

Man arrested for growing marijuana



Hamza Bin Laden: Heir to Qaeda?



Bahrain accused of stoking tension



Lions overpower Giants; Stafford throws for 2 TDs



TRUMP WARNS IRAN AND N KOREA'S 'ROCKET MAN'

'AMERICA FIRST' PRESIDENT ADDRESSES UNITED NATIONS



Min 26°
Max 47°
High Tide 10:53
Low Tide 05:03 & 17:59

HIJRI HOLIDAY ON THURSDAY

SAFEGUARDING HUSSEINIYAS

KUWAIT: Ministries and all government institutions nationwide will be closed tomorrow to mark the Hijri New Year's holiday, Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced yesterday. Meanwhile, workplaces of unconventional and special nature will determine their holidays as they see fit, a statement issued by the CSC noted.

In another development, Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Mahmoud Al-Dosari yesterday announced a security plan to safeguard Husseinias during the Islamic calendar month of Muharram. Dosari, also the plan's general supervisor, made his remarks in a press statement after chairing the final meeting to map out the plan for the security field operations committee.

The plan comes under the directions of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and will be implemented firmly and comprehensively. It aims to protect lives and properties, and to ensure the safety of the people visiting Husseinias, Dosari said, adding the minister will evaluate the plan on daily basis. Dosari expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Husseinias' organizers for their constructive and fruitful cooperation with security men throughout current and past religious events. — Agencies



NEW YORK: President Donald Trump speaks to world leaders at the 72nd United Nations (UN) General Assembly at UN headquarters yesterday. — AFP

UNITED NATIONS: US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States will be forced to "totally destroy" North Korea unless Pyongyang backs down from its nuclear challenge, mocking North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a "rocket man" on a suicide mission. Loud murmurs filled the green-marbled UN General Assembly hall when Trump issued his sternest warning yet to North Korea, whose ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests have rattled the globe.

Unless North Korea backs down, he said, "We will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." "Rocket man is on a suicide mission for himself and his regime," he said. North Korea's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's remarks. A junior North Korean diplomat remained in the delegation's front-row seat for Trump's speech, the North Korean UN mission said.

In his first appearance at the annual gathering of world leaders, the president used a 41-minute speech to take aim also at Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional influence, Venezuela's collapsing democracy and the threat of Islamist extremists. He also criticized the Cuban government. But his strongest words were directed at North Korea. He urged United Nations member states to work together to isolate the Kim government until it ceases its "hostile" behavior.

He said North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles "threatens the entire world with unthinkable cost of human life." In what may have been a veiled prod at China, the North's major trading partner, Trump said: "It is an outrage that some nations would not only trade with such a regime but would arm, supply and financially support a country that imperils the world with nuclear conflict."

Continued on Page 11

KUWAIT, INDIA TO SEAL DEALS

By Sajeev K Peter

MIGRANT MAIDS IN OMAN AT RISK

INDIA SCRAPS SCHEME

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: India's decision to scrap a financial guarantee scheme for migrant domestic workers in Oman will make it harder for maids who are abused or unpaid to get home, campaigners said yesterday. The Indian Embassy in Oman issued a notice on Monday, saying it was scrapping the scheme because employers and recruitment agencies said it was discouraging them from hiring.

The decision comes weeks after a similar waiver in Kuwait and discussions about cancelling the scheme in Bahrain as well. "It seems that the Indian government is going to remove the bank guarantee protection for Indian women domestic workers in all Gulf countries, leaving them less protected," said Josephine Valarmathi of the National Domestic Workers Movement in India.

Omani government data shows almost 700,000 Indians live and work in the Arab nation, 6 percent of whom are women. Most are men employed as construction workers, gardeners and drivers. Due to widespread reports of abuse of domestic workers in Gulf nations, India signed an agreement with Oman whereby employers had to provide a bank guarantee certificate of \$2,800 to the Indian Embassy in the capital, Muscat.

This aimed to protect domestic workers if an employer failed to pay wages, or the maid was physically or sexually abused, and required compensation and financial aid to return home.

Continued on Page 11

India-Kuwait relations further," the minister said while addressing the Indian community at the Indian Embassy yesterday. The joint commission meeting is important for both countries as a ministerial level meeting of the commission is taking place after a gap of nine years.

Painting a rosy picture of the Indian economy, Akbar said the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision to help the poor and eradicate poverty out of the country. However, the minister declined to respond to queries from the media and the community members on issues pertaining to the expatriate community in Kuwait.

Continued on Page 11



KUWAIT: A member of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society uses a ballpoint pen to point at Myanmar on a world map, as a recipient of the society's worldwide donations, at their headquarters in Kuwait City yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

BEDOONS AGENCY BACKS DOWN ON PROMISES: MP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Abdullah Fahhad strongly criticized the Central Bedoons Agency, saying it has backed down on pledges to resolve the problem of stateless people who had obtained their country passports which turned out to be fake. The agency had initially promised to grant those people security identification cards which works as a personal identification document but later changed its mind and decided to grant them health cards it said will work like security IDs, MP Fahhad said in a statement.

But when the affected bedoons went to the Agency to obtain the promised health cards, the officials there asked them to sign a pledge to legalize their situation which means they are no longer considered bedoons and lose any right to Kuwaiti citizenship, he said. Fahhad added that the agency officials also wanted to register their nationality in any document in accordance with their passports which means the measure will further complicate their problem rather than resolving it.

There are around 110,000 bedoons in Kuwait who claim the right to Kuwaiti citizenship. The government insists that a majority of them do not qualify for citizenship because they or their forefathers had citizenship of other countries and destroyed them to claim Kuwaiti citizenship. The government however admits

that just over 30,000 of them qualify for consideration for naturalization.

Fahhad called on the Interior Minister to intervene and resolve the issue as was agreed between the National Assembly Human Rights Panel and government agencies. The Bedoons Agency however announced yesterday that it has completed arrangements with the Education Ministry to ensure that children of bedoons with fake passports are enrolled in public schools. The agency called on bedoons with fake passports who have not enrolled their children at schools to visit the agency.

In the meantime, opposition MP Nasser Al-Dossari yesterday criticized the government for failing to cooperate with the National Assembly saying that the government did not fulfill several promises. Dossari said that there is no excuse for the government not to achieve popular demands after it had sufficient time to review its policies during the summer recess of the National Assembly.

He said the government should take parliamentary remarks more seriously and adopt decisions to apply reforms in various fields. He also hoped that the government will come in the next term with a new vision that should form the basis for stronger cooperation. Dossari said the government has failed to fulfill pledges on a number of issues including the return of citizenships withdrawn from a number of opposition leaders.



KUWAIT: India's Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar addresses the Indian community at the Indian Embassy yesterday. — Photo by Sajeev K Peter

QATAR, KUWAIT STOP RENEWING VISAS FOR N KOREAN WORKERS

DOHA: North Korean workers will start leaving Qatar and Kuwait after the Gulf Arab states said they would stop renewing visas, cutting off a source of foreign income for Pyongyang after UN Security Council sanctions and pressure from the United States. US President Donald Trump urged United Nations member states yesterday to turn up the pressure on North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, using his maiden speech to the world body to address what he has said is the top global challenge.

The speech comes after North Korea's nuclear tests and missile launches which have stirred global tensions. Several thousand North

Korean workers reside in the US-allied Gulf region, mainly working on construction sites. Kuwait hosts the only North Korean diplomatic mission in the region and this week took steps to expel the ambassador and downgrade ties. Qatar, which is hosting the 2022 World Cup, said yesterday it was in full compliance with all UN sanctions and that it had stopped issuing visas to North Korean nationals following the previous round of sanctions in 2015.

"There have never been workers from North Korea working on any World Cup construction sites," Qatar's Government Communications Office said in a statement, adding some com-

panies had employed North Koreans prior to 2015. "Approximately 1,000 remain, but this number will decline rapidly as their employment contracts expire. Visas to North Korean nationals will not be renewed," it said.

A source familiar with the matter said the majority of North Koreans working in Qatar were expected to leave in the first six months of 2018 as they come to the end of their employment contracts. A North Korean source said Kuwait had given Ambassador So Chang Sik one month to leave the country, which hosts around 3,000 North Koreans.

Continued on Page 11



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Dr Ahmad Al-Mulaifi, Abdullah Al-Muhailbi, Dr Nasser Al-Sane, Mohammad Al-Olaim and Musaad Al-Dhafiri. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Kuwait's First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah participates in the Arab Ministerial Contact Group on Palestine. — KUNA photos

FOREIGN MINISTER ATTENDS UN REFORMS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS PRAISED

NEW YORK: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chaired his country's delegation Monday to a high-level meeting over UN reforms, which was headed by US President Donald Trump. The meeting, held on sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York, aimed at supporting UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' plan to reform the UN and its agencies to improve their operations. Kuwait had ratified the political declaration of the UN reforms.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled participated in the Arab Ministerial Contact Group on Palestine, which discussed support for the Palestinian economy and institutions. The participants also discussed the means to enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and the establishment of an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also participated in an Arab foreign ministers' consultative meeting to discuss Palestine, Syrian crisis, Iraq, Yemen and Libya.

Humanitarian contribution

Separately, UN Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmad has commended Kuwait for its contributions to help the Yemeni people, especially in the humanitarian domain. He made the remarks during a meeting with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in New York.

In the meantime, UN Secretary General's Special Representative to Syria Staffan de Mistura thanked Kuwait for its humanitarian contributions to alleviate suffering of the



Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with UN Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmad.

Syrian people. He made his remarks during a meeting with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, in which the two officials discussed the Syrian conflict and international efforts to solve it. The meeting, held on sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings, was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi and Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hayyen.

Also, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot

Wallstrom hoped that solid cooperation with Kuwait would continue, as the two countries would be non-permanent UN Security Council (UNSC) members in 2018. This came during her meeting with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, during which the top diplomats discussed regional and international issues, as well as bilateral relations.

In other news, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled held talks in New York with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The meeting also touched upon the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation. — KUNA



BAGHDAD: Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament Salim Al-Jabouri meets with Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan. — KUNA

IRAQI PARLIAMENT SPEAKER, KUWAIT AMBASSADOR DISCUSS IRAQ'S REBUILDING

BAGHDAD: Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament Salim Al-Jabouri held talks with Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan about rallying international support for Iraq rebuilding. In a press statement issued Monday, the Iraqi parliament stated that the talks also tackled bilateral relations and the latest developments in Iraq. During their meeting,

Jabouri underlined the need for garnering international support for the Iraqi government's plan to reconstruct areas affected by the war with the so-called Islamic State (IS) group to allow the return of the displaced people as soon as possible. Last July, Kuwait announced readiness to host an international conference for donors for Iraq rebuilding. — KUNA

KUWAITI-MEXICO COMMITTEE TO CONVENE IN JANUARY

KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Amal Al-Hamad announced Monday that the joint Kuwaiti-Mexican committee would hold its first meeting in early January. In a statement to reporters on the sidelines of her participation in a ceremony organized by the Mexican Embassy in Kuwait to celebrate Mexico's Independence Day, she said that the committee's main objectives are beefing up economic cooperation and creating investment opportunities between the two friendly countries. She explained that the committee would tackle a wide array of economic, trade and investment issues.

Hamad said that Kuwait signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mexican direct investment authority to promote joint investments. She congratulated Mexican people on the National Day, stressing Kuwait's keenness on strengthening economic, cultural and political relations between the two countries.

Sublime efforts

Meanwhile, Ambassador of Mexico

to Kuwait Miguel Angel Isidro conveyed the appreciation of the President and People of Mexico to the sublime efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait towards maintaining the unity of the GCC. "Being one of the GCC founding leaders, His Highness is convinced about the ability of the GCC to protect the heritage and achievements of the member states to meet the targeted objectives of the peoples in the Gulf region," he said in a speech at the event.

This year also marks forty two years of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Mexico, the ambassador noted. "Over these years, bilateral dialogue became more dynamic and contacts between our people grew closer," he said. "I am sure will continue working together with the aim of reaching mutually beneficial opportunities of economic cooperation. There are many areas of cooperation that could be further explored which would bring benefits to both countries and could be the catalyst in bringing the bilateral trade relations between Mexico and Kuwait to a higher level."



KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Amal Al-Hamad (right) and Ambassador of Mexico to Kuwait Miguel Angel Isidro cut the cake during a ceremony to celebrate Mexico's Independence Day. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Diplomats pose for a group photo during the ceremony.



Ambassador of Mexico to Kuwait Miguel Angel Isidro welcomes Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan.



Guests in attendance.

MINISTER DEFENDS DECISION TO DISSOLVE CO-OP'S BOARD

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh stressed that her decisions to dissolve co-operative societies' boards or refer their members to prosecution is done in accordance with the law and upon recommendations made by specialized committees.

Sabeeh made her statement in response to negative reactions on her decision to dissolve Kaifan Co-op Society's Board of Directors, explaining that the decision was made after a specialized committee's investigation and auditing of the co-op's accounts. "A board dissolution decision does not necessarily have to be made only based on finding financial violations," she remarked, noting that detecting any negligence that would jeopardize squander public funds is to make such a decision in order to protect shareholders' money.

Further, Sabeeh indicated that the dissolved board, which had been in office for two years



Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh

and includes veteran members who are highly skilled in the business, had allowed the main suspects involved in embezzling the co-op's funds to leave the country without holding them legally accountable.

In addition, Sabeeh noted that the embezzled amounts had grown, as shown in the investigation reports. "The co-ops law states that boards are elected, but sometimes there are exceptions which require appointing the board members according to certain regulations," she underlined.

Responding to a question about appointing a board member from a different area to run Kaifan Co-op Society, Sabeeh stressed that according to regulations, co-op board members have to be selected from other areas, must be at least 30 years of age, must pass an interview and hold certificates proving they had not been legally sentenced in a court of law. "All these conditions were met in the member appointed in Kaifan," she reiterated.

In addition, Sabeeh strongly rejected describing what happened in Dasma Co-op Society as privatization, and stressed that privatization is against co-ops law. "What happened is only opening investment in various stores, restaurants and pharmacies," she underscored.

NEW HEALTH FEES WON'T SOLVE DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE: MPs

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A number of lawmakers plan to meet in the coming few days in Jahra to discuss a series of issues that will be included in the National Assembly's agenda for deliberation once it reconvenes in October 24, 2017, sources said. At least 15 MPs are likely to attend the meeting in order to discuss topics including a proposal to reduce fees on health services presented to expatriates which the Ministry of Health (MOH) plans to implement by October 1st. "Some MPs believe that the new fees are too high and would not help solve the state's demographic imbalance," said the sources, adding that the best alternative would be speeding up the construction of health insurance hospitals which would be dedicated to providing health services to expats.

The MPs also plan to discuss a proposal to

reduce fuel prices, arguing that the increases imposed last year have fallen short of achieving their announced goals, such as reducing traffic. In addition, the sources said that the meeting would discuss a proposal to force the government to conduct a cabinet reshuffle that sees the ouster of the current ministers of oil, social affairs, finance and education; who are all subject to parliamentary inquiries once the parliament convenes.

Kuwaiti teachers

Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares said that Kuwaiti teachers have outnumbered non-Kuwaitis by almost two thirds, explaining that the total number of teachers this year reached 66,156, of which 63.6 percent are Kuwaitis, while non-Kuwaitis comprised only 36.4 percent.

Responding to an inquiry filed by MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli in this regard, Fares indicated that 97.2 percent of the total number of kindergarten teachers are Kuwaitis, 52.1 percent of primary school male teachers and 71.1 percent of female teachers are Kuwaitis, 42.6 percent of male teachers in intermediate schools are Kuwaitis, 67.4 percent of female teachers in those schools are Kuwaitis, 32.8 percent of male teachers in secondary schools are Kuwaitis and that 55.6 percent of female teachers in those schools are Kuwaitis.

Further, Fares explained that the total number of male teacher in all stages reaches 16,421 including 6,551 Kuwaitis, adding that the total number of female teachers reached 49,735 including 35,527 Kuwaitis. Finally, Fares said that 459 bedoon (stateless) teachers are registered in the current school year, including 59 male and 400 female teachers in various stages.



KUWAIT: Head of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with President of Boeing Middle East, North Africa and Turkey Bernie Dunn. — KUNA

CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE, BOEING DISCUSS BOLSTERING COOPERATION

KUWAIT: Head of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah discussed with President of Boeing Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, Bernie Dunn, ways of enhancing joint cooperation, DGCA said in a statement yesterday. The meeting, held in Kuwait, focused on cooperation in the fields of training and development to raise the efficiency of management staffs and increase the productivity of the operating sectors.

Boeing was founded on July 15, 1916 and is currently one of the world's largest companies in the field of civil and military aircraft manufacturing, where the company has unlimited support from the US government. Kuwait Airways, the national carrier, has entered into a purchase agreement for 10 Boeing ER 777-300 aircraft to implement the five-year work plan and change strategy announced by Kuwait in September 2016. — KUNA



MAN ARRESTED FOR GROWING MARIJUANA FOR SALE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: A man faces drug trafficking charges after police raided his house and found large amounts of marijuana plants inside. The suspect, Kuwaiti, was put under surveillance for two weeks and was eventually arrested near his house yesterday. Police found what they described as a 'fully-equipped planting area' that included a large number of plastic containers with nearly 1,000 marijuana seedlings ready for sale. They also found a large quantity of marijuana seeds. The man was taken to the Drug Control General Department for further action.

Death sentence

The criminal court yesterday sentenced a citizen to death after he was found guilty of killing his wife. The man was indicted of fatally shooting his wife, although he had pled not guilty, and claimed that he shot his wife accidentally. Separately, the appeals court reduced a sentence against a citizen accused of joining the Islamic State (IS) and attempting to commit terrorist activities at a mosque in Salmiya and a security facility. The court sentenced the 19-year-old man

to five years, while the court of first instance had sentenced him to seven years.

Used furniture

Kuwait Municipality workers carried out a campaign at used furniture stores in Rai, during which 190 cubic meters of used furniture were removed, while 23 citations were issued against vendors who used locations to sell goods before obtaining licenses.

Drug possession

Farwaniya police caught three men who were under the influence of drugs, and had shabu and Tramadol on them. Police had set up a checkpoint in Khaitan when a patrolman noticed three persons inside a car with a bag under the driver's seat. He inspected the bag and found out that it contained shabu, while the tablets were discovered when the three were searched. The Egyptian men were sent to the Drug Control General Department for further action. Separately, Abdaly customs arrested a Pakistani man tried to smuggle two kilograms of hashish into the country. The drugs were hidden above one of the tires of his truck.



Kuwait Times

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In Brief

PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS NAMED

KUWAIT: Three ministers were named as members of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development, which is chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. A decree published in this week's issue of the official state magazine 'Kuwait Al-Youm' announced forming the new council members comprising Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan, as well as Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares.



'HIRE KUWAITIS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS'

KUWAIT: The Public Authority of the Disabled (PAD) has instructed local companies to employ Kuwaitis with special needs, and gave grace periods for the private companies to make necessary preparations for hiring these citizens, said Majed Al-Saleh, a senior official at PAD's educational services sector. Competent authorities will take legal action against non-abiding companies, he warned, stressing that they must abide by terms of a law regulating employment of this segment of the society in the private sector. — KUNA



RELIEF AID FOR YEMENIS IN ADEN

RIYADH: Kuwait's Patients Helping Fund Society (PHF) delivered yesterday medical relief to Yemenis in the city of Aden, said a Yemeni official yesterday. Director General of Yemen's national medical supplies program Dr Suad Maisari told the press that three containers, filled with medicine to treat Cholera and other ailments, have arrived to the Yemeni city. The recent batch of medical relief aid was delivered as part of a Kuwaiti campaign which has so far helped provide aid to Yemenis, Syrians, and other refugees in the region. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: The Dhow Harbor at the Scientific Center houses the boom Fateh-el-Khair; the only surviving Kuwaiti sailing ship from the pre-oil era. It also includes samples of various smaller dhows and vessels used during that period. — KUNA photo

AHLI UNITED BANK CONCLUDES INTERNAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOYAC KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the completion of its summer internal training program for university students. The program, which was held in partnership with LOYAC Kuwait, comes as part of the Bank's undertaking to reinforce its role across the community through helping young professionals achieve their potential. In addition, the program reflects AUB's underlying strategic approach to help support the educational sector and provide theoretical as well as practical learning experience.

AUB welcomed seven university students in an internal training drive that was rolled out over six weeks. The main elements of the program focused on providing awareness of Islamic banking and an explanation of the various banking departments that operate within AUB so as to introduce a wide range of business practices that are related to the banking industry.



KUWAIT: A group photo of some university students honored by AUB.

The first stage of the training focused primarily on principles of banking that are sharia compliant. An update on a range of products and services that AUB currently offers was provided along with reinforcing the trainees' professional communications skills. Moreover, a range of customer service tactics was also introduced as part of the training. The training program also

exposed students to a broad array of applications and programs that are helpful for their professional future careers.

The final component of the program focused on equipping students with the knowledge around different banking transactions, during which they worked in a number of AUB's departments and have been trained throughout multiple

branches across Kuwait, in an effort to receive more practical training.

In a press release, Naqeeb Amin, AUB's Human Resources General Manager said, "AUB aims to drive and strengthen its overall community contributions that add more value towards supporting young professionals and recent university graduates as they are considered the building blocks of Kuwait's sustainable future. The Bank is well on its way to implementing its social responsibility strategy by participating in similar programs."

Amin also noted that "AUB is pleased to extend its partnership with LOYAC Kuwait across a number of activities that have directly resulted in strong results for both organizations. This program will result in exceptional outcomes and will prove to be of value to young professionals' efforts to sharpen their skills, and ultimately support the community in various fields."

PORTABLE BUSINESSES GAINING POPULARITY ACROSS KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Whether you are looking for new clothes, getting a slick haircut or even dental care, portable businesses are providing clients with top notch services in the comfort of their homes.

These businesses have recently been

popping up around the country representing a new trend. It is likely that the owners of these businesses aim to boost profits through reaching out to their customers, while providing them with a new kind of experience. — KUNA



NAHEDH: KFH TRAINS KUWAIT EMPLOYEES TO BE GLOBALLY QUALIFIED TO MANAGE GROUP UNITS CHANGE OF FUNCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING CONCEPT

KUWAIT: KFH Group CEO Mazen Al-Nahedh emphasized the significance of investment in the development of human resources of Kuwaiti youth working at KFH and develop their capabilities to create a generation of leaders who are able to bear their responsibilities and lead next development stages. KFH has several promising opportunities to expand based on a highly qualified and trained human resources base.

Nahedh emphasized during a meeting with a group of new recruits who are enrolled in the training program 'Fursa' that KFH provides all support to the development and training of human resources to better

serve the market in general and achieve development in various economic fields. This matter is considered as a national and social duty as development in national economy requires the training of highly distinguished experts who are able to deal with the market movement products, diversity technology expansion and openness to global markets.

The strategic objective of the training program at KFH aim to take employees' performance to global levels which cope with KFH business in several markets and countries worldwide, provide them with expertise and skills that would enable them to work in more than one field and have

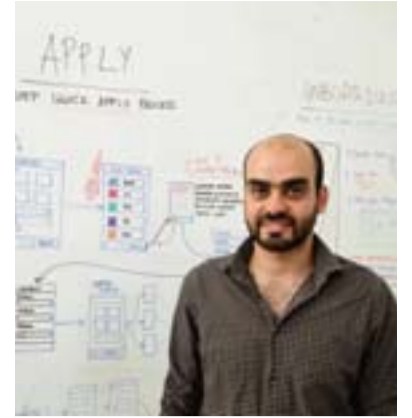
knowledge about the movement of global markets and the development of banking systems and business in Islamic finance business. They are expected also to apprehend the most significant technical, administrative, organizational and regulatory aspects related to the aforementioned issues. He indicated that the career development opportunities at KFH have changed and are no longer limited to the natural graduation from a certain administrative level to a higher level. In fact it carried the advantages of moving from one market to another and from one group unit to another, thus gathering between the horizontal and vertical promotional systems

among the group units. The above represents an enrichment of the employees experience and professional knowledge and an enhancement of the leadership spirit among Kuwaiti Youth globally. Nahedh urged all trainees to exert their efforts, stating that the key to success is to work hard and seek to achieve self-development, face challenges and hold on to the elements of success and the ability to face challenges based on knowledge, occupational development, practical performance and full view and apprehension of all aspects of work, thus indicating that KFH is construed as a major opportunity to achieve these goals based on the geographical diversity.

Nahedh indicated that the employee shall always remain in the state of continuous learning and training to achieve self-development in all aspects of work and achieve development in administrative levels. Employee shall also acquire more skills when on duty. Accordingly, theoretical training in halls and practical training among customers and in service locations shall eventually create a significant functional element if the employee succeeds in apprehending the advantages and characteristics of all types of training.



KUWAIT: KFH Group CEO Mazen Al-Nahedh poses with new recruits in the 'Fursa' program.



Merkel refugee rallying cry echoes ahead of election

BANGLADESH PM EXPECTS NO HELP FROM TRUMP ON ROHINGYA CRISIS



UKHIA, Bangladesh: A young Rohingya refugee shelters from the rain with an umbrella while sitting at Kutupalong refugee camp. (INSET) Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a national address in Naypyidaw yesterday. — AFP photos

UNDER FIRE SUU KYI DEFENDS MYANMAR ACTIONS

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BLAMED THE ROHINGYA THEMSELVES

NAYPYITAW: With a mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims sparking accusations of ethnic cleansing from the United Nations and others, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday said her country does not fear international scrutiny and invited diplomats to see some areas for themselves. Though an estimated 421,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh in less than a month as their villages burned and hundreds were killed, Suu Kyi said the "great majority" of Muslims within the conflict zone stayed and that "more than 50 percent of their villages were intact."

The Nobel Peace laureate's global image has been damaged by violence since Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar security forces on Aug 25. Rohingyas fled their villages in the military crackdown that followed, and many of their villages have been burned. The government has blamed the Rohingyas themselves, but members of the persecuted minority have said soldiers and Buddhist mobs attacked them. Suu Kyi's first address to the nation since the violence erupted came days after she canceled plans to attend the UN General Assembly, a decision widely seen as a response to international criticism.

Suu Kyi said anyone found to have broken the law would be punished. "Human rights violations and all other acts that impair stability and harmony and undermine the rule of law

will be addressed in accordance with strict laws and justice," she said. The Rohingyas, who live mainly in northern Rakhine state near the Bangladesh border, have had a long and troubled history in this predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million.

Though members of the long-persecuted religious minority first arrived in the western state of Rakhine generations ago, most people in Myanmar consider them to have migrated illegally from Bangladesh. Denied citizenship, they are effectively stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

The attacks on Rohingya villages in the last month appear to many to have been a systematic effort to drive them out. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has described it as ethnic cleansing. Satellite imagery released by Human Rights Watch yesterday shows massive swaths of scorched landscape and the near total destruction of 214 villages. Also yesterday, a group that focuses on Rohingyas rights said the attacks drove nearly all Rohingyas out of one of the three northern Rakhine townships where the ethnic group is concentrated in Myanmar.

Verification process

The Arakan Project found that almost

every tract of villages in Maungdaw township suffered some burning. Most Rohingya villages in Rathedaung township also were targeted, but relatively few were hit in northern Rakhine state. Suu Kyi sought to assure foreign diplomats gathered for her speech in Naypyitaw, the capital, that those who fled to Bangladesh would be allowed to return if they passed a "verification" process.

She also said the government was working to restore normalcy in the area. Though fires have continued to flare in recent days in northern Rakhine state, she said "there have been no armed clashes and there have been no clearance operations" for the past two weeks. "Nevertheless we are concerned to hear that numbers of Muslims are fleeing across the border to Bangladesh," she said. "We want to understand why this exodus is happening. We would like to talk to those who have fled as well as those who have stayed."

She said she it would be helpful to understand why conflict did not break out everywhere. She invited the diplomats with visit villages that weren't affected so they could learn along with the government "why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas?" Rohingyas now in camps in Bangladesh were angered by the implication that Rohingyas who were driven from their villages

were themselves responsible, or that some members of the ethnic group are safe.

In the Kutupalong refugee camp, Abdul Hafiz said Rohingyas once trusted Suu Kyi more than the military that not only ruled for half a century before, but also held her under house arrest for many years. Now Hafiz calls Suu Kyi a "liar" and says Rohingyas are suffering more than ever. He said Suu Kyi should give international journalists more access to their destroyed villages. If Rohingyas are proven wrong that they were attacked, he said, "we will not mind if the world decides to kill us all by pushing us into the sea."

Chris Lewa, founder of the Arakan Project, said the government rules for verifying Rohingyas as citizens are too strict, requiring documents dating back decades. "Many people would have lost their documents in the fires, and many children were already unregistered," she said. Those fires, she added, have destroyed thousands of homes. "So where are they going to go? I hope not in segregated camps, as in Sittwe," a Rakhine state city where tens of thousands of Rohingyas have been confined since another round of ethnic violence five years ago.

Victim blaming

Some observers who attended the speech said it was progress for Suu Kyi to invite diplo-

rats to at least some Rohingya villages. "Today's welcoming of the international community to travel to Rakhine and see for ourselves what the situation is, I think that is a positive statement," said Andrew Kirkwood of the United Nations' Office for Project Services.

W Patrick Murphy, US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southeast Asia, left the event without commenting. Russian and Chinese diplomats praised the speech. "The message is quite clear that Myanmar is ready to cooperate with the international community," said the Russian ambassador to Myanmar, Dr Nikolay Listopadov. Rights groups were far more critical. Amnesty International regional director James Gomez accused Suu Kyi of "a mix of untruths and victim-blaming."

"There is overwhelming evidence that security forces are engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing," Gomez said. "While it was positive to hear Aung San Suu Kyi condemn human rights violations in Rakhine state, she is still silent about the role of the security forces in this." The exodus continues to grow. The UN's migration agency yesterday raised its estimate of the number of refugees in Bangladesh to 421,000, and UNICEF says more than a quarter-million of those are children. Hundreds of thousands more Rohingyas were already in Bangladesh from waves of violence years earlier. — AP

HAMZA BIN LADEN: THE HEIR TO AL-QAEDA?

PARIS: A photo montage published by Al-Qaeda to mark the 16th anniversary of 9/11 shows the face of Osama bin Laden in the flames of the Twin Towers. At his side is his son Hamza, the "crown prince of jihad". The young man, now 28, has appeared since childhood in the propaganda network founded by his father. And now, some officials and analysts believe he might try to unify jihadists around the world, taking advantage of the military weakness of the Islamic State (IS) group.

In a report published by the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC), former FBI special agent and Al-Qaeda specialist Ali Soufan wrote: "Now in his late 20s, Hamza is being prepared for a leadership role in the organization his father founded. "As a member of the bin Laden dynasty, Hamza is likely to be perceived favorably by the jihadi rank-and-file. "With the Islamic State 'caliphate' apparently on the verge of collapse, Hamza is now the figure best placed to reunify the global jihadi movement."

'Victory or martyrdom'

The 15th of bin Laden's 20 children, a son of his third wife, Hamza has been groomed to fol-

low in his father's footsteps since childhood. At his side in Afghanistan before 9/11, he learned how to handle weapons, and ranted in his thin voice against Americans, Jews and "Crusaders" in videos uploaded online.

On the eve of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Hamza was separated from his father, whom he was never to see again. He was evacuated with the clan's wives and other children to Jalalabad in Afghanistan, then on to Iran, where they were placed under house arrest for years. His whereabouts now are unknown. A sophisticated system of messengers allowed bin Laden and his favorite son to remain in contact by writing letters, some of which were found during the raid that killed the terrorist in Abbottabad, in Pakistan.

In them Hamza assures his father that he is "forged in steel" and ready "for victory or martyrdom". "What makes me really sad is that the legions of mujahideen started, and I did not join them," he wrote in July 2009. In an audio message in August 2015, Hamza pays homage to his father the "martyr" and his elder brother Khalid, who died while trying to defend him at Abbottabad and asks jihadists around the world

to "strike from Kabul to Baghdad, from Gaza to Washington, London, Paris and Tel Aviv". One year later, in a diatribe entitled "We are all Osama," he called for vengeance, warning: "If you think you will not be held accountable for the crime in Abbottabad, you are mistaken." Eighteen months later, after similar appeals, the US State Department reinforced his credibility within jihadist circles by putting his name on the blacklist of "international terrorists".

Like father, like son

Soufan said: "Hamza's messages frequently repeat, almost word-for-word, sentences uttered by the elder bin Laden during Al-Qaeda's heyday in the late 1990 and early 2000s. "Hamza even makes an effort to sound like his father intoning his words with the same quiet intensity. As the Islamic State continues to crumble, many of its adherents will be looking for new banners under which to fight. Many factors suggest that Hamza could be a highly effective leader. It remains to be seen how, exactly, the organization will make use of him, but it is clear that his star is on the rise. That should worry policymakers in the West as well as in the Muslim world." — AFP

SUPER BOWL OF DIPLOMACY: FUN FACTS ON THE UN MEET

UNITED NATIONS: It's been dubbed the Super Bowl of diplomacy, the Oscars of world statesmanship: the UN General Assembly kicks off yesterday with US President Donald Trump in the spotlight as he makes his first address to the 193-nation body. Here are a few fun facts about this year's gathering:

Who's coming

There are 90 heads of state, five vice presidents, 39 heads of government, three deputy prime ministers and 52 ministers. At the rostrum for the first time will be Trump as well as France's Emmanuel Macron and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who has been in the top job for nine months. Gambia's Adama Barrow is making his international debut after trouncing long-serving leader Yahya Jammeh. Among the heavy hitters are Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and British Prime Minister Theresa May.

North Korea gets front-row seat

As luck would have it, North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-Ho is getting a front-row seat at this year's General Assembly, sitting to the right of the rostrum. Every year, the name of a country gets pulled out of a box to determine the alphabetical order of the seating arrangement. This year's winner was the Czech Republic, which means the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as North Korea is formally known, got the second seat in the front row.

Beef and potatoes for lunch

Are UN cooks pandering to Trump's love of meat? One glance at the menu for the state luncheon yesterday and the question does come to mind. World leaders will enjoy pan-seared Japanese Wagyu beef tenderloin, Yukon gold potatoes, roasted asparagus and baby carrots. The starters include roasted chanterelle mushrooms, haricots and grilled stone fruit served on a bed of lettuce. — AFP

ISRAEL SAYS THEY SHOT DOWN HEZBOLLAH-OPERATED DRONE

JERUSALEM: Israel's military fired a Patriot missile yesterday to bring down what it said was an Iranian-made drone operated by Hezbollah on a reconnaissance mission over the Golan Heights. The drone took off from a Damascus military airport before entering the demilitarized zone approaching the Israeli-controlled part of the Golan Heights, Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus said.

"We scrambled fighter jets but they did not engage the UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle)," Conricus said. "It was instead shot down by one Patriot missile that was fired by Israeli air defense soldiers." He said details of the drone were still

being evaluated, including whether or not it was armed. It fell in the buffer zone between the Israeli- and Syrian-controlled parts of the Golan. Israel and Syria are still technically at war, though the armistice line on the Golan Heights had remained largely quiet for decades until civil war erupted in Syria in 2011.

Israel seized 1,200 square kilometers of the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed it in a move never recognized by the international community. In April, Israel used a Patriot missile to shoot down what it identified as "a target" over the Golan Heights, with Israeli media

reports saying it was a drone. It has also seen regular spillover fire from the conflict in Syria and acknowledges carrying out dozens of air strikes there to stop advanced arms deliveries to Hezbollah. Earlier this month, Syria's army accused Israeli warplanes of hitting one of its positions, killing two people in an attack that a monitor said targeted a site where the regime allegedly produces chemical weapons.

UN speech

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is due to address the UN General Assembly later Tuesday,

has boosted his criticism of arch-foe Iran and Hezbollah in recent months. He has particularly spoken out about Iran's presence in neighboring Syria, where it is backing President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, like Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. When meeting US President Donald Trump on Monday, Netanyahu said he wanted to focus on the Iranian threat and Tehran's growing clout in Syria.

During a visit by UN chief Antonio Guterres last month, Netanyahu accused Iran of building sites to produce "precision-guided missiles" in both Syria and Lebanon. Yesterday,

Conricus said "it is not the first time that we see Hezbollah operating UAVs for reconnaissance missions," but added that Israel decided to shoot it down after it entered the buffer zone.

