

India Property Mela 2015 exhibition



US troops in Syria will only fight IS: Kerry



Publisher of secular books hacked to death in Dhaka



Halloween horror show for Mourinho



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224 PERISH AS RUSSIAN PLANE CRASHES IN SINAI

IS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY, RUSSIA SAYS UNTRUE • 2 AIRLINES SUSPEND FLIGHTS



Min 20°
Max 38°
High Tide 01:45 & 15:59
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SINAI: (Right) Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail (3rd-R) and Egypt's Defense Minister Sedki Sobhi (4th-R) at the site of the wreckage of the crashed A321 Russian airliner in Hassana area of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. (Top left) Egyptian ambulances carrying the corpses of Russian victims and (above left) relatives of the crash victims react at Pulkovo international airport at Saint Petersburg yesterday.—AFP

ISMAILIA/CAIRO: A Russian airliner carrying 224 passengers crashed into a mountainous area of Egypt's Sinai peninsula yesterday shortly after losing radar contact near cruising altitude, killing all aboard. A militant group affiliated to Islamic State in Egypt, Sinai Province, said in a statement it had brought down the plane "in response to Russian airstrikes that killed hundreds of Muslims on Syrian land", but Russia's Transport Minister told Interfax news agency the claim "can't be considered accurate".

The Airbus A321, operated by Russian airline Kogalymavia under the brand name Metrojet, was flying from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to St Petersburg in Russia when it went down in central Sinai soon after daybreak, the aviation ministry said.

"I now see a tragic scene," an Egyptian security officer at the site told Reuters by telephone. "A lot of dead on the ground and many who died whilst strapped to their seats."

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HH AMIR SENDS CONDOLENCES

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to the Russian President Vladimir Putin over the death of Russian citizens who were onboard a Russian airliner that crashed in Sinai, Egypt.

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KD 300 FOR VISA TRANSFER FROM GOVT TO PRIVATE

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh recently issued two ministerial decisions pertaining to the transfer of work permits of laborers who wish to transfer their visas from the government sector to the private sector projects to work for the private sector as well as transfers within the private sector itself.

In this regard, Manpower authority director Ahmed Al-Moussa explained that the first decision allows an employer to transfer work permits of a laborer who works for him under a government contract to private sector if he has completed the project in return for a KD 300 fee per laborer.

Al-Moussa added that once transferred to the private sector, laborers would not be transferred back to government contracts unless decided otherwise by a supreme disputes committee and after paying a KD 300 fee per laborer. Al-Moussa said that the second decision allows an employee to transfer a laborer's work permit to work for him with exemption from the service duration condition and in return for a KD 300 fee per laborer, provided the original owner approves the transfer. — Al-Anbaa

ROMANIA CLUB BLAZE KILLS 27

CAMPAGNING WRAPS UP FOR TURKEY VOTE

ISTANBUL: Turkish politicians hold their final campaign rallies yesterday for a vote many fear is unlikely to bring an end to months of instability as the country confronts bloody jihadist attacks and a renewed Kurdish conflict. Opinion polls are predicting a replay today of the shock June election which stripped the Justice and Development Party (AKP) of its majority after 13 years of single-party rule, leaving the country without a government after coalition talks failed.

Turkey goes into the election more polarized than ever on ethnic and sectarian lines, and deeply on edge after the October 10 bombings in Ankara that killed 102 people, the worst in the country's modern history. The AKP of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is tipped to win between 40 and 43 percent of the vote, paving the way either for a shaky coalition that many analysts say will not last long or yet another election.

"Sunday's vote will have existential importance on the future of Turkey," said Yusuf Kanli, a commentator at Hurriyet Daily News. Another inconclusive result could trigger further turmoil in the Muslim-majority country, with fears of a return to all-out war between Turkish security forces and Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) rebels after renewed violence shattered a truce in July.

Continued on Page 13

BUCHAREST: Romania was plunged into mourning yesterday after 27 people were killed and nearly 200 injured when a fire ripped through an underground nightclub in Bucharest. Survivors spoke of the horror that unfolded when fireworks-set off during a pre-Halloween gig by a heavy metal band-unleashed a blaze, followed by a stampede as terrified clubbers sought the exit.

As the government declared three days of national mourning Prime Minister Victor Ponta said foreigners were among the injured, including two Spanish people, an Italian and a German, authorities said.

President Klaus Iohannis said there were indications that safety regulations had been ignored at the club, and called for a swift investigation.

"I am saddened, but also revolted that a tragedy of this scale could have taken place in Bucharest," Iohannis said. "It is unimaginable that there could have been so many people in such a (small) space and that the tragedy happened so quickly because simple rules were ignored," he added after visiting the scene. "I hope that the authorities manage their inquiry with speed and rigor."

Continued on Page 13



BUCHAREST: People light candles at a memorial makeshift outside the nightclub Colectiv in Bucharest yesterday a day after a fire broke out. — AFP



KUWAIT: A magnificent rainbow appeared over Kuwait skyline yesterday after three days of sporadic rains and lightning signaling the advent of a soothing winter. — KUNA

RAINS CONTINUE TO LASH KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior urged motorists to be cautious due to heavy rains. In a press statement yesterday, the ministry's department of public relations advised the public to use hotline (112) in case of emergency.

Meanwhile, emergency teams from the Ministry of Public Works are deployed in all six governorates to deal with urgent incidents that may be caused by rain fall and unstable weather conditions, ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Abdulmohsen Al-Enezi, also Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development, told KUNA in a statement the ministry was coordinating with the Ministry of Interior, Civil Defense Department and Meteorological department to deal with any emergency case. He said the emergency teams were monitoring the situation in the streets.

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RUSSIA RISKS SYRIAN QUAGMIRE: US

MANAMA: Moscow's intervention in the Syrian conflict will have the unintended consequences of drawing Russia into a quagmire and alienating Sunni Muslims across the region, US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday. Russia began air strikes a month ago, changing the balance of forces in the war in favor of President Bashar Al-Assad and against rebel groups that include both jihadists and non-militants backed by the West, Turkey and Gulf countries.

"The quagmire will spread and deepen, drawing Russia further in. Russia will be seen as being in league with Assad, Hezbollah, Iran, alienating millions of Sunnis in Syria, the region and indeed in Russia itself," Blinken told the Manama Dialogue regional security conference in Bahrain.

Syria's civil war has aggravated sectarian tensions in the region, with Iran, Lebanon's Hezbollah militia and some Iraqi militias, all Shiite Muslim, backing Assad against rebel groups that are overwhelmingly Sunni. "One month has passed since the Russian occupa-



US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken

tion. More than 1,400 are killed, all civilians, in parts of Syria. And these are areas which are outside the control of Daesh," Syrian opposition leader Khaled Khoja said in Manama, using an Arabic name for Islamic State.

Talks in Vienna on Friday provided the first occasion on which Saudi Arabia and Iran, the region's two main backers of opposing forces in Syria, put aside their bitter rivalry to discuss the possibility of a peaceful solution. British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond

said it had been a "remarkable achievement" to get the two countries to sit and talk, but Saudi Arabia said Russia and Iran had to agree on when and how Assad and foreign forces backing him should quit Syria.

"For us without al-Assad's departure, there is no solution for the Syrian problems," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir told Reuters. Asked by reporters when that should take place, he replied: "He should leave this afternoon. The sooner the better."

He added that Riyadh was meanwhile considering intensifying support to moderate Syrian rebels by providing them with "more lethal weapons", but gave no further details. Blinken said Washington was adding \$100 million in support to the Syrian opposition for basic services such as schooling, raising its total infusion to \$500 million.

Blinken said there was a shared objective with Russia in defeating Islamic State, but it was important to get away from the idea that the only choice in Syria was between the ultra-hardline militant group and Assad.

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FRENCH ENVOY ON CLIMATE CHANGE HOPEFUL ON COP21

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The French Embassy in Kuwait held a press conference at its premises on Thursday to discuss the future global agreement on climate change, which will be held in Paris later this year. The 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) will be held in Paris from November 30 to December 11, 2015.

French Special Envoy for Africa and Middle East on climate change, Ambassador Stephane Gompertz is in Kuwait for this purpose, and this visit came one week after the visit of Kuwait Prime Minister to France. "Kuwait and France proposed the transition for all countries towards a greenhouse gases neutral development model by the end of the century, and a long term goal of 100% clean energy. The diversification of oil and gas producing countries will be progressive, but the direction is set, and investment in energy transition are more concrete and numerous," stressed Gompertz during the conference.

"The Paris Climate 2015 Conference is crucial because it must result in an international climate agreement that represents a tipping point - and sends a clear signal on the transition towards resilient and low

GHG emitting societies," he explained. For this, France envisions four components: "Firstly, an ambitious, durable, dynamic, and binding agreement on climate change that will be applicable to all; Secondly, a first set of intended national determined contributions (INDC) representing the efforts that each country feels able to make - by 2025 or 2030. Thirdly, a broad climate finance and means of implementation mobilization, and finally the reinforcement of initiatives under the "Lima-Paris Action Agenda", demonstrating the commitment of non-state actors to reaching a new and ambitious legal agreement in 2015," stated Gompertz.

As incoming president of COP21, France has a particular responsibility and undertakes to support negotiations. This involves taking into account the positions of the 196 parties to the climate Convention placed on an equal footing, bringing viewpoints closer and enabling the unanimous adoption of an agreement, and the formation of a real "Paris Alliance". "I'm here to explain what we expect of the Conference. Success is the key to what we aim to achieve. Successful stories may be an example for other countries to apply.

Ambassador Stephane Gompertz also met the Minister of Oil Ali Al-Omir. He



KUWAIT: French Special Envoy for Africa and Middle East on climate change, Ambassador Stephane Gompertz seen during a press conference on Thursday.

— Photo by Joseph Shagra

held talks with the Deputy Director General of Kuwait Environment Public Authority, Dr Mohammad Al-Ahmad; the Director General of KISR Dr Naji Al-Mutairi as well as several representatives of Kuwaiti civil society and private sector. Discussions

mostly focused on the preparation of the COP21 - the United Nations Climate Change conference that will be held in Paris under the presidency of France (November 30th - December 11th), and the Kuwaiti national contribution (INDC).

News

In brief

Don't camp close to military, oil facilities

KUWAIT: Citizens and residents should not set up camps near military or oil facilities, nor near transmission towers or highways, Ministry of Interior warned yesterday. It also advised not to camp near cordoned off areas for their safety and for avoiding any legal prosecution. Mobile convenience stores should obtain legal permits or they will face legal responsibilities, it added.

111 officials have failed to disclose their assets

KUWAIT: Up to 111 officials have failed to disclose their financial assets as scheduled or have abstained from making the disclosure, Chief of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Saleh Al-Namash said yesterday. These cases have been examined closely and referred to the competent investigative authorities, namely the public investigations authority, to take legal action against the non-abiding officials, Judge Al-Namash said yesterday.



Chief of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Saleh Al-Namash

Moreover, the authority has taken legal procedures, as stipulated by the relevant laws, against those who disclosed their assets late or those who have not done so at all. He advised all persons, subject to the assets' disclosure regulations, to abide by the timetables to spare themselves punitive action. These persons can get help from the authority either via the internet, the phone hotline or by visiting its headquarters.

Indonesia lauds bilateral ties with State of Kuwait

KUALA LUMPUR: Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla has lauded bilateral ties and common cooperation with Kuwait, especially in oil and gas fields. This remark was made during a meeting with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Indonesia Nasser Al-Enezi, as the latter is ending his tenure. Kalla expressed his appreciation to Kuwait's assistance when his country was devastated by natural disasters. On his part, the Kuwaiti envoy expressed appreciation to the Indonesian government for making his stay as easy as possible. Al-Enezi extended a verbal invitation to Kalla to visit Kuwait. Furthermore, the diplomat pointed out that Kuwait is looking forward to more cooperation in all fields with Indonesia.

Separating qualitative and private education

KUWAIT: There are plans to separate between qualitative and private education to allow improvements in the educational process in Kuwait, said Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Issa yesterday. Dr Al-Issa said that part of the problem was the lack of specialized educational staff, adding that finding teachers capable of using new methods to transmit knowledge to students was an important factor for the success of any development plan. The ministry is willing to learn and exchange expertise on qualitative learning with non-profit organizations' schools as part of its comprehensive development plan, said Dr Al-Issa.



Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Issa

On the ministry's recent efforts to develop education in Kuwait, the minister said that some 1,000 teachers were trained to use tablet devices for educating students, revealing that some 80,000 devices will be distributed soon to a number of intermediate schools. Back in April, the ministry and the World Bank had signed a KD 16 million four-year deal to develop the educational curriculum in Kuwait, said the minister, adding that the ministry of education's current budget of KD 1.6 billion required a boost to ensure the success of plans for development.

KUWAIT, ITALY MILITARY DISCUSS ROLE OF AIR FORCE IN HUMANITARIAN WORK



Kuwait's Military Attache in Italy Captain Bashar Abdul-Redha visits Kuwait's pavilion at the Expo Milano 2015. —KUNA

MILAN: Kuwait's Military Attache in Italy Captain Bashar Abdul-Redha reviewed with an Italian military delegation visiting Kuwait's pavilion at the Expo Milano 2015 yesterday the role Kuwaiti armed forces can play in humanitarian work. The delegation, headed by Col Salvatore Trincone, discussed with the Kuwaiti attache and Kuwaiti ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah the means of boosting bilateral military cooperation. In a statement to KUNA, Captain Abdul-Redha said he discussed with the delegation



Kuwait's ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah

"the role the Kuwait's Air Force can play in bolstering Kuwait's position as a center for humanitarian work through airlifting relief aid to areas struck by natural disasters or wars." They also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in training Kuwaiti Air Force officers in Italy. He made note of the fact that the delegation was impressed with the Kuwaiti pavilion at the Expo.

Scientific research applauded

Expo Milano 2015 and the Kuwaiti pavilion in it have demonstrated the importance of education and scientific research in the wise usage of natural resources for sustained development, said a Kuwaiti official. Attending a forum on the value of research and technology and of harnessing the creative abilities of the youth in that regard, Kuwait's ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah told KUNA the forum addressed the strong relation between scientific research and creativity and their broad applications in contemporary living. This relation could very well be augmented through increasing partnerships between private sector technology-based companies and universities and science institutes and research labs, he said.

Kuwait's presence unique

Kuwait's unique participation in the Expo Milano 2015 has positively impacted bilateral relations with Italy, and contributed to the success of the event, Expo Commissioner General Bruno Antonio Pasquino has said. The six-month global exhibition was opened on 1 May, with 145 countries taking part. Through the Expo, Kuwait sought to convey two significant messages, the first to Italy, the organizer country, with the attendance and visits by senior officials, which implied keenness on boosting ties, Pasquino told KUNA on Friday, one day before the Expo closes down.

He highlighted the great effect of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the Expo, accompanied by a senior delegation. His Highness the Premier's official visit to Italy last September added a special dimension to bilateral relations on all levels, he noted. Kuwait's second message, Pasquino said, was directed to the Expo itself. The country's distinguished pavilion has attracted a lot of visitors and media figures, through an innovative design and content, besides a variety of activities through the six months, he said.

In this regard, Pasquino referred to the initiatives launched at the pavilion, culminated with celebrations marking Kuwait's National Day, which focused on the country's achievements in "challenging nature." In addition, Kuwait has been eager to attend, with high profile delegations, the international initiatives and conferences on topics related to the Expo's core theme, namely "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life." The common thread ran through all the events organized both within and outside the official Exhibition Site.

Such events were topped with celebrations of the 2015 World Food Day, which concentrated on the Zero Hunger Generation, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Apart from the Expo, the Kuwaiti-Italian ties are "excellent on all levels", and bilateral cooperation covers many thorny issues like fighting terrorism and regional stability. "Kuwait does a lot" in this regard, Pasquino said.

In the meantime, Kuwait's participation in the Expo offered a chance for Italian companies seeking to boost cooperation with the country. The Expo Commissioner lauded cooperation between officials of the Italian pavilion and their counterparts in Kuwait, topped with Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Tariq Al-Mizram and Kuwait's Commissioner General Faisal Al-Mutalaqim and Director of the pavilion Mazen Al-Ansari. Pasquino concluded his interview with KUNA expressing confidence in the success of the next Expo in Dubai 2020. —Agencies

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FIVE-MEMBER GANG BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A five-member gang who specialized in stealing electricity generators from farms, ranches and camps was recently arrested. Security said that scores of generators were also found in their possession.

Kuwaiti boy killed

A 14-year-old Kuwaiti was instantly killed and three of his relatives were injured when their vehicle flipped over along Wafra highway. In another development, a vehicle caught fire at Salmiya cooperative parking lot. Security sources said that the fire destroyed the entire vehicle. No casualties were reported.

House fire

Fire broke out in a Saad Al-Abdullah house, said security sources, noting that the fire had started from a short electric circuit. The power was later disconnected to fight the flames after evacuating the residents from the house. No casualties were reported.

Trapped in elevator

A number of citizens were trapped recently inside an elevator when it developed a fault in Jaber Al-Ali area. Firemen rushed to the scene and managed to rescue the trapped people.

Bags of hashish

A citizen recently reported that a fisherman working for him had 'fished' out two bags of hashish while fishing near Kubbar Island.

HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF KUWAIT POLICY

NEW YORK: Diplomatic Attache of Kuwait's permanent mission to UN Alyaa Abdullah Al-Muzaini said Friday that Kuwait policy prioritizes protection of human rights due to belief in the interrelation between this issue and sustainable development. The Kuwaiti constitution and related legislations ensure the highest degree of protection to human rights, she said in a speech to the 70th session of the UN General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural). The State seeks to deepen awareness about the values and culture of human rights through programs in the various stages of education, Al-Muzaini affirmed.

positive impact of human rights on life, individual and collective; this is why the country joined the relevant international conventions, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In keeping with the UNGA Resolution 48/134 (on the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights), Kuwait has recently approved launching "the national human rights diwan" to serve as an official

human rights watchdog, she went on. The diwan will work for promoting awareness about, and respect for, civil liberties and rights pursuant to the provisions of the constitution and the local and international legal instruments.

It will coordinate the national efforts meant to protect human rights with a view to keeping abreast with the developments on the local and international scales, Al-Mezzeini revealed. She noted that the State of Kuwait made great efforts to implement the undertakings stated in its second national report to the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review in last January. The Kuwaiti envoy reaffirmed her country's commitment to promote the culture of human rights and cooperate with the competent UN agencies in order to guarantee better life for humanity. —KUNA



Diplomatic Attache of Kuwait's permanent mission to UN Alyaa Abdullah Al-Muzaini

firm her country's commitment to promote the culture of human rights and cooperate with the competent UN agencies in order to guarantee better life for humanity. —KUNA

Local Spotlight

ELECTRONIC MEDIA ... AGAIN?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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There is a revolving controversy in Kuwait these days between a number of journalists, writers, activists and the Kuwaiti government on the Electronic Media Law. It seems that the government is trying to pass the law this time through the current parliament. I think the government believes that the timing is very appropriate. Some fear this law would target the freedom of expression.

This issue is very sensitive because Kuwait Constitution has safeguarded the freedom of expression for individuals. It is an issue worth talking about. I am trying to understand the government's position which was summed up by the Information Minister - saying, "We presented a discretionary work to the National Assembly, and it is now up for review by the Legislative Authority - taking into account on what supports the freedoms and the preservation of the Constitution and the general principles."

Yes, this is true. Therefore, it is now the role of National Assembly, journalists, media professionals and voters to make a clear stand. So far, I have not listened to the real opponents, but there are objections and worries - and I don't think these worries can prevent the bill from getting approved. It is necessary to distinguish between the electronic media and press media in order to determine what is the exact defini-

tion of electronic press here. I think that regulating and organizing the media work even by a law is normal and should not be a controversial issue.

It is similar to the existence of traffic laws for the safety of the drivers, but the problem here is that currently, the country is being exposed to difficult regional situations. Although the government is convinced that the timing of the bill is right - especially in the case of compatibility and harmony with the current National Assembly, I would wish if only they waited, especially in the presence of several existing laws such as the Law of electronic crime.

The Law consists of 99 articles. It is divided into three sections - linked to the ways and means of the establishment of newspapers and how to determine the qualifications and privileges. I also think a writer should be the watchman on himself and be held accountable for sinful and offensive articles. The law will only add extra pressure.

There is a need for more discussion by various sectors of the society - the academics, technicians, writers and activists to listen to their views on the bill. Kuwait government is aware that it cannot approve a law that may jeopardize or violate the constitutional principles that ensure freedom of opinion and criticism. I hope to hear more from our MPs - stating their views clearly on this.

INFORMATION MINISTER CALLS FOR ESTABLISHING TOURISM AUTHORITY

KUWAIT: Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs and the Supreme Tourism Committee Chairman Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah has called for establishing a tourism authority for managing the sector's diverse activities including cultural and entertainment programs. Minister Sheikh Salman affirmed, during a meeting of the commission, keenness on overhauling the sector with aim of making it one of the national income sources, as part of the state revenues' diversifying policy, according to a ministry statement released yesterday.



Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

This sector is envisioned as one of the Kuwaiti economy foundations, considering its high proceeds and political, economic and social benefits, Minister Sheikh Salman said, noting the private sector should be included in such a process; backed by the government with the necessary legislations. The supreme commission, which groups talented citizens, is capable of activating such a strategy for the Kuwaiti tourism, he said, noting the need for in-depth studies, upgrading the infrastructure, diversifying the programs and allocating more lands for new projects.

He also called for training national cadres, particularly the young nationals, in the process to develop the field. Expansion of Kuwait International Airport to reach an accommodation capacity of 25 million passengers per year, warrants expansion of the services and tourism projects, "which in turn should lure many young Kuwaitis thus creating new work opportunities for them," the minister said. The meeting was held after the tourism portfolio was shifted from the Ministry of Commerce to the Information Ministry. —KUNA

COMMERCE MINISTRY FOLLOWING UP WORLD BANK BUSINESS REPORT

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousif Al-Ali has said that they are closely following up the results of recently issued World Bank Group report on Doing Business for 2016. Kuwait registered a relative increase in the distance to frontier (DTF) according to the report from 59.77 in 2015 to 60.17 in 2016. Despite the relative enhancement in this component, the World Bank Group registered a slight decrease in Kuwait's overall ranking from 100 in 2015 to 101 in 2016 report. In a statement yesterday, the Minister stressed the necessity of coordinating efforts by all the ministry's bodies and affiliated institutions and authorities to carry on with steps to streamline measures and reduce the duration of procedure to boost the investment environment in Kuwait. Despite signals by the report on slow procedures for founding companies, actual practice has revealed that efforts led by the ministry and the Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) to attract more investments have been fruitful, the minister said. For instance, KDIPA has issued licenses for a number of leading world companies that have already embarked on business in Kuwait, which entails creating new jobs and training opportunities for Kuwaitis as well as varying sources of income, Al-Ali noted.



Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousif Al-Ali

He cited a report by the US State Department on improvement of business and investment environment in Kuwait. Earlier this year, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) -Inter-governmental body developing and promoting policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing- noted that Kuwait, had made significant progress in improving its system in both fields and "will therefore no longer be subject to the FATF's monitoring process." Al-Ali underlined the role by the KDIPA to achieve goals of law 116/2013, namely encouraging direct investments, in a bid to turn Kuwait into a regional financial and trade hub. —KUNA



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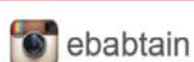
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KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador in Kuwait Sunil Jain (second left) chats with Kuwait Times Editor-In-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan as Kuwait Times Advertising Manager Taleb Kanjo and other top executives look on during the 'India Property Mela 2015' exhibition at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

India Property Mela 2015 exhibition

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times in association with Aashiaana, a leading property portal in Kuwait held the 2nd day of 'India Property Mela 2015' exhibition at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The exhibition allowed visitors to meet and interact with some of the top Indian builders and real-estate developers, giving them the singular opportunity to gain first-hand information on ongoing and upcoming real estate projects across India.

Hundreds of projects, ranging from affordable apartments to luxury villas from some of India's top developers including; Lodha, Kanakia, Mahindra Lifespaces, Hubtown, Vaishnavi, Propshell, KoltePatil, Nahar's and Supertech are on offer at the Property Mela. Developers are highlighting their properties in cities such as Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Gurgaon, Noida, Goa, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai, among other places.

Starck, Jade Jagger, Greg Norman and Pei Cobb Freed to India. The Group has recorded the biggest land deal in India - buying a plot for INR 4,053 Cr from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) in 2010, where it is developing New Cuffe Parade. Lodha is offering reasonable prices for world-class AC residences - starting from \$64,000. It also offers an easy buy special.

On his part, the Senior Manager of Kanakia, Sanju Cherian said that Kanakia Group has developed and successfully delivered over 13 Million Sq. Ft of commercial, residential, entertainment, education and industrial spaces. He added that as an NRI, there couldn't be a better time to invest in India. Kanakia is not only in India but also in Paris - the beautiful city. "Kanakia - with its penchant for 'Perfection' in all it does has earned a distinct reputation as one of India's premium developer and is rated as one of the top 10 Real Estate development brands with



Yashwardhan Jain, the Deputy Manager of Lodha, told Kuwait Times that Lodha group has been participating in such exhibitions in Kuwait and other countries for 35 years, to offer the best property with India's No 1 real estate developer. The Lodha Group has several landmark developments to its credit including World One - the world's tallest residential tower and Palava City - the largest private development in the world.

The group has brought some of the top global names including Armani/Casa, Trump, Philip

over 28 years of experience in the real estate domain," he said.

With real-estate investment once again on the rise, the Indian Property Mela is an ideal venue for Non-Resident Indians (NRI) in the country to explore the potential of buying properties or making investments in this highly rewarding sector. However, before venturing into any real-estate investment, there are few things that NRIs should be aware of. The buyer or investor should understand and outline the basic objective of

buying the property. This will give them leverage provisions in the Indian Foreign Exchange Management Act and in the Income-tax Act to their benefit.

Foreign Exchange Management Act

According to this Act, an NRI enjoys almost all the privileges which are enjoyed by a resident Indian with reference to purchase of immovable property in India. This Act states that an Indian citizen who resides outside India is permitted to acquire any immovable property in India, other than agricultural/plantation property or a farm house. NRIs can invest in a residential property for their use. This property can be in the form of ownership flat or a piece of land. In both situations, recent liberalized rules by the Reserve Bank of India, taking a loan to buy the property could prove to be the best strategy.

NRIs can also invest in a residential or commercial property with the objective of receiving a regular flow of rental income. The provisions of taxing rental income are simple, easy and investor-friendly. Broadly speaking, from the rental income derived by a NRI, deductions are available in respect of actual payment of house tax. These deductions are permissible irrespective of whether or not you spend on repairs. Another important feature of taxation relates to complete deduction without any limit to interest paid by the NRI for purchase of property which is given on rent. That is, the entire interest payment for purchase of property which is given on rent is allowed as a deduction from the rental income.

Tax saver formula

It is strongly recommended that NRIs do not sell their property at least within three years of purchase. In case the property is sold before the completion of three years, it is liable to tax and is to be added with other income of the NRI. If sold later, then this clause does not apply. Also, within the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, it is possible for a Non-Resident Indian to repatriate the rental income received from investment.

Income-tax compliances

Whenever a NRI invests in an immovable property; it is advised to obtain a Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card so that if the NRI has certain income by way of rental income from India, then it is easy for him to make tax compliances. - **Reverse Mortgage Benefit for NRIs:** The concept of reverse mortgage is very popular in India. Today's senior citizens in particular are taking advantage of reverse mortgage in respect of the real estate owned by them in India. The amount taken from the bank consequent to reverse mortgage is not added to the income of a NRI and is not taxable. Thus, in old age this could prove to be beneficial. Real estate investment might be a difficult decision to make; however, if made wisely, it could prove to be a highly rewarding one. An ideal opportunity to explore the potential of this lucrative sector is to visit the ongoing Indian Property Mela 2015.





KUWAIT: Children participate in the Breast Cancer awareness campaign. — KUNA

KFAED, LEBANON INK \$30 MILLION DEAL FOR REFUGEES

IIOC PROVIDES THOUSANDS OF SEWING MACHINES

BEIRUT: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) have signed a donation accord worth \$30 million to finance projects supporting Syrian refugees and the hosting communities in Lebanon. CDR chairman Nabil Al-Jisr signed the agreement with KFAED's economic advisor Tareq Al-Munayes, at the CDR's headquarters in Beirut.

Talking to KUNA on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Al-Jisr expressed gratitude to the State of Kuwait "that always hurries to help Lebanon." This is the second donation Kuwait offers for the Syrian refugees and the hosting Lebanese areas he said. According to Al-Jisr, the refugees' problem has been affecting the infrastructure and municipal services in these areas. No doubt, the new donation will help alleviate suffering of both guests and hosts, he noted. Final signing of the agreement will take place soon, to give the green light to implementing projects that are ready, he said.

For his part, KFAED's Al-Munayes said that the donation would be employed to finance 13 projects, one of them to cover municipalities and another for health centers. Two days earlier, a KFAED delegation visited the Lebanese Social Affairs Minister Rashid Derbas who reviewed with them the projects to be financed

by the Kuwaiti donation. The donation is part of Kuwait's pledge during the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, the country hosted last month, to offer \$500 million. \$100 million from this will come from the KFAED to five Syria neighboring countries. Lebanon's share is \$30 million.

IIOC provides sewing machines

Meanwhile, International Islamic Charitable Organization (IIOC) distributed thousands of sewing machines to female Syrian refugees in Sidon, Lebanon, to help them start their own small businesses. The sewing machines were handed out to the ladies at social service centers in the town in the presence of Kuwaiti Embassy representative Mohammad Al-Khaldi. "Wafa" Charity Association and Danish Refugees Council help with the distribution as well. The Kuwaiti diplomat told KUNA that providing sewing machines to Syrian ladies is a way to help them provide for their families by starting their own small businesses. Al-Khaldi lauded IIOC, Kuwaiti Embassy and other NGOs in helping with this project and giving humanitarian assistance to whom they need it. The number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon has passed the 1.1 million mark, more than 70 percent of them are living in poverty. — Agencies

KUWAIT REITERATES CALLS FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REFORMS

NEW YORK: Kuwait late Friday reiterated calls for reforms at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as part of a much needed overhauling of the United Nations' structures. Delivering a speech on behalf of the Arab group, Kuwait's permanent envoy to the UN headquarters in New York, Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi said that part of the reforms should include fair representation at the UNSC - a much needed step which is still under consideration since talks on the matter began 20 years ago. It

is important to find new mechanisms to expand membership at the council, said Ambassador Al-Otaibi, adding that the UNSC should address regional and international challenges more fairly.

Change within the boundaries of the UN General Assembly, currently at its 70th meeting, is the only way to achieve these reforms, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. He said that a number of UNSC's permanent members abused their right to use veto, leading to the decrease of credibility of this UN institute. Ambassador Al-Otaibi noted that now it was time to take some necessary measures to ensure that the council will do what is supposed to be doing "overseeing and preserving world peace and security".

Meanwhile, member of the Kuwaiti delegation at the UN, second secretary Hassan Shaker Abulhassan said that Kuwait had joined the Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency Group (ACT), an initiative to improve working methods of the UNSC. Ending veto against issues pertinent to crimes against humanity is a crucial component of the steps to reform the UNSC, said the Kuwaiti diplomat, affirming that it was time for the council to reflect the true world security issues. — KUNA



Kuwait's permanent envoy to the UN Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi delivers a speech on behalf of the Arab group. — KUNA

KISR VOWS TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF ENVIRONMENT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) is ever cognizant of its mission to carry out research on preserving the integrity of the environment, among other goals, said KISR director Dr Naji Al-Mutairi. This was part of a press statement he made as he met here with French Special Envoy for Africa and Middle East on Climate Change Ambassador Stephane Gompertz.

