

Food names:
Passion,
place or
personality



Swedish comedy
'The Square'
is surprise
Cannes winner



Muguruza strolls
as Nadal,
Djokovic
enter fray



Imsak Fajr Shorook Duhr Asr Maghrib Isha
03:06 03:16 04:49 11:45 15:20 18:42 20:12

ADMIT BEDOONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: ASSEMBLY PANEL

TABTABAEI INQUIRES HOW FALI ENTERED KUWAIT



Min 32°
Max 47°
High Tide
03:48 & 14:14
Low Tide
09:03 & 21:55



FASTING: THE 4TH PILLAR OF ISLAM

Thekra Azouzi

Fasting ('Sawm') during the month of Ramadan is the fourth pillar of Islam and Muslims from all corners of the planet are required to fast as it is mentioned in the verses 183-185 of Surah Al-Baqarah: 183. "O you who have Faith! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard yourselves (against evil)."

184. "(Fast for) a certain number of days. But whoever among you is sick or on a journey, then (he shall fast) the same number of other days, and for those who are hardly able to do it, (there is) a redemption by feeding an indigent. But whoever volunteers to do good, it is better for him; and it is better for you that you fast, if you did (only) know."

185. "The month of Ramadan that wherein the Holy Quran was sent down to be a guidance for mankind, and as clear signs of guidance and a criterion (between right and wrong). Therefore, whoever of you is present (at his home) during the month, he shall fast therein and whoever is sick or on a journey, he shall then (fast) the same number of other days; Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire hardship for you; so you should complete the number (of days decreed), and exalt Allah for His having guided you, and that haply you might be grateful (to Him)."

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KUWAIT: A baker prepares a traditional Ramadan pancake known as Qatayef on the third day of the fasting month of Ramadan in Kuwait City yesterday.— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly committee for bedoons or stateless people yesterday approved a proposal calling to allow children of bedoons who were counted in the 1965 census to join public schools, head of the committee said. MP Nasser Al-Dossari also called on the education minister to admit bedoons who passed the higher secondary examination into Kuwait University.

Dossari called for dealing with bedoon students in a humanitarian way and allow them to complete their university education at Kuwait University in order to be able to join the labor market to replace expatriates. The lawmaker said the committee discussed with the foreign ministry about the issue of coordination with Saudi authorities to allow easy access for bedoons to perform umrah and hajj, minor and major pilgrimage to Makkah. Bedoons have had difficulties in recent years to go to Saudi Arabia for hajj because of visa problems.

Islamist MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei yesterday asked Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah how Shiite cleric Mohammad Al-Fali managed to enter the country although he was deported several years ago. Tabtabaei asked the minister how did Fali manage to enter Kuwait using a fake passport and whether his fingerprints were taken at the airport or not. He asked for the reason if the fingerprints were not taken and if they were taken how he was allowed to enter.

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N KOREA FIRES SCUD-CLASS BALLISTIC MISSILE

TIGER WOODS ARRESTED FOR 'DRUNK DRIVING'

WASHINGTON: Golf superstar Tiger Woods was arrested yesterday in Florida on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, according to records from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. The 14-time major champion was booked into the Palm Beach County jail yesterday at 7:18 am (1118 GMT) after he was arrested by police in Jupiter, Florida.

He was released on his own recognizance at 10:50 am. Woods, 41, hasn't played competitive golf since pulling out of the Dubai Desert Classic in February after one round because of back pain. He had spinal fusion surgery on April 20 — his fourth surgery in three years to treat his troublesome

back which has limited him to three tournament starts worldwide in the past two years. Woods wrote on his website last week that since his latest procedure he was feeling better than he had in years and remained committed to returning to competitive golf.

"My surgeon and physiotherapist say the operation was successful. It's just a matter of not screwing up and letting it fuse," Woods wrote. "I'm walking and doing my exercises, and taking my kids to and from school.

All I can do is take it day by day. There's no hurry. "But, I want to say unequivocally, I want to play professional golf again." — AFP



Tiger Woods

SEOUL: North Korea fired at least one short-range ballistic missile yesterday that landed in the sea off its east coast, the latest in a fast-paced series of missile tests defying world pressure and threats of more sanctions. The missile was believed to be a Scud-class ballistic missile and flew about 450 km (280 miles), South

Korean officials said. North Korea has a large stockpile of the short-range missiles, originally developed by the Soviet Union.

Yesterday's launch followed two successful tests of medium-to-long-range missiles in as many weeks by the North, which has been conducting such tests at

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DELIVERY HERO TO BUY MIDEAST FIRM CARRIAGE

KUWAIT: Online food takeaway firm Delivery Hero, which sources have said is considering a flotation imminently, has agreed to buy Middle East food delivery platform Carriage, the latest in a series of technology deals in the region.

Chief Executive Niklas Ostberg said in a statement yesterday that Kuwait-based Carriage, which operates in the Gulf Council countries, would strengthen Delivery Hero's foothold in a region with "significant growth potential".

The parties agreed not to disclose financial details. Major investors in Delivery Hero include Germany's Rocket Internet and South African media and e-commerce firm Naspers. The deal comes after Dubai's Emaar Malls announced last week it will buy a 51 percent stake in e-commerce fashion website Namshi from Global Fashion Group (GFG), a firm set up by Rocket Internet and Sweden's Kinnevik. — Reuters



OSAKA: People walk near a screen which reports North Korea's missile launch in Osaka, western Japan yesterday. — AP

FEARS GROW OF INCREASING IS FOOTHOLD IN SOUTH PHILIPPINES



MARAWI CITY: Police question a two-vehicle convoy of humanitarian volunteers who earlier ignored their checkpoint to rescue residents trapped in the fighting between government troops and militants who continue to hold their ground in some areas of Marawi city for almost a week yesterday in southern Philippines. — AP

MARAWI, Philippines: Inside this lakeside city dotted with hundreds of mosques, a powerful militant designated by the Islamic State group as its leader in the Philippines has managed to unify a disparate group of gunmen under a single command.

Over the past week, his fighters have shown their muscle, withstanding a sustained assault by the Philippine military and increasing fears that the Islamic State group's violent ideology is gaining a foothold in this country's restive southern islands, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has raged for decades. The army insists the drawn-out fight is not a true sign of the militants' strength, and that the military has held back to spare civilians' lives.

"They are weak," Gen Eduardo Ano, the military chief of staff, said of the gunmen, speaking at a hospital where injured soldiers were being treated. "It's just a matter of time for us to clear them from all their hiding places." Still, the fighters have turned out to be remarkably well-armed and resilient.

Attack helicopters were streaking low over Marawi yesterday, firing rockets at militant hideouts, as heavily armed soldiers went house to house in search of fighters. For nearly a week, the Islamic gunmen have held the Philippine army at bay, burning buildings, taking at least a dozen hostages and sending tens of thousands of residents fleeing.

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CITIES MAY BE 8 DEGREES CELSIUS HOTTER BY 2100

PARIS: Under a dual onslaught of global warming and localized, urban heating, some of the world's cities may be as much as eight degrees Celsius (14.4 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer by 2100, researchers warned yesterday.

Such a temperature spike can have dire consequences for the health of city-dwellers, robbing companies and industries of able workers, and put pressure on already strained natural resources such as water. The projection is based on the worst-case-scenario assumption that emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases continue to rise throughout the 21st century. The top quarter of most populated cities, in this scenario, could see the mercury rise 7 C or more by century's end, said a study in the journal Nature Climate Change.

For some, nearly 5 C of the total would be attributed to average global warming. The rest would be due to the so-called Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, which occurs when cooling parks, dams and lakes are replaced by heat-conducting concrete and asphalt-making cities warmer than their surrounds, the researcher said.

"The top five percent (of cities per population) could see increases in temperatures of about 8 C and larger," study co-author Francisco Estrada of the Institute for Environmental Studies in the Netherlands told AFP. Estrada and a team used different projections of average planetary warming, combined with the UHI effect and potential harms, to estimate the future costs of warming on cities.

The median city, right in the middle of the range, stands to lose between 1.4 and 1.7 percent of GDP per year by 2050 and between 2.3 and 5.6 percent by 2100, they concluded.

"For the worst-off city, losses could reach up to 10.9 percent of GDP by 2100," wrote the team. UHI "significantly" increases city temperatures and economic losses from global warming, they added.

This meant that local actions to reduce UHI-such as planting more trees or cooling roofs and pavements, can make a big difference in limiting warming and minimizing costs. — AFP



KUWAIT: (From left) Deputy Chairman of the Court of Appeal Ali Al-Mutairat, Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council Yousef Al-Mutawa, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Minister of Justice Faleh Al-Azb. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



(From left) Deputy Chairman of the Court of Appeal Ali Al-Mutairat, Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council Yousef Al-Mutawa, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Minister of Justice Faleh Al-Azb.

AMIR RECEIVES SENIOR JUDICIARY OFFICIALS



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chief of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court, as well as President of the Constitutional Court Justice Yousef Al-Mutawa, and Justice Ali Mutheeb Al-Mutairat.

Swearing the constitutional oath before His Highness the Amir, Mutairat was appointed deputy chairman of the Court of Appeal.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Faleh Abdullah Al-Azb.

Mutawa later introduced Mutairat to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Minister of Commerce and Industry as well as Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan. He also received Chief of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, as well as Dr Rola Dashti.

In other news, His Highness the Amir received a phone call from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Al-Thani Sunday to congratulate him on the Holy month of Ramadan. Sheikh Tamim hoped Ramadan would return while the Arab and Muslim nations enjoyed peace and prosperity.

His Highness the Amir thanked Sheikh Mohammad for his phone call, and hoped the Qatari people witness sustainable development and prosperity under the Amir's leadership. His Highness the Amir also received another phone call from the Qatari Father

Amir Sheikh Hamad Al-Thani who congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad on Ramadan. His Highness the Amir thanked the Father Amir and prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow Sheikh Hamad with good health.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir received a phone call Sunday from Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Commander of UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, to congratulate him on holy month of Ramadan, and wishing the peoples of the two countries a blessed occasion.

His Highness the Amir thanked Sheikh Mohammad for the kind call and wished him and UAE leadership and people prosperity and thrive under the wise leadership of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received a phone call Sunday from Saudi



Justice Ali Mutheeb Al-Mutairat swears in as deputy chairman of the Court of Appeal.

Prince Meqren bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, to congratulate him on holy month of Ramadan, and wishing the peoples of the two countries a blessed occasion. His Highness the Amir thanked Prince Meqren for the kind call, which reflects on the strongly rooted relations between the two countries.

His Highness the Crown Prince yesterday expressed appreciation and gratitude for the warm wishes conveyed by Kuwaiti nationals and expatriates on the occasion of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

He hoped the occasion may bring blessings and prosperity to the nation and its people under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, the humanitarian leader. HH Sheikh Nawaf went on to thank the well-wishers, who had sent their congratulations by telegram, phone or other forms of contact. — KUNA



(From left) Deputy Chairman of the Court of Appeal Ali Al-Mutairat, Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council Yousef Al-Mutawa, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Minister of Justice Faleh Al-Azb.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Rola Dashti.

KUWAIT DESIGNATES 26 MOSQUES FOR LATE-NIGHT RAMADAN PRAYERS: MINISTER



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah left to New York yesterday to take part in the UN's General Assembly session. The session will involve the elections of the Security Council's non-permanent members for 2018-2019, set to take place on June second. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has prepared 26 mosques nationwide dedicated to receive worshippers performing late-night prayers during the Muslims holy month of Ramadan, Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri said on Sunday.

Jabri, also Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, made the statement during a tour to the mosques which started in Belal bin Rabah Mosque, aimed at seeing first-hand readiness to host the worshippers. He said the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has started preparing the mosques before advent of Ramadan in order to create suitable atmospheres for worshippers. These mosques, added Jabri, would also witness lectures and Quran lessons throughout Ramadan. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri tour the Belal bin Rabah Mosque. — KUNA

NATIONAL SUPPORT ALLOWANCE STOPPED TO PROTECT PUBLIC FUNDS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The cabinet made the decision to suspend the national manpower support allowance given to some citizens working in the private sector with the aim of protecting public funds, the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program's (MGRP) Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali said. He was referring to recent incidents in which citizens were not paid their allowances and were told that they had to update their information in the MGRP database; something that they never had to do in previous years. Majdali added that recipients had to meet social security conditions

and update their information to receive the allowance as per decision number 391/2001 pertaining with periodic data update. The new condition seems to be an attempt from the government to identify cases in which citizens receive allowances unlawfully and suspend them.

Trucks' parking

The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) is currently considering cancelling the project of building trucks' parking areas in various areas including Jahra, Mina Abdulla, Wafra and East Sulaibiya with a total cost of KD 22,720,000, which had been on the ministry's agenda since 2009-2010 with nothing done so far.



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

CABINET WELCOMES MOODY'S RATING

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday welcomed the recent rating of Moody's Investors' Service which changed the outlook on Kuwait to stable from negative. The cabinet said in a statement following its customary weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah that the fresh rating reflected the agency's satisfaction with the Kuwaiti government's commitment to the economic reform program. The cabinet, in this context, reaffirmed keenness on promoting reform efforts and maintaining national economic sustainability.

The cabinet also asked the Ministry of Public Works to coordinate with the Central Agency for Public Tenders and other concerned state bodies to take swift measures to speed up the implementation of the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport. Afterwards, Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Al-Faris briefed the cabinet on the results of high school exams for this year. The ministers, in this regard, discussed preparations and arrangements by Kuwait University and Public Authority

for Applied Education and Training, Ministry of Higher Education and other relevant bodies for receiving new students. Also, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh elaborated on the country's strategic political, economic, social and environment development blueprints.

The cabinet, in the meantime, tasked the General Authority for Food and Nutrition with rapidly taking the necessary steps to conduct the lab tests on the local, and imported fresh vegetables and fruits, said the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The authority will coordinate in this regard with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the Interior Ministry, the Health Ministry, the Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, the Kuwait General Administration of Customs and the other relevant bodies. Then the cabinet reviewed the topics on the National Assembly agenda. Meanwhile, the ministers condemned the armed

terrorist attack that recently targeted a bus in Upper Egypt's Minya Governorate, leaving scores of the innocent people killed or wounded.

The cabinet offered condolences to President Abdul-Fattah Al-Sisi, the Egyptian Government and people, reiterating Kuwait's unwavering rejection of all forms of terrorism targeting the country's security and stability.

It also voiced support to all measures Egypt might take to counter such acts of terrorism that seek to incite sedition and hatred among the Egyptian people. The ministers expressed confidence in the Egyptian people and their ability to demonstrate unity against whosoever seeks evil for them.

By the same token, the cabinet condemned the criminal terrorist attack in Manchester, UK, last week leaving many people killed or wounded. It reaffirmed Kuwait's firm stance rejecting such acts of terrorism that go contrary to all faiths and human values and norms, expressing condolences and sympathy to the British Government and the victims' families, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery. — KUNA

42.9% HOUSES IN SOUTH MUTLAA DISTRIBUTED

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: In continuation of its short-term housing plan for the fiscal year 2017-2018,

the Public Authority for Housing Welfare announced that 42.9 percent of a total of 4,770 government houses in South Mutlaa had already been distributed to citizens.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES HIGH SCHOOLS' RESULTS



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Al-Faris (center) speaks during a press conference to announce the results of high schools' finals. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Al-Faris announced the results of high schools' finals in both the science and arts divisions as well as the Institute for religious studies.

In a press conference yesterday, the minister noted that the passing rate in the science division was at 80.35 percent, the arts percentage was at 75.60 percent, while the number in the Institute for religious studies was at 75.65 percent. — KUNA

KUWAIT, UNICEF SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES' EDUCATION

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and the UNICEF signed two agreements worth \$6 million to provide education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.

The agreements are part of Kuwait's pledge to aid Syrian refugees with \$300 million during the London's donors conference for Syria in 2016, said KFAS Director General Adnan Shihab-Eldin in a press statement yesterday.

The pledge was made by His Highness

the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, KFAS' Chairman of the Board, said the official. KFAS' contribution to the two agreements is \$50 million, he added.

Meanwhile, Shihab-Eldin noted that the first agreement, signed in Dubai last March, involves providing \$3 million for education and professional training for about 4,500 Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The second was signed on May 17 and involves \$3 million for about 4,230 Syrians in Jordan, he said. — KUNA



KRCS DISTRIBUTES 5,000 FOOD BASKETS IN KUWAIT DURING RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) said yesterday it has started distributing around 5,000 food baskets for around 250 needy families daily in Kuwait during Ramadan. The project targeted needy families in Kuwait, acting head of the society's local aid department Lama Al-Othman said, adding that the basket included different varieties of food.

KRCS also distributed coupons to around 2,000 families before Ramadan in collaboration with General Secretary of Kuwait's Awqaf Foundation, Othman further indicated. She called citizens, residents and companies in the country to offer their help and donations and to contribute to the success of the Ramadan project this year. — KUNA

KUWAIT URGES 'NEW MECHANISM' FOR ARAB CUSTOMS UNION

CAIRO: Finding a 'new mechanism' is essential for forming Arab Customs Union and, eventually, Arab joint market, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. It is important to evaluate the past 19 years of activities of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), which entered into force in 1998, Yousef Al-Roumi, Director of Arab and Gulf Economic Cooperation Department at Kuwaiti Finance Ministry, said.

Roumi made his remarks in his opening speech at the 43rd meeting of the implementation and follow-up committee, affiliated with Arab League's

Economic and Social Council, in Cairo. GAFTA was the easiest phase in achieving Arab economic integration; yet, it took a long time to enter into force, he noted, adding that following that same approach would waste more time until reaching the desired Arab joint market.

Thus, it is important to find a new mechanism in order to exit the constant delays situation, the Kuwaiti official said, stressing the importance of reconsidering the role of the Arab League's committees in following up GAFTA's implementation. — KUNA

FOOD NAMES: PASSION, PLACE OR PERSONALITY

By Talal Al-Ghannam

KUWAIT: Could the names of some foods make them sound heavier, lighter, sweeter, or more delicious than others? This seems unlikely; after all, as Shakespeare said in Romeo and Juliet: What's in a name? That which we call a rose. By any other name would smell as sweet.

Juliet is expressing the theory we call conventionalism: that a name for something is just an agreed-upon convention. Conventionalism is the norm in modern linguistics: Whether we call the ingredients in our breakfast scrambled egg, omelet, or huevo shouldn't matter as long as we all agree. But there's an alternative view, one that dates back 2,500 years called naturalism.

Naturalism is the idea that a name might naturally fit an object, that some names might naturally "sound sweeter" than others. It was Plato, in the Cratylus, who pointed out that sometimes sounds seem to carry meaning. We call this phenomenon sound symbolism, and modern linguistic research has found support for Plato's position.

The world's menus are full eponymous cuisine. Aunt Mae's Pancakes, The Big Daddy Burger, Salmon à la Ralph. Sometimes it is named after the chef who creates it, others a beloved relative, perhaps a regular who always ordered their dinner with a special twist. Beyond all these examples at individual locations or chains, there are a slew of prolific culinary staples that also take their names from people.

Here are a few for which one should know the alleged background: Pizza Margherita is attributed to Queen Margherita of Savoy (1851-1926) and was presented with this pizza in the colors of the Italian flag on a trip to Naples in 1889. Chicken Maria Theresia, which is also attributed to Maria Theresia (1717-1780), Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, and wife of Emperor Franz I. Coffee Maria Theresia includes cream and orange liqueur. Nachos, the world's favorite snacks, was first created in 1943 by Ignacio "Nacho" Anaya. The original nachos consisted of fried corn tortillas covered with melted cheddar cheese and jalapeno peppers. Juices also have interesting



KUWAIT: A menu showing names of popular foods in Kuwait. — KUNA

and eye-catching names such as Titanic, Emperor, Maradona, Ghost, Red Sea, Lolwa and Special mix. Those names make it easy for customers to remember the order as such names would be engraved in the customers' memory.

Chapati Rashed

Locally, a slew of prolific menus or sandwiches have been attributed to certain names, not necessarily famous figures but names that go with the trend. "Chapati Rashed" is a clear example of a piece of chapati wrap stuffed with a

chicken breast, mayonnaise, ketchup and vegetables. Chapati is an unleavened flatbread from the Indian Subcontinent; and popular staple in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Chapati is made of whole-wheat flour known as Atta, salt and water, and is cooked on a tava (flat skillet). This kind of small, yet delicious and oily meal can obviously be seen in Indian restaurants across Kuwait and is heavily demanded by youngsters along with a soda.

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) interviewed Abdulkareem Mohammad, an Indian restaurant top chef, on the secret behind naming meals after people, who he said that Rashed is a Kuwaiti citizen who has come up with the 'Chapati Rashed', yet, this meal has "insanely" spread out across Kuwait's Indian restaurants which have been competing to decorate this small sandwich with the best ingredients to soothe customers' taste. However, the original 'Chapati Rashed' can never be imitated because the owner knows exactly what to stuff it with besides the big reputation this meal has made, he added.

Dr Yaqub Al-Kanderi, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Kuwait University (KU) and former Dean of the College of Social Sciences, said that such local names of some sorts of food depict traditions and symbolism of old Kuwait as Kuwaitis in the past felt proud to give some kinds of food specific names so that such meals would always be remembered.

Kanderi added that giving food some names was also attributed to particularity of the Kuwaiti society in addition to feeling proud of a certain personality, therefore, attributing famous dishes to such a personality.

Kanderi pointed out that in western societies, there are also some kinds of foods that carry names of famous personalities, persons with high reputation and others who have made history. He said that naming foods after some well-known personalities could also be seen as a type of marketing as such names would always be easily remembered when ordered. He added that selection of a certain name for a meal would preserve old traditions and heritage. — KUNA

FIREMEN SUFFER FROM SMOKE INHALATION IN BNEID BLAZE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two firemen suffered from smoke inhalation while tackling a blaze that broke out yesterday in a building in Bneid Al-Gar.



KUWAIT: A firefighter tackles a blaze in a building in Bneid Al-Gar yesterday.

Firemen from Hilali fire station rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call and discovered that the fire had started on the top floor of a 14-storey building, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's public relations and media department said in a statement. The building had to be evacuated and the fire was controlled without any casualties, except for two smoke inhalation cases amongst firemen, who were treated onsite. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

Municipality campaigns

Mubarak Al-Kabeer inspectors closed down two stores and filed 59 citations for violations including hiring someone with an expired residency, selling expired foodstuff and operating a store without a license. Meanwhile, Farwaniya municipality inspectors also launched several inspection campaigns at various co-ops, foodstuff stores and restaurants. Acting follow-up manager at Farwaniya municipality Masoud Dashti said 28 citations were filed for operating without having a license, violating health conditions, preparing food in unhealthy conditions and operating prior to getting a municipality license.



A Kuwait Municipality worker checks the expiration date of a food package during an inspection campaign in Farwaniya.

Kuwait

Heritage



This picture taken circa 1946 shows Kuwaitis picnicking outside the Wall, which had a length of nearly five miles. The country's population was about 50,000 during that period. Bedouins usually pitched their tents outside the Wall during their trips into and out of Kuwait for the purpose of trade. (source: the 'Picture Post' magazine, volume 32. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Aby Alella, Researcher in Heritage, Ministry of Information)

MARRIOTT HOTELS IN KUWAIT HOLD RAMADAN IFTAR FOR LOCAL MEDIA



KUWAIT: Marriott Hotels in Kuwait organized a Ramadan iftar for the local media on Sunday at Al-Thuraya Ramadan Tent at the JW Marriott Kuwait City. The event was attended by more than 100 media representatives from different newspapers and magazines in Kuwait. The iftar was a great opportunity for Marriott Hotels to raise awareness about the different offers and promotions available throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

The JW Marriott Kuwait invites guests to enjoy the perfect Ramadan experience at the breathtaking 'Al-Thuraya Tent.' The tent offers traditional settings complemented by live cooking stations, scrumptious seasonal specials and breathtaking ambience. 'Al-Thuraya' embodies the special occasion, accompanied by stunning Ramadan decoration and soothing live oud music, all combined to create the perfect invitation into a comfortable homely setting.

Guests will also stand the chance to win valuable prizes every week, including free airline tickets from KLM-Air France, vouchers from Sama Dental Centre, gift bags from Sebamed and facial treatments from Amana Clinic.

Moreover, the Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait welcomes guests throughout the holy month of Ramadan at the 'Atrium' Restaurant. Courtyard Kuwait offers a generous Arabian feasts featuring delicious Ramadan dishes, live cooking stations and live music. In addition, the stunning oriental decoration and tent-like surroundings as well as the weekly raffle draw to win valuable prizes, makes "The Atrium" the perfect Ramadan venue to enjoy unforgettable time with friends and family. It will leave guests mesmerized, not only by the lavish buffets but by the warm and inviting atmosphere.

Furthermore, guests can celebrate Ramadan in style at the 'Blendz' restaurant at Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait. 'Blendz' offers sumptuous iftar and ghabqa buffets featuring a variety of oriental and international dishes. 'Arraya' Ballroom also offers a wide range of buffets for iftar and ghabqa, perfect for corporate events.

George Aoun, Cluster General Manager at Marriott Hotels in Kuwait, said "on behalf of Marriott Hotels Kuwait management and associates, I would like to wish Kuwait's nationals and residents Ramadan Mubarak."

Aoun added "Marriott Hotels in Kuwait always try to offer their guests exceptional Ramadan experiences, including rich iftar and ghabqa buffets, live entertainment and valuable prizes at competitive prices."



KUWAIT: Marriott Hotel staff pose for a group photo. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Rabab Alghohari

WASTA TAKES THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

By Nawara Fattahova

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

Egyptian expat Rabab Alghohari, who has been living in Kuwait for nine years now, believes that following laws and rules is very important to improve life in Kuwait. She answered to the question how you can improve this country as follows:

"Many people respect some law as they are forced to do so, while they do not respect other rules. High and strict punishment deters them, so they do not break laws such as not passing the red light as, they know that the punishment is very serious including imprisonment apart from the high fine. Thus if they knew there is no speed camera or policeman watching, some of them may risk committing the violation.

"Some drivers do not respect parts of the traffic law such as driving without fastening the seat belt or parking at the disabled parking spot. They consider these violations as not so serious, so they break the law. Unfortunately I also do not follow all traffic laws, and I know that it is wrong, such as not wearing the seat belt, or over speeding in some small lanes. So I will try to respect all the traffic laws, as this will improve life in my opinion.

"Also discipline and respecting queues is important to improve life. Many people in different places such as in front of the cashier in stores or in some ministries try to cut the line to finish first and this is very annoying. In Dubai for instance, the people are much more disciplined and you rarely see somebody cutting the queue.