He said the decision to do so had no link with Netanyahu's speech later in the day in which he is expected to focus on Iran. Israel's military "will not allow any breach of Israeli sovereignty or any hostile attempts by organizations like Hezbollah, the Islamic Jihad, Iranian terror organizations and Shia militias to harm the Israeli state and its citizens and we will respond swiftly and forcefully to any such attempts," he said. —AP



MOSCOW: Honor guards march during the unveiling ceremony of a statue of Mikhail Kalashnikov, the Russian inventor of the famed AK-47 assault rifle. —AFP

MOSCOW UNVEILS MONUMENT TO KALASHNIKOV, DESIGNER OF AK-47

MOSCOW: The new statue of Mikhail Kalashnikov cradling his signature AK-47 assault rifle unveiled yesterday in Moscow commemorates one of Russia's most renowned and reviled inventions. By some estimates, the AK-47 and its versions account for about one-fifth of the world's firearms, the rugged and reliable weapon of choice for many armies, terror groups and drug gangs. A look at Kalashnikov and his gun:

The makings of a designer

Kalashnikov was born into a Siberian peasant family in 1919. Mechanically minded, he at first aspired to design farm equipment. But World War II called him into the army. He was wounded in the 1941 battle of Bryansk, and spent several months recovering in a hospital. While on the mend, he heard other soldiers complaining about how the Red Army's rifles were inferior to those wielded by the Nazis, and he began to work on designs of his own. The army put him to work as a designer and although his first efforts were unsuccessful, he broke through in 1947. The gun's name commemorates the designer and the year - Avtomat Kalashnikova (19)47.

A gun adopted around the world

The AK-47 soon became widely popular for its adaptability to rugged conditions, including jungles, deserts and cold. It is simple to operate and easy to maintain with little training, users reportedly can field-strip one in half a minute. The gun was quickly adopted by Soviet Bloc armies and the Soviet Union distributed them to the armies of ideological allies and revolution-

ary groups throughout Africa and Asia. Moscow also freely licensed other countries to produce local versions.

A Russian culture icon

The AK-47's distinctive profile with a banana clip makes it one of the world's most recognizable firearms. It appears on the flag of Mozambique, the flag of Hezbollah and its barrel is shown on Zimbabwe's coat of arms. It also enters the precincts of kitsch - souvenir hunters can find glass mock-ups of the rifle filled with vodka. In the words of Russian President Vladimir Putin: "The Kalashnikov rifle is a symbol of the creative genius of our people." Or as Russia's Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky put it: the Kalashnikov rifle has become "Russia's cultural brand."

How did Kalashnikov feel?

Kalashnikov had said repeatedly that he was untroubled by inventing a gun that shed so much blood, insisting that he designed it to defend the Motherland. "I sleep well. It's the politicians who are to blame for failing to come to an agreement and resorting to violence," he said in 2007. But a few months before his death in 2013 at age 94, he had penned a brooding letter to Russian Orthodox Church leader Patriarch Kirill. "My mental anguish is unbearable. I have the same insoluble question: if my submachine gun took people's lives, does it mean that I, Mikhail Kalashnikov, 93 years old, the son of a peasant, and Orthodox Christian by my faith, am responsible for the deaths of people, even if they were enemies?" he wrote. —AP

FRENCH ENVOY: DISCORD HIGHEST SINCE COLD WAR

UNITED NATIONS: Dissension and conflict are at their highest levels since the Cold War and cooperation among nations has become more difficult in a world that is more interdependent than ever, France's top diplomat said Monday as global leaders gathered at the United Nations. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told a news conference that heads of state and government were coming together for their annual meeting at the General Assembly at "a critical moment" that is witnessing "a worrying degradation of the international environment."

What is worse, he said, is that some countries are increasingly questioning the role of working together, "and with a temptation of withdrawal out of fear or selfishness." He gave no examples but appeared to be pointing to growing

nationalism in the United States and some European countries. The ministerial session started yesterday with a state of the world speech by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. US President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron, both making their debuts at the global gathering, will address the 193-member world body soon after.

Le Drian cited the increasing number of global crises: fighting terrorism; resolving conflicts from the Middle East to Africa; tackling North Korea's escalating nuclear program; and addressing the flight of more than 400,000 Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar to Bangladesh. France's priority is to work on concrete solutions because these crises affect European security and "jeopardize the international order," he said. —AP

AL-QAEDA-LED FIGHTERS ON WIDEST OFFENSIVE AGAINST SYRIAN TROOPS

WHITE HELMETS WERE RENDERED NON-OPERATIONAL

BEIRUT: Insurgents led by an Al-Qaeda-linked group launched one of their widest offensives yet yesterday against Syrian pro-government forces, which responded with heavy airstrikes targeting hospitals and first responders. Pro-government media said the airstrikes targeted insurgent supply lines from the northwestern Idlib province, a stronghold of the Al-Qaeda-linked group. Opposition activists and rescue workers said at least one civilian was killed. They said two hospitals, and two centers used by volunteer first responders known as the White Helmets, were rendered non-operational.

The offensive tests a newly announced "de-escalation zone" in Idlib, the latest of four such areas declared by Russia and Iran, which support the Syrian government, and Turkey, which backs the rebels. Fighting has largely subsided in the other three zones, near Damascus, in the central Homs province and in southern Syria. The "de-escalation zones" have freed up Syrian troops and allied militias to battle the Islamic State group in the eastern Deir el-Zour province and other areas.

The Syrian government-affiliated Central Military Media outlet acknowledged the insurgent offensive just south of Idlib and said forces responded with intensive airstrikes and shelling, killing a number of insurgents. Rami Abdurrahman, the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said airstrikes pummeled the front line but also targeted southern Idlib, hitting at least four medical centers.

Hospitals attacked

Abdurrahman said an elderly woman was killed near a hospital in Alteh, south of Idlib. The opposition-run Qasioun News Agency said two hospitals were knocked out of service because of the strikes. The White Helmets, also known as the Syrian Civil Defense, said two of its centers were also non-operational. The group counted at least 40 airstrikes in the area since early yesterday.

Abdurrahman said the offensive is the widest so far targeting the government-held city of Hama. He said thousands of fighters, led by the Al-Qaeda-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and its allies, including Chinese fighters of the Turkistan Islamic Party, took part in the offensive. He said the Alezzah Army, a rebel group formerly backed by the United States, was fighting alongside the other insurgents.

The insurgents seized two villages and used car bombs to attack pro-government forces, he said. Insurgents have tried to advance on the nearby city of Hama on several occasions. During their most recent offensive, launched in March, a chemical attack widely blamed on government forces killed more than 80 civilians in Idlib.

Also yesterday, the US-led coalition against the IS group confirmed that it had closed one of its two bases in southern Syria. Coalition spokesman Col Ryan Dillon said that after the closure of the Zakaf base, coalition and allied Syrian forces are now only operating out of the larger Tanf base near the Jordanian and Iraqi borders.

The Zakaf base was established months ago as the US expanded its presence in the area it was planning to use a launch pad for operations against IS in eastern Syria. But a Syrian government offensive, backed by Iran, essentially cut the base off. US-backed Syrian forces are meanwhile advancing in Deir el-Zour, just a few miles away from the Syrian government offensive, as the two sides race to secure the oil-rich province bordering Iraq. Dillon said US-trained Arab fighters in Tanf will eventually join that campaign. —AFP



IDLIB: A picture taken on September 19, 2017 shows people walking through rubble and debris past a damaged ambulance following a reported air strike by Syrian government forces in the village of Al-Tahh. —AFP

CLASHES ERUPT IN KIRKUK

BAGHDAD: Iraq's ethnically-mixed and contested city of Kirkuk was on a nighttime curfew yesterday after clashes erupted there the previous night between Kurds and Turks amid preparations for the controversial Kurdish independence referendum next week, a local Turkmen official said. The Iraqi Kurds plan to hold the referendum on Sept 25 in three governorates that make up their self-ruled region, as well as in disputed areas that are controlled by Kurdish forces but claimed by Baghdad, including the oil-rich province of Kirkuk.

Baghdad, Turkey, Iran and the international community have rejected the vote and asked the Kurds to call it off to avoid further destabilizing the region. Shortly after sunset Monday, gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on one of the offices of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, Mohammed Samaan Kanaan, in charge of the Front's offices, told The Associated Press over the phone. The guards returned fire, killing one and wounding two of the assailants, Kanaan added. Hours later, a police patrol that included the brother of the slain assailant attacked another office, triggering clashes, Kanaan said. The fighting ended when a large ethnically mixed force reached the scene. No casualties occurred in the second bout of clashes. The provincial police chief, Brig Gen

Khatab Omar, said an investigation committee made up of all ethnic groups is probing the incident. He blamed "reckless enthusiastic youths" for the skirmishes and said that arrests have been made. He didn't elaborate but insisted the situation was "under control" inside the city. Kirkuk is home to Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen and Christians. Kurdish forces took control of the province and other disputed areas in the summer of 2014, when the Islamic State group swept across northern and central Iraq and the Iraqi armed forces crumbled.

On Monday, Iraq's top court temporarily suspended the northern Kurdish region's referendum on independence, saying it "issued a national order to suspend the referendum procedures ... until the resolution of the cases regarding the constitutionality of said decision." The move is just the latest in a number of rulings from Iraq's central government attempting to stop the vote. On Sept 12, Iraq's parliament voted to reject the referendum and on Sept 14, lawmakers voted to dismiss the ethnically mixed Kirkuk province's Kurdish governor who supports the referendum. Despite strong opposition from Baghdad, regional leaders and the United States - a key ally of Iraq's Kurds - Kurdish officials have continued to pledge that the vote will be held. —AP



SULAIMANIYAH: Iraqi Kurdish men take part in a rally calling for the deferment of an independence referendum that is due to take place on September 25. —AFP

MELANIA TRUMP THREATENS LAWSUIT OVER BILLBOARD

ZAGREB: Billboards featuring Melania Trump and the slogan "just imagine how far you can go with a little bit of English" were removed yesterday from the Croatian capital after her lawyer threatened a lawsuit. The billboards were part of a marketing campaign by a private English language school in Zagreb, which tried to persuade Croats to learn English by reminding them of the Slovenian-born US first lady's personal experience.

But Mrs Trump did not accept what was apparently meant to be a joke about her English, spoken with a heavy accent. Her Slovenian lawyer demanded that the billboards, showing Melania Trump delivering a speech standing before a fluttering American flag, be im-

mediately removed. "I'm satisfied with the fact that the school admitted that they violated the law and that they are ready to remove the billboards and (Facebook) ads," lawyer Natasa Pirc-Musar told The Associated Press. "We are still analyzing possible further legal steps."

Melania Trump has hired the law firm to protect her image, which has appeared on various products in her native Slovenia, including cakes, underwear and tourism advertisements. Pirc-Musar said that the Croatian school has apologized for the billboards, but that the statement also needs to be published by the Croatian and Slovenian state news agencies.

"We are very sorry that the billboards were misunderstood as

something intended to mock the US first lady," Ivis Buric, a spokeswoman for the school, American Institute, said. "It was meant to be something positive, to show her as a role model."

Buric admitted that the short advertising campaign turned out to be "very successful" because of the wide publicity it received both locally and internationally. She said that the school intends to put up new billboards, this time without Melania Trump's image. Melania Trump was born in neighboring Slovenia as Melania Knavs.

She left Slovenia in her 20s to pursue an international modeling career before meeting Donald Trump at a Fashion Week party in New York in 1998. —AP

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PM MAY TO MAKE HIGH STAKES BREXIT SPEECH

LONDON: After months of Brexit talks that have made little progress and deepened rifts in her party, British Prime Minister Theresa May will try this week to put the negotiations on track and reassert her authority. In a speech in the Italian city of Florence, May will set out on Friday her vision for future ties with the European Union and try to fill an apparent policy vacuum that has left her Brexit team adopting what Brussels regards as wrecking tactics in the talks on unraveling four decades of union.

The 60-year-old leader has deliberately chosen an EU city to deliver the speech so that she can speak directly to the other 27 nations in the bloc, but has her work cut out in seizing back the initiative. May has been largely quiet on

Brexit since her Conservative Party lost its parliamentary majority in a June election that she need not have called, saying little beyond expressing her support for "a deep and special partnership" with the bloc once Britain leaves in March 2019. But days before the speech, foreign minister Boris Johnson laid out his own Brexit vision, challenging her more cautious approach and exposing the fault lines in her party and government.

EU negotiators are also frustrated with what they see as Britain's policy drift. At talks in August, British officials spent almost three hours picking holes in the legal basis for the bill that the EU expects London to pay to leave. Sources familiar with the presentation-so

detailed it stretched for 11 pages and was illustrated with 23 slides—called it a show of legal muscle. But, as Brexit minister David Davis said, the meeting was even "tetchier than the one before."

"The reason lawyers gave a two-and-a-half hour presentation is because no government minister had made a decision on policy," said Andrew Hood, who was a legal adviser to former Prime Minister David Cameron and still has contact with lawyers in several government departments. The August talks were almost cancelled by the EU side because of Britain's lack of position, Hood told Reuters. "I always thought when I was in the foreign office that if you ever need to revert to lawyers you've probably lost," he said.

Rifts, splits and frustration

Hood now advises companies on their Brexit strategy for law firm Dechert but took part in meetings with the EU under Cameron, who resigned last year after Britons voted for Brexit. The financial settlement with Brussels is one of the most difficult parts of the Brexit negotiations, but the lack of movement so far on even the mechanics of how to calculate the sum shows the difficulties facing Britain.

May is walking a tightrope between hardline Conservative Brexit supporters who want to make sure any payment is as small as possible, and some top ministers who believe Britain must pay to keep ties as close as possible. Until now, she has largely let her government do

the talking by setting out a wishlist for future relations with the bloc that aims for the closest of ties without the costs. May has also stuck to a belief that by playing her cards close to her chest, Britain will force EU negotiators into concessions.

But her silence has allowed other voices to emerge. The main opposition Labour Party says it would keep Britain in the single European market and customs union during a transitional period, the Liberal Democrats are demanding a second referendum and the Scottish National Party wants Scotland to remain part of the EU. Their opposition is to be expected, but criticism from May's own team is not, and has raised eyebrows. —Reuters

MERKEL REFUGEE RALLYING CRY ECHOES AHEAD OF ELECTION

MIX OF GOOD-WILL AND HOSTILITY LINGERS OVER VOTE

BERLIN: Syrian student Moataz Ghannam believes many Germans misunderstood Chancellor Angela Merkel when she delivered her now-famous rallying cry at the height of the refugee influx, "We can do it." "I didn't see it as a statement of fact — 'we can do it right now' — but as a goal: we all need to work together, refugees and Germans," the 27-year-old said.

Ghannam's odyssey from his war-ravaged homeland to Europe's top economy represents an unqualified success story — so much so that he was recently invited to sit on a panel with Merkel to measure progress over the last two years. This autumn, he will begin working toward finishing his bachelor's degree in business administration at a private university in the German capital, using credits he earned in Syria and through the Berlin-based, non-profit Kiron.

Kiron Open Higher Education, which supports 2,700 foreign students, more than 40 percent of whom are Syrian, was one of a handful of examples of "We can do it" projects Merkel personally visited ahead of the September 24 general election. In fluent German, Ghannam said he knew Merkel's confident assessment of the country's ability to take in the newcomers had forced many people to confront their fears of the unknown.

"Germany is a land of opportunities but you

have to make an effort — you can't sit at home or expect something from the unemployment office," he said. About 200,000 of the more than one million refugees who have arrived since 2015 have found legal employment to date. But suggestions for how to bring more applicants into the job market have varied wildly, in part based on the pace of expanding integration course offerings.

Political obituary

In late summer 2015, thousands fleeing war and misery streamed into Germany's railway stations each day. There were cheering crowds bearing teddy bears to greet the new arrivals, and the influx gave birth to a new word, "Willkommenskultur" (welcome culture), appealing to post-war Germany's self-image as a force for good in the world. There was also a spreading wave of hostility and chaos, deeply unsettling many Germans, particularly in the depressed former communist east.

Hundreds of arson attacks targeted refugee shelters, angry mobs threatened groups of terrified asylum seekers in rural areas and Merkel's once stellar approval ratings nosedived. A rash of sexual assaults on New Year's Eve 2015 in Cologne, blamed on North African migrants, and

a string of Islamist terror attacks, including a deadly truck attack at a Berlin Christmas market nearly a year later, threatened to wipe out the remaining goodwill. Commentators began writing Merkel's political obituary. But just two years on, Merkel, in power since 2005, looks set to sail to a fourth term.

Her luckless challenger, Social Democrat Martin Schulz, broadly supports her stance on migration, which voters cite as a top concern. The numbers of new arrivals have dwindled due to the closure of the so-called Balkan route for migrants and the signing of a controversial deal with Turkey to stem the influx. Meanwhile the doomsday scenarios conjured up by many skeptics — including some of her closest German political allies and US President Donald Trump — have not come to pass. Kiron, with 70 employees and around 300 volunteers, calls itself a "digital bridge" to help refugees meet admission requirements for German universities.

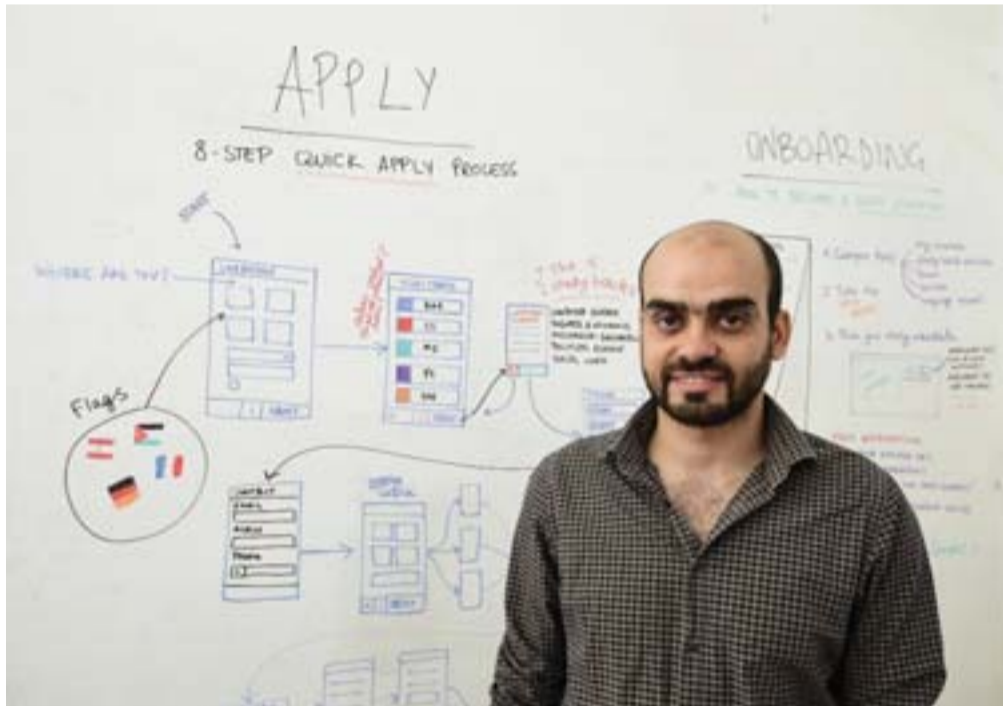
Co-founder Markus Kressler said the program was part of a patchwork of initiatives intended to ensure that the initial momentum behind integration efforts is not lost. "We don't want to have to rely on that can-do spirit lasting — you always have it at the beginning of crisis situations and then the political climate changes," he said.

When Merkel is gone

Despite Merkel's lead in the polls, which is around 15 points, the political ground has indeed shifted in the past two years. The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) has poached disaffected supporters from the mainstream parties and entered 13 of Germany's 16 state legislatures. Although its support has slipped since a peak in late 2016, it is still poised to capture at least 10 percent, giving it a minimum of 60 seats in the Bundestag lower house.

Merkel — whose centre-right CDU party was hit with back-to-back drubbings in state elections last year — admitted "mistakes" and retreated from the "we can do it" slogan, acknowledging it had become a lightning rod for naysayers. But as the mood has brightened, Merkel has returned to her stance that while she was not seeking a repeat of 2015, she had acted in the national interest.

"It was important and right for us to take in these people in an emergency, just as it is right for us to find long-term, sustainable structures (to integrate them)," she told reporters late last month. "Not euphoric, more pragmatic — that is the Merkel style," commented public radio the next day. "Whether the country has done it? That's a matter of perspective. We may only know when Angela Merkel is no longer chancellor." —AFP



BERLIN: This file photo taken on September 6, 2017 shows Moataz Ghannam, student of the Berlin-based, non-profit Kiron private university posing at the Berlin office before his interview. —AFP

PROTESTERS MAKE GOOD ON THREAT TO DISRUPT BUSINESSES IN ST LOUIS

ST LOUIS: When a former police officer was acquitted in the fatal shooting of a black suspect, protesters vowed to show their disdain by disrupting business in downtown St. Louis. They quickly succeeded. The unrest that followed Friday's ruling closed large corporate offices, shut down restaurants and bars and even forced U2 to call off a concert that would have drawn 50,000 fans into the heart of the city. And protest organizers may not be done.

The demonstrations engulfed the St. Louis region after a judge acquitted Jason Stockley of first-degree murder in the 2011 death of 24-year-old Anthony Lamar Smith. Within hours, downtown came to a standstill as marching protesters blocked traffic. The demonstrations went on through the weekend, with protest crowds swelling to thousands of people and spilling into a posh area of restaurants and bars in western St. Louis, the hip Delmar Loop area of nearby University City and even into two shopping malls. More than 140 people were arrested.

The protests forced U2 to cancel a concert at the Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis' largest venue. Police said they could not provide normal protection because of the unrest, the band and concert promoter Live Nation said in a statement. Singer Ed Sheeran also called off a show. The St. Louis Symphony and a Shakespearean Theatre group canceled performances, too.

Democratic state Rep Bruce Franks, a protest organizer, said making the entire community uncomfortable is an important part of the demonstrations. Franks said protests would continue, but he did not say when or where. "Folks got to pay attention, right?" Franks said Monday. "Do we just say, 'Oh, it's another case where an officer's found not guilty and leave it at that?' No, we get out here and disrupt and make our presence felt."

Economic impact

Joe Reagan, president and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce, said it's too

early to put a dollar amount on the economic cost. "But in the long term, there are greater economic impacts from the racial disparity and the mistrust many have in the criminal justice system," Reagan said. "This is not new to St. Louis or unique to St. Louis, but this is a challenge."

Many business owners are dealing with more than lost time or canceled events. Police said nearly two dozen businesses were damaged Saturday night in University City, mostly by having their windows broken. On Sunday, more windows were broken in downtown St. Louis, and several large decorative pots with plants were smashed. Chris Rubin de la Borbolla, owner of a clothing, jewelry and accessories store in University City, said his broken window will probably cost him at least \$2,000. Damage to merchandise will cost him about \$2,000 more.

Joe Edwards, owner of the Blueberry Hill

restaurant and concert venue and many other Delmar Loop businesses, said he was particularly frustrated because much of the damage occurred at businesses owned by minorities. "Forty-five years ago, this street was in great decline and by embracing diversity we overcame it," said Edwards, who is white. "Whoever threw rocks doesn't care. They just want anarchy."

But Edwards said it was heartwarming Sunday when artists from around the region turned out to transform the plywood covering broken windows into art. Restaurants and shops were busy with people who "came in to shop and show support," he said. Protests resumed for the fourth straight day just after dawn Monday. A racially mixed crowd of roughly 150 people marched silently to City Hall for a rally, then to a city court building for another. —AP



ST LOUIS: Demonstrators protest outside of the St. Louis city jail following the arrest of 123 people yesterday protesting the acquittal of former St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley. —AFP



TJUANA: In this June 6, 2017 photo, Evens Presendeaux of Haiti speaks with coworkers on the floor of a factory. —AP

HAITIANS BLOCKED FROM US FIND THE 'MEXICAN DREAM'

TJUANA: Jose Luis Millan found a new crop of star employees at an upscale Tijuana car wash where customers cross the border from the US to pay up to \$950 to have their prized possessions steamed and scrubbed for hours. They're never late, always hustle and come in on days off to learn new skills, traits that he says make them a model for their Mexican counterparts. They are among several thousand Haitians who came to Mexico's northwest corner hoping to cross the border before the US abruptly closed its doors last year. The Mexican government has welcomed them, with a visa program that helps them fill the need for labor in Tijuana's growing economy.

In a country whose population is 1 percent black, Tijuana's Haitians stand out. They share tight living quarters, sending much of their meager wages to support family in Haiti. Haitians earn far less than they would in the United States but enough to forsake the risk of getting deported by heading north. Two new Haitian restaurants downtown serve dishes with mangoes and mashed plantains. Dozens of Haitian children attend public schools. Factories that export to the US recruit Haitians, who can also be found waiting tables and worshipping at congregations that added services in Creole.

Dreamers

"It's the Mexican dream for many of them, a sense that they belong," Millan said. "Mexico has given them opportunity. Mexico has opened up and let them achieve their dreams." Millan, who lived in the Los Angeles area for two decades until he was forced to leave last year for employing dozens of people illegally at his party planning company, sees parallels to Mexicans in the US. Their teamwork sets an example. Some customers ask for them. Haitians, he says, "fight hard, fight strong, and they don't stop."

The Haitians took an accidental route from their impoverished Caribbean homeland to Tijuana, a city of about 2 million that borders San Diego and also has large pockets of Chinese and Korean immigrants. Brazil and its neighbors took in the Haitians after that country's 2010 earthquake. As

Renewable visas

The Mexican government is giving Haitians one-year, renewable visas that allow them to work but not bring family. Rodolfo Figueroa, the region's top immigration official, says Mexico is practicing what it asks of the US and other countries. "We believe that there's a humanitarian case to be made for these people to find better lives in Mexico," said Figueroa, the National Migration Institute's delegate in Baja California state, which includes Tijuana. "Our policy is to have the Haitian population do what they need to do to have status in Mexico." The new arrivals, currently numbering around 3,000, are manageable in a country of 122 million. Central Americans, who come illegally in much larger numbers, are typically deported, although Mexico is granting asylum more often. —AP

'MAN WHO SAVED THE WORLD' DIES IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW: Stanislav Petrov, a Soviet military officer who is widely credited with helping prevent a nuclear war with the United States, has died aged 77, his son said yesterday. Petrov, whose extraordinary story was told in a documentary titled "The Man Who Saved the World," received several international awards, was honored at the United Nations and met Hollywood superstars such as Robert De Niro and Matt Damon.

Yet Petrov lived in a small town outside Moscow and died in relative obscurity on May 19, his death making headlines in Russia and abroad only months later when a German friend wrote a blog post about his death. In September 1983, Petrov was an officer on duty at a secret command centre south of Moscow when an alarm went off signaling that the United States had launched intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The officer — who had only a few minutes to make a decision and was not sure about the incoming data — dismissed the warning as a false alarm. Had he told his commanders of an imminent US nuclear strike, the Soviet leadership — locked in an arms race with Washington — might have ordered a retaliatory strike. Instead the 44-year-old lieutenant

colonel reported a system malfunction and an investigation that followed afterwards proved he was right.

'He simply did his job'

Petrov came home only several days later but did not tell his family about what had happened. "He came home knackered but did not tell us anything," his son Dmitry said. Several months later Petrov received an award "for services to the Fatherland" but the incident at the control centre was kept secret for many years. In 1984, he left the military and settled in the town of Fryazino some 20 kilometres (12 miles) northeast of Moscow.

Petrov's story only came to light after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and over the years he became the subject of numerous media reports in Russia and abroad. A modest, self-effacing man, Petrov never thought of himself as a hero, said his son. "My father could not have cared less. He was always surprised that people were making a hero out of him," he said. "He simply did his job well," Petrov's son said, adding that his father received some hundred letters from Europeans thanking him for averting the outbreak of a nuclear war. —AFP

US DEFENSE FIRMS WANT CONTROL OVER INDIA TECH

NEW DELHI: US defense firms offering to set up production lines in India to win deals worth billions of dollars want stronger assurances they won't have to part with proprietary technology, according to a business lobby group's letter to India's defense minister. These companies are also saying they shouldn't be held liable for defects in products manufactured in collaboration with local partners under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make-in-India's drive to build a military industrial base.

Lockheed Martin and Boeing are both bidding to supply combat jets to India's military, which is running short of hundreds of aircraft as it retires Soviet-era MiG planes, and its own three-decade long effort to produce a domestic jet is hobbled by delays. Lockheed has offered to shift its F-16 production line to India from Fort Worth, Texas, and make it the sole factory worldwide if India orders at least 100 single-engine fighters.

The US firm has picked Tata Advanced Systems as its local partner under the defense ministry's new Strategic Partnership model under which foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) can hold up to a 49 percent stake in a joint venture with an Indian private firm which will hold the majority of shares. The US-India Business Council (USIBC) wrote to India's defense minister last month seeking a guarantee that US firms would retain control over sensitive technology - even as joint venture junior partners.

"Control of proprietary technologies is a major consideration for all companies exploring public and private defense partnerships," the business lobby, which represents 400 firms, said in the Aug 3 letter, reviewed by Reuters and previously unreported. "To allow foreign OEMs to provide the most advanced technologies, the partnership arrangement between an Indian owned 'strategic partner' company and a foreign OEM needs to provide an opportunity for the foreign OEM to retain control over its proprietary technology," it said, noting this wasn't explicit in the policy document.

Technology transfer

Technology transfer is at the heart of Modi's drive to build a domestic industrial base and cut a reliance on imports that has made India the world's biggest arms importer in recent years. Without full tech transfer in previous arms deals, India's mainly state-run defense factories have largely been left to assemble knock-down kits even for tanks and aircraft produced under license from the foreign

maker. Modi's advisers have vowed to change that, insisting on transfer of technology so that critical military equipment are designed and manufactured in India.

Benjamin Schwartz, USIBC's director for defense and aerospace, said the new Indian policy offered a roadmap for establishing partnerships between US and Indian companies, but it raised some questions for the firms. He said he was not in a position to name those companies concerned by the Indian policy, but there was a "general desire to see increased clarity" on several aspects, including the control of proprietary technologies.

Quality issues

The USIBC also opposed a clause in the new rules that held foreign firms jointly responsible for the quality of the platforms provided to the military, saying legal liability is a significant factor in business decisions. "We recommend the MoD (Ministry of Defence) affirm that foreign OEMs will not be liable for defects outside their company's control," the USIBC said.

Lockheed did not respond to a request for comment. Boeing, which is bidding for a separate contract to sell its F/A-18 Super Hornets for India's aircraft carrier fleet, declined to comment on the USIBC letter, but the company's India president, Pratyush Kumar, said there were concerns about Indian private firms' lack of experience in the aerospace sector.

Only state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd had made planes under license, while some private players were starting from scratch, having never built even an aircraft component. Kumar said he could not find a single example worldwide of a private enterprise with limited experience building out a plane under transfer of technology. "Look at Turkey, look at Japan, look at Brazil - look at multiple countries. In all cases there is a fine balancing act of co-opting the capabilities of both public and private enterprise," he said.

India's defense ministry offered no response to the concerns expressed by the trade lobbying group on the strategic partnership model, which will also apply to building submarines and helicopters as part of a \$150 billion modernization drive. But an official, referring to sensitive technology, said the government has made clear in the past that foreign firms can be allowed to increase their stake beyond 49 percent if the technology they bring in is state-of-the-art. "It can be done on a case-to-case basis," the official said. — Reuters



DHAKA: Members of Islamist groups gather during a rally to siege Myanmar's embassy for the recent violence against Rohingya Muslim in Myanmar in the Bangladeshi capital. —AFP

BANGLADESH PM EXPECTS NO HELP FROM TRUMP ON ROHINGYA CRISIS

'HE ALREADY DECLARED HIS MIND SO WHY I SHOULD ASK?'

NEW YORK: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she spoke to US President Donald Trump on Monday about Rohingya Muslims flooding into her country from Myanmar, but she expects no help from him as he has made clear how he feels about refugees. As Trump left an event he hosted at the United Nations on reforming the world body, Hasina said she stopped him for a few minutes.

"He just asked how is Bangladesh? I said 'it's doing very well, but the only problem that we have is the refugees from Myanmar,'" Hasina told Reuters in an interview. "But he didn't make any comment about refugees." A Myanmar military response to insurgent attacks last month in the country's Rakhine state sent more than 410,000 Rohingya Muslims fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh, escaping what the United Nations has branded as ethnic cleansing.

The Myanmar government says about 400 people have been killed in the fighting. Hasina, who is due to address the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow, said Trump's stance on refugees was clear, so it was not worth asking him for help with the Rohingya Muslim refugees.

"Already America declared that they will not allow any refugees," she said. "What I can expect

from them, and especially (the) president. He already declared his mind ... so why I should ask? Bangladesh is not a rich country ... but if we can feed 160 million people, another 500 or 700,000 people, we can do it."

Travel ban

A senior White House official was unaware of the exchange but said Trump was deeply interested in the subject and that "he would definitely engage if it were brought up." Shortly after taking office in January, Trump tried to put a 120-day halt on the US refugee program, bar Syrian refugees indefinitely and impose a 90-day suspension on people from six predominantly Muslim countries. "The travel ban into the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!" Trump said on Twitter on Friday.

Trump says the move is needed to prevent terrorist attacks and allow the government to put in place more stringent vetting procedures. There is a key Supreme Court hearing next month on the constitutionality of his executive order on the ban. About a million Rohingya lived in Rakhine State until the recent violence. Most face travel restrictions and are denied citizenship

in a country where many Buddhists regard them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Hasina said she wanted to see more international political pressure on Myanmar to allow the Rohingya to return. "(Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi) should agree that these people belong to her country and that Myanmar is their country. They should take them back," she said. "These people are suffering."

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi has faced a barrage of international criticism for not stopping the violence. Myanmar national security adviser Thaing Tun told Reuters on Monday that Myanmar would ensure those who left their homes could return, but there was "a process we have to discuss." US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley urged the Myanmar government to end military operations, grant humanitarian access, and commit to aiding the safe return of civilians to their homes.

"People are still at risk of being attacked or killed, humanitarian aid is not reaching the people who need it, and innocent civilians are still fleeing across the border to Bangladesh," Haley said after Britain hosted a meeting on the crisis in New York on Monday. A US deputy assistant secretary of state, Patrick Murphy, is due in Myanmar this week. —Reuters

PRESIDENT DUTERTE FACING 'HUNGER GAMES' PROTESTS

MANILA: Critics of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte have adopted the three-finger salute from the hit "Hunger Games" films as a sign of resistance against his rule and drug war killings. The sign is in contrast to Duterte's own iconic gesture, a clenched fist raised at or above eye level that is immensely popular with his support but which opponents have likened to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's hand salute.

Opposition lawmakers and other members of a new anti-Duterte coalition performed the Hunger Games salute in unison on Monday while announcing protests on Thursday against what they said was his "path filled with violence, contempt for law and hate". "Yes, we adopted the three-finger salute to signify resistance, same as that of the Hunger Games trilogy," House of Representatives member Gary Alejandro told AFP. "It resonates with many young people," said Emman Hizon, chief of staff of opposition Senator Risa Hontiveros, another of those who made the three-finger salute.

Used by the lead character Katniss Everdeen in the Hunger Games series, the salute is portrayed as a symbol of resistance in a dystopian future where youths are forced to engage in annual fight-to-the-death combat. The gesture has since been adopted by pro-democracy protesters in military junta-ruled Thailand. Thai protesters have been arrested for flashing the salute.

A pro-Duterte blogger known as "Thinking Pinoy" ridiculed the opposition's Hunger Games salute, writing in a Facebook post they were like "girl scouts". Hand signs are powerful political symbols in the Philippines, a riotous democracy with a blood-stained history of military dictatorship. A generation ago, activists used the "L" hand sign to show opposition to the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, toppled in a bloodless "People Power" revolution in 1986.

Supporters of Marcos, who was accused of massive corruption and of killing, jailing and torturing dissidents during a 20-year rule, had countered with his "V for victory" sign. Apart from anger over the drug war, in which police have reported killing more than 3,800 suspects, critics also allege Duterte is imposing a form authoritarian rule that could lead to another dictatorship. They point to his support of the Marcos family, as well as efforts by his allies in Congress to impeach the Supreme

Court chief justice and defund the Commission on Human Rights. Duterte has repeatedly warned he

may impose martial law, saying military rule could solve many of the nation's problems. —FP



MANILA: This file photo taken on October 4, 2016 shows Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (C) gesturing with clenched fists for a photo session during a "talk to the troops" visit to meet military personnel. —AFP

SRI LANKA GENERAL HAS BEEN DENIED VISA TO ATTEND UN

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's ex-army chief Sarath Fonseka yesterday said he had been denied a visa to attend the UN general assembly because of unresolved war crime allegations against the military. The war-time general, who is now minister of regional development, said he was due to travel to New York this week, but he was the only one in the Sri Lankan delegation not issued a visa. Fonseka said he could not accompany President Maithripala Sirisena who left Colombo on Sunday to address the United Nations General Assembly.

"I was not given a visa because of the war crimes allegations against the military," Fonseka told reporters. "That is why I say they must be investigated." He said the excesses by a "few" during the final stages of the island's Tamil separatist war should not tarnish the image of the Sri Lankan armed forces. The military crushed separatist Tamil Tiger rebels in May 2009 following a no-holds-barred offensive that also triggered allegations against the forces of killing at least 40,000 Tamil civilians.