Dr Al-Mutairi informed the envoy of the gamut of undertakings by KISR, particularly in the field of renewable energy where he said by 2030 Kuwait should meet its energy requirements by at least 15 percent from renewable energy sources. This ambitious goal of 15 percent was promulgated in a speech by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait at the 18th conference on climate change which was hosted by Doha, Qatar in December, 2012, noted Dr Al-Mutairi.

Many of KISR's energy and environment-based projects, above all the Al-Shegaya Project, seek to reduce the frequency of environmental pollution by resorting to the use of clean energy and

rolling back the effects of global warming and gas emissions, said Dr Al-Mutairi. He added that due to the diligence of KISR, numerous government buildings, and some homes are being equipped with solar energy, by placing solar panels on their roofs. Making a similar press statement, the French envoy expressed admiration at the work being done by KISR, especially the Al-Shagaya Project, which, he said, offered a prime example of environmental awareness worthy of being noted and emulated by the rest of the region.

He said he was in Kuwait to, among other things, invite KISR to attend the upcoming climate change conference to be held in Paris from Nov 30 to Dec 12 which is expected to result on an international agreement on climate change. On his part, KISR's director for energy and construction affairs, Dr Salem Al-Hajraf, spoke glowingly of the Al-Shagaya Project, saying it is a monumental solar-energy-storing project, currently in the making, whose first stage, when completed, would be capable of producing electric power by 2017. — KUNA



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Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti farmer gives a bottle of water to his camel. —KUNA

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

AUTHORITY IS THE SAME

By Hassan Al-Essa

The authority currently running state affairs with oil prices varying between \$40-50 is the very same one (regardless of changing some names and Cabinet formations) that has been running things for long previous years when oil prices were over \$100 a barrel. It is the very same authority that was in office when everybody complained about deterioration of public health, education and traffic services and about getting lost while doing simple transactions in government departments full of jobless public employees, where most departments are stricken by bribery and wasta as two main means to get any transaction done.

It is the same old authority today that used to badly run the state's administrative bodies with only one small difference - national income is 50 percent less and is run by a terrible administrative apparatus that never stops demanding more incentives regardless of deterioration in national income. It is the same old authority that has never brought any corrupt official or public servant to justice (as mentioned in an article by Hassan Jouhar) over the past years.

It has never admitted its failure in running any public facility starting from the Halliburton scandal, the defense ministry contracts, foreign investments, Mishref sewers, the Dow compensation and the social security billionaire. The list is endless when it comes to failure, corruption and mismanagement. It is the same old authority that is still catastrophically running the state with the same conventional methods in the exact same way despite the terrible oil prices without holding anybody accountable.

Is the authority actually worried about the future? Will it even consider the drastic regional changes, growing sectarian hatred and terrorism that have been causing major countries to interfere in smaller ones' domestic affairs? Will it realize how our governments had been nurturing doctrinal and tribal affiliations without being able to foresee the nation's future, while thinking only of a way to maintain seats and positions? Is the authority worried about the future in view of the inevitable drop in the state's only source of income, sovereignty challenges at the borders or the danger of vanishing, or is it too indifferently thinking that it is a solid mountain facing mere winds?

Well, it is a mountain of paper - in fact, it is made of the paper of studies made without putting any of them into practice; the paper mountain of delayed transactions and official letters promising to conduct reforms. The challenges we are currently facing are no less hazardous than those we faced in 1990. So, will we learn? I doubt it, simply because the authority is the same! — Translated by Kuwait Times



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

AMIR'S SPEECH AND BISHT WEARERS

By Dr Hasan Abdullah Jouhar

In his speech on inaugurating the parliamentary term, HH the Amir selected to address his subjects frankly concerning three main issues - national unity, the turbulent regional situation and future financial challenges in view of oil price deterioration, which are undoubtedly very dangerous issues that have been on the minds of most citizens for a while. However, the fact that HH the Amir highlights them in an official and public assembly makes them the pillars of the state's policies over the coming period of time. Without going into details and only focusing on the main points mentioned in the Amir's speech and the danger of each of them, one should talk about communal responsibility towards each of the challenges mentioned in the speech such as sectarianism and its consequences of terrorism and national unity-threatening division. Things are becoming more like a 'plague', as HH described it, blaming the leaders of each faction, tribe, sect, doctrine or family for it because they are the ones who ought to fight such irregularities according to Kuwaiti norms and traditions whenever any fellow citizen is subjected to abuse or slander. The Amir pointed that this was to be done in accordance to the law.

On the other hand, national political powers and figures should handle regional incidents and their consequences with utmost political wisdom and place Kuwait's greater good as a top priority, which is the opposite of what some of them have been

doing, as they have been injecting regional developments into Kuwaiti domestic affairs and fueling domestic fires. This is usually done out of misunderstanding or to abuse people's feelings and emotions to achieve personal stardom, electoral interests or winning senior official positions.

However, the economic challenges may be the worst of all in view of the rapidly dropping oil prices that have already lost over 60 percent of their value in a rather short period. This has definitely affected the state's budget and its future plans, forcing the state towards taking some harsh rationalization measures, victimizing only the simplest citizens. Here lies the state's decision makers' responsibility to get out of this state of political stagnancy and start diversifying national income resources, stop wasteful spending and fight public fund violators and thieves who have been bullying lower classes to make and cover up for their failure in running public affairs devotedly and efficiently.

The 'aye, aye sir' fake and cheap slogan is no longer accepted as a tool for political hypocrisy and social courtesy. In addition, the rush by tycoons dressed in fancy bishts - the very ones addressed by the Amir in his speech - on various occasions and racing to front rows to circle around members of the political leadership must be brought to an end, because these fancy faces are the ones behind every tumult! — Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

RECORD YEAR FOR TENDERS, DEFICIT

By Dr Bader Al-Daihani

In its issue published on Oct 25, 2015, Al-Qabas daily reviewed a report by NBK under the title '2015, a Historic Year for Tenders', in which the total value of contracts signed so far (till the third quarter of the year) is KD 9 billion (\$30 billion). The report showed that this period witnessed the strongest annual performance including the contracts for the new airport, Al-Zour refinery, developing oilfields' production, MPW road projects, housing, infrastructure and power and water projects. The report also showed that KD 3 billion-worth PPP projects have been signed. The report also quoted the MEED projects website statement that the total value of planned projects and those being executed in Kuwait has grown to over KD 74.3 billion (\$246 billion) by the end of September 2015.

Assuming that great transparency was used in awarding these 'historic' tenders, meaning that they were not custom-tailored to fit some specific tycoon's companies, and that there is no monopoly in the private sector, this means that these humongous sums have gone to a relatively large number of citizens owning private companies (the KD 9 billion equals 45.68 per cent of the state's budget for 2015-2016 of KD 19.7 billion, and is also expected to grow by a third by the end of fourth quarter of the year).

Well, assuming the above, one is left wondering what benefit the state budget, which is already suffering from a KD 8 billion deficit and the government intends making it up by overburdening people with low income through so-called rationalization policies, gets from these historic deals. If only we had a fair system of ascending income taxes (that we have already explained in detail in a previous article) that is different from what we currently have where the private sector mainly depends on public spending and making astronomical profits without paying any taxes in return!

On the other hand, what is the economic benefit the state has made from all those historic record deals, especially when the private sector does not even provide enough new job opportunities matching their volume, taking into consideration that the government has cancelled the offset program that mandated foreign companies invest at least 30 percent of the deal value within Kuwait in the form of providing job opportunities, training courses, scholarships for employees and importing modern technology?

Finally, if 2015 is considered a historic year for tenders, it is also a year of public budget deficits that will be shouldered by people with low and medium incomes, and here lies the paradox.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

GCC KEEN ON STABILITY

MANAMA: Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said yesterday that the Gulf Cooperation Council states are keen to seek stability in the region and are committed to ensuring its security for decades. Sheikh Khalid said in the first session of the Manama Dialogue dubbed (US Policy and Regional Security) that the wars in the region and the chaos were the result of the emergence of terrorist organizations such as the so-called Islamic State (Daesh), in addition to Iran's support for some movements such as the Houthi movement in Yemen and others. —KUNA

ANOTHER 7 YEMENIS, EGYPTIANS DEPORTED

KUWAIT: In less than a week after deporting 23 expats for fighting in Shuwaikh, the Interior Minister has ordered the deportation of 7 Egyptians and Yemenis for the same reasons after they fought in Ardhiya Industrial Area, security sources said.

Unidentified caller insults MP
MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan recently filed a complaint accusing an unidentified caller of insulting him. Al-Duwaisan

provided the police with the caller's number.

Policemen detained
Jahra security director colonel, Waleed Shehab recently ordered two policemen to be detained for driving recklessly under the rain in Jahra. Case papers indicate that while patrolling the area to make sure everything was ok during the rain, the policemen were found driving recklessly.

Expat rescued
Marine Rescue Forces recently rescued an expat who was washed away while swimming and got stuck in a sewers tube, said security sources.

A citizen, who had been wanted for sexual harassment, was recently arrested while driving along Nuwaiseeb Highway. Security sources said that the man was arrested at a routine checkpoint.

Kids kidnapped
An expat reported that his divorced wife

had kidnapped their three kids after he won their custody.

103 bottles of liquor
An Asian was recently arrested in Farwaniya. He was found with 103 bottles of home-made liquor, said security sources, noting that a police patrol suspected the man when he was stopped for inspection. In another development, a stateless person has been arrested in Jahra. 450 psychotropic pills were found in his possession. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Syrian MP: US decision is act of aggression

STORMS, WINDS LASH TEXAS, 2 STILL MISSING

US TROOPS IN SYRIA WILL ONLY FIGHT IS: KERRY

SPECIAL FORCES DON'T MEAN US ENTERING CIVIL WAR

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan: US Secretary of State John Kerry says American special operations troops being sent to Syria will only fight Islamic State militants and won't become involved in the long-running civil war. Kerry calls IS a threat to every nation and says US policy is clear - the group must be defeated.

Kerry isn't ruling out a further US escalation of the fight, saying he can't predict the future. The Obama administration is sending up to 50 special operations troops to assist Kurdish and Arab forces in northern Syria. It's the first pledge of American military boots on the ground in Syria. Kerry spoke yesterday at a news conference in Kyrgyzstan alongside the country's foreign Minister, Erlan Abdyldaev.

A decision by US President Barack Obama to send special forces to Syria is strictly focused on fighting Islamic State insurgents and does not signify the United States is entering the civil war there, Kerry said.

"President Obama has made a very strong and forceful and simple decision entirely in keeping with his originally stated policy that we must defeat and destroy Daesh," Kerry said, using the Arabic term for Islamic State.

"It is not a decision to enter into Syria's civil war. It is not an action focused on (Syrian President Bashar) Assad, it focused exclusively on Daesh and in augmenting our ability to rapidly attack Daesh," Kerry told a news briefing during a visit to Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek.

Asked about the prospect of the United States sending more troops, or getting drawn deeper into the conflict, Kerry said: "I can't predict what the future will bring when our policy is to destroy Daesh, to fight back against this evil. But I do think the president has made a judgment that I completely advocated for and concur (with)."

The White House announced on Friday that

dozens of special operations troops will be deployed to northern Syria to advise opposition forces in their fight against Islamic State,

Kerry, at the start of a tour of the five ex-Soviet republics in Central Asia, described Islamic State, as "a destroyer and it is threaten-

governments that are anxious about the threat from Islamist militants, especially those operating in nearby Afghanistan, according to

already assigned to the fight against the Islamic State group. Speaking in the Kyrgyz capital during a tour of Central Asia, Kerry said he fully supported President Barack Obama's decision to put troops on the ground in Syria.

He said the soldiers were not being sent to battle President Bashar Al-Assad's regime or become embroiled in the Syrian civil war, but simply to help destroy the IS group.

"ISIL is the modern personification of evil," he said, using an alternative acronym for the jihadist force that has seized eastern Syria and northern Iraq. "President Obama has made a very straightforward and simple decision entirely in keeping with his originally reported policy, that we must defeat and destroy Daesh," he said, using an Arabic term for the IS group.

Asked whether he could rule out more troops being assigned to the mission, he said: "I can't predict what the future will bring when our policy is to destroy Daesh, to fight back against this evil."

"But I do think the president has made a judgement that I completely advocated for and concur in." Kerry was speaking at a news conference with Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev, and noted that the IS group had recruited fighters from that country. Both diplomats said their countries would work together more closely against the threat. Kyrgyzstan's acting foreign minister, Erlan Abdyldaev, said at the news briefing with Kerry that his government was concerned about instability in northern Afghanistan.

He said the subject would be discussed when, later in his tour, Kerry meets foreign ministers from the five central Asian states in the Uzbek city of Samarkand. — Agencies



BISHKEK: US Secretary of State John Kerry arrives for an opening ceremony at the American University of Central Asia yesterday in Bishkek. — AFP

which is also known by the acronym ISIL.

The decision marked a policy shift for Obama, who has long resisted sending troops to avoid getting sucked into another war in the Middle East.

ing to take actions against America, Canada and Mexico, against countries all around the world. So ISIL is a... threat that we have to respond to."

Kerry is in the region in part to reassure

a US official who briefed reporters on the trip.

Commandos in Syria?

Kerry refused yesterday to rule out more US commandos being sent to Syria beyond the 50

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UNITED NATIONS: TWO CONTRACTORS DETAINED IN YEMEN

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations said yesterday two contractors with the world body had been detained in Yemen, but gave no further details on the incident.

"Two contractors have been detained and the Deputy Secretary-General (Jan Eliasson) is looking into it," a UN spokesman said without elaborating or confirming if the two were American citizens.

A US State Department official said the department was aware of reports that two US citizens had been detained at Sanaa airport in Yemen.

"The protection of US citizens overseas is one of the Department of

State's highest priorities, including in these cases," the official said in an email. "Due to privacy considerations, we do not have any further information to share."

A Saudi-led Arab coalition intervened in Yemen's civil war in March to try to restore the government after it was toppled by Iran-allied Houthis forces, but a mounting civilian death toll and dire humanitarian situation has alarmed human rights groups.

The United Nations has designated Yemen as one of its highest-level humanitarian crises, alongside emergencies in South Sudan, Syria and Iraq. It says more than 21 million people in

Yemen need help, or about 80 percent of the population.

Dozens killed

Dozens of Yemeni Shiite rebels and pro-government fighters have been killed in clashes in several southern provinces as Saudi-led coalition aircraft targeted the Iran-backed insurgents, military officials said yesterday. Fierce clashes raged in the areas of Al-Zaher and Thi al-Naem in Baida province between Houthi rebels and Popular Resistance fighters allied with forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, tribal sources said.

The clashes overnight left 19 rebels and 14 Popular Resistance fighters dead,

according to tribal and medical sources. Gun battles also flared up in Al-Madaribah in southwestern Yemen on the border between Lahj and Taez provinces, leaving an unknown number of fighters killed and wounded, military sources said. Southern fighters said they were defending the area against rebels trying to reach the shores of the strategic Bab al-Mandab strait, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) away, which was seized by loyalists last month.

The narrow waterway, which separates Yemen from Djibouti, funnels shipping to and from the Suez Canal in the northern Red Sea. Witnesses said that many residents fled the area due to

heavy fighting. Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition raided positions of Huthi and allied renegade troops loyal to ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh, military officials said. The air strikes destroyed rebel vehicles in the central Ibb province, close to Daleh, which was seized by pro-government forces along with four other southern provinces earlier this year.

The coalition launched an air campaign against the rebels in late March, in support of Hadi who had been forced to flee to Riyadh. Around 5,000 people have been killed in the conflict since March, more than half of them civilians, according to UN estimates.—AFP

SYRIAN MP: US DECISION IS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION

'TROOPS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON GROUND'

DAMASCUS: The United States' decision to send troops into Syria is an act of aggression because it does not have the government's agreement, a Syrian member of parliament said yesterday. Sharif Shehadeh told The Associated Press that the troops will have no effect on the ground, but that Washington wants to say it is present in Syria. "What has happened to make America realize, after five years, that it

group with airstrikes since September 2014, killing 12,000 extremists without weakening the group.

The decision to send US troops to Syria comes a month after Russia began launching airstrikes against insurgents in the country. Russia's airstrikes were agreed upon with the Syrian government.

"When America sends ground forces into Syrian territories without

more unilateral raids. The US decision came as activists said some rebel groups, as well as the main US-backed Kurdish militia known as the YPG, are preparing for an offensive against IS in its de facto capital of Raqqa. Earlier this month, US cargo planes dropped small arms and ammunition to Arab groups fighting IS in northern Syria in what appeared to be preparation for the attack.

Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and social media pages of rebel groups. The Rebels Army group carried the statement from the coalition's spokesman who goes by the name of Abu Ali as vowing to "cleanse Syria's soil from the filth of terrorist groups."

Death toll 70

International medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said yesterday that at least 70 people had been killed in a missile attack on a marketplace near Damascus the day before. A monitoring group, which had put the toll at 57, said bombardments continued in the area, and that another six people were killed by government air strikes yesterday morning.

The bombardments came as air raids by Syrian government forces and Russian warplanes intensified across the country. Moscow's month-old military intervention in support of President Bashar Al-Assad has alarmed the United States and its allies, as world powers step up diplomatic efforts to end the war.

Syrian government forces fired missiles into a marketplace in the town of Douma northeast of Damascus on Friday in the bloodiest attack on the area for weeks, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. MSF said a strike on a hospital on Thursday, which itself had killed 15 people, caused damage to medical facilities that made it difficult for paramedics to treat the wounded from the marketplace bombing the following day.

"MSF fears the intensification of bombing that has been seen in northern and central Syria over the course of October could become even more horrific if it spreads to besieged areas around Damascus, where almost a million people are trapped," it said in a statement.

Yesterday, at least 15 air strikes hit the area, the Observatory said. Syria's four-year-old conflict has killed an estimated 250,000 people and driven more than 11 million from their homes.—Agencies



ST PETERSBURG: Relatives and friends of those on the Metrojet flight that crashed in Egypt comfort each other while gathering to grieve at a hotel near St Petersburg's Pulkovo airport outside St Petersburg yesterday.—AP

SHOCK, DENIAL AT RUSSIA AIRPORT AS PLANE CRASHES

SAINT PETERSBURG: Irina Semyonova said her friend Natasha last called her from the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh to say she'd bought her a present of perfume from the airport's duty-free shop.

"She was vacationing there with a friend," Semyonova said blankly, showing a picture on her phone of a smiling swimsuit-clad young woman, her blonde hair in a long plait. Semyonova was one of a crowd of people gathered in Pulkovo airport in Saint-Petersburg, Russia's second largest city, who were left reeling after news broke that the plane they had been waiting for had crashed shortly after takeoff in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Like many Russians, Semyonova's friend had gone on holiday to one of Egypt's Red Sea resorts which are especially popular during the winter when people try and escape the long months of cold and dark in search of warmer climes. Many of those who came to pick up friends or relatives were in denial as reports trickled about the fate of the 224 people who had been onboard the Airbus 321 operated by the Russian carrier Kogalymavia. Airport officials tried to keep things calm with a tannoy announcement asking all those waiting to meet those on board the ill-fated Sharm El-Sheikh flight to "come to the information stand."

They were then ushered onto buses and taken to a hotel where psychologists and doctors were waiting at an impromptu crisis centre which has already asked family members to provide DNA samples for identifying remains.

'I'll keep hoping'

"My wife was on that plane," said Nail, a grief-stricken 60-year-old with tears in his eyes. "She was on vacation with our children but thank God, the children had come back two days earlier."

"I had a bad dream today, she was in it," he said. "At 6:00 am she sent me a text message that she was going to the airport, and that was it."

Confusion and fear also gripped passengers

who had been due to fly out to Egypt on holiday as their plane, operated by Kogalymavia but chartered by a Moscow-based tour operator Brisco, failed to show up. "Nobody came out to talk to us yet, we don't know what plane we'll be on," a passenger called Anzhelika told the Rossiya-24 channel.

"If it's Kogalymavia, we don't want to fly," she said. No representative of the airline could be found at the airport and nobody at the company was answering the phones.

Russia has a dismal air safety record, with charter flights often under pressure to book to capacity on ageing jets in a bid to cut costs. Kogalymavia is a small regional carrier which flies mostly international charter services. Regional airlines in Russia are especially notorious and the crash is likely to raise renewed concerns about the safety of air travel in a country where experts have sounded the alarm over the nation's ageing fleet of passenger jets.

Two years ago, Russian lawmakers called for a ban on planes built more than 20 years ago after a 23-year-old Boeing 737 operated by a regional airline crashed, killing all 50 people on board.

Russia has already announced a probe into possible safety violations in Saturday's crash and a high-level delegation of rescue workers and investigators, including two ministers, was slated to fly out to the crash site. The Kremlin has designated November 1 as a day of national mourning.

"I am meeting my parents," said 25-year-old Ella Smirnova, a tall young woman with a shock-induced smile on her face, waiting by Pulkovo's information stand. "I spoke to them last on the phone when they were already on the plane, and then I heard the news."

"I will keep hoping until the end that they are alive, but perhaps I will never see them again," she told AFP. Shortly afterwards, the Russian embassy in Egypt issued a statement saying there were no survivors.—AFP



BEKAA VALLEY: Syrian refugee boys play at a refugee camp in the town of Hosh Hareem, in the Bekaa valley, east Lebanon. The United Nations said the worsening conflict in Syria has left 13.5 million people in need of aid and some form of protection, including more than six million children.—AP

should send between 30 and 50 military advisers?" asked Shehadeh, referring to the start of the country's crisis in March 2011 that has since killed more than 250,000 people.

American officials say up to 50 special operations troops will be sent to assist Kurdish and Arab forces in northern Syria. A US-led coalition has been targeting the Islamic State

an agreement with the Syrian government it becomes an intervention and aggression," Shehadeh said by telephone. "Will America allow Russian ground forces to go into America without an agreement? I think the answer is no."

The US has conducted special operations raids in Syria before and is expected to continue to carry out

Yesterday, the Democratic Forces of Syria, a coalition of Arab, Christian and Kurdish factions in northern Syria, declared that they have started an operation to "liberate" areas south of the northeastern city of Hassekeh.

IS has several strongholds in the predominantly Kurdish province of Hassakeh that borders Iraq. The announcement was carried by the

PALESTINIANS TO BURY THEIR DEAD IN FLASHPOINT HEBRON

HEBRON, Palestinian Territories: Israeli forces shot dead a suspected Palestinian knife attacker yesterday as funerals were to be held in the restive West Bank city of Hebron for others killed in the latest wave of violence. The surge of unrest since early October has triggered fears of a third Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation by a generation gripped by despair and anger over stalled peace efforts.

The Palestinian was shot and killed at a checkpoint between the West Bank and Israel when he

with Israeli forces along the borders of the blockaded coastal enclave. Saturday's foiled knife attack comes as Palestinians were to hold in Hebron a mass funeral for five teenagers, including two girls, killed in unrest with Israeli forces, after Israel released their bodies for burial.

Israel says the five stabbed or had attempted to stab soldiers. Another Palestinian is to be buried separately in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem while another young Palestinian was buried late Friday in Jenin. Many of the attackers who have targeted Israeli forces

of the Patriarchs and to Muslims as the Ibrahim Mosque—is a city of 200,000 Palestinians, has long been the commercial heart of the West Bank.

But the presence of 500 Israeli settlers near the city centre, protected by barbed wire, watchtowers and a buffer zone patrolled by the army, has helped make it a hotbed for unrest.

On Friday, dozens of protesters outside the shrine condemned restrictions on access imposed by Israel, which has split it into a mosque and a synagogue.

Clinton at Rabin rally

The Maariv newspaper reported that more army checkpoints were being set up in Hebron at the entrances and exits to Jewish areas, where Palestinians aged 15 to 25 will not be allowed to pass.

And Israeli Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan has said the government wants to prevent families making funerals a "show of support for terrorism and incitation to murder".

Simmering tensions boiled over in September over the status of the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, a site holy to both Muslims and Jews, before spiralling into a series of violent attacks from October 1. Palestinians accuse Israel of seeking to change the rules governing the site, although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted he will not alter a status quo that forbids Jews from praying there.

On Friday the Palestinians also urged the International Criminal Court to accelerate its probe into accusations of "Israeli war crimes", handing over a new 52-page dossier alleging summary killings and collective punishment.

A delegation led by president Mahmud Abbas asked prosecutor Fatou Bensouda "to expedite" a preliminary inquiry into alleged crimes over the past 40 days, foreign minister Riad Al-Malki said. "It is extremely important to expedite the process... because if Israel feels impunity, what will deter Israel from multiplying the victims?" Malki asked.

Also yesterday, former US president Bill Clinton was to address a rally in Tel Aviv in memory of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli premier assassinated 20 years ago by a rightwing Jewish extremist.

The Nobel Peace prize laureate who had signed the 1993 Oslo accords aimed at resolving the decades long Palestinian-Israeli conflict was shot dead in Tel Aviv at a peace rally.—AFP



JENIN: Friends and relatives of 18-year-old Palestinian Mahmud Nazal mourn over his body during his funeral in the village of Qabatiya, south of the West Bank city of Jenin yesterday.—AFP

reportedly tried to stab a border guard, police said.

Nine Israelis, 66 Palestinians and an Arab Israeli have been killed since wave of attacks and violent clashes broke out a month ago in Jerusalem. The violence has spread to the West Bank, with daily attacks on Israeli soldiers and protests, and also to the Gaza Strip where demonstrators have clashed

come from Hebron, a stronghold of the Islamist movement Hamas and a powder keg in the decades-old Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In recent days the city has been rocked by protests over Israel's policy of withholding the bodies of attackers as part of measures to dissuade attacks on Jews.

Hebron—home to a shrine known to Jews as Cave



ST PETERSBURG: People gather at the airline information desk of Russian airline Kogalymavia's at Pulkovo airport in St Petersburg yesterday.—AP

SAUDI SAYS ASSAD, IRAN-BACKED FOREIGN FORCES MUST QUIT SYRIA

RIYADH: Russia and Iran must agree to a date and means for Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad to quit the country, and agree to withdraw all foreign forces from Syria, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said in an interview with Sky News Arabia broadcast yesterday.

Arch regional competitors Saudi Arabia and Iran, whose rivalry has been aggravated by their support for opposing sides in Syria, both took part in talks to find a peaceful solution for the country for the first time in Vienna on Friday. Jubeir said in the interview the Vienna talks, which will resume within two weeks, would show how serious Assad and his backers Iran and Russia were in seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"Our two points where we differ from them

are on a date and means for Assad's departure, and the second point is on a date and means for the withdrawal of foreign forces, especially Iranian ones. These are the two basic points without which there can be no solution," he said.

Assad and Iran accuse Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies of being behind terrorism in Syria through their backing of rebel groups. Those countries say they only arm and finance secular or moderate Islamist rebel groups. Saudi Arabia has characterised Assad's use of air power and artillery in Syrian cities as genocidal and has described the presence of Iranian military forces and Shiite Muslim Iraqi and Lebanese militia in Syria as a foreign occupation.—Reuters

STORMS, WINDS LASH TEXAS SEARCH FOR 2 MISSING TO CONTINUE

AUSTIN, TEXAS: Another round of storms and strong winds moved east across Texas yesterday, and two people were still missing from earlier flash floods in the Austin area.

In the Houston area, up to 7 inches of rain had fallen since Friday night and the resulting flooding suspended public transportation, and a Harris County official said a tornado had been reported in the south part of the county, and officials were checking on any possible damage there. Francisco Sanchez of the Harris County Office of Emergency Management said several water rescues had taken place. Utilities in East Texas said 44,000 customers were without power.

The National Weather Service also issued a flash flood watch for areas near Houston, Galveston, Bryan, College Station, Tyler and Texarkana until yesterday afternoon.

The storms and suspected tornadoes have socked an already-sodden swath of Texas that was still drying out from the remnants of Hurricane Patricia. Austin, San Antonio and surrounding areas were first hit Friday. Two people died when they were swept away by flood waters, and a man and a woman also were still unaccounted for in separate incidents.

Teams from the National Weather Service were to examine three areas yesterday where tornadoes were thought to have touched down. More than 16 inches of rain soaked one neighborhood on Friday and Austin Bergstrom International Airport suspended all flights after a half-foot of water flooded the air traffic control

tower; 40 flights were canceled there yesterday.

Meanwhile, a lazy creek cutting through Texas wine country, a popular getaway spot, swelled into a rushing torrent, sending eight members of a vacationing church group scrambling to a second floor before they were rescued by the National Guard.

Similar conditions in May - soaking storms on the heels of others - caused devastating flooding on the Blanco River that swept homes from foundations and killed families who were carried downstream. The Blanco River this time swelled to about 26 feet in Wimberly, nearly twice the flood stage.

Also Friday, powerful winds tossed a trailer from an RV park onto the roof of a three-story Holiday Inn. Abandoned cars, many submerged in water, littered back roads that weary drivers risked after heavy downpours flooded Interstate 35 between San Antonio and Austin, closing one of the busiest stretches of roadway in the US.

Forecasters say an upper-level disturbance from Mexico carried the storms into Texas, and a strong El Nino is expected to make for a wet winter in the US. Farther south in Floresville, a suspected tornado caused only minor injuries, said Sgt. Jason Reyes of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Ruth Veliz, whose parents own a taco shop in town, said one of her employees yelled "Tornado!" and tried to keep the winds from blowing inside before a customer pulled her to safety. "The door was flying open with her as she was trying to close it," Veliz said. — AP



ATLANTA: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton (right) and Rep John Lewis, step onstage during a campaign event for Clinton at Clark Atlanta University on Friday in Atlanta. —AP

CLINTON'S IDEAS ON RACE DRAW APPLAUSE, PROTEST CHURCH SLAYINGS, CHARLESTON SHOOTING PART OF A TREND

NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA: Hillary Rodham Clinton is drawing ovations and protesters while highlighting criminal justice and economic policies that the Democratic presidential candidate says are intended to treat blacks more fairly. At an NAACP dinner Friday, she watched silently as relatives of the nine people killed in June by a white gunman during a Bible study at a historic black church in Charleston took part in a memorial.

Afterward, to rounds of applause, Clinton said, "People in this room... have shown grace and resilience." Charleston, she said, has inspired Americans who often "don't know what to do about that kind of hate and violence stalking our land." Clinton said the church slayings and the April killing of Walter Scott, a black man shot by a North Charleston police officer who has since been fired and charged with murder, were part of a trend.

"The last few years have shone a bright light on the systemic effects of racism and injustice," she said. The answers, she said, include overhauling the criminal justice system, tightening gun regulations and expanding economic and educational opportunities in communities held back by generations of institutionalized racism. Clinton delivered a similar message earlier Friday in

Georgia. But the otherwise friendly audience at Atlanta Clark University, a historically black campus, included several protesters from the Black Lives Matter movement.

They sang and chanted for nearly 12 minutes several feet from the podium as Clinton tried to shout over them. Rep. John Lewis, a hero in the civil rights movement, urged them to stop, as did the musician Usher. The group - fewer than 10 - eventually left the college gymnasium only after the crowd of more than 2,000, most of them young African-Americans, chanted, "Let her talk!"

"I'm sorry they didn't listen, because some of what they demanded I am offering and intend to fight for as president," Clinton said.

The Georgia-South Carolina campaign swing, set to continue in Charleston, is part of Clinton's emphasis on Southern states that dominate the early weeks of the presidential nominating calendar.

South Carolina holds its Democratic primary Feb. 27, after Iowa and New Hampshire begin the process a few weeks earlier. Georgia is one of almost a dozen states from Virginia to Texas that follow in March. African-Americans could make up a majority of the Democratic

electorate, or close to it, in several of those states, a potential boon for Clinton, given that her closest rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has struggled to attract support from black voters.

Clinton, Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley each have pitched criminal justice overhauls. The issue resonates among traditional civil rights organizations and the younger activists of Black Lives Matter, though that movement's leaders say they aren't interested in participating in conventional politics by endorsing Clinton or anyone else.

Clinton wants to eliminate sentencing disparities between crack cocaine crimes and those that involve powder cocaine. The changes would build on a 2010 act of Congress that narrowed the disparity between crack crimes - concentrated among minorities - and powder crimes, which are more likely to involve whites. Clinton's plan would make the change retroactive.