"I think that the authorities should be stricter and increase their control on the violators, and this will prevent people from breaking the rules. Furthermore, people should not use wasta (connections), as this takes the rights of other people and it is not ethical. If people stopped using wasta, it will improve life in Kuwait."



Palms Hotel management and staff pose for a group photo.— Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Eng. Ghosson Al-Khaled, Hotel Managing Director speaks during the event.

PRESS AND MEDIA FAMILY GHABKA AT THE PALMS BEACH HOTEL AND SPA

KUWAIT: The Palms Beach Hotel and Spa held a ghabqa for members of the press and media in Kuwait on Sunday at its location in Salwa. The invitation was extended by Eng. Ghosson Al-Khaled, Hotel Managing Director to express the hotel gratitude and appreciation for the press and media contribution and everlasting

support extended to The Palms Hotel. The valued guests were warmly welcomed by the Palms Management team to the new typical Andalusia tent with its magnificent atmosphere and decoration in Jawa Grand Tent.

Eng. Ghosson briefly mentioned the major extension and refurbishment currently going

on, which includes the hotel rooms, Health club, Spa, additional to the new Nassima Ballroom, in order to fulfill the high demand of our guests.

The aforesaid extension reflects the effective role and efforts approached by the owning company, represented on the Managing

Director Eng. Ghosson Al-Khaled, who are always keen to present whatever possible to ensure the highest hospitality experience for the hotel guests.

Invitees were treated to a lavish ghabqa buffet in the new Nassima Ballroom abounded with Ramadan traditional Sweets and

Beverages while enjoying the classical music.

The Press ghabqa lasted till after midnight where all the guests praised the meticulous attention to details, well planning, delicious treats and food diversity, especially the live cooking stations which are a specialty of the Palms Beach Hotel and Spa.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Ramadan well-wishers.— KUNA

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KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Sunday received well-wishers on the occasion of the Muslim Holy fasting month of Ramadan. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah attended the reception. The Foreign Minister received Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Abdulwahab Al-Bader, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's assistants, a host of Kuwaiti envoys who are now at home, and officials from the ministry and the fund.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed his warm sentiments on the occasion wishing the Kuwaiti people many returns of the occasion. He also prayed to Allah Almighty for perpetual security and stability and further progress and prosperity for Kuwait under His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, "leader of Kuwait's renaissance," and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Al-Sabah family. —KUNA



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الكلية الاستشرافية في الكويت
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Crime

Report

TRAFFIC COP WANTED OVER SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEO

KUWAIT: A search is on for a traffic policeman who was seen on a video shared over social media handing over a traffic citations book, driver's licenses and registrations he had withdrawn from motorists for traffic violations to a woman who appears to be his girlfriend. In the video, the girl appears to be intoxicated and can be seen waving the citations book and threatening anyone who might annoy her.

Friends arrested for assault

Three army staff, a policeman, a student and an unemployed citizen were recently arrested for assaulting a police patrol. The men had attempted to come to the aid of a friend who had been arrested after running three red lights and being chased and finally stopped only after driving to a spot where his friends had gathered. All the suspects are facing charges.

Stabbing during fight

An army officer was recently stabbed during a fight with a citizen in the chalet area, said security sources, noting that the officer was rushed to the military hospital. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Policemen assaulted

A bedoon was recently arrested for assaulting policemen and stabbing one of them, said security sources, noting that the suspect held no ID and had some anti-depression pills with him. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Diwaniya death investigated

Four citizens and an Egyptian have been summoned for questioning in the death of one of their friends, said security sources. The deceased was found dead at his own diwaniya where his mouth was bleeding. Initial investigations showed that five friends were present when the host died.

Drug arrests

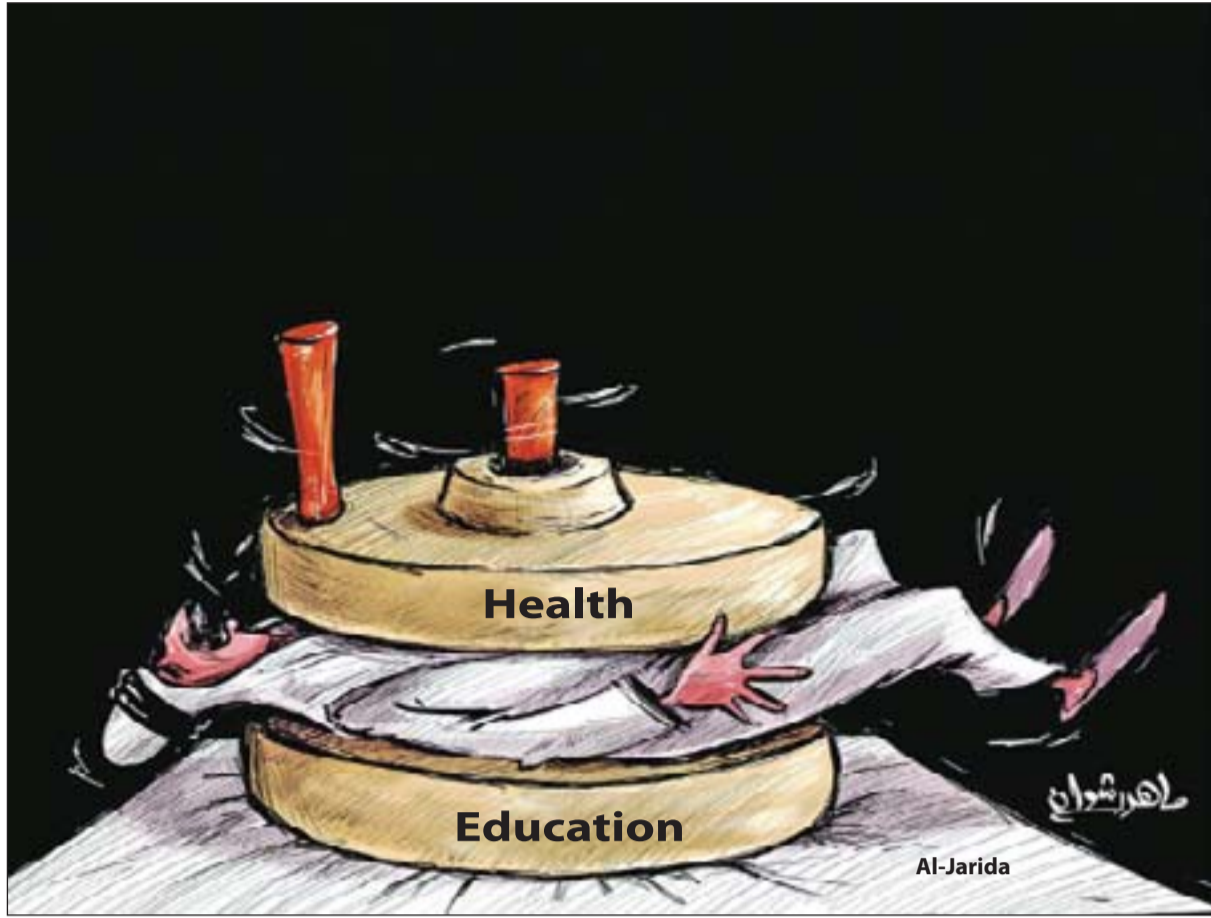
Ahmadi detectives recently arrested two citizens with the possession of drugs and while driving a stolen vehicle in Riqqa area, said security sources.

Nurse fraud case

A nurse recently filed a fraud case accusing unidentified people of telling him he had won KD 20,000 and asked him to transfer KD 378 to them. The nurse sent the money, only to later discover someone had stolen an additional KD 1,300 from his bank account.

Housemaid accused of theft

A citizen recently lodged a complaint with Jabriya police station accusing his runaway housemaid of stealing KD 7,000 in cash from his house. A case was filed. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



الجريدة Al-Jarida

DETOUR

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

Though the government is trying to help entrepreneurs and small projects, the exact opposite is happening and authorities are forced to improve the business environment. Relying on the government to improve situations in Kuwait is more like seeking the help of a blind person to go through a complicated maze. Therefore, I do not depend on them so much and prefer to force them into a certain path instead of having them plan it, which is already happening now. All officials' statements about diversifying sources of income have gone with the wind, and are preached but not practiced.

However, such diversity seems to be going on well without intervention from neither the government nor the parliament. Throughout the past ten years, more Kuwaitis established their own businesses, cutting loose with government jobs or even working for connoisseur private sector establishments like banks and telecom companies. Some started their own restaurants, others traded in electronics, opened publicity and advertising agencies or opened cafes. They all dedicated their full time for their projects and that is why many of them succeeded; which forced the government and the parliament to highlight such initiatives and projects, try to facilitate some of them and allocate huge budgets to support them. This means that both legislators and executives' plans had been limited to some nominal statements until some Kuwaitis ventured into freelance and had their own businesses, thus forcing officials to meeting their demands, though the right thing to do is that the government paves the way for entrepreneurs and small projects to make things easier for them, and encourage more entrepreneurs to take part. But what is happening is the exact opposite, and the authority is being forced to improve the business environment.

The same applies for education where more citizens have been seeking private education over the past ten years, despite the financial burden this poses on Kuwaiti families. I still remember my high school days when joining private schools was very limited among students in my generation, although many of them were far well off. Things are different nowadays as private schools are too full of citizens to accept any more of them. In a few years, this will force the state and its various authorities to deal with the outcomes of different educational techniques with different mentalities. This will eventually be for Kuwait's best interest because as long as we do not have people who plan well, we at least will force decision makers to make the right decisions. What is happening in Kuwait is more like a mandatory reform that the authorities are using in various fields to deal with new facts Kuwaitis have imposed on officials. — *Translated by Kuwait Times*

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

HOW MUCH LONGER?

By Hassan Al-Essa

How much longer do Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states still have to spend from their sovereign funds before the fall of oil prices vary from one state to another? According to a study made by Jassem Al-Saadoun for the GCC Development Policies Center, this period will be for somewhere around nine and a half years here in Kuwait. He adds that no matter how huge those funds are, they will only give a limited time to face the consequences of oil markets' recession. They do not either guarantee the sustainability of the financial, economic or political situation without surgical fundamental financial and economic reforms.

According to Marx, history does not repeat itself. It is rather the incident that recurs once as a tragedy and then a comedy. The tragedy occurred in 1986 and 1998 when oil prices collapsed. What have GCC states learnt from such occurrences? They committed the same old mistakes and expenditure rates increased because of

loose financial policies. Now, a comedy is in place after the 2014 oil price fall and the administration is almost helpless. According to an old folk tale, Joha, a man once made a bet with the Sultan that he would make his donkey talk within a year and justified such a wild bet by wishing that he, the Sultan or the donkey would die before the year ends. What about our nine year grace? Sure enough, none of Joha's oddities will happen because oil prices will remain low since American shale oil is cheap and no miracles are expected to occur in the Chinese or European economies to increase their demand for our oil.

We continue to focus on issues such as the case of the Ministry of Education (MOE) that took very strict measures against a number of female high school students and their parents for rejoicing the end of their school year, only to satisfy MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabae and Mohammed Hayef. This topic was a matter of concern for the MOE than any other educational debacles.—*Translated by Kuwait Times*

They committed the same old mistakes and expenditure rates increased

NBK'S 2017 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM STARTS ITS REGISTRATION PROGRAM TO BE HELD STARTING JULY 2

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is launching the first in a series of four the 2017 Summer Internship Program on July 2, 2017. The two-week courses are specially designed for high school and college students, between the age of 15 and 20 years.



Yaqoub Al-Baqer

The online registration for the Summer Internship Program will be valid until 29th June through nbk.com and it will be launched through NBK official page on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @NBKPage. "NBK views the Summer Internship Program as an extension to its educational initiatives and as part of its corporate social responsibility," said Yaqoub Al-Baqer, NBK Public Relations Officer. "This annual program demonstrates NBK's longstanding social involvement as well as its national com-

mitment towards providing young generations with the suitable opportunities to experience how the actual professional banking concerns and transactions are handled and processed."

"It has been 16 years since the establishment of the program," added Baqer. "At the core of NBK's corporate social responsibility is our commitment to developing the youth in Kuwait. NBK invests at every level in the training, professional development and the growth of the youth cadres, to contribute to trainees' basic and professional competencies and abilities in fields of practical life."

The Summer Internship Program is made up of five different sessions, five-hour daily over two weeks each. The first session starts on July 2, while the following sessions start on of July 16th, of July 30th and August 13th respectively. The program features a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to providing the interns with invaluable knowledge on a variety of subjects such as: the teamwork, creative thinking, the means of self-expression and modern banking, in addition to helping them to have greater exposure to daily banking work procedures.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) offered financial support for a ceremony held by the Capital Governorate to honor the Capital Municipality emergency team. Capital Governor Thabet Al-Muhanna and Assistant Public Relations Director at CBK Amani Al-Wara attended the event.

OOREDOO DELIVERS MEALS TO THE NEEDY ACROSS KUWAIT

IFTAR FEAST FOR THE KUWAIT DOWN SYNDROME CENTER

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, kicked off its Ramadan program of activities with distributing hundreds of meals to the needy workers across Kuwait City with Ooredoo's volunteer program truck. This is in addition to a distribution center in the company's Ramadan tent, located across the head office on Soor Street. The initiatives were executed by Ooredoo's own volunteer program members, led by the company's Corporate Communications department. Additionally, Ooredoo held an iftar feast for the children of the Kuwait Down Syndrome Center and their parents and the attending staff as part of its community outreach and corporate social responsibility, sharing

the festive spirits of the holy month. Ooredoo has previously collaborated with a number of entities in Kuwait, such as Abdullah Al-Nouri institution to aid Syrian refugees in different part of the world, in addition its collaboration with the 'Kiswat Al-Khair' campaign to distribute clothes for needy families during the holy month. Also Ooredoo representatives have conducted a visit to 'Yadawi' center to give the volunteers a comprehensive idea about how to recycle waste, sort, and reuse it in manufacturing children toys to be donated to children in need. The program will include participation from similar groups. Ooredoo reiterated its commit-

ment to empowering youth and supporting groups that focus on volunteer work, and expressed its pride in partnering with reputable organizations throughout the month of Ramadan to encourage volunteer work. Empowering youth is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, to support youth projects and initiatives, making it the first telecom provider in Kuwait to sign such a high-level agreement. Ooredoo is continuously working with the Ministry to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields, with a focus on volunteerism.



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with Editor-in-Chief of Al-Jarida Daily Dr Zuhair Al-Abbad, to express gratitude for his newspaper's sponsorship to a Holy Quran memorization and recitation contest that the governorate is hosting during Ramadan.



Kuwait Times 55 International

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017



6-day war begets 50 years of conflict for Israel

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TRUMP ATTACKS 'FAKE NEWS' FOLLOWING KUSHNER REPORTS

Page 9

MACRON HOSTS PUTIN IN LATEST DIPLOMATIC TEST FRENCH PRESIDENT VOWS TO MAKE NO CONCESSIONS TO RUSSIA

VERSAILLES, France: France's President Emmanuel Macron and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin yesterday held their first meeting since the French leader came to office, with differences on Ukraine and Syria in full view. Macron welcomed Putin to the splendor of the Versailles palace outside Paris with a perfunctory handshake - after the 39-year-old made a point of outlasting US President Donald Trump when they clasped hands at the NATO summit last week. Putin's visit is the latest test of Macron's diplomatic mettle after the G7 talks in Sicily last week and the NATO summit in Brussels where he turned the tables on Trump by refusing to release the American leader's hand for several seconds during the handshake for the cameras. "It is essential to talk to Russia because there are many international issues that will not be resolved without a tough exchange with the Russians," Macron said in Sicily.

Russia's powerful ambassador to France, Alexander Orlov, said he hoped the meeting could help turn the page on the fraught relationship between Putin and Macron's predecessor Francois Hollande. "Many things in the future will depend on the first meeting," Orlov told Europe 1 radio. "It is very important that we begin to dissipate the mistrust that has built up in recent years."

As a candidate, Macron had tough words for Russia, accusing it of following a "hybrid strategy combining military intimidation and an information war". Since the start of the war in Ukraine in 2014, Russia has flexed its muscles with a series of war games involving tens of thousands of troops in areas bordering NATO Baltic states. Macron told a French weekly that he was "not bothered" by leaders who "think in terms of power ratios", citing Putin as an example along with Trump. But Macron, who became France's youngest president just three weeks ago, said he does not believe in "the diplomacy of public invective but in bilateral



VERSAILLES, France: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) is welcomed by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Versailles Palace near Paris yesterday ahead of their meeting. —AFP

dialogue". Macron said he would make "not a single concession" to Russia on the long-running conflict in Ukraine as he and his G7 counterparts said they were prepared to

strengthen sanctions against Moscow. Government forces have been battling Moscow-backed insurgents in eastern Ukraine for over three years. Western powers charge

Russia with failing to honor its commitments under the Minsk accords framework for ending the hostilities.

France helped spearhead the sanctions,

which have seriously dented EU-Russia trade, with a retaliatory Russian embargo on European agricultural products hurting French farmers. The six-year-long Syrian conflict will also be high on the agenda, with Macron saying he was in favor of "building an inclusive political solution in a much more collective way". He regretted that none of the G7 states are party to Syria peace talks under way in the Kazakh capital Astana initiated by Russia, Iran and Turkey. Separate UN-backed negotiations have become bogged down in Geneva. Russia is a strong supporter of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad whereas, as Putin adviser Yuri Ushakov said before the visit, France "is among the countries with a very severe stance towards (Assad's) regime".

Coming so soon after an election in which the Kremlin was widely seen as backing Macron's far-right rival Marine Le Pen - with Putin hosting her during a surprise visit to Moscow - the encounter in Versailles will have an added personal edge. Moscow has also been blamed for a raft of cyberattacks on Macron's election campaign, with aides accusing the Kremlin of mounting a "smear campaign" against him.

Putin was quick to congratulate Macron on his election, urging him to "overcome mutual distrust" and "join forces to ensure international stability and security". The visit comes seven months after Putin cancelled a trip to Paris for the opening of a Russian cathedral complex near the Eiffel Tower in a spat over Syria with Hollande, who had said Russia's bombing of Aleppo could amount to war crimes. In Versailles, Macron and Putin will inaugurate an exhibition marking 300 years of Franco-Russian ties since the visit of Russia's modernizing tsar Peter the Great to France in 1717. After the talks and a joint news conference, Putin will visit the Paris Orthodox cathedral complex on his own. —AFP

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In this June 6, 1967 file photo, an Israeli soldier lines up captured Egyptian troops to be checked for identification during the Six-Day War. — AP photos

6-DAY WAR BEGETS 50 YRS OF CONFLICT FOR ISRAEL

SOME PALESTINIANS OPENLY SPEAK OF ONE-STATE OUTCOME

JERUSALEM: It may well be remembered as a pyrrhic victory for Israel: In six days it stunned the world by vanquishing several Arab armies, only to be saddled with a deeply corrosive 50-year fight with the Palestinians for the Holy Land. For several weeks in 1967, the underdog Israelis genuinely feared that their young Jewish state would be wiped out, even with memories of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe still fresh. They mobilized reserves to face Egyptian troops arrayed at the border. They appointed the eyepatch-wearing military hero Moshe Dayan as minister of defense. They barricaded the streets with sacks of sand.

Then it was over in a shocking flash. A preemptive airstrike on June 5 destroyed the Egyptian air force on the ground, and the Israeli army also pushed back Jordan and Syria. Israel vastly expanded its territory, and was crowned a regional power. "The Six Day War was one of the greatest victories in the history of Israel," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a nationalist, recently said in marking the anniversary.

But there is another view: Many in Israel are coming to the conclusion that the "Six Day War" may have planted the seeds of doom. That's because Israel seized the West Bank and east Jerusalem from Jordan and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, and now presides over a Palestinian population roughly equal in number to that of the Jews. It has since faced charges that its treatment of the Palestinians is a form of apartheid, and has gone from being a darling of the West in the 1960s to one of the world's most ostracized nations.

Feeding the bitterness is an inequality rarely seen among neighboring societies. Israel has prospered since 1967 and now boasts an annual per capita GDP approaching \$40,000 - more than 10 times higher than that of the Palestinian areas. The mainstream Palestinian leadership still says it wants a two-state solution, and polls suggest most Palestinians agree. But they are playing hardball on terms, perhaps because they feel time is on their side. A default one-state outcome would be a half-Arab country and not a Jewish state, which the Palestinians may be able to live with more comfortably than the Israelis.

How to resolve Israel's occupation over millions of Palestinians, and whether peace is possible, are the defining question of Israeli politics today. And the debate is growing toxic. Between failed peace efforts there have been rounds of violence. There has been military oppression of an occupied population - unjust for the Palestinians, embarrassing for an Israel that thinks of itself as a democracy, and after a half-century not looking very temporary.

Demographics

Israeli proponents of partition used to speak the language of peace: The Palestinians deserve their own state, and their oppression under the current arrangement, even if inevitable on security grounds, is a bad thing. Now they tend to talk demographics: Israel must get rid of the territories to stay Jewish and democratic. Jews continue to settle the occupied lands in a way that makes a future partition difficult, perhaps impossible. The numbers tell the story. There are some 8 million citizens of Israel, including some 6 million Jews and 2 million Arabs.

Israel has annexed east Jerusalem, and more than a third of the sector's half-million residents are now Jews. Palestinians in east Jerusalem have residency status and, in principle, a right to apply for citizenship that few have chosen to exercise and that Israel in fact does not make easy. But in the West Bank, which surrounds Jerusalem from the north, east and south, the situation is different. Most of its more than 2 million Palestinians live in disconnected islands of autonomy set up in the



In this June 3, 1967 file photo, Gen Moshe Dayan talks to newsmen in Tel Aviv as he holds his first press conference after taking the post of Minister of Defense.

1990s and controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Once envisioned as a state in waiting, the authority now seems like something of a municipal government instead. Israel remains in charge of overall security, including travel within the territory and all entry and exit. Even though Israel has not annexed the West Bank - which in theory would force it to offer citizenship to Palestinians there - some 400,000 Jewish settlers now live in dozens of communities strewn about the territory, some near the Israeli frontier, others deep inside.

Then there is the Gaza Strip, home to two mil-



In this June 7, 1967 file photo, Israeli troops enter Gaza City in the Gaza Strip during the Six-Day War.

lion more Palestinians. Israel pulled out troops and settlers in 2005 but the strip was swiftly seized from the Palestinian Authority by the Hamas militant group, implacably opposed to Israel's existence. So Israel controls the skies, sea access and most land crossings for fear of weapons entering. It supplies Gaza with some electricity and other lifelines. Although the occupation is gone on the ground, it remains in effect in the eyes of Gazans and part of the world.

With Gaza as part of the equation, Jews and Arabs have a roughly equal share of the Holy Land population. With Gaza removed, the Jews are hanging on to a small majority. Israel's electorate

remains Jewish-majority through the non-annexation of the West Bank. But Israel is building towns in this territory it has not annexed. The Jews there can vote in Israeli elections - unlike the Palestinians - even though Israelis abroad cannot vote. Israeli law applies to the Jews but not to the Arabs, who live under a far harsher set of military laws. The arrangement has stretched the idea of Israel as a democracy to the breaking point.

On several occasions, Israeli governments have offered peace deals that would give the Palestinians a state in the vast majority of the lands captured in 1967. But it never went quite far enough to entice the Palestinian leadership to dive in, and opposition within Israel was always strong. The reasons included the nature of the arrangement in Jerusalem, where no one can quite explain how the countries will live without a border, or how a border could possibly snake around the various Jewish and Arab enclaves in a reasonable and enforceable way. The Palestinians have also yet to formally drop their demand for a right of descendants of refugees uprooted at the time of Israel's creation - and these now number in the millions - to return to ancestral places of residence in Israel. Many of these Palestinians face oppression in surrounding Arab countries as well.

One State

Some Palestinians are starting to openly speak of a one-state outcome. Israel would surely resist such a version of annexation, but what would be the alternative, especially under massive international pressure? The status quo does not seem sustainable forever, and even many Israelis have increasingly started to liken the dual systems in the West Bank to apartheid. "Israel should grieve what happened to it since that awful summer of 1967, the summer when it won a war and lost almost everything," wrote Gideon Levy, a leftist columnist

in the Haaretz daily. "It is stronger (and) richer than in 1967. But also corrupt and rotten as only an occupier can be." Some in Israel are still hoping the Palestinians will agree to an "interim deal" where they settle for less than the full evacuation of occupied lands but also don't have to agree to a full end of conflict. The Palestinians have rejected such notions out of hand, fearing Israel, once it has separated itself from most Palestinians, might never return to the table. US President Donald Trump, who has pressed for a renewed peace drive, might apply pressure on the Palestinians in this regard, especially as part of a wider regional deal.

Others in Israel want to change the game, decoupling a partition from agreement with the Palestinians. Under such a policy, Israel might pull out of some of the West Bank, just as it did in Gaza, claim the occupation is over, erect a wall as high as it will go, and hope for the best. Opponents note the similar idea of a Gaza pullout led to a militant takeover, long periods of rocket fire, and several rounds of war with Hamas. Meanwhile, the current government continues to build in the settlements, even though Netanyahu says he can live with a limited Palestinian state. Its supporters include religious zealots and nationalists often unconcerned with the niceties of democracy, and others hoping circumstances will somehow change. But its opponents include the majority of the chattering classes - academics, professionals, the media and even the security establishment. It is a division as toxic as the ones that emerged in Britain over Brexit and in the United States over Trump. Increasingly they project despair, and many of them will not be celebrating the "Six Day War". — AP



In this June 22, 1967 file photo, Palestinian refugees carry their belongings as they prepare to cross the wrecked Allenby Bridge over the Jordan River from the Israeli-occupied section of Jordan.

IRAQ PRESSES MOSUL ASSAULT, CALLS ON CIVILIANS TO LEAVE

MOSUL: Iraqi forces pressed forward on yesterday with a broad offensive targeting Islamic State group-held areas in west Mosul and called for civilians to leave areas where fighting is taking place. More than seven months into the massive operation to recapture Mosul from IS, Iraqi forces have retaken the city's east and large parts of its western side, but the jihadists are still putting up tough resistance. "Our units are continuing to advance... and entered Al-Saha al-Oula and Al-Zinjili and Al-Shifaa neighborhoods and the Republican Hospital," said Joint Operations Command spokesman Yahya Rasool.

IS was using "explosives-rigged vehicles and snipers and suicide bombers" to target Iraqi forces, he told AFP. The areas mentioned by Rasool - which are located north of Mosul's Old City, where IS also still holds significant territory - are the main targets of the offensive, which was announced on Saturday. The Joint Operations Command also said yesterday that Iraqi aircraft had dropped leaflets over Mosul urging residents to leave IS-held areas - the second time this was done within the past week.