The government at the time insisted that no civilians were killed by its troops and faced international censure over its dismal human rights record. Fonseka, who led the

military, has maintained that he did not order troops to target civilians, but has acknowledged that there may have been excesses that should be investigated. The new government, which came to power in January 2015, promised investigations but those are yet to begin. Earlier this month Fonseka accused his successor Jagath Jayasuriya of committing crimes against Tamil rebel suspects during and after the island's ethnic war and said he was ready to testify against the former military commander.

A human rights group filed two complaints in Colombia and Brazil against Jayasuriya, who was Sri Lanka's ambassador to several South American countries until recently. The group alleged that Jayasuriya oversaw torture camps and was responsible for hundreds of disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the final stages of the conflict when he was a senior officer. The UN has estimated that at least 100,000 people were killed between 1972 and 2009. Tiger rebels have been accused of using human shields and killing civilians in their guerrilla war for a separate homeland for the minority ethnic Tamil community in the Sinhala-majority nation. —AFP

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A 'RARE CALL' ADDS IMPETUS TO FATAH, HAMAS RECONCILIATION

RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas and Hamas leader Ismail Haniya spoke on Monday for the first time in nearly a year, adding impetus to a surprise reconciliation between their factions locked in bitter dispute for 10 years. Abbas spoke with Haniya by phone from New York and "expressed his satisfaction with the prevailing atmosphere of reconciliation", according to a statement on the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

A Hamas statement quoted Haniya as saying that Hamas was "determined to move ahead with steps to end the division, with all willingness and determination, with the goal of uniting our Palestinian people". A Hamas spokesman told AFP that the two had not spoken since meeting in Qatar in October 2016. Hamas said Sunday it had agreed to demands by Abbas's Fatah party to dissolve what is seen as a rival administration in Gaza, while saying it was ready for elections and negotiations towards forming a unity government.

As a first step towards implementing a larger agreement, Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah plans to visit Gaza City to meet Hamas officials and assert the government's control over ministries, said Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to Abbas. "We await the first steps on the ground. We want to see Mr Hamdallah received by Hamas, the door to all the ministries open," he told journalists in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "That really could happen in the next 24 hours." Abbas's Palestinian Authority (PA) located in the Israeli-occupied West Bank has international recognition, but it lost control of the Gaza Strip when the Islamist movement Hamas seized the territory in a near civil war in 2007.

Hamdallah last visited the coastal enclave in 2015, and a previous attempt at a unity government fell apart that year, with the two sides trading blame. The head of the Arab League on Monday hailed the steps taken by Hamas and called for full reconciliation. Ahmed About Gheit "welcomes the important positive developments" regarding "ending the division" between the Palestinian factions, the Cairo-based organization's spokesman Mahmoud Affi said in a statement.

Squeezing Hamas

In recent months Abbas has sought to squeeze Hamas by reducing power supply to the strip, with the two million residents receiving only three or four hours of mains electricity per day as a result. He has also reduced the salaries of some employees in Gaza, while the number of Gazans receiving PA permits to travel for medical care has declined. Hamas on Monday called for the measures to be reversed after dissolving the so-called administrative committee, seen as a rival government and created in March.

In a statement they called on Abbas to "take urgent steps to cancel all his punitive decisions and measures against our people in the Strip." Shaath said Abbas wanted to reverse the punitive measures, but he did not give a timetable. "When the president supported these economic measures (against Gaza) he said they will stop immediately once the self-rule governance of Hamas ends and the consensus government takes place. He didn't put any other conditions whatsoever," Abbas is due to address world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, after meeting with US President Donald Trump. — AFP

SAUDI ARRESTS RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

DUBAI: Two prominent Saudi human rights defenders were arrested last weekend, campaigners said yesterday, amid an ongoing crackdown on dissenters in the kingdom. Abdulaziz Al-Shubaily and Issa Al-Hamid are both members of the local Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), which Saudi authorities banned and shut down in 2013.

Sources quoted by the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) said the arrests were linked to past convictions. A special court confirmed Shubaily's eight year prison term earlier this year for calling for demonstrations and what authorities described as threatening public order.

Another court sentenced Hamid to 11 years in prison on appeal in 2016, after first being granted a nine years in jail, for "damaging the image of the state".

It was unclear why the two were not serving the sentences for their previous convictions or why they were detained now. There was no immediate confirmation of the arrests from the government. "This is a dark time for

freedom of expression in Saudi Arabia," Samah Hadid of Amnesty International said in a statement. "These two arrests have confirmed our fears that the new leadership under Mohammed Bin Salman is determined to crush the kingdom's human rights movement," Hadid said, referring to the son of King Salman who became Crown Prince earlier this year.

GCHR demanded their immediate and unconditional release, calling them prisoners of conscience. The arrests come after authorities last week detained around two dozen people, including influential clerics, in what activists decried as a coordinated crackdown. Analysts say many of those detained are resistant to Prince Mohammed's aggressive foreign policy that includes the boycott of Gulf neighbor Qatar as well as some of his bold reforms, including privatizing state assets and cutting subsidies. Saudi officials have instead suggested a foreign plot to overthrow the government, without disclosing details. — AFP

QATAR ACCUSES BAHRAIN OF STOKING GULF TENSION

DOHA: Qatar accused Bahrain yesterday of abusing a routine fisheries enforcement case to deepen a three-month diplomatic crisis between the emirate and its Gulf neighbors. "The State of Qatar condemned the statement issued by the Bahraini Interior Ministry on the detention of 15 Bahraini boats carrying 20 sailors, describing it as a desperate attempt to escalate the ongoing diplomatic dispute," the official QNA news agency reported.

An Interior Ministry official said the 15 Bahraini fishing boats seized by the Qatari coastguard, most of them over the past three days, had been operating illegally in the emirate's waters and had been held under routine procedures. The 20 fishermen on board would be released within the next three days while the courts would decide what happened to the boats. The official told QNA the Coast and Borders Security Department had repeatedly warned the fishermen not to operate in Qatari waters

and not to use harmful fishing practices. Qatar had a longstanding territorial dispute with Bahrain over the waters and small islands that separate the peninsula from the main islands of its maritime neighbor which was only resolved by the International Court of Justice in 2001. In June this year, Bahrain joined with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt in breaking off diplomatic relations with Qatar and severing all sea and air links.

The four governments issued a string of demands of the emirate, notably that it follow them in blacklisting the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group and downgrading relations with Iran. Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani has held talks in Turkey, Germany and France over the past week to try to find a way out of the crisis and is due to meet US President Donald Trump in New York later. — AFP



NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump is escorted by a protocol official as he prepares to take the lectern to address the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters yesterday in New York City. — AFP

TRUMP WARNS IRAN AND N KOREA'S 'ROCKET MAN'

Continued from Page 1

Turning to Iran, Trump called the 2015 nuclear deal negotiated by his predecessor, Barack Obama an embarrassment and hinted that he may not recertify the agreement when it comes up for a mid-October deadline. "I don't think you've heard the last of it," he said. He called Iran an "economically depleted rogue state" that exports violence. The speech marked his latest attempt to lay out his America First vision for a US foreign policy aimed at downgrading global bureaucracies, basing alliances on shared interests, and steering Washington away from nation-building exercises abroad.

Trump, who entered the White House eight months ago, told world leaders at the 193-member global body that the United States does not seek to impose its will on other nations and will respect other countries' sovereignty. "I will defend America's interests above all else," he said. "But in fulfilling our obligations to other nations we also realize it's in everyone's interest to seek a future where all nations can be sovereign, prosperous and secure." Reading carefully from a script, Trump said the US military would

soon be the strongest it has ever been.

Turning to Venezuela, Trump called the collapsing situation there "completely unacceptable" and said the United States cannot stand by and watch. He warned the United States was considering what further actions it can take. "We cannot stand by and watch," he said. Shortly before Trump's speech, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed from the General Assembly lectern for statesmanship to avoid war with North Korea. "This is the time for statesmanship," said the former Prime Minister of Portugal. "We must not sleepwalk our way into war."

The UN Security Council has unanimously imposed nine rounds of sanctions on North Korea since 2006 and Guterres appealed for the 15-member body to maintain its unity on North Korea. Trump has warned North Korea that military action was an option for the United States as Pyongyang has carried out a series of tests toward developing the ability to target the United States with a nuclear-tipped missile. Financial markets showed little reaction to Trump's speech, with most major assets hovering near the unchanged mark on the day. — Reuters

QATAR, KUWAIT STOP RENEWING VISAS FOR...

Continued from Page 1

The representation would be downgraded to a Charge D'Affaires, Kuwait confirmed on Monday, reiterating it had banned visas for North Koreans, halted direct flights and severed trade ties following UN sanctions in August.

A source in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry urged all sides to work towards a solution "that would avert destruction and warfare" state news agency KUNA said. Kuwait's moves follow a meeting between Trump and Kuwait's

ruler in Washington earlier this month and a joint statement from their foreign ministers on Sept 8 which called on the international community to put further pressure on North Korea.

"The United States praised Kuwait's positive steps in regards to implementing UN resolutions," the statement said, in an apparent reference to the visa and flights ban. Beyond its largest missions in Moscow and Beijing, North Korea also has major embassies in London, Rome, Stockholm and Berlin, as well as dozens of smaller embassies across Africa and Asia. — Reuters

KUWAIT, INDIA TO SEAL DEALS

Continued from Page 1

The visiting minister is scheduled to meet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah and Finance Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh separately today. Akbar will also meet the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh.

The preparatory meetings were held on Monday prior to the arrival of the minister with Undersecretary of Ministry of Finance Khalifa M Hamada leading the Kuwaiti delegation and Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain

leading the Indian side. The commission's working groups held separate technical sessions on a wide range of subjects exploring possibilities of cooperation in the fields of commerce, private sector, investment and capital market.

They also discussed means of expanding cooperation in aviation sector with an eye on boosting Indian partnership with Kuwait Airways. Discussions were also held on bolstering cooperation in the fields of oil and gas sector, health, sports, information technology, culture, education, higher education and scientific research.

MIGRANT MAIDS IN OMAN AT RISK

Continued from Page 1

It only applied to domestics hired through six recognized state recruitment agencies, excluding women using unofficial channels or conned by fake agents. India attempted to increase worker protection by setting up E-migrate in 2015, requiring employers in almost 20 countries, mostly in the Middle East, to get online clearance from the government to hire blue-collar workers and maids.

India authorized some 60,000 maids to work in the Gulf in just over two years up to December 2016, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Campaigners called for stronger measures to protect poor women working in Gulf states. "Even after being recruited through official channels, Indian women domestic workers are exploited both physically and mentally," Rafeek Ravuther, director of the Centre for Indian Migrant Studies said. "Many return empty-handed." — Reuters



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Focus

20 YEARS AFTER PEACE
ACCORD, INDIGENOUS
BANGLADESHIS STILL
ATTACKED OVER LANDBy Sohara Mehroze
Shachi, Eva Gerharz

Ripon Chakma's octogenarian parents were visiting the village of Manikjor Chhora in the southeast of Bangladesh for a religious ceremony when the arson attack took place in early June. Chakma's parents survived, but an elderly neighbor, Gunamala Chakma, succumbed to the flames that engulfed her mud-walled home.

Police said settler Bengalis - the majority ethnic group - set light to more than 200 homes and shops of the indigenous Pahari people in the Longadu area of Rangamati, one of three districts that comprise the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, where most of Bangladesh's ethnic minorities live. The attack came after the body of a Bengali was found near Dighinala road in neighboring Khagrachari district, according to police. The Bengali settlers accused the mountain-dwelling Pahari community of the killing.

The Paharis deny the accusation, and say the arson attacks were pre-planned and mask a more sinister motive of driving them from their fertile uplands - sought-after land in densely populated and low-lying Bangladesh. "This is all staged drama," said Ripon Chakma, executive director of Trinamul, a local non-profit group that works for the rights of the Pahari community. "These attacks are happening to grab the land. Otherwise, why would they burn houses in Longadu for a death in Dighinala?"

Violent conflict

The Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh, which shares borders with India and Myanmar, spans just over 13,000 sq km, and is home to about half a million Paharis from nearly a dozen indigenous groups. The lush region, in the country's southeast, is rich in natural resources, particularly timber and bamboo. Possibilities for oil exploration have also been identified. The region has been the site of violent ethnic conflict for decades, which has displaced tens of thousands of indigenous people. The lands they vacated were occupied by Bengali settlers. Activists say the government has failed to honor an agreement signed 20 years ago to restore their lands in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which were declared a protected area under colonial rule.

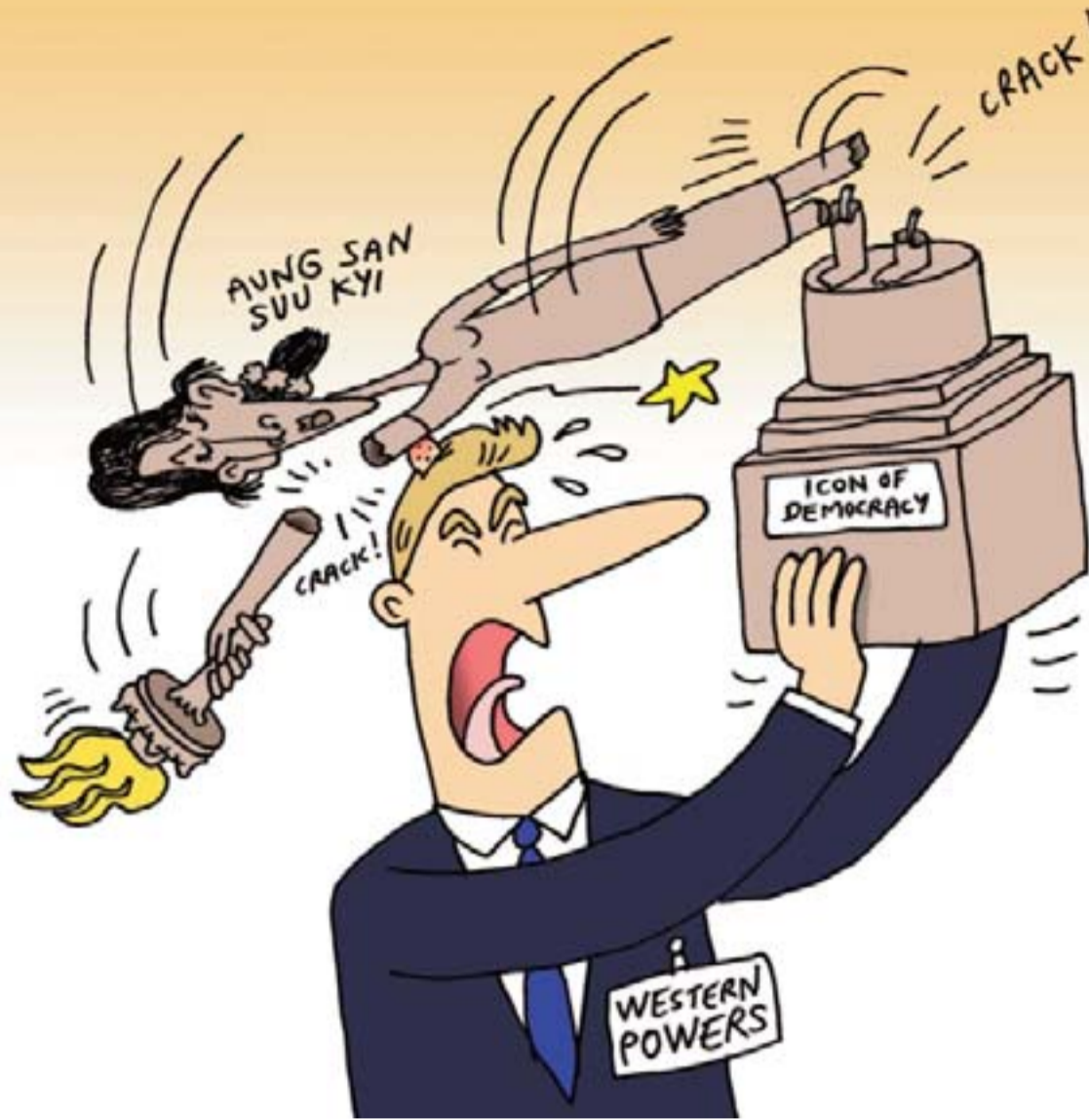
After the partition of the Indian subcontinent, the special provisions for the indigenous population were diluted. Following an armed conflict, the Bangladesh government agreed to the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord in December 1997 that promised a measure of autonomy to the Pahari people, and gave them economic, social and political rights. The government promised to undertake development for their economic empowerment, while allowing them to keep their cultural practices, including communal ownership of land.

Displaced Paharis were to be rehabilitated with land and housing, and a land commission was to resolve land disputes. But the commitments were not kept and disputes over land remain unresolved, activists say. "There was a hope for change when the peace accord came into being, but it got entrapped in politics," said Meghna Guhathakurta, head of think tank Research Initiatives, Bangladesh. "The government must empower the Paharis through education and pave the way for their political empowerment. The Paharis also need to lobby for themselves," she said.

Respect rights

The government has cordoned off areas of the region for development projects including a hydroelectric project that flooded vast swathes of cultivable land and displaced thousands. Activists say the government did not seek the consent of the Pahari people before taking their traditional lands. Nor were the displaced people adequately compensated or rehabilitated. Amnesty International has called for the government to respect the rights of the Pahari people, including over their land and ensure the land commission functions with the participation of the community.

There must be legal recognition of the collective rights of the Paharis to their traditional lands and remedies for anyone whose land was taken without their consent, it said in a report. —Reuters

WHEN
SOMEBODY'S
PEDESTAL
IS TOO
HIGH ...ARCHAIC LAW MEANS NO ROOMS TO RENT FOR
MIGRANT WORKERS FLOCKING TO INDIAN CITIES

By Rina Chandran

The collapse of a 117-year-old apartment block in a crowded neighborhood in Mumbai last month highlighted the dismal state of affordable rental housing in Indian cities, even as tens of thousands migrate from rural areas everyday in search of jobs. Thirty-four people including a newborn baby were killed when the six-storey building collapsed after heavy rains in a congested neighborhood in the financial hub.

It was one of hundreds of old, decrepit buildings in the city under an archaic rent control law that has kept rents low, but led to buildings becoming dilapidated that tenants are reluctant to leave because of a lack of affordable options. About a third of India's 1.25 billion population lives in cities, with the numbers rising every year as tens of thousands of people leave villages to seek better economic prospects. About a quarter of the urban population lives in informal housing, including slums because of a critical shortage of affordable housing, according to social consultancy FSG.

With little new affordable rental housing being built, millions of poor migrants are forced to live in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, in slums and other informal settlements where they may lack even basic amenities, analysts say. "They have no choice," said Satyanarayana Vejella, co-founder of Aarusha Homes, which operates dormitories for students and entry-level workers in four Indian cities. "They

cannot afford the high rents in the city, so they are forced to go to the informal sector, where the options may be dirty or unsafe. There are bound to be health, safety and sanitation issues that can impact productivity," he said.

Distortions

The urban housing shortage is estimated at nearly 20 million units and seen as a major hurdle to faster economic growth necessary to lift millions of Indians out of poverty. States at one time built social housing for migrant laborers including those working in textile mills and ports. But as the population grew and urbanization increased, the government gave up this role to the private sector. Most states have also not amended decades-old rent control laws because of opposition from wealthy tenants who benefit from the caps on rent even on large homes.

While the law limits the pace of rent increases, it has exacerbated the lack of affordable housing and the immobility of low-income tenants who cannot afford to buy homes. In Mumbai almost 95 percent of new residential construction between 1961 and 2010 was for private ownership, a sharp increase from preceding years, according to the IDFC Institute, a think tank based in the city of 20 million people.

"The rent control law contributes to the shortage in formal affordable housing and distortions in the land market," said Vaidehi Tandel, an associate fellow at the IDFC Institute. "There is very little new rental

stock being added, and the existing stock is in pretty bad shape. So there's little protection for the poor," she said. A national urban rental housing policy, which commits to social rental housing for vulnerable groups including migrant workers and the urban poor, has remained a draft since 2015.

Instead, the government is pushing a goal to provide housing for all by 2022, with a focus on ownership through subsidized loans for buyers and incentives for builders. That leaves low income workers stranded in unsafe buildings, and in slums and chawls - low-rise blocks with one-room homes - built more than a century ago to house workers. Thousands of families still live in chawls in prime sites in Mumbai, paying a monthly rent of about 18-20 rupees (about 30 US cents) each, a fraction of the market rate. Many buildings are so dilapidated they must be knocked down and redeveloped, officials say. But residents oppose the move, saying they will be forced to pay higher rents.

Rental vouchers

The government must intervene to create more social housing, said Vejella, who is on a task force on rental housing. "Just as with the ownership push, the government must offer incentives to developers and subsidies to renters," said Vejella, whose several attempts at providing rental accommodation for low-income workers failed. "Otherwise it can't work except as a social enterprise," and not as a for-profit business model, he said. The affordable housing

shortage comes as more than 11 million homes in India's urban areas lie vacant, according to official data.

Owners may either be waiting for prices to appreciate so they can sell for a profit, or they may be reluctant to rent out for fear of squatter tenants, said Tandel. "If these vacant houses are made available for rental housing, then some, if not most of the urban housing shortage can be addressed," according to the draft rental housing policy. The government earlier this year unveiled a rental voucher scheme for 27 billion rupees (\$421 million), aimed at migrants and the urban poor in 100 Smart Cities, or cities that are being upgraded in a plan that activists say will not benefit the poor.

The voucher, which entails a direct transfer of cash to offset some or all of the rent, may be the most viable option, Tandel said. "But the vouchers only address the demand side," she said. "If there is no supply of rental housing, how will it work?" The supply may be a while coming. In Mumbai, thousands of rent controlled buildings have been classified as beyond repair and too dangerous to live in. The building which collapsed last month was declared unsafe six years ago. The owner moved out in 2013 to accommodation provided by a trust that is redeveloping the area. "I told the other tenants it was not safe, but they did not want to move," said Hakimuddin Bootwala. "They were scared they would have to pay higher charges if they moved. They paid with their lives," he said. — Reuters

ROHINGYA MUSLIMS BEING WIPED OFF MYANMAR'S MAP

By Robin McDowell

For generations, Rohingya Muslims have called Myanmar home. Now, in what appears to be a systematic purge, the minority ethnic group is being wiped off the map. After a series of attacks by Muslim militants last month, security forces and allied mobs retaliated by burning down thousands of Rohingya homes in the predominantly Buddhist nation. More than 500,000 people - roughly half their population - have fled to neighboring Bangladesh in the past year, most of them in the last three weeks.

And they are still leaving, piling into wooden boats that take them to sprawling, monsoon-drenched refugee camps in Bangladesh. In a speech yesterday, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi did not address a UN statement that the army has engaged in a "textbook case" of ethnic cleansing. Instead, she told concerned diplomats that while many villages were destroyed, more than half were still intact. UN General-Secretary

Antonio Guterres told the General Assembly yesterday that "I take note" of Suu Kyi's speech.

"This is the worst crisis in Rohingya history," said Chris Lewa, founder of the Arakan Project, which works to improve conditions for the ethnic minority, citing the monumental size and speed of the exodus. "Security forces have been burning villages one by one, in a very systematic way. And it's still ongoing." Using a network of monitors, Lewa and her agency are meticulously documenting tracts of villages that have been partially or completely burned down in three townships in northern Rakhine state, where the vast majority of Myanmar's 1.1 million Rohingya once lived.

It's a painstaking task because there are hundreds of them, and information is almost impossible to verify because the army has blocked access to the area. Satellite imagery released by Human Rights Watch yesterday shows massive swaths of scorched landscape and the near total destruction of 214 villages.

The Arakan Project said yesterday that almost every tract of villages in Maungdaw township suffered some burning, and that almost all Rohingya had abandoned the area.

Sixteen of the 21 Rohingya villages in the northern part of Rathedaung township - in eight village tracts - were targeted. Three camps for Rohingya who were displaced in communal riots five years ago also were torched. Buthidaung, to the east, so far has been largely spared. It is the only township where security operations appear limited to areas where the attacks by Rohingya militants, which triggered the ongoing crackdown, occurred. Separated from the other Rohingya townships by mountains, and with more Buddhists and more soldiers, Buthidaung has historically had fewer tensions.

In her speech, Suu Kyi noted that most Rohingya villages did not suffer violence, and said the government would look into "why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas." Rohingya refugees angrily viewed that as the government deflecting blame for attacks by its own forces. The Rohingya have had a long and troubled history in Myanmar, where many in the country's 60 million people look on them with disdain.

Though members of the ethnic minority first arrived generations ago, Rohingya were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education. The UN has labeled the Rohingya one of the world's most persecuted religious minorities. Still, if it weren't for their safety, many would rather live in Myanmar than be forced to another country that doesn't want them.

"Now we can't even buy plastic to make a shelter," said 32-year-old Kefayet Ullah of the camp in Bangladesh where he and his family are struggling to get from one day to the next. In Rakhine, they had land for farming and a small shop. Now they have nothing. "Our heart is crying for our home," he said,

tears streaming down his face. "Even the father of my grandfather was born in Myanmar." This is not the first time the Rohingya have fled en masse. Hundreds of thousands left in 1978 and again in the early 1990s, fleeing military and government oppression, though policies were later put in place that allowed many to return.

Communal violence in 2012, as the country was transitioning from a half-century of dictatorship to democracy, sent another 100,000 fleeing by boat. Some 120,000 remain trapped in camps under apartheid-like conditions outside Rakhine's capital, Sittwe. But no exodus has been as massive and swift as the one taking place now. The military crackdown came in retaliation for a series of coordinated attacks by Rohingya militants led by Attallah Abu Ammar Jununi, who was born in Pakistan and raised in Saudi Arabia.

Last October, the militants struck police posts, killing several officers and triggering a brutal military response that sent 87,000 Rohingya fleeing. Then on Aug 25, a day after a state-appointed commission of inquiry headed by former UN chief Kofi Annan released a report about the earlier bloodshed, the militants struck again. They attacked more than 30 police and army posts, causing casualties. It was the excuse security forces wanted. They hit back and hard. Together with Buddhist mobs, they burned down villages, killed, looted and raped.

That sent a staggering 421,000 fleeing as of yesterday, according to UN estimates. "The military crackdown resembles a cynical ploy to forcibly transfer large numbers of people without possibility of return," Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini, the UN high commissioner for human rights, said earlier this month in Geneva, calling it a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." It could be months before the extent of the devastation is clear because the army has blocked access to the affected areas. Yanghee Lee, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, said at least 1,000 civilians were killed. —AP



BALUKHALI: A Rohingya Muslim family, who crossed over recently from Myanmar into Bangladesh, walk with their belongings to find another shelter after their camp was inundated with rainwater near Balukhali refugee camp, Bangladesh yesterday. —AP

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NEUER OUT UNTIL JANUARY WITH ANOTHER FOOT INJURY

BERLIN: Bayern Munich and Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer will be out of action until January after sustaining a foot injury for the second time in six months, the Bavarians said yesterday. Bayern said in a statement that the 31-year-old had suffered a "repeat hairline fracture of the metatarsal in his left foot" during a training session on Monday. He underwent surgery early on Tuesday which involved setting the fracture with a plate, the club added. Neuer suffered a similar injury to the same foot in April. "We're incredibly sorry for him," said Bayern's chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. "The operation went perfectly, which is the most important thing for now. We and our captain are now looking to the future. Manuel will be back to his previous best and available to us again in January." Bayern, Bundesliga champions for the past five seasons, have taken nine points from their first four games and face Schalke 04 away later. —Reuters



COLOGNE DROP DEMANDS FOR REPLAY OVER VAR MISTAKE

BERLIN: Table-propping FC Cologne have backed down from demanding a replay over a goal they claim was wrongly awarded to opponents Borussia Dortmund with the help of a video assistant referee (VAR) in their 5-0 Bundesliga defeat on Sunday. Cologne were angry about the second goal where they were initially awarded a free kick, only for the referee to change his mind and gave a goal to the hosts after consulting with the VAR. Cologne, who have no points from their first four league games, announced afterwards that they would lodge a protest and ask for the match to be replayed but on Tuesday said that "the chances of success for such a protest are slim." The incident happened in the 45th minute at Signal Iduna Park when Cologne goalkeeper Timo Horn dropped the ball at a corner and Dortmund defender Sokratis tapped it into the net. The Billy Goats repeated their claim on Tuesday that the referee blew his whistle for a foul before the ball crossed the line. —Reuters

S LANKA NAME SELECTION PANEL LED BY LABROOY

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka named a new selection committee yesterday, putting former test bowler Graeme Labrooy in charge of the five-member panel as they seek a reversal in the team's fortune. The previous panel, led by former captain Sanath Jayasuriya, resigned en masse last month in the middle of a tour whitewash by India who won all three tests, five one-dayers and the lone Twenty20 International in Sri Lanka. The debacle followed their first ODI series defeat by Zimbabwe in July, which prompted Angelo Mathews to step down as captain from all formats. "The new selectors will begin their term with the selection of the Test Squad to take on Pakistan in their tour of UAE commencing early next week," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement. Labrooy, 53, played nine tests and 44 ODIs between 1986 and 1992. —Reuters



NO ROOM FOR AUSTRALIA, NZ ZEALAND IN ASIAN GAMES

ASHKABAT: The influential head of the Olympic Council of Asia has dashed hopes that athletes from Oceania nations, including Australia and New Zealand, might be able to compete in the Asian Games from 2022. Athletes from the two countries took part in the Asian Winter Games as "guests" in Sapporo earlier this year and the Australian Olympic Committee said talks were being held about extending the invitation to the summer versions.

Nineteen Oceania nations are represented for the first time at the ongoing Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan but OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah said the Asian Games was already too big.

"I hope at the next Indoor Games we will have the same experience and Oceania will continue with us in the Indoor Games," he told a news conference, adding that the Asian Beach Games might also be an option for Oceania athletes.

"With the Asian Games we are already at 15,000 athletes and officials and we cannot add to that number. "In the Beach Games and Indoor Games we can continue to have our coordination and cooperation, but for the Asian Games the number is very high and we cannot have an Olympic Village with more than 15,000 people."

Next year's version of the quadrennial Asian Games, which is second in size only to the Summer Olympics, takes place in Indonesia with the 2022 edition scheduled for Hangzhou, China.

Australia has long entertained the idea of forging closer ties with Asia in the hope of exposing their athletes to stiffer competition. In 2006, Australia's national soccer body ditched Oceania to join the Asian Football Confederation but previous attempts to compete at the Asian Games have failed.

They had the backing of China, who want tougher competition especially for their swimmers, but not Sheikh Ahmad, who is also the president of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) representing more than 200 countries worldwide.

AOC President John Coates, another influential member of the International Olympic Committee, said in Sapporo in February that participating in the Asian Games would be "very good" for Australia.

"Discussions are underway and I believe there would be great interest in the Asian Games amongst our member sports," he said. "Particularly in sports where the Asian countries are strong such as gymnastics, badminton and table tennis." — Reuters



DENVER: In this Feb. 18, 2014, file photo, Phoenix Suns forwards Marcus Morris, left, and his twin brother, Markieff, talk on bench as the Suns played the Denver Nuggets in during an NBA basketball game in Denver. Opening statements will begin Monday, for the trial of the twins, who allegedly assaulted a man outside a Phoenix recreation center two years ago. — AP

EX-TENNIS STAR BLAKE TESTIFIES ABOUT HIS MISTAKEN ARREST

NEW YORK: By former pro tennis star James Blake's account, the man approaching him in 2015 outside his hotel caused no alarm because he looked like an old high school buddy. Blake found out the hard way that it was instead a plainclothes police officer who mistook him for a suspect in a fraud investigation. Yesterday, Blake testified at a police department disciplinary trial that the officer never identified himself before throwing him to the ground and handcuffing him. When police realized their mistake, said Blake, they released him without an apology from the officer.

"It shouldn't happen to me. It shouldn't happen to anyone," Blake testified. "There needs to be accountability for everybody." Officer James Frascatore this year rejected a deal asking him to forfeit vacation days to resolve New York Police Department internal charges that he used excessive force. The NYPD administrative judge who's hearing the case will recommend a potentially more severe punishment, including dismissal from the nation's largest police force, to the police commissioner.

Frascatore, who denies he did anything wrong, also will take the witness stand. He has been assigned to desk duty pending a decision about his future. The officer "looks forward to correcting the false narrative which has surrounded this case for two years," said his attorney, Stephen Worth.

Blake's arrest - captured in a security video - came at a high point of the national debate over police use of force against unarmed black men. The 37-year-old American, once the No. 4 tennis player in the world, is the child of a black father and white mother; Frascatore is white. The NYPD has said that Blake matched a photo of a suspect sought in the case and that race wasn't a factor. But after the video was made public, city and police officials took the unusual step of apologizing and establishing in Blake's name a fellowship aimed at helping people who accuse police of abuses to get full reviews by a police oversight agency.

Blake, in his new book about sports and activism, "Ways of Grace," describes going from peacefully waiting for a ride to that year's U.S. Open tennis tournament to finding himself with his "face pressed to the concrete." Fearing he could make things worse by resisting, Blake told himself to cooperate until the officer pulled him up. "This is an absolute mistake," he recalls telling the officer. "You have the wrong person." The half-dozen officers at the scene did little to check out his story until an officer who appeared to be a supervisor showed up several minutes later and let him go, Blake says. Humiliated, his first instinct was to let it go before his wife asked him what he'd do if the same thing happened to her. —AP

NBA PLAYERS GO ON TRIAL IN 2015 PHOENIX ASSAULT

PHOENIX: NBA players Marcus and Markieff Morris went on trial Monday on felony assault charges stemming from a 2015 beating that prosecutors labeled as an "orchestrated attack" and defense lawyers dismissed as a ploy to get money out of the athletes.

Opening statements began with prosecutors saying the two NBA stars and three other men took part in a beating that left a former acquaintance with a broken nose and other injuries. Prosecutor Dan Fisher said it was a coordinated mission and "orchestrated attack" after the victim sent text messages to the Morris twins' mother that angered them.

Defense lawyers insisted the twins did not participate in the attack and questioned the reliability and financial motives of the man who was beaten. The lawyer for Marcus Morris, Timothy Eckstein, said witness statements that form the basis of the case are "entirely inconsistent and incompatible with the truth."

The twin brothers face the possibility of prison time and discipline from the NBA, including a minimum 10-game suspension, if they are found guilty. The two-week trial also threatens to disrupt the start of their 2017 NBA season

with training camp set to begin for both players on Sept. 26.

The Boston Celtics acquired Marcus Morris from Detroit in the offseason as part of an overhaul of their roster, while Markieff was a solid contributor for the Washington Wizards last year. The Morris brothers are accused of helping three other people beat 36-year-old Erik Hood, who has known the twins since they were promising teenage AAU players.

In youth basketball parlance, Hood was known as a "runner" - someone who connects promising young athletes with representatives and agents in hopes of getting a cut of a lucrative NBA contract, Eckstein said. He said Hood viewed the Morris twins as his "lottery ticket" after they went onto a successful career at the University of Kansas and were drafted into the NBA. They later had a falling out.

Defense lawyers don't dispute that the beating took place, but they say the Morris brothers weren't involved and believe Hood was trying to pin blame on them for financial gain. Two of the other co-defendants pleaded guilty Wednesday to the same charges. That leaves the Morris brothers and one other defendant standing trial

this week. The third defendant is Gerald Bowman, a former University of Southern California football player.

Police say Hood was leaving a high school basketball game when he was approached by a friend of the Morris brothers. Hood told Phoenix police the man was speaking to him when he was punched in the back of the head.

Hood ran to his car but fell down, before five men, including the Morris twins, punched and kicked him repeatedly, authorities say. All five left in a Rolls Royce Phantom as bystanders began to appear.

Hood provided an account of the attack as the first prosecution witness Monday, calling it "the most terrifying moment in my life." He said all five men participated in the attack. He said Marcus Morris kicked him "relentlessly" and Bowman "just jumped straight up and landed on me with two feet."

"I start getting attacked, I start getting pummeled," he said. Hood told police he suffered a fractured nose, abrasions and a large bump on his head. At the time of the attack, the 6-foot-9 Morris twins were teammates on the Phoenix Suns. —AP



TOYOTA SECURES PODIUM FINISH AT 2017 FIA WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

KUWAIT: Toyota GAZOO Racing completed a tight race in the fifth round of the 2017 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) and claimed a podium finish in the 6 Hours of Mexico. The #8 TS050 Hybrid, led by crew Sebastian Buemi, Anthony Davidson and Kazuki Nakajima, secured the third spot in the round, thereby earning the team's fifth podium of the season.

The #7 TS050 Hybrid of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose Maria Lopez finished not long behind in the fourth spot and completed what was a fierce challenge posted by competing cars on the race course.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative,

Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "I congratulate the Toyota teams for displaying resilience and demonstrating a competitive spirit during this tough race. One of our aspirations for participating in motorsport activities is to test our cars in challenging conditions, refine the machines using insights and experiences gained from the track and reflect those changes in the mass production vehicles to bring satisfaction and smiles on the faces of our customers. Moreover, the support of fans has been one of the driving factors behind our success in motorsports, and I would like to thank each one of them for inspiring us to keep deliv-

ering better performance."