She proposed a legal ban on racial profiling by police. Clinton hasn't detailed how her idea would go beyond existing law, but her campaign cited previous congressional proposals that would make it easier for alleged profiling victims to recover damages from government agencies in civil court. —AP



WIMBERLY: Jim Richardson and his wife Jeannette look on as the Blanco River recedes after the flash flood in Wimberly, Texas on Friday. — AP

Ruby Tuesday

New Dishes, New Presentations, & More ...

The New Menu is out!



Ceasar Salmon Salad



Seafood Sampler



Chicken Trio



Rib Eye Teriyaki & Shrimps



Steak & Skewered Shrimps



Monster Burger

The Avenues
22597885

Sharq
22444454

Shaab
25614400

Salmiya
25711171

Abu Halifa
23734440

360 MALL
25309625



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POPE DENOUNCES CLERGY WHO CRITICIZED SLAIN SALVADORAN BISHOP ROMERO



VATICAN: Pope Francis arrives to attend an audience with the representatives of the Union of Catholic Entrepreneurs, in the Pope Paul VI hall at the Vatican, yesterday. — AP

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Friday criticised conservative clergy and bishops who he said had defamed slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero even after he was killed by a right-wing death squad in 1980.

The pope departed from his prepared address to a group of visiting Salvadorans to deliver unusually pointed remarks about the past detractors of Romero, who was beatified last May in El Salvador, putting him a step away from sainthood.

"His martyrdom continued (even after his death). He was defamed, slandered ... even by his own brothers in the priesthood and the episcopate," Francis said.

Francis said Romero, who was shot while saying Mass in a hospital chapel, had been lapidated even after his death by "the hardest stone that exists in the world: the tongue."

Romero, whose defence of the poor made him an icon for many Roman Catholics in Latin America, was beatified as a martyr for the faith.

Francis, the first Latin American pope, unblocked

Romero's sainthood process shortly after his election in March 2013.

It had been stalled under popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI because conservative Latin American Church leaders saw Romero as having been too close to Liberation Theology, a radical movement that emphasised helping the poor and opposing injustice.

The conservatives had accused Romero, who spoke out against the Salvadoran government and often denounced repression and poverty in his homilies, of having been an advocate of a Marxist-style class struggle.

They asserted that he was killed for his political views and not for his faith. The murder was one of the most shocking of the long conflict between a series of US-backed governments and leftist rebels in which thousands were killed by right-wing and military death squads. No one was ever brought to justice for Romero's killing.

The civil war, one of the Cold War's most brutal conflicts, claimed some 75,000 lives before it ended with a peace agreement in 1992. — Reuters

GERMAN SUSPECTED OF KILLING REFUGEE ADMITS MURDERING BOY
BODY OF CHILD PACKED IN CAT LITTER INSIDE THE CAR

BERLIN: A German man accused of sexually abusing and killing a four-year-old Bosnian refugee has admitted murdering another child, police said yesterday, as investigators probed possible links to other missing children.

"The man confessed overnight that he had also killed Elias," said Berlin police spokesman Stefan Redlich, referring to a six-year-old German boy who had been missing since July. Investigators found human remains in a garden allotment in Luckenwalde, around 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Berlin, after the man identified as Silvio S. told police Elias's corpse was buried there, though tests will be needed to confirm the identity.

The suspect was arrested on Thursday after his mother told police he may have been involved in the kidnapping of the Bosnian boy, named Mohamed.

Police later found the body of a child packed in cat litter inside the suspect's car, which appeared to have been dead for some time. An eight-hour autopsy confirmed the body was that of Mohamed, prosecutors said on Friday.

The boy had been missing since October 1, when his mother took him and his sisters to Berlin's main refugee registration centre,

Lageso, which receives hundreds of asylum seekers daily.

His disappearance triggered a massive police operation, with the missing child's photo appearing regularly on television screens in Berlin's subway trains. Police also released CCTV footage of a bearded man leading a child who was holding a stuffed toy.

But the search turned out to be futile as the boy "was already dead on October 2, the day after his kidnapping," the police spokesman said. In southern Germany more than 250 people were searching for a young Iraqi boy who became separated from his father after entering the country with a people-smuggler.

Choked with belt

Forensic investigators found signs of strangulation on Mohamed's neck, prosecutor Michael von Hagen said Thursday, adding that the accused had admitted using a belt to choke the child to death.

The man, who worked as a security guard in Berlin, admitted taking Mohamed from the refugee centre to his flat where he sexually abused him, von Hagen said.

But when the child began screaming, the

suspect killed him to prevent anyone from hearing, before covering the body in cat litter to hide any odour, the prosecutor said.

Mohamed's family has been living in Germany for more than a year and on the day of his kidnapping, the mother had gone to the registration centre to obtain her social allowances, according to local media.

As Germany gears up to receive up to one million asylum seekers this year, Berlin's Lageso has seen lengthy queues of migrants waiting to be registered and often chaotic scenes.

Fights have broken out at the centre among migrants frustrated by the long waits and a lack of information filtering down from authorities.

Large numbers of people also bring donations for refugees including clothes or food to the sprawling site which is spread across several buildings. According to police, the suspect said he had gone to Lageso to drop off donations. Police are now examining whether the suspect is linked to other cases of missing children.

Winfrid Wenzel, head of the probe into Mohamed's disappearance, said officers were "in close contact" with counterparts in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, where a five-year-old girl has been missing since May 2. — AFP



ISTANBUL: A supporter of Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) gestures during a campaign rally in Istanbul yesterday on the eve of the country's general election. Turkey votes on November 1 in its second election since June, called after the long-dominant Justice and Development Party (AKP) lost its majority in a stunning setback. — AFP

'KURDISH CAPITAL' HOLDS ITS BREATH AHEAD OF TURKEY VOTE

DIYARBAKIR: Hit hard by the return to violence between security forces and Kurdish rebels, Turkey's southeastern city of Diyarbakir is preparing for today's crucial election with a mixture of worry, sadness, but also anger.

The entry into parliament of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) for the first time after June's parliamentary polls prompted scenes of jubilation in Diyarbakir, the country's main Kurdish city. But since then the atmosphere has changed dramatically. Two suicide attacks blamed on the Islamic State (IS) group-one in June in the southern town of Suruc and one in Ankara this month-left a total of more than 130 people dead, most of them activists from left-wing and pro-Kurdish movements. And since the summer, renewed violence between Turkish security forces and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has shattered a 2013 truce. "There have been too many deaths, now Diyarbakir is in mourning," 27-year-old Suat Korkmaz told AFP while fiddling with prayer beads in an old inn in the centre of the ancient city.

"The streets are empty, I've never seen Diyarbakir so quiet," said primary school teacher Yagdar Kocic. "People are afraid a bomb might go off." As a precaution the HDP has cancelled public meetings, forcing its candidates to campaign discreetly.

Parties need at least 10 percent of the vote to get into parliament and while Korkmaz was confident the HDP would "clear the bar" again, he warned "it won't have the same special feeling as last time." Cerkas Kizil, 46, plans to vote for the Justice and Development Party (AKP) of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "Our country is heading towards chaos and only the AKP can save it," he said.

Child killed by sniper

But many Diyarbakir residents interviewed by AFP accused Erdogan and his party-which took only one of the town's 11 seats in June-of restarting the fight with the PKK to punish them for supporting the HDP. Bullet-scarred walls, broken windows, potholed roads-the Sur district of the old town still bear the scars of the latest clashes in its maze of tiny streets that pitted special police units against the PKK's youth wing two weeks ago.

"It lasted four days, nobody dared show their face in the street, not even a bird," said Saadet Emre, 55, who was wounded by a bullet ricochet. "We were forced to sleep in the kitchen—15 of us." Her neighbour Emin Celik added: "We had no water, nothing to eat, not even any dry bread."

A short distance away, the Fatih Pacha mosque has stood since 16th century, its basalt walls, normally a draw for tourists, now scarred by bullets. Nearby stands a ruined building, destroyed by a rocket according to its inhabitants.

Police and rebels alike deny responsibility for the damage, but residents have no doubt where their anger lies.

"A police sniper shot an 11-year-old girl. Her hair and her brains were scattered on the ground. Do they not fear Allah?" said Celik. "I've lived here for 35 years and I've never seen violence like it," said Emre. "Eight families have left the area because they were afraid." Despite the injury to her foot, Emre said she will vote on Sunday "to repeat the same thing we told the AKP last time: they need to share power."

"And if they decide to ignore us and restart the police operations, what can I say? God help all of us!" — AFP



GEVGEIJA: A boy looks on from inside a registration center as migrants and refugees wait to board a train heading to Serbia from the Greece-Macedonia border, near Gevgelija, yesterday. At least 22 migrants, among them 13 children, drowned overnight when two boats sank off the islands of Kalymnos and Rhodes, the Greek port officials said on October 30. The latest drownings prompted a sharp response from Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras who said he felt "shame" over Europe's failure to prevent the tragedies. — AFP

LAST UK RESIDENT FREED FROM GUANTANAMO MAY SEEK DAMAGES

LONDON: The last British resident detained in Guantanamo Bay is reportedly planning to seek compensation from the British government, following his release after more than 13 years in the top-security US military jail.

Saudi national Shaker Amer was beginning his first full day back in Britain on yesterday after flying back to London from the prison on Cuba. The 46-year-old father of four thanked his supporters, "so strongly devoted to the truth," for helping him through the ordeal. "If I was the fire to be lit to tell the truth, it was the people who protected the fire from the wind," he said in a statement issued through his lawyers.

"Without knowing of their fight I might have given up more than once... and without their devotion to justice I would not be here in Britain now." British newspapers reported he plans to claim for damages from the British government.

Members of his legal team told The Guardian newspaper they expect the government to settle the claim as quickly as possible to avoid allegations of Britain's involvement in human rights abuses aired in court. The nine British nationals and six British residents released from Guantanamo are each thought to have received around £1 million (\$1.55 million, 1.4 million euros) from

the government. London settled civil damages claims rather than contest in court allegations that Britain's security services were complicit in what happened to them.

Lawyer Clive Stafford Smith, who spent years campaigning for Amer's release, told AFP he would now be given medical tests before being reunited with his family. He is thought to be suffering from a string of health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I think he'll want to hear the word 'Daddy' instead of number 239," said Smith, referring to Amer's prisoner number at Guantanamo.

Al-Qaeda accusation

The United States had accused Amer of acting as a recruiter, financier and fighter for Al-Qaeda, as well as being a close associate of Osama bin Laden, but never charged him.

Twice cleared for release from Guantanamo in 2007 and 2009, he has always denied the allegations and said he was in Afghanistan working for a charity when he was captured by bounty hunters.

Cameron had pressed US President Barack Obama for his release and his spokeswoman said there were no plans for the British authorities to detain him or charge

him. The Daily Telegraph newspaper said it understood that high-level discussions had taken place between London and Washington on how Britain's security services would "monitor potential threats" posed by Amer. Amer was born in Saudi Arabia in December 1968 and lived in the US before settling in Britain, where he married a British woman and, in 1996, became a resident.

In 2001, he took his family to Afghanistan, but sent them to Pakistan after the September 11 attacks. He said he was about to join them when he was detained. He was transferred to Guantanamo Bay in 2002, where he said he faced mistreatment, leading him to become an advocate for prisoners' rights and an organiser of hunger strikes.

Amer fasted even after his release was announced last month in protest at alleged mistreatment. Obama signed an order six years ago to close the facility, which was opened to hold terror suspects following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

But he has struggled to do so in the face of opposition in Congress and with other countries reluctant to take in one-time terror suspects. Following the release of Mauritanian detainee Ahmed Ould Abdel Aziz from Guantanamo this week, the US defence ministry said there were 113 detainees left. — AFP

UN: S SUDAN ABDUCTION OF 12 STAFF MAY BE WAR CRIME

JUBA: The United Nations' chief in South Sudan called Friday for the immediate release of 12 UN colleagues seized by rebels, warning their capture was a possible war crime.

The US State Department later joined in condemning the capture of 30 UN peacekeepers and staff members by rebel fighters, saying that such attacks "could constitute war crimes" and lead to UN sanctions.

Around 100 rebel fighters, who have been battling the government for almost two years, seized the 30 members of the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) on Monday.

While 18 Bangladeshi peacekeepers were later freed, 12 South Sudanese working for UNMISS are still being held. All were on a river barge carrying fuel for the UN mission.

"I am adamant that the taking of UNMISS personnel as hostages is equivalent to an attack on the UN," Ellen Margrethe Loj said Friday. "Such attacks against UN peacekeepers and other personnel may constitute a war crime."

The State Department, in a statement from spokesman John Kirby, called on both sides in the civil war to immediately allow "free and unfettered access by UN and humanitarian personnel," adding

that some 30,000 people faced "catastrophic levels of food insecurity and the likelihood of famine."

South Sudan's army on Thursday claimed the UN barges had supplied fuel and "logistic items" to rebel general Gabriel Tanginya, a powerful warlord in the oil-zone areas of Upper Nile.

But Loj rejected those accusations. "All of the fuel cargo was intended for resupplying the UNMISS base," she said. Some 12,500 peacekeepers are deployed in South Sudan, which has been wracked by conflict since December 2013.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed, and UN-backed experts have warned of the "concrete risk of famine" before the end of the year, if fighting continues and aid does not reach the hardest hit areas.

Both sides are accused of having perpetrated ethnic massacres, recruited and killed children and carried out widespread rape, torture and forced displacement of populations to "cleanse" areas of their opponents.

Some 3.9 million people are in crisis—a third of the country's population—a massive 80 percent rise compared to the same period last year, the UN said. — AFP

ALABAMA OFFICER SAYS INDIAN JERKED AWAY FROM HIM

HUNTSVILLE: An Alabama police officer testified Friday that he thought an Indian grandfather might have been an armed criminal during a confrontation that left the man badly injured.

Madison police officer Eric Parker testified that the actions and appearance of Sureshbhai Patel, 58, were "in sequence" with those of a burglar. Parker is charged with violating Patel's rights during the encounter that

included Patel being thrown to the ground.

Parker told jurors it made "my alerts go up" when Patel walked away and wouldn't answer questions. He said he grew concerned when Patel reached for his pockets and when he pulled his hand free during a pat down.

"It concerned me that he was going for that weapon I presumed he

had," said Parker, according to Al.com (<http://bit.ly/1GPKZ77>). Patel wasn't armed and suffered a spinal injury when he was thrown down face first on a lawn. Parker said he lost his balance and fell on top of the man.

The defense rested after the officer's testimony. Jurors will get the case after closing arguments and final instructions from US District Judge Madeline Haikala.

Patel had been in the United States only a few days when the confrontation occurred in February as police were checking a citizen's report of a suspicious person in a suburban neighborhood near Huntsville.

Patel, testifying through an interpreter, previously said he doesn't speak English and was trying to show police the home of his son, where Patel was staying at the time, when

police spoke to him.

This is Parker's second trial; his first one ended in a hung jury last month. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley has apologized to the Indian government for Patel's treatment, calling it a case of excessive force.

The city of Madison is firing Parker, who also faces a state assault charge and is being sued for monetary damages by Patel. — AP

ROCKET HITS MOSQUE IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: A rocket apparently fired by fighters from the radical Islamic State movement has hit a mosque in eastern Afghanistan, killing six worshippers and wounding four others, a local official said yesterday. The attack in Achin, southeast of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, occurred during evening prayers on Friday, district governor Haji Ghalibhe said.

It was not clear if it was aimed at the mosque or went astray after being fired at security forces based nearby. Islamic State has been building up its presence in Afghanistan while battling both govern-

ment forces and the Islamist Taliban movement. Nangarhar, on the border with Pakistan, has become one of its main strongholds. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal, a spokesman for the Nangarhar police chief, said security forces had detained two suspects, one of whom was a foreigner.

Islamic State's rise has caused alarm outside Afghanistan, with Russia saying it was concerned about the threat to its central Asian neighbours and US commanders citing the movement as a reason to delay plans to pull out troops next year. — Reuters

11 KILLED AS PAKISTANIS VOTE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLLS

LAHORE: Eleven people were killed when rival political parties fired on each other yesterday as Pakistanis voted in local elections seen as a referendum on the national government halfway through its term.

The violence occurred in the Khairpur district of the southern province of Sindh, which held the polls along with the central Punjab province. It was not immediately clear which parties were responsible.

"Eleven people were killed when two groups opened fire," police deputy inspector general Kamran Fazal told Reuters. The opposition, led by international cricket star turned politician Imran Khan, is hoping the polls will help build a national coalition that could challenge Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) party at the next general election.

Pakistan's other two provinces held their local elections months ago. Khan won in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the northwest and Sharif's party and its coalition partners won in the sparsely populated western province of Baluchistan.

Observers are closely watching the polls in Punjab, Pakistan's richest and most populous province and the power base of Sharif, who swept to national power in a landslide election in 2013.

"PMLN has the upper hand in Punjab but it will be a strongly challenged by PTI," said political analyst Wajahat Masood, referring to Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party.

Security and the economy have improved under Sharif but the government has failed to tackle corruption or tax dodging by the wealthy, two problems that are starving social services such as schools and hospitals of cash.

Over 20 million people are registered to vote in Punjab and 4.6 million in Sindh. Pakistan has a population of 190 million.

Local bodies, in which voters elect councillors directly, devolve administrative and financial powers to lower tiers of electoral bodies. Local government elections were last held in 2005 under General Pervez Musharraf, who came to power in a bloodless coup.

National and provincial political parties dislike the system, saying the military has previously used it to undermine parliamentary democracy. In March this year, the Supreme Court called the absence of the local government system for over a decade unconstitutional and ordered the election commission to arrange for polls to be held as soon as possible. — Reuters



DHAKA: Men carry the body of Bangladeshi publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan to Dhaka Medical College after he is hacked in an attack in his office in Dhaka yesterday. Faisal Arefin Dipan was the publisher of an atheist writer killed earlier this year by suspected Islamists was hacked to death in Bangladesh yesterday, hours after two secular bloggers and another publisher were also attacked. — AFP

SECULAR PUBLISHER MURDERED, 3 HURT IN NEW BANGLADESH ATTACKS

AL-QAEDA BRANCH CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY

DHAKA: The publisher of an atheist writer killed earlier this year by suspected Islamists was hacked to death in Bangladesh yesterday, hours after two secular bloggers and another publisher were also attacked.

Both attacks in the capital Dhaka—the latest in a wave of violence targeting secular activists—followed the same pattern, with the assailants attacking the men with machetes and cleavers, leaving them in a pool of blood and padlocking their offices from the outside as they left, police said. Faisal Arefin Dipan, 43, the owner of Jagritee publishers, was killed in his third-floor office in central Dhaka, his father Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq, a noted intellectual and writer, told AFP.

"I rushed to his office at Aziz Market and broke the padlock. And I saw him lying upside down in a massive pool of blood. They slaughtered his neck. He is dead," he said.

Police also confirmed Dipan's death. Haq told AFP that he became worried about his son after he heard of the earlier attack that left publisher Ahmedur Rashid Tutul, 43, and bloggers Ranadipam Basu, 50, and Tareq Rahim, 30, who is also a poet, severely injured.

"He published the books of Avijit Roy. They also attacked other publishers of Roy but only my son died," Haq said. Atheist blogger Roy was hacked to death outside a book fair in February—the first death in the wave of violence against secular writers in Bangladesh. The total death toll this year now stands at five.

Pool of blood

In the first incident yesterday, three armed

men posing as shoppers entered the offices of Shuddhaswar publishing house at 3pm (0900 GMT), police said. "Once inside, they started hacking Tutul, the publisher of Roy, and secular bloggers Basu and Rahim with machetes and cleavers indiscriminately and shot at Rahim from a firearm," said Dhaka police deputy commissioner Wahidul Islam.

"They then padlocked the office from the outside and left the three in a pool of blood. Our officers broke the door and rescued them after getting emergency calls," he said.

The three men were in hospital and one was in a critical condition. Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) claimed responsibility for the attacks via Twitter. "These two atheist-apostates have published books that have attacked the honour of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and mocked Islam", the group said in a Bengali statement posted using the Twitter handle Ansar al Islam.

Police spokesman Muntashirul Islam said officers had seen the statement, but could not confirm whether the Al-Qaeda branch was responsible for attacks. "We're investigating whether the claim is credible. So far it seems the attacks were pre-planned and carried out by organised miscreants," Islam told AFP.

Government failure

Hundreds of activists held an impromptu march in Dhaka yesterday evening, criticising the government for failing to protect the country's secular writers. "We're stunned. One after another secular writers and bloggers have

been silenced and murdered. Yet the government has failed to protect them," said Imran Sarker, who heads a secular bloggers group.

Asif Mohiuddin, a Berlin-based Bangladeshi atheist blogger who survived a machete attack by Islamist militants in December 2013, also berated the government for not doing enough.

"The country's bloggers have sought protection from the government and yet there have been no visible efforts to ensure their security," he told AFP by telephone.

He said about a dozen secular writers have fled the country following threats from the Islamists and the latest attacks would prompt more to do so or go into hiding. Police have said the banned local Islamist militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) were behind the previous attacks, which were also claimed by Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent.

Tensions are high in Bangladesh following the recent killings of an Italian aid worker and a Japanese farmer, who were shot dead in attacks claimed by the Islamic State group. The bombing of the capital's main Shiite shrine last weekend, which killed one person and wounded dozens more, has further raised concerns for minorities living in the mainly Muslim but officially secular nation.

That attack was also claimed by IS jihadists, but the government responded by denying that the extremist group was active in Bangladesh, and instead rounded up dozens of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's opponents. — AP



LAHORE: Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif waves to supporters as he leaves after casting his vote during a local government election in Lahore yesterday. An armed clash between workers of two political parties killed at least 11 people during the first phase of local government elections in southern Pakistan yesterday, officials said. — AFP

INDIAN INTELLECTUALS ALARMED BY RISING INTOLERANCE ATTACKS

NEW DELHI: First writers then artists, followed by filmmakers, historians and scientists. The chorus of Indian intellectuals protesting religious bigotry and communal violence grows louder by the week with a single message for Prime Minister Narendra Modi: protect India's tradition of secularism and diversity.

Those protesting are angry and worried by a spate of deadly attacks against atheist thinkers and minorities, and by Modi's relative silence through it all. That silence appears to have encouraged some of his party colleagues to make comments asserting Hindu pride and superiority.

On Thursday, more than 100 scientists, including some of India's top nuclear physicists, space scientists and mathematicians, expressed their anguish at the ways in which they said "science and reason were being eroded in the country." The protest by scientists is significant, given that most work for the government or in state-funded organizations and so could risk being punished for speaking out.

"What we are witnessing instead is the active promotion of irrational and sectarian thought by important functionaries of the government," the scientists said in a statement. They said the dozens of Indian writers who have returned national

awards in protest had "shown the way."

The uproar among intellectuals began in late September, when a village mob beat a Muslim man to death and put his son in critical condition over rumors that their family was eating cow meat. In fact, it had been a goat. Ten people have been arrested in connection with the attack.

There have been other incidents in recent years, including the killings of three atheist scholars who had campaigned against religious superstition, and more mob killings over rumors of cow slaughter or smuggling. Many Hindus, who make up more than 80 percent of India's population of 1.25 billion, consider cows to be sacred, and many states ban the slaughtering of the animals.

Communal violence and prejudice are nothing new for India, born as a secular democracy in 1947 amid deadly Hindu-Muslim riots that killed an estimated 1 million people as Muslim-majority Pakistan was carved out of mostly Hindu India with the end of British rule.

Since then, horrific riots and clashes have erupted at intervals, mostly between Hindus and Muslims. Yet India has still largely been seen as overwhelmingly tolerant, with a cacophony of cultures that have lived side by side for centuries. Secularism is enshrined in its constitution.

Fascist revolt

Some political analysts said that the protests were going too far in making it seem like India was on the brink of a fascist revolt, and that the government may simply be stumbling in its communication strategy. Modi has no media spokesman, instead relying largely on senior ministers and his official website to get his messages out.

"If you look at the history of religious violence in India, it is far less today than it was three decades ago," analyst Ashok Malik said. "This is part of the democratic discourse in India. While I'm not doubting the concerns of writers and artists, their use of words like 'fascist' is over the top." Worries over India's secular identity began rumbling before Modi was elected prime minister last year. Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party won the election in a landslide, largely on promises of lifting the economy.

But some cautioned that his support was grounded in the party's Hindu base, and noted that Modi himself had come up through the militant Hindu fundamentalist organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which translates as the National Volunteers Association. For years, the group has been accused of stoking anti-Muslim prejudice, including among teenagers attending youth camps. — AP



NEW DELHI: In this Oct. 6, 2015 file photo, activists of various Indian Muslim groups shout slogans against Indian prime minister Narendra Modi during a protest against the killing of a Muslim farmer by villagers upon hearing rumors that the family was eating beef, in New Delhi, India. The chorus of Indian intellectuals protesting religious bigotry and communal violence grows louder by the week with a single message for prime minister Narendra Modi: Assure the multicultural nation that the government stands for secularism and diversity. — AP

SINGER AT NIGHTCLUB DID NOT REALIZE FIRE DANGER

BUCHAREST: Survivors of a deadly nightclub fire and stampede in Romania say the lead singer of the heavy metal band on stage made a joke at first about the fire before it engulfed the basement club in downtown Bucharest. Hundreds of young people had gone clubbing at the hip Colectiv nightclub Friday night to enjoy a free concert by the Goodbye to Gravity metal band. The evening ended in horror, as the inferno caused a panic that killed 27 people and injured 180 others.

Around 146 people remained hospitalized yesterday, some in critical condition suffering from burns and smoke inhalation. Officials expect the death toll to rise in what is the worst disaster of its kind ever in Romania. Premier Victor Ponta cut short a visit to Mexico to return to Bucharest and declared three days of mourning for the victims starting immediately. Raed Arafat, an emergency situations official, said 17 of those who died

still have not been identified. TV stations posted a number for families to call to find out about the tragedy. An Italian woman, two Spanish citizens and a German man were among the injured, the Romanian Intelligence Agency said.

Witnesses told Antena 3 TV that between 300 and 400 mostly young people had been at the club, housed in a former factory, when a pyrotechnical show went awry. They said there was only one exit. Club-goers told Digi 24 television that a spark on stage ignited some polystyrene decor. Photos posted on social media appeared to show a flame emanating from a pillar covered in foam insulation as those in the audience applauded the band.

Delia Tugui, a Spanish teacher at the American International School of Bucharest who was at the concert with her husband and son, said club-goers were surprised by how fast the fire spread and panicked. "The lead singer

made a quick joke: 'This wasn't part of the program.' The next second, he realized it wasn't a joke and asked for a fire extinguisher," she wrote on her Facebook page. "In 30 seconds...the fire spread all over the ceiling. People rushed to the entrance but it was too narrow, and people panicked. Behind me people stampeded, climbing over each other, to try and get out."

"Friends were looking for each other under the pile of people. Asking 'Is it you? Where are you? I can't see you. Is that your arm?' It was a nightmare."

She said she knew some would not escape. "I realized that those on the other side of the bar would not get out alive." "I was two meters (6.6-feet) from the door and I barely got out," she told The Associated Press. "People started pushing each other, stamping on each other, it was incredibly quick."

Once she got outside there was blast and her hair caught fire, Tugui said.

"I tried to put it out with my hands and got burned. People behind me were burned from head to toe," she said. "Other people were hairless, their clothes were half-burned, and skin burned."

Lead singer Alex Pascu was hospitalized in the Floreasca emergency hospital and Antena 3 TV said bass guitarist Alex Telea was reported missing by his parents who have been searching for him.

Florentina Dinca, 38, who lives opposite the nightclub, told The Associated Press there was chaos as emergency workers tried to aid the badly burned club-goers. "They were very frightened, they screamed, ambulances didn't know what to do," she said. "Girls had their hair burned, they had burns on their faces. It was terror." Bogdan Oprita, spokesman for the Floreasca Emergency Hospital where dozens were hospitalized, said it was the worst bloodshed since the 1989 anti-Communist revolution.

"It was like a war. Dozens of surgeons

were called from home and asked to operate," he said.

President Klaus Iohannis visited injured people yesterday at the Floreasca hospital in Bucharest and tried to comfort survivors and relatives. He said most of the injured were unconscious and in serious condition. He later visited the nightclub and spent a few moments paying silent respect to the victims.

He also promised an inquiry into the blaze to prevent future disasters. "I visited burns patients from last night's tragedy," he said. "I spoke to a patient's mum."

People are disgusted that such a thing could happen and I hope we manage to have results of the inquiry as soon as possible and to change norms so that things like this never happen again."

Prosecutors said they are investigating possible manslaughter charges. Police spent all night in the club investigating the incident and questioning the club's owners. — AP



SEOUL: Xu Shaoshi, left, chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission and Choi Kyung-hwan, right, South Korea's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance sign a document as South Korean President Park Geun-hye, right back, and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, left back, look on during a signing agreement following their meeting at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday. — AP

S KOREA PRESIDENT, CHINA PM MEET AHEAD OF 3-WAY SUMMIT

TRILATERAL SUMMIT WILL BE FIRST SINCE 2012

SEOUL: South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang discussed trade issues yesterday, meeting one-on-one a day before their three-way summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that aims to repair relations strained by historical and territorial matters.

At the meeting between Park and Li at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, the countries reached an agreement to work toward ratifying by the end of the year a bilateral free trade agreement that has yet to gain approval from South Korean lawmakers, Park's office said. The sides, two of the region's closest economic partners, also agreed to work toward expanding South Korean food exports to China and strengthening industrial cooperation in areas such as robotics.

There was speculation that Li might also seek assurance from Park that South Korea, a key US ally, will keep a neutral stance over the recent flare-up between Washington and Beijing over the US Navy's freedom of navigation operations in the disputed waters of the South China Sea. An official from the Blue House couldn't immediately confirm whether the issue came up during yesterday's meeting.

About 28,500 US troops are stationed in South

Korea as deterrence against potential aggression from rival North Korea. Today's trilateral summit will be the first since 2012. The meetings were shelved after Japan's ties with its two neighbors deteriorated over disputes stemming from its World War II-era aggression and territorial claims.

Park will meet separately with Abe tomorrow in the first formal summit between South Korea and Japan in more than three years. Japan and China have been gradually resuming exchanges following 2012 tensions over the control of disputed islands in the East China Sea. The rift began healing after diplomats agreed to restart contacts last November, when Chinese President Xi Jinping briefly met and shook hands with Abe.

Strengthening of ties

Park has met with Xi six times since she took office in 2013, in efforts to further strengthen ties with Beijing. China is South Korea's largest trade partner, and also has leverage with North Korea, Seoul's hard-to-read, nuclear-armed rival.

However, Seoul's ties with Tokyo have been persistently icy after the hawkish Abe came to power in December 2012, with the countries struggling to settle disputes stemming from Japan's brutal

colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula in the early 20th century. China has similar gripes with Japan.

The US wants Japan and South Korea, important allies in the region, to be on better terms to counter China's growing geopolitical influence, including in the South China Sea, and also to strengthen security cooperation against North Korea.

Earlier in the week, the US Navy sailed a warship close to one of China's artificial islands in the South China Sea. It was most direct challenge yet by the US to artificial island building by Beijing that has upset other claimants in the South China Sea, including the Philippines, a close US ally.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, but Washington says the waters are international territory and must be open for navigation. At this weekend's meetings, China might try to work its growing influence with South Korea so that Seoul maintains a muted, neutral stance in the South China Sea dispute instead of supporting the US, said Kim Sung-han, a professor at Seoul's Korea University and a former South Korean deputy foreign minister. Japan is unlikely to get too involved in the South China Sea dispute since it's not a direct party to the conflict, he said. — AP

AUSTRALIA MULLS SENDING REFUGEES TO KYRGYZSTAN

SYDNEY: Australia's government refused to comment on a report yesterday that said it was considering resettling refugees it currently houses on two Pacific islands in the Central Asian state of Kyrgyzstan.