Overnight, planes dropped "thousands of leaflets on the Old Mosul, Al-Zinjili, Al-Shifaa and Al-Saha areas urging citizens to leave toward our security forces," it said. This is the opposite of the strategy Iraqi forces employed in east Mosul, where they urged civilians to stay in their homes.

'Caught in the crossfire'

International aid organization Save the Children has said it is "deeply concerned that any calls to leave west Mosul will mean that civilians, particularly children, are in significant danger of being caught in the crossfire." Asked about the change in tack,

Rasool noted that the western side of the city has a greater population density as well as "old areas," an apparent reference to the Old City.

The area - a warren of closely spaced buildings and narrow streets - has posed a significant challenge to Iraqi forces, which have surrounded it with a large number of civilians trapped inside. "The Old City has been blockaded for a while, completely from the south and now our units are present on the north and west," he said, while the area's eastern side is bordered by the Tigris River.

The battle for Mosul has taken a heavy toll on civilians, pushing hundreds of thousands to flee, while hundreds more have been killed or wounded. On Thursday, the United States announced the results of an investigation into a deadly coalition air strike earlier this year. The probe found that at least 105 civilians had been killed and 36 remained unaccounted for after the strike detonated IS-planted explosives. There have also been reports that members of an Iraqi interior ministry special forces unit tortured and killed detainees during the Mosul operation.

IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in 2014, but Iraqi forces backed by US-led air strikes have since regained much of the territory they lost. The recapture of Mosul will not however mark the end of the war against IS: The militants hold other territory in three Iraqi provinces and are also able to carry out frequent attacks in government-controlled areas. The Popular Mobilization forces - an umbrella organization for pro-government paramilitaries that is dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias - is battling the jihadists west of Mosul. — AFP



MOSUL: Iraqi soldiers escort a pickup truck in west Mosul's Al-Saha neighborhood yesterday carrying displaced women and children, who fled their hometowns due to the ongoing battles to retake the city from Islamic State (IS) group fighters. — AFP

TUNISIAN HEALTH SECTOR STRUGGLES TO HEAL ITSELF

TUNIS: Overcrowded hospitals, exhausted staff and, disgruntled patients... Tunisia's public health sector is struggling to heal its many maladies. Hours of waiting for treatment, angry patients and broken equipment have become chronic problems. "Our hospitals are ruins," Amel Belhaj said as she visited her bedridden father in a Tunis hospital ward with mould-tainted walls and rusty radiators. "On top of our illnesses, we have to cope with the misery of these places, the dirt, the behavior of the staff," she said.

The nearby toilets smelled strongly of urine and rubbish was strewn on the floor. Her father, who occupied one of the ward's 11 beds, refused to comment. Developing the health sector has been a key priority for Tunisian governments since the country gained independence from France in 1956. Today, the North African country's 11 million people are served by some 166 hospitals and 2,100 health centers, according to official figures.

But public health services have deteriorated since the 1990s and are failing to meet modern demand, according to a report last year by the health section of the powerful UGTT union. "If there is one public service that needs urgent reform, it is the health sector," it said, bemoaning "social inequality" in treatment. The sector suffers from corruption, regional inequalities in access to advanced equipment and "medical deserts" - entire regions suffering a scarcity of healthcare professionals. The UGTT study said Tunisia risked backtracking on the advances it has made since independence from France in 1956.

'Major failure'

"There are services we're proud of and others that need particular attention," said Kaouther Hedhili, a senior health ministry official who admitted the current state of the sector was a "major failure". She said Tunisia's public services were saturated with staff following massive recruitment into menial and administrative jobs after the 2011 revolution. Yet hospitals also lack qualified medical staff - across the country, the sector has a shortfall of almost 14,000 staff. Hospitals are also burdened with some \$207 million of debt, she said.

But senior health official Nabih Borsali Falfoul said public criticism of the sector is often exaggerated. "The hospitals are in great demand," she said. "The staff are working beyond their means." Authorities also point out that general life expectancy in Tunisia has risen from 66 to 73 in just a decade, a sign the health service is doing its job. One hospital official, who asked not to be identified, complained that private health operators were "demonizing" the public sector.

Private clinics have mushroomed to serve wealthy clients and an influx of Libyan patients. But because of their cost, most are out of reach for many Tunisians, who are forced to rely on public health services. Chokri Hamouda, head of the emergency department at the Charles-Nicolle Hospital in Tunis, said a solution was urgently needed to tackle the lack of qualified medical staff. It is imperative "to adapt the means available to the needs of the citizen", he said. "You can't put a price on good health, but ensuring it does have a cost." — AFP



TUNIS: A Tunisian patient receives treatment at the emergency room of the Charles Nicole Hospital on May 5, 2017. — AFP

TRUMP ATTACKS 'FAKE NEWS' FOLLOWING KUSHNER REPORTS

WASHINGTON: A White House in crisis scrambled to allay public concern over reports that Donald Trump's son-in-law sought a secret communications link to Russia - a bombshell allegation the US president swatted down as "fabricated". After returning late Saturday from his first foreign trip as president, Trump geared up to combat concerns over his advisers' ties to Russia, including explosive reports about Jared Kushner, his indispensable aide-de-camp. Trump was meeting with attorneys at the White House on Sunday, presumably over the latest development in the long-running Russia intelligence saga, news reports said.

US media said the White House 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. Trump, who had been uncharacteristically quiet on Twitter during his nine-day trip abroad, furiously dismissed the allegations of Russia ties as "fake news" and "fabricated lies". "It is my opinion that many of the leaks coming out of the White House are fabricated lies made up by the #FakeNews media," he tweeted.

"Whenever you see the words 'sources say' in the fake news media, and they don't mention names it is very possible that those sources don't exist but are made up by fake news writers. #FakeNews is the enemy!" the US leader wrote, spelling errors and all. In yet another tweet, amid criticism of his frequent Twitter rants, Trump wrote: "the Fake News Media works hard at disparaging & demeaning my use of social media because they don't want America to hear the real story!"

No respite

The administration had hoped Trump's nine-day turn in the international spotlight would offer a respite from relentless coverage of an ever-widening probe into Russian meddling in last year's election and possible collusion by the Trump campaign. However, the eve of his return brought the biggest story to date: A Washington Post report about Kushner's alleged proposal to the Russians to create a secret channel out of the reach of US spymasters.

The talks between Kushner and the Russians, if confirmed, would raise new questions about the Trump team's relationship with Moscow, which US intelligence agencies say tried to sway the November election in the property tycoon's favor. Meanwhile, a parade of senior administration officials tried to downplay the story, saying it was not all that unusual to establish "back-channel" ties with a foreign government.

Trump's National Security Advisor H R McMaster refused to talk about the allegations, but said that generally speaking,

"we have back-channel communication with a number of countries... I would not be concerned about it." His comments were echoed by Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly. "It's both normal in my opinion and acceptable," he told ABC News on Sunday. "Any way that you can communicate with people, particularly organizations that are maybe not particularly friendly to us, is a good thing..." he said.

But the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, which is investigating the Russian election meddling, was dubious about those assertions. "You have to ask, well, who are they hiding the conversations from?" Representative Adam Schiff said in an interview with ABC News. He added: "Ultimately we're going to want Mr Kushner to come before the committee and I fully expect that to happen." "If you're going to create a back channel that relies solely on the Russian communications and apparatus, that's a really serious issue," added Mark Lowenthal, a former CIA assistant director. "That's extremely dangerous."

And others doubted there was any naivete on the part of Kushner who is a mogul in his own right, and an attorney with a graduate business degree at 36 years old. "With the avalanche of media attention to 'Russiagate,' it's mindboggling why Kushner would conceal this info instead of disclosing it and avoiding a media firestorm," former attorney Dean Obeidallah told CNN.

Kushner under fire

Kushner made his secret communications proposal on Dec 1 or 2 at Trump Tower in New York, according to intercepts of Russian communications reviewed by US officials, the Post reported late Friday. 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.

Kushner boasts an enormous portfolio of domestic and international responsibilities, underscoring his importance as Trump's chief adviser 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. Some critics have called for Kushner's security clearance to be revoked, others say he should temporarily step aside while his ties to Moscow are being reviewed.

The wider investigation into Russia's alleged election meddling is being led by Robert Mueller, a respected former FBI director who was given broad powers to pursue the case as a special counsel. The Senate and House Intelligence committees are also leading their own investigations, but not with an eye to bringing criminal charges. — AFP

END TO 'TEMPORARY' STATUS FOR US IMMIGRANTS FEARED

MIGRANTS AFRAID TRUMP MAY TAKE HARDER LINE ON PROGRAM

WASHINGTON: Nancy Vasquez left the turmoil in her native El Salvador behind and moved to the US, where she was able to support her family, buy a house and start a food-truck business catering to workers on the outskirts of Washington thanks to a "temporary" residency permit that has lasted for nearly 20 years. But the seemingly stable life that Vasquez and several hundred thousand others have built under that legal residency program now appears to be on shaky ground.

Immigrants and their supporters fear President Donald Trump's skepticism about immigration means he will take a harder line than his predecessors on a program that began as a humanitarian gesture to temporarily defer deportations of people from countries that were considered too fragile to take them back - especially Central American nations devastated by war or natural disasters.

Vasquez said she is thinking about how she would sell her property and move back home. She also wonders what she would do with her 11-year-old daughter, a US citizen by birth. "Imagine what would happen," she said in an interview in Rockville, Maryland, after a day of driving her food truck to construction sites. "We would be left with no protection. We would be totally defenseless."

Noe Duarte, a 40-year-old Salvadoran landscaper in the Washington area, said he recently canceled a trip home for a family reunion because he wasn't sure he would be able to get back to the US and worries he would have to be a subsistence farmer back home. "If they don't renew it, everything will come crashing down," he said.

Many see an ominous sign in the Department of Homeland Security's May 22 decision to grant only a six-month extension of "temporary protected status" for nearly 60,000 Haitians instead of the standard 18 months. The administration said it needed more time to decide whether Haiti had sufficiently recovered from its devastating 2010 earthquake. But officials suggested Haitians in the program should get their affairs in order so they would be ready to return home.

As for Central Americans, the department said, Homeland Security Secretary John F Kelly would review conditions and consult with appropriate agencies as the expiration date approaches next year. "Each country is considered individually, on a case-by-case basis," it said in a written statement. Critics argue that renewal has come to seem automatic, encouraging illegal immigration and violating the spirit of what was originally a temporary program to protect people fleeing Central America's civil wars of past decades. After some interruptions, it was renewed and extended to cover natural disasters.

Immigrants from Honduras and Nicaragua were covered in 1999 due to the destruction from Hurricane Mitch a year earlier. El Salvador was added in 2001 after a series of earthquakes.



ROCKVILLE, Maryland: In this May 16, 2017 photo, Nancy Vasquez, a Salvadoran citizen with a short-term and renewable legal immigration status in the US called Temporary Protected Status (TPS), cleans up her food truck at a construction site. — AP

Citizens of those three countries now make up 80 percent of the 435,000 people from 10 nations with TPS. Their status has been renewed every 18 months as other countries, including Rwanda, Kuwait and Lebanon, have come and gone from the list.

Haphazard

The program covers only people who were in the US, legally or otherwise, at the time their countries were included by presidential decree. That's about 10 percent of the Central American-born population in the US now. Those who arrived after the TPS decrees aren't protected. A bill introduced in Congress would require the Senate and House of Representatives to approve any extensions of TPS, meaning it would no longer be a unilateral decision by the executive branch. As it stands now, the system is haphazard and has created the expectation that people will be allowed to stay, said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies. "This idea that they should be indefinitely strung along is absurd," Krikorian said. "It's no way to run an immigration system."

Governments of nations covered by the plan devote much of their relationship with Washington lobbying to extend it. Both they and previous policymakers in Washington have feared that a mass return of citizens would cause economic and social chaos by hitting a crucial source of foreign income, remittances from workers abroad, while flooding impoverished countries with jobless people. "The biggest neg-

ative impact would be for our countries because of those remittances," said Vasquez, a 47-year-old who originally came to the US on a tourist visa in 1999 and stayed when she got TPS. "They are going to miss that money."

Advocates of extending the program say it would be cruel to disrupt families that are now firmly established in the US while conditions in their homelands remain troubled. "We are talking about people who have created new lives and have done everything within the legal system to stay here," said Julio Calderon, an immigration activist from Honduras who lives in South Florida and whose parents have TPS. Taking the status away from Haitians, even as conditions there remain difficult, would set a precedent, he said. "This is why I'm scared."

Gang Violence

Immigrant advocates also say those sent back to Honduras and El Salvador could be exposed to horrific gang violence, which has driven recent waves of migrants who aren't covered by TPS. "The head of DHS recently commented on the fact that the gangs are like terrorist organizations," said Anne Pillsbury, director of Central American Legal Assistance in New York. "So one would hope that they wouldn't want to send people back to a country with terrorists."

Cecilia Menjvar, a University of Kansas sociology professor who has conducted surveys of people with the status, said 90 percent of people on TPS are in the labor force and many have started businesses. — AP

TEMER PICKS JUSTICE MINISTER

BRASILIA: Scandal-plagued Brazilian President Michel Temer yesterday named a new justice minister, placing a respected legal figure in the position as the leader defends himself against corruption allegations. The presidential palace gave no reason for naming Torquato Jardim as his new justice minister in a short written statement.

Since March, Jardim was the nation's transparency minister, a portfolio created by Temer. Before that, he had served as a justice on Brazil's top electoral court. Jardim replaces Osmar Serraglio, a lawmaker from Temer's own party, who had been in that post for just three months. A source close to Temer told Reuters that Serraglio will soon be announced as the new transparency minister. The Justice Ministry oversees Brazil's federal police, who along with federal prosecutors are leading massive corruption probes, including the "Car Wash" political graft investigation now looking at Temer. Carlos Sobral, head of the

national association of federal police inspectors, said the abrupt change in ministers was worrying. "We were surprised with the news of the change," he said in an emailed statement. "Any changes in the Justice Ministry command create uncertainty and worry about possible interference in the work done by federal police."

Sobral called on Congress to approve a measure pending before the body that would grant autonomy to federal police. Temer's change in ministers came as thousands of protesters gathered on the golden sands of Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro to demand the president's resignation and that direct elections be called. Several of Brazil's most famous actors and musicians led the rally, which despite the star appeal drew a smaller crowd than the 50,000 demonstrators organizers expected. Police said they would not divulge an estimate on the number of people present. — Reuters

US NAVY SKYDIVER DIES IN PARACHUTE ACCIDENT IN NY

JERSEY CITY: A member of the US Navy's elite skydiving demonstration team plunged to his death on Sunday when his parachute malfunctioned while performing in an aerial exhibition as part of New York Harbor's annual Fleet Week festival. US Coast Guard personnel pulled the parachutist from the water near the mouth of the Hudson River moments after the accident, witnessed by thousands of spectators watching the show from Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The skydiver, a Navy SEAL commando performing as a member of the US Navy Parachute Team, the Leap Frogs, was pronounced dead at the Jersey City Medical Center. Rear Admiral Jack Scorby told a news conference outside the hospital. The parachutist's identity was being publicly withheld pending notification of his family. The skydiver and other team members were conducting a jump into Liberty State Park when his "parachute failed to open properly and he landed in the water" adjacent to the park, Scorby said.

The admiral offered no further explanation about the cause of the accident except to say the parachute "malfunctioned". Eyewitnesses said the skydivers jumped from helicopters. The Leap Frogs were performing as part of Fleet Week, a weeklong showcase that brings dozens of US warships and thousands of service members to the New York City area every year. The parachute team comprises active-duty Navy SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen and support personnel. It is sanctioned by the Defense Department and recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration, according to its website.

Bjoern Kils, 37, of Jersey City, was watching the event from a boat when he saw three Leap Frogs jump from a helicopter, complete their aerial maneuvers and land. "Almost the same time that they touched down in Liberty State Park we heard a splash and turned around very quick. I saw the water splash, and apparently there was a fourth parachutist," said Kils, who runs charter boats. Kils recounted seeing emergency responders pull a man from the water and attempt to render cardiopulmonary resuscitation. "He was just limp in the water," he said. —Reuters

Recall

Product	Pajero	Product Model Year	Pajero 2010 - 2013
Defect	MMC announces a recall to preventive and investigation purpose for certain PASSENGER side airbag inflator.	No. of Vehicles Covered	6898 Vehicles
Repair	Replace inflator kit Passenger side airbag	Chassis Number Involved	From JMYLRV95WAJ708313 To JMYMYV87WJL704494
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NEPAL CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF MT EVEREST CONQUEST

AFTER EVEREST RECORD, INDIAN WOMAN EYES UNCLIMBED PEAKS

KATHMANDU: Nepal's mountaineering community was celebrating the first conquest of Mount Everest 64 years ago yesterday, as well as this year's climbing season during which hundreds scaled the world's highest peak. A ceremony yesterday marking the first successful Everest climb by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide, Tenzing Norgay in 1953 also honored several others who have contributed to the climbing industry, said Ang Tshering of the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

The industry suffered back-to-back tragedies in 2014 and 2015, when deadly avalanches forced the mountain's early

closure. This year's season, which began in March and ends tomorrow, saw hundreds of climbers reach the top of the 8,850-m peak despite severe weather conditions. Last year was also considered a successful season, during which hundreds reached the top but five climbers died.

Six climbers died in the attempt this season, and all but that of American doctor Roland Yearwood had been recovered by Sunday. The three Sherpa guides who attempted to retrieve Yearwood's body said the location was too dangerous to reach, according to Murari Sharma of Everest Parivar Expedition agency. On Sunday, rescuers brought

down from Everest the bodies of an Indian climber who died this year and two Indians who died last year.

Meanwhile, a 38-year-old Indian climber who made the fastest double ascent of Mount Everest and became the first woman to reach the highest point on earth twice in five days, says she will now turn her attention to smaller unclimbed peaks. Anshu Jamsenpa, from India's mountainous northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, climbed Everest by its Southeast Ridge route on May 16. She repeated the feat on May 21, beating a record set by a Nepali woman, Chhurim Sherpa, who made the dual

climb in seven days in 2011. Both ascents are expected to be certified by the Nepali government this week, a tourism department official said.

Anshu, who like many people in the Indian state is known by her first name, also climbed the 8,850 m summit twice in 10 days in 2011. She climbed it again in 2013. A motivational speaker and trainer in mountaineering, Anshu said she felt an emotional attachment to Everest. "When I go high up I rediscover myself and can realize the strength of my mind," she told Reuters in Kathmandu over the weekend after returning from the mountain.

Now she has a new goal - to summit Kangto, the highest peak in Arunachal Pradesh, which is 7,042 m tall and has never been climbed, and other unclimbed peaks. She said people had been telling her to take on the so-called seven summits, the highest peaks on the seven continents. "But before that I want to climb other virgin peaks in the Himalayas," she said. The mother of two began her expedition in April with a blessing from the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who gave her a hug. "That long hug had a magic," she said. "I could not tell him anything. I became speechless." —Agencies



ALLAHABAD, India: In this March 26, 2017 photo, stray cows roam on a street as volunteers of the Hindu nationalist organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh march to mark Vikram Samvat's new year. —AP

INDIA CURBS ON CATTLE SALE COULD HURT INDUSTRY, DIETS

NEW DELHI: A new ban imposed by India's government on the sale of cows and buffaloes for slaughter to protect animals considered holy by many Hindus is drawing widespread protests from state governments and animal-related industries. Many state governments criticized the ban as a blow to beef and leather exports that will leave hundreds of thousands jobless and deprive millions of Christians, Muslims and poor Hindus of a cheap source of protein. The rules, which took effect Friday, require that cattle traders pledge that any cows or buffaloes sold are not intended for slaughter.

At least one state government is planning a challenge in court. Some have said the ban infringes on states' commercial autonomy and are calling for a nationwide protest. Others say the ban will hurt farmers who will be forced to continue feeding aged animals, and that millions of unproductive cattle will be turned out on the streets. The new rules also propose the setting up of a vast animal monitoring bureaucracy, including animal inspectors and veterinarians, to ensure the rules are followed. Traditionally, cattle fairs and markets allow the sale of animals headed to abattoirs to provide raw materials used in dozens of industries, including leather making, soap and fertilizer.

The state governments have appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to repeal the order, which they say was issued without consultations with them. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party has been pushing a Hindu nationalist agenda since it came to power in 2014. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the top elected official in southern Kerala state, wrote to Modi on Sunday describing the restrictions as a "drastic move" that would have "far-reaching consequences and would be detrimental to democracy."

He said the move amounts to "an intrusion into the rights of the states" in India's federal structure and violates the principles of the Indian Constitution. The government of West Bengal state also protested the move, saying the Modi government cannot make such decisions unilaterally. Hindus, who form 80 percent of India's 1.3 billion people, consider cows to be sacred, and for many eating beef is taboo. In many Indian states, the slaughtering of cows and selling of beef is either restricted or banned. India has the highest number of vegetarians in the world as a result of Hinduism's predominance, although not all Hindus are vegetarians.

While the eating of beef is not a crime in many states, slaughtering a cow carries a punishment of up to seven years in jail throughout the country. In Gujarat state, lawmakers have approved a bill increasing the punishment for killing a cow to life imprisonment. Critics say the new rules, ostensibly to protect the way animals are treated and transported, are in keeping with demands of Hindu nationalists, who have long been pressing for a nationwide ban on the sale of beef. The past two years have also seen a rise in vigilante attacks on Muslims and lower caste Hindus involved in the cattle trade. Several deaths have occurred.

Meanwhile, leather and meat industry groups said the ban could push them out of business. Fauzan Alavi of the All India Meat and Livestock Exporters Association said beef exports, which had been growing rapidly, have already been affected. "Such a drastic move is bound to hit the industry," Alavi said Sunday. The government "has handed a death certificate to us," said Ramesh K Juneja of the Council of Leather Exports. —AP

CYCLONE CHURNS TOWARDS B'DESH

STORM TOLL REACHES 200 IN SRI LANKA, INDIA

DHAKA/AGALAWATTE, Sri Lanka: An intensifying cyclone churned north towards Bangladesh yesterday after heavy rain in Sri Lanka and thunderstorms in eastern India killed more than 200 people, with more torrential downpours forecast. Impoverished Bangladesh, hit by cyclones every year, warned that some low-lying coastal areas were "likely to be inundated by a storm surge of four to five feet (1.2 to 1.5 m)" above normal and raised the storm danger signal, on a scale of one to 10, to seven.

Cyclone Mora was expected to make landfall today morning. Floods and landslides in tropical Sri Lanka, off India's southern tip, have killed at least 177 people in recent days, authorities said, with 24 killed in storms in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, either by lightning strikes or under collapsed village huts. India warned of heavy rain in the northeastern states of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh as Mora moved further up the Bay of Bengal.

supplies for the past two days. Water has gone above three-storey buildings and people survive by running to higher ground."

Minimizing Losses

Bangladesh is hit by storms, many of them devastating, every year. Half a million people had their lives disrupted in low-lying coastal areas such as Barisal and Chittagong in May last year. It is still recovering from flash floods that hit the northeast, affecting millions of people, in April. Rice prices have reached record highs and state reserves are at 10-year lows in the wake of flooding that wiped out around 700,000 tonnes of rice.

Authorities will relocate thousands from coastal areas before Mora hits, officials said. About 10 million of

Bangladesh's population of 160 million live in low-lying coastal areas. "We have taken all sorts of steps to minimise any losses, including moving people away from the most vulnerable areas," Kazi Adbur Rahman, a senior government official in Cox's Bazaar, told Reuters by telephone. The Sri Lankan military has sent in helicopters and boats in rescue efforts in the most widespread disaster since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. About 100 people were missing in total.

The meteorology department forecast torrential rains over the next 36 hours. Residents in seven densely populated districts in the south and centre of Sri Lanka were asked to move away from unstable slopes in case of further landslides. The wettest time of the year in Sri Lanka's south is

usually during the southern monsoon, from May to September. The island also receives heavy rains in the North West monsoonal season from November to February.

Reuters witnessed some people stranded on the upper floors of their homes. Civilians and relief officials in boats distributed food, water and other relief items. One of the worst-hit areas was the southern coastal district of Matara which is home to black tea plantations. Rohan Pethiyagoda, head of the Tea Board in the world's largest exporter of top quality teas, said supplies would be disrupted for the next auction due to a lack of transportation. Sri Lanka has already appealed for international assistance from the United Nations and neighboring countries. —Reuters



KIRIBATHGALA, Sri Lanka: Army soldiers carry the body of a victim of a mudslide in this village in Ratnapura district yesterday. —AFP

PAKISTAN PROTESTER KILLED IN PROTEST AGAINST POWER CUTS

PESHAWAR: Violence erupted at demonstrations against power cuts in several towns in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, leading to clashes with police that killed a protester and wounded several, officials said. Hundreds of protesters burned and rampaged through government offices and police checkpoints, snatching valuables and police weapons, said Deputy Commissioner Malakand district, Zafar Ali Shah. They tried to burn a main power station in the town of Dargai, he said. Similar clashes took place in Peshawar, Charsadda and Swat.

In Peshawar, protesters took to the streets for the third day of rallies and roadblocks, said police official Nasir Khan. At least two offices of the power supply department were ransacked, he said. Provincial lawmaker Fazl-e-Rabbi who led the rallies in Peshawar, said the protests would continue until the federal government ends disparity in the power distribution.

"We have complained to the power distributors to end the unscheduled outages, but they're not listening to us," said Shah, the deputy commissioner. The protesters have

been angered by the daily 10-12 hours of power cuts in the summer heat. The fact that Muslims fast and abstain from drinking water in daylight hours during the holy month of Ramadan has made things worse, Shah said. Power cuts are common in energy-starved Pakistan. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif took notice and instructed authorities to ensure power supply during Ramadan, especially at dawn, when Muslims start the daylong fast, and at dusk, when they break it with an evening meal, the iftar. —AP

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WOMAN TO LEAD INDONESIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ALLIANCE

MUMBAI: Indigenous women in Indonesia are taking the lead in the fight to protect their land and communities as a rise in conflicts threatens tribes living on lands coveted by extractive and logging companies, a prominent activist said. Rukka Sombolinggi, 44, of the Torajan tribe from the highlands of Sulawesi island, this week becomes the first woman at the helm of the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN). "This is the first time we had not one, but two female candidates for the post. This is progress," Sombolinggi, secretary general for AMAN, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Indigenous women face discrimination on several fronts: We are poor, we are indigenous, and we are women. But this has strengthened our resolve to assert our rights, because when women have equal rights, our communities benefit." A sprawling archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, Indonesia is home to an estimated 50 to 70 million indigenous people. Many do not have formal titles to the land their families have lived on for generations.