On this occasion, Toshio Sato, Team President, said, "This was indeed a tough battle for the Toyota cars, but they fought well and completed a clean race. The #8 TS050 Hybrid held their nerves and gathered some good momentum especially towards the end to clinch the third spot, and the #7 did well to reach the fourth position too. That said, I am confident that the teams are significantly better than the results of the Mexican round. We detected a relative lack of downforce at the race, despite deploying the TS050 Hybrids with high-downforce on the race course. These learnings are part of a competitive race, and

these are areas of opportunities where we scrutinize the performance and work on refinements. We are eyeing the next round at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas."

The #7 and #8 drivers started the race strongly with a third and fourth spot, but both subsequently conceded their leads to competing cars. Both cars endured setbacks, but right after the 90-minute mark, driver Sebastian Buemi of the #8 TS050 Hybrid gathered speed to move up to the third place and survived a brief scare when the #28 car hit him in a slow corner. The caution flags went off yet again when a baseball from the nearby sports complex landed on the race track, but the #8 TS050

Hybrid built on the momentum while entering the final stint within the closing 35 minutes of the race.

The #7 and #8 cars were once again neck-to-neck as the final lap closed in, but to maximize the points total for the World Championship-chasing #8 crew, driver Kamui Kobayashi of the #7 TS050 Hybrid eased off so that Sebastian Buemi of the #8 TS050 Hybrid could secure the third position as he drove past the chequered flag. Toyota GAZOO Racing and the Toyota crew are now gearing up for the sixth round of the season which is slated to take place across the United States border at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas on 16th September.

MONEY NO MOTIVATOR FOR LAID-BACK LEISHMAN, SAYS COACH

MELBOURNE: Marc Leishman's dominant BMW Championship victory has put him in the frame for the FedExCup's \$10 million bonus but the Australian would prize the validation of beating the world's best much more than the money, his long-time coach has said.

Denis McDade, Leishman's Melbourne-based mentor for over 15 years, watched his charge trounce the field by five strokes at Conway Farms in Lake Forest, Illinois, and soar into contention ahead of the Tour Championship finale starting Thursday.

Only three-times major winner Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas and world number one Dustin Johnson lie ahead of the burly Australian in the FedExCup standings, and McDade has little doubt Leishman belongs in their company.

Money, however, will be the last

thing on his mind when he tees up at the East Lake Golf Club at Atlanta on Thursday, said McDade. "If you offered him a choice of the bonus or beating the best players in the world and winning the FedExCup, he would take the win for sure," McDade told Reuters in an interview yesterday.

"He'd be very happy to stick his hand out, but I can say with utter conviction, it's not about the money. I know that he wants to be considered one of the best players in the world and the best way to do that is to respond to the best players in the world when they are challenging you." Leishman did just that with his wire-to-wire win at the BMW Championship, as he saw off a fierce Sunday challenge from former US Open winner Justin Rose before slamming the door shut with consecutive birdies on

the back nine. It was a big statement from Leishman who had let slip a winning position at the Dell Technologies Championship, the second stop of the FedExCup playoff series, outside Boston two weeks before.

With major-winning compatriots Adam Scott and Jason Day hogging much of the attention at home, the down-to-earth Leishman has tended to fly under the radar despite a burgeoning resume and a number of near-misses at the majors.

His colleagues on tour know better, said McDade. "If you ask the players, they say how talented he is," said the coach. "He's become pretty comfortable in his own skin... I think there's a new respect for him." "From a coach's point of view, for him to have earned that respect, I think that's all part of building

that faith and belief in himself to take the next step."

Leishman has taken time to truly find his feet, with his maiden Tour win at the 2012 Travelers Championship not backed up with a second title until the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March.

In between, the Australian suffered a major emotional trauma when his wife Audrey suffered toxic shock syndrome in 2015 and was given little chance of survival. She recovered and recently gave birth to their third child. A father of two at the time, the health scare gave Leishman a new perspective on life.

"People talk about sport being life and death. He nearly lost Audrey a number of years ago and I don't think he'd be around playing if she hadn't survived," said McDade. "He would have given it up to take care of his kids. "When it hap-

pens like that, it puts a lot of things in perspective. Once she was healthy and things were taken care of, his career's taken off since."

Fundamentally, however, Leishman remains the same personality as the laid-back 18-year-old from the seaside town of Warrnambool that McDade first taught. Not one for punishing sessions in the gym, Leishman enjoys the therapy of mowing the grass around the green in his backyard and is hugely popular among his Tour peers.

In a purple patch of form, he won't need much coaching before the Tour Championship this week but McDade told him to be sure to enjoy the moment. "Really, he's got a chance to win this thing, but he's kind of got to decompress, relax and then climb the mountain again." — Reuters

FIVE FOOTBALL PLAYERS ACCUSED IN 2016 HAZING FACE FELONY CHARGES

WHEATON: Five members of a Christian college football team in suburban Chicago face felony charges in the hazing of another team member who alleges they duct-taped his hands and feet and attempted to sodomize him with an object before dumping him half-naked in an off-campus park.

The DuPage County State's Attorney's office announced Monday that the five Wheaton College players are charged with aggravated battery, mob action and unlawful restraint.

A judge signed arrest warrants and set \$50,000 bonds for the players, who are expected to turn themselves in. As of yesterday morning, none of them had done so, according to Paul Darrah, a spokesman for the state's attorney's office. Darrah said the most serious charge - aggravated battery - carries a maximum sentence of 2 to 5 years in prison.

The Chicago Tribune reports that the victim, a freshman, told police he was in his dormitory room watching basketball on television in March 2016 when his teammates tackled him, put a pillowcase over his head and punched him when he yelled at them to stop.

The student alleges the five put him in the back seat of a car and - with Middle Eastern music playing - made offensive comments about Muslims and told him that he was being kidnapped by Muslims who wanted to have sex with goats and that he would be their "goat" for the night.

After the attack, the victim drove himself to a hospital, where he was treated for bruises and muscle tears in his shoulders. Records indicate that an emergency room nurse called police. Wheaton College says other players and coaching staff alerted college officials to an "incident." In a statement, the school said it was notified about the attack that same month and, working with an "independent" investigator, launched an investigation.

"The conduct we discovered as a result of our investigation into this incident was entirely unacceptable and inconsistent with the values we share as human beings. ... We are profoundly saddened that any member of our community could be mistreated in any way."

The students being sought on arrest warrants are James Cooksey, Kyler Kregal, Benjamin Pettway, Noah Spielman and Samuel TeBos. All are listed on the team roster, and three of them played in the game that the 4th ranked Division III team played on Saturday, according to the Tribune. The school declined to answer any questions about the students' continued participation on the football team. It said in the statement that it was unable to say what "disciplinary measures" were taken due to "federal student privacy protections." The school said its Board of Trustees has engaged "outside experts" to lead a review of the anti-hazing policy that the school revised in 2014. — AP



NEWARK: A linesman prepares to drop a 100th anniversary of the NHL puck during the game between the New Jersey Devils and the Washington Capitals at the Prudential Center on Monday in Newark, New Jersey. —AFP

NHL

HISCHIER SCORES AS DEVILS BEAT CAPITALS IN PRESEASON OPENER

NEWARK: Nico Hischier scored in his preseason debut, helping the New Jersey Devils beat the Washington Capitals 4-1 on Monday night. Hischier, the first overall pick in this year's NHL draft, made it 4-1 with a steal and a slick backhand at 15:46 of the third period. Mirco Mueller, Stefan Noesen and Kyle Palmieri scored in the second period for New Jersey. Nathan Walker scored for Washington in the first.

RANGERS 1, ISLANDERS 0, OT

Neal Pionk scored 2:31 into overtime to lift the New York Rangers to the win. Rangers goaltenders Ondrej Pavelec and Brandon Halverson combined for 17 saves. Pavelec made 10 stops in the first two periods. Islanders starter Jaroslav Halak made 22 saves in the first two periods, while Eamon McAdam made 19 stops on 20 shots in the third and overtime.

HURRICANES 3, SABRES 2, OT

Derek Ryan scored twice for Carolina, including the game-winner 2:19 into overtime. Josh Jooris also scored for the Hurricanes, who received 14 saves from Alex Nedeljkovic in the third period and overtime. Starter Jeremy Smith made 19 saves on 21 shots in the first two periods. Seth Griffith and Jake McCabe scored for the Sabres. Robin Lehner made 14 saves on 16 shots in two periods.

SENATORS 6, MAPLE LEAFS 2

Mike Hoffman scored twice to lead the Ottawa Senators to the preseason win. Mark Stone, Tyler Randell, Gabriel Gagne, Cody Ceci also scored for Ottawa. Craig Anderson looked solid playing the first half of the game, allowing one goal on 16 shots. Auston Matthews and William Nylander scored for the Leafs. Highly touted Senators prospect Colin White left the game holding his left arm after blocking a Calle Rosen shot late in the third.

BRUINS 3, CANADIENS 2

Tim Schaller's short-handed goal in the second period lifted Boston to a comeback victory over Montreal. The Canadiens took a two-goal lead through Brendan Gallagher and Jeremy Goggin before the Bruins stormed back with goals from Jesse Gabrielle, Anders Bjork and Schaller - all in the second period.

WILD 3, JETS 2

Ryan Malone had the lone goal in the shootout to lift Minnesota. Charlie Coyle and Zack Mitchell scored in regulation for Minnesota. Mathieu Perreault and Patrik Laine had power-play goals for the Jets. The 37-year-old Malone, who retired almost two years ago, is attempting to return to pro hockey. His low shot beat Jets netminder Connor Hellebuyck.

OILERS 5, FLAMES 2

Mark Letestu scored a pair of goals as Edmonton defeated Calgary in a split-squad preseason game. Patrick Maroon, Ryan Nugent-

Hopkins and Ryan Strome also scored for the Oilers, who dressed the more experienced of the two teams. Matt Bartkowski and Hunter Shinkaruk replied with goals for the Flames.

OILERS 5, FLAMES 4

Drake Caggiola scored two goals to lead Edmonton over Calgary in this split-squad game. Sean Monahan put the home team in front with

the first shot of the game, but Edmonton reeled off the next four goals. Caggiola started the spree on a deflection at 5:24 of the first, then added a power-play goal at 6:12 of the second to give the Oilers a 4-1 lead. Yohann Auvitu, Juhar Khaira and 2017 first-round pick Kailer Yamamoto also scored for Edmonton. Dougie Hamilton, TJ Brodie and Mark Jankowski had the other Calgary goals. — AP

CRICKET

GIBSON TARGETS NUMBER ONE RANKING WITH SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: New South Africa coach Ottis Gibson faces a fast bowling crisis ahead of the two-test home series against Bangladesh that starts on Sept. 28, as he plots a path to return the side to number one in the International Cricket Council's five-day rankings. West Indian Gibson left his post as England bowling coach to take up the top position with South Africa, but already faces a challenging start with several top performers sidelined by injury. "We have four quality fast bowlers injured. That's a problem straight away," Gibson said at his

first press conference as coach yesterday.

"You can't really develop a team with that type of injury list. We have to take 20 wickets consistently to win tests. We need a group of fast bowlers ready to perform." Dale Steyn's return has been delayed again, this time indefinitely, after he suffered a set-back in his recovery with a strained muscle in his problematic shoulder.

Vernon Philander has also been ruled out of the first test, at least, with a back problem sustained in the recent 3-1 test series loss in England, while all-rounder Chris Morris will miss both games also because of a back injury.

Promising youngster Lungi Ngidi, who burst onto the scene in Twenty20 cricket earlier this year, is also out until mid-October with a stress fracture in his back. It means Kagiso Rabada and Morne Morkel are the only two fit seamers with significant test experience, leaving Duane Olivier, Wayne Parnell and Andile Phehlukwayo to likely fight over the other two positions in the side.

Injuries aside, Gibson feels he has the players to return South Africa to the top of the test rankings. "My philosophy over the next two years is taking the Proteas back to the top of the (test) pile first of all, then hopefully winning the (2019) World Cup," he said. "I'm lucky in a sense, the Proteas have been to number one in the world on a few occasions and not very long ago they were number one in the world." Gibson says he is well aware of Cricket South Africa's transformation targets that means the national side, across all formats, must select on average through the season six non-white players per game, two of whom must be black African.

"That process has been happening before I got here," he said. "As far as team selection is concerned we will continue on the path that we are on at the moment. The chairman of selectors and the captain have got a handle on that." — Reuters



LAHORE: Pakistani cricketers take part in a training session at the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium in Lahore yesterday, ahead of the forthcoming cricket series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, playing in United Arab Emirates (UAE). — AFP



JOHANNESBURG: Newly appointed coach Ottis Gibson speaks during a media conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday. Gibson was presented as South Africa's new cricket coach in Johannesburg yesterday, replacing Russell Domingo who did not have his contract renewed after their Test series defeat in England. — AP

SMASHING: MLB HOME RUN RECORD ON TRACK TO FALL

NEW YORK: Giancarlo Stanton's smacks, Aaron Judge's jolts and all those dizzying long balls helped Major League Baseball move another poke closer to the inevitable. Nearly two decades after the height of the Steroids Era, the sport is on track to break its season record for home runs yesterday - and not just top the old mark, but smash it like one of those upper-deck shots that have become commonplace in the Summer of the Slugger.

There were 5,663 home runs hit through Sunday, 30 shy of the record set in 2000. Juiced balls? Watered-down pitching? Stanton's renaissance? Sensational starts by Judge and Cody Bellinger?

"I don't think that we are ever going to have a single explanation for exactly why we've see so many," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "But players are bigger and stronger. They're playing a little differently, in terms of

way they swing. Pitchers throw harder. The one thing I remain comfortable with: Nothing about the baseball, according to our testing, is materially different."

There were 5,610 homers last year, an average of 2.31 per game, and this year's average of 2.53 projects to 6,143. That would be up 47 percent from 4,186 in 2014. In just three years, home runs will have increased by 1,957 - an extra 149 miles of long balls at this year's average home run length of 400 feet, or 15 miles more than the driving distance between Philadelphia's Citizen's Bank Park and Washington's Nationals Park.

"The game has changed," New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "From when I started, there's a lot less stolen bases, there's a lot less bunting, there's a lot less hitting-and-running. You don't give outs away, and you let guys swing the bat." Already 107 players have hit 20 homers this year, just three shy of the record set last season - and up from 64 in

2015, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. "The ball seems to soar from people that are hitting it farther than maybe they did a year ago ... and they kind of look like the same person," Minnesota manager Paul Molitor, a Hall of Famer hitter, said before Monday night's game at Yankee Stadium.

Along with sailing shots come strikeouts, which will set a record for the 10th consecutive year. There were 36,964 whiffs through Sunday, an average of 8.25 per team per game that translates to 40,099. "The focus is hitting homers and tolerating strikeouts," Reggie Jackson said. "I don't really like all the strikeouts, and I was the king."

Baseball officials are worried about decreasing action and have been alarmed by the strikeout rise. This year's total is up from 38,982 last year and an increase of nearly 8,000 from the 32,189 in 2007. The strikeout spike coincides with a rise in fastball velocity; four-seam-

ers have averaged 93.2 mph this year, up from 91.9 mph in 2008, according to MLB data.

"These bullpens are making it extremely difficult. From basically the starter on you're going to have elite, hard-throwing guys that are looking to strike you out every single time," said Baltimore's Mark Trumbo, last year's home run champion. "The game right now is as max effort as I've seen it. Guys are throwing harder. At the plate sometimes you have no choice. It's hard to steer the ball around when it's 98 miles an hour and up in the zone."

Jackson set a record with 2,597 career strikeouts, maxing at 171 in 1968. Six players already have reached 171 this year, led by the Yankees' Judge at 197. He could break Mark Reynolds' season record of 223, set in 2009. "You'd have been on the bench," Jackson said. "But I don't know if you set a guy on the bench with 90 RBIs and 40 homers. That's

Judge. You ain't going to sit that on the bench."

Steroids fueled the home run surge in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and power subsided after the start of drug testing with penalties in 2004. The home run average dropped in 2014 to its lowest level since 1992, then started rising during the second half of the 2015 season.

MLB has the UMass-Lowell's Baseball Research Center conduct periodic testing of baseballs and University of Illinois physics professor emeritus Alan Nathan consults as part of quality control. The sport has said repeatedly that baseballs fall within the specifications in the rules.

Manfred isn't worried some undetectable substance is fueling the new rise. "I have never said that it's impossible there's something out there that we're missing," he said. "What I am saying is we're doing more, more frequently, less predictably, with better testing, and that's all you can do." —AP

GUST FOOTBALL TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE AT 2017 BEST IN SERBIA

KUWAIT: GUST men's football team attended and won 1st at the 2017 Belgrade International University Sports Tournament (BeST) in Belgrade, Serbia. The tournament brought together 17 different universities from across Europe, Russia, Asia, and the Middle East to compete at an international level, experience different cultures, and forge international friendships.

The BeST tournaments have been taking place every year in Belgrade for the past nine years. This is the second year GUST has participated in this event, with two teams participating in the Men's Football and Women's Futsal categories, which concluded with a 3rd place win for the Men's Football team.

On this occasion, Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Raghad Al Kazemi, said "We are very excited for this win, which is proof of our students' dedication and persistence. This also follows the win of our women's football team at the University Athletics Association of Kuwait (UAAK) championship this season. The sky is our limit now!" The standout team of the tournament was the GUST Men's football team, who won 1st place at the competition, after challenging games against DIF University, Serbia, Rekreativo, Serbia, GUST, American College of Greece, and Sabanci University, Turkey, who also attended the final match against FON University, Serbia where the team won on penalties after a last minute equalizer through full time. Representatives from the Kuwaiti Embassy also attended the matches in a show of support, and to see the GUST men's football team in action.

BeST Organizer, Sonja Milicevic, said, "It is our pleasure to host GUST's football team at Best for a second year. We were impressed by the team's determination and display of fair play last year, which they were able to maintain and improve this year. Seeing them turn a loss into a win in the last minute of the final game just comes to show how much practice and hard work went into their preparations. We hope to host GUST again in our upcoming tournaments with more teams and more gold."

The team spent eight days in Belgrade, and started training right upon arrival at the FK Partizan training ground, one of the top local football clubs, which was arranged by the Kuwaiti embassy at Belgrade.

GUST Athletics Director, Craig Drennan, said, "Winning the Men's Football Tournament in Belgrade at BeST2017 is an achievement that both GUST and Kuwait can be proud of. The win demonstrated that the skill level of our student athletes is as good as anywhere in the world and it is a

credit to the dedication and hard work of the team and their coach Mohammed Jaber Al Shemmary that they prevailed to win under difficult circumstances. It goes without saying that I am incredibly proud of our team and our staff who all played an important role in this victory. I hope that we can continue to provide our student athletes with the opportunity to compete in international tournaments as they provide important competitive, educational and cultural exchanges using the international language of sport."

Previous wins and achievements of GUST teams include a 1st place win at the 2015 UAAK Men's Football Tournament, and another 1st place win at the 2015 UAAK Women's Football Tournament.



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

SPANISH LEAGUE	
Athletic Bilbao v Atletico Madrid	1:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Leganes v Girona	1:00
beIN SPORTS HD 9	
La Coruna v Alaves	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Real Madrid v Real Betis	3:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Sevilla v Las Palmas	3:00
beIN SPORTS HD 9	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
Benevento v Roma	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Atalanta v Crotone	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
Juventus v Fiorentina	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Lazio v Napoli	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Milan v spal	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Udinese Calcio v Torino	21:45
beIN SPORTS	
Hellas Verona v Sampdoria	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Genoa v Chievo Verona	21:45
beIN SPORTS	
Cagliari Calcio v Sassuolo Calcio	1:45
beIN SPORTS	
GERMAN LEAGUE	
Koln v Eintracht Frankfurt	19:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Hertha Berlin v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	1:30
beIN SPORTS	
Freiburg v Hannover	21:30
beIN SPORTS	
Hamburger v Borussia Dortmund	1:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Mainz v Hoffenheim	21:30
beIN SPORTS HD 10	



BALTIMORE: Manny Machado #13 of the Baltimore Orioles tags out Mookie Betts #50 of the Boston Red Sox between second and third base for the second out of the fifth inning at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Monday in Baltimore, Maryland.—AFP

BASEBALL

RED SOX FORM CONTINUES WITH WIN OVER ORIOLES

BALTIMORE: Andrew Benintendi hit a two-run single in the 11th inning, Mookie Betts had four RBIs and the Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 10-8 Monday night for their ninth win in 12 games. Xander Bogaerts homered and scored three runs for the Red Sox, who maintained their three-game lead over the second-place Yankees in the AL East and reduced to four their magic number for clinching a playoff berth. Boston erased a five-run deficit with a six-run fifth inning and needed 10 pitchers to beat a skidding Orioles team that has now lost 10 of 12. The Red Sox posted their major league-leading 14th win in extra innings against three losses. Matt Barnes (7-3) pitched the 10th and Carson Smith got his first save. Miguel Castro (3-2) took the loss. Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia left in the fourth inning after being struck in the face by a foul ball he chopped off the plate. He bruised his nose and was listed as day to day. Earlier this year at Camden Yards, Pedroia's knee was injured on a late slide by Manny Machado.

YANKEES 2, TWINS 1

Aaron Judge hit his 44th home run and Aroldis Chapman pitched out of big trouble in the eighth inning as the Yankees edged Minnesota to increase their AL wild-card lead. New York won the opener of a three-game series that could serve as a preview to the AL wild-card matchup in two weeks. The Yankees trail AL East-leading Boston by three games, and hold a five-game edge over the Twins for league's top wild card with 12 to play. Chapman replaced a wild Dellin Betances with the bases loaded and one out in the eighth. The left-hander struck out three-time batting champion Joe Mauer and retired Byron Buxton on a fly, then closed for his 19th save. Judge homered in the first off Ervin Santana (15-8). David Robertson (9-2) retired all four hitters he faced, improving to 5-0 since the Yankees reacquired him from the Chicago White Sox in July.

MARLINS 13, METS 1

Giancarlo Stanton hit his 55th homer - and his first in nine days - while driving in four runs to help Miami beat the Mets. Batting third for the first time this year, Stanton hit a three-run line drive into the home run sculpture at Marlins Park in the fourth inning against Matt Harvey (5-6). With that, the MLB home run leader ended a drought of 29 at-bats without one. Stanton's homer total is the highest since Ryan Howard hit 58 in 2006. Stanton added a run-scoring single in Miami's seven-run fifth. The Marlins, back home after a trip extended by three games due to Hurricane Irma, won for only the fourth time in the past 21 games. Dan Straily (10-9) gave up one run in five innings and struck out eight.

PADRES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Hunter Renfroe hit a three-run home run in his first game back from Triple A and Austin Hedges also connected for the San Diego Padres, who beat NL wild card leader Arizona. Renfroe drove a 1-1 pitch from lefty Patrick Corbin to straightaway center field with two

outs in the first, his 11th. He was demoted to Triple-A El Paso on Aug. 18 to work on his hitting. Corbin (14-13) retired the first two batters before allowing Wil Myers' double that bounced over the fence in left-center. The pitcher then walked Yangervis Solarte before Renfroe connected. Hedges homered to left-center on a 3-1 pitch with one out in the second, his 18th. The Diamondbacks closed the gap in the third with RBI singles by David Peralta and J.D. Martinez off Luis Perdomo (8-10). Brad Hand pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

PHILLIES 4, DODGERS 3

Aaron Altherr became the first big leaguer to hit a grand slam off Clayton Kershaw, leading Philadelphia over NL West-leading Los Angeles. Kershaw (17-4) fell to 3-5 in his career against the Phillies. Nick Pivetta (6-10) rebounded from a shaky start. Chris Taylor led off the game with an inside-the-park homer and Justin Turner followed with a drive over the wall. Curtis Granderson homered in the ninth before Hector Neris got his 22nd save. Former Phillies star Chase Utley went 0 for 2, striking out twice. He drew a standing ovation before his first at-bat and loud cheers throughout the evening.

BREWERS 3, PIRATES 0

Brent Suter pitched five efficient innings, Ryan Braun homered and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh. The Brewers are two games behind Colorado for the second wild-card spot and 3 1/2 games in back of the NL Central-leading Cubs. Suter (3-2) allowed five hits. Corey Knebel pitching the ninth for his 36th save in 41 tries. Braun's solo shot, his 17th of the season, came off Jameson Taillon (7-7).

ATHLETICS 8, TIGERS 3

Tigers reliever Jeff Ferrell left in the eighth inning after being hit in the head by a line drive

off the bat off Ryon Healy measured at 102.6 mph. Ferrell never went down, and instead immediately jogged toward the Detroit dugout. He was taken to a hospital for a precautionary CT scan. He was alert, responsive and walking under his own power, the Tigers announced after the game. Matt Olson became the first Oakland player to homer in four straight games since Coco Crisp in 2013, and now has 14 home runs in his last 20 games. Liam Hendriks (4-2) got the win with 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Buck Farmer (4-4) took the loss. — AP



PHILADELPHIA: J.P. Crawford #2 of the Philadelphia Phillies throws out Yasiel Pigu #66 of the Los Angeles Dodgers (NOT PICTURED) in the top of the eighth inning at Citizens Bank Park on Monday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. — AFP

MLB Results/Standings

San Diego 4, Arizona 2; Miami 13, NY Mets 1; Oakland 8, Detroit 3; Boston 10, Baltimore 8 (11 innings); Philadelphia 4, LA Dodgers 3; Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 0; NY Yankees 2, Minnesota 1.

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	90	59	.604	-
Boston	86	64	.573	Miami	70	80	.467	20.5
NY Yankees	83	67	.553	Atlanta	67	81	.453	22.5
Tampa Bay	73	77	.487	NY Mets	65	85	.433	25.5
Baltimore	73	78	.483	Philadelphia	59	91	.393	31.5
Toronto	70	80	.467	16				
Central Division				Central Division				
Cleveland	93	57	.620	Chicago Cubs	83	66	.557	-
Minnesota	78	72	.520	Milwaukee	80	70	.533	3.5
Kansas City	73	76	.490	St. Louis	77	72	.517	6
Detroit	62	88	.413	Pittsburgh	68	83	.450	16
Chicago White Sox	60	89	.403	Cincinnati	66	84	.440	17.5
Western Division				Western Division				
Houston	91	58	.611	LA Dodgers	96	54	.640	-
LA Angels	76	73	.510	Arizona	87	64	.576	9.5
Seattle	74	76	.493	Colorado	82	68	.547	14
Texas	73	76	.490	San Diego	67	83	.447	29
Oakland	67	83	.447	San Francisco	58	93	.384	38.5



Sports

Ex-tennis star Blake testifies about his mistaken arrest



Gibson targets number one ranking with South Africa



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RED SOX FORM CONTINUES WITH WIN OVER ORIOLES

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EAST RUTHERFORD: Eli Manning #10 of the New York Giants in action against the Detroit Lions during their game at MetLife Stadium on Monday in East Rutherford, New Jersey. —AFP

STAFFORD'S TWO TD PASSES HELP LIONS BEAT GIANTS

EAST RUTHERFORD: On a night when the New York Giants honored their 2007 Super Bowl championship team at halftime, the current Giants once again looked like chumps.

Detroit rookie Jamal Agnew returned a punt 88 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown, and Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes to help the Lions earn a 24-10 win over New York on Monday night at Met Life Stadium.

Agnew's punt return, the fifth longest in team history, broke open the game. The touchdown gave the Lions (2-0) a 14-point lead.

"We put this game on me," said Giants coach Ben McAdoo, who saw his team flop not just on special teams but on offense and defense as well while falling to 0-2.

"We talk about playing complete, complementary football, but by no stretch of the imagination did we get that done tonight. We put ourselves in a hole. We have to find a way to get better and better in a hurry."

Stafford finished 15 of 21 for 122 yards with no interceptions. Both his touchdown passes came on third-and-long plays in the first half and gave his team a 17-7 halftime lead.

The Giants, who have now gone eight consecutive games scoring fewer than 20 points, got a third-quarter, 25-yard field goal by kicker Aldrick Rosas, cutting the deficit to 17-10.

New York might have had more on that possession, but after driving all the way to the Lions 1-yard line, the Giants had a series of miscues that began with left guard Brett Jones being flagged for holding.

The Giants made up most of the penalty yardage, getting back to the 2-yard line, but on

fourth down with the offense prepared to go for it, quarterback Eli Manning was flagged for a delay-of-game penalty. That led to the field goal.

New York did have opportunities to keep it closer but failed to cash in.

In the second quarter, the defense forced and then recovered a fumble by Stafford, who was sacked and stripped of the ball by defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul. But on the ensuing possession, the Giants gave the ball right back to the Lions when Manning's pass intended for Evan Engram was picked off by Tahir Whitehead.

BIGGEST PLAY

The biggest missed opportunity for the Giants came in the fourth quarter. Receiver Brandon Marshall, who had his man beat on a long pass that would have put the Giants deep

into Lions territory, dropped the ball. After the Giants failed to extend that drive, Agnew scored his punt-return touchdown.

"That was the biggest play of the game," Marshall said of his drop. "I got an opportunity to make a big play and change the momentum, and I lost it." Marshall said that he lost the ball momentarily in the stadium lights.

"It was a perfect pass and I beat the guy," he said. "I knew the ball was coming but lost it in the light and then I picked it back up and I dropped it when it came down." "That can't happen. When you get a big opportunity in a big game like this, in that situation when you're down and you have an opportunity to go down the field and score, that can't happen."

Stafford, who was 12 of 17 for 107 yards at the half, connected with tight end Eric Ebron on a 7-

yard touchdown pass in the second quarter. The drive was set up when by the Whitehead interception. Manning finished 22 of 32 for 239 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Ebron was Detroit's leading receiver, catching all five of his first-half pass targets for 42 yards and a touchdown. He did not have any receptions in the second half.

The Lions also managed to sack Manning five times, three of which were recorded by defensive end Ziggy Ansah, who abused Giants left tackle Ereck Flowers. "I think anytime you end up getting that kind of pressure and getting five sacks against a very explosive offense with weapons they have, it's a good thing," Lions coach Jim Caldwell said. "We were not only able to get pressure consistently, but push the pocket, but they're a tough team to handle." — Reuters



BERGEN: Gold medalist Netherland's Annemiek Van Vleuten (C), silver medalist Netherland's Anna Van Der Breggen (L) and bronze medalist Australia's Katrin Garfoot react on the podium after the women elite individual time trial at the UCI Cycling Road World Championships on Monday in Bergen, Norway. — AFP

VAN VLEUTEN WINS WORLD ROAD TIME TRIAL

BERGEN: Annemiek van Vleuten claimed an emotional world road title in the women's individual time trial yesterday, beating fellow Dutch rider Anna van der Breggen to the gold medal.

Little more than a year after a horrific accident in the Rio Olympics road race left her with three spinal fractures, the 34-year-old powered round the hilly 21.1km (13.1-mile) course in Bergen to win by a comfortable margin.

Despite rain making the course slippery, she averaged 43.8kmh for a time of 28 minutes 50.35 seconds. Van Der Breggen, whose road race gold in Rio was overshadowed by the injuries sustained by her teammate who had been leading when she slammed into

a deep gutter on a descent, was 12 seconds slower.

Australian Katrin Garfoot was third, as she was last year, 19 seconds behind. Last year's champion Amber Neben of the United States could only manage 11th, while another Dutch rider-Ellen Van Dijk- second last year in Doha, was fifth.

Only five riders got within a minute of van Vleuten's time as she and Van der Breggen secured the first gold and silver from the same country in the time trial since 1996. "I can't believe it," a tearful Van Vleuten said. "To be world champion in the TT, I never thought it would be, but this year I've started to believe. The downs make the ups more beautiful, makes it really special. It was hard because it started

pouring with rain and I lost some seconds on the descents. I thought the weather would disturb my race form, but I focussed on what I do."

Van der Breggen was the second of the 54 riders to start and it looked as though she might take the gold as Van Vleuten was behind on the first two intermediate splits. However Orica-Scott rider Van Vleuten put together a superb final 4km to go fastest on the scoreboard. Eighteen riders followed her, including many of the pre-race favourites, but none mastered the conditions as well as Van Vleuten. "I heard on the climb I was on almost the same time as Anna but in the last five kilometres I heard I was faster so I gave it everything to the finish," she said. —Reuters

S AFRICA'S COURT TO HEAR STATE'S APPEAL AGAINST PISTORIUS IN NOV

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) will hear the state's appeal against the six-year murder sentence handed to Paralympic gold medalist Oscar Pistorius on Nov. 3, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said yesterday.

The state will argue that six years in jail is too lenient a sentence for the murder by Pistorius of Reeva Steenkamp, his girlfriend, in 2013. "The state, in the papers, we stipulate clearly that the sentence imposed is shockingly low," said NPA spokesman Luvuyo Mfaku. "The presiding officer has the discretion to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence when compelling and substantial circumstances exist. But... with this matter, the presiding officer exercised that discretion in a very lenient manner."

Women's rights groups in a country beset by high levels of violent crime against women say Pistorius has received preferential treatment compared to non-whites and those without his wealth or international celebrity status.

The SCA told state prosecutors and the defence in November that they would need to argue their cases in court before it would rule on the matter. State prosecutors, led by advocate Gerrie Nel, say the sentence was too lenient as the jail term was less than half the 15 years they had sought. In his arguments at the trial, Nel said Pistorius had shown no remorse for the 2013 shooting.

Lawyers for the gold medalist, known as the "Blade Runner" for his carbon-fibre prosthetics, say he did not deliberately kill model

and law graduate Steenkamp. The athlete was originally convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to five years in jail. That conviction was increased to murder by the SCA in December 2015 and his sentence increased to six years by trial Judge Thokozile Masipa.

She dismissed in August 2016 a request by Nel to appeal Pistorius' sentence, saying she was not persuaded that there was a reasonable prospect of success at another court. Nel then launched his case at the SCA, in Bloemfontein, 400 km (250 miles) southwest of Johannesburg. — Reuters



PRETORIA: In this photograph taken on Tuesday, May 19, 2014, Oscar Pistorius listens to psychiatric evidence for his defense, during his ongoing murder trial in Pretoria, South Africa. — AP



Malik Marafie receives the Best Brand award.

ZAIN 'BEST BRAND' FOR TELECOM IN 2017

TELECOM WORLD MIDDLE EAST AWARDS FOR 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

DUBAI: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecoms innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, is proud to announce it has been awarded 'Best Brand' for Telecom in 2017 for a fourth consecutive year at the prestigious Telecoms World Middle East Awards gala event in Dubai earlier this week.

The honor of the 'Best Brand' was bestowed on Zain Group by a panel of expert judges assembled by Terrapinn, the organizers of the annual Telecoms World Middle East Conference and Awards. The awards recognize outstanding performance in key areas throughout the Middle East telecom industry and shine a spotlight on key players that have contributed to making the sector one of the most dynamic globally.

Since the introduction of its inspiring brand in 2007, Zain has been a recipient of numerous

brand related awards over the years. This year's success has been driven by many developments occurring within the company, where digital innovation is positively impacting customer experience.

Additionally, Zain's Corporate Sustainability programs and eye-catching marketing and widespread social media campaigns have captured the imagination of the whole region. Commenting on the award of the latest accolades,

Head of The Executive Team, Vice Chairman & CEO's Office, Zain Group, Malik Marafie said, "The Zain brand is embedded in the core of all our initiatives. It paves the path for our mission, defines our vision and drives our focus within the organization."

Marafie continued, "This recognition as the best brand is an acknowledgement of the Zain workforce passion for making a difference to the community we serve and in the positive

manner we deal with all of our stakeholders - aiming to put the customer at the center of everything we do."

Today, Zain Group and its local operations now boast more than 9 million fans on Facebook, more than 6 million followers on Twitter, and over 1.2 million on Instagram. Over the past 4 years, Zain Group's and operations' numerous YouTube channels across the region have had more than 200 million views. Zain is also very

active on the most exciting new social media channel, i.e. Snapchat, attracting thousands of young followers as well as on LinkedIn with a more senior and professional audience attracting over 100,000 followers, all relevant and indicative factors of the brand power of Zain.

Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa providing mobile voice and data services to over 45.2 million active customers as of 30 June, 2017. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain operates in: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Lebanon, the Group manages 'touch' on behalf of the government. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5 percent stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture. Zain is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (stock ticker: ZAIN).

Malik Marafie: "The Zain brand is embedded in the core of all our initiatives. It paves the path for our mission, defines our vision and drives our focus within the organization."

EU CHAMBER WARNS CHINA: OPEN ECONOMY FASTER OR RISK BACKLASH

BEIJING: European companies suffer from "promise fatigue" over China's failure to follow through on pledges to open its market, the EU Chamber of Commerce in China said yesterday. The chamber issued an annual 400-page report detailing the regulatory barriers that continue to hinder investment in the world's second-largest economy.