Canberra has made no secret of the fact it is in talks with a number of countries about taking refugees now living in the tiny state of Nauru and Papua New Guinea's Manus island but did not confirm the Kyrgyzstan option.

"We are having conversations with other countries to support our offshore processing arrangements and when we're in a position to make relevant announcements, the minister for immigration will do so," Finance Minister Mathias Cormann told Sky News.

The Weekend Australian story, which named no sources, said that majority-Muslim Kyrgyzstan was seen as a potential option for resettling refugees, in particular Hazara people from Afghanistan.

It said other former Soviet bloc countries were also understood to be on the list of options, along with some African and South American states, but named no other country specifically and gave no indication of whether talks were underway.

A spokeswoman for Immigration Minister Peter Dutton made no comment on the story but referred to recent statements in which Dutton confirmed discussions with the Philippines and "other countries".

"We have had bilateral discussions with other countries, including the Philippines at an officials level, at a ministerial level over a number of months," Dutton told journalists in

Canberra on October 9.

"If we can strike other arrangements with other countries, we will do that, but I won't publicly speculate on it." Under Australia's headline policy to stop asylum-seeker boats reaching its shores, those arriving by sea are denied resettlement in Australia even if found to be genuine refugees.

Criticised

Instead they are turned back to their country of departure or sent to Nauru or PNG where more than 1,500 are now being held. Australia has already struck an agreement with Cambodia to accept refugees in exchange for millions of dollars in aid but only a handful of people have taken up the offer and the deal has been strongly criticised by rights groups.

The Philippines said Tuesday it was "seriously considering" an Australian government proposal but stressed it would not accept any refugees permanently given its responsibilities to its own people, about one quarter of whom live in deep poverty.

Australia's Greens, staunch opponents of the conservative government's immigration policies, ridiculed the idea of sending people to Kyrgyzstan.

"What next? Are we going to send people to Mars?" leader Richard Di Natale said. "This is ridiculous that we would look for any option other than the most logical, humane and economically responsible option which is to ensure we process people here in Australia and, if they are found to be genuine refugees, that they are settled here." — AFP

MYANMAR REFORMS HAVE LONG WAY TO GO TO CHANGE POWER BALANCE

YANGON: The sweeping reforms Myanmar announced in 2011 after a half-century of crushing military rule seemed too good to be true to much of the outside world. And to some degree, they were.

Myanmar citizens are experiencing an unprecedented degree of economic and political freedom, but the balance of power has changed little. Most

of those in charge are former military men who have just swapped their khakis for suits and longyi - the sarong-type skirt traditionally favored by both men and women in Myanmar.

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whom the junta kept under house arrest for years, now tours the country stumping for votes. But even if her National League for Democracy wins

the Nov. 8 election in a landslide, the odds are that the generals and their cronies will continue to dominate both politics and the economy.

Many familiar with Myanmar's government say that while it has made significant reforms in the past five years, it still faces a long journey to achieve a stable, prosperous democracy.

"This is a huge improvement and we have to keep it in context for what it is," said Daniel Aguirre, legal adviser in Yangon for the International Commission of Jurists. But he adds, "The prevailing narrative of 'open for business and everything's fine' is completely, way off."

Conditions for the majority of Myanmar citizens living in the countryside are little changed. Many of them survive on less than \$1.25 a day, and with per capita GDP of about \$810, it is one of the poorest countries in Asia. Many political prisoners were released after reforms began, but dissidents are still frequently jailed, and the press, though not openly controlled by the government, often censors itself out of fear. The military control most government appointments and operate with virtual impunity.

"If you're looking at the big picture of, 'Is the military stepping down tomorrow?' Well, of course not. But I'm not sure anyone who ... really under-

stood history would have expected that," said Vicky Bowman, a former British ambassador to Myanmar who now runs a nongovernmental organization in Yangon, the Myanmar Center for Responsible Business.

"But the reforms are so big, and anyone who thinks you can do that quickly is deluding themselves," she said during a recent interview at a popular cafe favored by Yangon's growing middle class.

Another term

Reforms implemented so far have been under President Sein Thein, a former general who was hand-picked by former dictator Than Shwe, continues to enjoy military support and hopes to win another term. He was elected in 2010, in a vote the NLD boycotted and that was viewed internationally as neither free nor fair.

The military defined the limits of its tolerance for change when it forced, in the dead of the night, the ouster of Shwe Mann, a former general and speaker of the house, as head of the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party in August.

Shwe Mann had favored revisions to the constitution to curb the military's powers and was viewed as a likely contender for president after the election, possibly in a coalition with the NLD. — AP



YANGON: Local election officials conduct a voting day simulation in a school compound in Yangon yesterday during training of on-duty electoral volunteers supervised by Union Election Commission (UEC) officials in preparation for the November 8 election. — AFP



TACLOBAN: A child waits for her turn at a water-refilling truck at a resettlement housing site for survivors of typhoon Haiyan in Tacloban City, Leyte province, central Philippines yesterday, a day before Filipinos visit family graves in the annual tradition of honoring dead relatives, and a week before the second anniversary of the devastating typhoon on November 8. — AFP

FIRE AT PHILIPPINES MARKET KILLS 15

MANILA: A pre-dawn fire in the southern Philippines raced through public market stalls, killing 15 vendors, including six children, who were sleeping there to be up early for the weekend crowds, police said.

Thirteen other vendors were injured in the three-hour blaze in Zamboanga city, a major port about 860 kilometers (540 miles) south of Manila, the capital. It apparently started when sparks from low-slung electric post cables set fire to sidewalk stall umbrellas then ignited stacks of used clothing being sold at the city market, said Senior Superintendent Angelito Casimiro.

The victims were clothes vendors who slept at their stalls, including at least six children, so they could be up early for the weekend market that usually draws sizable crowds, said police investigator Rafael Salcedo.

"One vendor saw the electrical sparks set a stall umbrella on fire, but many were asleep and the others thought somebody

was just playing a prank until the fire started to spread," Salcedo said by telephone.

The victims' bodies were taken to a nearby Muslim mosque prior to burial, he said. Firefighters, who have been on alert along with police for All Saints' Day ceremonies in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation, prevented the blaze from spreading to nearby commercial buildings. Salcedo said that daily blackouts might have caused power fluctuations, but Bureau of Fire investigators would determine whether officers in charge of fire safety could be criminally liable.

Dilapidated buildings, a lack of adequate fire safety systems and inspectors and weak enforcement of fire safety regulations have contributed to many fires in the Philippines. In 1996, a disco fire left 162 people dead, mostly students celebrating the ends of the school year in one of the deadliest nightclub fires in the world. — AP

ROMANIA CLUB BLAZE KILLS 27

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The blaze broke out at around 11:00 pm (2100 GMT) Friday at the Colectiv nightclub, where according to witnesses between 200 and 400 youngsters had gathered for a performance by rock group Goodbye to Gravity. Twenty-six people died in the club and one died in hospital, the secretary of state for the interior, Raed Arafat, said after a meeting of a national emergency committee.

Of the nearly 200 injured, 146 people were hospitalized for burns, smoke inhalation and other injuries, he said. Hospital sources said 10 were in a critical condition. The band's singer and bassist were said to be in a serious condition, according to local reports. "This is the worst tragedy of its kind" to have ever happened in Bucharest, Arafat said.

Iohannis said he was "shocked" and in "deep pain". "It is a very sad moment for our nation," he said in a post on his Facebook page, expressing his "solidarity and compassion" for the families of the victims.

Witnesses described nightmarish scenes when fire-works, left off as part of a show to promote the band's new album, set fire to a pillar and part of the ceiling. The crowd panicked as thick smoke engulfed the room, prompting people to scramble to escape from the club, located in a communist-era basement.

"People were fainting, they were fainting because of the smoke. It was total chaos, people were tram-

pled," witness Victor Ionescu told local television station Antena 3.

Another witness, Alin Panduru, said the fire spread "in 30 seconds". "People could not get out of the club because there was only one exit open and the stampede happened immediately," he told online news portal Hotnews. Several media outlets reported that a second exit was closed at the time when the blaze broke out.

Many of the casualties suffered from leg injuries after being trampled, according to health authorities.

More than 500 firefighters, ambulance crew and police were mobilized. Hundreds of people responded to calls on Facebook for blood donations, with long queues forming outside several hospitals and donation centers in the capital early yesterday. Authorities have also set up telephone helplines for members of the public trying to locate friends and relatives. Identifying the victims has proved difficult as many were not carrying IDs. Music website Metalhead has published a list of anyone who has been hospitalized and was able to give their name on its Facebook page.

Fireworks and restricted exits have been a lethal combination in many nightclub fires around the world. In one of the worst such disasters, 156 clubbers in the Russian city of Perm died in 2009 in a blaze caused by pyrotechnics, and 83 were injured. Seven people were jailed for up to nine years after the tragedy. — AFP

RUSSIA RISKS SYRIAN QUAGMIRE: US

Continued from Page 1

He also took the region's countries to task for their restrictive politics and lack of openness, saying it was the marginalization of moderate voices rather than the Arab Spring calls for freedom in 2011 that had caused instability.

"Where there was hope for more open, accountable, and democratic government in 2011, there is now - with few exceptions - more violence, fear, and chaos," Blinken said.

He said US engagement in the Middle East, while deeper than ever, was broad and went beyond the military aspect, and there could be no military solution to Syria's war. On Friday, the United States disclosed plans to station its first ground troops in Syria for the war

against Islamic State. Washington has sought to reassure Gulf allies that its reluctance to actively participate in military efforts to push Assad from power does not mean it is turning its back on the region or on its traditional Arab partners.

Delegates at the Manama conference, a rare regional talking shop on security, included ministers, diplomats and intelligence officials from countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Gulf Arab states as well as the United States and Britain. Gulf-based Russian diplomats were also present.

Saudi Foreign Minister Jubeir added that he hoped Iran would use its additional revenue after sanctions on it were lifted following its nuclear deal with world powers to develop its economy "rather than for aggressive policies". — Reuters

CAMPAIGNING WRAPS UP FOR TURKEY VOTE

Continued from Page 1

Alarm bells are also ringing about the state of democracy in the country of 78 million following a string of high-profile police raids and prosecutions against media groups and journalists considered critical of Erdogan and his government.

Election fatigue

The June result put paid to Erdogan's hopes of expanding his role into a powerful US-style executive presidency that opponents fear would mean fewer checks and balances on a man seen as increasingly autocratic. "Sunday's parliamentary elections will really be about curbing or enhancing Erdogan's power," said Asli Aydintasbas of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

A total of 54 million Turks are registered to vote, but observers say fatigue has set in, and the run-up to the election has been much more low-key than the frenzied campaigning ahead of the June poll. Security remains the paramount concern after the bloody attack on a peace rally in Ankara that prosecutors say was carried out by a sleeper cell on the orders of the Islamic State group to disrupt today's election.

Police have rounded up scores of IS suspects in raids across the country amid media reports that a jihadist cell could be planning a spectacular attack such as a hijacking. "We need a strong government to guarantee stability," Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, a close Erdogan ally, said on Friday.

The Ankara atrocity followed a similar bombing on Kurdish activists in a town on the Syrian border in July that thrust the NATO ally into a "war on terrorism" against IS extremists and PKK rebels in Turkey

and Iraq. Ankara, which is already struggling with more than two million Syrian refugees, found itself drawn directly into the quagmire across the border this summer.

It joined the US-led coalition against Islamic State fighters in July, after initially helping some Islamic rebel groups opposed to the Damascus regime.

G20 summit

But concerns about Turkey's domestic and foreign policies have seen it more isolated on the international stage, as relations with the EU and US cool and it loses friends in the Middle East. Turkey's faltering economy is also at risk, with growth slowing sharply from the dizzy heights of five years ago and the Turkish lira plunging around 26 percent so far in 2015.

All eyes will again be on the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which made history in June when it became the first pro-Kurdish movement in parliament and gained enough seats to block an AKP majority. Analysts expect the AKP to try to form a coalition with at least one other party in the event of another hung parliament, probably the secular Republican People's Party (CHP) which came second in June.

But the outcome could leave Turkey without a government as it hosts world leaders, including US President Barack Obama for the G20 summit in the Mediterranean resort of Antalya on November 15 and 16. Davutoglu, who could be fighting for his political life if the AKP fails again to win at least 276 of the 550 seats in parliament, insisted another election was not on the cards for fatigued voters.

"Turkey would not tolerate another rerun," he said this week. — AFP

RAINS CONTINUE TO LASH KUWAIT

Continued from Page 1

Authorities in war-hit Yemen and in Oman yesterday urged residents to evacuate coastal areas as a severe cyclone brewing in the Arabian Sea approached the shores. The UN's weather agency said on Friday that the "super cyclonic storm" named Chapala was expected to make landfall around midnight Monday in Yemen and Oman. Yemen's meteorological agency called on residents of the southeastern provinces of Hadramawt and Mohrah, and the island of Socotra, to stay at least one kilometer away from the shores. It said activities at ports and airports in coastal areas should stop when the cyclone hits, and urged fishermen to stay on land and to lift their boats out of water to avoid losses.

To the east, Omani authorities ordered that schools be closed today and tomorrow in the southwestern province of Dhofar, ONA state news agency said, adding that medical and diving teams had been sent there in preparation for the storm.

Satellite images have shown that Chapala was approaching the shores with wind speeds between 220 and 250 kilometers (136 and 155 miles) per hour, ONA said. Oman's civil aviation authority warned that waves higher than seven metres (23 feet) were expected to hit the beaches of Dhofar.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization described Chapala as "an extremely severe cyclonic storm". WMO said that Chapala's wind speed was the equivalent of a category four hurricane. — Agencies

224 PERISH AS RUSSIAN PLANE CRASHES IN SINAI

Continued from Page 1

"The plane split into two, a small part on the tail end that burned and a larger part that crashed into a rockface. We have extracted at least 100 bodies and the rest are still inside," the officer, who requested anonymity, said.

Egyptian and Russian authorities said it was too early to draw any conclusions about the cause of the crash. Bodies were being removed from the scene and transported to various hospitals with 34 arriving in the Zeinhom morgue in Cairo early in the evening. Egypt has recovered the black box of the airliner that crashed.

"The black box was recovered from the tail of the plane and has been sent to be analyzed by experts," the office of Prime Minister Sharif Ismail said, adding that rescuers had recovered 129 bodies from the site of the crash. Ismail later told a press conference that experts will "start examining the information in the black box, and based on this we will study the causes of the crash".

Islamic State, in a statement on Twitter, said it had brought down the aircraft. "You who kill will be killed," Russia, an ally of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, launched air raids against opposition groups in Syria including Islamic State on Sept 30.

Security sources said they had no indication the Airbus had been shot down or blown up. But in an illustration of sensitivity of the crash, Egypt invited Russian authorities to take part in the investigation.

Sinai is the scene of an insurgency by militants close to Islamic State, who have killed hundreds of Egyptian soldiers and police and have also attacked Western targets in recent months. Much of the Sinai is a restricted military zone. Islamist fighters in Sinai are not believed to have missiles capable of hitting a plane at 30,000 feet. Islamic State websites have in the past claimed responsibility for actions that have not been conclusively attributed to them.

Telephones Ringing

But two of Europe's largest airlines, German carrier Lufthansa and Air France-KLM, said they would avoid flying over the Sinai peninsula until there was clarity about the cause of the crash. Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a day of national mourning for today. The passengers included 214 Russians and three Ukrainians. A middle-aged man in a grey overcoat, who gave his first name as Nayeel, wept as he spoke to reporters as he came out of a hotel near St Petersburg's Pulkovo airport, where a special reception center has been set up for families of the victims. He said that his wife had been on the plane. "At six am she sent me a text message saying: 'I'm boarding. God be with me.' And that was it," he said. The man said the rest of the family had already returned from a holiday in Egypt, but his wife had opted to stay on, which is why she was on the Saturday morning flight.

Overflights

Air France and Lufthansa said yesterday they will stop flying over Egypt's Sinai peninsula after the Russian passenger plane went down in the area. The airlines said they were taking the measure as a precaution while the cause of the Russian crash was investigated.

An Air France spokesperson told AFP they would not fly over Sinai until further notice, "as a precaution" while "clarification" was sought over why the Russian charter plane crashed. Lufthansa told the

German newspaper Die Welt it was taking the same measure for the same reason.

The A321 is a medium-haul jet in service since 1994, with over 1,100 in operation worldwide and a good safety record. It is a highly automated aircraft relying on computers to help pilots stay within safe flying limits. Airbus said the A321 was built in 1997 and had been operated by Metrojet since 2012. It had flown 56,000 hours in nearly 21,000 flights and was powered by engines from International Aero Engines consortium, which includes United Technologies unit Pratt & Whitney and Germany's MTU Aero Engines.

Emergency services and aviation specialists searched the wreckage for any clues to the crash. One of two flight recorders, key to any investigation, was quickly found, but wreckage was scattered over a wide area. The security officer said 120 bodies had been found intact. "We are hearing a lot of telephones ringing, most likely belonging to the victims, and security forces are collecting them and putting them into a bag," he said. Russia's Investigative Committee said it was checking fuel samples from the aircraft's last refueling stop, in the southern Russian city of Samara, according to RIA news agency. Searches were being carried out at Moscow's Domodedovo airport where the airline that operated the plane is based.

Kogalymavia was founded in 1993, and was earlier called Kalmavia. Its fleet consists of two A320s and seven A321s. Russia and other former Soviet republics have relatively poor safety records, notably on domestic flights.

Some Russian air crashes have been blamed on the use of ageing aircraft, but industry experts point to other problems, including poor crew training, crumbling airports, lax government controls and neglect of safety in the pursuit of profits. The aircraft took off at 5:51 am Cairo time (0351 GMT) and disappeared from radar screens 23 minutes later, Egypt's Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement. It was at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,400 meters) when it vanished from radar screens.

Accidents at cruising altitude are one of the rarest categories of accidents but also among the most deadly, accounting for 13 percent of fatal incidents but 27 percent of fatalities since 2005, according to Boeing. Investigators would be looking into, among other things, the weather at the time, the pilots' experience, maintenance records, signs of a stall and any evidence of an explosion. Experts consistently warn air accidents are usually caused by a cocktail of factors, both human and technical. According to FlightRadar24, an authoritative Sweden-based flight tracking service, the aircraft was descending rapidly at about 6,000 feet (1,800 meters) per minute when the signal was lost to air traffic control. — Agencies

HH AMIR SENDS...

Continued from Page 1

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent cables of similar sentiments.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim sent a cable of condolences to Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matvienko and Chairman of the State Duma Sergey Naryshkin on the death of 224 passengers of the Russian airliner yesterday. — KUNA



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DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

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Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
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Focus

CHINA COMES UNDER
PRESSURE OVER
MARITIME CLAIMS

By Mathew Pennington

Pressure on China over its claims to most of the strategic South China Sea went up a couple of notches this week. First, the US sent a warship in its most direct challenge yet to Beijing's artificial island building. Then over Chinese objections, an international tribunal ruled it had jurisdiction in a case brought by the Philippines on maritime claims.

Neither action appeared likely to stop China in its tracks, as it seeks to assert its control over resource-rich waters that it considers vital to its security. Beijing is expected to put a higher priority on what it sees as its strategic interests than its international reputation.

But it could damage China's efforts to win more respect on the global stage as it emerges as an economic and military power. The United States, which has had little success to date in its five-year effort to put diplomatic pressure on China over its uncompromising pursuit of claims to more than 80 percent of the South China Sea, is hoping that makes a difference. It welcomed the tribunal decision and said it expected Beijing to abide by the final ruling next year.

Although the tribunal was set up on the basis of a provision of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea that both the Philippines and China have ratified, China has boycotted the proceedings. On Friday its Foreign Ministry declared that the ruling on jurisdiction was "null and void" and would have no binding effect on China. The Philippine case, which was filed before the tribunal in The Hague in January 2013, contends that China's massive territorial claims are invalid under the convention. The tribunal on Thursday decided it has jurisdiction in the case.

Freedom of navigation

The tribunal will also examine whether a number of Chinese-occupied reefs and shoals - including an artificial island that was skirted by a US warship this week in a freedom of navigation maneuver that riled Beijing - do generate, or create a claim to, territorial waters and an economic zone.

US ally, the Philippines, contends that they do not. "The fact that the tribunal did not reject jurisdiction on anything in the case brought by the Philippines, and could end up ruling against it on all these counts, introduces uncertainty and anxiety for China," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

Malcolm Cook, senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, said that outside of China, many maritime law experts feel the Philippines has a strong case and are skeptical of the legal basis for China's expansive claims, which it says are rooted in history. China roughly demarcates this vast area on maps with a nine-dash line.

Despite China's latest legal setback, both Glaser and Cook didn't expect it change course. "The Chinese navy has a very strong interest in gaining greater sea control over the South China Sea and this interest and its pursuit will likely not be affected by tribunal rulings," Cook said. In all, six Asian governments have overlapping claims in the South China Sea, straddling some of the world's busiest sea lanes and in areas with rich fishing grounds and potential undersea oil and gas fields. China's massive construction to transform at least seven shoals and reefs into islands in the disputed Spratly Islands have ratcheted up tensions.

Glaser said China views these waters off its east coast as vital to its security which it needs to control to avert any potential crisis intervention by the United States, which since World War II has been the predominant military force in the Asia-Pacific. The ruling Communist Party also needs to be seen as defending national sovereignty.

Security interest

Since announcing in 2010 that the US has a national security interest in resolving disputes and maintaining peace and security in the South China Sea, Washington has failed to get Beijing to moderate its behavior. In fact, the opposite has happened. When the US called for China and other claimants to halt land reclamation last year, Beijing appeared to double down, building airstrips and other facilities that could have military uses. Tuesday's sail-by of Subi Reef by the USS Lassen - following long demands from Congress for action and months of debate within the Obama administration - was the toughest US step to date to challenge China's island-building.

The guided missile destroyer sailed within 12 nautical miles (22-kilometer) of the reef to underscore Washington's position that the geographic alteration would not allow the previously submerged reef to generate territorial waters. Subi Reef is one of the land features under scrutiny by the tribunal. —AP

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IN SYRIA, OBAMA CROSSES OWN RED LINE

By Julie Pace

Even as President Barack Obama sent US troops back to Iraq and ordered the military to stay in Afghanistan, he insisted Syria would remain off limits for American ground forces. Now the president has crossed his own red line.

His deployment of up to 50 US special operations troops into northern Syria to assist in the fight against the Islamic State is the kind of incremental move that has defined Obama's approach to the Middle East in his second term.

While the US military footprint in the region grows, each step is taken on a small scale so as to reassure the public that Obama isn't plunging the country into another large, open-ended conflict.

The strategy may help ease Americans back into the realities of war, but regional experts as well as some of Obama's political allies say his slow ramp-up may be insufficient in defeating the fast-moving militants. "Deploying a handful of US special operations forces to Syria will not change this situation significantly," Frederic Hof, Obama's former Syria special adviser, said of Friday's announcement. "It is a Band-Aid of sorts." Sen Brian Schatz, a Democrat from Obama's home state of Hawaii, said the latest escalation "is unlikely to succeed

in achieving our objective of defeating IS and instead threatens to embroil the United States in Syria's civil war."

The military campaign against the Islamic State is nowhere near the size and scope of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama has repeatedly used the costly and unpopular Iraq war in particular as an example of what he's tried to avoid in the region.

Location

But the significance of Friday's announcement was more about the location of the deployment, not the number of troops. It marks the first time the US has openly sent forces into Syria, expanding the geographic reach of Obama's military efforts in the Middle East.

For years, the president has cast the chaos in Syria as exactly the type of situation he was elected to keep the US military out of. Washington has no partners in the Syrian government and few good options among opposition leaders. There is no ground force that the US can quickly train.

But the crisis has become unavoidable for Obama, particularly since the Islamic State grew out of the chaos and crossed the border into Iraq. What the president could once cast as a civil war that needed to be solved by Syrians has

threatened to upend the whole region. Obama's first move was to deploy a few hundred US troops to Iraq to train and assist local forces in the fight against the Islamic State. It marked a return to Iraq for the US military after the 2011 withdrawal, which was a fulfillment of Obama's campaign promise to end the war he inherited from President George W Bush.

But over the past year, the number of US troops in Iraq has expanded to about 3,300. In another escalation, the US also began launching airstrikes against the Islamic State in both Iraq and Syria.

Despite killing as many as 12,000 militants, the bombing campaign has not significantly weakened the Islamic State's capacity to hold territory, and the group's ranks have been replenished by foreign fighters and others. Obama had hoped the strikes in Syria would be complemented by a ground force trained by Americans elsewhere in the region. But the train-and-equip program failed spectacularly and the president abandoned it earlier this fall.

Progress against IS

The new US deployment into Syria essentially replaces that effort. The decision allows Obama - who has been under pressure by the Pentagon and international partners to make progress

against the Islamic State - to contend he's seeking new ways to address the crisis. The White House also argued the president wasn't backtracking on his commitment to keep US troops out of Syria because the presence was narrow in size and scope. But to some, the White House appears to be more concerned about being able to keep that political promise than in taking action that could have a more substantial impact in resolving the situation on the ground.

"War has a harsh reality in that in order to have an effect you have to be present," said Jerry Hendrix, a retired Navy flight officer and the director of the Defense Strategies and Assessments Program at the Center for a New American Security.

The White House put no timetable on how long the American forces would stay in Syria, though Obama has previously said he expects the campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria to last beyond his presidency. The escalation of the Pentagon's campaign against the Islamic State follows Obama's announcement two weeks ago that he was reversing course and keeping American troops in Afghanistan beyond next year. That means the president who inherited two military conflicts will likely hand his successor three. —AP

ERDOGAN: TURKEY'S ABRASIVE 'SULTAN'

By Tanya Willmer

Saviour or dictator? President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rose from humble beginnings to become Turkey's most powerful politician since Ataturk, but after more than a decade at the top he is now its most divisive. Adored by his supporters as a transformative figure who modernized Turkey, his critics label him an increasingly despotic leader who harbours ambitions to establish "one-man rule".

Erdogan's dream of expanding his powers to become a more US-style executive president was stymied at the June election when his Justice and Development Party (AKP) lost its majority, ending 13 years of single party rule. And with the country shaken to the core by the devastating Ankara bombings and the revival of the bloody Kurdish conflict, opinion polls say it is unlikely the outcome will be any different today.

Another inconclusive result could see his loyal Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu fighting for his political life, and also raise questions about Erdogan's future role. The towering 61-year-old first came to power as prime minister in 2003, bringing stability after a history of coups and rocky coalitions and dragging the Muslim majority country out of an economic quagmire.

But critics say an increasingly erratic Erdogan is now bent on destroying the secular democracy, imposing his conservative Islamic values on society while silencing his rivals and critical media.

Dramatic evidence of that came just days before the vote when riot police shut down television stations linked to his archfoe, a US-exiled preacher accused of plotting to topple Erdogan by orchestrating a corruption probe that ensnared his inner circle. "Not since the days of the 1980 military coup have there been such dramatic moves to close down and prevent scrutiny of power," said Human Rights Watch senior researcher for Turkey Emma Sinclair-Webb.

'The big master'

As premier, Erdogan succeeded in clipping the wings of the military-once powerful guardians of the secular state, and ordinary Turks became suspicious of moves to "Islamize" society by restricting alcohol sales, curbing the Internet and even trying to ban mixed-sex dorms at state universities.

As head of state, Erdogan should stay out of party politics but he remains a powerful influence on the AKP and

ruffled feathers when he went on the campaign trail in June. He was initially hailed in the West for creating a model Muslim democracy on Europe's eastern edge and Turkey had hoped to play a key mediator role on the global stage.

But Ankara lost friends after the Arab spring and relations cooled with the West, particularly over its support for Islamic rebels in the Syrian conflict and for a worsening rights record which hampered its EU aspirations.

Standing almost two metres tall with a notoriously fiery temper, Erdogan is known to himself and followers as the "buyuk usta" - the "big master" - or simply "the Sultan".



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a reception at the presidential palace in Ankara yesterday. —AP

Rumours about his health have continued to circulate after he reportedly had two major intestinal operations, but doctors have denied claims he had cancer and he continues to keep up a punishing work schedule. There is no doubt Erdogan has his eye on his legacy and wants to go down in history alongside modern Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk as one of its great leaders.

He has launched breathtakingly ambitious projects including a new high-speed rail network and a tunnel beneath the Bosphorus. But his vast new \$615 million presidential palace with 1,150 rooms has been ridiculed as an absurd and tasteless extravagance, a symbol of his creeping authoritarianism.

A piqued Erdogan even sued a political rival for slander

for daring to claim it was equipped with golden toilet seats. He has raised eyebrows with a series of bizarre comments, declaring that Muslims discovered the Americas before Columbus, that women are not equal to men and even boasting "We will wipe out Twitter".

'AKP is my child'

The son of a coastguard officer, he was born in Istanbul's harbour-side neighbourhood of Kasimpasa and spent his earliest years in the region of Rize by the Black Sea but returned to Istanbul by his early teens. He took a degree in business administration and once played semi-professional football for an Istanbul club.

Rising to prominence in the Islamist movement, he became mayor of Istanbul in 1994, tackling urban woes such as traffic gridlock and air pollution in the megacity of 15 million. When his religious party was outlawed, he joined demonstrations and was jailed for four months for inciting religious hatred when he recited an Islamist poem. In 2001 Erdogan, along with long-time ally Abdullah Gul and others, founded the Islamic-rooted AKP, which has won every election since 2002.

"The AKP is my fifth child," says Erdogan, who has two sons and two daughters.

Initially barred due to his criminal conviction, he became premier in 2003 when parliament passed new reforms. Under his rule, Turkey showed stellar economic growth rates that were the envy of other emerging markets and adopted an increasingly confident position on the international stage.

But from 2013, Erdogan started to encounter challenges to his rule and he reacted in a combative rather than conciliatory fashion. His government cracked down on protests over plans to redevelop an Istanbul park that snowballed into nationwide demonstrations against his rule and left eight people dead. Even as some within his party urged moderation, Erdogan branded the protesters "capulcu" (hooligans).

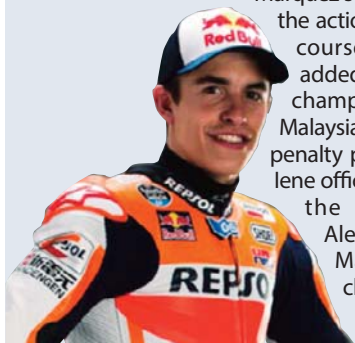
Anger came to a head again over his response to a mine tragedy last year that claimed 301 lives, when he attempted to downplay the incident by comparing it to mining disasters in 19th-century Britain. And since he became Turkey's first directly elected president in August 2014, he has become even more pugnacious and some say "Putinised".

"The last dictator!" said one placard brandished by demonstrators protesting at the television raid this week. —APF

MARQUEZ FAMILY ATTACKED

MADRID: Outgoing MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez has filed an official complaint after he and his family were allegedly insulted and physically attacked at their home in Cervera near Barcelona.

Representatives of the Honda rider published a statement in Spanish media yesterday which said "a group of people" had turned up at the Marquez residence on Friday. They did not identify them but local media said they were journalists from an Italian television programme called "Le Iene" (The Hyenas) broadcast by the Mediaset group. They "hurled a series of insults, performed certain humiliating and ridiculous actions towards the rider and even pushed and attacked his closest family members," the Marquez statement said. "Given the seriousness of the events, the actions have been reported and will follow the normal course of a legal complaint against these people," it added. Marquez clashed with Italian Yamaha rider and championship leader Valentino Rossi at last weekend's Malaysia Grand Prix, when Rossi was sanctioned with three penalty points for kicking the Spaniard off his bike. The Le Iene official Facebook page carried a statement from two of the programme's reporters, Stefano Corti and Alessandro Onnis, which said they had gone to the Marquez home to present him with a tongue-in-cheek trophy.—Reuters



KIM AND KUNG LEAD IN CHINA

CHINA: South Korea's Kim Sei-young and Candie Kung of Taiwan emerged at the top of leaderboard after a brutal third day of scoring at the Blue Bay LPGA in China where only four players shot sub-par rounds. Overnight leader Kim produced a two-over-par round of 74 to sign for a 216 level-par total, matched by Kung who bogeyed her last two holes to sign for a 73 at the \$2 million event in Hainan Island. The blustering conditions and heavily undulating greens at the lengthy Jian Lake Blue Bay Course have proved a stern test for the LPGA's finest taking part in the penultimate leg of the five-tournament Asian swing.