For decades, they have been locked in fierce battles with logging, palm oil and mining companies that have been expanding into their homelands in the resource-

rich nation. In 2013, Indonesia's Constitutional Court ruled indigenous people have the right to manage forests where they live, in a verdict hailed as a victory for indigenous land rights. Last December, President Joko Widodo announced Indonesia would return 13,000 hectares of customary lands to nine indigenous groups - and committed to giving back a total of 12.7 million hectares to local and indigenous groups, in a decision hailed as a breakthrough for indigenous rights.

But while Widodo has pledged to improve their lives, activists including Sombolinggi say his plans to boost infrastructure and energy production mean

more tribes are at risk of being displaced, and even becoming extinct. "There are some good policies. But many of them are not implemented at the provincial and local level, where they are most needed," Sombolinggi said.

Women leaders are essential to ensuring the protection of indigenous rights, she said, noting that Indonesia's 30 percent gender quota to increase women's representation in parliament is usually filled by the wives of wealthy men. "Poor indigenous women cannot compete with these women," Sombolinggi said by Skype from Jakarta. "In the 80s and 90s, indigenous women stood at the frontline

against oppression and land grabbing, but it has become harder over the past years for women to engage."

AMAN, which represents about 17 million indigenous people from more than 2,300 indigenous communities in Indonesia, is empowering women to play a more active role, she said. A draft law to recognise and protect indigenous peoples' rights - the result of years of lobbying by AMAN and other organisations - was listed last year by the House of Representatives as a priority for 2017. The law is at the top of Sombolinggi's to-do list. "Our most critical task is to ensure this law is passed and that the rights of our people are protected," she said. —Reuters



MARAWI, Philippines: Displaced residents fleeing by truck to safer areas stop by the roadside as government troops battle with militants yesterday. — AP

PHILIPPINES MILITARY 'CLOSE' TO DEFEATING ISLAMIST REBELS

SEVERAL THOUSAND CIVILIANS STUCK IN MARAWI

MARAWI, Philippines: The Philippines military said yesterday it was close to retaking a southern city held for a seventh day by Islamist militants, as helicopters unleashed more rockets on positions held by the rebels aligned with Islamic State. The clashes in Marawi city with the Maute militia, a group hardly known a year ago, has become the biggest security challenge of Rodrigo Duterte's 11-month presidency, with gunmen resisting air and ground assaults and still in control of central parts of a city of 200,000 people.

The military said the rebels may be getting help from "sympathetic elements" and fighters they had freed from jail during the rampage that started on Tuesday and caught the military by surprise. "Our ground commanders have assured that the end is almost there," military spokesman, Restituto Padilla told reporters. "We can control who comes in and who comes out, who moves around and who doesn't. And we're trying to isolate all these pockets of resistance."

More than 100 people have been killed, most of them militants, according to the military, and most of the city's residents have fled. The military said the Maute group was still present in nine of the city's 96 Barangays, or communities. The Maute group's ability to fight off the military for so long will add to fears that Islamic State's radical ideology is spreading in the southern Philippines and it could become a haven for militants from Indonesia, Malaysia and beyond.

The government believes the Maute carried out their assault before the Muslim holy month

of Ramadan to capture the attention of Islamic State and earn recognition as a Southeast Asian affiliate. The military's estimates of the size of the rebel force and the extent of its occupation have fluctuated each day. It has maintained throughout that it is in full control of the situation and says supporters of the Maute were making exaggerated claims on social media.

According to witnesses, men with black headbands typical of Islamic State were seen on city streets in recent days. A photograph taken by a resident shows 10 men carrying assault rifles and dressed entirely in black. A Reuters photographer saw an Islamic State flag in an oil drum in an abandoned street yesterday, where chickens roamed in front of damaged shops and homes.

Lockdown

Iligan City, 38 km away, was overflowing with evacuees and was on lockdown over fears that fighters had sneaked out of Marawi by blending in with civilians. "We don't want what's happening in Marawi to spill over in Iligan," said Colonel Alex Aduca, chief of the Fourth Mechanized Infantry Battalion. Sixty-one militants, 20 members of the security forces and 19 civilians have been killed since Tuesday, when Maute rebels went on the rampage after a botched military operation to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, who the government believes is a point man for Islamic State in the Philippines.

Some troops tried to eliminate Maute snipers yesterday as others guarded deserted streets,

taken back block-by-block. Helicopters circled the lakeside city and smoke poured out of some buildings. Artillery explosions echoed. Though most people have left, thousands are stranded, worried they could be intercepted by militants at checkpoints on routes out of the city. There were still bodies of civilians in Marawi and residents urged the military to halt air strikes, said Zia Alonto Adiong, a politician involved in evacuation efforts. "The anticipation of death is worse than death itself," he told news channel ANC. "We appeal to our military forces to do a different approach."

The military said air strikes were taken on "known and verified enemy positions". "We are using precision ammunition in our surgical air strikes," said another army spokesman, Colonel Edgard Arevalo. "We have highly skilled and trained pilots delivering the payload." Bodies of what appeared to be executed civilians were found in a ravine outside Marawi on Sunday as the crisis took a more sinister turn. Most of the eight men were shot in the head and some had bound hands.

Duterte imposed martial law last week on Mindanao, an island of 22 million people where both Marawi and Iligan are located, to quell the unrest and wipe out militancy. He made an unconventional offer on Saturday to Muslim separatists and communist rebels to join his fight against extremists, and said he would give them the same pay and benefits as government troops. — Reuters

FACEBOOK 'BAN' OF SLUR SPARKS MYANMAR OUTCRY

YANGON: Myanmar netizens were in an uproar yesterday after Facebook seemingly banned people from posting the word "kalar", often used as a slur against Muslims, at a time of rising Islamophobia in the country. Facebook is under global pressure to clamp down on hate speech, violent threats or deliberately misleading information on their platform - with efforts showing varying degrees of success.

Dozens of users in Myanmar reported being temporarily barred from the site recently after posting the controversial term kalar, which is frequently used as an insult for the country's embattled Muslim minority. Some users said they were even blocked after writing other words that include the same sound in the Burmese alphabet, highlighting the difficulties Facebook has monitoring millions of posts in multiple languages.

Aung Kaung Myat said he had been prevented from liking, posting and sharing content on the site for 24 hours last week for writing about the apparent ban, as had many of his friends. "It is ridiculous," he said. "I became a victim of it myself when I wrote: 'Facebook is deleting the posts that include the word 'kalar'." Yarzar Soe-Oo said he was barred on Friday after posting a jokey quip about eating Indian soup ("kalar pal hin") while sitting in a chair ("kalar htaing").

A spokeswoman for Facebook said the company was working to combat hate speech but as "our teams process millions of pieces of reported content each week... we sometimes make mistakes". A spokesman for the Myanmar government said it had not pushed for a ban.

'We own Kalar'

Kalar is a deeply controversial term in Myanmar, where it is used to refer to foreigners in general but most commonly to describe people of Indian origin and anything relating to their culture. Over the years it has also been turned into a derogatory slur by Buddhist nationalists against Muslims. Two angry Facebook users have responded to the apparent ban by creating an event called "We own Kalar" in protest.

By early afternoon some 1,400 people had said they were interested in attending the gathering, scheduled for tomorrow in Yangon. "Even though no action is taken against fake accounts which share hate speech and spew abuse... action is taken over (words we use every day)," said the organizers. "We own the word as we have been using it for decades and over the centuries."

The push comes as Myanmar's government has been seeking to clamp down on hate speech after a spike in anti-Muslim actions by Buddhist hardliners. They have shut down religious events, forced two Yangon schools accused of illegally doubling up as mosques to close and this month clashed with Muslims after pushing police to raid a house in their neighborhood.

Last week Myanmar's top Buddhist authority officially banned ultra-nationalist Ma Ba Tha movement, which responded on Sunday by simply changing their name. "If you write Ma Ba Tha, you can erase the words. But no one can erase Ma Ba Tha from your heart," leader Tilawka Biwuntha told the gathering. — AFP



NAYPYIDAW: Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi speaks during the closing ceremony of the second session of the Union Peace Conference yesterday. — AFP

PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES SEIZE 605 KG OF METH FROM CHINA

MANILA: Philippine authorities said yesterday that they have seized 605 kg of high-grade methamphetamine shipped from China following a tip from the Chinese government. National Bureau of Investigation officials said the drugs, with a street value of 6.05 billion pesos (\$121.4 million), were seized over the weekend from a brokerage warehouse in metropolitan Manila, while a portion was intercepted from a shipment consignee.

The operation was jointly conducted with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, police and the Bureau of Customs, which alerted the NBI on information from China's Office of National Narcotics Control Commission about a large shipment of illegal drugs. "This is a good sign of cooperation not only of the different agencies

under the present administration but also the international community," NBI Deputy Director Ferdinand Lavin said at a news conference.

The NBI seized 505 kg of the drugs, popularly known as shabu, from a warehouse in Valenzuela City in operations Friday and Saturday. The drugs were contained in plastic bags inside metal cylinders that were placed in four crates.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency also seized 100 kg from another warehouse of a consignee on Saturday. Two suspects who received the illegal shipment have been taken into custody. Since taking office last year, President Rodrigo Duterte has launched a war on illegal drugs that has left thousands of suspected drug dealers and addicts dead. — AP



MANILA: A man passes a box of rubber gloves after they arranged packs of seized methamphetamine at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday. — AP

JAPAN PUBLIC SPLIT ON IDEA TO CITE MILITARY IN CONSTITUTION

TOKYO: Poll results released yesterday show that about half of Japan's population supports a constitutional revision that would clarify the legality of the country's military, a new approach Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is proposing as his party struggles to gain public support for a change. Abe proposed recently that Japan in some way indicate the existence of the Self-Defense Forces, which is not spelled out in

Article 9 of the constitution. The article renounces war and the use of force to settle international disputes.

He made the proposal this month in what was seen as a compromise, but opponents see it as a step to justify expanding Japan's military capabilities, which currently have to be kept to a minimum. In the Nikkei newspaper poll, 51 percent of 1,595 respondents supported including a refer-

ence to the Self-Defense Forces in Article 9. Thirty-six percent were opposed. Recent polls by other major media outlets also showed mixed results.

Japan decided it had the right under the 1947 constitution to have a military for self-defense, but some legal experts have questioned that, though fewer people do so now. Abe and his party have maintained the constitutionality of the Self-Defense Forces, saying every nation has the right of self-defense as allowed under the United Nations charter. Citing his party's position, opponents have grown skeptical over Abe's latest proposal and intention of bringing up the Self-Defense Force legality issue. Experts say Abe's proposal could lower a hurdle for public support and may be good enough for a symbolic first change to the constitution, which Abe said he wants enacted by 2020.

Japan's 70-year-old constitution has never been revised. Japan's ruling party has long advocated a more drastic revision, but the public generally supports the war-renouncing article. The party and its nationalistic supporters view the country's postwar constitution as the legacy of Japan's defeat in World War II and an imposition of the victor's world order and values weighing too much on individuals' rights. The party-proposed revisions to the constitution released in 2012 called for upgrading the Self-Defense Forces to a full armed force and establishing a military court. — AP



In this April 17, 2017 photo, Japan's ground self-defense force troop members wait to board the plane as they start leaving South Sudan as part of the process to end their five-year participation in the ongoing UN peacekeeping mission. — AP

N KOREA FIRES SCUD-CLASS BALLISTIC MISSILE

Continued from Page 1

an unprecedented pace in an effort to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of hitting the mainland United States. North Korea was likely showing its determination to push ahead in the face of international pressure to rein in its missile program and "to pressure the (South Korean) government to change its policy on the North," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman Roh Jae-cheon said.

It was the third ballistic missile test launch since South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in took office on May 10 pledging to engage with the reclusive neighbor in dialogue. Moon says sanctions alone have failed to resolve the growing threat from the North's advancing nuclear and missile program. The missile reached an altitude of 120 km (75 miles), Roh said.

"The assessment is there was at least one missile but we are analyzing the number of missiles," he said. North Korea, which has conducted dozens of missile tests and tested two nuclear bombs since the beginning of 2016 in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, says the program is necessary to counter US aggression.

The White House said President Donald Trump had been briefed about the launch. The US Pacific Command said it tracked what appeared to be a short-range ballistic missile for six minutes and assessed it did not pose a threat to North America. The United States has said it was looking at discussing with China a new UN Security Council resolution and that Beijing, North Korea's main diplomatic ally and neighbor, realizes time was limited to rein in its weapons program through negotiations.

Trump portrayed the missile test as an affront to China in a morning post on Twitter. "North Korea has shown great disrespect for their neighbor, China, by shooting off yet another ballistic missile...but China is trying hard!" he wrote. US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, asked what a military conflict with North Korea might look like if diplomacy failed, warned on Sunday it would be "probably the worst kind of fighting in most people's lifetimes".

"The North Korean regime has hundreds of artillery cannons and rocket launchers within range of one of the most densely populated cities on Earth, which is the capital of South Korea," Mattis told CBS news program "Face the

Nation". "And in the event of war, they would bring danger to China and to Russia as well," he said.

Testing new capabilities

China reiterated that UN Security Council resolutions had "clear rules" about North Korean missile activities and it urged Pyongyang not to contravene them. "The situation on the Korean peninsula is complex and sensitive, and we hope all relevant sides maintain calm and exercise restraint, ease the tense situation as soon as possible and put the issue back onto the correct track of peaceful dialogue," China's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Russia condemned the launch and also called for restraint, "including towards military activity," from the partners it was working with, the RIA news agency quoted a deputy Russian foreign minister as saying. Japan lodged a protest against the test missile, which appeared to have landed in its exclusive economic zone.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed action along with other nations to deter Pyongyang's repeated provocations. "As we agreed at the recent G7, the issue of North Korea is a top priority for the international community," Abe told reporters in brief televised remarks. "Working with the United States, we will take specific action to deter North Korea." Seoul's new liberal administration has said Pyongyang's repeated test launches were dashing hopes for peace.

South Korea's Moon called a meeting of the National Security Council, South Korea's Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. North Korea last test-fired a ballistic missile on May 21 off its east coast and said on Sunday it had tested a new anti-aircraft weapon supervised by leader Kim Jong Un. It has tested Scud-type short-range missiles many times in the past, most recently in April, according to US officials. However, experts say it may be trying to test new capabilities that may be fed into its efforts to build an ICBM.

"There are many possibilities ... It could have been a test for a different type of engine. Or to verify the credibility of the main engine for ICBM's first stage rocket," said Kim Dong-yub, a military expert at Kyungnam University's Far Eastern Studies department in Seoul.

Modified versions of the Scud have a range of up to 1,000 km (620 miles). Today, the United States will test an existing missile defense system to try to intercept an ICBM, the first such test, officials said last week. — Reuters

FEARS GROW OF INCREASING IS Foothold...

Continued from Page 1

Officials say the commander, Isnlon Hapilon, who is one of Washington's most-wanted militants, is still hiding somewhere in the city.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law for 60 days in the south last week after the militants went on a deadly rampage in Marawi following a failed military raid to capture Hapilon.

In recent years, small militant groups have emerged in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia and have begun unifying under the banner of the Islamic State group. Jose Calida, the top Philippine prosecutor, said last week that Indonesians and Malaysians were among the fighters in Marawi, and that the violence on the large southern island of Mindanao "is no longer a rebellion of Filipino citizens."

Rohan Gunaratna, a terrorism expert at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, believes that IS and the smaller regional groups are working together to show their strength and declare a Philippine province of the caliphate that IS says it created in the Middle East. He said the fighting in Marawi, along with smaller battles elsewhere in the southern Philippines, may be precursors to declaring a province, which would be "a huge success for the terrorists."

Last week, twin suicide bombings in Jakarta, Indonesia, claimed by IS killed three policemen. While Indonesia has been fighting militants since 2002, the rise of the Islamic State group has breathed new life into local militant networks and raised concern about the risk of Indonesian fighters returning home from the Middle East.

Experts have warned that as IS is weakened in Iraq and Syria, battered by years of American-led attacks, Mindanao could become a focal point for regional fighters.

Southeast Asian fighters fleeing the Middle East "could

look to Mindanao to provide temporary refuge as they work their way home," said a report late last year by the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, predicting a high risk of regional violence. Marawi is regarded as the heartland of the Islamic faith on Mindanao island. The fighters' support network in Marawi remains unclear, though the power of one militant group - the Mautes - has grown in recent years. Led by members of the city's Maute clan, the group has become increasingly active in a number of towns across Lanao del Sur province, where Marawi is located, and has been instrumental in fighting off government forces over the past week. Muslim rebels have been waging a separatist rebellion in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation for decades. The largest armed group dropped its secessionist demands in 1996, when it signed a Muslim autonomy deal with the Philippine government. Amid continuing poverty and other social ills, restiveness among minority Muslims has continued.

Hapilon is an Islamic preacher and former commander of the Abu Sayyaf militant group who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014. He now heads an alliance of at least 10 smaller militant groups, including the Maute. Maute militants flew an IS flag in one of the city's mosques last year, a local resident said, speaking on condition of anonymity, fearing for his safety. He said they also pressured local Muslim preachers, accustomed to a less-strict form of Islam, not to speak out against them.

But Acmad Aliponto, a 56-year-old court sheriff who decided not to flee the city, said that while the militants were well-armed, he believes they have little local support, and that the recent violence could turn more people against them. "In the end their relatives and everyday people may be the ones who will kill them," he said. "Look at what they did. So many were affected." — AP

FASTING: THE 4TH PILLAR OF ISLAM

Continued from Page 1

It appears clearly from these verses that fasting is a compulsory act of worship; it lasts only one month (29 or 30 days), the ninth month of the lunar year. This holy month is called Ramadan; it is the month when the Holy Quran was sent down to mankind as a reference and guidance for life. Ramadan's beginning and end are based on the visual sightings of the crescent as it was narrated by Abu Hurairah who said that "the Messenger of Allah said, 'Fast when you see it and stop fasting when you see it, and if it is obscured from you (too cloudy), then count it as thirty (days).'"

Fasting is obligatory for Muslim adults except those who are sick (physically or mentally unable) or travelling; they can make up the fast later on, or if they are chronically ill, they can feed a fasting person for each day they miss. Fasting is from dawn to sunset; it is about 16 hours this year in Kuwait. During these hours Muslims must not eat, drink, smoke or engage in any physical intimacy. They have also to avoid sinful behavior that may reduce the reward of fasting, such as fighting, telling

lies, insulting, backbiting, and so on.

Fasting is an opportunity for soul purification: in Ramadan, Muslims make great efforts to be closer to Allah by increasing worship, reciting the Holy Quran, giving charity to the poor, performing additional evening prayers, and all sorts of good deeds. It allows Muslims to also share the needs and sufferings of deprived families and to appreciate the gifts that Allah offers them. Spiritual rewards for fasting are magnified, according to Al-Bukhari and Muslim, who reported that Allah the Most High said, "Except for fasting, for it is for Me and I will give recompense for it, since he leaves off his desires and his food for Me."

The Holy month of Ramadan is closed by the festival of Eid ul-Fitr as a reward for Muslims who spent it in worshipping, fasting, praying and obeying Allah.

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ADMIT BEDOONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: ASSEMBLY...

Continued from Page 1

The lawmaker asked if anyone has facilitated the entry of Fali who was deported from Kuwait less than 10 years ago for insulting the Prophet's (PBUH) companions and sowing sectarian divisions. It was Tabtabaei himself who threatened to grill former prime minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah if Fali was not deported.

The lawmaker asked the minister about the mechanism of security screening on visit visas and why there was no screening on this case. Tabtabaei also asked the minister why Fali was not sent to the public prosecution

to interrogate him for the reasons he came back to Kuwait years after he was deported. The lawmaker also asked the minister about the duration Fali spent in Kuwait and in what way he was deported and if his fingerprints were taken this time. He also asked if the ministry has launched an investigation to see if some people helped Fali to enter the country.

MP Yousef Al-Fadhlah called on authorities yesterday to ensure that the procedures of awarding the contract of Al-Zour North power plant were legal. He threatened to open the file of the project if he finds that the procedures were faulty and involved any squandering of public funds.

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MODI SEEKING TO MEND RUSSIA TIES ON EUROPE TOUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will seek to repair India's drifting partnership with Russia when he meets President Vladimir Putin this week, amid wariness over Moscow's renewed interest in New Delhi's backyard, analysts say.

The two leaders will look to stem a decline in trade between the once robust economic partners and resolve tensions over their shifting global alliances when they meet on Thursday ahead of a summit in Saint Petersburg. The two countries enjoyed a 70-year alliance forged during the Cold War, when the Soviet Union was India's largest trading partner, diplomatic ally and main arms supplier, providing everything from tanks to aircraft.

But the relationship became unmoored following the collapse of the USSR, as India underwent an economic transformation and increasingly sought to build trade ties with Western nations. That process has accelerated in recent years as New Delhi has orbited closer to Washington, and Russia has fostered relationships with India's chief regional rivals Pakistan and China, analysts say.

Russia remains an important partner for India but "the basis for the relationship is, however, very weak," said Dhruva Jaishankar, foreign policy fellow with Brookings India. "People-to-people exchanges are limited, young Indians are less likely to study Russian, and even areas like energy and information technology, where the two countries have comparative advantages, are underdeveloped," he said.

The two leaders are expected to discuss a framework agreement for Moscow to supply more reactors to a nuclear plant in southern India as the country seeks to reduce its reliance on highly polluting coal.

Russia has supplied two reactors to the plant under a long-delayed agreement, and has been pushing to supply more. A revival of two-way trade, which slumped to below \$8 billion in 2015 despite an ambitious bilateral target of achieving \$30 billion by 2030, will be a key priority during Modi's visit.

Pivot to Pakistan

New Delhi, which is the world's top arms buyer, once relied on Moscow for its military hardware, but has increasingly turned to the United States, France and Israel to update its Soviet-era defence equipment in recent years. Furthermore, Modi is now seeking to manufacture military hardware locally, asking foreign firms to work with domestic contractors under his "Make in India" campaign, in a bid to reduce reliance on costly imports.

Although Russia is close to finalizing a deal to build Kamov military helicopters in India, its recent pivot towards Pakistan has not gone unnoticed in New Delhi. Moscow lifted its embargo on arms supplies to India's arch rival in 2014, according to Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency, and was holding talks on supplying Islamabad with combat helicopters. Moscow also rattled India recently with its decision to support the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a project opposed by New Delhi because it runs through the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir.

The last few years have seen "a parting of the ways on many big issues, in particular on Afghanistan", where Moscow is seeking to broker a peace deal with Taliban insurgents, Jaishankar said.

Moscow-which fought a disastrous military campaign in Afghanistan during the Soviet era-has been increasingly flexing its muscles on the world stage, hosting a regional conference earlier this year that was aimed at facilitating peace talks between the Taliban and Kabul. India has been a key supporter of Kabul's government and has poured more than \$2 billion into the country since the former Taliban regime-which was allied with Pakistan-was toppled in 2001.

But, while New Delhi has traditionally taken a dim view of attempts to negotiate a peace settlement with the Taliban, it does not see Russia's renewed role in Afghanistan as hostile, said Brahma Chellaney from the New Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research. "India appreciates that Russia is re-entering Afghanistan as an important player, and in doing so, not directly working against India's interest," he said. Modi's four-nation tour of Europe will also include stops in Germany and Spain to drum up foreign investment, and a face-to-face with newly-elected President Emmanuel Macron in France. — AFP

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N KOREA MISSILE: TESTING RIVALS, NOT TECHNOLOGY

By Foster Klug and Hyung-jin Kim

North Korea's latest missile test yesterday may have less to do with perfecting its weapons technology than with showing US and South Korean forces in the region that it can strike them at will. South Korean and Japanese officials said the suspected Scud-type short-range missile flew about 450 kilometers (280 miles) yesterday morning before landing in Japan's maritime economic zone, setting off the usual round of condemnation from Washington and the North's neighbors. It's the latest in a string of test launches by North Korea as it seeks to build nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles that can reach the US mainland, a drive that puts North Korea high on the list of foreign policy worries for Japan, Washington and Seoul.

North Korea already has an arsenal of reliable short-range missiles. While North Korean scientists could be tweaking them - for instance, developing a new solid-fuel short-range missile - the North tests these shorter-range missiles much less than it does its less dependable, longer-range missiles. This sets up the possibility that North

Korea hopes to use the test to show it can hit US targets near and far and emphasize its defiance of US-led pressure on its missile and nuclear programs, which has included vague threats from President Donald Trump and the arrival in Korean waters of powerful US military hardware. Scuds are capable of striking US troops in South Korea, for instance, and the two newly developed missiles tested earlier this month have potential ranges that include Japan, Guam and even, according to some South Korean analysts, Alaska.

The missile was launched from the coastal town of Wonsan, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. It landed in Japan's exclusive maritime economic zone, which is set about 200 nautical miles off the Japanese coast, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said. He said there was no report of damage to planes or vessels in the area.

North Korea is still thought to be several years from its goal of being able to target US mainland cities with nuclear ICBMs. South Korea says North Korea has conducted nine ballistic missile tests this year, including one in which four missiles were launched on the same day.

'Reckless acts'

North Korea's state-controlled media had no immediate comment yesterday's test, but released a statement, without mentioning the launch, that accused Seoul and Washington of "aggravating the situation" on the Korean Peninsula by conducting joint military drills and other "reckless acts."

On Sunday, North Korea also said leader Kim Jong Un had watched a separate, successful test of a new type of anti-aircraft guided weapon system. The report didn't say when the test happened. The official Korean Central News Agency cited Kim as ordering officials to mass-produce and deploy the system all over the country so as to "completely spoil the enemy's wild dream to command the air."

Trump has alternated between bellicosity and flattery in his public statements about North Korea, but his administration is still working to solidify a policy on handling the North's nuclear ambitions.

Monday's launch was North's Korea's third ballistic missile launch since South Korean President Moon Jae-in was inaugurated on May 10. He has signaled an interest in expanding civilian exchanges with

North Korea, but it's unclear if he'll be able to push anytime soon for major rapprochement while the North continues to make serious advances in its nuclear and missile programs.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters that "North Korea's provocation by ignoring repeated warnings from international society is absolutely unacceptable." Suga, the Japanese Cabinet secretary, said the missile fell about 300 kilometers (190 miles) north of the Oki islands in southwestern Japan and 500 kilometers (310 miles) west of Sado island in central Japan.