European businesses are "suffering from accumulated 'promise fatigue', having witnessed a litany of assurances over recent years that never quite materialized," the position paper said.

The chamber urged the ruling Communist Party to "supplant words with concrete actions and provide reciprocal access to its market". The restrictions imposed on foreign investments force companies from abroad to partner with local firms and often share vital technology-if they are not barred altogether from accessing a certain market, the chamber said.

Chinese firms face no such restrictions in EU markets, Chamber president Mats Harborn told reporters prior to the report's release. "We are now calling for the abolition of foreign investment laws," he said, stating

that they made China's investment climate too complex, unpredictable and opaque to attract foreign capital. "The numbers speak for themselves: Chinese investments in Europe rose 77 percent last year, while EU investments in China fell by a quarter," Harborn said. EU investment fell a further 23 percent in the first quarter of 2017.

A May survey published by the Chamber showed 54 percent of EU companies operating in China felt they were treated worse than local counterparts. A study in January by the American Chamber of Commerce in China found more than four in five US companies feel the country is less welcoming to foreign businesses than in the past.

On Monday, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer slammed China's approach to its economy, calling Beijing's policies an "unprecedented" trade threat to which the World Trade Organization was not prepared to respond. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang retorted at a regular press briefing Tuesday that "China firmly supports an open world economy and improves its business environment. We are the advocate, contributor and architect of the multilateral trade regime". Responding to the EU Chamber's concerns, he praised the country's "great achievements" since it began market reforms in the late 70s, stating: "I don't understand why certain parties would doubt our reform and opening up, which benefits both China and the world."

The lack of access belies the rhetoric of Chinese leaders. In January, President Xi Jinping hailed globalisation at the World Economic Forum in Davos and insisted that China was committed to "opening up". Later that month a government circular pledged to "create an environment of fair competition" and "strengthen efforts to attract foreign investment". — AFP



BEIJING: A woman looks at a vacant retail space wall displaying the directory of the local and western restaurants at a newly opened up-scale shopping mall at the Central Business District in Beijing yesterday. — AP

STERLING PRESSURED AFTER CARNEY'S COMMENTS

LONDON: Sterling slipped against the dollar yesterday, kept under pressure after a nearly 1 percent slide on comments from Bank of England governor Mark Carney, who said interest rates rises in coming months would be limited and gradual. The pound rose as much as 3.3 percent last week, jumping more than four cents to \$1.3618 on the back of hawkish messages from the BoE and Gertjan Vlieghe, one of the Bank's rate-setters normally considered a dove.

But it slid from its highest level since the Brexit result after Carney's comments on Monday, which some analysts said were aimed at managing market expectations of the pace and number of rates hikes from the British central bank. Sterling briefly steadied above \$1.35 in early morning trade in London, before gradually declining into negative territory.

It was 0.2 percent lower at \$1.3477 by 0857 GMT, having earlier hit the day's low of \$1.3469. The pound was 0.4 percent lower at 88.84 pence per euro. Traders said the move was a continuation of yesterday's downward momentum following Carney's comments.

"It's traders digesting Carneys comments yesterday and assessing that they may have jumped the gun a little with regards to the timing of the first rate hike," said Jake Trask, corporate dealer at OFX.

"The BoE has cried wolf before regarding rate hikes and although it seems likely to happen soon, it may not be this year." While investors will be on alert for retail sales data today, the key event for traders this week is a speech in Florence on Friday by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

She is expected to discuss the Brexit negotiations, the next round of which has been postponed to the week of Sept. 25. Ratings firm Moody's will also issue its rating of UK sovereign debt on Friday. In a speech at the International Monetary Fund on Monday, Carney said Brexit was likely to hurt Britain's growth prospects in the short term and push up inflation as the country adjusts to life outside the European Union. "To guard against this (rise) it appears that the Bank of England is looking to mitigate some of the impact of higher prices by helping put a floor under the pound," said CMC Markets chief markets analyst Michael Hewson.

Britain's inflation rate has accelerated this year, due in large part to the fall in the value of the pound since the referendum decision in June 2016 to leave the EU. Prices have risen nearly 3 percent, squeezing the spending power of many households and slowing growth in the overall economy. That, analysts say, has also complicated the BoE's job as wages continue to lag price rises. — Reuters

News

in Brief

Egypt to plug budget gaps with more foreign debt

CAIRO: Egypt's Finance Minister says the country will face a \$10 to \$12 billion budget shortfall for the current 2017-18 fiscal year, and plans expanded foreign debt issuance to overcome it. Finance Minister Amr el-Garhy told participants at the annual Euromoney Egypt Conference on Monday that economic reforms were ongoing. Cairo secured a \$12-billion, three-year bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund in November to support the program, enacting a tough subsidy cuts, a value-added tax and currency devaluation to qualify. El-Garhy has announced plans to fill the gaps in recent press interviews, saying that Egypt will issue a 1.5 billion euro (\$1.8 bln) bond by the end of November and another \$10 billion in Eurobonds next year, with \$3 billion to \$4 billion issued by the first quarter of 2018.

World Bank cuts South Africa's growth forecast

JOHANNESBURG: The World Bank yesterday halved its 2017 growth forecast for South Africa after the economy fell into recession earlier this year. It said in a report that 2017 growth would probably be 0.6 percent, down from an earlier estimate of 1.1 percent. Growth is seen ticking up to 1.1 percent next year and reaching 1.7 percent in 2019. But the bank warned any prospect of recovery would "remain fragile" unless South Africa succeeds in becoming more productive. "South Africa is not benefiting from the global economic rebound. South Africa is well placed in exports markets but we don't see the country's exports breaking into new markets," World Bank southern Africa specialist Sebastian Deussus said. President Jacob Zuma last month said South Africa's 2017 growth would be below 0.5 percent, down from a forecast of 1.3 percent in February, after the economy fell into recession in the first quarter.

Funds to buy key stake in Copenhagen airport operator

COPENHAGEN: Canadian and Danish pension funds have offered to buy the Copenhagen international airport parent company from Australia's Macquarie, which has held a majority stake since 2005. Denmark's ATP and Canadian Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan said the offer price for the stakes in Kastrup Airport Parents Aps would be around 5,700 kroner (\$915) per share but this may fluctuate and the actual price depends on the date of the deal's completion. They did not disclose an overall value. The deal will give the pension funds a controlling 57.7 percent share while the Danish state will continue to own a stake of 39.2 percent. The rest is held by private investors.

KUWAIT CONSUMER SECTOR SHOWS SIGNS OF RECOVERY

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Chart 1: Household debt growth (% y/y)

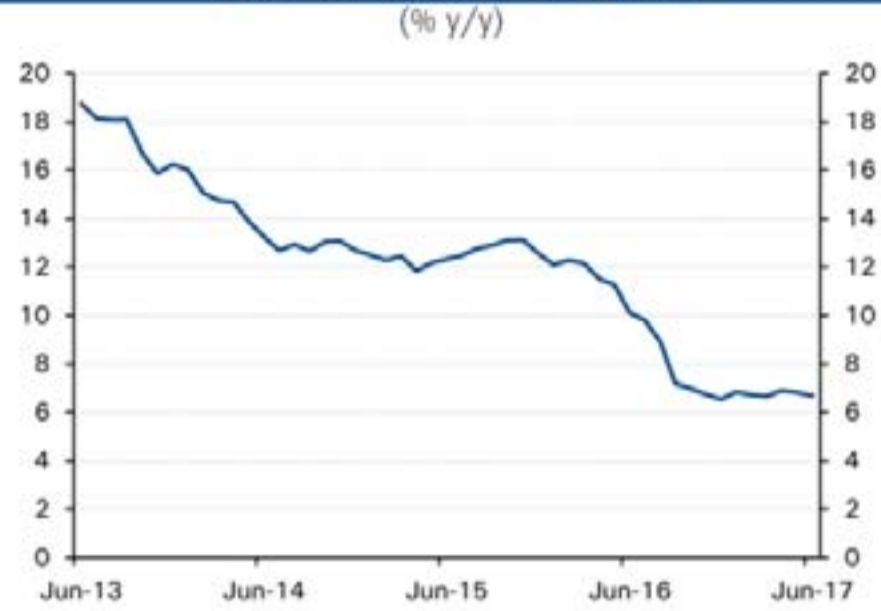


Chart 2: Card transactions (% y/y)



KUWAIT: Kuwait's consumer sector appeared to stabilize and show some early signs of recovery in 2017, following a noticeable slowdown in 2016. Lower oil prices and some fiscal adjustment negatively impacted the consumer sector in 2016. Although we are seeing stabilization and some recovery in card spending, consumer confidence and household credit, most consumer indicators remain noticeably weak in 2017 and far below the double-digit growth of previous years. Nonetheless, employment remains healthy, providing support to the sector, despite the moderation in government hiring.

Consumer spending growth bounced back in 2Q17, but remained below the 2015 pace. Spending growth on credit and debit cards at point-of-sale machines improved to 9.1 percent year-on-year (y/y) during the second quarter, up from 4.3 percent y/y in 2Q16. Growth in total spending including ATM withdrawals, which has been slower, has also been improving, accelerating to 4.9 percent y/y in 2Q17.

Despite the improvement, durable goods have yet to show signs of stabilization. The auto market has been struggling and sales are estimated to have retreated by 20-

25 percent in 2016 and a further 12 percent during the first half of 2017. Noticeable weakness in durable goods purchases continued to be reflected in the Ara consumer confidence index. The durable goods sub-index soared in July and the 3-month average was still down 10 percent y/y.

Nonetheless, there has been steady albeit slow improvement in consumer confidence over the last 12 months. Despite some weakness in the beginning of the year, the Ara general index has managed to remain above the 100 point benchmark since May 2017.

It rose to 106 in July. The index had been on a downward trend for four years and fell more rapidly in 2016 after the government hiked fuel prices. Despite the improvement in 2017, the 12-month average remained down 6 percent y/y.

The slow improvement in consumer confidence appears to be helping stabilize household loan growth in 2017. In fact, the growth in household lending, which had also slowed in 2017, has steadied in 2017.

Growth in personal facilities excluding credit for the purchase of securities has averaged 6.8 percent y/y in 1H17, compared to an average of 11.8 percent growth in

1H16. The average monthly gain in such loans rose to KD 59 million so far in 2017, compared to a KD 54 million average during the first half of 2016. Employment growth among Kuwaitis, which has held up quite well in recent quarters, appeared to moderate in 1Q17. The number of new civilian jobs among Kuwaitis dipped below 3,000 for the first time in three years, according to the latest figures from the Public Institute for Social Security.

With private and oil sector jobs steady or improving, the weakness came from the public sector, which only added around 8,900 jobs during FY16/17, 17 percent lower than the previous year. The sector saw employment growth slip to 2 percent y/y, its slowest pace in over seven years. Meanwhile, non-Kuwaiti employment growth retreated to below 4 percent y/y during 1H17 after holding up above 5 percent for over two years.

The consumer sector is likely to recover further in 2017. The recent decision to implement more moderate hikes in utility prices and the slow recovery in the real estate market activity, combined with a government commitment to limit its spending cuts, should continue to provide decent support to the consumer sector.

PORTUGAL'S BOND YIELD PLAYS CATCH-UP WITH ITS EU PEERS

LONDON: The gap between Portuguese and Italian 10-year government bond yields narrowed yesterday to levels not seen since the start of the euro zone debt crisis of 2010-2012, showing how much investor sentiment towards Portugal has improved this year. As one of the only junk-rated euro zone countries, Portugal has traditionally had much higher borrowing costs than its larger and better-rated southern European peers. However, a strong rally in

Portuguese debt over the last two sessions has accelerated a trend seen in recent months: the country is now catching up with Italy and Spain in the eyes of investors.

"It reflects the narrowing ratings differential and the fact that some political risk premium is still baked into Italian government bonds," said ING strategist Martin van Vliet. Portugal's bond market received a huge boost when S&P Global became the first major ratings agency to give

the country back an investment grade rating on Friday, more than five years after it first sank into junk territory.

Portugal's 10-year government bond yield spread over Italy narrowed to around 34 basis points, the lowest since March 2010. At the start of the year, that difference was as high as 211 basis points.

The spread over top-rated Germany was also close to its narrowest level since December 2016 at 198 bps. That spread tightening reflects improved sentiment towards Portugal, which was hit last year by fears it could lose its investment grade rating with smaller ratings agency DBRS that it needed to stay in the European Central Bank's bond-buying scheme. Portugal's 10-year bond yield was down 5 basis points at 2.44 percent yesterday, continuing to outperform eurozone peers.

Van Vliet said Portugal's recovery from the euro zone debt crisis - when it needed a bailout from European authorities - is strong, but cautioned that it is still a weaker credit than Italy because of its external debt position. Portugal's outstanding private debt stood at 280 percent of the country's economic output last year, comprising 178 percent for companies and 103 percent for households. "I think this rally is on speculation that Portugal could now be included in many benchmark indices," Van Vliet said. Many large bond indexes provided by investment banks only include investment grade borrowers, and inclusion in these usually guarantees a new influx of investors and lower yields.

However, many index providers require an investment grade rating from at least two of the three main credit ratings agencies, and Portugal now only has one. It is rated Ba1 by Moody's and BB+ by Fitch.

Most bond yields in the bloc were 1-3 bps lower ahead of a US Federal Reserve meeting, which concludes today. The central bank of the world's biggest economy is expected to provide details on how it will reduce a massive balance sheet run-up through years of post-crisis money printing. This is seen as significant by European investors as the ECB is also expected to tighten policy, possibly by announcing in October its plans for ending its own money-printing scheme. — Reuters

NAFTA TALKS MOVING AT 'WARP SPEED,' SAYS US TRADE REP

WASHINGTON: Negotiators are moving swiftly to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement but the outcome remains uncertain, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said Monday. "We're moving at warp speed but we don't know whether we're going to get a conclusion," he said. The remarks following a speech on trade policy came days ahead of the third round of talks aimed at reworking NAFTA, which are due to kick off Saturday in Canada.

US President Donald Trump last month again called the future of NAFTA into doubt, saying he would "probably" terminate the agreement "at some point."

Despite a campaign promise to abandon the trade pact, Trump opted instead to call for talks to renegotiate it, but has signalled several times he is willing to terminate it if he does not get a good deal. Lighthizer said Monday officials are eager to conclude the talks due to time pressures from the political calendar, notably in Mexico, which will hold general elections in July, and because uncertainty was inconveniencing businesses.

"There are a lot of people that the whole process is having real-life effects on, real farmers and ranchers and businesspeople who are trying to do business," said Lighthizer. "So there are reasons to move quickly on a renegotiation." Trump officials have put heavy emphasis on reducing bilateral trade deficits in all of its discussions, including with NAFTA partners Canada and Mexico, something analysts say may be difficult to remedy in trade talks.

'Unprecedented' threat from China

Turning to China, Lighthizer said the World Trade Organization was not equipped to respond to the "unprecedented" threat from Beijing's policies. "The sheer scale of their coordinated efforts to develop their economy, to subsidize, to create national champions, to force technology transfer and to distort markets in China and throughout the world is a threat to the world trading system that is unprecedented," he said. — AFP



COLOMBO: Passengers travel in a train in Colombo yesterday. Due to its affordability, train travel is a popular mode of transport in this nation of 20 million people. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.707
Indian Rupees	4.704
Pakistani Rupees	2.867
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.956
Singapore Dollar	225.230
Hongkong Dollar	38.726
Bangladesh Taka	3.720
Philippine Peso	5.929
Thai Baht	9.164

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.627
Qatari Riyal	83.042
Omani Riyal	785.213
Bahraini Dinar	802.840
UAE Dirham	82.318

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.044
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	125.900
Jordanian Dinar	426.400
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.023
Syrian Lira	2.014
Morocco Dirham	329.860

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.150
Euro	364.090
Sterling Pound	410.920

Canadian dollar	247.060
Turkish lira	87.330
Swiss Franc	316.720
Australian Dollar	242.480
US Dollar Buying	300.950

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.800
Canadian Dollar	248.685
Sterling Pound	403.050
Euro	363.090
Swiss Frank	291.255
Bahrain Dinar	801.000
UAE Dirhams	82.560
Qatari Riyals	83.380
Saudi Riyals	81.340
Jordanian Dinar	426.950
Egyptian Pound	17.121
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.975
Indian Rupees	4.719
Pakistani Rupees	2.863
Bangladesh Taka	3.733
Philippines Peso	5.929
Cyprus pound	17.960
Japanese Yen	3.740
Syrian Pound	1.585
Nepalese Rupees	2.954

Malaysian Ringgit	72.765
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.660
Thai Bhat	10.115
Turkish Lira	88.375

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.402329	0.412329
Czech Korune	0.005829	0.017829
Danish Krone	0.044549	0.049549
Euro	0.356288	0.365288
Georgian Lari	0.121308	0.121308
Norwegian Krone	0.034597	0.039797
Romanian Leu	0.078558	0.078558
Russian ruble	0.005197	0.005197
Slovakia	0.008995	0.018995
Swedish Krona	0.033958	0.038958
Swiss Franc	0.307782	0.318782

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.232497	0.244497
New Zealand Dollar	0.213682	0.223182

America

Canadian Dollar	0.239992	0.248992
US Dollars	0.298050	0.302470
US Dollars Mint	0.298550	0.302470

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003238	0.003822
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Chinese Yuan	0.044523	0.048023
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036633	0.039383
Indian Rupee	0.004242	0.004930
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002616	0.002796
Korean Won	0.000257	0.000272
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068031	0.074031
Nepalese Rupee	0.003015	0.003185
Pakistan Rupee	0.002739	0.003029
Philippine Peso	0.005814	0.006114
Singapore Dollar	0.218702	0.228702
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001623	0.002203
Taiwan	0.009899	0.010079
Thai Baht	0.008794	0.009344

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.794255	0.802755
Egyptian Pound	0.014472	0.020380
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000193	0.000253
Jordanian Dinar	0.421552	0.430552
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021126	0.045126
Omani Riyal	0.778385	0.784065
Qatar Riyal	0.078703	0.083643
Saudi Riyal	0.079487	0.080787
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.120604	0.128604
Turkish Lira	0.081704	0.092004
UAE Dirhams	0.080839	0.082539
Yemeni Riyal	0.000982	0.001062

US CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT HITS \$123.1 BILLION

WASHINGTON: The deficit in the broadest measure of US trade rose to the highest level in more than eight years this spring, reflecting in part a drop in fines and penalties paid by foreign companies.

The deficit in the current account increased to \$123.1 billion, up 8.5 percent from an imbalance of \$113.5 billion in the first quarter, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. It was the biggest deficit since a gap of \$150 billion in the fourth quarter of 2008. The current account is the most complete measure of trade because it includes not only goods and services but investment flows and other payments between the United States and the world.

President Donald Trump has promised to reduce America's trade deficit, contending it costs US factory jobs. One of the biggest contributing factors to the larger deficit in the April-June quarter was a decline in receipts from foreigners after they had risen sharply in the first quarter. The government attributed the \$5.2 billion decrease in receipts of secondary income from foreigners to a decline in fines and penalties paid by foreign companies. That category

had risen sharply in the first quarter. Exports of goods and services increased \$2.2 billion in the second quarter. Exports are getting a lift from a pickup in global growth and a drop in the value of the US dollar against other currencies. A weaker dollar makes American products more competitive on foreign markets.

Imports of goods and services were also up in the second quarter, rising \$11.8 billion, reflecting rising domestic demand from stronger US growth. The rise in the current account deficit put the imbalance in the second quarter at a level equivalent to 2.6 percent of the total economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, up from 2.4 percent in the first quarter. By comparison, the largest current account deficit in relation to GDP was in the fourth quarter of 2005 when the deficit totaled 6.3 percent of GDP.

Trump says America's trade deficits have been caused by bad trade deals and abusive practices by China and other US trading partners. He has pledged changes that he says will reduce the deficit and bring back American factory jobs. —AP



In this Feb 29, 2016 photo, a Foss Maritime tugboat nudges the container ship CMA CGM Benjamin Franklin into place at Seattle's Terminal 18. The Commerce Department reported on the US current account trade deficit for the April-June quarter. — AP

HIGH-FLYER MICHAEL O'LEARY: A NO-FRILLS BUSINESS SUCCESS

DUBLIN: Speak of Ryanair and one immediately thinks of Michael O'Leary—the long-standing head of the Irish no-frills airline who is widely known for his foul-mouthed, anti-establishment rants designed to upset just about everyone.

But the street-trader persona camouflages a privileged background that provided the 56-year-old with the ingredients for future success. O'Leary has once more hit the headlines this week after admitting to "a mess of our own making" as Ryanair decided to cancel about 2,000 flights to the end of October as it struggles with landing planes on time amid a reported shortage of pilots.

A source told AFP yesterday that Ryanair was willing to offer pilots money in exchange for giving up holiday. Newspaper La Libre Belgique reported that Ryanair pilots and co-pilots would be offered between 6,000 euros (\$7,168) and 12,000 euros to make themselves available for more flights.

The flight cancellations, which are set to cost the airline 25 million euros (\$30 million) according to Ryanair's own estimates, is unlikely to have long-term financial ramifications according to experts, who have seen O'Leary frequently fend off heavy criticism to shake up the airline industry and become a billionaire in the process. For more than two decades since he became the public face of Ryanair, the jeans-clad married father of four has been infamously rude to customers, abrasive to staff, instigated running battles with airline regulators and politicians and heaped scorn on competitors.

Privileged background

O'Leary was steeped in commerce from an early age. His father, Tim, was a serial entrepreneur who started and closed various businesses over the years around Mullingar, a market town 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Dublin.

He attended Clongowes Wood, an exclusive boarding school, and graduated with a business degree from Trinity College, Dublin. O'Leary became a trainee tax accountant but left to open up a small convenience shop in a working-class suburb of the Irish capital.

He has often related how he became the city's answer to Charles Dickens'

Scrooge character by tripling the price of batteries and chocolates for customers to his store on Christmas Day—and it wasn't long before such tactics allowed him to buy a second such shop nearby and take a share in a third.

The rise of Ryanair

In 1988, O'Leary cut his promising retail career short when Tony Ryan, the Ryanair founder, persuaded him to become his personal assistant and financial adviser. Three years later, Ryan sent him to the United States to scope out Southwest Airlines, a successful budget



This file photo taken on August 02, 2017 shows Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary speaking during a press conference in London. — AFP

carrier, and to import the model to Europe. O'Leary's ascent was swift and in 1994 he became Ryanair's chief executive, having turned the airline from a loss-making fledgling into the vanguard of an aviation revolution.

While its offer of low fares was the main attraction point, Ryanair soon became the airline people loved to hate because of its notoriously poor customer service.

"Anyone who thinks Ryanair flights are some sort of bastion of sanctity where you can contemplate your navel is wrong," O'Leary once said. "We already bombard you with as many in-flight announcements and trolleys as we can. Anyone who looks like sleeping, we wake them up to sell them things." O'Leary stated more than once that his abrasive nature would encourage him to stand aside in favor of a more diplomatic individual who could better deal with regulators and passengers. — AFP

FED LIKELY TO PARE ITS BOND PORTFOLIO WITH OUTLOOK HAZY

UNCERTAINTY OVER YELLEN'S SECOND TERM CONTINUES

WASHINGTON: When the Federal Reserve meets this week, it's sure to take account of the economic consequences of two devastating hurricanes. It will also be awaiting an announcement, possibly within weeks, about its own leadership: whether President Donald Trump will ask Janet Yellen to remain Fed chair beyond February, when her term ends.

Amid the uncertainty, the Fed is considered all but sure to announce after its meeting ends today that it will begin paring its enormous bond portfolio — a process that's likely to cause consumer and business loan rates to rise gradually over time.

It is, in a way, a kind of mini rate hike. The Fed's balance sheet has reached \$4.5 trillion — roughly five times its size before the financial crisis erupted in 2008. Its size reflects bond purchases the Fed made after the crisis struck to try to ease long-term borrowing rates, encourage spending and energize an anemic economy. Now, with a far healthier economy, the Fed wants to begin shrinking its portfolio. Doing so, even gradually, will likely make some long-term loans, like mortgages, costlier.

Still, the Fed has telegraphed its move for months, and investors are thought to be well-prepared for it. "The start to reducing the Fed's balance sheet is an action the markets are ready for," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at DS Economics. "The Fed has laid out a roadmap, and there is really a sense of relief to finally get it started." In June, the Fed spelled out its plan for shrinking the balance sheet: It would let a small portion of bonds mature each month without being replaced. It would start with reductions of \$10 billion a month — \$6 billion in Treasuries and \$4 billion in mortgage bonds — and raise the amount quarterly until it reached \$50 billion a year later.

To avoid spooking investors, the process would be so gradual that the Fed's balance sheet would remain above \$3 trillion until late 2019. Some economists say they think the figure could end up around \$2.5 trillion, still far above the \$900 billion the Fed held in its portfolio in pre-crisis days.

Still, some economists say they worry that while the Fed's early reductions to its portfolio might not cause a stir, the cumulative sales could eventually unsettle markets.

"I think from time to time, we could get a significant amount of instability just because the bond sales are going to go on for so many years," said David Jones, author of a number of books on the Fed.

The issue of when and how the Fed will manipulate its main policy lever — its target for short-term rates — in coming months is less clear. After leaving its benchmark rate at a record low for seven years after the 2008 crisis, the Fed has modestly raised the rate four times since December 2015 to a still-low range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent.

The Fed has felt confident to raise rates

because it appears to have met one of its key mandates: Maximizing employment. The unemployment rate is just 4.4 percent, near a 16-year low. The Fed, though, has yet to achieve its other objective of stabilizing prices at a 2 percent annual rate. Inflation has remained persistently below that level. As a result, financial markets are unsure whether the Fed will raise rates again before year's end.

The CME Group's tracker of investor sentiment puts the likelihood of a rate hike by December at 57 percent. Some economists say they think that by then, inflation will finally have begun to increase and weakness caused by the hurricane disruptions will have started to

said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University, Channel Islands.

In addition to forecasting future rate hikes, analysts are trying to divine whether President Donald Trump will re-nominate Yellen to a second four-year term. Last week, Trump said of Yellen, "I like her, and I respect her" but added, "I haven't made a decision yet."

The only other potential choice for Fed chair Trump has mentioned is Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who leads the president's National Economic Council. But Cohn appears to have fallen out of favor after he was critical of the president's response to the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks in Washington. — AP

fade and that the Fed will conclude that the economy can withstand a further slight tightening of credit.

"The economic data will be soft on a temporary basis, but the fundamentals are solid," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, who foresees a third rate hike in December and three more next year. But other analysts say that on top of chronically low inflation, the economic slowdown caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma could be more severe than initially forecast and cause the Fed to remain on hold for longer.

Interest rate

"I think the two hurricanes are going to give the Fed pause about raising rates again until they have a better idea of the economic impact,"

With several seats on the Fed's board open or soon to be open, Trump has made just one nomination, that of Randal Quarles to be vice chairman for supervision. One vacancy about to open is the seat of Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer, who is stepping down next month. If Trump chooses not to offer Yellen a second term — or if she declines, if asked — he would be able to name five of the Fed's seven board members in his first year in office. Those selections would afford him an unusual opportunity to impose his personal stamp on the world's most powerful central bank.

Some analysts say they think Trump may opt to retain Yellen, in part to allay concern in the financial markets about too much upheaval at the Fed. "There is just a lot of uncertainty," Swonk said. — AP



In this June 15, 2017 photo, a construction worker works on a condominium project in Coral Gables, Fla. The Commerce Department reported on US home construction in August. — AP

US HOUSING STARTS FALL 0.8%, A 2ND STRAIGHT MONTHLY DROP

WASHINGTON: Homebuilders slowed their pace of construction by a sharp 0.8 percent in August, the second straight monthly decline. A steep drop in multifamily construction more than offset a gain in single-family-home building.

The overall drop occurred even though would-be homebuyers face both a shortage of properties for sale and escalating prices. Those two forces would normally help spur faster home construction. But builders point to a shortage of skilled workers and rising land costs for development.

The tepid sales numbers suggest that it has become more profitable for companies to build a smaller number of homes for the affluent than to ramp up construction for a broader swath of buyers and renters. Housing starts slipped last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.18 million, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

Damage from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma didn't appear to have hurt August housing construction. But the floods, rain and wind struck an area that represents fully 13 percent of US home construction, so building

activity could fall in the coming months. Behind the August decrease was a 5.8 percent plunge in groundbreakings for multifamily buildings, such as apartments. This appears to reflect an expectation among builders that more people will shift out of apartments and into single-family homes as more of the millennial generation begin to have children.

Still, starts for single-family houses crept up just 1.6 percent. That's not enough to offset a steady decrease in sales listings for existing homes tracked by the National Association of Realtors.

The multi-year decline in listings has helped cause home prices to climb at more than double the pace of wage growth. Over the past 12 months, the number of existing homes for sale has plummeted 9 percent to 1.92 million.

So far this year, total home construction has risen only 2.7 percent year-to-date, down from a 5.6 percent gain for all of 2016. Building permits, an indicator of future construction, rose 5.7 percent to 1.30 million in August. —AP

UK TO UNDERPERFORM UNTIL MID-2018: BOE

LONDON: The British economy is likely to grow more slowly than its peers in the Group of Seven until the middle of next year largely because of uncertainties related to the country's exit from the European Union, the Bank of England governor said Monday.

In a speech at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, Mark Carney said Brexit is already prompting households to rein back on their spending and businesses to invest less than usual in what otherwise is a favorable environment linked to low interest rates, firm global growth and relatively high profit levels. "The balance of these effects has led overall UK growth to slow in the first half of 2017, even as growth in the rest of the G7 was picking up, and UK growth looks set to remain weaker than the G7 average until mid-2018," Carney said.

Before Britain voted to leave the EU in June 2016, the country had been one of the fastest-growing economies in the G7 — the other members being Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and the US.

But in 2017, it's been the slowest-growing amid uncertainty over what Brexit means. The British government triggered the two-year exit process but discussions with the EU have made little headway, stoking fears that the country could end up crashing out of the EU in March 2019 without a trade deal.

Carney said Britain's current weakness is a rare experience over the past three decades, noting that the only other times it's trailed the pack were in the depths of the global financial crisis around 2008-9, and following the collapse of an economic boom in the late 1980s that had been fueled by tax cuts and deregulation in financial markets.

Despite the soft growth, Carney reiterated that the central bank stands ready to raise interest rates in "coming months" to keep a lid on rising prices. Inflation has been largely stoked by the Brexit decision, which caused the pound to drop sharply, raising the cost of imported goods like food and energy.

Last week's big hint from the bank's rate-setting panel that it could raise its main interest rate from the current record low of 0.25 percent as soon as November gave the pound a big lift. In his speech, Carney said that any increases would be "gradual" and "limited." As a result, the pound gave up some of last week's gains, and was trading 0.6 percent lower at \$1.3511.

"There remain considerable risks to the UK outlook, which include the response of households, businesses and financial markets to developments related to the process of EU withdrawal," he said. —AP

MEXICO SEES 'ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM' IN NAFTA TALKS: MINISTER

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's economy minister said on Monday a successful retool of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) would hinge on two or three complex areas that he called "elephants in the room," just days before the next round of treaty talks in Canada. Speaking at an event in Mexico City, Ildefonso Guajardo said four chapters in the agreement could be renegotiated in the third round of talks, due to take place Sept. 23-27 in Ottawa. The areas cover smaller companies, transparency and food safety.

The "elephants," such as the US trade deficit with Mexico and rules of origin, will determine the success of the trade treaty's renegotiation, he said. Rules of origin specify the percentage of components in a product that must be from the three NAFTA nations for it to qualify as duty free.

"This challenge of resolving two or three untraditional topics at the trade negotiation tables is what is going to determine if, at the end of the day, we're going to have an agreement or not," Guajardo said in a Forbes Mexico talk. In addition, Guajardo added that as many as 13 other chapters would also be tough to negotiate.

Asked by journalists if Mexico would accept national content rules that would require a portion of products to be made in the United States, the minister said the topic had yet to reach the negotiating table. "We would analyze it, but I believe as of today there is no trade agreement that contains this type of clause," he said. Guajardo reiterated that Mexico was ready to modernize the agreement, which US President Donald Trump has threatened to scrap, and to find solutions with the United States and Canada. — Reuters

MARKETS STUTTER ON EVE OF FED RATE CALL

NEW YORK: Global stock markets faltered yesterday with investors nervous on the eve of the US Federal Reserve's latest interest rate decision. London and Paris held firm but Frankfurt flatlined, after a broadly downbeat session in Asia and despite surging Tokyo stocks.

Equities had rallied Monday as investors turned their attention to macro issues, particularly the Fed's policy meeting, and US President Donald Trump's maiden speech to the UN General Assembly.

All eyes are now on the US central bank, whose two-day gathering kicked off later yesterday, amid global moves towards tighter monetary policy. While the Fed is not expected to raise

interest rates, remarks from the Fed and its boss Janet Yellen will be pored over for clues about future moves-with talk of another rise-and plans to wind down the vast bond-buying stimulus put in place during the financial crisis.

"I suspect they are not going to raise rates quite yet; I suspect they will guide towards December," said David Hussey, head of international core equities at Manulife Asset Management. "The US economy is in reasonably good health at the moment. It's doing okay. Unemployment is very low and the weak dollar is probably going to boost a bit of inflation so she (Yellen) will probably be raising rates again early next year."

'Incredibly low rates'
With global economic growth improving, major central banks around the world are mulling moves to tighten monetary policy. That has sparked investor jitters over the impact of higher borrowing costs on consumers, businesses and financial markets.

"There's no reason not to start normalizing policy. People are obsessing about this," Hussey told AFP. "The big picture is that we are at incredibly low rates and they have to start slowly moving back up to some sort of normal neutral level, which is probably some way higher than they are at the moment. "So ... people see it coming and therefore they are nervous. It's as simple as that"

The Fed is also expected this week to announce the start of a plan to gradually reduce the multi-trillion dollar investment holdings built up to support the economy in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

European shares opened slightly lower yesterday as traders awaited clues from a Federal Reserve meeting on its plans to move towards unwinding its \$4.2-trillion portfolio of Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities. Despite Wall Street reaching new highs yet again, shares in Europe followed Asia's overnight caution with the pan-European STOXX index down 0.2 percent, but still in range of six-week highs.

"As the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) convenes and starts its two-day meeting, markets will probably remain somewhat muted - awaiting tomorrow's (Wednesday's) decision", Rabobank's analysts said in a morning note.

Financials were trading in positive territory, as monetary tightening typically benefits lenders. The European banking index was up 0.1 percent with HSBC at the top of the list with a 1-percent rise.

Most sectors posted very limited losses or gains. "The prospect of the Fed meeting is triggering little worries as the market has already digested the idea that the reduction of the balance sheet will be done on homeopathic dosage, thereby limiting negative impacts on stocks", wrote Saxo Bank's economist Christopher Dembik, noting that geopolitical concerns were also easing off. A steady flow of corporate news fueled strong price swings on a number of stocks. British online grocer Ocado topped Europe's losers list with a 5.5-percent fall after the firm reported third-quarter results, saying short-term costs could increase due to investment in a new

distribution center. Heineken retreated 4.5 percent after Fomento Economico Mexicano (Femsa) sold a 5.24-percent stake in the world's second largest brewer for about 2.5 billion euros (\$3 billion). Morgan Stanley cut its rating for Hugo Boss to underweight, prompting a 3.8-percent fall for the German fashion group.

On the M&A front, Eurofins got a boost from the acquisition of EAG Laboratories in North America and rose 4.1 percent. Shares in Solvay didn't benefit from the announcement of the sale of its polyamides business to BASF for 1.6 billion euros. The Belgian company lost 1.1 percent while Germany BASF was 0.1 percent down.

Shares in Solvay, which bought France's Rhodia for 3.4 billion in 2011, remain however close to their 2015 highs of 132 euros per share. Clariant edged up 0.3 percent as news emerged the hedge funds fighting the Swiss chemical firm's planned \$20 billion merger with Huntsman Corp built a 15.1 percent stake. "Trump trade" World stocks had bounced higher Monday on optimism that Trump can push through the market-friendly policies that helped propel a global rally at the start of the year. After the selling earlier this month fuelled by North Korea's nuclear test, Wall Street rebounded Monday to more record peaks.