Kim, chasing rookie of the year honours, has shown her best in the wind this year with two titles in Bahamas and Hawaii earlier in the season but said Blue Bay had been a step up after she mixed three birdies with five bogeys in yesterday's round.

"This is the toughest course I've ever played," the world number 11 said. "Overall, I'm happy with my performance, although I feel this is really, really tough." Kung, chasing her fifth LPGA Tour

event and first LPGA Tour title in seven years, said she had just concentrated on surviving yesterday.

"I really am very much distraught with the windy conditions," the world number 63 said. "There is no way you really have time to think about who is behind you, who ahead of you, and in what way on course you can catch up or whatever. You just do your best."

American Stacy Lewis was a shot back on one-over after a third round 73 and the world number three was expecting another tough outing today. "I think the weather is going to be even worse tomorrow, so it's really more of a mental test than anything."

Taiwanese rookie Hsu Wei-Ling fired the best round of the day, a four-under-par 68 after an astonishing seven birdies over her closing 10 holes vaulted her up the leaderboard into a share of eighth on three-over.

World number one Lydia Ko was among the sub-par quartet, hitting six birdies in a round of 70 which helped move her up to plus six and a share of 20th.—Reuters

NZ HEAD TO BRISBANE EARLY

MELBOURNE: New Zealand will travel to Brisbane early to acclimatise to local conditions ahead of the first test against Australia after their preparations were disrupted due to a tour match being scrapped in farcical circumstances on Friday.

Originally intended to last four days, the match was scaled back to three before being abandoned by lunch on the second day due to the acute deterioration of the pitch at the Blacktown International Sportspark in western Sydney.

New Zealand's bowlers could prise just one wicket from the opening four sessions and only after the Cricket Australia XI openers built a 503-run partnership, an Australian record in first class cricket.

New Zealand's batsmen did not hit a ball in anger and the team heads to Brisbane frustrated by the lack of match practice.

"We had two days and haven't gained a lot out of it from a preparation point of view, other than time on our feet," coach Mike Hesson told New Zealand media.

Cricket Australia offered to find the Black Caps better facilities in Sydney, but New Zealand will instead train at Allan Border field in Brisbane ahead of the test at the Gabba, which starts on Thursday.

While the abandonment was something of an embarrassment for hosts Cricket Australia, Hesson was reluctant to lay blame.—Reuters

DE VILLIERS HITS CENTURY

MUMBAI: AB de Villiers continued his fine form in India with another century as South Africa and an Indian Board President's XI drew their warm-up game yesterday.

The South African batsman scored 112 as the Proteas made 302 all out on the second and final day at the Brabourne Stadium in the western Indian city of Mumbai.

South Africa started the day on 46-2 after India recorded 296 in their first innings on Friday. De Villiers hit 18 fours during his 131-ball knock. His ton came just days after he scored 119 to help the tourists clinch the one-day international series.

Dane Vilas was South Africa's second-highest scorer yesterday, recording 54 runs, and Shardul Thakur was the star of the Indian XI's bowling attack, claiming four wickets. India were 92-0 in their second innings at the close of play. Lokesh Rahul scored 43 while Cheteshwar Pujara was 49 not out.

The game was a warm-up for the four-Test series starting next week. South Africa have already won the Twenty20 series 2-0 and the one-day international series 3-2.—AFP



NEW YORK: Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Morgan Rielly (44) controls the puck against New York Rangers center Derek Stepan (21) as Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier (45) defends the goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game.—AP

RANGERS DROP LEAFS, CANADIENS WIN

NEW YORK: Mats Zuccarello's hat trick sent the New York Rangers to a 3-1 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Friday night. Henrik Lundqvist made 22 saves as the Rangers improved to 7-2-2.

New York has won four of its last five, earning 10 points in its last six games. The Rangers played for the first time since defeating Calgary, 4-1 on Oct. 25. During the break, coach Alain Vigneault reconfigured his top two lines, reuniting Zuccarello with Derick Brassard and Rick Nash and putting Chris Kreider back with Derek Stepan.

Jonathan Bernier made 23 saves but Toronto fell to 1-6-2, losing five in a row. Joffrey Lupul's deflection at 18:09 into the third spoiled Lundqvist's shutout bid.

CANADIENS 6, FLAMES 2

Dale Weise completed his first career hat trick midway through the third period and Montreal blew out hapless Calgary to end a two-game skid and become the first NHL team with 10 wins.

Weise scored in each of the first and second periods, then got his third with 8:16 left by smacking in the rebound from Tomas Fleishmann's shot.

Nathan Beaulieu, Devante Smith-Pelly and Paul Byron also scored, and rookie Mike Condon made 30 saves. Montreal got its first win since its nine-game season-opening win streak ended against Vancouver on Tuesday.

The Flames have lost four straight and are yet to win in regulation this season. Joni Orto stopped 25 shots for Calgary. Jiri Hudler and Josh Jooris scored.

Weise broke a 2-2 tie 6:57 into the second. He took the puck away from Benoit Pouliot, skated toward the right circle and beat Orto with a wrist.

HURRICANES 3, AVALANCHE 2

Victor Rask, Justin Faulk and Jeff Skinner scored and Carolina beat Colorado for its third straight victory. Colorado's Carl Soderberg scored with 31.8 seconds left, but Carolina got its first home win of the season. It was the Hurricanes' first home game following a long road trip they take annually - seven contests this time - to avoid traffic conflicts with the North Carolina State Fair.

Carolina won the teams' only other meeting this season 1-0 in overtime nine days earlier. Goalie Cam Ward got that shutout and stopped 28 shots in this one.

Colorado's Semyon Varlamov made 23 saves. Alex Tanguay also scored for Colorado. Kris Versteeg and Ryan Murphy each had two assists for the Hurricanes. Brett Pesce got his first career point for Carolina on a third-period assist. Colorado's last win in Raleigh was in January 2008.

SABRES 3, FLYERS 1

Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and two assists, rookie goaltender Linus Ullmark got his first NHL win and Buffalo beat Philadelphia. Jack Eichel and Nicolas Deslauriers also scored for Buffalo. Ullmark made 27 saves. Mark Streit spoiled Ullmark's shutout bid with 3:26 left, but the Flyers have lost three straight. Two of those came this week against the Sabres.

O'Reilly has four goals and nine assists through 11 games since being acquired from Colorado in the summer. Flyers goaltender Michal Neuvirth, an ex-Sabre, made two of his 33 saves on the Sabres' first power play, stopping

Jamie McGinn's snap shot and its rebound.

Eichel showed why he's regarded as a can't-miss prospect, cutting quickly to lose Luke Schenn and rifling a wrist shot past Neuvirth.

CAPITALS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1

Justin Williams and T.J. Oshie each scored to lift Washington over Columbus. Braden Holtby made 29 saves to help the Capitals avoid back-to-back losses for the first time this season after falling 3-1 to Pittsburgh on Wednesday.

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 26 shots for the Jackets. Williams scored his second goal of the season to give Washington the lead at 14:16 in the second.

After Washington killed two penalties, Oshie's fourth goal of the season made it 2-0 at 11:59 in the third when the Capitals finished a 3-on-2 breakaway. Matt Calvert scored in the third period for Columbus, which fell to 2-2-0 under new coach John Tortorella.

BRUINS 3, PANTHERS 1

Brad Marchand scored twice and Zdeno Chara picked up his first goal of the season to lead Boston over Florida. Marchand, who extended his point streak to five games, also was given a major penalty and a game misconduct for boarding Dmitry Kulikov with 2:06 left in the game. Kulikov left the ice bleeding.

Boston goalie Tuukka Rask made 31 saves and Florida's Roberto Luongo had 22. Chara also added an assist. Florida's Nick Bjugstad scored his fourth goal on a 5-on-3 power play at 11:32 in the third.

Rask kept the game scoreless early with big saves on a breakaway by Quinton Howden then a rebound chance by Alex Petrovic. He added a sliding glove save on a point-blank shot by Jonathan Huberdeau at 11:55 with Florida on the power play.

SENATORS 3, RED WINGS 1

Kyle Turris and Matt Puempel scored in the first two periods and Bobby Ryan added an empty-net goal in the final minute, helping Ottawa beat Detroit.

Andrew Hammond made 29 saves for the Senators. Detroit's Henrik Zetterberg scored on the second of two power plays with a two-man

advantage late in the second period. Jimmy Howard stopped 32 shots for the Red Wings.

The Senators limited Detroit's quality scoring chances in the third, helping them improve to 4-1 on the road this season. The offensively challenged Red Wings pulled Howard to add an extra skater with 2-plus minutes left, but couldn't score to send the game to overtime before Ryan restored Ottawa's two-goal lead with 55 seconds left.

WILD 5, BLACKHAWKS 4

Jason Zucker scored 18 seconds into the game and assisted on Nino Niederreiter's winner to lead Minnesota over Chicago.

Ryan Carter, Charlie Coyle and Jared Spurgeon also had goals for Minnesota, which dealt its playoff nemesis Chicago its second straight loss. Mikko Koivu added three assists, and Devan Dubnyk made 25 saves, as the Wild won their fifth straight at home to start the season. Jonathan Toews scored twice for the Blackhawks, which finally snapped a 5-on-5 scoring drought. Brent Seabrook and Artem Anisimov had a goal each for Chicago and Scott Darling stopped 25 shots. The Blackhawks have beaten Minnesota in the second round of the playoffs the past two seasons.

CANUCKS 4, COYOTES 3

Rookie Jared McCann scored the first of two quick goals in the opening period and Vancouver held on for a win over Arizona. The Canucks were sharp after blowing a two-goal lead in a loss to Dallas the night before, taking a 3-0 lead in the first.

Alexandre Burrows scored shortly after McCann's fifth goal of the season, and Brendan Gaunce added his first NHL goal about midway through the opening period.

Arizona rallied in the second period on goals by Max Domi and Steve Downie, but Daniel Sedin quickly pushed it back to a two-goal lead heading into the third.

Tobias Rieder scored with 2:21 left after the Coyotes pulled goalie Anders Lindback, but the Coyotes couldn't get anything else past Richard Bachman. Bachman stopped 29 shots in his first start after Ryan Miller played the first 10 games of the season.—AP

THOMAS AND STEELE SET FOR PGA TOUR SHOOTOUT

KUALA LUMPUR: American Justin Thomas produced a tidy up-and-down from the back of the 18th green for birdie to ensure he went in to today's final round of the CIMB Classic tied for the lead with compatriot Brendan Steele.

Overnight leader Thomas, who flirted with a rare 59 before signing for an 11-under-par second round of 61, was again among the birdies on another day of low scores at the Kuala Lumpur Country Club, where preferred lies have been in use.

The 22-year-old seemed to lose momentum with bogey fives at the 12 and 16th but finished with two birdies in his third round of five-under-par 67 to sit on 20-under for the \$7 million co-sanctioned Asian Tour event, the third of the new PGA Tour season.

"Those two birdies were huge," the world number 64 said of his strong finish. "I felt like I played really well for some stretches. I had some holes I didn't hit it well, but I hit a lot of good putts that didn't go in." "So, it was nice to get that putt to go on 17 and 18, finish on a good note."

Thomas is looking for his first win on the American circuit, while Steele has won just once, at the 2011 Texas Open, and blew a great opportunity

two weeks ago when he shot a closing 76 after holding the third round lead at the Frys.com Open.

"I was pretty comfortable at Frys and then it all started kind of spinning out of control and I didn't have a very good final round," the 32-year-old Californian said after a bogey free six-under-par 66 yesterday. "I learned a lot from it. Feel like I'm in a better place now, mentally. I'll be trying to be a little bit more patient and a little bit more positive, not kind of put so much pressure on myself."

South Korean-born American Kevin Na has good memories of Malaysia after winning his first Asian Tour event in the country in 2002 and the 32-year-old put himself in position to notch another after a blistering 64 yesterday.

That nine birdie effort left Na, who has finished second or tied in the opening two events of the campaign, one back of Thomas and Steele on 19-under.

Japan's Hideki Matsuyama fired a 68 yesterday to sit tied fourth on 17-under alongside American trio James Hahn (64), Brian Harman (66) and Spencer Levin (68), with former world number one Adam Scott (66) a further shot back on 16-under.—Reuters



KUALA LUMPUR: Justin Thomas of the United States plays out of the bunker on the 13th fairway during the third round of the CIMB Classic golf tournament.—AP

NHL Results/Standings

Buffalo 3, Philadelphia 1; NY Rangers 3, Toronto 1; Washington 2, Columbus 1; Carolina 3, Colorado 2; Ottawa 3, Detroit 1; Boston 3, Florida 1; Minnesota 5, Chicago 4; Montreal 6, Calgary 2; Vancouver 4, Arizona 3.

Western Conference						Central Division						Metropolitan Division									
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS				
Dallas	8	2	0	35	27	16	Ottawa	5	3	2	32	31	12	Tampa Bay	5	4	2	28	28	12	
Nashville	7	1	1	27	17	15	Boston	5	3	1	36	30	11	Florida	5	4	1	31	21	11	
St. Louis	7	2	1	27	21	15	Detroit	4	5	1	23	27	9	Buffalo	4	7	0	26	34	8	
Minnesota	7	2	1	33	29	15	Buffalo	4	7	0	26	34	8	Toronto	1	6	2	20	31	4	
Winnipeg	6	3	1	32	26	13															
Chicago	6	5	0	24	24	12															
Colorado	3	6	1	24	29	7															
							Pacific Division						Eastern Conference								
Vancouver	5	2	4	32	25	14	NY Rangers	7	2	2	31	21	16	Atlantic Division							
Los Angeles	6	3	0	20	18	12	Washington	7	2	0	32	22	14	Montreal	10	2	0	45	23	20	
Arizona	5	5	1	30	32	11	NY Islanders	6	2	2	33	25	14								
San Jose	5	4	0	24	20	10	Pittsburgh	6	4	0	20	20	12								
Edmonton	4	7	0	28	34	8	New Jersey	5	4	1	25	27	11								
Calgary	2	8	1	22	46	5	Philadelphia	4	4	2	21	29	10								
Anaheim	1	7	2	10	27	4	Carolina	5	6	0	23	30	10								
							Columbus	2	9	0	23	43	4								

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

HAMILTON SEES ONE MORE CONTRACT BEYOND CURRENT DEAL

MEXICO CITY: Triple Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton says his next Formula One contract is likely to be his last and does not want to 'hog' a seat and deny others a shot at glory.

The 30-year-old, who clinched his third title in Texas last weekend, indicated he intended to see out his career with Mercedes.

"I've got a contract for another three years. I imagine beyond this three years there could be one more contract of three or four years I will commit to and that would be it for me," he told British reporters at the Mexican Grand Prix.

A move to Ferrari, the dream of most Formula One drivers, looked unlikely. "There was always talk of driving another car and I have done that. Ticked that box off. I have been driving with Mercedes since I was 13 so I can't honestly see myself anywhere else," he said.

"I don't like to say never, but I think it would be pretty awesome to finish my career with this team." Hamilton made his F1 debut in 2007, given his chance at McLaren when Kimi Raikkonen replaced seven times world champion Schumacher at Ferrari and Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya also departed. He then moved to Mercedes in 2013 when Schumacher finally retired for the second time at the age of 43.

"For every year that he (Schumacher) stayed ... because he could stay and he enjoyed it, that's one less seat for someone else that potentially could have come along maybe," said Hamilton.

"Maybe there wasn't anyone good enough at the time but I just remember how it happened for me in 2006. If they had not moved maybe I would not be in this position today, I would be somewhere else. "I've got a friend also who had

a chance to be in Formula One but it got missed and he never got the chance again so I am conscious I don't want to hog it," he said.

Hamilton said he might well be able to stay longer when the time came but he was likely to resist. "I just feel there is a point in which I have done my piece here, I will have done 15 years in the sport so I am going to let someone else come in," he explained.

The Briton spends an increasing amount of time in the United States and has plenty of interests outside the sport, particularly musical and in fashion, and is currently learning the piano.

"There is so much to do outside of racing," he said. "I have made enough money that I don't need to make any more money in my life but I will continue (racing)."

Meanwhile, the pressure is mounting on Sergio Perez but the sole Mexican

driver in the country's first Formula One grand prix in 23 years is handling it well, according to Force India co-owner Vijay Mallya. Perez, on the podium in Russia this month and hitting a rich vein of form, has been at the centre of attention all week with Sunday's race at the revamped Hermanos Rodriguez circuit a career highlight whatever the result.

More than 100,000 spectators are expected to turn out today after 89,000 attended Friday's free practice sessions more than turn up on race day at some venues with less tradition or local fervor. Judging from the roar that went up whenever Perez's car appeared in sight, most will be cheering for the 25-year-old Guadalupe native.

"There is pressure, particularly in a home race where Checo (Perez) is a superstar and has so many fans," Mallya told Reuters.

"But I think he's mature enough to handle that pressure. In fact, coming off two strong performances in Sochi and then in Austin, he is really raring to go here in front of his home fans.

"That's my reading of the situation based on my conversations with him. He knows it's a competitive car and just has to relax and enjoy his racing. He's certainly not wilting under any pressure, doesn't show any signs of it."

Veteran Formula One insider Jo Ramirez, who worked with Brazilian Ayrton Senna at McLaren and has known every Mexican driver since he left the country for Italy with Ricardo Rodriguez in the early 1960s, hoped that was the case. "I just hope he controls his nerves," the 74-year-old told Reuters in the paddock. "The passion he is going to have. He never really drove here. It's 23 years since the grand prix was here.—Reuters



HOUSTON: Golden State Warriors' Marreese Speights (left) and Houston Rockets' Clint Capela chase a loose ball in the first half of a NBA basketball game.—AP



Cleveland: Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (left) fouls Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James during the second half of an NBA basketball game.—AP

WARRIORS DEFUSE ROCKETS, THUNDER ROLL

HOUSTON: Stephen Curry scored 25 points and the Golden State Warriors beat the Houston Rockets 112-92 on Friday night in a rematch of the Western Conference finals.

Curry listened to the crowd frequently rain down "MVP! MVP!" chants on Rockets guard James Harden. But Curry outscored him 25-16 and got the win again, just as he did in the real MVP vote and in the Warriors' five-game victory that sent them to the NBA Finals.

The reigning champions improved to 2-0 and the Rockets fell to 0-2. Harden struggled with his shot for a second straight game. The MVP runner-up finished 4 of 18, including 1 of 10 from 3-point range, but added seven rebounds and five assists.

Dwight Howard had nine points and seven rebounds for Houston in his first game after serving a one-game suspension for getting a fourth flagrant foul in the postseason.

THUNDER 139, MAGIC 136

Russell Westbrook banked in a 3-pointer from just inside halfcourt at the end of regulation on his way to 48 points, Kevin Durant scored 43 points, and Oklahoma City outlasted Orlando.

Westbrook added 11 rebounds and eight assists, and Durant had 12 rebounds. Orlando had a chance to tie it with 6 sec-

onds to play, but twice had 3-point attempts blocked.

Oklahoma City trailed by as many as 18, but outscored the Magic 42-24 in the fourth quarter. Westbrook had 14 points in the extra periods. Tobias Harris led the Magic with 30 points, and Nik Vucevic added 26.

CAVALIERS 102, HEAT 92

LeBron James scored 29 points, Kevin Love added 24 points and 14 rebounds and Cleveland beat Miami in the Cavaliers' home opener. James was 13 of 19 from the field for Cleveland.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 25 points, and Chris Bosh had 16. James, Wade and Bosh played in the same regular-season game for the first time since they were teammates in Miami.

James, who said Friday he planned on playing in all 82 games, showed no signs of the back troubles that sidelined him in training camp. He had five rebounds and four assists in 34 minutes.

PISTONS 98, BULLS 94

Marcus Morris scored 26 points, Andre Drummond had 20 points and 20 rebounds and Detroit beat Chicago to improve to 3-0. The Pistons are 3-0 for the first time since winning their first four games in 2008-09. They have been impressive on defense so

far, and they held Chicago's Derrick Rose scoreless until the fourth quarter.

Detroit scored the first seven points of overtime, taking a 90-83 lead on Anthony Tolliver's 3-pointer. Rose finished with eight points, and Jimmy Butler led the Bulls with 23.

TIMBERWOLVES 95, NUGGETS 78

Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 14 rebounds and Minnesota beat Denver. Andrew Wiggins added 18 points despite a sore back to help the Timberwolves follow up a season-opening win over the Los Angeles Lakers with another road victory.

They have been playing with heavy hearts since coach Flip Saunders died Sunday after complications from Hodgkin's lymphoma. Emmanuel Mudiay scored 15 points for the Nuggets in coach Michael Malone's home debut.

SPURS 102, NETS 75

Kawhi Leonard had 16 points, Tim Duncan added 15 and San Antonio regrouped after a sluggish start to beat Brooklyn. LaMarcus Aldridge had 10 points, primarily on follows of missed shots as he continues to find his place in the Spurs' offense. Brook Lopez had 17 points to lead Brooklyn.

HAWKS 97, HORNETS 94

Dennis Schroder made Atlanta's two-point guard lineup look good by scoring 14 points and the Hawks held off Charlotte. Kent Bazemore led Atlanta with 19 points and Paul Millsap and Al Horford each had 18. Nicolas Batum led the Hornets with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

KINGS 132, LAKERS 114

Rajon Rondo had 21 points and eight assists and DeMarcus Cousins added 21 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento.

With Rondo running the offense and benefiting from Los Angeles turnovers, the Kings had a 24-point lead at halftime and continued to pad the lead in the third quarter. Jordan Clarkson scored 22 points for the Lakers. Kobe Bryant had 13 points in 22 minutes.

WIZARDS 118, BUCKS 113

Bradley Beal scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and Washington overcame a 13-point deficit to beat Milwaukee.

Ramon Sessions scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter for the Wizards. John Wall had 19 points and 10 assists. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 of his 27 points in the first half

after returning from a one-game suspension to open the season.

RAPTORS 113, CELTICS 103

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and Terrence Ross had 13 of his 21 in the fourth quarter to help Toronto beat Boston.

DeMarre Carroll scored 10 of his 21 points in the third quarter and Kyle Lowry finished with 14 points and nine assists for the Raptors. Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 25 points.

JAZZ 99, 76ERS 71

Derrick Favors had 20 points and 12 rebounds to lead Utah past Philadelphia. Rodney Hood added 17 points, and the Jazz used multiple 13-0 runs to build a 32-point lead. Jerami Grant and Nik Stauskas each

had 12 points for the 76ers.

SUNS 110, TRAIL BLAZERS 92

Eric Bledsoe scored 22 points, backcourt mate Brandon Knight added 18 and Phoenix pulled away in the second half to roll past Portland. Tyson Chandler set the tone after Phoenix's lackluster season debut against Dallas, scoring 10 points in the first quarter. He finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds.

TJ Warren added 17 points for Phoenix on a night when the Suns inducted Steve Nash into the franchise's Ring of Honor. Damian Lillard led Portland with 24 points on 7-of-20 shooting. C.J. McCollum added 16, making just 7 of 22 shots. Al-Farouq Aminu added 16 points and Mason Plumlee 15 for the Blazers.—AP

13TH ASIAN SHOOTING C'SHIP ON TARGET

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex will see the launch of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship, which qualifies the winners to Brazil 2016 summer Olympics, with the participation of 1200 shooters representing 36 countries.

Delegations continued to arrive yesterday to participate in the championship which will witness hot competition to get the qualifying quotas for the Olympics, as the Higher Organizing Committee is holding the right of having the qualifying quotas and rejected the International Olympic Committee's decision to remove the qualifying status from the championship. Official competitions will start tomorrow at the Shooting Complex which witnessed the presence of large number of delegations, who arrived early to prepare well.

Meanwhile the HOC completed all preparations, as it intensified the work with all committee despite all foreign pressures it faces to disrupt this major event, which Kuwait has been getting ready for four years, when Kuwait Shooting sports club was selected to organize it.

Meanwhile Secretary General of the Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi said everybody be it KSF

or participating federations reject the latest decision by the IOC which does not recognize the qualification to Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics, adding that the whole issue reflects the extent of IOC's intentions towards Kuwait sports, and proves that there are those who are messing with the name and future of Kuwait sports.

Al-Osaimi said that all 1200 shooters and officials agree on taking measures to face such practices from IOC or ISSF.

Al-Osaimi said KSF will go ahead with its legal steps to safeguard its rights, be it against IOC officials and ISSF, or any official who seek to stop the activities of Kuwait Shooting, through filing court cases.

Al-Osaimi said Kuwait's decision towards the sports activities suspension by the IOC, adding that KSF decided not to participate in Rio de Janeiro 2016, despite the qualification of two Kuwait shooters Ahmad Al-Afasi and Khalid Al-Mudhaf.

In case the IOC does not remove its suspension of Kuwait sports activity, it will not participate under the Olympic flag in any way, shape or form.

Al-Osaimi asked all local athletes to be united to face the organized campaign against Kuwait's athletes and sports, adding that Kuwait can defend itself as required.

NBA Results/Standings

Cleveland 102, Miami 92; Oklahoma City 139, Orlando 136 (OT); Utah 99, Philadelphia 71; Toronto 113, Boston 103; Detroit 98, Chicago 94 (OT); Atlanta 97, Charlotte 94; Washington 118, Milwaukee 113; San Antonio 102, Brooklyn 75; Minnesota 95, Denver 78; Golden State 112, Houston 92; Sacramento 132, LA Lakers 114; Phoenix 110, Portland 92.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	Minnesota	Utah	Oklahoma City	Portland	
Toronto	2	0	1.000	-	2	0	1.000	
NY Knicks	1	1	.500	1	Utah	1	1	
Boston	1	1	.500	1	Denver	1	1	
Brooklyn	0	2	0	2	Portland	1	1	
Philadelphia	0	2	0	2	Pacific Division			
Central Division				LA Clippers	2	0	1.000	
Detroit	3	0	1.000	-	Golden State	2	0	
Chicago	2	1	.667	1	Phoenix	1	1	
Cleveland	2	1	.667	1	Sacramento	1	1	
Indiana	0	2	0	2.5	LA Lakers	0	2	
Milwaukee	0	2	0	2.5	Southwest Division			
Southeast Division				San Antonio	1	1	.500	
Washington	2	0	1.000	-	Dallas	1	1	
Atlanta	2	1	.667	0.5	Memphis	1	1	
Miami	1	1	.500	1	New Orleans	0	2	
Orlando	0	2	0	2	Houston	0	2	
Charlotte	0	2	0	2				

PASEKA LANDS VAULT TITLE

GLASGOW: Russia's Maria Paseka upstaged favourite Simone Biles and North Korea's defending champion Hong Un-jong with two soaring leaps to capture the vault gold at the gymnastics world championships yesterday.

Paseka hit her landing with both her vaults, an Amanar-a round-off on to the springboard followed by a back handspring on to the vaulting equipment before flying into the air while twisting around two-and-a-half times-and a Cheng, to earn an average total of 15.666. She earned Russia their first gold of the Glasgow championships.

Hong attempted the same two vaults as Paseka but paid the price for taking a step forward after her Amanar and a step back when she landed the Cheng-a round-off half twist on somersault with one-and-a-half twists. She missed out on gold by 0.033

of a point. Biles, who had been the top qualifier for the final, added the bronze medal to the team and all-around golds she collected earlier in the week with a score of 15.541.

Britain's Ellie Downie finished fourth while Dipa Karmakar, the first Indian to make an apparatus final at the worlds was fifth.

Karmakar had the highest difficulty (7.000) of the finalists for her risky Prodnova vault-a front handspring into double front somersault-but failed to pull it off cleanly as her bottom touched the mat before she bounced back on to her feet. Switzerland's Giulia Steingruber's competition ended painfully as she sat down awkwardly following her second jump and limped off the stage with her arms around two coaches who had rushed to help her.—Reuters

UCHIMURA CLAIMS RECORD SIXTH ALL-AROUND WORLD TITLE

GLASGOW: When Kohei Uchimura capped a high-flying horizontal bar routine with a perfect landing on Friday, he instantly held up six fingers to the crowd confident that he had just won a record sixth all-around title at the gymnastics world championships.

The Japanese hero did not even bother to hang around for the judges' verdict to begin his celebrations, urging the crowd with both hands to cheer louder.

When his score of 15.100 flashed up, it confirmed the victory and showed his margin of success over surprise Cuban silver medalist Manrique Larduet was 1.634 points after the Japanese amassed a combined 92.332 points across six apparatus.

"Winning today was totally different from my other victories because this is the first time I have won an all-around gold after winning the team title, so that I why I was so happy after the competition today," Uchimura said after being given a standing ovation by the Hydro Arena crowd.

While Uchimura picked up a ninth gold at the worlds, taking his overall medals tally to 18, Larduet reduced his coach to tears after becoming the first Cuban to win an all-around medal at the global meet. The 19-year-old had qualified only in seventh place for the final but after Britain's Max Whitlock dropped out of contention to win a second successive silver medal following a crash landing off the horizontal bar, the Cuban kept his wits in the final rotation to finish second.

China's Deng Shudi fought back from eighth place at the half-way point of the competition to claim bronze-his country's first medal in the individual event since Yang Wei won the second of his

golds in 2007. "This medal proves the important role I have in the Chinese team," Deng, who sports a massive scar on his right cheek, said. But it is Uchimura who is leaving an indelible mark on the sport.

The 26-year-old, who was left fuming after falling during his floor exercise in qualifying and then again from the horizontal bar in the men's team final, finally hit his target of six clean routines in Glasgow. Five of his programmes broke the 15-point mark, with the judges deeming his performance on the rings was not quite as good as the rest of his impressive bodywork.

But that was the only blemish for Uchimura who captured his second gold medal of the championships after helping Japan to their first team title in 37 years two days ago.

"I wanted to win the all-around title without any mistakes so I left out a few difficult elements today," he said. "I wanted to produce a perfected performance."

Uchimura has now bagged every Olympic and world all-around title since taking silver at the 2008 Beijing Games, a streak unmatched in gymnastics history. No other man or woman has won more than three world all-around titles.

When Uchimura won his fifth straight all-around gold at the 2014 worlds by 1.492 points, it raised hopes among the chasing pack that they might finally be closing the gap on the Japanese great as it was his smallest margin of victory at the worlds. But on Friday, he again showed they were no closer to beating him any time soon and he will be favourite to become the first man to win back-to-back Olympic titles in Rio next year since his compatriot Sawao Kato achieved the feat in 1972.—Reuters



SINGAPORE: Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic celebrates her win against Maria Sharapova of Russia during the singles semifinal at the WTA tennis finals. —AP

KVITOVA, RADWANSKA TURN WTA FINALS ON ITS HEAD

SINGAPORE: Petra Kvitova and Agnieszka Radwanska turned the WTA Finals on its head yesterday as they ousted in-form Maria Sharapova and Garbine Muguruza to set up a surprise title match in Singapore. Kvitova had scraped into the semis after winning just one match in the round-robin phase, but she stunned five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) to earn a shot at her second year-ending trophy.

Earlier Poland's Radwanska halted the sensational debut of Spanish world number three Garbine Muguruza 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 7-5 to reach the final for the first time.

"I didn't expect this, for sure," Kvitova conceded after her shock win over Sharapova. "I had two losses in my group, and I couldn't really believe I would play the semifinals. And I knew Maria would be strong today." "But I knew I had the game to beat her, and that I really had to keep trying today," the two-time Wimbledon champion added.

Kvitova broke fourth-ranked Sharapova three times in the first set and then recovered from 5-1 down in the second, winning five straight games and clinching victory in the tiebreak.