Suga said Japanese officials will discuss North Korea with a senior foreign policy adviser to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Yang Jiechi, who was scheduled to visit Japan later yesterday. China is North Korea's only major ally.

Besides its regular ballistic missile test-launches, North Korea carried out two of its five nuclear tests last year - in January and September. Outside analysts believe North Korea may be able to arm some of its shorter-range missiles with nuclear warheads, though the exact state of its secretive weapons program is unknown. — AP

CHINA'S 'SHARING ECONOMY' BOOMS, BUT CAN IT LAST?

By Yawen Chen and Ryan Woo

Fancy shooting some hoops, but don't have a basketball? Caught in the rain with no umbrella? Smartphone run out of juice? China's rapidly expanding "sharing economy", which already provides car rides and bicycle hire on demand, can help.

For just 2 yuan (\$0.30) an hour, Nate Liu, a student at the Beijing Language and Culture University, rents a basketball from a court-side vending machine by scanning a barcode on his smartphone.

"I didn't want to ask around and borrow a ball after losing mine, so I decided to give it a try," Liu told Reuters. Far away, in China's wetter south, some 20,000 umbrellas have been released on to the streets of Shenzhen, and can be rented - unlocked by another smartphone barcode scan - for just half a yuan (\$0.07) for 30 minutes. The umbrellas can be dropped off "wherever convenient", though users are encouraged to keep them, says Zhao Shuping, founder of E Umbrella Sharing, one of a handful of start-ups offering the service.

China's government has taken notice, and expects the "sharing economy" to grow about 40 percent this year to 4.83 trillion yuan (\$705 billion). By 2020, it should account for around one tenth of GDP, illustrating China's aspiration to become a sharing economy leader on a global scale.

PricewaterhouseCoopers predicts five sharing sectors - car sharing, travel, finance, staffing, and music and video streaming - have the potential to increase global revenue to \$335 billion by 2025 from \$15 billion today. Most of the money behind China's ballooning sharing economy comes from angel investors and venture capital firms.

At least 1.69 billion yuan (\$247 million) in mostly series-A, or early stage, funding was invested in April-May in over two dozen start-ups offering sharing services, according to Reuters calculations based on data from Chinese data firm IT Juzi.

Twelve firms renting out power banks - typically compact, mobile battery chargers - secured 1.13 billion yuan, while newer businesses such as basketball and umbrella-sharing took in about 25 million yuan (\$3.65 million) combined. While mobile-savvy, convenience-obsessed Chinese welcome the innovations, some critics question whether the demand is real, or sustainable. They say the low-revenue, capital-intensive model means profitability can be elusive.

"Young people are embracing renting as a way of life instead of possessing things," said Emma Zhu, investment director at Beijing-based Innoangel fund, who has held off investing in any of these start-ups. "But the sharing model won't work in every situation. In some cases, they're trying to meet genuine demand, while in others they're not."

Some investors say the funding frenzy recalls the spectacular boom and bust of hundreds of Chinese Groupon apps in vogue in 2010-12, noting that most ultimately collapsed after fierce price wars, with losses of around \$1 billion. "In China, the only barrier to entry is who can raise the

most capital - that's good and bad," said Xu Miaoqiang, an investment manager at Unity Ventures in Beijing.

"The upside is, there are funds available to launch a bunch of companies. You may not need a lot of specialization or new technology. The downside is a lot of money could be wasted."

'Speed is everything'

Cai Min, founder of basketball rental firm Zhulegeqiu, says he wants to expand nationwide, and quickly, offering the service at all of China's estimated 100,000 basketball courts, and growing into a multi-billion yuan business, eventually offering all "sharable" products.

The Zhejiang-based start-up received 10 million yuan (\$1.46 million) in early funding from Shanghai-based Modern Capital on May 5, less than two months after Cai came up with the idea. "We are expanding at all cost, because speed is everything," Cai told Reuters. "Of course this means costs have been very high at the early stage because we have to make everything in a month."

He declined to give specific figures, but each of the solar-powered basketball rental machines - currently in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Tianjin and Chengdu - costs

"a few thousand yuan." "The key to success is to get more money than your competitors and to expand faster than them," he said.

Even some keen players, though, have their doubts, saying balls are only used occasionally, so the need to rent is marginal. All sharing services require a one-time deposit - from 99 yuan (\$14.45) for a shared basketball - that gives sharing companies a one-off financial buffer that critics say won't be sufficient in the longer run if profits are slow to take off. The latest wave of "sharing" entrepreneurs has been largely inspired by the rapid rise of Chinese bike-sharing firms such as Mobike and ofo, which have together raised close to 13 billion yuan in a little over two years, extending their services to more Chinese cities and international markets including London and Singapore.

E Umbrella's Zhao said he came up with the idea after his three young children rushed to try out the rental bikes that mushroomed across Shenzhen early this year. "I thought: they're just normal bikes, if this could work, why can't share umbrellas?" he said. Zhao, who patented his coded lock umbrellas in March, said umbrella and lock manufacturers are fighting for his orders, offering him payment exemption for as long as 30 days. — Reuters



BEIJING: A man transporting two parakeets in a long cage tries to get through a busy junction by an electric scooter in Beijing yesterday. China's rapidly expanding "sharing economy", which already provides car rides and bicycle hire on demand, can help. — AP

TER STEGEN EXTENDS BARCA DEAL TO 2022

BARCELONA: German international goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen tied his future to Barcelona by extending his contract with the Catalan giants to 2022 yesterday. "FC Barcelona have reached an agreement with Marc-Andre ter Stegen to extend and improve his contract until June 30, 2022," Barca said in a statement. "His buyout clause will rise to 180 million euros." Ter Stegen has won nine trophies in three seasons since joining from Borussia Moenchengladbach in 2014. However, after sharing duties with Claudio Bravo in his first two campaigns, the 25-year-old has established himself as Barca's undoubted number one in goal since the Chilean joined Manchester City in August. Tying down Ter Stegen is just the latest in a series of high-profile contract renewals at the Camp Nou as Barca prepare for a new era after the departure of coach Luis Enrique. Neymar, Luis Suarez and Ivan Rakitic have all signed long-term deals in the past year, whilst Lionel Messi is expected to become the highest paid player in the world with a bumper renewal in the coming weeks. —AFP

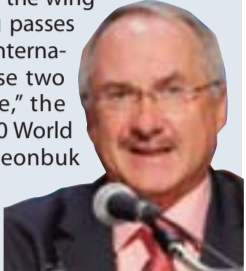


GAY TENNIS PLAYER WANTS COURT STRIPPED OF AUSSIE STADIUM TITLE

PARIS: Richel Hogenkamp, one of the few openly gay players in tennis, wants the Australian Open to take Margaret Court's name off one of its stadiums in protest at the Grand Slam legend's controversial views on homosexuality. Court recently announced she will stop flying with Australian carrier Qantas "where possible" in protest of the airline's support of same-sex marriage. "I am disappointed that Qantas has become an active promoter for same-sex marriage," said the 24-time Grand Slam champion, now a Christian pastor. Hogenkamp, speaking at Roland Garros yesterday, said that Australian Open organisers should consider removing Court's name from the Melbourne venue where the first Grand Slam event of the season takes place in January. "I don't think you should be that outspoken. I have a girlfriend myself. I don't agree with what she's saying," said the 25-year-old, world number 105 Dutchwoman. "So I think it would be a good thing to see if Australian Open can maybe change the name of the stadium, because I think if you're in that kind of position, maybe some players they don't feel so comfortable playing in a stadium named after Margaret Court. I see that many players comment against her. So, if many players stand behind it, I think maybe something can change. Who knows." —AFP

BARCA DUO NOT READY FOR SENIOR KOREAN SIDE: STIELIKE

SEOUL: South Korea have lacked attacking flair and struggled to break teams down in 2018 World Cup qualifying but coach Uli Stielike says it is too soon to bring exciting Barcelona youngsters Lee Seung-woo and Paik Seung-ho into the full national side. Lee and Paik, who have come through the Catalan club's famous La Masia academy and are regarded as two of the most promising talents in Spanish football, have impressed at the ongoing Under-20 World Cup in South Korea. Both players scored in each of the victories over Guinea (3-0) and Argentina (2-1) to help the Koreans reach the last 16, where they will face Portugal today. But while the wing wizardry of Lee and Paik's range of defence-splitting passes have lit up the U-20 World Cup, Stielike said senior international football was an entirely different game. "Those two players have done really well in the group stage," the German told reporters yesterday. "But before the U-20 World Cup started I watched them play (K League side) Jeonbuk Hyundai in a friendly match. "And it was clear that there was a big gap between the Under 20 and senior level. —Reuters



JAPAN TOASTS TAKUMA SATO AFTER INDY 500 TRIUMPH

TOKYO: Formula One misfit Takuma Sato was the toast of Japan yesterday after becoming the first driver from his country to win the storied Indianapolis 500. The 40-year-old, once the butt of jokes in Formula One after several high-speed crashes, roared to victory Sunday to claim one of motor racing's biggest prizes, holding off Brazil's three-time winner Helio Castroneves in a dramatic climax.

Evening editions of Monday's Japanese newspapers carried front-page photos of Sato standing on his car with his hands aloft, while others carried pictures of him pouring milk over his head in the traditional Brickyard celebration. "The best moment of my racing life," blazed a Tokyo Shimbun headline, quoting Sato after he had stolen the thunder of temporary Andretti Autosport teammate Fernando Alonso, the two-time Formula One world champion. Even Japan's normally straight-laced economic daily the Nikkei Shimbun got mildly excited, trumpeting "Japan's first-ever victory." Sato himself could barely contain his joy after winning the Indy 500 at his eighth attempt.

"It's unbelievable," he told local media. "It's so special just to be racing in front of

35,000 fans. "For Japan, for the team and for (engine suppliers) Honda, this is a special victory." Sato dedicated his victory to the people of northeastern Japan still recovering from the deadly tsunami of 2011 which killed more than 18,000 people. "I can't begin to thank the Japanese fans," he said. "It's been a long road. Japan is still struggling to recover (from the disaster) so I hope I can give the children something to dream about."

In contrast to Sunday's thrilling win, Sato's last-lap dash to grab the lead from Dario Franchitti in 2012 was the stuff of nightmares, ending with the Japanese driver in a wall.

That incident did little to dispel the image of Sato, lingering since his Formula One days, as an accident waiting to happen. The Japanese spent seven seasons in F1 but notably incurred the wrath of several of the sport's top drivers, including Michael Schumacher, while former Toyota boss Tsutomu Tomita branded him "reckless." That was all forgotten on Sunday, however, as Sato exorcised his demons with a superb drive. "I knew I could do it," he said. "I was waiting for the moment and the last two laps, the car worked beautifully." —AFP



CHARLOTTE: Austin Dillon, driver of the #3 DOW Salutes Veterans Chevrolet, poses for a photo with the trophy after winning the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday in Charlotte, North Carolina. — AFP

AUTO RACING

DILLON WINS COCA-COLA 600 FOR FIRST NASCAR CUP VICTORY

CONCORD: Austin Dillon passed an out-of-gas Jimmie Johnson two laps from the end in the Coca-Cola 600 for his first NASCAR Cup victory, returning the iconic No. 3 car to Victory Lane early yesterday.

Dillon, the grandson of Hall of Fame car owner Richard Childress, was among several drivers who chose not to pit down the stretch. Johnson ran out of fuel on Lap 399, and Dillon was able to cruise to victory over Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr, who led the most laps at Charlotte Motor Speedway for the third straight season.

"It hasn't sunk in. I can't believe it," Dillon said. "We're in the chase, baby. It's awesome." Dillon did his signature belly slide celebration in the damp grass at Charlotte, outlasting a rain delay of nearly 1 hour, 40 minutes - and several established drivers to take his first checkered flag. Dillon closed racing's biggest day with the surprise victory, following Sebastian

Vettel's win in Formula One's Monaco Grand Prix and Takura Sato's victory in the Indy 500.

Truex took the lead for the final time with 67 laps left, sweeping past Busch to move out front. Truex led a final time with 33 laps left, confident he'd be able to hold on after everyone cycled through a last stop.

Truex has led 756 of the past 1,200 laps in the 600, yet finished shy of the checker flag two of three times. "So that's a little tough to swallow," he said. Matt Kenseth was fourth, and Denny Hamlin fifth. Kurt Busch finished sixth, followed by rookie Erik Jones, Kevin Harvick, Ryan Newman and Dale Earnhardt Jr., who finished 10th in his final Coca-Cola 600 as a full-time driver. Harvick, who started on the pole, overcame wheel problems to finish in the top 10 for a seventh straight time in the Coca-Cola 600. Johnson limped home to finish in 17th.

"I did all that I could from that point and just came up a little bit short," he said.

Harvick may have had to work harder than the rest of the field for his seventh straight top 10 here. Harvick dealt with a loose-fitting wheel much of the first 200 laps to fall a lap down, then slipped on some slick fluid laid down by Ty Dillon to fall back further. But Harvick, who won here in 2011 and 2013, held strong to end in eighth. Larson, the series points leader coming in, was expected to vie for his first Coca-Cola 600. Instead, he started 39th when he couldn't take a qualifying lap Thursday because of trouble clearing inspection. Larson got as high as third during the race before scraping the wall with 153 laps left and needing three trips to the pits to correct the problems, falling to 23rd. Larson's chances ended for good when he tagged the wall again 45 laps later, went to the garage and did not return. He was 33rd, his worst finish of the season. Larson said he got loose in Turn 3 to end his race. "I made a mistake," he said. — AP



INDIANAPOLIS: Takuma Sato of Japan, driver of the #26 Andretti Autosport Honda, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the 101st running of the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motorspeedway on Sunday in Indianapolis, Indiana. — AFP

LEXUS DOMINATES SUPER GT500 PODIUM AT FUJI SPEEDWAY

TOKYO: Following its astonishing monopoly of the top six places in its race debut at Okayama, the Lexus GAZOO Racing LC 500 delivered yet another podium lock-out in the second round of the 2017 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series. A pole-to-flag victory for the #38 ZENT CERUMO LC 500 driven by Yuji Tachikawa and Hiroaki Ishiuragave the Lexus team an well-deserved win on Fuji Speedway - the spiritual home of Lexus high-performance models.

The #6 WAKO'S 4CR LC 500 and #37 KeePer TOM'S LC 500 took second and third place respectively to complete the second straight podium sweep for Lexus. More than 90,000 spectators packed the venue for this mid-week event, watching the 500-km endurance race unfold through high-speed, bumper-to-bumper racing and a minimum two-stop pit strategy.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "We are thrilled that we were able to not only win the race, but go one better by making it an all-Lexus podium for the second race in a row. We congratulate Yuji Tachikawa, who showed once again why he is called the 'Fuji-meister' with his record for most wins on this circuit, and Hiraoki Ishiura for their brilliant performance in claiming a start-finish victory, and also their fellow podium finishers for seeing to it that the Lexus LC 500 is off to a flying start in its debut season."

Yoshitsugu added, "The feedback we receive from our participation in motorsport events plays a crucial role in the development of new production vehicles, thus fueling our drive toward creating 'ever-better cars'. I also take this opportunity to thank all our fans for coming out in such large numbers and showering the team with support."



With all six Lexus LC 500 models lapping the Fuji circuit within half a second of each other, it was anybody's guess which team would rise to the top during qualifying. Eventually, Yuji Tachikawa set the fastest time in the #38 ZENT CERUMO car, extending his own pole position record to 22.

A fine start enabled the #38 LC 500 to retain its lead in the early stages, although the five remaining Lexus models were never far behind. By lap six, the ZENT CERUMO car had gained more distance, while the greater pace of the #1 and #36 LC 500s enabled them to move in to second and third. Indeed, as the race progressed, the gaps between these three leaders also began to widen.

The first round of pit stops began on lap 26, but this failed to shake the order of the top three runners. Instead, the drama was saved for lap 52, where a collision between the LC 500s in second and third place succeeded in moving the #36 Au TOM'S LC 500 up a place but was later given a drive-through penalty. The #1 DENSO KOBELCO SARD LC500 recovered but was swiftly overtaken by the #6 WAKO'S 4CR and #37 KeePer TOM'S LC 500s.

Lap 68 saw the beginning of the second round of routine pit stops, though with no significant time differences between the top three teams, the #38 car retained its lead. Now back behind the wheel with a comfort-



able lead, Tachikawa was able to ease off the pace in the #38 ZENT CERUMO LC 500 and preserve its tires in advance of the final stages. Upon seeing his advantage decrease from ten to seven seconds, Tachikawa picked up the pace and maintained his firm lead over the chasing pack to secure the first win for Lexus at Fuji Speedway, with the #6 and #37 cars rounding out the all-LC 500 top three. The victory put Tachikawa in a tie for the record of most GT500 class wins at 18.

"I am really glad that we got a win for the first time in some while here at Fuji," Yuji Tachikawa said. "It has always been said that we were strong at Fuji, but we were not able to win here for the past three years, and I

was worried that I was beginning to feel embarrassed about losing my title as the 'Fuji-meister'. I want to say how grateful I am to the Lexus development team for making us such a great car and to our team for tuning it so well and to my teammate Hiroaki."

Hiroaki Ishiura said, "Today, I think Yuji's stint after the start was the most difficult of the race in terms of conditions, but he bore with it and turned over the car to me with a lead for my stint. In my stint, I was able to run at a good pace from the first lap out of the pit, so I felt that things were going well. We worked on the car's development with a strong desire to win at Fuji again. So, I am really happy that we won today."

Sports

**Dillon wins
Coca-Cola 600
for first NASCAR
Cup victory**



**Trout sprains
thumb in Angels'
loss at Miami**



TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017

CRITICS HAVE MADE ME STRONGER: MERTESACKER

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PARIS: Spain's Garbine Muguruza serves the ball to Italy's Francesca Schiavone during their tennis match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open yesterday in Paris. — AFP

TENNIS

MUGURUZA STROLLS AS NADAL, DJOKOVIC ENTER FRAY

PARIS: Reigning French Open champion Garbine Muguruza breezed into the second round, while Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic prepared to launch their title bids later yesterday.

Muguruza's middling form this season saw her arrive in Paris with just three wins on clay, but the Spaniard dispatched 2010 Roland Garros champion Francesca Schiavone 6-2, 6-4.

The fourth seed will meet Estonia's Anett Kontaveit for a place in round three as Schiavone, who turns 37 in June, bid farewell to the tournament for the final time ahead of her retirement at the end of the year. "I cannot believe in the first round we have two ex-champions. Not only that

but Francesca is a legend and I was very excited to play on Philippe Chatrier court with her," said Muguruza. "I like to take my chances and be aggressive and today that wasn't going to be different."

Muguruza defeated Serena Williams to win her maiden Grand Slam a year ago, but the 23-year-old needs to return to the final to stay in the world's top 10. "I know I played good here before, but that doesn't make me extra confident this year. I have to play well to earn that confidence again," she said.

Muguruza lost to Kontaveit at Stuttgart in April, although the Estonian is through to the second round of a Grand Slam for just the second time.

Canadian fifth seed Milos Raonic raced into

round two with a routine 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Steve Darcis of Belgium. Raonic, whose best run at the French Open came when he made the 2014 quarter-finals, fired 15 aces and 44 winners to book a meeting with Mikhail Youzhny of Russia or Brazil's Rogerio Dutra Silva.

NADAL, DJOKOVIC IN ACTION

Nadal and Djokovic will set off ahead of a semi-final collision course, with the former bidding to become the first player in the Open era to win 10 titles at any Grand Slam event.

Three clay-court titles at Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid suggest the Spaniard is poised to end a

three-year drought at the majors, but the Spaniard is wary of mercurial French Benoit Paire.

"He is not an opponent you want to play against in the first round. A player with big talent. Great serve, great hands and fantastic backhand," said Nadal. "He's a dangerous opponent. I need to play my best."

Djokovic completed a career Grand Slam with his maiden Roland Garros title in 2016, but the Serb then suffered a drastic dip in performances. The world number two is hoping to draw inspiration from new coach Andre Agassi, the 1999 French Open champion, as he launches his defence against Marcel Granollers of Spain.

"You start a tournament from the same line with everyone else. You fight for the trophy, as everybody does. That's the way I approach it," said Djokovic. Rising German star Alexander Zverev, seeded ninth, begins his campaign against veteran Spaniard Fernando Verdasco.

The 20-year-old Zverev defeated Djokovic in Rome a week ago to become the first player born in the 1990s to land a Masters title. Jelena Jankovic's 54th consecutive Grand Slam maiden draw appearance was a fleeting one as the three-time French Open semi-finalist was consigned to a first-round exit by Dutch qualifier Richel Hogenkamp. — AFP

VENUS LOOKING FOR FIRST FRENCH OPEN TITLE IN 20TH APPEARANCE

PARIS: Making a record 20th appearance at Roland Garros, Venus Williams is looking to finally get her hands on the French Open trophy.

Williams has played in the French Open more than any other woman, but has only gotten past the quarterfinals once - when she lost the 2002 final to younger sister Serena. "Is it 20 already? I thought I missed a few, but apparently not," Williams said with a smile. "Here we are. You know, what an experience. What can I say?"

"It's always an opportunity, for sure. You know, I want to play the kind of tennis that's consistent and aggressive, inspired. That's my goal, really, every match." Williams turns 37 next month, but is showing no signs of slowing down. The American reached her 15th Grand Slam final in January - nearly eight years after her 14th. She lost the Australian Open to Serena.

Williams attributes her longevity partly to the breaks she has taken during her 23-year career.

"Definitely, I think spacing out how long, how many tournaments I have played, I believe that's helped me," Williams said. "It's not easy emotionally or mentally or physically to do this job, so I think that helps. I haven't had any other experience. "So would I recommend it? For sure, but I think if you're happy playing a lot of tournaments and you can handle that, then it's not a problem. But if you're not, then you have to space it out."

Williams will play Kurumi Nara of Japan in the second round at Roland Garros after surviving a scare to beat Qiang Wang in straight sets on Sunday. The 10th-seeded Williams quickly took the first set in 41 minutes, but then had to draw

on all her experience to recover from two set points down and go on to take the set - and the match - on a tiebreaker.

Williams eventually triumphed 6-4, 7-6 (3) after Wang hit a backhand into the net. "The first round is always tricky," Williams said. "You know, she played well. I just tried to stay aggressive until the end. You know, you have to still be aggressive even though the courts are slower here on the clay."

"When I was trailing, I know she had done things to earn it, to be at 4-2, so it was a credit to her. But also, I realized I had to put some balls in the court, so that would be my main focus at that point," Williams added. "I think today the experience helped, for sure. Having the opportunity to play 20 of these tournaments helped me a lot." Clay is Williams' least favorite surface, but with several of the top stars out or struggling, this could be her year. Serena is not playing because she is pregnant, while Maria Sharapova's ranking wasn't high enough to gain direct entry into the tournament after a 15-month doping suspension. Tournament organizers did not grant her a wild card. World No. 1 Angelique Kerber lost her first-round match 6-2, 6-2 against 40th-ranked Ekaterina Makarova, while third-seeded Simona Halep is struggling with a right ankle injury.

"All I can speak of are the players that I play against, and they play amazing every time. That's the competition I face," Williams said. "What other players are doing, I have got to be honest, I don't watch so closely. I just try to understand what can I accomplish. And then after that, I go home." — AP



PARIS: US Venus Williams returns the ball to China's Wang Qiang during their tennis match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open on Sunday in Paris. — AFP



ASIA STOCKS DRIFT DOWN FROM 2-YEAR HIGHS



LONDON: Passengers arrive with their luggage in Terminal 5 of London's Heathrow Airport. — AFP

BA FLIGHTS DISRUPTED FOR THIRD DAY

UNIONS BLAMED ON THE OUTSOURCING OF IT SERVICES TO INDIA

LONDON: Passengers faced a third day of disruption at Heathrow yesterday as British Airways cancelled short-haul flights after a global computer crash that unions blamed on the outsourcing of IT services to India. The embattled airline said it was cancelling 13 short-haul flights from Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest, but was aiming to operate a full long-haul schedule from the hub and was operating a full service from Gatwick Airport.

Tens of thousands of passengers were left stranded over a busy holiday weekend in Britain after BA scrapped hundreds of flights worldwide. The knock-on effects could continue for several days. The airline urged passengers yesterday to check their flight status online before travelling to the airport in a bid to avoid scenes seen over the weekend when people camped out at Heathrow overnight. BA chief executive Alex Cruz told the BBC he would not resign over the disruption and said it had nothing to do with cutting costs.

He said it had been caused by a power surge that had "only lasted a few minutes" but the problem was that the back-up system had then not worked properly. The GMB union, however, said the disruption "could have all been avoided" if BA had not cut hundreds of IT jobs in Britain and transferred the work to India. The airline said it was making "good progress" on restoring normal service. "As our IT systems move closer to full operational capacity, we will again run a full schedule at Gatwick on Monday and intend to operate a full long-haul schedule and a high proportion of our short-haul program at Heathrow," a spokeswoman said.

"We apologize again to customers for the frustration and inconvenience they are experiencing and thank them for their continued patience," she said. Cruz said that 75,000 passengers had been affected. "We know that there have been holidays interrupted and personal events that have been interrupted and people waiting in queues for a really long time," he told Sky News. "We absolutely profusely apologize for that and we are absolutely committed to provide and abide by the compensation rules that are currently in place."

Shares dropping
 Some British media suggested Monday that BA could be hit with a bill of more than £100 million (115 million euros, \$128 million) for compensation costs for stranded passengers' food and accommodation. BA cancelled all its flights out of Heathrow and Gatwick on Saturday after the IT failure, which shut down all of the carrier's check-in and operational systems and affected call centers and its website. Passengers were asked to contact BA to locate their luggage, after many were forced to leave Heathrow without claiming their bags in chaotic scenes that saw queues snaking out of the airports. BA's outage came on a busy weekend in Britain, where Monday is a public holiday and many schoolchildren are beginning a week's holiday. British Airways has suffered other IT glitches recently, leading to severe delays for passengers in July and September last year. IAG, the parent group of British Airways and Spanish carrier Iberia, earlier this month reported a 74-percent slump in first-quarter net profit to 27 million euros (\$30 million), due in large part to a weak pound. Shares in IAG on the Madrid stock exchange are currently trading down by about 2.5 percent. — AFP

AS AMERICANS TAKE ON DEBT, SOME POCKETS OF CONCERN

NEW YORK: After a stint of frugality, Americans have returned to their borrowing ways. But are they getting into the kinds of debt trouble that lead to recessions? US consumers now owe roughly \$12.73 trillion to banks and other lenders for mortgages, car loans and credit card spending, according to the New York Federal Reserve. That exceeds even the total before the last financial crisis.