"The surge was yet another testament that the reinvigoration of the Trump trades is gaining traction," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at AxiTrader. Japanese dealers returned from a three-day weekend yesterday and sent Tokyo stocks two percent higher with exporters buoyed by the dollar's push towards 112 yen. The weak yen boosts Japan's exporters. However, elsewhere in Asia, markets turned lower as traders cashed out. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Tuesday 19 September 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing			
Price Index	▲ 2.43	6,892.80	8,860.37			
Weighted Index	▼ -1.41	442.00	443.41			
KSX 15	▼ -6.17	1,030.60	1,036.77			
Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	345
NAPESCO	823	820	1,200	986	5	821
ENERGYH	34.6	34.1	31,780	1,084	6	34.6
GPI	38.1	37.6	962,420	36,409	39	38.0
ABAR	83	75	1,390	105	2	83
Oil & Gas			996,779	38,643	52	993.37
KFOUC	305	302	28,960	8,641	4	305
BPCO	663	655	306,800	203,888	14	662
AKOUT	615	610	18,321	9,987	3	615
ALQURAN	349	342	512,360	176,340	31	348
Basic Materials			865,867	398,962	52	1332.12
KCEM	485	450	82,100	28,115	6	484
CABLE	542	529	282,200	150,730	39	535
SHIP	220	217	54,513	11,829	7	217
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,960
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	318
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94
ADCO	270	270	24,500	6,615	3	270
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180
NCSM	190	190	90	17	1	190
EQUIPMENT	48.8	45.9	304,025	14,070	15	45.9
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90
GYPBOM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95
SALBOOKH	83	82	141,860	8,902	4	83
AGLTY	969	950	1,095,257	1,048,788	107	950
EDU	318	310	80,803	18,849	4	318
CLEANING	52	49.0	101,120	4,963	4	52
KSL	57	56	414,509	23,365	17	57
KDCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165
HUMANSOFT	4,050	4,000	48,530	187,038	12	4,050
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200
GFC	60	60	11,000	662	2	60
SHOOTING	26.7	26.4	104,510	2,785	5	26.4
CGC	510	509	40,000	20,370	14	509
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56
UPAG	655	655	6,482	4,233	1	655
ALAFCO	370	367	72,000	26,504	6	370
MUBARRAD	74	71	487,500	35,190	14	74
LOGISTICS	53	52	1,528,300	79,658	55	52
SCEM	85	84	112,547	9,530	5	85
GCEM	81	80	75,000	6,030	5	80
QIC	81	81	10,000	810	1	81
FCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82
SPEC	97	96	12,700	1,231	5	97
Industrials			8,047,526	1,890,264	332	1879.21
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94
CATL	283	275	6,800	1,921	6	281
DANAH	71	71	167,300	11,869	9	71
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,000
Consumer Goods			174,220	13,790	15	1060.19
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,190
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175
Health Care			0	0	0	1683.91
KCN	1,340	1,200	6,005	6,007	2	1,340
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0
EYAS	589	540	36,300	20,586	20	545
IFHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280
OULAFUEL	123	121	247,580	30,057	21	123
MUNTAZAHAT	80	78	129,541	10,257	7	80
JAZERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	599
SOOR	123	121	135,521	16,399	14	123
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	123
ALRAI	124	120	140,010	17,001	8	124
Jiyad	55	55	4,000	218	4	55
Mazzan	850	850	144,554	122,871	19	851
Consumer Services			842,551	223,496	95	969.68
ZAIN	541	533	6,753,509	3,625,589	299	537
OOREDOO	1,189	1,170	7,635	8,935	6	1,189
AAN	37.3	36.5	4,792,122	175,960	83	36.7
VIVA	821	820	139,587	114,463	51	820
Telecommunications			11,692,853	3,924,947	439	624.29
NBK	793	779	6,083,130	4,754,203	271	781
GBK	250	244	7,356,482	1,813,109	124	246
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	398
ABK	308	306	333,696	102,742	16	308
ALMUTAHED	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	424
KIB	254	253	707,181	179,231	44	254
BURG	370	366	5,527,051	2,031,072	103	367
KFN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	622
BOUBAYAN	457	450	989,850	438,518	58	454
AUB	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	219
ITHMR	30.3	28.9	1,405,057	54,845	50	28.3
WARBANK	261	254	987,677	254,065	31	259
Banks			22,371,126	8,827,786	797	980.77
KNS	280	280	8,000	2,240	1	280
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790
ANS	430	415	97,360	40,965	6	430
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187
FTI	58	56	52,500	3,030	6	58
WETHAQ	46.0	44.0	12,500	556	4	45.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355
Insurance			170,430	46,811	17	1105.19

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
186,390,403	25,783,740	4,715

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	50	49.2	899810	42,976	27	49.8	-0.8
KRE	68	67	3,527,448	237,796	103	68	-0.7
URC	100	93	53,327	5,097	8	95	-4.9
NRE	146	143	3,585,212	516,574	65	144	-1.0
SRE	300	300	50,000	18,000	2	300	-0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	405	-0.0
AREC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	151	-0.0
MASSALEH	40.8	39.0	490,500	19,814	21	40.8	+1.6
ARABREC	39.8	37.5	8,462,641	326,337	221	38.4	+2.2
ERESCO	42.4	41.5	231,350	9,091	18	42.0	-0.2
MABANEE	830	815	150,208	123,108	24	820	-0.0
INUZZAT	68	63	19,000	1,586	3	67	-0.0
INVESTORS	23.7	23.4	322,031	7,605	15	23.5	+0.1
IRC	35.0	32.3	773,500	26,571	27	34.5	+0.2
ALTUARIA	104	101	10,706,086	1,102,142	164	102	-0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.8	-0.0
AAYANRE	81	81	41,500	3,341	3	81	-0.6
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	-0.0
ALADARIA	38.5	37.0	1,554,755	57,912	44	38.0	-2.1
MAZAYA	119	117	1,438,938	169,658	43	119	+1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	-0.0
TUJARA	59	59	10,000	590	1	59	-0.0
TAAMEER	38.7	36.7	8,627,451	325,830	168	38.0	+1.5
ARKAN	86	85	130,000	11,110	5	86	+0.1
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	-0.0
ABYAR	29.2	28.4	9,807,780	282,181	136	28.7	-0.1
MUNSHAAT	60	57	256,000	15,027	18	59	-0.2
FIRSTDUBAI	51	50	9,217	463	2	51	+0.5
KBT	51	50	285,000	14,400	11	51	+0.2
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	-0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.3	-0.0
ALMUDON	42.0	41.0	373,240	15,312	18	42.0	-1.0
MARAKEZ	46.7	46.7	100	5	1	46.7	-0.0
REMAL	70	64	105,972	6,837	10	69	+2.0
AIWJ	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Real Estate			#N/A	#N/A	#N/A		

CHEVROLET ALGHANIM LAUNCHES NEW ADVANCED WEBSITE

WEBSITE ENABLES 360 DEGREES VIEWING AND CUSTOMIZATION OF VEHICLES

KUWAIT: Reinventing customer experience and enhancing the personalized service provided in its showrooms, Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive (Chevrolet Alghanim), the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, launched its new integrated website where customers can explore and customize vehicles at their convenience and comfort of their home.

Designed with the customer at heart, the website www.chevroletalghanim.com features the latest 360 degrees visualizer which functions through the WebGL technology, enabling customers to choose from their preferred configurations and add them to the vehicle of their choice.

Not only does it allow customers to personalize a vehicle, the visualizer provides an interactive platform as well to view car models inside and outside, visualize them in various environments, and enjoy a high-definition finish close to reality. The visualizer allows customers to jump inside a vehicle as in a test drive experience, change the interiors and interact with the vehicle's functions also in a high-definition finish.

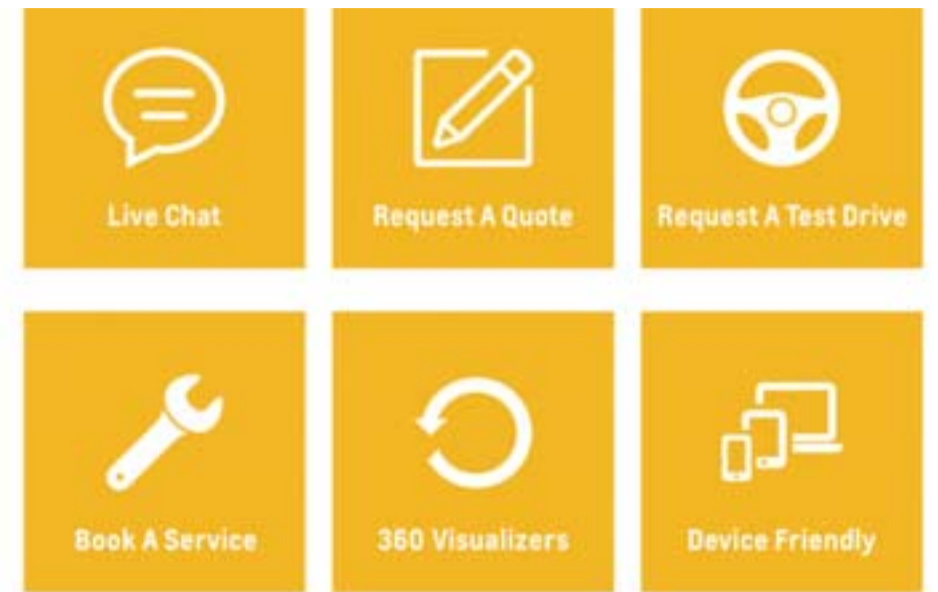
Chevrolet Alghanim's website also comes with more experience-enhancing services highlighted by the online and live customer service chatting and booking abilities.

The company's website was designed and developed to be customer-centric, making



navigation easier to all customer segments. The website is responsive to any device, and makes booking for the desired service easy by placing customers a click away from booking for a service online and at their preferred showroom or center.

The launch of the website is a new milestone in the series of customer-centric services previously launched by Chevrolet Alghanim, which aim to provide customized solutions, expand the customer-base and exceed customers' expectation day after day.



Chevrolet Care Program "I Care"

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons benefit of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based

on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.



MERCEDES-BENZ KUWAIT OFFERING COMPLIMENTARY VISUAL CHECK-UPS ON WINDSHIELDS AND WIPERS

KUWAIT: Abdul Rahman Albisher and Zaid Alkazemi Company are once again keeping Mercedes-Benz drivers safe on the road, with their latest Service Week taking place from 23 - 28 September. The Authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait is promising customers comfort and peace of mind with a complimentary visual inspection of windshields and wipers, ensuring optimal safety and visibility under any condition.

Taking place at authorized Service Centers in Shuwaikh, Al-Rai and Ahmadi, a team of qualified technicians will ensure vehicles receive optimum appraisal, while a 30 percent discount on genuine Mercedes-Benz windshield, wipers and

related parts applies to all necessary replacement components related to the offer.

"The safety of our drivers is of paramount importance. A windshield should not only be solid in order to protect the driver, but it must provide the best visibility under all conditions. Mercedes-Benz genuine windshields meet these requirements in every respect - due to superior manufacturing methods and constant quality control. The perfectly fitting part combined with our employees' expert knowledge enables a quick and trouble-free service, so we highly encourage our customers to make the most of this complimentary service week and book an appointment at one of our three service centres

in Kuwait," said Mohammed Abdul Rahman Albisher, Director of A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Company.

"We want to deliver our customers the most enjoyable, stress-free driving experience and our aftersales service offerings are a big part of making this possible," added Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Co.

All service centers are open from Sat-Wed 7:30 am to 6:00 pm & on Thursdays from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm. Customers can browse through the latest collection of lifestyle items and car accessories and enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi while waiting to get cars checked.

GULF BANK HOSTS RED'S 8TH MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS IN ITS HEAD-OFFICE

WINNERS RECEIVE THEIR APPLE PRIZES

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank was pleased to host red's eighth monthly draw winners in its head office, on Monday where Manal Barakat, Manager of red and Nassour - Consumer Banking, and Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Corporate Communications Manager, greeted them and handed them the prizes.

Winners' names were announced on Monday,

21 August 2017 in a draw that was held at the bank's head office, under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The red account draw resulted the announcement of three students who won prizes ranging from an iPhone 7 plus to an Apple Watch and they are:

* **Abdullah Hani Hussain Al Hadad - iPhone 7 Plus**

* **Abdullah Tareq Abdullah Al Ryahi - iPad Pro**
* **Danah Husam Mohammad Abdullah- Apple Watch**

Gulf Bank's red is a dedicated account for high school, college and university students aged between 15 and 25, which does not require a minimum deposit. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on a monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances.

Each month, an iPhone 7 plus, an iPad Pro, and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners until January 2018. The next draw dates are announced as follows:

* **September 28, 2017**
* **October 23, 2017**
* **November 20, 2017**
* **January 11, 2018**

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

Red customers can now also transfer money from anyone, from any local bank into their Gulf Bank account through the all new e-pay service, which also allows customers to pay their mobile bills for Zain, Ooredoo, and Viva and buy iTunes and Google Play cards, instantly using the new 'e-Pay' service available on Gulf Bank's Online Banking and Mobile Banking App.



BRITISH FISHERMEN SEE BREXIT BONANZA, BUT THERE'S A CATCH

NEWLYN, England/PARIS: For the fishermen of this small port on the toe of England, Britain's vote to leave the European Union was an answer to their prayers. After 45 years chafing under what they saw as unfair quotas in one of the world's richest fishing grounds, the UK government would finally, in the lexicon of Brexiters, "take back control" of British waters. But what Brexit gives with one hand, it can also take away. European fishermen want Brussels to use its trump card - continued access to the essential EU market - in negotiations on how to divvy up the seas. It's a familiar issue for negotiators hashing out the terms of Britain's exit due in March 2019. The talks are currently focused on separation but will move to the future relationship, including trade ties, later this year.

"From our point of view, if they get free access to the European market, we should also have free access to fish in the British fishing zone," said Niels Wichmann, head of the Danish Fishermen's Association. Trade access is vital to Britain because it exports the bulk of the seafood it catches while importing the majority of what it consumes, mostly cod, salmon, tuna, haddock and prawns. Europe imports about 75 percent of the British catch, a cornucopia of 40 species that is too exotic for most domestic consumers, such as the cuttlefish and

megrin sole sold every morning at Newlyn's market in Cornwall.

"Previous generations were comfortable and knowledgeable in buying, preparing and cooking seafood, but the current generation of seafood consumers see seafood as a scary protein and tend stick to the same top 5 favourites," said Richard Watson, analyst at UK seafood industry group Seafish.

Cod was the most popular fish in the year to June 16, 2016, at 69,321 tons, out of total seafood consumption of 485,691 tonne, according to Seafish data. The group estimates around 90 percent of the cod supply was imported from countries such as Iceland and Norway in 2014, a number not likely to change substantially no matter what terms are agreed on Brexit, especially as the oceans warm up.

"Experts in the field report that cod have simply migrated further north to colder waters as sea temperatures have naturally warmed over the past few decades," Watson said. "This makes it more economical in trip length and fuel costs etc for the Nordic countries to catch."

The UK has been heavily reliant on imports of the species since losing access to the richest fishing grounds in the north Atlantic decades ago after the so-called Cod Wars. Much of the salmon consumed in Britain is farmed in steel cages off the coasts of

Scotland, Norway or Iceland, while tuna are generally caught in the Indian Ocean and imported.

Game over

Britain has said it plans to allow foreign ships to fish in UK waters after Brexit but claims the right to decide the extent of access. The EU will be seeking to maintain something close to the status quo, industry sources say. Any restrictions on EU market access would likely take the form of tariffs, which can be as high as 24 percent on seafood.

For European fishermen, losing rights to British waters would have devastating consequences.

Sean O'Donoghue, CEO of Ireland's largest fishermen's representative body, Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation, said it would be "game over for us".

"We've already met (EU lead Brexit negotiator) Michel Barnier as a European Fishing Alliance Group and we got a commitment from him that the wider trade negotiations would not be separate from fisheries ... So far we've got some traction on that but we are very concerned, obviously."

Killybegs said about 60 percent of mackerel and 40 percent of Dublin Bay prawns, which together make up about 60 percent of the value of all Irish fish landed in Irish ports, are sourced from UK waters.—Reuters



'A PERFECT START' FOR THE SEASON WITH NISSAN SPECIAL OFFERS

KUWAIT: In line with the brand's strategy to offer optimal convenience and unique driving experiences, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, announces its latest special offers that suit all customers ranging from families to university students, and new employees to keep up with the "Back to School" season.

For family car lovers, the Nissan X-Trail now starts from KD 5,999 with 1 year comprehensive insurance and complimentary 3rd party insurance, and free traffic registration. Included in the campaign are also a strong lineup of other Nissan models that come with competitive fares.

The Nissan X-Trail integrates modernity with tasteful touches like an available Power Panoramic sunroof, double-stitched leather appointments, LED lighting and gloss black trim with metallic accents.

Customers can look forward to purchasing either a Nissan Sunny, Nissan Sentra or Nissan Kicks starting at remarkable prices, from KD 2,999, KD 3,999 and KD 4,950 respectively.

Bringing in the new season, Nissan Al-Babtain now entitles customers to an exclusive offer that will grant the chance to own Nissan Altima a vehicle that speaks volumes on style, quality materials and comfort placing it in a league of its own. Included in the package deal is a one year free service or 20,000 KMS, free 3rd party insurance and free traffic registration.

Nissan Altima comes with its fresh new appearance, with a 2.5L - 182Hp engine and a new 17-inch machine-finish aluminum-alloy wheel design. Owners of the Nissan Altima can enjoy the comfort of

front and rear parking sensor to always assist, a remote engine starter, colored monitor with rear view camera and most importantly, customers driving the Nissan Altima 2017 will have the privilege to enjoy their ride with audio system and cruise control steering wheel switches with Bluetooth.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites its customers to visit its showrooms located in Al-Rai and Ahmadi to explore the powerful line up of Nissan vehicles and get a successful start for the season.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area.

Today Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East. For more than 60 years Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information, industrial and Finance.

The automotive sector is the main structure of the Al-Babtain Group's business, which owns some of the best-selling and demanded brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipment.

The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co and Trading and Contracting Company is proud to be the sole authorized dealer and distributor of many Japanese and European (French) vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Renault Citroen, Infiniti.

PREVENTING AND MITIGATING RANSOMWARE WITH CYBER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

KUWAIT: If you're familiar with mafia movies then you're familiar with extortion - the practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats. Extortion has been around for centuries - well before "The Godfather" or "Goodfellas." Even cyber extortion, which extends this criminal activity into the digital world, isn't new. What is new, however, is the wide variety of methods that are used by the bad guys to get their money.

Three main tactics are behind cyber extortion: the threat of distributed denial of service (DDoS), the threat of data compromise and ransomware. DDoS attacks are one of the most popular means to facilitate extortion. These types of attacks typically target business-critical websites in order to increase the likelihood of payment, usually via Bitcoin (BTC), and can have crippling effects on organizations. In certain cases, such as when targeting hosting providers, the threat actor may add more pressure to pay by using the negative publicity associated with service downtime as a threat.

A second method of extortion involves the potential release of compromised data. This method is dependent on the fact that the target's data has already been compromised. The threat of its release to the public domain is used as blackmail in order to extort money from the affected entity.

A third type of extortion, and the one most often

in the news as of late, is ransomware - malicious software (malware) that restricts access to the computer system it has infected. The malware demands that a ransom be paid before restoring access to affected resources. Ransomware can prevent access to many features of a victim's machine, including files, applications and the operating system itself. Because ransomware is an ever-evolving threat that can be more challenging to address than other cyber extortion tactics, let's take a closer look at how it works and how to prevent and mitigate it.

At a high-level, the ransomware process is fairly standard. Files are encrypted and the attackers, who hold the decryption key, will only allow the target to decrypt the files after the required BTC ransom is paid. Specific details of the attack, however, will depend on the variant. Until recently ransomware has been delivered most commonly via drive-by-downloads from exploit kits, or through spam emails that either contain malicious attachments or encourage recipients to visit websites hosting malicious content.

But we see that starting to change with threat actors using more targeted methods to achieve their objective, such as spear-phishing emails purporting to be from a job applicant or including the name, job title and job-relevant information of the recipient. The disclosure that some organizations are pay-

ing the fee to unencrypt data likely provides further motivation for these types of attacks. In fact, when the actor estimates there's a high likelihood of payment of the ransom fee they invest in more reconnaissance which can further increase the likelihood of infection.

As ransomware becomes big business, research on the dark web reveals a number of services being advertised to make it easy for beginners with low technical understanding to execute ransomware attacks with success. Everything they need is available on a USB stick for \$1,200 or they can take advantage of a hosted service in return for 5 percent commission on the ransom payments received.

So how can you combat cyber extortion? Cyber situational awareness can give you greater insights into the tools and processes used by actors that employ DDoS-based extortion and compromised data release extortion. Advanced knowledge of the typical demands of a threat actor and their capabilities can help you make difficult decisions if presented with such a scenario and help you prevent future attacks.

Mitigating ransomware threats is more complex. It requires a combination of technical and process controls and company-wide engagement - from employees, to executives, to IT security teams. Cyber situation-



Alastair Paterson

awares can help you understand the infection vectors of the malware and apply the appropriate security controls to mitigate the risk of infection. This includes insights you can use to raise staff awareness of how ransomware attacks occur and help you devise technical and procedural controls to prevent infection and to develop ransomware response procedures in the case of infection.

Of course ensuring that backups are maintained and are separate from the network can increase resilience to such attacks. In addition, several decryption tools have been released but, in the cat and mouse game between ransomware and such tools, their effectiveness tends to be short-lived; ransomware developers are continuously developing encryption methods to evade them.

As defenders, staying up-to-date with the latest trends and innovation can be hard, but it is essential in order to effectively prevent and mitigate the effects of extortion on your business. With cyber situational awareness you can learn about the actors involved in extortion and their tactics, tools and motivations. With this knowledge you can more effectively align your defenses and make better decisions in the face of an attack.

5 TIPS TO EDUCATE YOUR STAFF ON CYBERSECURITY

KUWAIT: Over the last few years, cyber criminals have adopted increasingly sophisticated attack techniques. As a result, we've seen a tremendous upsurge in cyber-attacks in the Middle East. Ransomware, for example, has gained notoriety by creating chaos across the region and the world. According to the latest KSN ransomware report, the number of attack victims almost doubled between 2016 and 2017. While such cyber-attacks can be devastating for some organizations, they're a wakeup call for others.

Many have been encouraged to put their guards up and manage their IT security differently. The first step is to have a rigid security solution in place; but that alone is

against criminals, and help prevent, identify and predict attacks in advance.

Ransomware 101

Let's face it; ransomware is here to stay, so we must do everything to educate ourselves about it. Ransomware can be easily avoided by taking simple measures such as not being tempted to click on suspicious links, not opening attachments from unknown or unrecognized sources, and installing security solutions on all endpoints, including computer and mobile devices. Backing up data regularly is also important and will help you recover smoothly in case you've fallen victim to a ransomware attack.

Finding the right balance

An astounding 44% of companies say that employees do not follow IT security policies. Businesses need to strike the right balance between policy and engagement to help prevent staff carelessness and strengthen security solutions.

Flag, don't hide

Educate your staff on cyber threats regularly. This will help raise awareness among employees and encourage them to pay attention and flag issues rather than hide them. According to our study, employees often fail to act when a security breach hits their company. In 40% of businesses around the world, employees hide an incident when it happens, perhaps because they are worried about being punished. This is more of a problem among larger businesses than smaller businesses.

Always stay updated

Software companies often find vulnerabilities in their applications and issue immediate updates to patch them. It is important to encourage staff to install these updates in a timely manner so that your organization retains its immunity.

Chose strong passwords

Enforce measures that require employees to choose complex passwords for their devices, especially if your organization embraces BYOD. Unique passwords for every device will minimize chances of infiltration and will make it difficult for cyber criminals to reach their goals.



Maxim Frolov, Managing Director of the Middle East, Turkey and Africa, Kaspersky Lab.

not enough. According to a recent study by Kaspersky Lab and B2B International, 52% of businesses admit that employees are their biggest weakness in IT security and have contributed to 46% of cybersecurity incidents in the last year.

The saying 'prevention is better than cure' applies perfectly to the IT security world. Having a cyber-educated workforce is as important as the security solution, when it comes to combating internet threats.

Cyber-aware employees can be the winning card in this never-ending battle

MARS RESEARCH CREW EMERGES AFTER 8 MONTHS OF ISOLATION

HONOLULU: Six NASA-backed research subjects who have been cooped up in a Mars-like habitat on a remote Hawaii volcano since January emerged from isolation Sunday. They devoured fresh-picked tropical fruits and fluffy egg strata after eating mostly freeze-dried food while in isolation and some vegetables they grew during their mission. The crew of four men and two women are part of a study designed to better understand the psychological impacts a long-term space mission would have on astronauts.

"It's really gratifying to know that the knowledge gained here from our mission and the other missions that HI-SEAS has done will contribute to the future exploration of Mars and the future exploration of Space in general," science officer Samuel Paylor said Sunday. The data they produced will help NASA select individuals and groups with the right mix of traits to best cope with the stress, isolation and danger of a two-to-three year trip to Mars. The US space agency hopes to send humans to the red planet by the 2030s.

The crew was quarantined for eight months on a vast plain below the summit of the Big Island's Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano. After finishing their stint, they feasted on pineapple, mango and papaya. While isolated, the crew members wore space suits and travelled in teams whenever they left their small dome living structure. They ate mostly freeze-dried or canned food on their simulated voyage to Mars.

During the eight months in isolation, mission biology specialist Joshua Ehrlich grew fresh vegetables. "Carrots, peppers, pak choy, Chinese cabbage, mustard greens, radishes, tomatoes, potatoes tons of parsley and oregano, I mean it was phenomenal, just that delicious fresh taste from home really was good," Ehrlich said. All of their communications with the outside world were subjected to a 20-minute delay - the time it takes for signals to get from Mars to Earth. The crew was tasked with conducting geological surveys, mapping studies and maintaining their self-sufficient habitat as if they were actually living on Mars. — AP



Photo shows Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation, HI-SEAS crew members sitting for a news conference after emerging from their habitat. — AP



CALIFORNIA: The new iPhone 8 Plus is displayed in the showroom after the new product announcement at the Steve Jobs Theater in Cupertino, Calif. The iPhone X might make your friends envious, but the iPhone 8 is the model for the masses...similar to flying coach rather than first class. — AP

Review

GLITZY IPHONE X ASIDE, THE IPHONE 8 IS FINE FOR MOST

WARSAW: The difference between Apple's new iPhone models is a bit like flying first class compared with coach. We envy first class, but coach gets us there without breaking the budget. The iPhone 8 will do just fine for \$300 less than the glitzy iPhone X, even though it won't make your friends and colleagues jealous. It's also available much sooner - this Friday - starting at almost \$700. The X (read as the numeral 10) won't be out until November. Still, the iPhone 8 remains a fairly straightforward update of the iPhone 7, which itself was a fairly straightforward update of the iPhone 6S. Then again, no one expects much different from a coach seat.

What you're not getting

It's hard to talk about the iPhone 8 without comparing it to my 15 minutes with the iPhone X last Tuesday. The X wowed with a fancy new display that flows to the edges of the phone. The phone is compact, yet features a screen slightly larger than the one on the supersized iPhone 8 Plus. The X also features facial recognition that lets you unlock the phone with a glance; you can also create animated emojis that match your facial expressions.

The 8 has none of that, although it does share other new goodies the X is getting, including wireless charging. The 8 and the X both have faster processors and sensors to enhance graphics in augmented reality, a blending of the virtual and physical worlds, though older iPhones will also run AR apps with a software update Tuesday.

Wireless charging

Apple is embracing wireless-charging technology that Android phones have had for years. It's a rare case in which Apple isn't going its own way; instead, it's adopting an existing standard called Qi (pronounced chee). That means the iPhone gets all the technical advancements from the consortium behind Qi - and can take immediate advantage of a slew of public wireless-charging stations. It worked perfectly for me while waiting for a connecting flight in Los Angeles - no need to rummage through my backpack for a charging cord. Apple says the wireless system should charge as quickly as the wall adapter included with iPhones. But I found wireless slower in testing, using a Belkin charger with the same power output as the iPhone charger.

Wireless charging is largely about convenience; it's terrific if you can just drop your phone on a charging pad overnight or during the day at your desk. Apple says it will boost wireless-charging power by 50 percent in coming months, which will speed things up further. But those in a rush should consider a wall charger that comes with the iPad, which will still be even faster.

In a way, wireless charging makes up for Apple's earlier decision to ditch the headphone jack in the iPhone 7, which made people share the Lightning port with both charging cords and

wired headphones. You can now charge and use wired headphones at the same time.

DISPLAY

Colors on the 8's screen adapt to lighting in the room. It's noticeable in my apartment at night, as artificial lighting tends to be warmer and more yellowish. The screen adapts by making whites more like beige and yellow even yellow. It's softer on the eyes and mimics how light glows on white paper, though it can make images appear less natural. You can turn this feature off. Resolution isn't as sharp as what the X and many rival Android phones offer. The Plus offers enough pixels for high-definition video at the highest quality, 1080p, while the regular model is comparable to the lesser 720p.

Camera

New color filters produce truer and richer colors without looking fake, while a new flash technique tries to light the foreground and background more evenly. You have to know to look, as the iPhone 7 already had a great camera. Differences in test shots taken while sightseeing in Poland were subtle, but noticeable - more so on the iPhone 8 screen than on last year's Mac. The iPhone 8 also offers additional video options, including recording of ultra-high definition, or 4K, at 60 frames per second, twice the previous rate. (The phone's display, though, isn't sharp enough for 4K.)

A second lens in the 7 Plus and 8 Plus models lets the camera gauge depth and blur backgrounds in portrait shots, something once limited to full-featured SLR cameras. Samsung adopt-

ed that feature in this year's Note 8. Coming to the 8 Plus are filters to mimic studio and other lighting conditions. My favorite, stage light, highlights the subject's face and darkens the background. Some of these filters make images look fake - Apple has slapped a "beta" test tag to signal it's not flawless. You can try them out and undo any changes you don't like.

Design

To make wireless charging work, the 8 features a glass back, something last seen in the iPhone 4S in 2011. Aesthetic considerations aside, this gives you another sheet of glass to break. Apple says custom glass from Corning makes the phone stronger. Even so, consider a service plan and get a case. Wireless charging works with most cases, as long as there's no metal or magnets. I found the phone charged just as fast with the case on.

About that price tag

The iPhone 8 is about \$50 more than what the iPhone 7 cost at launch. Samsung has similarly increased the prices of its flagship Galaxy phones, and the S8 still outsold last year's S7. Consumers seem willing to pay. You do get double the storage - 64 gigabytes - at that price, a value considering that iPhone storage boosts typically cost \$100. You'll need that extra storage for video, apps and fancy features such as AR and animated photos. Nonetheless, I would have preferred the option of a cheaper, lower-storage version. For that, you need an older model, such as the \$549 iPhone 7 and the \$449 6S. There's also the smaller iPhone SE for \$349. — AP



NEW YORK: iPhone 8 Plus rests on a wireless charger in New York. — AP

TRIATHLON DEATHS NOT RARE, AND RISKS RISE WITH AGE

NEW YORK: Triathlon competitors may be more likely to die suddenly and suffer a fatal trauma or cardiac arrest than previously thought, US data suggest. A study of more than 9 million participants over three decades found that deaths and cardiac arrests struck 1.74 out of every 100,000 competitors. The risk associated with a single triathlon was higher than the annual risk of death for a middle-aged adult in the general population, and also exceeds previous estimates for long-distance running races, including marathons, researchers report in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

"The majority of deaths occur in the swim portion of the triathlon, which is the first portion of the race," said lead study author Dr Kevin Harris, a cardiologist at Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation at Abbott-Northwestern hospital in Minnesota. "During this portion of the race, the athletes likely experience an

adrenaline surge as they enter the water and are competing in close proximity to other athletes, and in some cases with environmental conditions that are difficult to prepare for," Harris said by email. "We don't understand the exact cause of death in each athlete, and some swim deaths may be related to drowning."

Since its origin in the 1970s, the triathlon has become an increasingly popular endurance activity worldwide. A standard Olympic triathlon involves a 1.5 kilometer (0.9 mile) swim, followed by a 40 kilometer (24.8 mile) bike ride and a 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) run. For the study, researchers examined data on triathlon participants from 1985 to 2016. During the study period, 135 people died suddenly or had a cardiac arrest. This included 107 sudden deaths as well as 13 race-related cardiac arrests that people survived because of prompt emergency medical attention.

The victims were 47 years old on average, and 85 percent were male. Overall, 90 deaths and cardiac arrests occurred during the swimming portion of races, while 7 happened during cycling, 15 occurred while running and 9 happened during the recovery period right after the race. During the cycling segment, there were also 15 trauma-related deaths involving crashes or other accidents. Autopsy data showed that clinically silent cardiovascular disease was present in an unexpected proportion of decedents, suggesting a need for participants to know their risk before racing.

Health checks

The incidence of cardiovascular events was strikingly lower in female triathletes, 3.5-fold less than in men. Death risks also increased with age. Among men 60 and older, 19 participants died or suffered

cardiac arrest out of every 100,000 competitors. One limitation of the study is that researchers used race finishers in their estimates, which might underestimate the risks associated with triathlons, the authors note. Even so, the results should serve as a reminder to participants to make sure they are medically fit to compete in these endurance races, said Dr. Reginald Ho, author of an accompanying editorial and a professor of medicine at Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

"They should see their physician regularly for health checks that include a complete history and physical examination," Ho said by email. "Any heart-related symptoms (chest tightness, heaviness or discomfort, shortness of breath, palpitations, lightheadedness, passing out episodes) should be reported to their doctor." — Reuters



ATLANTA, Georgia: This file photo shows Robert Alford #23 of the Atlanta Falcons tackling Davante Adams #17 of the Green Bay Packers during the second half at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL LINKED TO MOOD PROBLEMS LATER

PARIS: Taking up American football before the age of 12 may have an impact on behavior and mood much later in life, a study of former players said yesterday. Those who started the sport early were at higher risk by age 51 to suffer from depression, apathy or other behavioral problems, though memory and thinking skills did not seem to be affected, according to a paper in the journal *Translational Psychiatry*. "Youth exposure to football may have long-term neurobehavioral consequences," it said. But the study authors could not state conclusively that repeated hits to the head were the cause of any "dysfunction" observed in former gridiron players in later years.

They urged further research "to inform policy and safety decision-making". Other experts, too, cautioned against reading too much into the study, which involved no examination of former players' brains, and relied on answers to questions by telephone and online, rather than a formal diagnosis.

"The paper hints... that repetitive concussive brain injury might have happened in these American football players, but does not provide any evidence for this suggestion," said Michael Swash, a neurology expert from Barts and the London School of Medicine. The researcher team, from the United States, used data from

214 former amateur and professional American football players enrolled in an ongoing study of neurodegenerative disease.

The male subjects had not played any contact sport other than football, either at high school, college or professionally. The study sought to examine potential long-term harms of early exposure to a sport that sees players receive violent head blows that can cause concussion, linked to later brain problems.

To play, or not to play?

The researchers had theorized that the damage may be compounded by starting at an early age. "Youth football is played between ages of five and 14, a period when the brain undergoes substantial maturation in males," the team wrote. Young players can experience more than 200 head impacts per season, they added, citing earlier research. "The effects of repetitive head impact exposure on the brain at a young age may disrupt neurodevelopment," the researchers said. For the study, former players with an average age of 51 were asked to rate their behavior, mood, and executive function—which includes tasks like analyzing, planning and organizing.

They also underwent a test of cognitive ability. Among those who reported a learning dis-

ability, having taken medication for depression, or to have received a psychiatric diagnosis, most had started football when they were younger than 12, said the study authors. The study did not consider whether the former players had received any head injuries. By the authors' own analysis, the findings "should not be used to inform safety and/or policy decisions in regards to youth football", and more studies are needed. David Reynolds, the chief scientific officer of Alzheimer's Research UK, pointed out that sports like American football can contribute to a healthy, active lifestyle.

"It is important that findings highlighting the potential risks of any sport are followed up with further research so that people can make informed decisions about the activities they get involved in and how best to minimize any risks," he wrote in a comment distributed by the Science Media Centre. In April last year, a study said some 43 percent of retired American football players studied show signs of traumatic brain injury. The National Football League has faced growing scrutiny in recent years over concussions and head trauma in America's most popular sport. In 2015, the league agreed to a \$1-billion (800-million-euro) settlement to resolve thousands of lawsuits by former players suffering neurological problems. — AFP

BANGLADESH FRETS ABOUT POPULATION BOOM IN ROHINGYA CAMPS

UKHIA, Bangladesh: Bangladesh has launched a birth control drive in its overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps, an official said yesterday, fearing a population boom would worsen the humanitarian crisis unfolding along its border. Family planning teams have been deployed to offer advice and distribute condoms and other contraceptives throughout its ill-equipped camps, which have been overwhelmed by the arrival of 420,000 Rohingya refugees since August 25. Authorities have already identified 70,000 new or expectant mothers among the latest influx from Myanmar, and fear without intervention the population pressures could worsen in coming months as the crisis drags on.

"They have six, seven, eight, nine, 10 children," said Pintu Kanti Bhattacharjee, head of the government's family planning department in Cox's Bazar district where the camps are located. "We are very worried. If they are here for another six months to a year, another 20,000 children will be born." Mothers with newborns, pregnant women and enormous families with more than 10 children are not uncommon among the camps. Bangladesh is building a large new camp to accommodate hundreds of thousands of these new arrivals fleeing violence across the border, but space is stretched very thin.