Sharapova said she was still happy she was able to play "physical matches" in Singapore after spending months out with injury. "So I felt like I gained a lot. I gained that match, physical strength in my body as well as mental," she said.

In the earlier semi-final, Radwanska drew on her defensive prowess and deep experience to outst Muguruza, who will be in the doubles final today and seemed to be feeling the pace. "I have no words to say really," a tearful Radwanska, who has tried and failed six times to reach the final, told the cheering crowd at Singapore Indoor Stadium.

"I didn't know if I could come back after that first set, but I think it was a great match from the beginning until the end, so many rallies and a lot of running. I'm just so glad I could win this match in the end." Victory today would be the biggest title of Radwanska's career, while Kvitova won the tournament on debut in 2011.

Defeat to Radwanska was a setback to Muguruza, who had enhanced her growing reputation with three impressive group wins and was hoping to be the tournament's first Spanish winner. "I'm just a little bit disappointed obviously to lose," Muguruza said. "But I'm happy. I did an amazing effort and I'm proud of how I played here all the matches."

The Wimbledon runner-up and China Open champion, who won her last four of six meetings with Radwanska, was broken seven times in an off-key performance.

It was the second straight year that

Radwanska has reached the semis despite only winning one group match-but that victory this week was in straight sets over top seed Simona Halep.

After Muguruza edged the first set, Radwanska raced to a 4-0 lead in the second before the Spaniard managed to hold serve, and the Pole again seized control of the third by going 3-0 up as her opponent's errors piled up.

But Muguruza wasn't out of it yet and she clawed the score back to 5-5, before Radwanska prevailed and tearfully saluted the Singapore crowd.—AFP

NADAL IN BASEL FINAL

BASEL: Rafael Nadal ignored an opening set knee injury worry to reach his first Swiss Indoors final with a 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) defeat of Richard Gasquet yesterday.

The Spanish third seed admitted he got a fright when he felt something in his right knee after a sudden movement in the seventh game.

He immediately called for the trainer and got a strapping below his kneecap before carrying on.

Nadal then resumed business as usual with a break-back of Gasquet for 4-4 on his way to taking the set on a third winning opportunity with an inside-out forehand winner.

"I was a little bit scared, I felt something in the knee," he said. "It's not the knee I usually have problems (with)." Nadal will play either Roger Federer or American outsider Jack Sock in today's final in Basel. Top seed Federer is bidding for a seventh title at his hometown event.

Nadal went down an early break in both sets and had to battle in the second set after winning the first. Gasquet broke for 1-0, taking seven break points to finally earn a lead.

Nadal then resumed his battle to catch up finally getting that break back for 5-5. Gasquet put over an ace to send the set to a tiebreaker, where he trailed 4-1 before catching up.

But he missed on a set point with a low return which proved to be a fatal error with Nadal riding out the win on his second match point on a Gasquet error.

Gasquet's defeat also settled the field for the eight-man World Tour Finals in London from November 15, with Japan's Kei Nishikori and David Ferrer of Spain taking the last two spots.

Federer, Nadal, world number one Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka and Tomas Berdych make up the eight-man field.

"I am very excited to qualify for London for the second year in a row," Nishikori wrote on Facebook.

"It's always a big goal at the beginning of the year to make it to London so I am proud of the year I am having so far. "Last year there were a lot of support and I am really looking forward to coming back to the O2 Arena."—AFP



GLASGOW: Japan's Kohei Uchimura performs on the floor during the Men's All-Around final during the 2015 World Gymnastics Championship in Glasgow. —AFP

METS WIN GAME 3 OVER KANSAS

NEW YORK: The New York Mets climbed back into the World Series with a crucial 9-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals at a jubilant Citi Field on Friday.

Lifted by the roars of the home crowd, a pair of two-run home runs, and gritty pitching by rookie Noah Syndergaard, the Mets narrowed the deficit in the best-of-seven 'Fall Classic' to 2-1. Mets manager Terry Collins said it had been vital his team avoided going 3-0 down, a deficit no club has overcome to win a World Series.

"Sure, when you get down 3-0 it's really difficult," said Collins. "I just thought it was a real big game for us." Captain David Wright blasted a homer in the bottom of the first off Jordano Ventura to give New York a 2-1 lead, and after the Royals scored two runs in the second, Curtis Granderson hit a shot over the right-field fence in the third for a 4-3 lead.

A four-run outburst in the sixth, helped along by some sloppy Royals fielding, put the game out of reach as Wright broke out of a postseason slump by going 2-for-5 with four runs batted in.

Fireballer Syndergaard settled down after yielding six hits in the first two frames to pitch six innings, giving up three runs on seven hits with six strikeouts. The Mets, the National League champions, will try to square the series in Game Four in New York yesterday.

The home team set the tone on the first pitch of the game. Syndergaard fired a 98-mph fastball high and inside to Alcides Escobar, who has feasted on first-pitch fastballs, that dropped him to the dirt and triggered angry barking from the Royals' dugout.

"I feel like it really made a statement to start the game off, that you guys can't dig in and get

too aggressive because I'll come in there," the big Texan said. "My intent on that pitch was to make them uncomfortable, and I feel like I did just that."

Syndergaard went on to strike out Escobar with a 99-mph blazer, the first swing and miss at a fastball since Game One by Kansas City, who were the best team in Major League Baseball at hitting high-velocity fastballs. Still, the Royals were not cowed.

Ben Zobrist followed by smacking a double off the centerfield wall, moved to third on an infield roller that eluded Syndergaard for a hit and scored on Eric Hosmer's grounder.

After the see-saw scoring in the early innings, Granderson's two-run shot gave the Mets the lead for good as New York went on to collect 12 hits to Kansas City's seven.

"The big thing early on, even though they scored runs we knew we had opportunities," Granderson said. "We were starting to get to the starting pitcher there." Royals manager Ned Yost said Ventura, one of the hardest throwers in the American League, was far from his best. "He just wasn't sharp today," Yost said. "Fastball velocity was down. Made a couple mistakes. Made a mistake in the first inning with Wright on a fastball up. The backup slider to Granderson.

"It was just one of those days." Syndergaard, whose pounding fastball and long blond locks have brought him the nickname "Thor", retired 12 batters in a row before running into trouble in the sixth on an infield single and a pair of walks that loaded the bases. But with the tying run on second, Syndergaard got Alex Rios to ground out to short to end the threat and keep the Mets' hopes alive.—Reuters



NEW YORK: Mets pitcher Jeurys Familia throws during the ninth inning of Game 3 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Kansas City Royals. —AP



LONDON: New Zealand's captain Richie McCaw (centre, right) and Kieran Read hold the trophy aloft after the Rugby World Cup final between New Zealand and Australia at Twickenham Stadium. The All Blacks won 34-17.—AP

CARTER KICKS ALL BLACKS TO GLORY

TWICKENHAM: Dan Carter bowed out as king of rugby yesterday when he kicked the All Blacks to a historic 34-17 World Cup victory over Australia at Twickenham yesterday. Carter kicked a decisive 19 points in his final match for New Zealand as they became the first team to retain the World Cup and the first to win three titles. When the Wallabies had closed to within three points of the All Blacks in the second half, Carter struck with a monstrous drop goal and a 50 metre penalty to decide the game. With three tries, two converted, and a further three Carter penalties the All Blacks put on a brilliant show, spoiled only by Ben Smith becoming the first player to be sin-binned in a final. Richie McCaw, in what may have been his international swansong raised the Webb Ellis Cup for the second time in four years after 80

minutes of high-octane rugby. "We played some damned good rugby there," said McCaw as celebrations started. Carter, who has confirmed it was his 112th and final Test scored 19 points to stretch his world record to 1,598. The Wallabies put up a stubborn resistance for much of the first half but the speed of the All Blacks and passes proved too much for them. The Australians resistance broke just before half-time, when Conrad Smith, Aaron Smith and McCaw all combined to put Nehe Milner-Skudder over in the corner. Sonny Bill Williams, who replaced Conrad Smith at half-time, produced two classy off-loads with his first touches. The second put Ma'a Nonu on a 40 metre run to the line. Before a capacity crowd of 80,125, it put the All Blacks ahead 21-3. The Wallabies came back with two converted tries in the middle of the second half when the All Blacks were

down to 14-men with Ben Smith in the sin-bin. David Pocock crossed from a lineout drive and Tevita Kuridrani scored when Australia counter-attacked after Milner-Skudder missed touch with a clearing kick. The two wings with places in the record books at stake, Julian Savea and Drew Mitchell were unable to cross the line. Savea finishes the tournament with eight tries, equalling the record for a single World Cup set by Jonah Lomu (1999) and Bryan Habana (2007). Mitchell signed off without adding to his 14 career World Cup tries, one behind the record also shared by Lomu and Habana. Australia kicked off but were almost immediately forced back into their own half when Nonu stepped around Sekope Kepu to get the All Blacks up to the Wallaby line. They threat-

ened on the right side with Milner-Skudder then on the left with Savea before winning a penalty for Carter to put the first points on the board. Although the All Blacks were applying the early pressure a series of errors allowed Australia into the game. A kick for the corner went out on the full, a Carter clearing kick did not go out and when Australia kicked Ben Smith knocked on. At the resulting scrum the All Blacks front row was penalised and Bernard Foley landed the equalising penalty. New Zealand blew a chance to regain the lead when awarded a handy penalty which scrum-half Aaron Smith decided to run with rather than let Carter have a shot at goal. Smith then found himself penalised when tackled near the posts. Wallaby prop Kepu warned once for a late tackle on Carter gave

away another penalty for a high tackle on the New Zealand fly-half. This time Smith contained himself and allowed Carter to kick the points. After Carter landed his third penalty the All Blacks produced the opening try of the game, just before half-time with Conrad Smith, Aaron Smith and McCaw all featuring in the move to put Milner-Skudder over for the All Blacks to turn 16-3 ahead. Williams, who came on for Conrad Smith at the break, produced two sensational off-loads with his first two touches of the ball, to set up Nonu's try. The Pocock and Kuridrani tries saw Australia close the gap to 21-17 before Carter, the man of the match, landed his drop goal and penalty. Beauden Barrett then scored the shutout try with Carter landing the conversion.—AFP

Preview

KOEMAN RELISHING DERBY SHOWDOWN

SOUTHAMPTON: Southampton manager Ronald Koeman can't wait to get his first taste of a south-coast derby when Bournemouth visit St Mary's today. With Southampton's traditional enemies Portsmouth currently languishing in the fourth tier, Bournemouth's arrival in the Premier League this season has given Koeman's side a genuine local rival to spar with. Just 31 miles separate St Mary's from Bournemouth's Dean Court, but the clubs have met only three times-all in the 2010-11 season-in the last 27 years and have faced off just 21 times ever.

While no-one would place this fledgling rivalry in the same category as the fierce clashes between Manchester United and Manchester City or Arsenal and Tottenham, Koeman believes passions will be running high on the south coast this weekend and the Dutchman is delighted by that development.

"In my opinion it's a derby but maybe not the biggest one, because there's not a lot of history between both clubs," Koeman said.

"I hope that they will stay in the Premier League so that we will get a few years in a row to play against each other. "Normally, it makes it a little bit easier for the manager because the players have that feeling of it being a derby.

"Everybody will have more attention to the game, and that makes it a little bit more special. You need that to be successful."

Southampton defender Jose Fonte is the only survivor from his team's last showdowns with Bournemouth in League One and it would be little surprise if he finished on the winning side again.

Koeman will be without injured strikers Jay Rodriguez and Shane Long, but their absences have done little to slow Southampton's progress during a six-match unbeaten run that includes a 3-1 win at champions Chelsea and a midweek victory over Aston Villa that took them into the League Cup quarter-finals. Italian forward Graziano Pelle and Senegal winger Sadio Mane have been key contributors, with 10 goals combined in the last seven matches.

"Of course they are important players because they are scoring goals," Koeman said. "They are important, but the rest of the team gives them the chance to score. I am happy if they continue like this." Although there is little recent history between the clubs, Bournemouth goalkeeper Artur Boruc provides a link having played for Saints for three years until joining Eddie Howe's team in May.

However, the erratic former Celtic goalkeeper missed Wednesday's 1-0 League Cup defeat at Liverpool with a thigh problem and Howe will leave it until the last minute before deciding to recall him or stick with deputy Adam Federici. "Selecting a goalkeeper has been a difficult decision every game we've had this season," Howe said.

"With all team selections, since I've been a manager, it's been 'pick the right player for this game, regardless of any historical association with that club'.

"Artur's been fine mentally. He's had treatment this week on his thigh, so we haven't seen him on the training ground. "A lot will be fitness-dependent. Artur's had his thigh problem it's been well documented he pulled out of the Manchester City game with, so we'll wait and see if he's fit and make a decision between the two." —AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's Francisco Roman 'Isco' (right) vies for the ball with Las Palmas' Vicente Gomez during the Spanish La Liga soccer match. —AP

REAL EASE PAST LAS PALMAS

MADRID: Real Madrid eased past La Liga newcomers Las Palmas 3-1 to move three points clear of Barcelona at the top of the table yesterday. The Canary Islanders were making their first visit to the Santiago Bernabeu in 13 years, but couldn't have gotten off to a worst start as Isco and Cristiano Ronaldo put Madrid 2-0 up inside 15 minutes. Hernan's header briefly gave the visitors hope seven minutes before half-time, yet Madrid restored their two-goal advantage just five minutes later through Jese Rodriguez's fine finish.

Barcelona can move back level on points with Madrid by winning at Getafe late yesterday. "We played very well again in the first-half. We started the game sensationally well and then maybe with the advantage our tempo dropped in the second-half," said Madrid boss Rafael Benitez.

"But we controlled the game in the second-half thanks to our good play in the first." Real were without Keylor Navas, Sergio Ramos, James Rodriguez, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema through injury as coach Rafael Benitez preferred not to risk any of his stars ahead of Paris Saint-Germain's visit in the Champions League on Tuesday. However, they suffered another injury scare as Luka Modric was replaced at half-time with a hip problem putting his participation in midweek in doubt.

The hosts were never put under any serious pressure, though, as Las Palmas coughed up possession deep inside their own half after four minutes and Casemiro teed up Isco to coolly slot home his first goal of the season. Ronaldo then added his 13th goal in as many games this campaign with a diving header to meet Marcelo's perfect cross from the left 10 minutes later.

Goalkeeper Kiko Casilla was making his first appearance for the Real senior team after rejoining his boyhood club from Espanyol in July and he was forced into action for the first time by Jonathan Viera's low shot which he parried to safety.

There was little Casilla could do seven minutes before half-time, though, as Madrid conceded for the first time at home this season when Hernan was given acres of space to head home Nabil El Zhar's corner via the underside of the crossbar.

Yet, any hope of a close contest was wiped away moments later when Jese skipped past Aythami Ariles before firing into the bottom corner.

Las Palmas started the better in the second period as Willian Jose blasted over with a great chance on the counter-attack before Casilla produced a brilliant save to turn the Brazilian's free-kick behind for a corner. Madrid produced precious little after the break, but Ronaldo should have added to his tally in stoppage time when he failed to beat Javi Varas when clean through on goal and the keeper got quickly back on his feet to also prevent Lucas Vazquez's follow-up effort finding the net. —AFP

DORTMUND REEL IN BAYERN

BERLIN: Second-placed Borussia Dortmund closed the gap behind German league leaders Bayern Munich to five points yesterday as Marco Reus netted twice in their 3-1 win at Werder Bremen.

Reus fired in the opening and third goals, but Borussia should have won by more as Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang squandered three clear chances.

Right winger Henrikh Mkhitaryan capped a superb display with Dortmund's second having provided the final pass for both of Reus' goals.

"As the second-placed team, you always look at what the top side is doing, but Bayern are still a long way ahead and we're just worrying about ourselves," said Reus.

"We didn't have the right tempo in the first-half. In the end things turned out well, but it was harder than it looked." After Bayern were held to a goalless draw at Eintracht Frankfurt on Friday, Dortmund took the chance to trim the Bavarian giants' lead.

They have now scored 18 goals in their last four games and a staggering 64 in 20 games this season under new coach Thomas Tuchel.

Dortmund opened the scoring after nine minutes when Mkhitaryan fired in a cross, Aubameyang let the ball roll to Reus, who fired home at the far post.

Bremen levelled when Nigeria striker Anthony Ujah tapped home on 32 minutes after Matthias Ginter cleared off the line.

A superb cross off the offside of the boot from Mats Hummels found Mkhitaryan at the far post just before the break to head home on 44 minutes.

Reus added a third after Mkhitaryan's final pass split the defence as the defeat left Bremen 14th in the table. Borussia Muenchengladbach earned their sixth straight victory to go fourth with a 4-1 win at Hertha Berlin having been bottom in September with five defeats.

Gladbach blitzed Hertha with two goals in as many first-half minutes at Berlin's Olympic Stadium from left-back Oscar Wendt, plus a solo effort from Brazil striker Raffael.

Gladbach grabbed a third when Swiss midfielder Granit Khaka drilled home a penalty on 55 minutes after Ivory Coast winger Ibrahima Traore was fouled in the area.

Alexander Baumjohann converted a late penalty for Hertha after being fouled before Havard Nordtveit grabbed Gladbach's fourth in added time.

The result boosts Gladbach ahead of Tuesday's Champions League match at home to 2015 finalists Juventus while Hertha drop to sixth.

Gladbach are now just two points behind Schalke, who needed a late Leroy Sane equaliser in their 1-1 draw at home to Ingolstadt after the Bavarian visitors took a shock first-half lead.

Bochum-born Cameroon internationals Joel and Marvin Matip faced each other for the first time with Joel at centre-back for Schalke while Marvin captained Ingolstadt.

Huub Stevens picked up a point in his first game as coach of Hoffenheim in their goalless draw at Cologne. Caretaker coach Stevens has been tasked with keeping second-from-bottom Hoffenheim in order for 28-year-old Julian Nagelsmann to make history next season as the Bundesliga's youngest head coach. Japan striker Yoshinori Muto claimed a hat-trick to rescue a dramatic point for mid-table Mainz in their 3-3 draw at bottom side Augsburg.

Having given Mainz a 2-0 lead before Augsburg roared back with three unanswered goals, Muto saved his best for last with a 93rd-minute strike. —AFP

Live	Matches on TV (Local Timings)
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Everton v Sunderland beIN SPORTS	16:30
Southampton v Bournemouth beIN SPORTS	19:00
SPANISH LEAGUE	
Real Sociedad v Vigo beIN SPORTS 6 HD beIN SPORTS 16 HD	0:05
Eibar v Rayo beIN SPORTS	14:00
Espanyol v Granada beIN SPORTS	18:00
Gijon v Malaga beIN SPORTS	20:15
Betis v Bilbao beIN SPORTS	22:30
ITALIAN PREMIER LEAGUE	
Fiorentina v Calcio beIN SPORTS	14:30
Bologna v Atalanta beIN SPORTS	17:00
Udinese v Sassuolo beIN SPORTS	17:00
Genoa v Napoli beIN SPORTS	17:00
Carpi v Hellas Verona beIN SPORTS	17:00
Lazio v Milan beIN SPORTS	22:45
GERMAN LEAGUE	
Stuttgart v Darmstadt beIN SPORTS	17:30
Hamburger v Hannover beIN SPORTS	19:30
FRENCH LEAGUE	
Nice v Lille beIN SPORTS	16:00
Monaco v Angers beIN SPORTS	19:00
Nantes v Marseille beIN SPORTS	23:00

EPL Results/Standings

Chelsea 1 (Ramires 4) Liverpool 3 (Coutinho 45+3, 74, Bentke 83); Crystal Palace 0, Manchester United 0; Manchester City 2 (Otamendi 67, Toure 89-pen) Norwich 1 (Jerome 83); Newcastle 0, Stoke 0; Swansea 0 Arsenal 3 (Giroud 49, Koscielny 68, Campbell 73); Watford 2 (Ighalo 39, 48) West Ham 0; West Brom 2 (Rondon 30, Lambert 84-pen) Leicester 3 (Mahrez 57, 64, Vardy 77).

English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Man City	11	8	1	2	26	9	25	West Brom	11	4	2	5	10	14	14
Arsenal	11	8	1	2	21	8	25	Everton	10	3	4	3	13	13	13
Leicester	11	6	4	1	23	19	22	Swansea	11	3	4	4	12	15	13
Man Utd	11	6	3	2	15	8	21	Stoke	11	3	4	4	9	12	13
West Ham	11	6	2	3	22	15	20	Chelsea	11	3	2	6	16	22	11
Tottenham	10	4	5	1	16	8	17	Norwich	11	2	3	6	15	23	9
Liverpool	11	4	5	2	12	12	17	Bournemouth	10	2	2	6	12	22	8
Crystal Palace	11	5	1	5	12	11	16	Newcastle	11	1	4	6	12	22	7
Watford	11	4	4	3	10	10	16	Sunderland	10	1	3	6	11	19	6
Southampton	10	3	5	2	16	13	14	Aston Villa	10	1	1	8	9	17	4

RAMPANT ARSENAL
HOT ON CITY'S HEELS



SWANSEA: Arsenal remain hot on the heels of Premier League leaders Manchester City thanks to a 3-0 victory over Swansea at the Liberty Stadium yesterday.

A first half goal from Olivier Giroud and second half efforts from Laurent Koscielny and Joel Campbell kept the second-placed Gunners level on points with City.

Although Swansea had their moments, it was pretty much plain sailing for Arsene Wenger's side as they got back on track following their shock League Cup loss at second tier Sheffield Wednesday in midweek. Wenger made seven changes to the side beaten at Hillsborough, including a first Premier League start for Costa Rica forward Campbell.

Having waited patiently for his chance, Campbell found himself in the thick of things early on as Arsenal quickly took control.

A far post cross, in the seventh minute, was only half cleared by Swansea leaving Nacho Monreal with a genuine chance to score.

Unfortunately, Monreal's shot was weak and wide of goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski's far post. The Gunners had to ride their luck minutes later when Jonjo Shelvey threaded a delightful ball into the path of Bafetimbi Gomis, who to the surprise of the Arsenal back four, found himself with only Petr Cech to beat. But Gomis took too long in choosing an option and allowed Arsenal's Hector Bellerin to clear the danger.

Gomis, keen to make up for his earlier blunder, headed into the arms of Cech in the 21st minute and five minutes later Giroud should have done better when Santi Cazorla released him inside the Swansea area. Giroud got a good connection, but the ball sailed high and wide of the target.

Shortly before half time, and having once again found themselves in a position of promise, Arsenal missed another golden opportunity.

This time it was Campbell who fluffed his lines from the edge of the penalty area. Arsenal's frustration finally gave way to elation when they broke the deadlock four minutes into the second half.

Mesut Ozil whipped in a corner from the left and Giroud, who lost marker Ashley Williams with a degree of ease, headed firmly home.

Swansea's response was immediate. Gylfi Sigurdsson brought out the best in Cech, and then from 20 yards and from the ensuing corner, Cech had to stretch to clear a deflected header from Federico Fernandes. Yet Arsenal regained their composure and made the game safe with two goals in the final quarter, albeit in somewhat controversial circumstances.

A deflected cross-shot from Bellerin should have been claimed by Fabianski at his near post. However, the Pole flapped at the ball, lost his balance and gifted Koscielny the most simple of tap ins.

Swansea boss Garry Monk was clearly dissatisfied with referee Kevin Friend who he felt should have awarded a free kick. Five minutes later, the game was over when Ozil crossed from the left for Campbell to control and beat Fabianski. It was a special moment for Campbell after four years without an Arsenal goal. Swansea huffed and puffed in the final 15 minutes but barely created a chance of note as Arsenal kept the pressure on City.—AFP



LONDON: Crystal Palace's Mile Jedinak (center left) and Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park. —AP

MAN UNITED DRAW
A BLANK AT PALACE



LONDON: Manchester United's problems in front of goal continued as Louis van Gaal's side failed to score for a third successive game in a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace yesterday.

The stalemate left United in fourth place, four points adrift of Premier League leaders Manchester City. Their lacklustre performance and that of striker Wayne Rooney, who again struggled to make his mark on the game, will do nothing to silence the criticism of United's cautious approach this season.

And had Palace, who now sit in eighth position, made more of the opportunities that came their way, United manager Van Gaal would have had much more difficult questions to answer.

The ongoing debate about United's playing style reached new levels in the wake of the midweek League Cup exit to Championship side Middlesbrough.

It wasn't just that United were beaten on penalties by a side from the second tier, it was

the manner of their exit after a drab scoreless draw that prompted the inquest.

Paul Scholes voiced his opinion, with the former United player complaining of a lack of risk and creativity and suggesting he would not like to play in the current side.

Van Gaal brushed off Scholes' comments, insisting his team was entertaining and pointing to the fact the club was seven points better off than after 10 games last season as evidence of the progress being made. Certainly, Van Gaal's side have become more efficient, although the manager made it clear before this game he would like to see his strikers become more ruthless in front of goal.

But there was little evidence of the entertainment the Dutchman claims they provide during a first half when the visitors were fortunate to stay on level terms.

Palace came into the game on the back of successive league defeats and a painful 5-1 loss at Manchester City in the League Cup on Wednesday.

And their start suggested they were keen to return to the thrilling form of early season.

Twice David De Gea was called on to prevent Palace taking the lead, with the United keeper directing Yannick Bolasie's rising shot onto the crossbar with the faintest of touches before tipping Scott Dann's header over the bar.

United were struggling to provide Rooney,

operating in the central striker role, with any meaningful service, although the striker did get the opportunity to test Palace keeper Wayne Hennessey with a 24th minute free-kick.

And when he was eventually sent clear of the home backline by a superb threaded pass from Anthony Martial, the England striker allowed the ball to run on too close to Hennessey who raced out to clear. Rooney wasn't the only United player guilty of failing to make the most of an opportunity in front of goal.

Ander Herrera should have done much better when he miscued his shot from a Martial pull-back. But the visitors simply weren't creating enough opportunities to put Palace under real pressure.

And the start of the second half maintained the pattern of the first, with Palace showing more urgency without managing to break down a back-four well marshalled by Chris Smalling.

Palace winger Wilfried Zaha was a constant threat against his former club, tormenting Matteo Darmian to the extent Van Gaal was forced to withdraw his right-back midway through the second half.

The United manager also introduced Marouane Fellaini and moved Martial into a central role with Rooney shifting out to the left in a bid to freshen up his attack. But the changes had little impact and it was Palace who finished the stronger.—AFP



WALES: Swansea City's Gylfi Sigurdsson (left) and Arsenal's Francis Coquelin battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium. —AP

WATFORD CRUISE PAST
CALAMITOUS HAMMERS



WATFORD: West Ham's inconsistent season continued as they were beaten 2-0 by Watford yesterday, while they had James Collins sent off late on.

Having recorded victories over champions Chelsea, leaders Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool this season, the Hammers have, however, struggled against the relative minnows.

They previously lost at home to both Bournemouth and Leicester while failing to beat the likes of Norwich and Sunderland. And they were out of sorts as

an Odion Ighalo brace knocked the Irons out of the top four. It could have been worse too as Nathan Ake, Ighalo and Troy Deeney all went close in the first half; West Ham goalkeeper Adrian saving well from Ake.

The opener came on 39 minutes after a gaffe from West Ham's giant striker Andy Carroll, whose scuffed clearance in his own box fell to Ake to tee up Ighalo to bundle in. Watford doubled their lead just after the restart when another poor clearance, from James Tomkins this time, allowed Ighalo to fire his seventh goal of the season into the roof of the net.

Slaven Bilic's team did have their chances but Enner Valencia could only hit the post after pouncing on a poor back pass. And worse was to follow late on as Collins was shown a straight red card for kicking out at Ighalo. The win moved Watford up into mid-table security while West Ham dropped to fifth.—AFP

LEICESTER
DOWN BAGGIES

BIRMINGHAM: England striker Jamie Vardy scored for the eighth successive Premier League game to help Leicester to a 3-2 come-from-behind win at West Brom yesterday and into third in the table.



Club record-signing Salomon Rondon put

West Brom into a first half lead but Leicester hit back after the break with a brace from Riyadh Mahrez and red-hot Vardy getting the third.

Ricky Lambert scored from the penalty spot to give West Brom late hope but the Foxes held out to maintain their unbeaten record away from home this term.

This sixth win of the season moved Claudio Ranieri's high-flyers up to 22 points, three adrift of leaders Manchester City and Arsenal and one clear of fourth-placed Manchester United. While West Brom manager Tony Pulis fielded the same XI that had seen off Norwich last week, Ranieri made one change from the team that lost to Championship side Hull in the League Cup in midweek, Leonardo Ulloa replacing Christian Fuchs for his first start of the season.

Leicester started the stronger at The Hawthorns, with Vardy letting fly with a left-footed shot on seven minutes, the ball glancing off keeper Boaz Myhill and hitting the woodwork.

As the half-hour approached Stephane Sessegnon delivered a corner for Venezuela striker Rondon to head home powerfully past Leicester keeper Kasper Schmeichel, despite the Danish international's hand touching the ball.

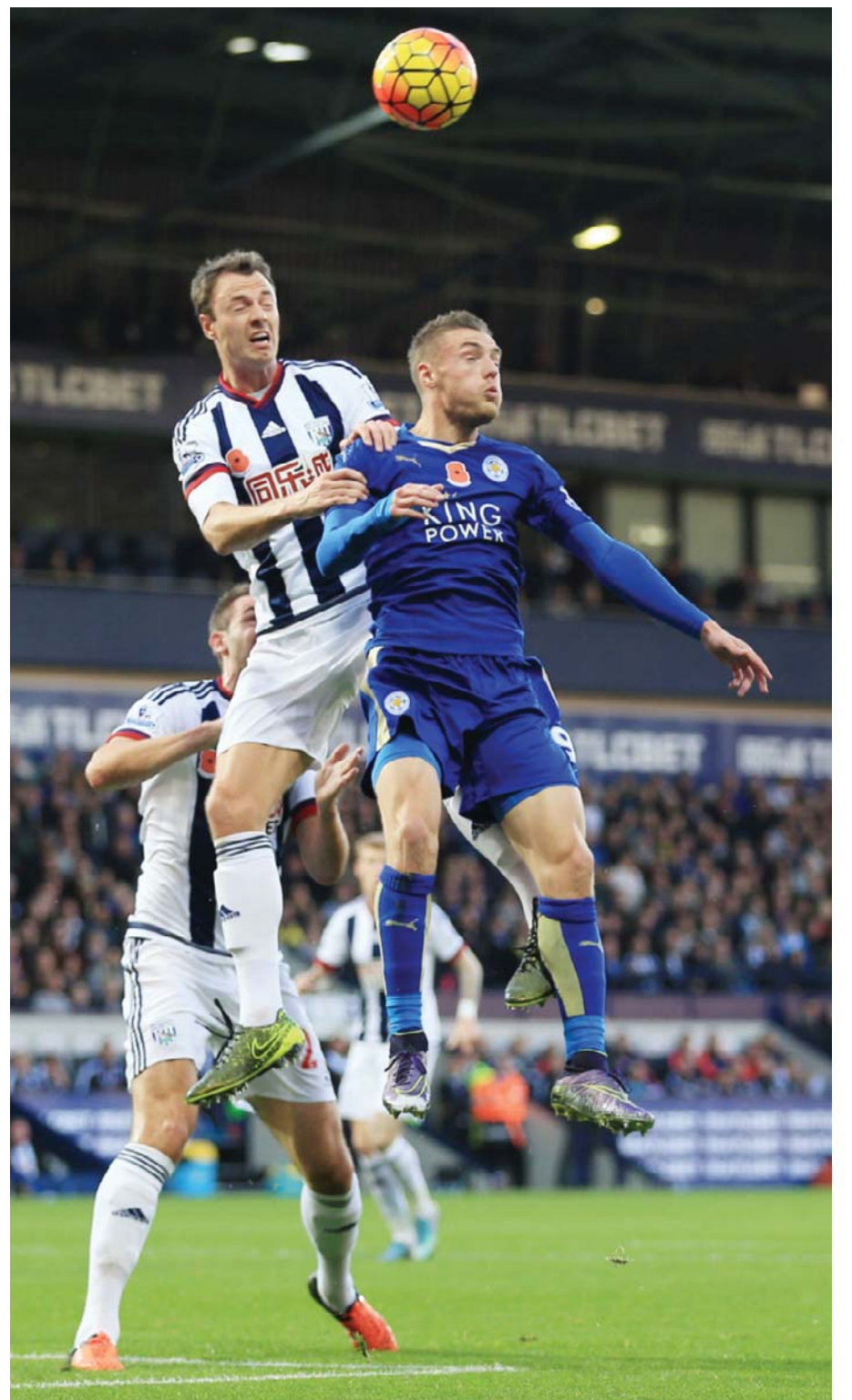
West Brom were aggrieved not to be awarded a penalty four minutes from the break after a goalmouth clash between Robert Huth and Gareth McAuley.