Economists generally say people's willingness to borrow is a good thing, because it shows they're more confident about their financial futures. And the economy is in far better shape than a decade ago, when economists called the debt unsustainable and the housing market crashed. That's not the concern now.

"Some of us are worried that consumers are going back into old habits, but the US consumer is in a much different position before the financial crisis and even before in the late 1990s," said Ryan Sweet, an economist with Moody's Analytics who is not related to the AP reporter. Gone are the worries about second homes financed with no-money down mortgages. The stress points now are in three main categories: auto loans, credit cards and - to a greater extent but for different reasons - student loans. "If it's not a tool you can use to build stability and long-term net worth, debt leads to more problems than it can solve," said Todd Christensen, a credit counselor with the nonprofit organization Debt Reduction Services.

Student loans

Not all debt is considered equal, and both mortgages and student loans have typically been considered ways for people to leverage themselves into a better life. A home loan historically has been a way for middle-class Americans to build wealth, while student loans helped people get better-paying jobs. Student loans have become a source of concern, though, as they become a greater proportion of the debt Americans owe - and those debts are not being paid back. In 2007, student loan debt was less than 5 per-

cent of the debt Americans owned. That figure has more than doubled in 10 years to nearly 11 percent. As college costs have risen and student loans get larger, the amounts that are delinquent have been increasing. Americans currently have \$1.34 trillion in student loan debt, of which 10.98 percent is 90 or more days past due. That's up from 6.85 percent of loans 10 years ago. "Student loans are a place to keep an eye on," Sweet said as a potential long-term problem for the US economy.

Delinquent student loans can hurt a person's credit score, and affect the ability for a first-time buyer to qualify for a mortgage. That could become a bigger problem as

millennials enter their prime years to become a homeowner. Dallas resident Taylor Green, 29, is using debt strategically. Green, who works in finance, recently opened a credit card to help him and his fiancé pay for their wedding. He hopes to use the points he earns from that to then help cover the cost of a trip to Europe.

"We both have good, stable jobs with decent security, so we are a more comfortable taking on the debt," Green said. "But we want to pay this debt down as fast as we can once the wedding is over." Green says he also has significant student loan debt, which is in forbearance, that he plans to tackle aggressively once the wedding is over. — AP



ATLANTA: In this July 18, 2012, file photo, a pedestrian walks past credit card logos posted on a downtown storefront. — AP

INDIA NEEDS JOBS FOR WOMEN TO BOOST GROWTH: WORLD BANK

NEW DELHI: India must reverse a trend of falling women's participation in the job market if it is to achieve its ambition of double-digit growth, the World Bank said yesterday. India is the world's fastest growing major economy, but has one of the lowest rates of female employment, a trend that has worsened over the last decade. The World Bank in its latest report said just 27 percent of Indian women were working or actively looking for a job, a matter of "serious concern" that was holding back economic growth.

"(A) higher level of women participation in the economy can help propel India closer to double digit growth," said country director Junaid Ahmad.

The bank said the fundamentals of India's economy remained strong and the impact of last year's shock move to take most of the country's currency out of circulation had been limited. Inflation remained under control and a strong monsoon last year had boosted agriculture and rural consumption, it said, estimating growth at 6.8 percent for the financial year ended March 31 2017.

The government will release its official growth figures for that period on Wednesday. The World Bank report said a new national goods and services tax due to be introduced on July 1 would "yield substantial growth dividends from higher efficiencies" and increase state revenues in the long term. But it warned India needed to create jobs for the large number of women currently not in the labour market.

"India's female labor force participation rate is uniquely low for all levels of education," said senior World Bank economist Frederico Gil Sander. "Sixty five percent of Indian women with college degrees are not working, whereas in Bangladesh 41 percent and in Indonesia and Brazil only 25 percent of women graduates are not working." Female participation in India's workforce has declined since 2007, particularly in rural areas. That is partly because they are staying in education for longer, but even college-educated women are staying out of the workplace - just 34 percent of those with a degree are working, the bank said. Urbanization has also contributed to the trend because women living in cities are less likely to be in paid work than those in rural areas, where farming provides employment. — AFP



LONDON: In this file picture taken on November 25, 2015 a man sits on the pavement, begging outside the Houses of Parliament. —AFP photos



LONDON: In this file picture taken on April 11, 2017 a sign shows the price in pounds sterling of clothes as a shopper browses for goods displayed for sale on a stall at Whitechapel Market.

GULF IN LIVING STANDARDS AT HEART OF UK ELECTION BATTLE

LONDON: Although Britain's economic growth is ticking along in the run-up to the general election, flat wages and the government's austerity program continue to bite and cause anger among those left behind. A world away from the glistening skyscrapers of London's City finance district, normal life for some resembles that depicted in last year's Cannes winner "I, Daniel Blake".

The British film's protagonists, in the northeastern English city of Newcastle, battle with the impact of cuts to social services in place since 2010, struggling to make ends meet and relying on food banks. Widening living standards is a hot topic in the looming general election due June 8, and one that analysts say played a crucial role in last year's shock referendum vote in favor of the country's exit from the European Union.

The Brexit verdict has been framed

by some commentators as a reflection of the social divide between the haves and the have-nots in one of the world's richest economies. Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May, who called the general election to strengthen her hand in the coming Brexit talks, claims she wants a society that works for everyone, albeit one that is not free of austerity nor social spending cuts.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party and who has gained ground in recent opinion polls, argues that the yawning gap between rich and poor needs to be addressed. While official statistics show that Britain's unemployment rate sits at a 42-year low of 4.6 percent, many workers find themselves on low wages and short-term contracts.

Median household income stood at £26,300 (30,100 euros, \$33,700) in the year to March 2016, just four percent

above the pre-financial crisis value of ten years ago. Statistics also show that income inequality in Britain has actually declined slightly since the 2008 crisis—reversing a sharp increase in previous decades—as higher-income households saw their earnings fall more in real terms. However, the statistics mask the disproportionate effect of income stagnation on the lowest earners, with the Resolution Foundation, a think-tank, warning that inequality in living standards could reach levels not seen for 30 years. Meanwhile the Equality Trust states that in 2017, the country's 1,000 richest people will together own more wealth than that held by 40 percent of the poorest households combined.

Small-jobs economy

"Record numbers of people visited food banks last year, millions are locked

out of a decent home, and two-thirds of children in poverty are in working households," Equality Trust's executive director Wanda Wyporska said this month. According to the Office for National Statistics, 6.5 percent of the British population, or 3.9 million people, was living in poverty in 2014, the most recent year for which data are available.

To survive, many Britons, especially the youngest, have to take on more than one low-paid and often low-skilled job at a time, scrambling in what is often called the "gig economy". At the same time, the number of so-called "zero hour" contracts is breaking records at 900,000 jobs. Such positions guarantee neither a number of hours to be worked nor a fixed rate of pay.

As a direct consequence, the TUC union calculates that over the last seven years, UK wages have not kept pace

with inflation—the longest period of time since the 1870s. "British workers have endured the longest pay squeeze since Victorian times," said TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady. "And now even more pain is on the horizon."

Ahead of the election, May has vowed to improve workers' rights, cap energy prices, lift minimum earnings and raise the threshold at which income tax is paid. But she has been forced to reverse a manifesto commitment on capping social care costs following heavy public criticism and opposition from within her Conservative Party. Corbyn, meanwhile, has pledged to hike taxes on the well-off, renationalize key industries like railways, scrap university tuition fees and pump cash into the state-run National Health Service. His critics say Labour has not properly assessed the cost of those proposals. —AFP



SICO LAUNCHES MENA-WIDE ONLINE TRADING PLATFORM

KUWAIT: Securities & Investment Company (SICO), licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a conventional wholesale bank, announced yesterday the launch of a MENA-wide online brokerage trading platform - 'sicolive'. This seamless and secure multi-functional service will enable clients to trade in real time across all the region's key markets from a single account that can be managed through their desktop computers, laptops and mobile devices.

Commenting on this development, Najla Al-Shirawi, Chief Executive Officer of SICO, said: "The new online service signals a further integration of our unique mix of comprehensive, end-to-end solutions, which provide clients with brokerage, cash management and custody services all under one roof. It also reflects SICO's deep expertise in providing customized solutions with exceptional reliability and scalability to all our clients."

She added: "Live newsfeeds, real time quotes from any MENA market and instant access to all account and transaction information allow for a seamless and secure trading and account experience. The aim is to further empower our clients, helping them to keep closer track of the market and make better informed and more cost effective investment decisions. 'sicolive' is an intelligent trading platform that promotes ease of use and high-performance, with risk mitigation as a central consideration."

According to Fadhel Makhloq, Head of SICO Brokerage: "As one of the most advanced systems of its kind in the region, 'sicolive' features the highest levels of functionality and security. It will enable institutional and retail clients to engage in direct trading and manage their accounts with

greater convenience, ease and flexibility. The multi-functional platform offers a range of services including the option of real time quotes and price feed subscriptions, as well as access to news and announcements released by regional stock exchanges.

"Importantly, the new platform leverages the unique market insight of SICO's research team. Our experienced analysts cover over 90 percent of major GCC-listed companies, of which half are blue-chip, top-tier entities active in key sectors such as banking, telecoms, industrials, real estate and construction, healthcare and consumer. This integration of research and execution will provide investors with critical market intelligence to make the most informed investment decisions from their trading screens," he added. SICO's brokerage services cover equities, bonds and Sukuk trading; with a physical presence in the United Arab Emirates through its Abu Dhabi-based subsidiary, SICO UAE, it provides access to the Dubai Financial Market (DFM), Nasdaq Dubai and Abu Dhabi Stock Exchange (ADX).

Additional services are offered out of Bahrain, where SICO has been the leading broker on the Bahrain Bourse for the past 18 years, include single account brokerage services across the GCC and other MENA markets, margin trading facilities for equities, and repurchase agreements (repos) for fixed income. The Agency Brokerage Desk, established in 2010 as the first of its kind in Bahrain, is another service that enables clients to use a single broker for transaction executions, while having their own disclosed accounts with various GCC and other MENA stock exchanges where they are required to have a nominated custodian.

INVESTORS AWAIT VITAL AKZONOBEL COURT RULING

AMSTERDAM: A Dutch court will hand down a ruling which could alter the future of the world's leading paintmaker AkzoNobel, in the throes of fighting a takeover by a US rival. Disgruntled investors, frustrated that the Dutch company has rejected three offers from Pittsburgh-based coatings firm PPG, are seeking to force a shareholders meeting to try to smooth the path of a takeover.

Led by activist investor Elliott Advisors, they have urged the Dutch Enterprise Chamber to rule in their favour and allow them to organise a meeting to vote on whether to oust

AkzoNobel's chairman of the board, Antony Burgmans, seen as the main obstacle to the PPG bid. The Amsterdam-based tribunal will hand down its judgement on Monday at 1600 GMT after the close of European stock markets.

AkzoNobel, whose best-known brands include Dulux and Trimetal, earlier this month snubbed a third takeover offer by PPG—which valued the company at around 24.6 billion euros (\$27 billion). By assuming the company's debts and minority interests, the total value of the transaction would come to 26.9 billion euros, PPG said. —AFP

BRAZIL PROSECUTORS MAKE NEW LENIENCY FINE OFFER TO J&F

SAO PAULO: Brazilian federal prosecutors on Sunday made a new offer to JBS SA's controlling shareholder, J&F Investimentos, that it pay a 10.99 billion real (\$3.37 billion) fine for its role in massive corruption scandals. The new offer is down slightly from the previous proposal by prosecutors that J&F pay 11.2 billion reais. The company rejected that and counter-offered, saying it would pay 4 billion reais. Prosecutors rejected that, as well as the company's next offer that it would pay 8 billion reais.

J&F told Reuters in an emailed statement that it had no comment on the matter. Negotiations on the leniency deal fine follow bombshell state's witness testimony from J&F's owners Joesley and Wesley Batista that they spent 600 million reais to bribe nearly 1,900 politicians in recent years. Joesley Batista is at the center of a corruption investigation into President Michel Temer. Batista secretly recorded a conversation with Temer in March in which the president seemed to condone bribing a potential witness in the corruption case.

The top court authorized a corruption investigation into Temer based on that tape and testimony that the Batista brothers and five other executives from their company gave regarding the president and several other powerful politicians. Investors are watching the plea negotiations. JBS shares have slid more than 20 percent since mid-May in extremely turbulent trading because of concern that blowback from the scandal could limit its fund-



RIO DE JANEIRO: A demonstrator holds a doll representing former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and a sign referring to the demand for direct presidential elections, during a protest against Brazilian President Michel Temer at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil yesterday. —AFP

ing options. The bribery scandal is one of several legal hazards facing the group, which mushroomed from a regional Brazilian slaughterhouse to the world's largest protein processor with the help of some 8 billion reais in government support. Brazilian rules for corporate leniency deals call for fines of somewhere between 0.1 percent

and 20 percent of annual sales. Prosecutors said in their written statement on Sunday that the proposed 10.99 billion real fine was equivalent to 6 percent of J&F's group 2016 revenue.

Authorities also for the first time detailed who would receive the fine from J&F. Brazil's BNDES state development bank, along

with the pension funds Funcef and Petros would each receive 25 percent of any fine. The remaining 25 percent would go to the federal government, which would get 12.5 percent, along with the FGTS worker severance fund and the Caixa Economic Federal bank, which would each receive 6.25 percent. —Reuters

EUROZONE NEEDS PARLIAMENT, BUDGET, SAYS EU'S MOSCOVICI

WARSAW: The eurozone should have its own parliament and budget to cap inequalities between its richer and poorer members that could tear the bloc apart, the EU's economy commissioner said in an interview published yesterday. "It's necessary to create a eurozone budget. And this will not be possible without creating a parliament for the currency union, in order to make spending subject to democratic control," Pierre Moscovici said in an interview with Poland's Rzeczpospolita broadsheet daily.

Deeper integration of the eurozone is "absolutely necessary in order to contain the divergence of the economies that make up the currency union," he said of the troubled 19-country bloc. "If we continue to have a north that is well off and a south that is in difficulty, at some point this will result in the rejection of the European project," Moscovici added. Eurozone member Greece, with its mountain of debt towering at 180 percent of annual output, was nearly forced out of the common currency before agreeing to painful austerity measures in exchange for bailouts.

Moscovici told Rzeczpospolita that a eurozone "parliament and budget would also require an executive power: a eurozone finance minister". The European Commission intends to "present an analysis

of future eurozone integration" this Wednesday before consultations with members of the bloc, he said. The reforms evoked by Moscovici would require the approval of EU nations in the form of making changes to the bloc's treaties.

But Poland and other younger eastern EU members still outside the eurozone have indicated they will oppose any such moves. Warsaw is worried that it could be left behind in the push towards a "multi-speed" EU, backed by heavyweights France and Germany as the bloc prepares for Brexit. Moscovici however said there was "no reason for concern" insisting that he "rejects the idea of a two-speed Europe" and that "Poland is not a second class" EU member. "I'm convinced that we can continue integration among the 27 members, while also allowing those who want to move forward—as is the case with the eurozone—to be able to realise their plans," the commissioner added.

Corporate lending picks up in April

Elsewhere, corporate lending in the eurozone, a key gauge for measuring the health of economic recovery, accelerated slightly in April to hit a near eight-year high, ECB data showed yesterday. Growth in loans to

non-financial corporations picked up to 2.4 percent in April from 2.3 percent in March, its highest level since June 2009, the European Central Bank calculated in regular monthly data.

The ECB closely monitors lending in the 19 countries that share the euro because it believes that businesses are more likely to spend, hire and invest if cash is more readily available, powering the economy towards recovery and inflation towards the central bank's target of just below 2.0 percent. Credit almost dried up completely during the financial crisis and so the ECB took a number of measures to kickstart lending: cutting interest rates to historic lows, offering low-interest loans to banks, and pumping more than 1.8 trillion euros so far into the financial system through bond-buying.

The measures worked and credit has indeed picked up noticeably. The April data showed that lending to households also increased slightly to 2.6 percent, powered by faster growth in borrowing for both mortgages and general consumption. "The credit market looks positive again in April... it shows that businesses are looking more confidently into the future," said Joerg Zeuner, chief economist of Germany's KfW bank, of the adjusted business lending figure. —Agencies



FORD ESCAPE BRINGS LATEST FEATURES TO COMPETITIVE SMALL SUV SEGMENT

KUWAIT: One of Ford's best-selling SUVs for a reason, the Escape's popularity is born of its reputation for great fuel economy, versatility, and technology aimed at helping customers, and it stands proudly as an integral part of Ford's SUV lineup. The new 2017 Ford Escape delivers an even more technologically advanced, refined and affordable sports utility vehicle (SUV), making driving simpler, safer, more enjoyable - even irresistible - for the ever-growing number of SUV customers in one of the most competitive segments in the Middle East.

The new Escape offers Ford's sophisticated SYNC 3 communications and entertainment system, innovative driver assistance technologies, an ergonomic and comfortable interior, and powerful and efficient engines including Ford's twin-scroll turbocharged, direct-injected 2.0-litre four cylinder EcoBoost(r) engine, which produces 242 PS and 366 Nm of torque. A 2.5-litre iVCT Duratec automatic petrol engine with 171 PS and 230 Nm of torque is also available, with each engine variant mated to a six-speed SelectShift(r) automatic transmission with paddle shifters.

The new Escape also features Ford's Perpendicular Parking technology that helps drivers park hands free in spaces alongside other cars; an enhanced version of the Active City Stop collision avoidance system; and Ford's Adaptive Front Lighting System for optimized visibility in lowlight. Further advanced technologies include Hands-Free Liftgate and Ford Intelligent All Wheel Drive (AWD).

Seamlessly connected with SYNC 3

For the third-generation system, Ford has drawn on more than 22,000 comments and insights gained from research

clinics and surveys to ensure the new version is the most customer-centric designed system. Simplifying the user experience by putting the audio and phone options customers use most at their fingertips, SYNC 3 has been further improved through increased processing power and a reduction in the number of steps required for a command.

In addition to other new languages and the already existing French language support, Ford's SYNC3 offers, for the first time, Arabic language capability - both text and voice activation - enabling simpler control for drivers. With pinch-to-zoom and swipe gestures, SYNC3 provides customers with a high definition experience of the eight-inch touch screen that is similar to smartphone screens, thus making it easier and more intuitive to use.

Navigation also sees a greatly-improved system with SYNC3, including 3D support with landmarks, a Mecca compass, and enhanced junction view providing detailed lane visuals and guidance. Navigation also auto zooms out when the next maneuver is more than three kilometers away to making it easier to see the full route.

Smartphone integration has been stepped up with several fantastic new features, including Apple CarPlay, which allows iPhone users to make phone calls, access music, and send and receive text messages via voice control while the drivers' eyes stay focused on the road. The system is also compatible with Siri Eyes Free which allows for easy access to Siri with iPhones connected via Bluetooth. Android users will be able to activate Android Auto*, which makes the platform's apps and services such as Google Search, Google Maps and

Google Play Music accessible in a safe and seamless manner through SYNC3.

Sophisticated technology

New Escape offers an enhanced version of Ford's Active City Stop collision avoidance system, which now operates at speeds of up to 50 km/h, increased from 30 km/h. Active City Stop uses sensors at the front of the vehicle to look for stationary objects in the road ahead and pre-charges the brakes if the vehicle is approaching an object too quickly. If the driver still does not respond the system reduces engine torque and automatically applies the brakes to reduce the impact of collisions, or avoid them altogether. The latest generation Ford MyKey technology allows new Escape owners to program a key for younger drivers that can inhibit incoming phone calls; restrict top speed; prevent deactivation of driver assistance and safety features; reduce audio system maximum volume, and disable the audio system altogether if occupants are not using safety belts. The enhanced MyKey system offers a greater number of choices in both the speed limiter and speed minder settings.

Stylish escape

The new Escape features Ford's latest design language for a bold and sporty look that is shared with the EcoSport compact SUV and new Edge mid-size. A large upper trapezoidal grille and a smaller lower grille are flanked by sleek new headlamps incorporating LED daytime running lights and complemented by stylish fog lamps.

Restyled taillights complete the sporty look, while a new range of 17-18 and 19-inch alloy wheel designs also are



available in variety of finishes including Luster Nickel. A power-operated retractable tow bar automatically stores itself out of sight below the rear bumper when not in use, to retain the new Escape's sporty looks. The new Escape's meticulously crafted interior has been refined to offer a more ergonomic, stylish and comfortable experience for occupants. The steering wheel and air-conditioning controls are even more intuitive, and feature fewer and more easily distinguishable buttons and switches, making the controls easier to recognize and navigate.

New convenience features make Escape even more user-friendly; an electronic parking brake is effortless to operate and frees room for improved storage in a centre console that now also features a storage area capable of accommodating a variety of bottles and cups, and a new USB connection point for integrating and charging mobile devices. A door lock indicator now tells drivers at a glance whether the doors are locked.

The Escape also offers Hands-Free Liftgate that can be opened or closed using a kicking motion beneath the rear bumper. The technology helps parents to easily access the boot when returning to their vehicle with shopping, pushchairs or toddlers. The new Escape's sculpted bonnet features a wider, uninterrupted central dome that not only serves to complement Escape's sporty new looks, but also incorporates a structural design that more closely controls deformability and flexibility of the bonnet, improving pedestrian protection in an accident. The bonnet and rear lift gate also have been re-engineered to help mitigate damage to more expensive-to-replace components following a collision. The new Ford Escape follows the introduction of the larger Edge CUV last year and an updated compact EcoSport SUV the year previous. New Escape and the Edge are among five all-new or redesigned Ford vehicles that will compete in the SUV and crossover space in the next three years.

TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD WITH AL MULLA EXCHANGE

KUWAIT: Did you imagine travelling to an exotic location with your family? Dream no further. Al-Mulla Exchange is making your vacation dreams a reality with their special Ramadan promotion. Al Mulla Exchange has teamed up with Al Mulla Travels for an exciting and new marketing promotion bonanza. With a weekly draw entitling customers to win vouchers worth various amounts, customers can now plan to travel at their leisure to the destination of their choice.

Starting from 27th of May 2017 and ending on 25th June 2017, the promotion is for the entire period of Ramadan and will see 12 lucky winners every week and with a total of 48 lucky winners for the festival. The weekly draw dates are 4th, 11th, 18th, June and 3rd July 2017. The grand prize winner will get a voucher of KD 600 to be redeemed against the tickets.

Speaking about the promotion, Rakesh Joshi, General Manager of Al Mulla International Exchange said "This marketing promotion has started at the right time when customers are travelling and are exploring options of going to different locations across the globe for their vacation. These vouchers have a validity of one year and the lucky winners have the flexibility to redeem their amounts partially or fully. Once again we would like to wish all our customers prosperity and happiness on the occasion of Ramadan".

The Ramadan promotion offer is eligible to customers who are visiting the branches as well as doing their transactions online. Al Mulla Exchange has 71 active branches and a growing fan base of online customers who are utilizing the convenience of doing remittances through the online facility. Al Mulla Exchange just concluded their unique marketing promotion for India which saw lucky winners travel to India and witness live the finals of the T20 with all their expenses fully paid. The management has promised to come out with more such out of the box marketing schemes for the benefit of the customers.



JOYALUKKAS OPENS SHOWROOM IN DAMASCUS STREET, AL-QUSAIS

DUBAI: The idyllic town woke up to a sparkling new day with the opening of Joyalukkas showroom in Damascus St, Al-Qusais, Dubai. The all-new Joyalukkas Damascus St, Al-Qusais showroom is inaugurated by Jassim Mohamed Ibrahim Alhasawi Altamimi - Director, Joyalukkas Jewelry, UAE and Mustafa Mohd Alshareef, Vice President Government & VVIP Dubai Region, Etisalat in a grand ceremony attended by top Joyalukkas Group executives led by John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group alongside Sonia Alukkas, Director, Joyalukkas Group, Mary Antony, Director, Joyalukkas, Group, Antony Jos, Director, Joyalukkas Exchange and other VIPs and dignitaries.

The grand opening was met with much fanfare by the expat communities of Qusais, eager to be the first to experience world-class jewelry shopping with the world's favorite jeweler right in their own neighborhood. The opening of the Joyalukkas Damascus Street, Al-Qusais showroom is part of the Group's aggressive expansion plans as well as strengthen its position at current locations. "We are thrilled to open our doors and offer our signature jewelry shopping experience and customer service," says John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group. "It is a pleasure to offer this beautiful city a world of choice in jewelry. Every new showroom opening brings us closer to our mission of ornamenting the world, all made possible by the trust and support our loyal patrons have given us in 3 decades since we opened our first showroom. Our plans to be where they are and expand to new markets are underway and we look forward to giving our best, be it products or services, to the residents of Damascus Street, Al-Qusais and the rest of the world."

Joyalukkas Damascus Street, Al-Qusais showroom offers over a million dazzling world-class jewelry designs in gold, diamond, precious stones, platinum and pearl. The collections fea-

ture a mix of traditional, ethno contemporary and international designs that have won the hearts and following of customers in 11 countries across the globe. Joyalukkas is one of the few to be recognized for exceptional standards in jewelry retailing, including being awarded 'Superbrand' status 8 years in a row. It is current-

ly a 130-showroom network spread across the USA, UK, GCC and Asia. One of the world's largest jewelry retail chains, it is part of the multi-billion dollar global conglomerate Joyalukkas Group, which has varied business interests, including jewelry, money exchange, fashion & silks, luxury air charter, malls and realty.

NBK MARKS AVENUES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait celebrated The Avenues 10 year anniversary by awarding 10,000 Reward Points to 10 lucky NBK credit card holders. NBK announced the names of the winners on Thursday, 11 May at the NBK booth in The Avenues. The 10 winners of the NBK 10,000 Reward Points are: Sathyamurthy Prabhakaran, Ahmed Waseem Al-Otobi, Muhammed Salman Muhammed Ayoob, Kholoud Khalid Abdulaziz Al-Saqoubi, Hussain Abbas Mandani Edan, Mohamad Aziz Al-Husari, Abdulkarim Abdul Aziz Ali Abul, Abeer Fahah Abdulaziz Al-Muzaini, Mona Ahmed Taher Al-Baghli and Essa Abdulrahman Al-Essa. "NBK prides itself on offering our customers one of the best rewards programs in the entire region as a way to thank them for their loyalty and confidence in us."

