The Class" by Laurent Cantet (France)
- 2007: "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" by Cristian Mungiu (Romania) — AFP

Zainab Moussa Al-Ali: Manifesting masks inspired by the Khaliji burqa

Art of creativity and innovation to create beauty

By Sahar Moussa

Zainab Moussa Al-Ali is a 34-year-old Kuwaiti jewelry designer. She holds a diploma in computer programming, but her love for handicrafts since childhood let her practice crochet at the age of 11, as well as other handworks. In 2013, she learnt the art of manufacturing accessories using special wires on social network sites and by communicating with specialists of this art. Ali has participated in many exhibitions including A Group of Talents Exhibition, 1000 Projects Exhibition, Al-Kout Complex Exhibition, Ramadaniat Exhibition and lately at Kuwait International Fashion Week 2017. In an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times, Ali had a lot to share and express about her art.



Kuwait Times: Tell us about your art?
Zainab Moussa Al-Ali: I create my artworks from copper wires plated with gold and silver using special tools, precious and semi-precious stones and glass and crystal without using any type of adhesive, welding or fire.

KT: When did you start practicing this kind of art?
Ali: I have practiced crochet since the age of eleven and love handicrafts. I began manufacturing accessories using special wires in 2013.

KT: How did you learn about this art?
Ali: Through social network sites. I communicated with specialists in this field in Britain and learned from them remotely. I asked them to provide me with books and CDs.

KT: Where do you get your inspiration from?
Ali: By reviewing images of masterpieces by specialists in this field and creating new and creative ideas from my imagination.

KT: You collaborated with Kuwaiti designer Rasha Al-Wazzan during the Kuwait International Fashion Week - tell us more about your experience?

Ali: I heard about the international fashion week to be held in Kuwait and met Rasha Al-Wazzan, who was going to participate in this fair and present her designs. I proposed my idea to her to make masks inspired by the Khaliji burqa, as her designs were for abayas, and she liked the idea. My participation in this exhibition saw the best days of my life, as I have always been ambitious and wanted my art to be famous worldwide. Thank God I achieved my dream to participate in the most famous international fashion show in Kuwait.

KT: Why did you choose to showcase masks at KIFW?
Ali: My idea was to elaborate on the Khaliji burqa by fantasia. I was inspired by Kuwaiti heritage, especially since I participated with an abaya designer in the exhibition, so this idea was perfect to go with the clothes.

KT: You also got a chance to have a photo shoot with one of the best photographers in Paris - Japanese photographer Nahoko Spiess - in collaboration with other international designers during KIFW. How did this make you feel?

Ali: I was very happy as my masks attracted the admiration of many international designers who participated in this exhibition, and I was honored to take pictures with them to exhibit my creations on their distinguished designs.

KT: What materials do use in your masks?
Ali: I use copper wires plated with gold and silver, crystal, beads, chains, fabrics and strips.

KT: How much time does it take to make one mask?
Ali: Three to four days as per the type of design and the time available.

KT: How would you describe your artwork in one word or phrase?
Ali: The art of creativity and innovation to create beauty.

KT: Do you make jewelry as well?
Ali: Yes, I design necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings.



Kuwaiti designer Zainab Moussa Al-Ali

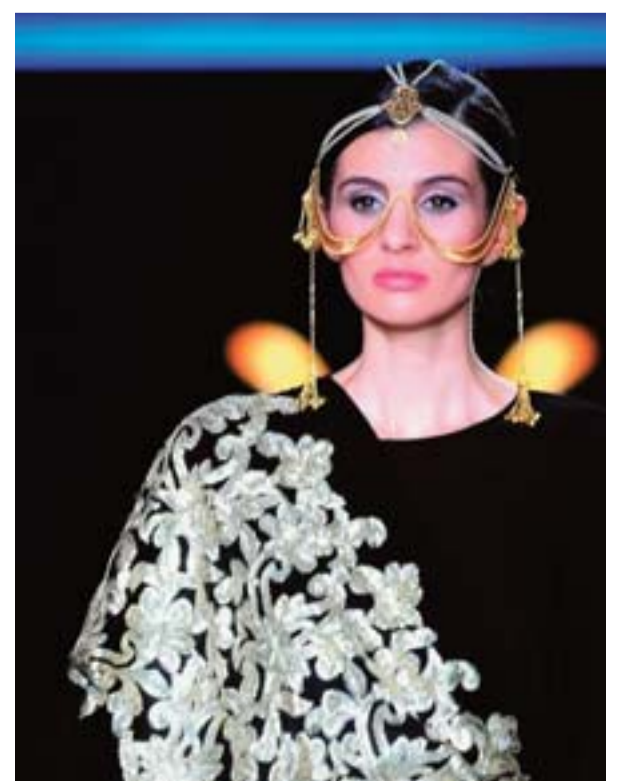
KT: What are the materials that you use for the jewelry?
Ali: I use copper wires plated with silver, gold and other colors, as well as special tools. I also use precious and semi-precious stones, crystal and glass.