Whole families are sleeping outdoors and squatting in farmland, roadsides and vacant buildings, with competition for

food, shelter and other essentials intensifying as the number of new arrivals climbs. Bhattacharjee said officials on the ground were "counselling" new Rohingya arrivals about family planning, a new concept for many, and trying to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Officials on the ground were distributing contraceptives to men and women with mixed results, he added. Mujibur Rahman, a Rohingya man in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhia, was open to the condoms and birth control pills he received in a handout. "These will definitely help us," the 25-year-old told AFP.

But others were not so sure. "I thought it was a food pack," said Mohammad Mostafiz, a 40-year-old Rohingya man, who has two wives and 14 children. "It is our religious duty to have children. Using medicines to prevent childbirth is a sin. I don't think my family will use this stuff." Bangladesh has been praised for its efforts to handle the growing crisis, but aid groups warn the situation remains dire. Police yesterday cleared squatters and dismantled shanties around Kutupalong, one of the largest camps, where the roads are choked with refugees and long queues of traffic snake from aid centers. Police warned those squatting on roadsides they could be arrested if they refused to move. The government has been trying to herd refugees into designated areas, fearful that nearby cities could be overwhelmed if they are left unchecked. — AFP



UKHIA, Bangladesh: Rohingya Muslim refugees camp on a road near Balukhali refugee camp near the Bangladeshi district of Ukhia yesterday. — AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
ر. فهد علي المخيزيم
استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



The owner of the Kids World Bilingual Nursery recently organized a recreational party to welcome the kids on the beginning of the new school year 2017-2018. At the party, the owner congratulated them and their parents and wished them all the very best for the upcoming school year.



GBK AND AL SADU SOCIETY RESUME 'FUN WITH TEXTILES' WORKSHOPS

Building on the great success the program witnessed in its first phase of programs, Gulf Bank and Al Sadu Society are ready to kick off new season of their year-long series of educational workshops entitled 'Fun with Textiles' aiming at developing children's skills in crafts and textile art techniques and preserving Kuwaiti traditions and heritage. Activities are set to start on 23 September and will run until mid-December 2017. The program will include two free of charge workshops per month and children or their parents can

simply register by sending an email to workshops@alsadu.org.kw. The first workshop is planned to take place at 11:00 am on Saturday, 23 September at Sadu House premises on Gulf Road- Kuwait City, where participating children will learn about woven art. During the next workshop, each child will be preparing a design on a paper towel, then coloring it, following by weaving the paper strips into canvases using yarns. Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank said:



"We are delighted to resume our year-long series of educational workshops in collaboration with Al Sadu Society. The sessions conducted before the summer break was fun and exciting, and all sessions filled up quickly. It was heartening to see such strong interest and to interact with children from all backgrounds who were eager to learn new skills and proud to show off their creations."

"Sponsoring Al Sadu Society workshops comes in line with our corporate social responsibility program which supports events and initiatives that are focused on promoting Kuwait's heritage, raising awareness of its culture, as well as supporting youth education. We will continue to seek opportunities and partnerships which are of benefit to the community," added Al-Qatami.

The workshops are free and open to children aged 6-12 years which required advanced registration. Each session is open to 12 attendees who will learn and develop creative skills in a relaxed and stimulating environment, with the assistance of professional bilingual instructors. The workshops are structured to ensure that it is fun, flexible and practical. Children will learn how to create modern, fun accessories for themselves. Additionally, the children will be able to explore the exhibits at the Sadu House Museum. During these workshops, children are given a guided choice of colors, designs and techniques, through which they will be able to develop their creative skills while having fun. Instructors will be present in each session to encourage children and teach them that crafts are a form of art.



ICSK HONORS DR V BINUMON FOR RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL TEACHER AWARD

It is a matter of great pride for The Indian Community School, Kuwait (Senior) that its Principal Dr V Binumon was conferred with the National Award for Teachers-2016 by the honorable Vice President, HE Shri M Venkaiah Naidu in a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan on 5th September 2017.

The National Award is annually bestowed upon illustrious educationists from all over the nation to give public recognition for their meritorious achievements. The Award carries a certificate of merit, cash ward and a silver medal. National Teacher Award is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and was instituted in 1958 in honor of Former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and is given away on 5th September (Teacher's Day) every year.

The ICSK Senior fraternity on this momentous occasion honored Dr Binumon for his fabulous achievement on 12th September 2017 in the presence of his family. The program was organized in the school auditorium which was presided over by the Vice-Principal Dr Sam T Kuruvilla and attended by the HR Manager, Mr Deepak and the ICSK Staff. Dr V Binumon was felicitated with the ceremonial 'ponnada' and was also presented a bouquet of flowers for his wonderful achievement. Vice-Principal Dr Sam T Kuruvilla, Staff Secretary Mr. George Swami, Heads of the Departments & Academic Coordinators congratulated him on this marvelous feat and spoke eloquently on his passion and diligence towards the field of education. They admired him for being conspicuously successful in creating a powerful impulse for development and progress & for consistently organizing programs, projects and schemes that nurture learners to give them wings to soar while keeping their feet firmly rooted in the country's rich and varied heritage.

They enumerated that for all his innovative improvements and progressive up gradations, his personal and professional qualities, Dr V Binumon is now viewed as a trend setter within the circle of education. It was also



emphasized that under his active, energetic and inspiring leadership, the school is making rapid progress in all spheres and has created innumerable benchmarks in every arena under his able stewardship. In his address Dr V Binumon thanked the government of India and dedicated his award to the ICSK family.

MAIS ALGHANIM TO GO UNVEILS THE ULTIMATE OFFER FOR SCHOOL SEASON

Mais Alghanim To Go recently announced its latest saving value meal offer, just in time to kick-off this back to school season. In keeping in line with its long-held tradition of providing its clients with a delectable choice of meals to satisfy every taste and fulfill every preference, this meal is composed of four servings and features Meat and Chicken kebab, Meat Arayes, Kabbab Baghdadi; in addition to Shish Taouk prepared and marinated the special Mais Alghanim way. The offer also includes a selection of mouth-watering and nutritious Lebanese Mezze, yet another specialty of the Mais Alghanim To Go kitchen, prepared with the utmost care and quality. Appetizers include Hummus, Moutabal and Batata Harra; together with a choice of an addition of either fried chicken liver or sauteed chicken wings, and French fries or Basmati rice with Saffron, topped off with a refreshing Coca Cola drink. Whether you are at a get-together with your acquaintances at the Diwaniya or looking to spend some quality time with family and loved-ones, then the Super Value Meal - serving four persons - with its fabulous choices of grilled meats and appetizers shall never disappoint.

gious awards and recognitions, Mais Alghanim To Go promises enthusiastic foodies a new a unique experience, allowing them to sample a selection of the most inviting and delicious signature dishes, anytime, anywhere. In doing so, Mais Alghanim To Go observes the most stringent public health and food safety standards in all its branches, supported by an extensive fleet of delivery vehicles covering various areas throughout Kuwait, and fulfilling its motto, "Closer & Tastier..."

Wherever you are! This exceptional offer is only a phone call away. Call the hotline number to enjoy this delectable deal wherever you may be, or order online via Talabat and Mais Alghanim To Go will deliver straight to your doorstep. Alternatively, you are welcome to personally pick-up your order at the nearest branch in Bneid Al-Qar, Shuwaikh, Fintas, Salmiya or from our newest outlet in Hawalli - off Al-Qadisiya Club.



A recipient of numerous presti-



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Bad Dog
02:35 Swamp Brothers
03:25 Project Grizzly
04:15 I Survived An Animal Attack
05:02 Bahama Blue
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Going Ape
07:00 Going Ape
07:25 Swamp Brothers
07:50 Swamp Brothers
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Bad Dog
10:05 Bahama Blue
11:00 Swamp Brothers
11:28 Swamp Brothers
11:55 Project Grizzly
12:50 After The Attack
13:45 Bad Dog
14:40 Bahama Blue
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
18:20 Treehouse Masters
19:15 My Tiny Terror
20:10 Swamp Brothers
21:05 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
22:00 Treehouse Masters
22:55 Wildest Indochina
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 Rolling With The Ronks
12:15 Lolorock
13:05 Star Darlings
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
14:00 And Cat Noir
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Lolorock
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:00 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
16:35 Bunk'd
17:00 K.C. Undercover
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
18:00 And Cat Noir
18:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:20 Bizaardvark
18:45 Best Friends Whenever
19:10 Tsum Tsum Shorts
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Cracked
20:50 K.C. Undercover
21:00 The Zhuzhus
21:25 Stuck In The Middle
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
22:55 And Cat Noir

16:50 Disney11
07:40 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Milo Murphy's Law
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Kirby Buckets
19:25 Walk The Prank
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Right Now Kapow
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 K.C. Undercover
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

00:05 WAGs Miami
00:55 WAGs Miami
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 So Cosmo
04:40 So Cosmo
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:55 El News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 El News: Daily Pop
09:10 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
12:00 El News
12:15 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
13:35 Khloe And Lamar
15:00 El News
15:15 Khloe And Lamar
17:00 Live From The Red Carpet
19:00 El News
20:00 El's Look Book
21:00 Live From The Red Carpet
23:00 El News
23:15 Fashion Police

00:00 The Jail Atlanta: 60 Days In
01:00 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
03:00 Evil Up Close
04:00 The Jail Atlanta: 60 Days In
05:00 It Takes A Killer
06:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary & Martin Kemp
17:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
18:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 My Haunted House
23:00 Stalked By A Ghost

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
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05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:30 The Lion Guard
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers

00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
00:30 Pawn Queens
01:20 Driving Me Crazy
02:10 World's Top 5
03:00 Finding Bigfoot
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Pawn Queens
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Awesome Adventures
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 K9 Cops
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 K9 Cops
12:00 Finding Bigfoot
12:50 How It's Made
13:40 Pawn Queens
14:30 Awesome Adventures
14:55 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
15:20 Destroyed In Seconds
16:10 Nextworld
17:00 Don't Drive Here
17:50 Zoltan The Wolfman
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
20:20 Destroyed In Seconds
21:10 Don't Drive Here
22:00 Animal Nation With Anthony Anderson

00:00 Doc McStuffins
01:00 PJ Masks
02:00 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooch
12:00 Goldie & Bear
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooch
14:30 The Lion Guard
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Miles From Tomorrow
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:00 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:45 Sofia The First
18:15 Goldie & Bear
18:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:15 Little Mermaid
19:45 PJ Masks
20:15 The Lion Guard
20:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:15 Goldie & Bear
21:45 Doc McStuffins
22:15 Little Mermaid
22:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
23:15 PJ Masks
23:45 Loopdidoo

00:20 Misfit Garage
01:05 The Island With Bear Grylls
01:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:35 Legend Of Croc Gold
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 The Island With Bear Grylls
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:45 Misfit Garage
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 The Island With Bear Grylls
09:00 Storage Wars Canada
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 The Island With Bear Grylls
10:55 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
11:40 Legend Of Croc Gold
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Wars Canada
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 The Island With Bear Grylls
14:40 Deadliest Catch
15:20 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Misfit Garage
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Wars Canada
18:20 Storage Wars Canada
18:50 The Island With Bear Grylls
19:40 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Harley And The Davidson's
22:40 X-Ray Mega Airport
23:30 Fast N' Loud

00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermore Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
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04:10 Alex & Co.
04:30 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
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08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
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03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
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04:10 Alex & Co.
04:30 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bunk'd
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08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:25 Lolorock
09:50 Lolorock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer

07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Car Hunters
11:25 Car Hunters
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Ozy And Jack's World Detour
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Leepu And Pitbull
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Mountain Men
18:30 Swamp People
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 Cars That Made America
21:10 Forged In Fire
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 Cars That Made America

00:45 Fish Of The Day
01:10 My Restaurant In India
01:40 City Chase Rome
02:35 Carnival Eats
03:00 The Food Files
03:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
03:55 One Man & His Campervan
04:50 My Restaurant In India
05:20 Chocolate Covered
06:15 Places We Go
07:10 City Chase Rome
08:05 Carnival Eats
08:30 The Food Files
09:00 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
09:25 One Man & His Campervan
09:55 One Man & His Campervan
10:20 My Restaurant In India
10:50 Chocolate Covered
11:15 Places We Go
11:45 Places We Go
12:10 Places We Go
12:40 World's Greatest Food Markets
13:35 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
14:00 Carnival Eats
14:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
14:55 One Man & His Campervan
15:25 My Restaurant In India
15:50 Chocolate Covered
16:20 Chocolate Covered
16:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
17:15 Around The World In 80 Dishes
18:10 My Pacific Quest
19:05 My Restaurant In India
19:30 Chocolate Covered
20:00 Chocolate Covered
20:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
21:00 Around The World In 80 Dishes
22:00 My Pacific Quest
22:55 World's Greatest Food Markets
23:50 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:15 Bake With Anna Olson
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:15 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
17:30 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Food Network Star Kids
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

00:10 Big Fish, Texas
01:00 Wicked Tuna
02:00 Air Crash Investigation
03:00 Seconds From Disaster
04:00 Big Fish, Texas
05:00 Britain's Greatest Machines With Chris Barrie
06:00 Salvage Code Red
07:00 Dog Whisperer
09:00 Britain's Greatest Machines With Chris Barrie
10:00 Rare
11:00 Inside Combat Rescue: The Last Stand
13:00 Salvage Code Red
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Genius
16:00 Rare
17:00 Inside The Hunt For The Boston Bombers
19:00 Megastructures
20:00 Rare
20:50 Inside The Hunt For The Boston Bombers
22:30 Megastructures

00:20 Wild Australia: Kangaroo King
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Valley Of The Wolves
02:50 Monster Fish
03:45 Man V. Animal (Outdowns)
04:40 Natural Born Monsters
05:35 Valley Of The Wolves
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Man V. Animal (Outdowns)
07:50 Man V. Animal (Outdowns)
08:20 Natural Born Monsters
09:15 Battle Of The Swamp Dragons
10:10 World's Deadliest Killers
11:05 Wild Scotland: Highlands
12:00 Shark Survivors: USA
12:55 World's Deadliest Snakes
13:50 Monster Fish
14:45 Man V. Animal (Outdowns)
15:40 Man V. Animal (Outdowns)
16:40 Caught In The Act
16:35 Ultimate Rivals: Cat V. Dog
17:30 World's Deadliest Killers
18:25 Wild Scotland: Highlands
19:20 Man V. Animal (Outdowns)
19:45 Man V. Animal (Outdowns)
20:10 Caught In The Act
21:00 Ultimate Rivals: Cat V. Dog
21:50 World's Deadliest Killers
22:40 Wild Scotland: Highlands

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 Sanjay And Craig
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers

00:15 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
00:40 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
01:05 Kevin Can Wait
01:30 Kevin Can Wait
01:55 The Detour
02:20 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:50 George Lopez
05:15 Happy Endings
05:40 Dr. Ken
06:05 Dr. Ken
06:30 Mom
06:55 Cougar Town
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 George Lopez
10:15 Happy Endings
10:40 Mom
11:05 Cougar Town
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Fresh Off The Boat
12:45 Black-ish
13:10 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
13:35 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
14:00 George Lopez
14:25 Happy Endings
14:50 Mom
15:15 Dr. Ken
15:40 Dr. Ken
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Fresh Off The Boat
17:30 Black-ish
18:30 The New Adventures Of Old Christine
19:00 Dr. Ken
19:30 Dr. Ken
20:00 People Of Earth
20:30 New Girl
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Kevin Can Wait
22:30 Kevin Can Wait
23:00 The Detour
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers

00:05 Indecent Proposal
02:00 Potterygeist
03:40 Rocky V
05:30 Ladder 49
07:30 From Rocky To Creed The Legacy Continues
08:30 How Do You Know
10:30 Rocky v
12:15 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
14:40 Raising Helen
16:40 Rocky Balboa
18:25 Dick Tracy
20:10 Runner Runner
21:45 Dragonfly
23:30 He Got Game

00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Secrets Of The Underground
02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
03:00 Junkyard Wars
03:48 Mythbusters
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05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Secrets Of The Underground
06:12 NASA's Unexplained Files
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Junkyard Wars
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 NASA's Unexplained Files
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10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Secrets Of The Underground
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10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 School Of Rock
15:24 Breadwinners
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
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23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

00:02 Max & Ruby
00:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:48 The Day Henry Met
00:58 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:42 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:07 The Day Henry Met
04:13 Nella The Princess Knight
04:37 Shimmer And Shine
05:00 Wallykazam!
05:22 Zack & Quack
05:33 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:12 Paw Patrol
06:36 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
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09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Wallykazam!
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
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00:25 Requiem For A Dream
02:15 The Apartment
04:20 Rushmore
06:00 My Sister
08:00 The Beat Beneath My Feet
09:40 The Apartment
11:50 Rushmore
13:30 Yossmeite
15:00 A Birder's Guide To Everything
16:35 Reds
19:55 Lorenzo's Oil
22:10 The Kite Runner

01:30 Gentlemen Broncos
03:05 My Bakery In Brooklyn
04:10 Compadres
06:05 Knight And Day
08:10 Black Rose
09:40 Insurgent
11:45 Virtual Revolution
13:20 Knight And Day
15:25 Survivor
17:10 Black Rose
18:40 The Call Up
20:15 Spooks: The Greater Good
22:00 Swordfish
23:40 Universal Soldier: The Return

01:20 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
02:50 Free Birds
04:15 Emilee Jolie
05:30 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story
06:50 The Emperor's Secret
08:25 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
09:55 Winnie The Pooh
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00:40 Star
01:30 Riverdale
02:20 The Unit
03:20 Chicago Justice
04:10 Code Black
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Star
09:20 Chicago Justice
10:10 Code Black
11:00 The Unit
11:45 The Flash
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Code Black
17:00 Chicago Justice
18:00 The Unit
19:00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
20:00 The Flash
21:00 Star
22:00 The Americans
23:05 Taken
23:50 Falling Water

00:20 Cars
02:20 Snow Dogs
04:05 White Fang
05:55 Little Women
07:55 A Bug's Life
09:40 Cars
11:40 Little Women
13:40 Home On The Range
15:00 Tinker Bell And The Lost Treasure
16:25 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
18:00 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
19:30 White Fang 2: Myth Of The White Wolf
21:20 Home On The Range
22:40 Tinker Bell And The Lost Treasure

00:00 No Tears For The Dead
02:05 Insurgent
04:10 Compadres
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08:10 Black Rose
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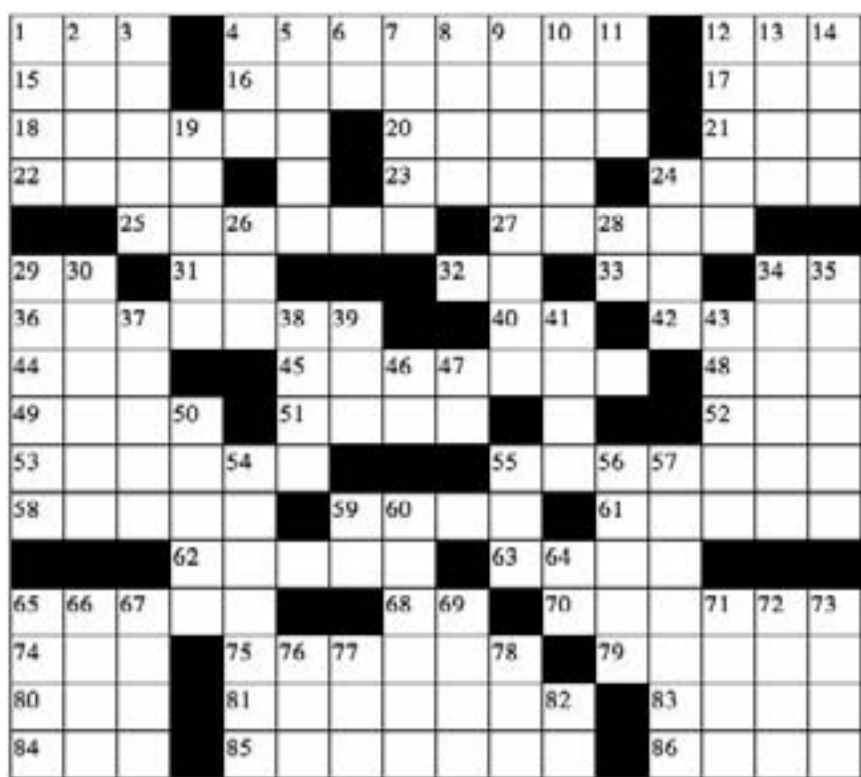
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02:10 NASA

CROSSWORD 1715



ACROSS

1. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
4. Relating to the abomasum (the fourth compartment of the stomach of ruminants).
12. An enclosed space.
15. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
16. A mountain peak in the Andes in Peru (21,083 feet high).
17. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
18. Swiss naturalist who was one of the founders of modern zoology (1516-1565).
20. Antiquity that as survived from the distant past.
21. A sign of assent or salutation or command.
22. The content of cognition.
23. Thin and fit.
25. (anatomy) A structure that resembles a shell in shape.
27. Greek mythology.
29. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
31. A state in New England.
32. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
33. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
36. (British) A minicar used as a taxicab.
40. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
42. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
44. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
45. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
48. United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
49. (informal terms) "gave me a cockamamie reason for not going".
51. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
52. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
53. Make attractive or lovable.
58. Cause to lose courage.
61. A ballroom dance in triple time with a strong accent on the first beat.
62. A form of Japanese poetry.
63. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
65. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
68. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
70. An ornamental jewelled headdress signifying sovereignty.
74. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
75. Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
79. Any of a group of heavenly spirits under the god Anu.
80. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
81. An ideal instance.
83. Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.
84. The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
85. A mystical or allegorical interpretation (especially of Scripture).
86. In addition.

DOWN

1. (New Testament) The sages who visited

- Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born.
2. In bed.
3. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
4. (informal) Of the highest quality.
5. Of or relating to or derived from or containing boron.
6. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
7. The Fate who cuts the thread of life.
8. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
9. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Clinoril).
10. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
11. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
12. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
13. Little known Kamarupan languages.
14. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
19. The mother-in-law of Ruth whose story is told in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
24. A school teaching mechanical and industrial arts and the applied sciences.
26. An acute inflammatory disease occurring in the intestines of premature infants.
28. An informal term for a father.
30. The capital and largest city of Albania in the center of the country.
34. 1 species.
35. (biology) Of unlike parts or organs.
37. Smaller of two tall fast-running flightless birds similar to ostriches but three-toed.
38. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
39. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
41. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
43. Second brightest star in Perseus.
46. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
47. A state in midwestern United States.
50. A woman gossip.
54. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
55. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.
56. Being eight more than fifty.
57. Baked dish of layers of lasagna pasta with sauce and cheese and meat or vegetables.
59. A state in northwestern North America.
60. A motley assortment of things.
64. A public promotion of some product or service.
66. The battle in 202 BC in which Scipio decisively defeated Hannibal at the end of the second Punic War.
67. Slanting diagonally across the grain of a fabric.
69. The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murdering his wife.
71. The face of a timepiece.
72. Armor plate that protects the chest.
73. Small drought-resistant sorghums having large yellow or whitish grains.
76. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
77. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
78. A wooden pin pushed or driven into a surface.
82. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Everything works together to reveal you at your best today—particularly in group gatherings. You will have a grasp for abstract as well as practical ideas, which is one reason you are usually included in solving problems or brainstorming meetings. Whether it is you or someone else that comes up with a clever idea, you can usually create the practical side to the situation making the idea workable or showing the difficulties. With this talent, you may find that some days you are received well by all your co-workers and some days you are keenly unappreciated. Go with the flow and you will fare better. A picnic in the park might be fun early this evening, if weather permits; whatever the case, an early dinner with good conversation is satisfying.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is quite a busy day, one that seems to be pulling you in many directions. Prioritize and don't skimp on your breaks, those breaks legally belong to you. If the company has added work, they may need to hire a temporary helper; if a project is into a tight schedule, it may mean some overtime but the breaks are important for your sanity as well as your job performance. After work there is an opportunity to become involved in some athletic activity; join in to relieve any tension leftover from the workday. There is a strong need for nurturing and to be nurtured. This could evolve from needed rest, but it could also be an indication that it is your time for getting into a volunteer group or in a religious group that visits shut-ins or the handicapped.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It is easy to overdo this day. Your energies are high and you may feel that you can do anything. You are smooth when there is a need to solve problems. However, do not try to reorganize a business or roof the house in one day! Set your priorities and pace yourself. Your patience may be tested after work today. You may complain of never having any privacy, or time to think—even though you are the one choosing the amount of social and professional contact. Being an extrovert, you may have difficulty understanding exclusive types; you may long to suffer in solitude—a balance is needed. Your mind is ever on communicating well: how you present yourself and are understood. This evening it is time to do only the most relaxing things; laugh!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Stressful conditions or difficult people in the workplace this morning may cause you to question your choice of profession but with patience and a little counting to ten several times, the morning proceeds harmlessly and you are, once again, saving the day. Do not resent the part you play; without the stress you would not be motivated to the next step up the corporate ladder. You may want to take a short trip or visit a new friend. Perhaps you and your friend could shop together this evening. Purchasing, selecting colors and so on are at a high. You want to look your best regarding an upcoming social engagement. This engagement may be very important to you in the future. You are interested in connecting with new, stable, trustworthy people.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Discipline is no problem, but you may want to be careful of becoming too authoritarian. Your sense of responsibility is well developed and you may successfully help a co-worker overcome some difficulty or change some difficult situation in that person's life. Taking care of an older person or tending to the little problems around your living area may hold your attention after work. Problems are few and far between for you and you seem more than happy to help in any opportunity that comes to your attention. There is a renewed interest in a hobby this evening, perhaps in writing or cooking. This has been a successful and pleasant day.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Beyond whatever external considerations may be present, you exude a contagious thankfulness and fondness for things and people. These inner, loving qualities are experienced as a very real good. You seem to gravitate to those things which last and hold true and are always separating the false from the true. You manage to find the truth in most matters. Matters of law, religion and philosophy of the most resolute kind hold your interest. You may find yourself reading and catching up on the latest business technology at the library, bookstore or newsstand. New ways to organize and better discipline are possible as well. Here is an opportunity to get some insight into some techniques of solving problems that may prove of great value in the years to come.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will find that you can really use your mind to make clear choices and think things through. Any career decisions are straightforward and easy to make. You make your way through ideas, concepts and your ability to communicate and express them to others. Outer circumstances and the flow of events make it easy for you to make clear decisions, see the road ahead and move forward. Things seem to fall into place and progress is easy. Be careful not to take on more than you can process. There is a major life event now that marks the end of a formative period and the beginning of more independence. You are on your own and this marks the start of increased responsibility and accountability. This is a time for deep thought.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Smiles are easy to find—you will find yourself in a social mood most of this day and although you work and get a lot done, it is easy to respond with conversations to co-workers and to customers. Connections that last a lifetime and networking opportunities that help you to expand your knowledge on some hobby make this day quite interesting. New and unusual ways of working may be possible through some of your communications and perhaps, a higher-paying job opportunity is within your reach; pay close attention. Like the artist that depicts a beautiful scene, you have an artful way in which you express yourself. If you are not careful, company may still be around your place a week after the time expected. A trip may be in order soon.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have great insight into matters of personal freedom. When communicating with supervisors, you may have insight into their world and what they must do to succeed in their profession. Finding a way to serve or volunteering to help in some charity project from the workplace will help you in your climb up the ladder as well as give help to others. You come up with brilliant ways to help your co-workers and you are appreciated. Communication after work seems focused on young people. New methods of raising kids or caring for animals are yours. You relax with children, sports, acting, singing and such this afternoon. A reservation may have to be made ahead of time if you enjoy horseback riding or some other interest.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Support and recognition should be available from the public and from family and friends. A new project is at hand. Perhaps some monetary rewards are in the forecast. You feel at home in the world and it more than takes care of you. You could have deep insights into your own feelings and inner spirit. You may be attending or giving an art show this evening. Some shopping may be in order. Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened. You may be motivated to make some decisions about your creative expression today. Your sense of value is active just now. This is a good time to select furnishings, colors and so on—the finer things of life. Sit back and enjoy what you have; share your good mood with a loved one.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Listening becomes important today as you try to understand new ways of working. Ideas and thoughts are important for the art of creation and will not come easily if you are stressed. A round table discussion presents the perfect forum for your presentation as well as it gives you the opportunity to add to your own creative mind as well; be patient and bide your time before making yourself known. After you make your presentation, make sure you take notes on what you have heard and how you want to grow and achieve. You are successful in your efforts; keep moving forward by adapting and adjusting. You have no idea what people really think, so do not feed any feelings into the matter. A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could be moody, even dreamy today. Relaxation techniques will benefit your frame of mind by giving you positive avenues where you can release any negative feelings. It is easy for you to find the proper motivation and to change any negative to a positive. Generally, this is a creative and successful time—one of healing. Problems could lose some of their definition and appear less difficult. You might have a sense of living in a dream world or of being awake in your own dream this evening. Everything seems less solid and definite. The spirit world seems real and possible. Enjoy observing all the things you can see that really make the world a pleasant place. Enjoy the sunset. You may even have ideas for encouraging others.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Spring

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a message about Spring.



- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| ALLERGIES | FROGS | RAIN |
| APRIL | GOLF | RENEWAL |
| BASEBALL | GRASS | ROBINS |
| BEES | GREEN | SEASON |
| CROCUSES | GROWTH | SNOWMELT |
| CYCLAMENS | IRISES | SOFTBALL |
| DAFFODILS | LILIES | SPRING BREAK |
| DANDELIONS | MARCH | SPRING CLEANING |
| EASTER | MAY | TULIPS |
| EQUINOX | NEW LEAVES | WARMER |
| FLOWERS | PLANTING | WET |

Yesterday's Solution

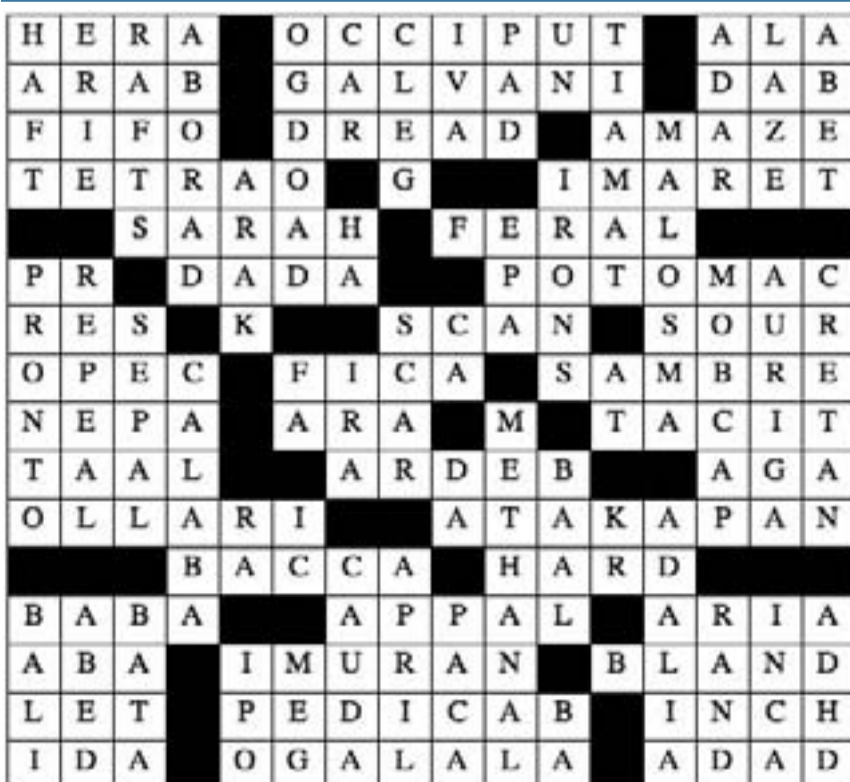
Sports



- | | | | |
|------------|----------|---------------|------------|
| ARCHERY | CROQUET | JAI ALAI | SOCCER |
| BADMINTON | CYCLING | LACROSSE | SOFTBALL |
| BASEBALL | DARTS | POLO | SQUASH |
| BASKETBALL | FENCING | RACQUETBALL | SURFING |
| BILLIARDS | FISHING | RUGBY | SWIMMING |
| BOWLING | FOOTBALL | RUNNING | TENNIS |
| BOXING | GOLF | SKATEBOARDING | VOLLEYBALL |
| CRICKET | HOCKEY | SKATING | WRESTLING |

The hidden sentence is: WINNERS NEVER QUIT AND QUITTERS NEVER WIN

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
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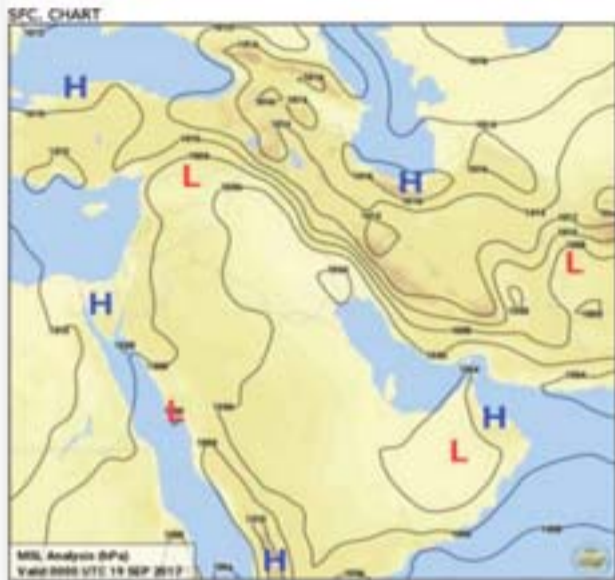
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
 Issued 19/09/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 45 °C

By Day: Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.
By Night: Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 30 km/h.



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night
Min Temp °C	27	26	27	24
Max Temp °C	45	44	42	41
Wind Direction	northerly westerly	south easterly	south easterly to variable	variable
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	08 - 30	08 - 30	08 - 22

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches
 no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	33	42
KUWAIT AIRPORT	26	45
ABDULY	28	46
BUBYAN	27	38
JAHRA	29	46
FALAKA ISLAND	30	39
SALMIYAH	33	37
AHMADI	32	39
JAL ALIYAH	27	45
QAROH ISLAND	32	36
UMM AL-MARADEM	31	36
NUWAZIB	28	45
WAFRA	27	46
SALMIY	29	45
MUTRIBA	27	47

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	44
Min Temp (°C)	27
Max Rel Hum (%)	81
Min Rel Hum (%)	12
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:34
Sunset	17:49

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:15
Sunrise	05:34
Zuhr	11:42
Asr	15:11
Sunset	17:49
Isha	19:06

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- ◆ 3 bedrooms ◆ Saloon
 - ◆ Kitchen ◆ 3 bathrooms
- Free services for you and your family

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American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	177
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22414400
KLM	22423888
Air Slovakia	22425747
Olympic Airways	22434940
Royal Jordanian	22420002/9
Reservation	22418064/5
British Airways	22433388
Air France	22425635
Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Sri Lanka Airlines	22438184
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	22421578
Saudia	22421516
Middle East Airlines	22426306
Lufthansa	22423073
PIA	22422493
Alitalia	22421044
Balkan Airlines	22414427
Bangladesh Airlines	22416474
Czech Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22417901/2433141
Oman Air	22456700
Turkish Airlines	22958787
Aeroflot	22453820/1 22404838/9

GROUND FLOOR FOR RENT

1 Living/Dining Hall with Toilet + 6 X Bedrooms (1 Master with attached Toilet + 4 Bedrooms with 1 Common Toilet + 1 Maid Bedroom with Toilet), 1 Washroom + 1 Kitchen (with Cupboard + Electric Oven + Microwave Oven + Stove).

Rent: KD 1000/-

Location
 Mishref, behind Embassies

Contact: Whatsapp Messages
 Only on +965 9477 9524

NEW FLOOR FOR RENT

1 Living/Dining Hall with Toilet + 4 X Bedrooms (1 Master with attached Toilet + 2 Bed rooms with 1 Common Toilet + 1 Maid bed Room with Toilet), 1 Washroom + 1 Kitchen (with Cupboard + Electric Oven + Microwave Oven + Stove).