The Baggies' lead lasted until the 57th minute when, against the run of play, Marc Albrighton crossed from the left for Mahrez to knock in side-footed at the far post.

That was the Algerian international's sixth league goal of the season and number seven came along minutes later when Albrighton again sent in a cross, this time from the right, with Mahrez scoring from close range. West Brom's appeals for offside were dismissed. Vardy kept up his remarkable scoring record with 13 minutes left on the clock, outpacing the West Brom defence after exchanging passes with Danny Drinkwater to rifle the ball low past Myhill.

That was the Premier League top scorer's 11th goal of the season and the 28-year-old's eighth in as many league games, a feat only bettered by Daniel Sturridge (nine) and Ruud van Nistelrooy (10).

West Brom reduced the deficit with six minutes left as Lambert scored from the penalty spot, sending Schmeichel the wrong way after Nathan Dyer had felled Calum McManaman.—AFP



LONDON: West Bromwich Albion's Jonny Evans (left) and Leicester City's Jamie Vardy battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match. —AP

Sports

Carter kicks All Blacks to glory

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Man United draw a blank at Palace

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LONDON: Liverpool's German midfielder Emre Can (left) vies with Chelsea's Brazilian midfielder Willian during the English Premier League football match at Stamford Bridge. — AFP

HALLOWEEN HORROR SHOW FOR MOURINHO



LONDON: Philippe Coutinho struck twice as Liverpool won 3-1 at Chelsea yesterday to ratchet up the pressure yet further on the Premier League champions' beleaguered manager Jose Mourinho.

Ramires put the hosts ahead in the fourth minute at Stamford Bridge, but Coutinho equalised in first-half stoppage time and put Liverpool ahead with a deflected shot in the 74th minute before substitute Christian Benteke rubber-stamped Chelsea's sixth defeat in 11 league games.

While visiting manager Jurgen Klopp was left to celebrate his first league win-Liverpool's first on the road since

the season's opening weekend-it was a Halloween nightmare for Mourinho, whose job is thought to be on the line after a run of just one win in eight matches in all competitions.

Some newspaper reports had suggested that he could be dismissed in the event of another defeat, but when asked afterwards if he thought it had been his last match with Chelsea, he replied: "No, I don't."

Questioned as to what needs to be done to arrest his side's decline, he appeared to allude to referee Mark Clattenburg's failure to show Lucas Leiva a second yellow card for tripping Ramires midway through the second half, saying: "There are things that are out of our hands."

But when asked if the players were behind him, he replied: "I have no doubt. The team is together." Klopp said: "I feel it's deserved. We worked hard, but if you want to win at Chelsea, you have to work hard."

Mourinho made just one change to the team eliminated from the League Cup by Stoke City in mid-week, with Cesar Azpilicueta replacing Baba Rahman, which meant that Cesc Fabregas and Nemanja Matic remained on the bench.

Diego Costa passed a fitness test after bruising a rib at

the Britannia Stadium and he wasted no time in making an impact. The Spain striker's back-heel on the left-hand touchline freed Azpilicueta to cross from the left and Ramires stole in front of Alberto Moreno to celebrate his new four-year contract by heading in the opening goal.

It was the kind of start that has eluded Mourinho of late and it allowed Chelsea to retreat into their own territory and play on the break.

The right flank proved fruitful territory for the visitors, with full-back Nathaniel Clyne and James Milner doubling up on Azpilicueta, but although Adam Lallana, twice, and Lucas hit the target, Chelsea goalkeeper Asmir Begovic was not troubled.

However, with first-half stoppage time having ticked 30 seconds beyond the allotted two minutes, Liverpool hit back in style, Coutinho wrong-footing Brazil team-mate Ramires and curling an unnerving left-foot shot around Begovic from the edge of the box for his first goal in 13 appearances.

A cagey opening to the second period saw tempers flare in the dug-outs, with Mourinho drawing fourth official Lee Mason's attention to Klopp's quasi-maniacal appeals before

the German became involved in an angry exchange with a member of Chelsea's back-room staff.

Mourinho leapt to his feet in disbelief when Lucas avoided a second booking for tripping Ramires, demonstrating his displeasure with sarcastic applause for referee Mark Clattenburg.

Mourinho hooked the disappointing Eden Hazard in the 58th minute, with Kenedy coming on, while Benteke replaced Milner as Liverpool switched to a 4-2-3-1 system.

Within two minutes Kenedy had shown more enterprise than Hazard in an hour, cutting in from the left and shooting wide.

Oscar also chanced his arm with an audacious 45-yard lob that Simon Mignolet had to stretch to claw away, but it was Liverpool who struck next.

A high ball was headed down by Benteke and Coutinho steadied himself before dispatching a right-foot shot that flicked off John Terry and flew past Begovic. After Moreno and Jordon Ibe had gone close, Benteke made it 3-1 in the 83rd minute, gathering Ibe's pass and drilling a low shot home to seal Liverpool's first win at Chelsea since November 2011. — AFP

TOURE STRIKES LATE TO KEEP CITY IN POLE SPOT



MANCHESTER: Yaya Toure's late penalty kept Manchester City on top of the Premier League as they secured a dramatic 2-1 victory over Norwich yesterday.

Nicolas Otamendi looked to have put Manuel Pellegrini's side on course for victory when he powered in a header from Kevin De Bruyne's corner midway through the second half.

City goalkeeper Joe Hart stumbled backwards as he tried to gather a Robbie Brady cross, allowing Cameron Jerome to tap in an equaliser with seven minutes left.

But Pellegrini's side grabbed the win in the closing minutes as Russell Martin handled Raheem Sterling's goalbound shot and was sent off, before Toure drove in the resulting penalty.

Aleksandar Kolarov missed a second penalty in stoppage-time, but City did enough to stay ahead of Arsenal on goal difference as they prepare for a cru-

cial Champions League Group D trip to Sevilla on Tuesday. Norwich slipped to a fourth successive league defeat, but turned in a much better performance than they did in losing 7-0 on their last visit to Eastlands two years ago.

In an attempt to halt their losing run, Norwich manager Alex Neil fielded a back five supported by four in midfield with Jerome asked to play as a lone striker. For a long time, the plan succeeded in frustrating a City side who had scored 18 goals in their previous four home matches.

Kelechi Iheanacho, given his first league start in attack, showed some nice touches but was only rarely able to threaten, and was replaced by Sterling early in the second half. His strike partner Wilfried Bony did get closer to goal, with an early shot on the turn beaten out by John Ruddy.

Norwich did create the odd first-half chance themselves, with Sebastien Bassong glancing a Matt Jarvis cross wide under pressure from Hart after the home side had struggled to clear a corner.

Bony, asked to shoulder City's goalscoring burden in the continuing absence of hamstring injury victim Sergio Aguero, twice blasted wide with good chances when a little composure might have been more effective. Hart needed to tip over a fierce shot from Jarvis, who broke well on to Brady's pass, but Pellegrini's team ended the half on top.

Ruddy turned aside a Toure free-kick and captain Vincent Kompany heading wide from De Bruyne's



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Fernandinho (left) fights for the ball against Alexander Tettey of Norwich City during the English Premier League soccer match. — AP

corner. Bony was left appealing unsuccessfully for a penalty early in the second half as he went down under a Bassong challenge.

Sterling's pace on the break did give the home side an added threat once he came on, with one burst upfield ending as he played in Jesus Navas, who set up Toure to bend a shot wide. — AFP

BUTLAND THWARTS NEWCASTLE



NEWCASTLE: Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland was once again the hero as he single-handedly kept out struggling Newcastle to earn a 0-0 draw at St James' Park yesterday.

Newcastle remain in the Premier League's relegation zone, while Stoke opened up a six-point cushion over the bottom three. The two teams came into the game on the back of very different weeks, with the hosts having lost to arch rivals Sunderland while Stoke advanced in the League Cup by beating Chelsea thanks to Butland's eye-catching performance.

The visitors nearly got off to the perfect start when former Liverpool midfielder Charlie Adam whipped in a dangerous cross that was missed completely by defender Chancel Mbemba but Jon Walters somehow failed to hit the target from close range.

The let-off spurred the home team, who

came even closer on the half-hour mark. French midfielder Moussa Sissoko delivered a pinpoint cross that was glanced past Butland, but the ball came back off the post and the keeper was somehow able to smother the ball in a packed six-yard box.

The Magpies had an appeal for a penalty turned down when Spanish attacker Ayoze Perez went down, but there was no whistle and the teams went into the break level.

Minutes into the second half, Butland had to be alert to tip away Georginio Wijnaldum's free-kick for the hosts, while his opposite number Rob Elliot saved at point blank to keep out Walters' header.

The 22-year-old Stoke stopper's growing reputation was further enhanced when he dashed from the line to deny Sissoko as the home team began to take control of the contest.

Mbemba headed wide from close range from the resultant corner, before Butland again came to the fore as he saved Perez's drive.

Stoke remained a threat on the break through Swiss playmaker Xherdan Shaqiri, who was first denied by superb defending from Fabricio Coloccini before setting up Walters, who fired over the crossbar. But it was Butland who was to prove Stoke's point-winner, pulling off another two stunning saves to deny Sissoko and Jamaal Lascelles. — AFP

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ATHENS: In this April 23, 2015 file photo customers use the ATM and enter a branch of Eurobank in central Athens, Greece. The European Central Bank says yesterday, Greece's battered banks need 14.4 billion euros (US dollar 15.8 billion) in fresh money to get back on their feet and resume normal business. —AP

GREEK BANKS NEED \$15.8BN TO GET BACK ON TRACK ECB ANNOUNCES HEALTH CHECK OF BANKS

FRANKFURT: Four major Greek banks must find up to 14.4 billion euros (\$15.8 billion) to survive potential economic shocks, the European Central Bank said yesterday after they underwent an in-depth financial health check.

The figure was less than anticipated under recapitalisation plans agreed with Greece's partners. Greece's Alpha Bank, Eurobank, the National Bank of Greece and Piraeus Bank were all submitted to a health check by the ECB known as a "comprehensive assessment".

If the economy takes a turn for the worse, the banks would have a capital shortfall of up to 14.4 billion euros, the test showed.

The health check comprises an asset quality review and a forward-looking stress test aimed at assessing "the specific recapitalisation needs of the individual banks" under Greece's current economic adjustment programme.

"Overall, the stress test identified a capital shortfall across the four participating banks of 4.4 billion euros under the baseline scenario and 14.4 billion euros under the adverse scenario," the ECB said.

Piraeus was the weakest, with an anticipated shortfall of nearly five billion euros in an adverse scenario. "The four banks will have to submit capital plans explaining how they intend to cover their shortfalls by November 6," it said.

"This will start a recapitalisation process under the economic adjustment programme that must conclude before the end of the year."

Covering the shortfalls by raising capital would "result in the creation of prudential buffers at the four Greek banks, which will improve the resilience of their balance sheets and their capacity to withstand potential adverse macroeconomic shock," the ECB added.

Eurobank noted in a press release that it was ranked "as the Greek bank with the lowest, and fully manageable, capital needs under the... adverse scenario (reflecting) the soundness of the strategy we have been consistently implementing."

Private funds tapped

Piraeus said in a statement yesterday that it took bad loan provisions of 2.121 billion euros in the January-to-September period, down from 3.197 billion euros in the same period last year.

It reported a net loss of 635 million euros in the period, down 61 percent from last year. Analysts say Piraeus is the most exposed to bad loans because it has been a top lender to small and medium-sized Greek businesses.

Weakened after years of recession, Greece's banks took a further battering earlier this year as the left-wing

government of Alexis Tsipras pushed the country to the brink of a euro exit in a standoff with Berlin and Brussels over the terms of Greece's international bailout.

Finally, an 86 billion euro bailout was agreed, with 25 billion euros earmarked for the recapitalisation of the four major banks. On Friday, the Greek government submitted draft legislation to parliament paving the way for the recapitalisation process to begin on Monday.

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos yesterday praised the results of the stress tests and said he was "optimistic" over the process. An ECB official said in a yesterday conference call: "Private investors' contributions are expected to play a significant role in the capital-raising process by means of taking common shares."

But if the private sector response is not sufficient, "the banks will enter into resolution," the Greek finance ministry said earlier. —AFP



SURFSIDE: In this Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, file photo, a "sale pending" sits atop a realty sign outside a home for sale in Surfside, Fla. The National Association of Realtors releases its September 2015 report on pending home sales. —AP

SAUDI DEFICIT THIS YEAR IS 'MANAGEABLE': FM

MANAMA: Saudi Arabia's financial deficit this year is manageable despite the low oil prices, and the kingdom's economic growth rate and financial health will stay strong, Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said at a security conference in Bahrain yesterday.

"The deficits that the kingdom will be running this year are manageable," he told reporters. On Friday Standard & Poor's cut its ratings for Saudi Arabia's long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit by one notch to A-plus/A-1, citing a "pronounced negative swing" in the government's budget balance.

The kingdom's Finance Ministry, which has drawn down some of its financial assets and closed its annual accounts early to handle a projected record deficit, later described S&P's decision as reactionary.

"We are on the tail end of a huge infrastructure development programme in terms of airports, roads, hospitals, highways, housing and so forth and so there was a lot of spending," said Jubeir.

But he added that Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbours had over the past 12 years of very high oil prices accumulated large financial reserves and that the kingdom's debt to gross domestic product ratio of 12 percent was lower

than any other G20 nation.

"We have no doubt that the growth rates in our economy will continue and the financial health of the kingdom will remain as strong as it has been," he said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia yesterday strongly criticised Standard and Poor's agency for downgrading the kingdom's credit rating over the oil price slump, saying it was not backed by facts.

"The evaluation... came as a hasty reaction, unjustified and not backed by reality," the finance ministry said in a statement cited by the SPA state news agency. "The agency depended on temporary and unsustainable factors," it said.

S&P late Friday lowered the long-term credit rating for Saudi Arabia one notch to A+ after its deficit rose sharply because of low oil prices. The ratings agency maintained its negative outlook on the world's top crude exporter, saying that the decision reflected the challenges of reversing the "marked deterioration" in the Saudi fiscal balance.

S&P said it could further lower the rating within the next two years if Riyadh fails to achieve a "sizable and sustained reduction in the general government deficit".

The finance ministry cast doubt on the decision, saying S&P lowered the country's ratings twice within one year from AA- with a positive

outlook to A+ with a negative outlook because of the oil price fall.

It also said the decision did not take into account the sound fiscal position of Saudi Arabia, which is backed by assets of more than 100 percent of gross domestic product besides large foreign currency reserves.

Saudi Arabia recorded a \$17 billion budget deficit last year for the first time since 2009. It is expected to post a deficit of around \$130 billion this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

S&P said that Saudi Arabia, a key member of OPEC, had seen its deficit climb to 16 percent of GDP in 2015 compared with 1.5 percent in 2014 because of the plunge in the price of oil, Riyadh's main source of revenue.

It said the government could cut back on key investments and cut subsidies on power, water and fuel to strengthen government finances in the coming years. But it also referred to political risk, saying that "intrafamily issues around succession could make the kingdom's policy decisions more challenging and difficult to predict".

In February S&P had put the Gulf state on negative outlook, warning about its dependence on oil. The price of a barrel of oil has tumbled from \$90 to less than \$50 since June last year. —Agencies

AUSTRALIA-LED GROUP DEALS BLOW TO CANADIAN BID FOR PORTS FIRM ASCIANO

SYDNEY: An Australian-led consortium said Friday it had bought a large stake in ports and rail operator Asciano, throwing into doubt a US\$6.6 billion bid for the firm by a Canadian asset manager.

The alliance-led by Australian-listed Qube Holdings and which includes the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and investment group Global Infrastructure Partners-announced it had acquired 19.99 percent of Asciano and indicated it wanted to break up the firm.

The share raid was reportedly worth Aus\$1.7 billion (US\$1.2 billion). The news deals a blow to Canada's Brookfield Infrastructure Partners' planned takeover, which if successful would be the biggest

logistics deal in Australian corporate history. "Qube has entered into this transaction to participate in deciding the ownership of Asciano's first-class Australian terminal assets," Qube, a Sydney-based logistics and infrastructure firm, said in a statement.

The company said it was interested in Asciano's container terminals business as well as several other smaller assets, adding that when combined with Qube, they had "the potential to create significant value". The group also said it does "not support the current Brookfield scheme proposal and do not intend to vote in favour of it".

Brookfield's takeover was already under a cloud after Australia's corporate watchdog said in mid-

October it was concerned about its effect on competition in Western Australia and Queensland states.

"It leaves them (Brookfield) in a very, very hard place in terms of how or what the deal will look like-or if a deal can now even be done," IG's market strategist Evan Lucas told AFP.

Investors gave the raid the thumbs up, with Asciano's shares jumping 7.41 percent to Aus\$8.12 in afternoon trade while Qube rose 3.41 percent to Aus\$2.28. Lucas said Qube, which also operates port facilities in Australia, was after container terminal assets held by Asciano to strengthen its hand against major competitors such as Toll Holdings,

which was recently bought by Japan Post Holdings.

At the same time, its Canadian partners could be interested in getting Asciano's rail assets, which make up about two-thirds of the business. "It does make sense that could be a real probability in that they do break up Asciano with... the Canadians taking the rail assets and Qube taking the port assets," Lucas said.

"Qube realistically doesn't have the money to completely do a takeover. They are doing a reverse takeover here."

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is due to release its final decision on the Brookfield bid on December 17. — AFP



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Corporation Chairwoman Rasha Al Roumi inspecting the new plane. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

KAC RECEIVES NEW AIRCRAFT

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) witnessed on Friday the arrival of the new aircraft 833. The plane, which was received at the Kuwait International Airport, is one of the latest planes leased by the KAC as a part of broad deals to overhaul the national carrier's fleet.

KAC Chairwoman Rasha Al Roumi and Engineer Abdullah Al-Sharhan, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Airways, with the Kuwait Airways' staff inspected the new plane. Al Roumi noted that the KAC will receive more new planes in November 2015. The new aircraft 833 of Kuwait Airways is equipped with the latest technology for the business and economy class making it more comfortable for the passengers to fly with.

Aircraft 833 has been equipped with technology to avoid deviation on the bleachers system which promotes awareness of the positions of different flight for the pilot during landing thus reducing exposure to risks of deviation on the runway.

Kuwait Airways have been able

to provide distinctive products for the customers and delivers the best service that is the best in its class with more value.

The new plane has Internet connections and multiple leisure services,

and USB charger for smartphones. It includes multiple entertainment services, including online and telephone communications in addition to the existing screens in the seats that allows watching

movies and soap operas.

Kuwait Airways aims at setting the standard for customer orientation and become an admired airline to fly. It provides clients a premium and a reliable economy product.



Rasha Al Roumi with Kuwait Airways staff.

AIRBUS RAMPS UP A320 OUTPUT AS PROFITS CLIMB

PARIS: European aircraft maker Airbus announced Friday it will ramp up production of its best-selling A320 jet as overall profits climb sharply. Airbus, like its main rival Boeing, is enjoying strong sales in a "healthy" international market for passenger aircraft. In a sign of Airbus' confidence in its financial position, the group also revealed it is launching a 1.0-billion-euro (\$1.2 billion) buyback of its own shares. Citing a robust commercial aircraft market, Airbus said it was increasing monthly output of the popular single-aisle A320 family to 60 in mid-2019 from just over 42 now.

The Airbus production target eclipses that of Boeing, which aims to raise monthly output of its single-aisle 737 from 42 now to 52 in 2017. The news came a day after state-owned China Aviation Supplies Holding Group signed a deal to buy 100 A320 aircraft, worth \$9.7 billion at list prices. Airbus has also signed a letter of intent in a 750-million euro deal to sell to China 100 of its versatile H135 twin-engine helicopters, often used by emergency services, a source close to the matter said Friday.

The firm dubbed the accord, under which it will open a facility in the eastern city of Qingdao

to assemble the helicopters, a "major step forward for Airbus Helicopters in China," one which "consolidates its position as the leading helicopter manufacturer in the Chinese market."

Airbus said group net profit rose 42 percent from a year earlier to 376 million euros in the three months to September 30 as it reaped the benefits of strong sales and a firm dollar.

The Toulouse, France-based group said sales rose six percent to 14.1 billion euros in the three months. The figure is still substantially less than the \$25.85 billion in sales reported by Boeing in the same period. "We again increased revenues, profitability and cash generation due to a good operational performance," chief executive Tom Enders said in a statement.

Airbus' board had decided to start the one-billion-euro share buyback immediately, he said, prompted by progress in the business, divestments and the company's cash position. The share buyback should be complete by June 30 next year, Enders said. New aircraft orders over the first nine months of the year soared 42 percent to 112 billion euros, the group said. Airbus is also pushing up production of its new twin-aisle A350, which it said was "challenging". — AFP

SECRET TO ATTRACTING GREAT FEMALE TALENT

BAYT.COM WEEKLY REPORT

KUWAIT: Including workplace diversity policies is great for any company. However, attracting female talent of exceptional caliber can be difficult, especially for more senior or managerial roles. Here are five ways that can help your company maintain a better balance of genders at the workplace, according to the experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site:

1. Promote equal opportunities

Many women have doubts about working at certain companies because of a lack of equal opportunities. In fact, less than half (49%) of working female respondents believe that men and women are treated equally in the workplace, according to the Bayt.com Status of Working Women in the Middle East survey, December 2014. You must have workplace policies in place that ensure equal opportunities for both men and women. This includes but isn't limited to salary, promotions and work distribution. Infusing this kind of policy will help attract and retain talented female professionals.

2. Refine your sourcing strategy

If you're looking at attracting female talent, why not post your vacancies on those resources where the audience is primarily women? For example, you could target your social media posts on to a female-only audience or post vacancies on leading job sites or women magazines with a high female audience. It all depends on how to strategize your resources in order to attract the best and most diversified talent for your company.

3. Provide flexi-time options

Some experienced professional women

might not be able to work on-site due to personal obligations. Offering flexibility at work promotes productivity among these women and encourages them to accept the job. You could include various flexi-time options, such as half-day at work half-day at home or coming in three days a week, for example.

4. Include flexible leave policies

Offering the right amount of maternity leave days is extremely important for female employees. Leave policies show that the company's top management and human resources sympathize with their female workers. Although all women place increased importance on the number of days granted to them as part of their maternal leave, only 35% of companies in the Middle East provide paid maternity leave, as revealed in the Bayt.com Status of Working Women in the Middle East survey. Bayt.com, for example, offers a 70-day maternity leave and a three-week paid leave for those who have been with the company for five years or more.

5. Reward your female employees

You can hold monthly or quarterly celebrations for your female employees to reward them and celebrate their achievements. At Bayt.com we have quarterly fiestas where we celebrate top performers. The company plans several family-friendly events throughout the calendar year - Ramadan Iftar, spring trip, Eid festivities, etc. - and employees are encouraged to bring family members and friends. Employees and their families get the opportunity to socialize and enjoy a community feel outside the office.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.517
Indian Rupees	4.672
Pakistani Rupees	2.905
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.163
Nepali Rupees	2.927
Singapore Dollar	218.420
Hongkong Dollar	39.174
Bangladesh Taka	3.902
Philippine Peso	6.494
Thai Baht	8.570

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.003
Qatari Riyal	83.441
Omani Riyal	788.980
Bahraini Dinar	806.700
UAE Dirham	82.702

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	39.800
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	37.855
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.417
Tunisian Dinar	153.720
Jordanian Dinar	427.850
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.024
Syrian Lira	2.165
Morocco Dirham	31.396

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.600
Euro	336.690
Sterling Pound	466.330
Canadian dollar	230.000
Turkish lira	104.510
Swiss Franc	309.800
Australian dollar	218.590
US Dollar Buying	302.400

20 gram	237.55
10 gram	121.47
5 gram	61.42

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	208.59
Canadian Dollar	232.31
Swiss Franc	311.95
Euro	338.05
US Dollar	303.80
Sterling Pound	467.36
Japanese Yen	2.56
Bangladesh Taka	3.900
Indian Rupee	4.676
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.162
Nepali Rupee	2.918
Pakistani Rupee	2.882
UAE Dirhams	0.08267
Bahraini Dinar	0.8074
Egyptian Pound	0.03786
Jordanian Dinar	0.4321
Omani Riyal	0.7889
Qatari Riyal	0.08376
Saudi Riyal	0.80898

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.200
Canadian Dollar	233.454
Sterling Pound	467.110
Euro	336.280
Swiss Frank	300.955
Bahrain Dinar	807.385
UAE Dirhams	83.120
Qatari Riyals	91.135

Saudi Riyals	81.845
Jordanian Dinar	428.645
Egyptian Pound	37.773
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.165
Indian Rupees	4.654
Pakistani Rupees	2.882
Bangladesh Taka	3.902
Philippines Peso	6.488
Cyprus pound	579.405
Japanese Yen	3.515
Syrian Pound	2.610
Nepalese Rupees	3.905
Malaysian Ringgit	71.350
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.475
Thai Bhat	9.525
Turkish Lira	104.340

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.457710	0.466710
Czech Korune	0.004370	0.016370
Danish Krone	0.040873	0.045873
Euro	0.329250	0.337250
Norwegian Krone	0.032290	0.037097
Romanian Leu	0.087090	0.087090
Slovakia	0.009062	0.019062
Swedish Krona	0.031643	0.036643
Swiss Franc	0.300983	0.311187
Turkish Lira	0.099740	0.110040
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.207725	0.219225
New Zealand Dollar	0.197852	0.207352
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.224969	0.233469
US Dollars	0.299400	0.303900

US Dollars Mint	0.299900	0.303900
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Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003498	0.004098
Chinese Yuan	0.046503	0.050003
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037071	0.039821
Indian rupee	0.004395	0.004785
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002439	0.002619
Kenyan Shilling	0.003155	0.003155
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067777	0.073777
Nepalese Rupee	0.002908	0.003078
Pakistan Rupee	0.002799	0.003079
Philippine Peso	0.006426	0.006706
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.214133	0.220133
South African Rand	0.016177	0.024677
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001866	0.002446
Taiwan	0.009243	0.009423
Thai Baht	0.008225	0.008775

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.797884	0.805884
Egyptian Pound	0.037936	0.040766
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000260
Jordanian Dinar	0.424209	0.431709
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020570	0.044570
Nigerian Naira	0.001254	0.001889
Omani Riyal	0.782151	0.787831
Qatar Riyal	0.082680	0.083893
Saudi Riyal	0.080323	0.081023
Syrian Pound	0.001287	0.001507
Tunisian Dinar	0.149541	0.157541
Turkish Lira	0.099740	0.110040
UAE Dirhams	0.081678	0.082827
Yemeni Riyal	0.001372	0.001452

OOREDOO PARTNERS WITH QOUT MARKET TO EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITY

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, today announced that it has partnered with the Kuwait-based artisanal farmers market, 'Qout Market', to support their third season, which will run from November 2015 to April 2016.

This season, the 'Qout Market' will

be held at Murouj; a Sahara Golf Club project and will include local farm produce, artisanal food products and crafts, with a 'street food' section aimed at highlighting the culinary diversity of our local food community. The market also offers a section dedicated for children's activities.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "It's important to us to be part of a successful project, such as Qout Market that supports small businesses and empowers entrepreneurs to take the first step towards introducing their business concept. We wish

everyone the best of luck for this season, and hope to be part of it in seasons to come."

At the event, Ooredoo will engage with participants and visitors through a special onsite booth. Company representatives will be available to provide information about Ooredoo's latest offers and

promotions, answer inquiries and distribute giveaways to all.

Ooredoo is committed to supporting Kuwait and its youth. This participation is one of the many initiatives that comes in line with the company's objective to contribute to the support and development of Kuwait's youth across different areas.



WASHINGTON: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen arrives for a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, Friday, in Washington. The meeting was to discuss a proposed rule establishing total loss-absorbing capacity and long-term debt requirements for global systemically important banking organizations, as well as a final rule on margin and capital requirements for uncleared swaps of prudentially regulated swap entities. — AP

FED LOOKS AT WAY TO SHIFT BIG-BANK LOSSES TO INVESTORS

NEW PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE RISK TO TAXPAYERS

WASHINGTON: In their latest bid to reduce the chances of future taxpayer bailouts, federal regulators are proposing that the eight biggest US banks build new cushions against losses that would shift the burden to investors.

The Federal Reserve's proposal put forward Friday means the mega-banks would have to bulk up their capacity to absorb financial shocks by issuing equity or long-term debt equal to prescribed portions of total bank assets. The idea is that the cost of a huge bank's failure would fall on investors in the bank's equity or debt, not on taxpayers.

The Fed governors led by Chair Janet Yellen voted 5-0 at a public meeting to propose the so-called "loss-absorbing capacity" requirements for the banks, which include JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America.

The eight banks would have to issue a total of about \$120 billion in new long-term debt to meet the requirements of the proposal, the Fed staff estimates. If formally adopted, most of the requirements wouldn't take effect until 2019, and the remainder not until 2022.

The new cushions would come atop rules adopted by the Fed in July for the eight banks to shore up their financial bases with about \$200 billion in additional capital - over and above capital requirements for the industry. And they would be in addition to 2014 rules directing all large US banks to keep enough high-quality assets on hand to survive during a severe downturn.

Combined with the regulators' previous actions, the new proposal "would substantially reduce the risk to

taxpayers and the threat to financial stability stemming from the failure of these (banks)," Yellen said at the start of the meeting.

'Too big to fail'

Stricter capital requirements for banks were mandated by Congress after the financial crisis, which struck in 2008 and set off the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Hundreds of US banks received taxpayer bailouts totaling hundreds of billions of dollars during the crisis, including the eight Wall Street mega-banks that became known as "too big to fail" in Washington.

The previously adopted capital and liquidity rules are the "belt" designed to reduce the likelihood of big banks failing, while the new proposal for transferring potential losses to investors is the "suspenders" in case banks do fail, said Oliver Ireland, an attorney specializing in banking law at Morrison & Foerster who was an associate general counsel at the Fed.

Investors will know that if a bank fails, "they will be on the hook" and likely won't recover the full amount they put in, Ireland said. Higher interest rates paid by banks on the debt they issued beforehand would compensate for the investors' risk.

The other banks subject to the requirements are Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo, Morgan Stanley, Bank of New York Mellon and State Street Bank.

In its action Friday, the Fed was putting forward its piece of a plan proposed by international regulators in November 2014 for "loss-absorbing capacity" for the world's 30 largest banks. Including the eight US banks,

they are considered so big and interconnected that each could threaten the financial system if they collapsed.

US regulators won the power under the 2010 financial overhaul law to seize and dismantle big banks and financial firms that could topple and jeopardize the broader system. The Fed sees a mandate for loss-absorbing capacity as a key to enabling that process. It would put long-term debt into a bank's holding company that could be converted to stock as an injection of capital - instead of taxpayer funds. If a bank failed under the regulators' scenario, the holding company would be seized but subsidiaries would be allowed to continue to operate.

Risky trades

Also at their meeting Friday, the Fed governors set requirements for collateral to cover possible losses that banks have to post for trades in derivatives that are made outside of clearinghouses. The Fed joined other US regulators who adopted the requirements last week.