Located in the Grand Avenue Lake Area, the NBK booth offered customers instant prizes upon showing their NBK credit cards, engaged customers with interactive games and instant prizes and provided information on Reward Partner participating outlets. The Avenues is Kuwait's most popular shopping, dining and entertainment destination. It is home to hundreds of NBK Rewards Program partner outlets.

During the campaign period, customers received one entry into the draw for every KD

10 spent using any of the following NBK credit cards: NBK Titanium Mastercard, NBK Laki Titanium Mastercard, NBK Platinum Mastercard, NBK Visa Platinum, NBK World Mastercard, NBK Miles World Mastercard, NBK Visa Signature, NBK World Elite Mastercard, NBK Visa Infinite, NBK Diners Club credit cards, NBK Classic Credit cards and NBK Gold credit cards. The National Bank of Kuwait Rewards Program is the largest loyalty program in the country, with more than 600 participating fashion, restaurants and lifestyle outlets.



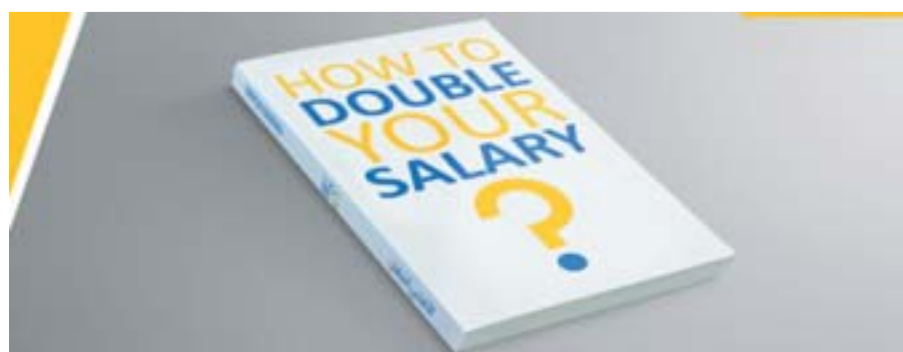
ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 55th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 16 thMay, 2017 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017. The winners were:

- Molkeyah Hasan Shah Aswar

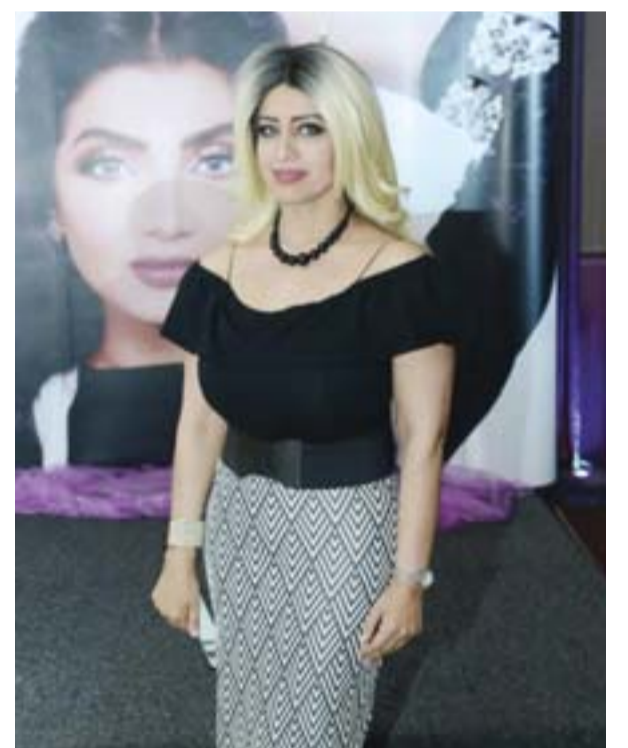
Mohammad, South Surra - Al-Zahraa Area Branch
- Manoharlal Phirandmal Menghani, Salmiya Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.





AL-MASAH INTERNATIONAL GROUP LAUNCHES OBSESSION CONTACT LENSES



KUWAIT: Al-Masah International Group recently released the new "OBSESSION" contact lenses from Jolie Brand, in a dinner reception at Symphony Style Hotel in the presence of the famous actress Shahd Al-Yaseen, along with a number of social figures, journalists and media

delegates. The new concept "OBSESSION" is the new invention of Jolie contact lenses that translates the rapid growth and development of Al-Masah International Group, which has an extensive experience in the eye care industry. The new collection comes in a variety of colours, styles

and high quality, to provide exceptional comfort and freedom. Jolie Brand is one of the fastest growing brands in the region.

In its first year, the gross sales margin soared remarkably to be equivalent to three years of sales, unlike other brands. Jolie Brand contact

lenses are known for their unique patterns and revolutionary color combinations that enhance the natural beauty of the eyes and add definition and brightness to make the eyes sparkle and shine. The OBSESSION collection includes various colours, including green, blue, brown, as well

as two shades of gray. By the launch of its new contact lenses collection, Al-Masah International Group promises its customers to always invent and provide the highest quality of products and services that are provided by its dedicated team of employees and experts.

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FCC CELEBRATES 29TH ANNIVERSARY AT OWWA WELFARE CENTRE



Reaching 29 years of productive existence could be one of the greatest achievements an organization could ever have. With heads up high, full of pride and honor, we say, we did it Filipino Cultural Club (FCC) Kuwait. The celebration on May 19, 2017 was very simple yet a moment well spent with our fellow kababayans at the OWWA Welfare Centre, Philippine Embassy, Kuwait. It was indeed, heartfelt, meaningful and very rewarding. We thank KFMO MOMS for their support and Um Khalid Talledo, Madiz Nunag, Ophel Kebras, Sol Bagsic and Violeta Sarah Yousef for your strong leadership, serving as an inspiration not only to your group but to other moms as well.

We would also like to thank our donors and sponsors who selflessly dedicated their time and effort to share their overflowing blessings, Lito Flores, Danny Tumbagahon, Bahay Kubo, Fly Kuwait, Hussein Safat Ibrahim, Fely Torio, Dorie Santos, Norma Manao, Terry Palacios, Sarah Al-Khoury, Susan Librada and Virgie Olaran. We would like to thank our Vice Consul Charleson Hermosura for gracing the occasion, Madame Russel Ocampo and Jean Mendoza for their kind assistance and an opportunity to serve our fellow kababayans at the centre.

We thank Bong Pagutayao, Alexis Laguitan, Bebot Caparros, Myla Caparros, Sylvester Pinto, Paz Cruz, Paul Santos, Goodielyn Balogo, Robert Fajardo, Vanessa Gustilo, Flor Manota, Sammy Manota, Bobet Caparros, Tuesday Caparros, Judith Perez, Boyd Bill, Vangie Dantes, Marlyn Jarovilla, Sheila Manota, Kyle Caparros, Sarah and Dalal Al-Ameri for the undying commitment and total dedication in our pursuit to provide genuine service to our fellow kababayans not only in Kuwait but back home in the Philippines. A grand salute everyone.



ALMANIE COMBINED LAUNCHES MIA MAKEUP



Almanie Combined launched the first Mia Makeup shop in the gulf region, at Sama Mall - Eqaila. Mia Makeup is an Italian cosmetics brand offering luxurious high quality products at affordable prices. The brand's mission is to simply endorse women around the globe that 'You Are Beautiful'. Mia Makeup started 10 years ago by offering great quality nail polish line which received raving feedback from experts and consumers.

That encouraged its' beauty experts to transcend its' operation to offer a full product range two years ago. Today, Mia Makeup continues to position itself as a promising brand with an aim to pair product innovation while maintaining respect to nature. Mia Makeup products are hypoallergenic, paraben free and not tested on animals, proudly made in Italy. Launched in 2013 as the retail arm of Almanie Group, Almanie Combined Company 'MCC' promotes 'a good way to live' by sourcing the best quality and value, life style products in the market.



CERINE BELGIAN CHOCOLATE OPENS AT OLYMPIA



The Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait, Andy DeTay, underlined the depth and development of the relations between Kuwait and Belgium, which enjoys remarkable relations and remarkable development. He said that the trade and investment relations between the two countries are remarkably advanced and growing. DeTay said in a press statement on the sidelines of the opening of the first branches of Sirin Shiqlet in Kuwait that there is a diversity of relations between the development of the petrochemical industry and the export of equipment and work to provide consumer products for Kuwaiti citizens to suit the tastes of society.

He said that there will be a visit to be held at the level of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kuwait to Belgium during the coming period, during which will meet with a number of officials in Belgian companies and businessmen to study opportunities and projects that the Belgian side can contribute to oil projects and others according to the opportunities in the plan Economic and social development.

Oil cooperation

He added that there is cooperation in the oil sector between the two countries because the Petroleum Corporation of the Petroleum Corporation (Q8) has a large network of gas stations in Belgium, and is associated with contracts with refineries inside Belgium and abroad in Europe. He said that the volume of trade relations between Kuwait and Belgium amounts to 300 million Euros annually, and we seek to strengthen them and develop them in the coming period through the potential and increasing opportunities enjoyed by the Kuwaiti economy, which can be contributed by companies and projects.

He explained that Belgian chocolate is an inherent industry and is the best in the world because of its ingredients, which are free of any additives that lead to obesity, and also to meet the specifications of the desire and needs of the people of the world

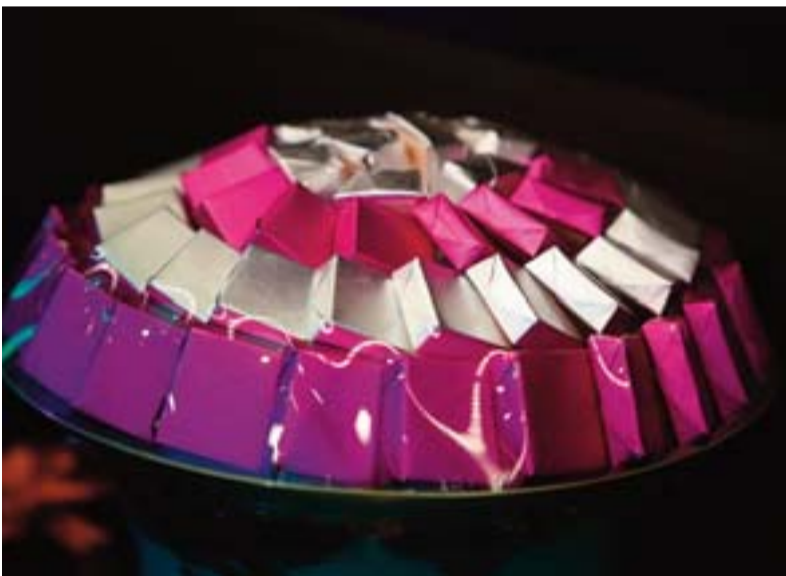


at the current time. He explained that these types of chocolate are associated with contracts with the Republic of the Congo to import the best types of cocoa World level.

Fourth importer

On the other hand, the general manager at Sirine Checolite shops Helmi Shaarani described the opening of the shop with the remarkable event in Kuwait as Kuwait is the fourth largest importer of Belgian chocolate in the world, which is the best in the world. He explained that there is a plan to expand in the coming period up to 4 other branches, explaining that the company's factory is manufactured in accordance with internationally recognized standards in the world.

Shaarani pointed out that the Kuwaiti citizen always wants the goods of high quality, which is characterized by Belgian products in general and Belgian chocolate in particular, indicating that relations between the two countries are inherent and extend for more than half a century. "The quality of Serene Checolite's customers is unique because our products address this quality well in the long run. He said that bilateral relations are always very good, especially as the bilateral relations between the two countries are distinct and strong on the economic and political levels.



CBSE APPOINTS DR BINUMON FOR POST-RESULT COUNSELING

Dr V Binumon, the Principal of the Indian Community School Kuwait had been appointed earlier this year as a counselor for Kuwait region, as part of the CBSE annual pre-examination counseling. He will be providing the post-result CBSE annual counseling as well from 28th May to 11th June 2017. The voluntary, free of cost counseling, being provided by CBSE for the 20th consecutive year, would continue till June 11 daily from 4 pm to 8 pm.

CBSE provides post-result counseling to

students and parents to overcome common psychological problems and address general queries related to Class 10 and 12 results. Dr V Binumon is a multi-faceted personality with long expertise and experience as an Education Counselor and is sensitive to the needs of students. He has also undergone certificate courses in diverse areas such as Neuro Linguistic Programming and Hypnotherapy.

The CBSE counseling is an outreach program which is carefully designed keeping the

heterogeneity of student's population and geographical spread. CBSE Tele counseling is largely offered by trained counselors and Principals from within CBSE affiliated schools located in India and outside India. It is a voluntary and free of cost service provided by the participants. During the 2nd Phase, 65 expert volunteers including Principals, trained counselors, and special educators from CBSE affiliated government and private schools and psychologists will be available for Tele-Counseling.

Out of these, 47 are from India including 2 special educators, while 18 experts are located in Nepal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Al-Khobar, Jeddah), Sultanate of Oman, UAE (Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al-Khaimah), Kuwait, Singapore and Qatar. In case of any urgent matter to clarify, Dr. Binumon will be available in The Indian Community School (Senior) office. Techniques to cope with result related anxiety are available at the CBSE website www.cbse.nic.in by accessing icon Helpline.



Dr V Binumon

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
02:00 Diggstown
04:00 I Am Number Four

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Bondi Vet
01:40 Animal Cops Houston
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Wildest Islands

BBC FIRST

00:00 Father Brown
00:55 The Collection
01:50 Rillington Place

09:20 Sweat Inc.
10:10 Hungry Investors
11:00 Framework
11:50 Catch A Contractor

Discovery Family

00:30 Invent It Rich
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things

03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage
Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 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

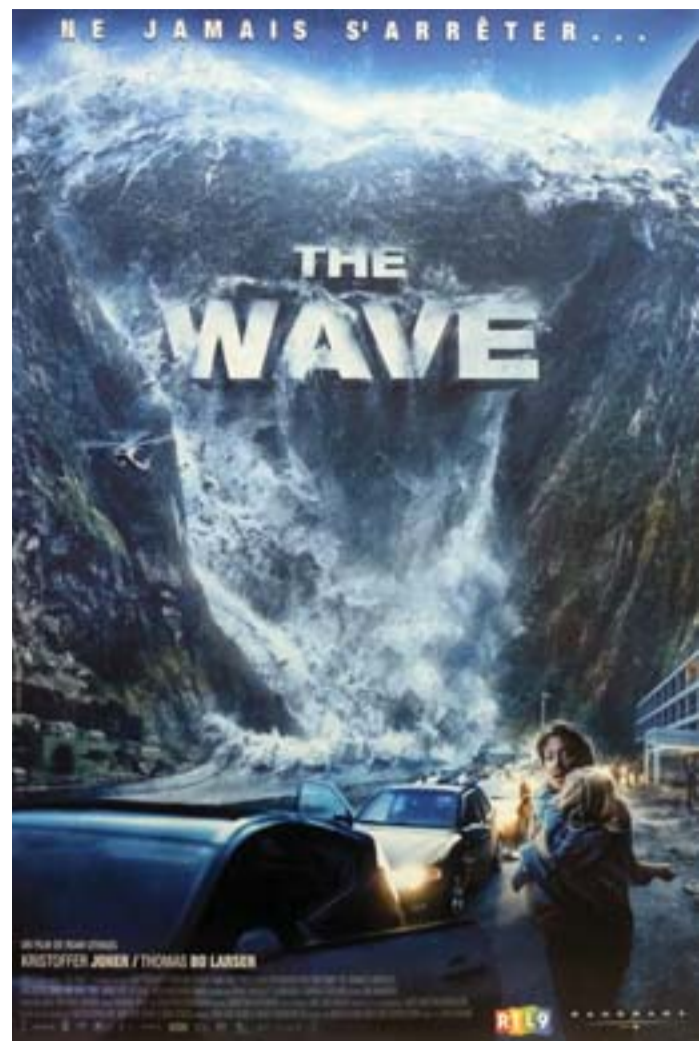
itv XD

06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Disney 11
06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
07:15 Milo Murphy's Law

02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Chopped
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games

itv CHOICE

00:10 Cash Trapped
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street



THE WAVE ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

NAT GEO people HD

00:10 Food Lovers Guide To The Planet
00:40 Poh & Co.
01:10 Carnival Eats

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

00:45 Rio
01:40 Tom And Huck
04:00 Turner & Hooch
05:45 Rio



I AM NUMBER FOUR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

05:00 The Musketeers
06:00 Casualty
06:50 Father Brown
07:45 New Tricks

17:50 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things

ID

00:30 Nightmare Next Door
01:20 The Real Story With Maria Elena
Salinas
02:10 Killing Richard Glossip

crime & investigation network

00:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
01:00 When Life Means Life
02:00 Cold Case Files

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Impractical Jokers
00:30 Impractical Jokers
00:55 Nathan For You
01:20 Nathan For You

00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero

EHD

00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 Botched
02:50 Celebrity Style Story

food

00:00 Restaurant: Impossible
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners



BARELY LETHAL ON OSN MOVIES HD

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:15 Life After Beth
01:45 She's Funny That Way
03:15 Three Men And A Little Lady

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

00:15 Eyes Of An Angel
02:00 Love & Mercy
04:00 2001: A Space Odyssey

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Scam City
01:00 Lawless Island
02:00 Primal Survivor

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:30 Worms
03:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
04:30 Yugo & Lala 2

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Attack Of The Big Cats
01:10 Hunter Hunted
02:00 Leopard Queen

Discovery science

00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 How The Universe Works

GOSSIP

DIZZEE RASCAL STARS AT WE ARE FSTVL

Dizzee Rascal wowed the crowd at this year's We Are FSTVL on Sunday. The 32-year-old musician took to the Terminal 2 stage at the festival on the third and final day of the music extravaganza, which took place in Upminster, Essex, and Dizzee dazzled the crowd with his hit tracks, including 'Fix Up Look Sharp' and 'Jus A Rascal'. The London-born artist - whose set included a mix of his old and new tunes - said: "We Are FSTVL 2017, are you ready for this? Thank you for coming out this evening. We are going to be playing some of the classics and some brand new tracks, too" Dizzee also performed 'Knock Knock', as well as his 2007 track 'Sirens'. Earlier in the day, Basement Jaxx kicked off their set with a track appropriate for the British weather, and as the rain poured on festival-goers, the duo - consisting of Felix Buxton and Simon Ratcliffe - played their 2009 hit 'Raindrops' from their album 'Scars'. The pair also entertained their audience with 'Good Luck', 'Romeo' and a remix of the popular track 'Smile', which has been sung by the late Nat King Cole and Michael

Jackson. Duke Dumont took over from Basement Jaxx and remixed a variety of songs, including the 2013 'Need U'. Sigma kept the crowds entertained with an energetic one-hour set, where they played Route 94's 'My Love', and a remix of Calvin Harris and Displies' 'How Deep is Your Love', before they took to the mic to give a shout out to their fans, in which they urged the audience to have fun on the last day of the three-day bash. The English drum and bass DJs said: "I dedicate this next song to everyone in here to have fun." Sigma continued their performance with a dubstep medley of Adele's popular track 'Hello', before playing Skepta's 'Shut Down' and their single 'Nobody to Love'. And rapper Giggs - whose full name is Nathaniel Thomson - wowed crowds with his 30-minute set, which saw him perform 'Lock Doh' and '3 Wheel Ups'. Giggs also performed 'KMT', which he features on with Drake.



Sean Paul urges Drake to show Jamaican music more respect

Sean Paul thinks Drake should give more credit to Jamaican music. The 44-year-old rapper - who hails from Kingston, the capital of Jamaica - has pointed to Drake's use of dancehall music on 'One Dance' and argued he should have given greater "accolades" to the country for the hit single. He explained: "I think at the time when it was popping off, it would have been good for him to actually put accolades towards the whole culture. He's friendly with a few people in the business in Jamaica and that's good, I love it. "But if he had given more accolades when he was actually making it and said 'this is the music I love', it would have been cool." The rap star said Drake has made "an album full of dancehall" and therefore, the Jamaican feels he should show more respect towards

the genre. He told Metro.co.uk: "Ed Sheeran has done one song that is huge and it's dancehall reminiscent. But that is one song, he [Drake] had an album full of dancehall so I think he should have paid a bit of an accolade and told people in the press that is where I'm coming from, I have a love for that music." Meanwhile, Sean revealed he is gradually getting used to his new-found role of being a dad, having welcomed his first child - a son called Levi Blaze - in February this year. He quipped: "It's been three months now and I'm getting the daddy muscles! "A lot of stuff has changed, but it's only for the better. He's brought light into our lives and we're really thankful."



Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's swimwear line inspired by 'grown-up glamour'

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's vision for her debut swimwear line was "grown-up glamour". The 30-year-old model joined forces with Marks and Spencer in 2012 when she launched her own collection Rosie for Autograph, and the blonde-haired beauty has since expanded her capsule to include a beachwear range that was designed to be "modern", glamorous and help boost her customer's "poolside confidence". Speaking to Red magazine, the entrepreneur said: "My vision was modern, grown-up glamour: I wanted to create swimwear for real women who are looking for chic, flattering shaped to provide poolside confidence. "The versatility of the collection really allows you to embrace the trend." And the catwalk icon - who is expecting her first child with her fiancé Jason Statham - was involved in every aspect of her new venture from start to finish. She explained: "I have been involved from mood boards to the final edit." The 'Mad Max: Fury Road' actress believes the key to feeling your best in a swimsuit or two-piece ensemble is to find garments that fit perfectly. When asked what the key is to feeling confident in swimwear, she said: "Great fit - so take your time finding the right one. "Last minute holiday shopping can be stressful, and often results in panic buys, so allow yourself enough time to try a variety of styles until you find the one that will make you feel fabulous." Rosie has also revealed matching the style of your swimwear to your underwear is helpful when selecting your holiday staples. She added: "One good tip is to look at your lingerie drawer and go for shapes that resemble your favorite, most flattering underwear."

Serkis gets fan impressions while shopping

Andy Serkis gets people doing impressions of his characters to him on the tube and in supermarkets. The 53-year-old actor is known for his motion capture work on films such as the 'Lord of the Rings' franchise and 'Planet of the Apes' and he's flattered by the fact fans always want to talk about his movies, but never lets the attention stop him going about his business. He told BANG Showbiz: "It always happens on the tube. You know you're standing on a very crowded 8.30 in the morning Victoria line and people are like this far away from you. "You suddenly get engaged in major conversations about 'Star Wars' or you know 'Planet of the Apes' or 'Black Panther'. "They come up to me and talk to me about the roles that I have played. People are fascinated by the whole process. "People will do impressions for me in various characters that I've played in supermarkets but doesn't stop me doing my shopping." And Andy - who played Gollum in 'Lord of the Rings' - also admitted that some people drop their rings in front of him as a way of getting his attention. The actor has a busy period ahead as he is helming a new adaptation of 'Jungle Book: Origins', in which he will also star as Baloo the bear. The film is slated for an October 2018 release. Before that, he will be seen reprising his role as Caesar in 'War of the Planet of the Apes' - out this July - as well as starring as Supreme Leader Snoke in 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' which will be released in December. And in 2018, the actor will be reprising another role of Ulysses Klaue in Marvel's Cinematic Universe movie 'Black Panther' - the supervillain who had a small part in 'Avengers: Age of Ultron'.



Priyanka Chopra says Indians face a 'struggle' in Hollywood



Priyanka Chopra thinks Indian stars face a "struggle" to make it in Hollywood. The 'Baywatch' beauty has become a well-known face in the US, as well as at home in India - but Priyanka has admitted it remains tough for Bollywood actresses to achieve stardom in the States, because of the stereotypes that continue to surround them. She said: "Those are stereotypes you have to fight all the time and I guess it will only come with educating people and having them see Indian actors in mainstream parts, (to make them aware) that we can do this. "There is no putting us in a box. But it is going to be a struggle. There is so few of us." Priyanka, 34, said the entertainment industry needs to embrace greater diversity. She told PTI: "I believe that in the business where

there is demand, there will always be supply. "Even audiences and people who watch and consume entertainment need to be open to seeing all kinds of people in iconic parts and not just a certain kind of actors or people who look a certain way." And Priyanka - who stars alongside Zac Efron and Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson in the new 'Baywatch' movie - argued that it's important to challenge Western stereotypes about the Indian film industry. She explained: "There are huge stereotypes about India, about Hindi films. There is a lot more awareness now that Hindi movies are such a big industry but the stereotypes still exist."

Emmy Rossum gets married to director Sam Esmail

The 30-year-old actress has been engaged to Sam since August 2015 and the couple tied the knot during an intimate ceremony at a synagogue in New York City on Sunday. Their wedding was witnessed by a string of famous faces, including the likes of Robert Downey Jr, Christian Slater and Hilary Swank, according to PEOPLE magazine. Sam, 39, proposed to Emmy after they had dated for two years, having directed the actress in the 2014 romantic drama 'Comet', which also starred Justin Long. In 2015, Emmy - who is best known for her portrayal of Fiona Gallagher in the TV series 'Shameless' - revealed some details of her engagement ring, which was made in France in around 1920. She shared: "I like that it's old and I like to imagine who wore it before me and the life that they had. "I don't know the story behind it, but it's from 1920 in Paris, so I like that I've inherited someone's story, and I hope that it's a good one." In February, meanwhile, Emmy revealed that her wedding dress was being designed by Carolina Herrera. The actress wore an off-the-shoulder white gown, which she teamed with long white veil, for her big day. But speaking earlier this year, Emmy admitted that she was still a long way from having her wedding plans finalized. She reflected: "We haven't done any [fittings]. We don't even know yet. We're nowhere." However, Emmy insisted she wasn't worried about her dress, because she has complete faith in the designer. The actress said: "She's got it. There's no rush. She can turn it around in a day. I'm not concerned."



Donna Summer made musical plea to in-laws

Donna Summer performed 'Starting Over Again' on TV to stop her in-laws from divorcing. The 'I Feel Love' hitmaker had been due to promote her new single in a high-profile appearance, but told her husband Bruce Sudano she would instead perform the track in a bit to persuade his parents Margaret Alessio and Louis Sudano to stay together. Bruce - who was married to Donna for over 30 years until her death in 2012 - exclusively told BANG Showbiz, Bruce, recalled: "Starting Over Again" is a song that I wrote about the divorce of my parents and Donna was going on a big late night TV show to promote her next single. "She came to me and said, 'Bruce I'm going to sing Starting Over Again on the TV show tonight and I said, 'Donna you can't do that, you need to promote your new song and she said, 'No maybe if I sing 'Starting Over Again', maybe they'll hear the song and stay together', and I was like, 'Honey there's no way.'" But determined to be positive, Donna sang the song and later Dolly Parton picked up the record. Bruce added BANG Showbiz: "The next day, Dolly's people called about the song and that's how she recorded the

song." Sadly, Donna's attempt to persuade her in-laws through song didn't work. Bruce said: "No [my parents didn't] stay together. My mother loved the song, my father was a little upset because there was a line in the song which said, 'He's out scheming big deal with one of his friends' he was like, 'Why did you say scheming? Why couldn't you say dreaming?' and I was like, 'I don't know dad, that's what I wrote'. That is the danger when you write songs about real-life people." Bruce was signed as a solo artist by RCA and released his first record 'The Fugitive Kind' in 1981. That record featured 'Starting Over Again' and but in 1980, the song was also recorded and released by Dolly Parton on the album 'Dolly, Dolly, Dolly', and hit #1 on the US country charts. And Bruce, who used to live around the corner from Dolly, 71, in Nashville, admitted he no longer keeps in touch with the country music star. Bruce Sudano's album '21st Century World' is out on June 2.