Rent: KD 700/-

Location
 Mishref, behind Embassies

Contact: Whatsapp Messages
 Only on +965 9477 9524



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

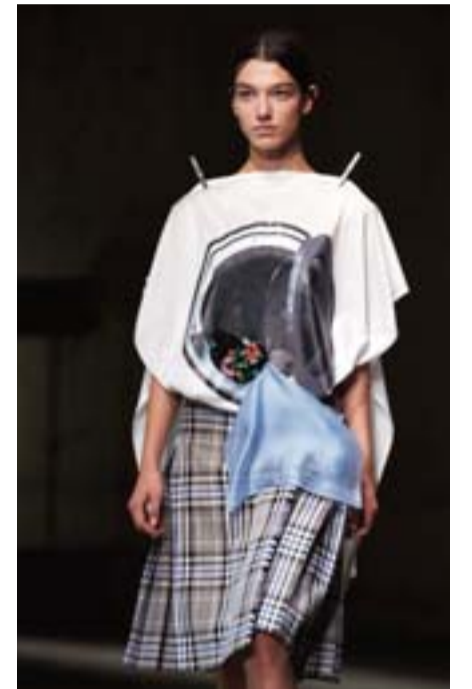
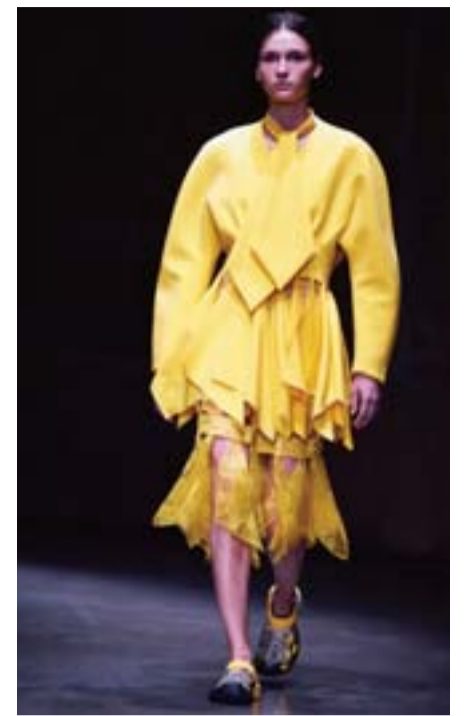
Arrival Flights on Wednesday 20/9/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	IRC	6521	Lamerd	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	364	Colombo	14:15
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
KAC	102	London	00:55	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
SYR	343	Damascus	01:30	JZR	903	GYD	14:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:35
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	357	Mashhad	14:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	15:00
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	WAN	436	Al Najaf	15:25
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	FDB	8067	Dubai	15:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
MSR	612	Dubai	03:15	UAE	857	Damascus	15:45
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	SAW	705	Dubai	15:50
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	SVA	504	Madinah	16:00
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	BBC	8045	Dhaka	16:05
KAC	796	Madinah	03:55	MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	118	New York	16:25
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	514	Tehran	17:10
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
BAW	157	London	06:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
KAC	1802	Cairo	06:35	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	KAC	512	Mashhad	18:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
IRC	6511	ABD	09:10	KAC	104	London	20:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	620	Doha	20:05
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:10
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	KAC	564	Amman	21:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	FDB	8065	Dubai	21:35
JZR	359	Mashhad	12:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
UAE	871	Mubai	12:45	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30
WAN	954	GYD	13:00	JZR	241	Amman	22:55
KIS	7136	Mashhad	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	RBG	551	Alexandria	23:00
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:15	RBG	555	Alexandria	23:25
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:35
				FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
				PIA	239	Sialkot	23:40

Departure Flights on Wednesday 20/9/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	KIS	7137	Mashhad	14:00
MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	IRC	6512	ABD	14:50
KAC	363	Colombo	01:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KAC	677	Dubai	02:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
SYR	342	Damascus	02:30	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
MSR	619	Alexandria	02:35	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
PGT	831	Istanbul	03:10	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	

FASHION



Models present creations from British designer Christopher Kane during a catwalk show for the Spring/Summer 2018 collection on the fourth day of the London Fashion Week Women's in London. — AP/AFP photos

KANE MIXES IT UP, ERDEM SPARKLES AT LONDON FASHION WEEK

London Fashion Week roared into its fourth day on Monday with Christopher Kane showing his signature sexy style, Erdem emphasizing retro glamour and Emilia Wickstead giving modern women outfits meant for dancing, nightlife and fun.

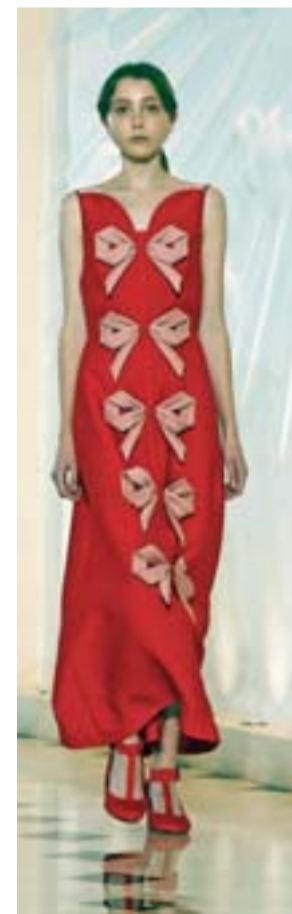
In previous days, the spring-summer 2018 womenswear shows in the British capital saw the return of Giorgio Armani, Burberry reviving and emphasizing its traditional plaid and Versace pushing the edge of its rock chick look.

Christopher Kane raises whimsical to an art form

Christopher Kane mixed it all up Monday at London Fashion Week, showing a wide array of outfits, with some emphasizing florals to others that were sheer, lacy and revealing. He described the show as built on "ideas of the prime and the perverse" - referencing 1940s housecoats, using lingerie as outerwear and creating a new silhou-

ette that blended the 1940s with the 1970s. The outfits used strong colors - reds, pinks and yellows, among other hues - and showed off whimsical touches, including ones that seemed to be held together by metallic clothes pins.

The celebrity filled audience loved it. "I loved it being so English, being about washing machines and clothes pegs and everything like that," top hatmaker Stephen Jones said. "British. Domestic." Actress Salma Hayek called Kane's new collection sexy and appreciated the "slip dresses that were so feminine." "It was great," she said. "It was glittery romantic, but at the same time it had drama and sophistication and not too sweet, sweet, sweet. You know, it has a little bit of a punch. And sexy, sexy."



Models present creations from New Zealand-born designer Emilia Wickstead during a catwalk show.

FASHION



Models wear creations by designer Erdem during the Spring/Summer 2018 runway show at London Fashion Week.

Erdem produces sparkly glam

Canada-born designer Erdem Moralioglu has turned the Old Selfridges Hotel into a glamorous speakeasy for his London Fashion Week show. With song classics "Stormy Monday" and "My Funny Valentine" playing in the background, the Erdem fashion house displayed glamorous, full-length evening gowns with long jeweled gloves and sparkly accessories.

Many outfits had floral themes and remarkable detailing, adding to the show's exuberance and opulence. Some even had feathers carefully attached. The palette embraced bold greens, pale pinks and yellow, strongly using colors throughout. There was no hiding behind solid black for Erdem. While many designers are showing more and more skin, Erdem opted for a

subtle celebration of feminine beauty. There were some sheer and lacy outfits, but most were more modest, with either high necklines or sweetheart ones.

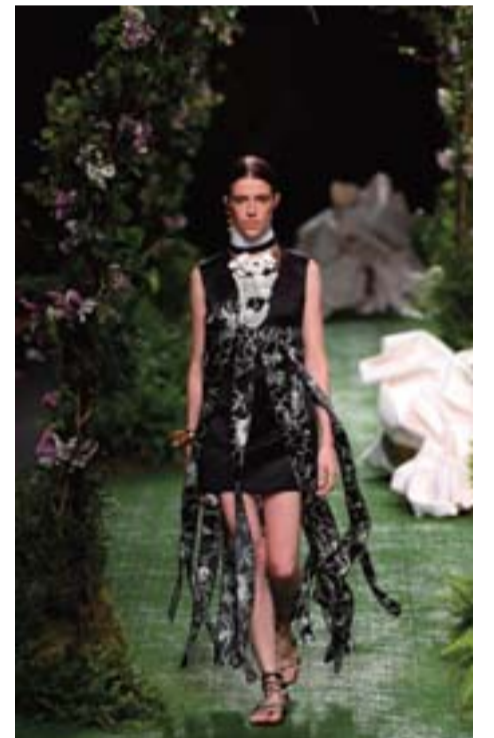
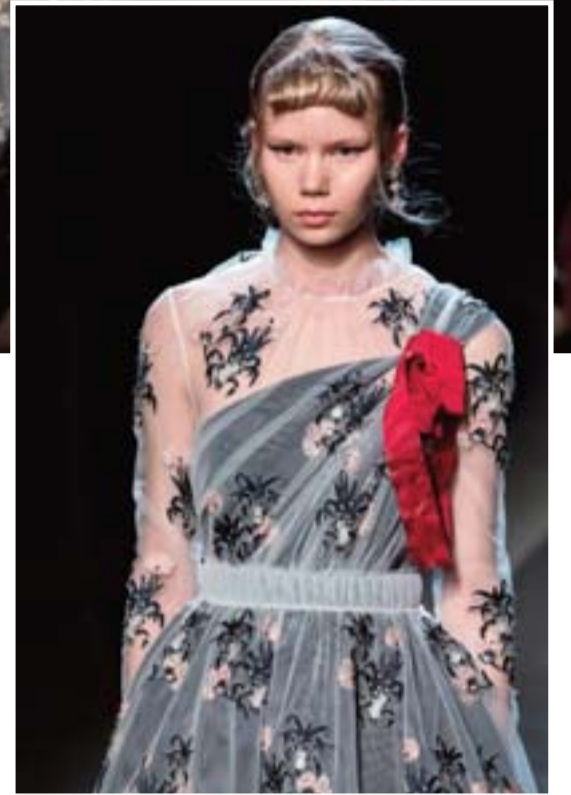
The effect was entrancing. Nostalgia was in the air - the program featured a photograph of Queen Elizabeth II meeting Duke Ellington in 1958 - and the dramatic presentation artfully evoked the Big Band era.

Emilia Wickstead wants women to have fun

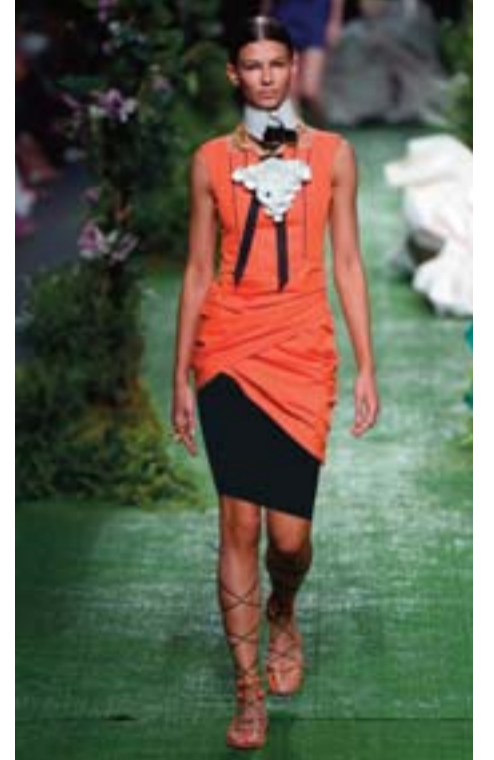
Emilia Wickstead's show was high on romance and freedom, a celebration of femininity and possibility. It opened with beautiful black-and-white ensembles with white tops that were almost completely sheer. Later outfits included elegantly

draped, almost classical gowns that evoked ancient Greece. Wickstead set off her signature ultra-high waisted trousers with a white quilted mini-dress, a floral playsuit and oversized white hats. Several looks were asymmetrical and the entire show had a dreamy, fantasy feel.

"It was all about the bows and the ties and just kind of a happy, elated feeling," Wickstead said backstage after the show. "I like to keep things very pretty. That's what I love to do. The trousers were quintessential high-waisted, they were loose. It felt you could dance, you could play, you could have a great time. That's my modern woman." — AP



Madrid Fashion Week



Models present creations of Alvarno's Spring/Summer 2018 collection during the Madrid Fashion Week in Madrid. — AFP photos

MUSIC & MOVIES

In 'Battle of the Sexes,' King passes a baton to Emma Stone

Walking through a tunnel alongside Billie Jean King at the grounds of the US Open, Emma Stone gasped at the size of its main court. King, of course, was more familiar with the sprawling tennis center in Queens, New York - it's named after her, after all (the stadium itself is named after another tennis legend, Arthur Ashe). But as accustomed as Stone is to the spotlight, her playing fields are usually private film sets or more intimate television show audiences. In making "Battle of the Sexes," a new film about King's infamous 1973 showdown with Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell), Stone was often both awed and a little jealous of the stages on which King crusaded for sport and for women's rights. (King helped win equal prize money for women at the US Open that same year.)

In tennis, the lines are clear, the scoreboard is final and a landmark victory against sexism could go down in straight sets. "It's just such a longer conversation in the movie industry," Stone said in an interview shortly after watching the women's finals with King earlier this month, which saw Sloane Stephens capture the trophy. "When I look at a tennis match, whoever wins at the end, the prize money should be equal. There are so many moving parts in how that comes to pass on a film to film basis. But of course things need to be changed."

Pay equality

"Battle of the Sexes," which Fox Searchlight will release Friday, is in some ways a time-traveling experience back to the 1970s and the chauvinism of another era. But the film, directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, also seems very much of today, coming less than a year after a bruising presidential election often fought over gender lines. And King's fight for pay equality - she helped launch the female-only Virginia Slims tennis circuit after objecting to the disparity between male and female prize money - also has clear reverberations for Hollywood's own issues in compensating men and women equally.

Stone has spoken about pay equality in Hollywood. In July, she said she has previously insisted male co-stars close the pay gap by cutting their salaries. She acted out of inspiration from King and some of her own contemporaries, like Jennifer Lawrence. Lawrence penned an essay in 2015 about pay disparity after emails from the Sony hack revealed she had been paid less than her male co-stars in "American Hustle." "It becomes a



This image released by Fox Searchlight Pictures shows Emma Stone, left, and Steve Carell in a scene from "Battle of the Sexes." — AP photos



Emma Stone, from left, Billie Jean King and Steve Carell arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of "Battle of the Sexes" on Saturday in Los Angeles.

difficult topic just for me because other people might have answers that I haven't come to in fixing the industry at large, but because of the circumstantial nature of it - the way the budgets inflate or go down from movie to movie, or year to year the way a person's career moves," Stone said.

"Every industry should be thinking about that," added the 28-year-old actress. "It's my world. Tennis is Billie Jean's world. But it matters across the board." A recent list by Forbes magazine of the highest-paid stars in Hollywood ranked Stone as the highest-paid woman. Fourteen male actors ranked higher. The gap reflects larger industry inequalities. Of the 4,583 speaking characters in last year's top 100 films, 31.4 percent were female - roughly the same rate as in 2007, according to a study by the University of Southern California. Only 34 of those films depicted a female lead or co-lead.

A chauvinist stereotype

"I did talk to Emma about the industry: Do you want to make a difference?" said King, who won 39 major titles in her career,

including 12 in singles. "I don't know if this movie has helped her have self-confidence or more empowered. I hope it helps her. I think it's still very relevant still. Equality for everyone is so far away. Every generation has to really fight for it more and more. We have made progress but I think women have at least another 175 years before we might be equal, have equal pay."

The makers of "Battle of the Sexes" wanted the film to stand apart behind the camera as well. "On our movie, there was a distinct effort to pay everyone equally," said Dayton. "Our crew was a really great mix of men and women in all departments. Our editor is a woman. Our production designer is a woman. The sound mixing team, both women." "We always have a good mix that way," added Faris. "I guess it starts with us." Their film melds the public spectacle of King and Riggs' faceoff with the personal struggles both were dealing with leading up to the match. King - then 29, married and the No. 1-ranked player in the world - was in the midst of embracing her homosexuality, which she would reveal years later. The 55-year-old Riggs, who died in 1995, isn't merely a chauvinist stereotype, but is seen going

through his own marital problems.

"What we loved about this story was that it showed how much you can do within your own field or profession," said Faris. "Everyone is talking about parity within actor salaries. I think probably with directors, we're not close to having parity. In general, we're always going to have to work to achieve some kind of equality. It's a battle that you probably never even win." "Battle of the Sexes" has been warmly received by critics and some believe it has definite Oscar chances. The film has certainly won over King, as has Stone, whom King praises as "sensational." "We have the same middle name. Same month we were born. We both knew what we wanted to do at a young age," says King. When she heard Stone was working with a dialect coach, she protested: "You already sound exactly like me!" — AP

'BABE' ACTOR JAMES CROMWELL CHARGED IN SEAWORLD PROTEST

Actor James Cromwell has been charged with trespassing for interrupting and denouncing an orca show at SeaWorld in San Diego. The San Diego Union-Tribune reported Monday that the misdemeanor charge could mean 90 days in jail or a fine up to \$400. Cromwell, who was nominated for an Oscar for his role as the farmer in "Babe," has previously said he would serve jail time rather than pay fines. A late message left for his representatives wasn't immediately returned.

He was wearing a "SeaWorld Sucks" T-shirt when he and six other activists stood up in front of the "Orca Encounter" show at SeaWorld on July 24. Cromwell told park visitors through a megaphone that SeaWorld was condemning the orcas to premature deaths. The protesters were forcibly removed by security. — AP



In this file photo, James Cromwell attends the special screening of "The Promise" at the Paris Theatre in New York. — AP



Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli (center right) accompanied by Italian soprano Elisa Balbo (center left) perform during a concert at the archaeological site of Jerash, some 50 kilometers north of the Jordanian capital. — AP

Film academy president welcomes new members at private party

The president of the film academy says being a member isn't just about getting all those free DVD screenings during Oscar season. John Bailey says the real benefit of belonging to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is being connected to the past and future of filmmaking. Bailey made the remarks at a private reception Monday for the organization's newest members

at the academy's headquarters in Beverly Hills, California.

The group invited its largest class in history - 774 people - to join its ranks in June. Academy chief Dawn Hudson said the new membership class reflects a "re-envisioning of the academy as a truly international institution." The group has been working in recent years to diversify its historically white, male membership. — AP



This combination photo shows, top row from left, Zoe Kravitz, Amy Poehler, Kate McKinnon, Maya Rudolph and Leslie Jones, second row from left, Riz Ahmed, Anna Faris, Chris Pratt, Justin Timberlake and Jon Hamm, third row from left, Chris Hemsworth, Elle Fanning, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Dwayne Johnson and Terry Crews, and bottom row from left, Jordan Peele, Janelle Monae, Priyanka Chopra, Barry Jenkins and Gal Gadot, some of the newest members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. — AP

Box office top 20: 'It' totals \$218M in two weeks

The horror hit "It" topped the North American box office for the second straight week with \$60.1 million, bringing its two-week domestic total to \$218.8 million, according to final box-office figures Monday. The Warner Bros release has quickly become the biggest box-office smash to ever land in September, a typically sleepy month before the fall movie season really kicks into gear. With the Stephen King adaptation drawing moviegoers, audiences had little interest in Darren Aronofsky's psychological thriller "mother!" starring Jennifer Lawrence. The Paramount Pictures release debuted with \$7.5 million and earned an extremely rare F CinemaScore from audiences who rejected the movie's intense and mysterious thrills.

The top 20 movies at US and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore.

1. "It," Warner Bros, \$60,103,110, 4,148 locations, \$14,490 average, \$218,813,729, 2 Weeks.
2. "American Assassin," Lionsgate, \$14,846,778, 3,154 locations, \$4,707 average, \$14,846,778, 1 Week.
3. "mother!" Paramount, \$7,534,673, 2,368 locations, \$3,182 average, \$7,534,673, 1 Week.
4. "Home Again," Open Road, \$5,183,004, 3,036 locations, \$1,707 average, \$16,984,088, 2 Weeks.
5. "The Hitman's Bodyguard," Lionsgate, \$3,588,883, 3,272 locations, \$1,097 average, \$70,395,923, 5 Weeks.
6. "Wind River," The Weinstein Company, \$2,572,397, 2,619 locations, \$982 average, \$28,093,664, 6 Weeks.
7. "Annabelle: Creation," Warner Bros, \$2,411,319, 2,117 locations, \$1,139 average, \$99,711,680, 6 Weeks.
8. "Leap!" The Weinstein Company, \$2,163,778, 2,416 locations, \$896 average, \$18,705,564, 4 Weeks.
9. "Spider-Man: Homecoming," Sony, \$1,858,740, 1,436 locations, \$1,294 average, \$330,245,988, 11 Weeks.
10. "Dunkirk," Warner Bros, \$1,311,449, 1,478 locations, \$887 average, \$185,148,101, 9 Weeks.
11. "The Emoji Movie," Sony, \$1,001,256, 1,151 locations, \$870 average, \$83,911,291, 8 Weeks.
12. "Logan Lucky," Bleecker Street, \$996,576, 1,401 locations, \$711 average, \$26,826,677, 5 Weeks.

13. "Despicable Me 3," Universal, \$857,205, 983 locations, \$872 average, \$261,094,650, 12 Weeks.
14. "The Dark Tower," Sony, \$757,815, 1,235 locations, \$614 average, \$49,922,920, 7 Weeks.
15. "Canelo vs. GGG Supremacy," Fathom Events, \$703,396, 465 locations, \$1,513 average, \$703,396, 1 Week.
16. "Wonder Woman," Warner Bros, \$667,794, 659 locations, \$1,013 average, \$411,430,094, 16 Weeks.
17. "Girls Trip," Universal, \$570,725, 733 locations, \$779 average, \$114,337,980, 9 Weeks.
18. "Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature," Open Road, \$461,885, 846 locations, \$546 average, \$28,093,664, 6 Weeks.
19. "All Saints," Sony, \$371,464, 750 locations, \$495 average, \$5,234,199, 4 Weeks.
20. "The Glass Castle," Lionsgate, \$351,887, 698 locations, \$504 average, \$16,724,214, 6 Weeks. — AP



This image released by Warner Bros Pictures shows Bill Skarsgard in a scene from "It." — AP

TRAVEL



Photo shows the village of Todi, Italy, in the Umbrian countryside. — AP photos



Photo shows a cliffside restaurant in Perugia, Italy.



Photo shows a horse farm in the countryside near Norcia, Italy.

Umbria: Contemplating St Francis in Italy's green heart

By Albert Stumm

A hilly patchwork of yellow and green Umbrian fields unfolded on both sides of the road as I zipped around hairpin turns in my little red Fiat, feeling every bit the race car driver. Of course, this being Italy, what I thought was death-defying speed wasn't fast enough for drivers coming up behind me. They barely hesitated, passing me on blind curves on the otherwise nearly deserted road. It was a bit unnerving, but over a week, hopping between Umbria's hill towns, I relaxed my grip on the steering wheel and found that getting there was half the fun.

On my way to the village of Todi that first night, I kept pulling over for the views. Between serpentine roads and stops to take pictures, it took me nearly an hour to travel 10 miles (17 km) to the village from the stone farmhouse where I stayed. Umbria is a landlocked agricultural region known as the green heart of Italy. A drought earlier this year rendered many hillsides tan instead of green - drooping sunflowers with browning leaves were a common sight - but I still encountered one of the most beautiful landscapes I'd ever seen.

Once I arrived in Todi, I parked and took a free funicular, like a diagonal elevator, to the top of a mini plateau. The smell of wood smoke lured me from the Piazza del Popolo to the literal edge of town, the cliff-top Ristorante Umbria, for a bite and a view of the sun dropping behind distant mountains. A cluster of travertine-block buildings just off the piazza looked in the twilight like a medieval theme park, but the town's winding cobblestone alleys were alive with the real sounds of children's sing-song chatter and dinner dishes clattering through a window. A news show blaring from an unseen TV brought me back to modern times.

Preach his message of love

These signs of real life in Umbria's ancient towns were ever present but never failed to surprise me. In Foligno, young couples with baby strollers were well-represented in a crowd listening to a free concert in the main piazza. In Gualdo Cattaneo, the town's millennials take over a



Photo shows a street in the village of Assisi, Italy, in the Umbria region.

cylindrical fortress on weekend nights to run a co-op bar with 360-degree views of the valley. Only in Perugia were locals harder to find, but that was due to a jazz festival drawing thousands of visitors. Bartenders, tour guides and hotel workers said visitors have dipped since earthquakes shook central Italy last year. But even before that, Umbria was less busy than some other regions. The area is sometimes compared to Tuscany, with food and wine as abundant as the vistas, but without the crowds. That's partly because it's not served by high-speed trains. Instead, visitors can take regional trains from Florence. I flew to Rome and drove two hours to get there.

By the end of my week there, I had learned how to handle the Fiat, like when to slam the four-cylinder engine into first gear to shoot up those hills rather than crawl. I used the move to get around a brave cyclist on my approach to Assisi, whose arid stone buildings were camouflaged from a distance by beige hillsides. Like a desert lizard, up close the town's brick facades and streets were speckled with a range of sand-to-brown shades, flecked with pink limestone. Assisi has been a pilgrimage site since St. Francis went into the fields to preach his message of love. He renounced his wealth



Photo shows the lineup of religious and historical attractions in Assisi, Italy, home of several important Catholic saints, including St Francis.

there 800 years ago in the main Piazza del Comune. I watched the ragazzi - local kids - walk through the piazza from the steps of a Roman temple to a statue of the goddess Minerva. The temple's Corinthian columns have been preserved, but the interior is gilded Baroque, thanks to a 17th century renovation that turned the temple into a small church. Off to the side, African nuns in powder blue habits took selfies in front of a statue of St Clare, an acolyte of St Francis.

A pink and tan basilica honors Francis on a promontory overlooking the valley. Ecclesiastical music floated from shops along Via San Francesco, which leads pilgrims to the basilica. Monks in black robes and rope belts wandered the grounds of an onsite monastery. Inside the cavernous church, frescoes told the story of how Francis rejuvenated the church by focusing on common folk. The message resonated and left me with a sense of peace. I tried holding on to that feeling during the long drive to back to the Rome airport, but I couldn't help getting a thrill out of one last windy ride. — AP



Photo shows the main square in the village of Assisi, Italy, in the Umbria region.



Photo shows the village of Todi, Italy, in the Umbrian countryside.



Photo shows a roving big brass band in the streets of Umbria, Italy, for the Umbria Jazz Festival.



This undated photo provided by San Diego Tourism shows golfing at Sycuan Resort Golf Course in El Cajon. — AP photos



Photo shows Josh Teater tees off on the seventh hole of the North Course at Torrey Pines during the opening round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament in San Diego.

Fall a Great Time for Golf in San Diego

Summer sends vacationers flocking to the San Diego area, many of them bringing their golf clubs with them. Mild temperatures, great courses, superb conditions. What's not to love? But there may be a better time to head to San Diego for golf: Fall. The courses are still in great shape, crowds are smaller, deals abound and the humid, cool and sometimes overcast weather known as the marine layer isn't quite so persistent. "It's the perfect time to play golf in San Diego," said Shawn Cox, director of golf at The Grand Golf Club in Del Mar. "You're getting the benefit of the perfect weather, the courses are in great shape and at off-season prices."

The San Diego area has become one of the world's top golf destinations, with around 90 courses in diverse settings from the beaches to the mountains. The list of courses includes some of the best in the country, including The Grand, Maderas Golf Club, La Costa Spa and Resort, Aviara Golf Club and Coronado Municipal. The most recognizable is up the coast from downtown San Diego at La Jolla's Torrey Pines Golf Course, site of US Opens and an annual PGA Tour event. Summer brings golfers from around the world to play and enjoy the mild Southern California weather. But here's a little secret: Summer is also when the marine layer is most persistent.

Contrary to popular belief, the Pacific Ocean is typically still cold during the summer, particularly in the early months. When the cooler surface air over the water meets the warmer inland air, it creates a temperature inversion. That mixing of air masses leads to the marine layer, which often gets pushed onto land by the wind. By the time fall arrives, the ocean temperature has risen and the inland temperatures have dropped, leading to less of a marine layer. Temperatures during the fall are often in the 70s and 80s with lots of sun. "It's some of the best weather all year," said Scott Bentley, assistant deputy director for the golf division of San Diego Parks and Recreation, which operates Torrey Pines. "The nights are cool and crisp, but the days are

warm and dry. And the marine layer tends to go away, so we see more sunshine. It's just a great time of year."

Resorts offer packages

The courses also match the weather in fall. Unlike the spring, when the courses are still rounding into shape, fall offers a chance to play courses that have grown in during the nice weather of the summer months and are often in perfect shape.

mat on every shot," Cox said. Fall is also a great time price-wise. Many courses in San Diego raise rates for the summer months, but prices come down once fall hits, often coming down to the same as winter rates.

Several resorts offer packages where guests get deals on hotel stays and tee times. The Fairmont Grand Del Mar has a Canyon to Coast package that offers two nights, two rounds of golf at The Grand Club and access to tee times at Torrey Pines. Rates



Photo shows golfers at Borrego Springs Resort Golf Course in San Diego.

Many of the courses will over seed with rye grass sometime during the fall, which leads to wet conditions for a short while, but the courses round into shape quickly and again are in perfect condition. "The courses have had the whole summer with the nice weather, the Bermuda has popped, the tee boxes, the fairways, the chipping around the greens, it's almost like hitting off a driving range

start at \$525 per night with a two-night minimum. La Costa has a Stay and Play package that includes three nights, one round at each of its two courses and daily breakfast for around \$1,500 for the entire stay. Wherever you go, there's a deal to be had and great weather to go with it. — AP



Copper figures of the Danish artist Jens Galschiot for the project "Mit Sicherheit gut ankommen" (lit. "Arrive well with guaranty") are placed on board of the former refugee boat "Al-had-j Djumaa" at the river Elbe in Dresden, eastern Germany, yesterday. The 80 figures are supposed to represent refugees. — AP

Griot uses stories to inspire youth and preserve culture 'It's my passion, it's my mission'

Sitting in the bright living room area of the Perkins Center for the Arts in Moorestown, Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul-Malik's face lights up and her eyes dance around when she talks about storytelling and her artistry. Abdul-Malik is an international storyteller and teaching artist. She travels around the country and sometimes around the world telling stories. She's been to Canada and Ghana on storytelling trips, and does about 170 storytelling appearances and events each year.

"It's my passion, it's my mission," said Abdul-Malik, who has performed in 38 states. "The one thing that I don't have to think about is what my purpose is. Between the storytelling and tradition keeping and helping people to understand the value of their tradition. "And even in tradition keeping, even in folklore and folk arts, how does that come to be known? Through story. The story has to be told and the story has to be passed on," she told the Courier-Post of Cherry Hill.

The longtime Willingboro resident is also the director of the Folklife Center for Perkins Center for the Arts, which has locations in Moorestown and Collingswood. She's had that part-time position since November but has worked with Perkins as a teaching artist for about two decades. "I've been an artist since I was 9 years old," the 59-year-old said. "My father used to record me - I used to write poetry - and he used to record me to jazz. So my father was my first producer, so I've been an artist, I guess, all of my life.

'I think I can do it by heart'

"Even in high school, I used to recite poetry. Between that, between being an artist. And my father steeped us in black history and the precedence of always looking for the African precedent. When we did reports, and I went to Catholic school, when we did reports I always had to research on African Americans and some part of our history." Those combinations of passions led her to her life's work. While she's lived in Willingboro for about 30 years, Abdul-Malik is a Philadelphia native. Her family moved to the Pennsylvania suburbs when she was 9. She attended Abington High School, then graduated from Northeastern University in Boston with a degree in criminal justice.

She selected her major, because she believed she wanted to work with juveniles. She has, just in a different way. "It ends up that this gift is the way that I deal with children," said Abdul-Malik, who received a certificate in dispute resolution from Harvard Law School. "I've been able to work with children that are challenged. I've been able to do that through storytelling, through my work and through workshoping." It was at Northeastern that she met her husband Karl Abdul-Malik. When he passed away in 1992 after a collision with a truck while on the job as a juvenile detention officer, Abdul-Malik was left with three children, ages 2, 5 and 10. She became a professional storyteller after her husband passed. One of her children was in preschool and she went to teach them about Kwanzaa. "I said one of the things you do is tell stories and share stories and I shared one of my husband's favorite stories, 'Abiyoyo,'" said Abdul-Malik, the founder of Willingboro Kwanzaa Fest. "They asked me to come back the next day. They couldn't find the book. I said, 'I think I can do it by heart.' I then went to my son's kindergarten class and told it there. Two kindergarten teachers said, 'You really ought to do this as a profession.' The rest is history.

Abdul-Malik, who performs under the moniker Queen Nur, has shared her stories at such places as the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the Equity Theater on Broadway in New York to just about everywhere in between. She has been the recipient of Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation's Artist as Catalyst grant for her work with at-risk teens and women's shelters. She also received the National Storytelling Brimstone Grant for her innovative community-based programs.

Love my culture

Abdul-Malik has even released two CDs, "Sweet Potato Pie and Such" and "Live and Storified." Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul-Malik displays one of the dolls inside the Dolls of Distinction Exhibition at the Smithville Mansion in Eastampton, NJ. — AP



Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul-Malik adjusts the hat atop a Mary McLeod Bethune doll inside the "Dolls of Distinction" exhibition at the Smithville Mansion in Eastampton, NJ. — AP

Distinction Exhibition at the Smithville Mansion in Eastampton recently. Queen Nur is a storyteller and teaching artist, who resides in Willingboro. She is also the director of the Folklife Center at Perkins Center for the Arts.

Her children, daughter Coniqua, 35, son Nile, 30, and daughter Sarai, 27, have blossomed. Her eldest works with nonprofits, her son is in the Army and her youngest is an artist and singer, who has done storytelling with her mother. Both of her daughters are mothers. "Being a single mother of three was probably extremely difficult for my mother," Nile said. "Through her stories also comes life lessons. I was exposed to other storytellers who became extended family. I was coached and mentored about struggles and challenges I might face when growing up and also to be proud and to love my culture. I'm very proud of what my mom accomplished in her career."

"Raising my children is part of my story," said Abdul-Malik, who also has four grandchildren. The international storyteller and Willingboro resident performed at an event called BYO-Bra held at Perkins Center for the Arts. The night benefited a local nonprofit called Distributing Dignity. The Courier-Post and Perkins helped put the event on. Celeste E. Whittaker/Staff Photographer She practices the African tradition of "Jaliya" in her storytelling, which she

says is about passing on the stories, but also passing on the morals and values, telling a story with a need and telling stories that effect change.

She performed several years in a row at a camp in Maryland for children whose family members died from suicide. That's an example of Jaliya, she said. Another example of Jaliya with her storytelling, she said, occurred soon after Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans in 2005. She had performed at 72 schools in New Orleans two years before and was scheduled to go back in 2005, but the deadly hurricane hit. She was performing at a conference in Miami a few months after the tragedy and worked with a drummer from New Orleans. He shared video with her of people telling their stories and he told her his story,

Abdul-Malik said she loves being the director of the Folklife Center, which has been "identifying and documenting cultural traditions in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties for the past several years."

"What we do is we look at the folk arts and the folk artists," said Abdul-Malik, who received her masters in arts in cultural sustainability for Goucher College. "One of the first things we do is field work. I go and find the folk artists, who make traditional arts and it might've been passed down through generations, locating them." Abdul-Malik has been doing research and field work for the next exhibition by the Folklife Center next year called "Tastefully South Jersey" which is on food arts and folklore on the arts of food.



Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul-Malik displays a doll inside the "Dolls of Distinction" exhibition.

and then she heard other stories.

"I put those stories together and I started by doing some research on levees," she said. "And I started with the men working on the levees, then went into telling the stories. It was riveting in terms of, you could see the response. The audience was tearful and crying but then they stood up. It touched the hearts. It was so fresh. This is in November and that happened in August. That's Jaliya. "Storytelling can be a healing art. Besides being a performing art and carrying on family tradition, it helps to heal. And right now, Jaliya, the stories that we need to tell and share as well has to do with the healing that needs to be going on right here in the United States."

Cultural sustainability organization

Abdul-Malik never sits still but her pursuits are all tied together with one theme. She also has a nonprofit called In FACT, Inc, which is a "cultural sustainability organization" whose mission is to "preserve and perpetuate folk like traditions and use those traditions to sustain communities and effect social change." Her nonprofit is presenting a "Dolls of Distinction" exhibition through Sept. 17 at the Worker's House & Gallery at the Smithville Mansion in Eastampton, featuring hundreds of black collectible dolls.

Perkins Center for the Arts Executive Director Karen Chigounis said they are fortunate to have her on staff as the director of the Folklife programs. "Queen Nur has been a critical part of Perkins Center for the Arts education outreach for nearly 20 years," Chigounis said. "As a nationally recognized storyteller her ability to connect individuals and communities with story and performance has been magical to experience. Her graduate work (and degree) in cultural sustainability has deepened her capacity to address diversity and difference through her art form, engaging hearts and opening minds in the process."

At the National Storytelling Network conference June 29-July 2 in Kansas City, Missouri, Abdul-Malik taught an all-day Master Class to storytellers from all over the world called "Everybody Comes From Somewhere: Designing Storytelling & Civic Engagement Residencies." She said "Everybody Comes From Somewhere" is a Perkins Center for the Arts Folk Arts & Civic Engagement model. "The breadth of fieldwork and activities of the Folklife Center helps us recognize and celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of the tri-county area," Abdul-Malik said. — AP