KT: What is the name of your brand and why did you choose this name?
Ali: Victorina. I chose this name because I learnt this art from specialists in Britain. Also, I love the era of Victoria Queen, which witnessed luxury clothes. The word "Victorina" is a comprehensive word for all kinds of designs and decorations common in the Victorian era.

KT: Your masks are more like pieces of art - each and every one has its own soul and identity. Do you think they are wearable or only meant for display?
Ali: Yes, some masks are wearable, but not all are for display. You can wear them at special events.

KT: Where are you going to exhibit your masks and jewelry next?
Ali: I will show my creations to designers to give them an idea of this type of creative and new design in the world of accessories, through my participation in exhibitions and social network sites.

KT: Any future plans?
Ali: My next plan is expansion and development in this field from Kuwait to the Gulf and then the wider world, creating new ideas in the world of accessories.



FEATURES



Models showcase masks for the Kuwaiti designer Zainab Moussa Al-Ali during the Kuwait International Fashion Week.

'Freak': Meet Cuba's last self-infected HIV punk rebel



AIDS patient Gerson shows his tattooed fist at home, a former sanatorium for HIV patients.



AIDS patient Yohandra takes her medicines at home.

Like many young punks, Gerson Govea saw himself as a misfit. But few embraced the role as self-destructively as this Cuban rocker: He deliberately infected himself with HIV. He is considered the last of the most hardcore members of the "frikis," or "freaks," as the communist island's unique breed of hippy-punk dropouts is known. Beyond the rum, free love and forbidden rock 'n' roll music, they took their rebellion a stage further: infecting themselves in order to get into the relative safety and comfort of a state AIDS clinic.

"I found a friend who gave me his (infected) blood," recalls Govea, a long-haired 42-year-old with earrings and tattoos. "I extracted it myself and injected it into me." That was 17 years ago. He has since seen friends die of AIDS and his wife Yohandra Cardoso, 44, lose both her legs to the disease. Meanwhile Govea, still standing but in fragile health, is rocking his way into middle age.

Best of worlds

Sleeping in parks, listening to music and taking drugs, the "frikis" would not have been such an unusual sight in many world cities. But their lifestyle was a particularly bold statement in communist Cuba, where rock music was outlawed during the Cold War and drug-taking severely policed. "They shared everything: women, men, food and pills," said Jorge Perez, a doctor and the former director of an AIDS sanatorium in Havana. Cuba plunged into poverty after the allied regime in the Soviet Union fell in 1989, and as the AIDS pandemic unfolded.

Amid such misery, a state-run AIDS clinic was a haven. "It was the best of all possible worlds for them," says Maria Gattorno, director of the Cuban Rock Agency, a state music promotion body. "They had everything guaranteed there: they had medicine and great food and were looked after." Govea says he infected himself so that he could get in a clinic and avoid the police harassment he suffered for being a "friki." Others infect-

ed themselves "so that they could be with the person they liked" who already had the disease, he says.

AIDS in Cuba

Cuba's first case of AIDS was in a soldier returning from Africa, where the country supported various sides in proxy conflicts during the Cold War. Just over 3,800 people died of AIDS in Cuba between 1986 and 2015, according to the government. Some 20,000 were living with HIV at the last count. It is not known how many "frikis" the island has had, nor how many of them willingly got infected. Gattorno reckons those who infected themselves "miscalculated," thinking a cure for AIDS would quickly arrive. "They went to live in the sanatoriums, but naturally a lot of them died very quickly."

Gattorno has mentored frikis, helping them find rehearsal space and arranging gigs in sanatoriums. Govea himself set up a band in the clinic. But their illness prevented them from playing in public. "When one of us felt alright, another would be in bed sick," he said. "When they were, it meant they were dying."

Gettin' freaky

Antiretroviral drugs slowed down the killer impact of AIDS. Cuba's internment clinics closed in 1994. But Govea and Cardoso in her wheelchair still live in the west of the island in the house that once was the Pinar del Rio sanatorium, where they met in 2000. On top of a small state allowance, Govea earns a living selling manicure products. When they have time, the couple go out and "get freaky," singing and headbanging with other young rockers near their home.

The house is filled with posters of punk bands such as the Sex Pistols and The Ramones. The state let them keep the place and continues to give them their medicine for free. "They lived better in the sanatorium" than outside it, says Perez, who wrote a book about his work. "What's more, they were scared to leave." — AFP



AIDS patient Yohandra relaxes after taking her medicines at home.



AIDS patient Yohandra cleans rice at home.



AIDS affected Yohandra (left) listens to also AIDS patient Gerson playing guitar without strings. — AFP photos



AIDS patients Gerson (right) and Yoandra arrive at their home, a former sanatorium for HIV patients.