MUSIC & MOVIES



In this June 30, 1958, file photo, disc jockey Dick Clark, at podium at upper left, is surrounded by teen-age fans on his nationally televised dance show 'American Bandstand' in Philadelphia. — AP photos



In this Oct 27, 1981, file photo, television personality Dick Clark shines a new sign that changes a portion of Philadelphia's Market Street to American Bandstand Boulevard, to recognize the 30th anniversary of the popular dance program that originated in Philadelphia.



This May 8, 2017 photo shows the former home, third from left, of jazz musician John Coltrane in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA'S MUSIC LEGACY IS VAST BUT HARD TO FIND

Detroit has the Motown Museum. Mississippi has a blues trail. Memphis has Graceland, Sun Studio and the Stax Museum of American Soul. But in Philadelphia - birthplace of the lush acoustic style known as The Sound of Philadelphia and the hometown of "American Bandstand" and Chubby Checker's "Twist" - there's no major place of pilgrimage for music fans.

"Tourists come here expecting and hoping to experience our music legacy, and we leave them wanting," said Patty Wilson Aden, president of The African American Museum.

A diverse musical legacy

Philadelphia doesn't ignore music history entirely. A Walk of Fame, murals and historical markers honor musicians and the music industry. Opera stars Mario Lanza and Marian Anderson have mini-museums. But there's been no effort to paint a larger picture of a vibrant musical landscape that has included Patti LaBelle, Bobby Rydell, Fabian, Hall & Oates, Boyz II Men, the Dead Milkmen, Jill Scott and The Roots and John Coltrane.

"It does hurt a little bit that we don't have (a museum) when we are one of the strongest cities musically," said Nate Morris, a founding member of Boyz II Men. Part of the problem, says Temple University history professor Bryant Simon, "is the diversity of the sounds. They don't lend themselves to coherence like Nashville or Motown. Which story would you tell?"

Philadelphia was one of three finalists for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame but lost out to Cleveland. Music promoter Larry Magid, who brought the Live Aid concert to Philly in 1985 and booked shows at the storied Electric Factory venue, was involved in the failed effort to locate the Rock Hall here. Over the years he's tried to rekindle the idea of a Philly music museum but funding has proven elusive. "It's not about a piano or a gold record or a piece of clothing," he said. "It's asking why did all these talented people come out of Philadelphia? How did it work?"

Vanishing legacy

Many touchstones in the city's musical landscape have been torn down, burned down or turned into apartments and businesses. Others are in distant or rough parts of the city that see little tourism or business. Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff's Philadelphia International Records, home of musicians like Teddy Pendergrass, Lou Rawls and the O'Jays, offered tours and a small gift shop before an arsonist nearly burned the place down in 2010. Before they bought the building in 1970, it was home to Cameo Parkway Records, where Chubby Checker recorded the "The Twist" and Dee Dee Sharp recorded "Mashed Potato Time."

A hotel and residence is now planned for that site. But the vision of a museum honoring The Sound of Philadelphia - which Gamble, Huff and Thom Bell created - is still alive, according to Chuck Gamble, Kenny Gamble's nephew. Most of the studio's memorabilia was saved from the fire and

used to have tour buses come past and stop but it didn't give them a flavor and wasn't bringing any revenue," she said.

In Memphis, Elvis Presley's mansion, <https://www.graceland.com/> Graceland, became a tourist magnet after opening to the public in 1982. That spurred revitalization of a stretch of clubs and restaurants on Beale Street. Two historic recording studios, Sun and Stax, also opened for tours. Today Memphis is



Photo shows the Uptown Theater in Philadelphia.

could be displayed. "Philadelphia needs the same kind of attention that Memphis gets and Detroit gets," he said. He's working with the R & B Hall of Fame - a virtual hall of fame that has inducted over 100 artists - to bring the hall's annual induction ceremony to Philadelphia in 2018. The hope is to build interest and perhaps establish a joint museum one day, he said.

The Uptown Theater is one of Philly's last remaining historic theaters, part of the "Chitlin Circuit" that featured black performers over much of the 20th century. "Everybody who was anybody played at the Uptown," said Simon, whose courses at Temple included one about the Uptown. "Ray Charles, James Brown, Miles Davis, famous black comedians, all the Motown

used to have tour buses come past and stop but it didn't give them a flavor and wasn't bringing any revenue," she said.

Music tourism successes

Music tourism has taken off in cities like Detroit and Memphis and even in the Mississippi Delta, birthplace of the blues. At the Motown Museum - located in the house of the label's founder, Berry Gordy - visitors glimpse the sofa where Marvin Gaye napped and the candy machine Stevie Wonder memorized the buttons for. They even learn the steps to "My Girl" in the studio where The Temptations recorded it. Motown Museum CEO Robin Terry says some 75,000 people visit annually.

a major destination for music fans from around the world. "Philadelphia is such a great city with a strong musical legacy similar to Detroit, New Orleans, Liverpool and Memphis," said Regina Bearden, chief marketing officer of the Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau. "All are still influencing artists today. I know these projects can be challenging to get done but Memphis is living evidence of how important it is to cherish, promote and support the legacy as well as the musicians making music today." — AP



Photo shows a historical marker for Sigma Sound Studios across the street from its former home in Philadelphia.

Soderbergh says filming 'Logan Lucky' made him a NASCAR fan

Steven Soderbergh was never a big NASCAR fan despite growing up in the South. But the Academy Award winning director has become one after working on his new film "Logan Lucky," depicting a theoretical heist at Charlotte Motor Speedway during the Coca-Cola 600. "NASCAR was kind of mystery to me," Soderbergh said in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday prior to the start of the Coca-Cola 600. "I only had a very superficial knowledge of it. ... I knew the big names. I would watch the Daytona 500, but I wasn't following it."

"But the fun of this project has been learning a new sport and talking to people at all levels of the sport about the various layers that are underneath the superficial layer that someone like me would see when they watch the race on television." Soderbergh said he found NASCAR drivers to be fun and "very unpretentious." Kyle Busch, Carl Edwards, Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano, Ryan Blaney and Kyle Larson all have cameos in the movie, though none play NASCAR drivers.

Busch, for instance, plays a state trooper. "The complete lack of cynicism was refreshing, because in my business you run into people who have a jaded attitude about what they're doing," Soderbergh said. "It's fun to talk to people that are that engaged." Channing Tatum stars in "Logan Lucky," which will premiere on Aug. 18. Tatum said he liked the idea of the film right away.

"It is basically a bunch of good ol' boys robbing NASCAR and that got a pretty good giggle out of me," Tatum said. NASCAR has been heavily involved in the movie. Zane Stoddard, NASCAR vice president of entertainment marketing and content development, is serving as an executive producer. Stoddard wanted to make sure that NASCAR was portrayed in the right light - and he said Soderbergh has captured that in the film.

"One of the things that was important to us is that even though the characters are down on their luck, lovable loser kind of characters, the vision that Steven and Channing laid out is that NASCAR is going to be this big huge event that is separate

from the tone of the characters - and that was important to us," Stoddard said. "The thing that is most important when we partner in these projects is there is a level of trust between us and the filmmakers. ... That trust was there from the beginning and they made it very easy."

This is not Soderbergh's first venture into a heist movie. He also directed Oceans 11. But he feels this movie is different. "When I read (the script) it felt like it was a kind of film that I like to watch, the kind of film I like to make," Soderbergh said. "It was different. It didn't feel like a repeat of the Oceans movie. It's in the same universe, but in a different galaxy." After meeting and talking with so many people in NASCAR, Soderbergh has become a fan. He even finds himself rooting for the drivers he has met during the production of the film. "Now when I watch it, it makes sense to me," Soderbergh said. — AP



Actor Channing Tatum, third from left, and director Steven Soderbergh, center, pose for a photo with NASCAR drivers, from left to right, Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano, Kyle Busch, Ryan Blaney and Kyle Larson before the NASCAR Cup series auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, NC. — AP



Indonesia's hijab-wearing Muslim metal group challenges stereotypes

With their heads covered with Islamic headscarves, the three members of the Indonesian band VoB ("Voice of Baceprot" or "Noisy Voice") do not look like your typical heavy metal group. Formed in 2014, the band of teenagers met at school in Indonesia's most populous province of West Java, and use their music to combat the stereotype of Muslim women as submissive or voiceless.

Wearing a hijab, or Islamic head scarf, should not be a barrier to the group's pursuit of its dream of being heavy metal stars, said Firda Kurnia, 16, who plays guitar and sings. "I think gender equality should be supported, because I feel I am still exploring my creativity, while at the same time, not diminishing my obligations as a Muslim woman," she added. Invited to perform at a recent graduation ceremony at another school, the trio quickly had fans dancing and head-banging at the front of the stage.

"I don't see anything wrong with it," said one fan who attended, Teti Putriwulandari Sari. "There's no law that bars hijab-wearing women from playing hardcore music." "This also relates to human rights. If a Muslim girl has a talent to play the drums or a guitar, should she not be allowed?" Besides covering classics by groups such as Metallica and Slipknot, the band perform their own songs on

issues such as the state of education in Indonesia. Muslims make up nearly 90 percent of a population of 250 million, the vast majority practicing a moderate form of Islam, although there are some conservative strongholds.

Not everyone in the town of Garut, where the band was formed, and which is home to several Islamic schools, feels the community is ready for them, or that their music is appropriate for performance by young Muslim women. "It is unusual to see a group of hijab-wearing girls playing metal music or even women shouting," said Muhammad Sholeh, a teacher at the town's Cipari Islamic boarding school, adding that religious pop music was popular with many young Muslims. "But we're talking about metal here, which is loud."

Maudya Mulyawati, a student at the school, felt the band should focus on singing "Salawat", an invocation to the religion's founder, Prophet Mohammad. An official of a top clerical body said although the group might trigger a culture clash in a conservative area, he did not feel it broke with Islamic values. "I see this as part of the creativity of teenagers," added Nur Khamim Djuremi, secretary general of the Islamic Art and Culture Division of Indonesia's Ulema Council. — Reuters

AWARDS



(From left) Best Actor prize laureate US actor Joaquin Phoenix, Best Screenplay co-laureates British director Lynne Ramsay and Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos, Palme d'Or laureate Swedish director Ruben Ostlund, Best Actress Prize laureate German actress Diane Kruger, French actress and President of the Camera d'Or jury Sandrine Kiberlain, Camera d'Or laureate French director Leonor Serraille and French actress Laetitia Dosch pose on stage.

SWEDISH COMEDY 'THE SQUARE' IS SURPRISE CANNES WINNER



Swedish director Ruben Ostlund poses on stage with his trophy after he won the Palme d'Or for his film 'The Square' on May 28, 2017 during the closing ceremony of the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AP/AFP photos

Swedish satire "The Square", a send-up of political correctness and the confused identity of the modern male, won the Palme d'Or top prize at the Cannes film festival Sunday. In a stunning upset, the nine-member jury led by Spanish director Pedro Almodovar and including Hollywood stars Jessica Chastain and Will Smith awarded the trophy to director Ruben Ostlund. "Oh my God, oh my God!" Ostlund shouted from the stage after besting a raft of favorites for one of global cinema's most coveted honors with a rare comedy. It was the first-ever Swedish winner.

In a 70th edition marked by raging debate over sexism in the movie industry, Sofia Coppola became only the second woman in history to win best director for her battle-of-the-sexes drama "The Beguiled" with Nicole Kidman and Colin Farrell. Kidman, who appeared in four different projects at the French Riviera festival, accepted a special anniversary award with a video message. Three-time Oscar nominee Joaquin Phoenix nabbed best actor for his turn as a hammer-wielding hitman in "You Were Never Really Here". "Any work that I did was linked to the work of Lynne Ramsay," the film's British director, Phoenix said, before apologizing for his tuxedo-and-trainers look at the gala ceremony.

"I don't wear leather," the committed vegetarian explained. Diane Kruger clinched best actress for her first film role in her native German as a devastated mother who has lost her husband and son in a neo-Nazi terror attack, in Fatih Akin's "In the Fade". "I cannot accept this award without thinking of everyone who has been touched by an act of terrorism... you have not been forgotten," said a visibly moved Kruger. Chastain called it "disturbing" that there had not been more meaty female roles among the 19 contenders for the Palme d'Or. Only three of the films were made by women.

'So much courage'

Greece's Yorgos Lantimos shared best screenplay prize with Ramsay for "The Killing of a Sacred Deer", an icy thriller set in a wealthy American suburb and also starring Kidman and Farrell. The runner-up Grand Prix went to the hotly tipped French drama "120 Beats Per Minute" about the radical activists who helped shame the world into action on AIDS. "This film is an homage to those who died but also those who survived and are still alive, who had so much courage," said the movie's director, former ACT UP member Robin Campillo.

"I loved the movie. I couldn't love it more. I was touched since the very beginning until absolutely the end, and after the end," Almodovar said, fighting back tears. "Loveless" by Andrey Zvyagintsev, a wrenching drama about moral rot gnawing at Russian society under Vladimir Putin, took the third place jury prize. French daily Liberation called the picks "disappointing", having plumped for "120 Beats Per Minute", although Britain's Guardian hailed the selection as "a launching pad for a clutch of excellent films".

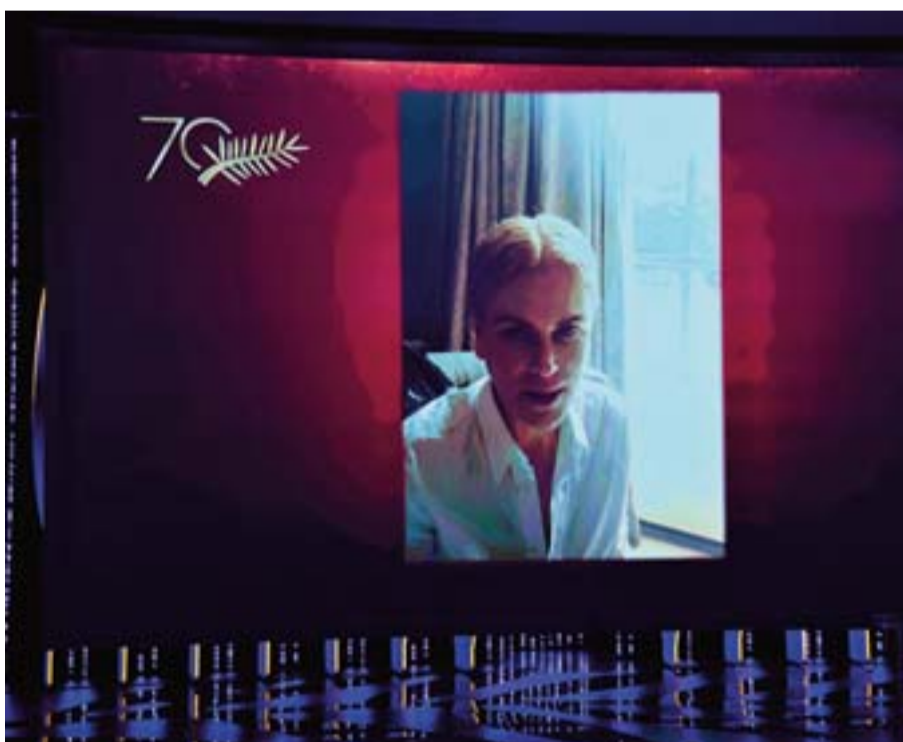


Swedish director Ruben Ostlund arrives on stage after he was awarded with the Palme d'Or for the film 'The Square'.

'Very funny'

"The Square" is an often savagely funny takedown of the limits of free speech and the blurred lines between the sexes. Danish actor Claes Bang plays a museum director and divorced father of two young daughters who gets robbed in broad daylight in the city Centre. In the aftermath, he's forced to check his privilege and liberal political beliefs against a reality that seldom mirrors the rarified world of high culture. The title refers to a conceptual art project in which museum visitors are invited to enter a "sanctuary of trust and caring, a tiny utopia in the middle of a flawed society."

The movie features Elisabeth Moss ("Mad Men") and Dominic West ("The Wire") in small roles viciously lampooning the self-important art world. One set-piece, featuring a wild, bare-chested man performing as an ape wreaking havoc at a posh gala dinner, immediately entered Cannes legend. Almodovar hailed the movie's themes as "completely contemporary". "Such a serious subject is treated with such incredible imagination-it's very funny," he said. Ostlund defended the film's length at two hours and 20 minutes, saying that it was shorter than some "Harry Potter" sequels. "If we want to make cinema walk tall again we have to put more complex questions into cinema," he said. — AFP



Australian actress Nicole Kidman speaks on a recorded video projected in the theater after she was awarded with the 70th edition Special Prize.



Swedish director Ruben Ostlund attends a photocall after he won the Palme d'Or for 'The Square'.



Director Andrey Zvyagintsev with his Jury Prize award for his film Loveless.



Director Robin Campillo with his Grand Prix award for his film 120 Beats Per Minute.



US actor and member of the Feature Film jury Will Smith delivers a speech on behalf of Australian actress Nicole Kidman.

A W A R D S



German actress Diane Kruger delivers a speech on stage after she was awarded with the Best Actress Prize for the film 'In the Fade' (Aus Dem Nichts).



German actress Diane Kruger (right) poses with German director Fatih Akin during a photocall after she won the Best Actress Prize for her part in the film 'In The Fade' (Aus Dem Nichts).



Director Qiu Yang poses for photographers with his short film Palme d'Or award for the film 'A Gentle Night'.



US actor Joaquin Phoenix speaks after he was awarded with the Best Actor Prize in 'You Were Never Really Here'.



US actor Joaquin Phoenix (right) poses with US actress and member of the Feature Film jury Jessica Chastain after he was awarded with the Best Actor Prize in 'You Were Never Really Here'.

Winners

- Palme d'Or:** The Square
- Grand Prix:** BPM (Beats per Minute)
- Jury prize:** Andrey Zvyagintsev, Loveless
- 70th anniversary award:** Nicole Kidman
- Best director:** Sofia Coppola, The Beguiled
- Best actress:** Diane Kruger, In the Fade
- Best actor:** Joaquin Phoenix, You Were Never Really Here
- Best screenplay:** Joint winners Yorgos Lanthimos and Efthymis Filippou for The Killing of a Sacred Deer, and Lynne Ramsay for You Were Never Really Here
- Camera d'Or (best debut film):** Leonor Serraille, Jeune Femme
- Short film prize:** A Gentle Night, Qiu Yang.



Directors Lynne Ramsay with her joint Best screenplay award for the film 'You Were Never Really Here'.



(From left) Italian director and member of the Feature Film jury Paolo Sorrentino, German director and member of the Feature Film jury Maren Ade, Spanish director and President of the Feature Film Jury Pedro Almodovar, US actress and member of the Feature Film jury Jessica Chastain, Chinese actress and member of the Feature Film jury Fan Bingbing, South Korean director and member of the Feature Film jury Park Chan-wook, French actress and director and member of the Feature Film jury Agnes Jaoui, US actor and member of the Feature Film jury Will Smith and French music composer and member of the Feature Film jury Gabriel Yared pose as they arrive for the closing ceremony of the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



French director Leonor Serraille poses during a photocall after she won the Camera d'Or prize for her film 'Jeune Femme (Montparnasse-Bienvenue)'.



French director Leonor Serraille (center) and French actress Laetitia Dosch (left) pose with the Camera d'Or prize after Serraille was awarded with the Camera d'Or for 'Jeune Femme' by French actress and President of the Camera d'Or jury Sandrine Kiberlain (right).



British director Lynne Ramsay (second left) and Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos (left) pose with Spanish actress Marisa Paredes and South Korean director and member of the Feature Film jury Park Chan-wook after being co-awarded with the Best Screenplay prize for their respective films 'You Were Never Really Here' and 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer'.



Laureates and jury members stand on stage around Swedish director Ruben Ostlund (12th left) after he won the Palme d'Or for his film 'The Square'.



(From left) Egyptian director and member of the Un Certain Regard jury Mohamed Diab, French actress and member of the Un Certain Regard jury Reda Kateb, US actor and President of the Un Certain Regard jury Uma Thurman and Czech artistic director of the Karlovy Vary festival and member of the Un Certain Regard jury Karel Och pose as they arrive for the closing ceremony.



Swedish director Ruben Ostlund (second left) and his wife, Danish actor Claes Bang (2ndR) and his wife Lis Kasper Bang (right).

Lifestyle

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017

Swedish comedy
'The Square' is surprise
Cannes winner

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(From left) Best Actor prize laureate US actor Joaquin Phoenix, Best Screenplay co-laureate British director Lynne Ramsay, Grand Prix laureate French director Robin Campillo (rear), Best Actress Prize laureate German actress Diane Kruger, French actress and President of the Camera d'Or jury Sandrine Kiberlain, Camera d'Or laureate French director Leonor Serraille, French actress Laetitia Dosch, French actress Juliette Binoche and Spanish director and President of the Feature Film Jury Pedro Almodovar pose on stage at the end of the closing ceremony of the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

HOW HOLLYWOOD IS GIVING ITS BIGGEST STARS DIGITAL FACELIFTS

Johnny Depp is 53 years old but he doesn't look a day over 26 in the new "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie - at least for a few moments. There was no plastic surgeon involved, heavy makeup or archival footage used to take the actor back to his boyish "Cry Baby" face, however. It's all post-production visual effects, and after a decade of refining the process since Brad Pitt ran the gamut of time in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," it's becoming commonplace in major Hollywood movies.

Depp is just the latest mega-star to get the drastic de-aging treatment on screen, joining the ranks of Robert Downey Jr (in "Captain America: Civil War"), Michael Douglas (in "Ant-Man"), Kurt Russell (in "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2") and scores of others getting digital facelifts to play younger versions of themselves. In the old days, a lucky unknown lookalike (or look enough alike) could have scored the part of young Jack Sparrow or Tony Stark. Now, if the film has the budget, the stars get to have it both ways - and audiences get a nostalgic flashback. Lola Visual Effects is responsible for Depp's transformation, and most of the Marvel tricks, which have included making Chris Evans scrawny for the original "Captain America" and Hayley Atwell some 70 years older for the sequel.

Digital approximation

Lola was the pioneer behind "Benjamin Button," too, and sells their services to all the major studios. It's one of a handful of vendors that have gotten in the so-called "beauty work" business. It's often meant to go unnoticed (like removing a blemish), and is generally buried under mountains of confidentiality agreements. In the case of Depp, and most of Lola's de-aging work, the process starts with capturing a performance from the actor and then manipulating it. This isn't always necessary - "Rogue One" recreated the late Peter Cushing's Grand Moff Tarkin without him, and Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia using doubles - but it was criti-

cal for "Pirates."

"No one else can be Jack Sparrow," said Gary Brozenich, the Oscar-nominated VFX artist who oversaw visual effects for the film. "Trying to do a digital approximation ... audiences would see right through it." Brozenich and the filmmakers decided to bring Depp back to how he looked around the time of "21 Jump Street" and "Cry Baby" and went through a number of iterations, over the course of six months, to arrive at the perfect age (roughly 26) - which Depp, Disney and Jerry Bruckheimer had to sign off on. The final shots, of which there are 20-25, took about 15 artists a year of work.

That Depp has been famous since that age was both a blessing and a curse for the production. They had numerous reference points to work with, but, so would the audience. "Working on the human face is one of the, if not the most challenging thing to do,"

said Trent Claus, the visual effects supervisor for Lola VFX. "People can tell when there is something amiss. Even if they can't put their finger on what is wrong, they can tell that something is wrong." And while the artists have gotten better over the years and have mostly managed to avoid drifting into the dreaded uncanny valley - the term used to describe the eerie feeling you get when looking at a digital person who is near-life-like, but not quite enough - there are still trouble spots. "One of the things that we struggle with is the bottom of the chin. As you get older there tends to be a lot of sag and extra skin that develop underneath the jaw," Claus said. "It is unfortunately not just a simple task of removing the wrinkles because the skin isn't going to be responding the same as it did when you were younger. You have to change not only the way it looks on the outside but how it

moves and reacts to movement and expressions." To counteract this, productions will often shoot a younger double to mimic an actor's performance, which they will use as a reference point for how the younger skin should behave and look in certain lights.

Fictional destruction

"We're constantly fighting making it look lifelike. One of the advantages of the process that we use is by keeping the original actor, we have that starting point of life, of reality," Claus said. It makes the whole process harder, but, "It's worth it." Reactions, lately have been mixed, ranging from nostalgic delight and "how'd they do that" curiosity to dismay and wariness about its future. New York Magazine critic David Edelstein wrote that the "recreations" are "far more disturbing in their real-world implications than the fictional destruction of planets and galaxies."

For New York Times critic Manohla Dargis, Russell's younger visage was "weird" and "disrupting." "It makes you contemplate whether this Benjamin Button-style age-reversing is going to become an increasingly standard (and creepy) industry practice," she wrote. "Pirates 5" co-director Espen Sandberg isn't as dark about it. "For me it's just another storytelling tool and I think it's really cool," he said. And for the VFX artists, it's only the beginning. "Right now what we're using it for is a very nuts and bolts solution to a problem. There's a different and more creative future for it," Brozenich said. "There can be even crazier, more creative uses for it ... maybe a hybrid of several actors."

He thinks the next step is a digital character that plays a larger part, and not just a flashback. After all, the young Han Solo movie isn't using a de-aged Harrison Ford or Billy Dee Williams - they've cast Alden Ehrenreich and Donald Glover. "We have digital characters that are a primary part of (films), like Rocket and Groot from 'Guardians of the Galaxy' ... But they're never

a full-on human performer that plays a key role throughout the duration of a feature film," he said. "I think that that's really the Holy Grail." — AP



This combination of photos released by Disney, shows the character Jack Sparrow at two stages of his life in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales."



This combination of images released by Disney-Marvel shows Kurt Russell portraying Ego in scenes from, "Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2." — AP photos