Lifestyle

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Zainab Moussa Al-Ali:
Manifesting masks inspired by
the Khaliji burqa

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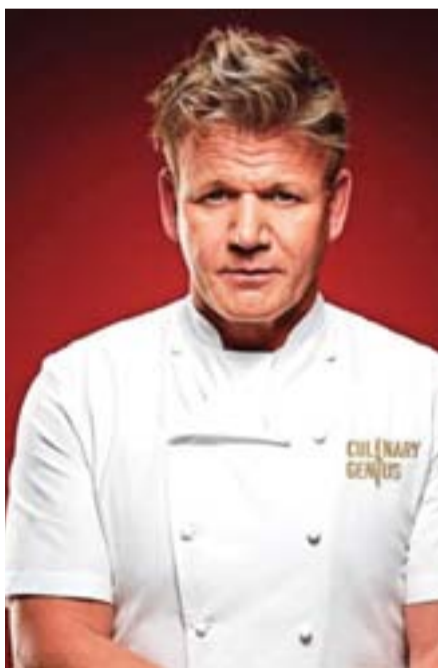


Workers decorate the seaside yard of a coffee at the main beach road, in preparations one day ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, in Gaza City, Friday, May 26, 2017. Muslims throughout the world are preparing to celebrate Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, refraining from eating, drinking, smoking and sex from sunrise to sunset. — AP

'F' AS IN 'FOOD': CHEF GORDON RAMSAY'S TIPS FOR DINING OUT

'Ramsay used the "F word" six times in 15 minutes before the episode was pulled'

Avoid the specials, be suspicious of outlandish boasts and prepare to haggle for your wine: Three golden rules for a heightened dining experience, as newly revealed by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay. The Michelin-starred cook offered AFP his tricks for getting the most out of a restaurant visit as he inspected the Los Angeles set of his latest show, a US version of his hit British series "The F Word," which debuts on Fox on Wednesday.



Chef Gordon Ramsay

"Specials are there to disappear throughout the evening. When they list 10 'specials,' that's not special," Ramsay told AFP at a soundstage in Hollywood that is being transformed into a functional restaurant capable of serving 100 diners. The 50-year-old British presenter recommends booking a table for at least three if you are planning a romantic meal for two, as your small lie will improve your chances of being able to spread out and avoid "getting stuck in the corner like a doorstep."

Always get the most out of the expert selling you the wine, the chef says, recommending that diners ask for the "bin end" list—the bottles with scratched labels, vintages that are about to be rotated out or poor sellers that restaurants want to get rid of. "We have a fear about talking to sommeliers because you think you're going to be ripped off. So get the sommelier to come up with a great glass or great bottle and give him a price. And make sure it's under \$30," Ramsay advises.

Rants

One of only four chefs in Britain to maintain three Michelin stars and the owner of a string of restaurants around the world, Ramsay knows better than most how to read between the lines on a menu, and says there are some dishes he wouldn't order anywhere. "When they turn around and tell me it is the 'famous red lasagne,' who made it famous?" he demands. "They start coming up with these terminologies, saying 'and the wicked, famous, best in the country profiteroles.' Who said that? Who named that?"

Ramsay, who trained under Albert Roux, Marco Pierre White and Guy Savoy, is famous for his foul-mouthed rants on numerous hit TV shows including "Hell's Kitchen," and his acerbic comments have landed him in hot water on several occasions. The Scot's notoriously filthy language embarrassed British network Channel 4 after an unedited episode of his "Hotel Hell" aired by mistake on a midday in April. Ramsay used the "F word" six times in 15 minutes before the episode was pulled. His word-for-word reaction to the controversy—at least to AFP—is unprintable, but the gist is that he thinks the channel should be taking the heat for what was, in the end, a scheduling error.

'Industrial language'

Ramsay's broader thoughts on his reputation for profanity are also unsuitable for daytime consumption but, in summary, he senses a hypocrisy in the way the press singles him out for his "industrial language." He is no different, he believes, from other professionals—"from journalists to basketball players to footballers to school teachers"—who use the lingua franca of the shop floor. Ramsay's profanity never comes across as anything less than authentic, yet one can't help but suspect that he enjoys his brand.

A filthy-mouthed chef fronting a show called "The F Word"—notwithstanding Fox's insistence that the initial stands for "food," "family" and "fun"—knows exactly what it is that makes him a bankable asset for billionaire Rupert Murdoch's lucrative cable TV division. The series is going out live in primetime and Ramsay's only protection from censorship will be a five-second delay and a producer hovering over the "bleep" button. But the defiant chef says he won't pull punches or "wrap anything in cotton wool." "The one big thing I hope doesn't happen is we don't crash and come off air, if the naughty F-bomb drops out and Rupert Murdoch is (watching) in Australia and he pulls the plug out," he jokes. — AFP



Taiwan Dragon Boat Festival

Dragon boat crew members cheer after a traditional Chinese Dragon Boat race in Taipei, Taiwan, yesterday. — AP photos