The aim is to cut down on the kind of risky trades that contributed to the 2008 financial crisis. Policymakers have blamed the \$600 trillion global derivatives market, which was unregulated before the crisis, for hastening the financial meltdown. Derivatives are transactions whose value comes from an underlying investment - oil, for example, or currencies, interest rates or stocks. Farmers, airlines and industrial companies use derivatives to hedge against risks. But derivatives have also been used - sometimes recklessly - by financial firms to speculate. — AP

IMF URGES US FED TO BE CAUTIOUS IN HIKING RATES

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund urged the Federal Reserve to be cautious on raising rates, warning that tightening too fast could force it to reverse and possibly lose credibility.

In a review of the world's top industrial economies ahead of the November 15-16 G-20 summit in Antalya, Turkey, the IMF said the United States and the global economy face risks tied to the impending rate hike, which would be the first in more than nine years.

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday put off the decision, but pointed to the distinct possibility that it could happen in December. While a rate rise would represent the Fed's confidence in US economic growth, the IMF warned that it could happen "amid large uncertainty about slack in labor markets, the neutral policy rate and the path for inflation and wages."

It said global financial stability is often in the balance, given that an increase in the Fed's benchmark rates could spark "abrupt" shifts in global investment portfolios and high market volatility.

Domestically, the IMF added, "should financial conditions tighten more than warranted by cyclical conditions, it may become a drag to the recovery, and may

force the Fed to reverse direction, with a potential cost in terms of credibility." And it could also drive the dollar higher, with more negative consequences for US exports.

The IMF had advice for other G-20 economies as it pushed more efforts to right global economic "imbalances," such as excess debt and huge trade surpluses.

It said the United States, Japan, and France, most notably, need strong medium-term plans to cut their debts. Surplus countries like Germany and the Netherlands can afford to spend more and spur growth at home and across the sagging eurozone.

As for China, the world's second largest economy, the IMF said the country needs to work to prevent "too sharp a slowdown in growth" while advancing structural reforms. The reforms are crucial "to unleash new sources of growth and rebalance the economy towards consumption over the medium term," it said.

It also urged Beijing to rein in credit growth and slow investment growth to reduce risks in the domestic economy. "Finding the right mix of reducing vulnerabilities and maintaining growth will be an ongoing challenge," it said. — AFP

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NET PROFITS RISE ON CITIZENS SALE

LONDON: State-rescued Royal Bank of Scotland's net profit grew in the third quarter, as a gain on the sale of US unit Citizens eclipsed restructuring and misconduct costs, it said Friday.

Earnings after taxation climbed 6.2 percent to £952 million (\$1.45 billion, 1.33 billion euros) in the three months to the end of September, compared with the equivalent part of last year, RBS said in a results statement.

However, pre-tax profit before exceptional items and restructuring costs more than halved to £842 million. That missed expectations for a profit of £988 million.

The bank chalked up a hefty one-off gain of £1.15 billion from the reduction of its stake in US division Citizens.

RBS added in a separate statement that it now has sold its remaining 20.9-percent Citizens holding, worth \$2.7 billion, via a new offering that completes its exit.

The lender floated one-quarter of Citizens on the New York stock market last September as part of its divestment strategy and reduced its holding further in July.

RBS said Friday that restructuring costs stood at £847 million in the third quarter, as its corporate and institutional unit-hold to most of its investment banking activities slashed its countries of operation from 38 to just 13.

As a result, revenues shrank 16 percent to £3.05 billion in the reporting period.

The group also revealed costs of £129 million for the quarter relating to mort-

gage-backed securities litigation in the United States. The latest results come after the British government recently trimmed its RBS holding from just under 80 percent to below 73 percent in early August.

The Edinburgh-based lender was rescued with £45.5 billion of taxpayers' cash at the height of the global financial crisis in the world's biggest banking bailout.

The group, under the leadership of chief executive Ross McEwan, launched a massive overhaul in February that slashed its investment banking activities and axed thousands of jobs.

RBS meanwhile warned on Friday that it could face rising legacy and restructuring costs in the coming months.

"In the fourth quarter of 2015, we expect restructuring costs to remain high as we continue to implement our core bank transformation and disposal losses to be elevated within the overall guidance on disposal losses, although the timing and quantum of these losses are subject to market conditions," the bank said.

"Whilst legacy issues continue to be addressed, material further and incremental costs and provisions in respect of conduct and litigation related matters are expected, and could be substantially greater than the aggregate provisions RBS has recognised."

In common with many other major banks, RBS has faced huge fines and compensation demands for its alleged role in the manipulation of foreign exchange market and Libor interest rates. — AFP

INFINITI POISED TO DAZZLE AT DUBAI INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW

DEBUT OF Q80 INSPIRATION AND Q60 CONCEPT

DUBAI: Ahead of the Dubai International Motor Show, Infiniti, one of the region's fastest growing premium automotive brands yesterday announced the Middle East debut of the design-halo Q80 Inspiration and the stunning two-door Q60 Concept.

"At this edition of the Dubai International Motor Show we will have the largest volume of news in the history of Infiniti in the Middle East," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East during an exclusive pre-motor show briefing.

Infiniti Q80 Inspiration

Initially unveiled at the Paris Motor Show in 2014, the design language of the Infiniti Q80

Inspiration forms the design DNA blueprint for Infiniti's existing and future models.

On the Q80 Inspiration concept, the organic and three-dimensional grille functions much like the pulsing gills of a cruising shark, opening and closing to control air flow into the engine. Infiniti's hallmark headlight takes after the human eye, with the horizontal lighting signature intersecting across a third of the projector, giving the headlamp a stare that is both inviting and intense simultaneously. Another design feature special to Infiniti is the crescent cut C-pillar, which draws creatively from the first or last phases of the moon when only a sliver is visible. It has also evolved from a stylistic flourish to become an integral part of the vehicle structure.



Infiniti Q60 Concept

The Infiniti Q60 Concept, is an original and bold reinterpretation of an elegant lifestyle 2+2 coupe. Infiniti designers wanted to create a sports car that is power and performance personified. They gave the Q60 Concept taut lines, razor-sharp edges, and strikingly deep recesses in the body sides - culminating in a potent road presence.

The Q60 Concept's sleek and aerodynamic design is anchored by its deep double arch grille, whose elaborate waved mesh pattern gives it a three-dimensional quality.

From the grille, the flowing character lines rise and merge into the headlamps, drawing attention to the intelligent LED lights. These adaptive headlamps react to the steering, speed and elevation of the car and automatically adjust the

beam around each bend to illuminate the road ahead.

The same refinement on the outside extends into the smallest detail on the inside, evoking a premium atmosphere with three-dimensional textures and meticulous craftsmanship.

While the familiar asymmetry from the top of the center cluster to the wide center console has been updated to make it more fluid, the center console continues to demarcate the driver and passenger zone. Carbon fibre in the door accents echoes the performance of the car while high-quality driver-oriented controls intuitively build driver confidence.

Infiniti in the Middle East

On a business level, Infiniti continues to excel on all cylinders. An aggressive network expansion

strategy as well as focus on the product front (recently launched Infiniti Q70) has allowed the brand to enjoy a consistent growth in the region - delivering almost 6,300 vehicles to customers at an increase of 20%.

"Across the board, our brand continues to experience phenomenal growth in the region. This is largely due to the iconic vehicles we offer our customers that have the perfect blend of performance and innovation. As we gear up for the Dubai International Motor Show, our customers can be assured that we have a few more surprises in store - all of which we are confident will help to continue to add to Infiniti's momentum in the Middle East," concluded Schmitz.

The Infiniti stand will be located in Sheikh Saeed Hall and will be open to the public from the 10th of November.

OIL PRICES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

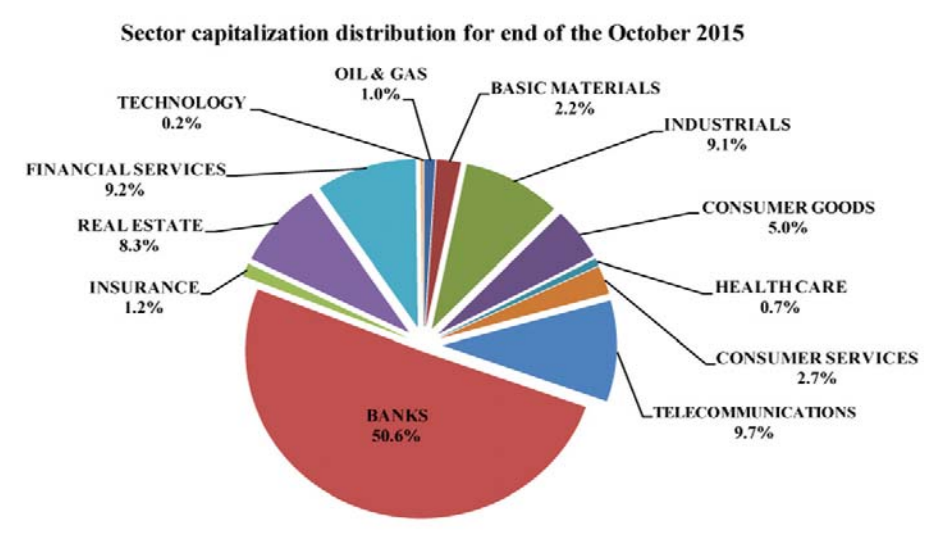
ALSHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: By the end of October 2015, the seventh month of the current fiscal year 2015/2016 ended. Average oil price for most of October scored \$43.3 per barrel, which is \$ -0.7 per barrel (-1.6%) less than the average of September at \$44 per barrel. It is also lower by \$ -1.7 per barrel, -3.8%, than the new hypothetical price per barrel estimated for the current budget at \$45 per barrel. It is however lower by US\$ -31.7 than the hypothetical price for the past fiscal year

at US\$ 53 per barrel were less by KD -6.416 billion, -45.2%, than its counterpart value last fiscal year. KD 551.2 million was collected from non-oil revenues during the same period, a monthly average by KD 91.867 million. The total estimated amount for the entire year was about KD 1.453 billion. This means the realized amount will be less for the entire fiscal year by about KD 351 million than the estimated amount.

points, compared with 388.40 points. While the price index of the stock exchange increased to 5,757.4 points (5,726 points in September 2015), 0.9% rise, because of the most trading was on small shares. When we compare performance of the main indexes (price, weighted, and Kuwait 15) with their performance in the end of 2014, we note they dropped all by about (-11.6%, -11.5% and -12.8%) respectively.

	30/09/2015	30/09/2014	Change		
	(Thousand KD)	(Thousand KD)	Value	%	
Total Assets	23,776,339	21,730,609	2,045,730	9.4%	↑
Total Liabilities	20,642,988	18,923,499	1,719,489	9.1%	↑
Equity Attributable to the equity holders of the bank	2,700,711	2,592,111	108,600	4.2%	↑
Total Operating Revenues	544,065	499,162	44,903	9.0%	↑
Total Operating Expenses	172,782	162,209	10,573	6.5%	↑
Provision	106,505	106,706	(201)	-0.2%	↓
Taxation	26,587	18,081	8,506	47.0%	↑
Net income	238,191	212,166	26,025	12.3%	↑
Ratios					
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	1.39%	1.40%			↓
**Return on Average Equity Relevant To The Bank Shareholder (ROE)	11.4%	10.7%			↑
**Return on Average Capital (ROC)	64.6%	60.4%			↑
Earnings per share (EPS) – (Fils)	46	41	5	12.2%	↑
Closing price – (Fils)	810	980	(170)	-17.3%	↓
*Price to Earnings Per Share Multiplies (P/E)	13.2	17.9			
Price to Book Value Multiplies (P/B)	1.3	1.7			



Total market value for traded shares (19 working days) scored about KD 230.4 million (US\$ 756.3 million), a drop by KD 17.3 million, or by 7%, below September's 2015 figure (KD 247.7 million). It remained lower by -39% than its level in October 2014. The highest trading value in one day during the month was at KD 17.3 million on October 19, 2015 while the lowest value was on October 27, 2015 at KD 9.5 million. The daily average value of traded shares was KD 12.1 million (KD 13 million in September 2015), a drop by (0.6%). The banking sector took the lead in liquidity and captured KD 839.3 million, i.e. 24.6%, of total market trading the financial services sector came next by 22.3% and the real estate sector by 16.9%. Number of transaction decreased to 64.1 thousand deals, a daily average of 3,374 deals (3,438 deals in September 2015), with

achieving the highest drop by -33.1%. The telecommunications sector scored the second highest drop in value by -22.4%. The financial services sector scored the third highest loss by -19.4%. The market performance will remain weak unless the market liquidity rises in the next two months.

NBK's Financial Results

NBK announced results of its operations for the first nine months of 2015 ending in September, which indicate that the bank's net profits, after due deductions, scored an amount of KD 238.2 million, a rise by KD 26 million or by 12.3%, vis-a-vis KD 212.2 million on September 30, 2014. If we deduct the non-controlling interest, we note that the bank achieved net profit for the bank shareholders in the amount of about KD 227.9 million (KD 203.9 million in the same period 2014), a rise by KD 24 million. The reason for this rise in the bank profit is due to the rise in the total operations incomes by a higher value than the increase in total expenditures.

In details, net operations income increased by KD 44.9 million, or by 9%, and scored KD 544.1 million (KD 499.2 million in the same period of 2014). Interest income (except for incomes from Islamic financing) increased by KD 49.2 million. Interest expenses (except for murabaha costs) increased by KD 15.8 million. As a result, net interests incomes increased by KD 33.4 million. The bank also achieved net incomes from Islamic financing by KD 61.6 million (KD 51.6 million in the same period of 2014). Interest incomes both traditional and Islamic achieved KD 390.7 million (KD 347.3 million in 2014), a rise by KD 43.3 million. Item of net income from fees and commissions rose by KD 6.3 million and scored KD 97.5 million (KD 91.1 million). But item of share in the results of associate dropped by KD 10 million to KD 368 thousand vis-a-vis KD 10.4 million in the same period last year.

Total operations expenditures increased by less value than the rise in total operations incomes and increased by KD 10.6 million, or by 6.5%, to KD 172.8 million (KD 162.2 million in September 2014). This resulted as a result of the rise in most items of operations expenses. However, ratio of total operations expenses to the total operational incomes scored 31.8% (32.5% in the first nine months in 2014). According to AlShall estimates, assuming the exclusion of the impact of consolidating Boubyan Bank's results on the operations expenses, the increase in operational expenses from KD 135.8 million to KD 143.3 million, i.e. KD 7.5 million rise, or by 5.5%. Value of provisions decreased by about KD 201 thousand to KD 106.5 million (KD 106.7 million in the same period of last year).

Financial statements of the bank indicate the bank's total assets increased by KD 1.992 billion, or by 9.1%, to KD 23.776 billion compared with the end of 2014. However, it increased by KD 2.046 billion, or by 9.4%, when compared with the end of September 2014. If we exclude the impact of consolidating Boubyan Bank, the growth rate will score about 8.2% compared with its level in the same period last year. As for clients' loans, advances and Islamic financing portfolio, the largest component of the bank's assets, it increased by 11.1%, or by KD 1.323 billion, bringing the total portfolio value to KD 13.232 billion (55.7% of total assets) versus KD 11.909 billion (54.7% of total assets) in December 2014. The portfolio increased by KD 1.649 billion, or by 14.2%, when compared with the end of September 2014. Likewise, if we exclude the impact of aggregating Boubyan Bank in the Islamic financing part, the growth rate will score about 13.1% compared with its level in the same period last year. Ratio of non-performing loans to the total loans portfolio scored 1.41% in September 2015 (1.45% in September of last year). Covering ratio of non-performing loans scored 301% compared with 275% in the same period of last year.

Figures indicate that the bank liabilities (without including total equities) increased by KD 1.729 billion, or by 9.1%, to KD 20.643 billion compared with the end of 2014 but increased by KD 1.719 billion, or by 9.1%, if compared with the end of same period of last year. And if we exclude the impact of aggregating Boubyan Bank statements, the growth rate of these liabilities would score 7.6% compared with their rate in September 2014.

Results of analyzing financial statements calculated on annual basis indicate that most profitability indexes of the bank increased compared with the same period of 2014. The return on average equity relevant to the bank shareholder (ROE) increased to 11.4% (10.7%). The return on average bank capital (ROC) increased to 64.6% (60.4%). The return on average assets (ROA) decreased slightly to 1.39% (1.40%). Likewise, (EPS) increased to 46 fils (41 fils for the same period in 2014). (P/E) scored 13.2 times, improved, (17.9 times) due to the increase in the EPS by 12.2% and a drop in the market price of the share by 17.3% compared with its price on September 30, 2014. (P/B) scored 1.3 times (1.7 times in September 2014).

Weekly Performance of KSE

The performance of Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) for the last week was mixed compared to the previous one, where the indices of the trade volume, show an increase, while the trade value, number of transactions and the general index show a decrease. AlShall Index (value index) closed at 378.8 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing a decrease of about 1.4 points or about 0.4% compared with its level last week and it decreased by 65.2 points or about 14.7% compared with the end of 2014.

The following tables summarize last week's performance of KSE

Description	Week 43	Week 42	Diff
	29/10/2015	22/10/2015	
Working days	5	5	
AlShall index (38 Companies)	378.8	380.2	-0.4%
KSE index	5,775.4	5,780.8	-0.1%
Value Trade (KD)	58,640,192	62,627,495	
Daily average (KD)	11,728,038	12,525,499	-6.4%
Volume Trade (Shares)	780,602,343	750,215,939	
Daily average (Shares)	156,120,469	150,043,188	4.1%
Transactions	17,082	17,964	
Daily average (Transactions)	3,416	3,593	-4.9%

ALSHALL INDEX	Week 43	Week 42
	29/10/2015	22/10/2015
Increased Value (# of Companies)	8	18
Decreased Value (# of Companies)	15	13
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)	15	7
Total Companies	38	38

which was at \$75 per barrel. The average price for the Kuwaiti oil price in October 2014 scored \$83.9 per barrel. The last fiscal year 2014/2015 which ended by the end of last March scored \$81.3 per Kuwaiti oil barrel. This means the average price for October 2015 lost about -46.7% of the average price of the barrel of oil for the past fiscal year and lost -48.4% of the average price for October 2014.

According to figures published in the monthly follow up report of the State's financial accounts for September 2015, issued by Ministry of Finance, Kuwait is supposed to have achieved oil revenues until the end of last September -6 months- about KD 7.782 billion. Kuwait is supposed to have achieved about KD 1 billion in oil revenues in October.

Therefore, anticipated oil revenues will increase during the period of 7 months to about KD 8.8 billion, 82% of estimated oil revenues for the entire current fiscal year in the amount of KD 10.7575 billion. Kuwait also achieved an amount of KD 551.2 million in non-oil revenues during the first half of the current fiscal year and will increase to KD 643 million in the 7 months period. Therefore, the projected total revenues will score KD 9.44 billion during the period.

Assuming production and prices would continue at their present levels -an assumption which may not

Most Active Sectors & Companies

Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT	5,603,167	9.6%
KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE	5,115,896	8.7%
KUWAIT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO.	2,842,158	4.8%
AL-DAR NATIONAL REAL ESTATE CO. K.S.C.C	2,647,442	4.5%
MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY K.S.C	2,622,857	4.5%
Total	18,831,520	32.1%
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
BANKS SECTOR	15,349,774	26.2%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR	12,525,655	21.4%
INDUSTRIALS SECTOR	8,778,941	15.0%
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR	8,274,249	14.1%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR (ZAIN)	6,837,004	11.7%

be realized- it is expected that value of potential oil revenues for the entire current fiscal year would score about KD 15.6 billion, which is about KD 4.8 billion higher than the oil revenues estimated for the budget. But the rise in oil revenues for the current fiscal year is conditioned by the rise in the average price of oil barrel to exceed the 7 months average of the current fiscal year at \$51.6 per barrel. Adding some KD 1.5 billion in non-oil revenues, which actually exceeded the two billion dinars for the past two fiscal years, total budget revenues for the current fiscal year would score KD 17.1 billion. Comparing this figure with the expenditures allocations of about KD 19.2 billion, the general budget for the fiscal year 2015/2016 would likely score a deficit by about KD 2 billion without deducting the transfers to the Future Generations Reserve. However, this deficit figure depends mainly on the average oil price and its production in the remaining part of the fiscal year (5 months). Oil prices are continuing their decline which will raise the deficit. But any saving from the estimated expenditures would reduce the deficit level.

Monthly Report of the State

In its monthly follow-up report for the State's Financial Administration Accounts until September 2015 (published on its website), the Ministry of Finance indicates a substantial drop in revenues. Until 30/09/2015, the first half of the current fiscal year 2015/2016, total collected revenues amounted to approximately KD 8.333 billion, about 68.2% of the total estimated revenues for the entire current fiscal year in the amount of approximately KD 12.2106 billion, with a noticeable decline by -44.8% below the total collected revenues during the same period of last fiscal year (2014/2015) in the amount of KD 15.085 billion.

In detail, the bulletin estimates actual oil revenues until 30/09/2015 by about KD 7.782 billion, i.e. 72.3% of estimated oil revenues for the entire current fiscal year in the amount of KD 10.7575 billion, or about 93.4% of total collected revenues. The collected amounts from oil revenues during the first half of the current fiscal year at an average price of a Kuwaiti oil

Expenditures allocations for the current fiscal year were estimated at about KD 19.171 billion, of which an amount of KD 4.781 billion was actually spent - according to the bulletin- until 30/09/2015, a monthly spending average at KD 796.889 million. We, however, do not recommend relying on this figure because there are expenses which have become due but have not been actually paid. Spending in the last month of the fiscal year will be higher when settlements are made and then in the final account. Although the bulletin concludes that the budget surplus in end of the first half of the current fiscal year scored about KD 3.552 billion, we publish it without recommending its endorsement as we believe that the surplus figure will change into deficit in the end of these six months and with the issuance of the final account.

In fact, the current fiscal year will witness a fundamental and negative difference with the budget deficit scoring about KD 2 billion. The deficit figure will be affected positively, i.e. will increase if oil prices continue their decline but will be affected negatively i.e. will decrease by the amount of actual saving in the expenses below the estimated.

KSE Performance

KSE performance during last October was mixed vis-a-vis the performance in September. Where the indexes of traded value, number of transactions, the general index (AlShall), Kuwait 15 Index and the weighted index, show a decrease. While the traded volume index and the price index achieved slight rise, as a result of speculative excess movement. AlShall index reading on Thursday, 29/10/2015 scored about 378.8 points, down by 4 points, or by 1.1%, compared with its closure in September 2015, which scored 382.4 points, when we compare with its closure in October 2014, down by 111.2 points, or by 22.7%. The highest reading during the month was at 383.4 points on October 25, 2015 and the lowest reading was at 376.2 points on October 13, 2015. Kuwait 15 index decreased by 1.2% which scored about 924.3 points, compared with 935.1 points in the end of September 2015. The weighted index slightly decreased by 0.01% which scored about 388.37

Company Name	THU	THU	DIFF	CLOSE	DIFF
	29/10/2015	22/10/2015	%	2014	%
1 The National Bank Of Kuwait	411.5	411.5	0.0	435.9	(5.6)
2 The Gulf Bank	215.3	219.4	(1.9)	224.4	(4.1)
3 Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	418.4	402.3	4.0	506.9	(17.5)
4 Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	242.2	242.2	0.0	268.4	(9.8)
5 Kuwait International Bank	241.8	243.9	(0.9)	258.4	(6.4)
6 Ahli United Bank	432.2	432.2	0.0	465.7	(7.2)
7 Burgan Bank	369.1	369.1	0.0	428.3	(13.8)
8 Kuwait Finance House	1096.5	1096.5	0.0	1306.8	(16.1)
Banking Sector	420.9	420.3	0.1	464.5	(9.4)
9 Commercial Facilities Co	135.7	134.2	1.1	198.5	(31.6)
10 International Financial Advisors	287.7	287.7	0.0	332.3	(13.4)
11 National Investments	135.9	135.9	0.0	191.3	(29.0)
12 Kuwait Investment Projects	1270.2	1292.5	(1.7)	1,559.9	(18.6)
13 Coast Investment & Development	47.2	50.6	(6.7)	79.3	(40.5)
Investment Sector	355.8	360.3	(1.2)	455.4	(21.9)
14 Kuwait Insurance Company	66.2	66.2	0.0	64.0	3.4
15 Gulf Insurance Company	342.2	342.2	0.0	342.2	0.0
16 Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	144.6	142.7	1.3	185.9	(22.2)
17 Warba Insurance Company	90.1	86.9	3.7	95.0	(5.2)
Insurance Sector	134.5	133.8	0.5	143.8	(6.5)
18 Kuwait Real Estate Company	100.1	101.8	(1.7)	116.5	(14.1)
19 United Realty Company	201.9	201.9	0.0	203.9	(1.0)
20 National Real Estate Company	179.1	192.2	(6.8)	274.6	(34.8)
21 Salhiyah Real Estate Company	1292.1	1271.9	1.6	1,514.2	(14.7)
Real Estate Sector	176.5	179.0	(1.4)	216.7	(18.6)
22 The National Industries	128.7	130.4	(1.3)	169.8	(24.2)
23 Kuwait Cement Co	565.3	572.9	(1.3)	603.0	(6.3)
24 Refrigeration Industries Co	106.5	108.2	(1.6)	109.8	(3.0)
25 Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	165.9	165.9	0.0	275.8	(39.8)
26 Contracting & Marine Services Co	63.6	69.7	(8.8)	72.1	(11.8)
Industrial Sector	177.7	180.1	(1.3)	219.7	(19.1)
27 Kuwait National Cinemas	596.3	596.3	0.0	615.2	(3.1)
28 Kuwait Hotels Company	107.8	107.8	0.0	97.9	10.1
29 The Public Warehousing Co	2095.7	2173.3	(3.6)	2,735.1	(23.4)
30 Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	431.9	447.5	(3.5)	915.7	(52.8)
31 Safat Energy Co	14.1	13.6	3.7	22.8	(38.2)
Services Sector	685.2	707.6	(3.2)	1,074.4	(36.2)
32 Livestock Transport & Trading Co	115.0	113.3	1.5	121.7	(5.5)
33 Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	89.0	84.9	4.8	76.7	16.0
34 Kuwait United Poultry Co	59.3	59.3	0.0	60.0	(1.2)
35 Kuwait Food Co	2226.9	2226.9	0.0	2,759.0	(19.3)
Food Sector	763.6	762.7	0.1	932.7	(18.1)
36 Sharjah Cement Co	366.6	370.8	(1.1)	371.7	(1.4)
37 Gulf Cement Co	326.6	330.6	(1.2)	387.1	(15.6)
38 Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries	596.0	603.3	(1.2)	750.5	(20.6)
Non Kuwaiti Companies	230.2	231.8	(0.7)	249.2	(7.6)
General Index	378.8	380.2	(0.4)	444.0	(14.7)

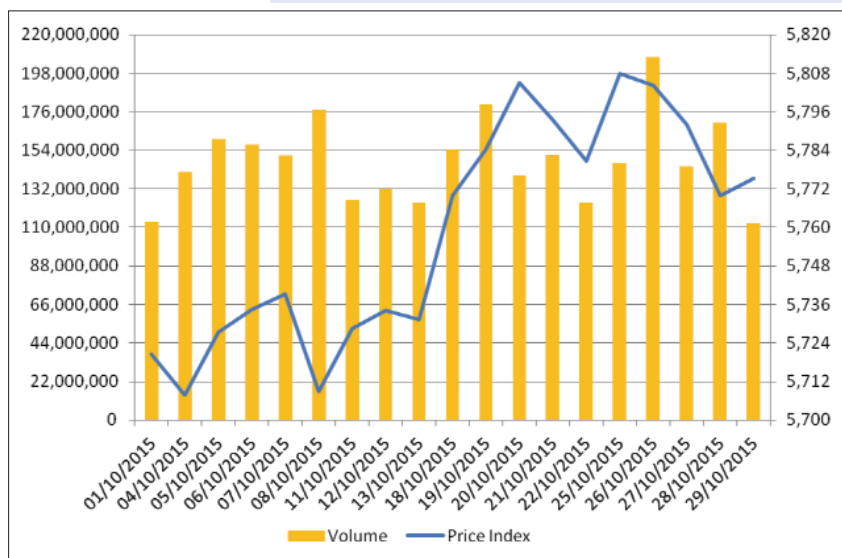
KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE ENDS MONTH WITH MIXED PERFORMANCE

AL BAYAN INVESTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

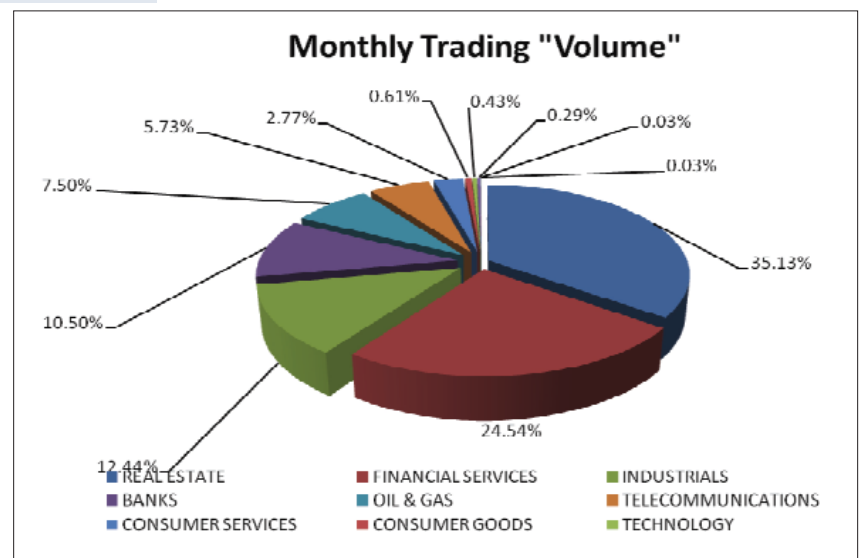
KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended October with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 5,775.36 points, up by 0.86% compared to the closings of the month before, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.01% after closing at 388.37 points, whereas the KXS-15 Index closed at 924.30 points decreasing by 1.15%. Furthermore, last month's average turnover decreased by 6.78%, compared to the preceding month, reaching K.D 12.13 million, whereas trading volume average was 148 million shares, recording increase of 1.44%.

The stock market indicators witnessed a mixed performance at closings, whereas the Price Index was able to increase as a result to the purchasing trend that included many small-cap stocks in particular, in addition to the speculative operations that included many of the same stocks too. On the contrary, and despite the random purchasing operations that included some large-cap stocks during few session, especially in the Banks section; the profit collection operations that were present also were able to push the Weighted and KXS-15 indices to end the monthly trading activity in the red zone. Also the positive results disclosed by some companies and banks for the third period of the current month contributed to improving the traders' mode, which positively affected the three market indicators at sometimes.

In addition, and despite the negative start that market initiated October trading with, where the three indicators witnessed a noticeable decline in the early sessions of the month affected by the selling pressures and dropped liquidity levels; the market was able to resist the selling pressures thereafter and was able to compensate its losses supported by the purchasing powers that concentrated on the companies' stocks of good fiscal results, in addition to the speculative operations that were present during the month, before the profit collection operations that came in the last week



of the month to limit the Price Index's gains, and push the rest of the indices to the monthly losses zone. The market cap reached by the end of October KD 25.76 billion, declining by 0.14% compared to its level in September, where it reached K.D.25.79 billion then. On an annual level, the market cap for the list-



ed companies in KSE lost 7.94% of its value at end of 2014, where it reached then KD 27.98 billion.

For the annual performance, the price index ended last month recording 11.63% annual loss compared to its closing in 2014, while the weighted index decreased by 11.51%, and the KXS-15 recorded 12.80% loss.

1,054.13 points. The Consumer Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 3.16%, closing at 993.71 points, followed by the Oil & Gas sector, as its index closed at 781.81 points at a loss of 2.72%.

Sectors' Activity

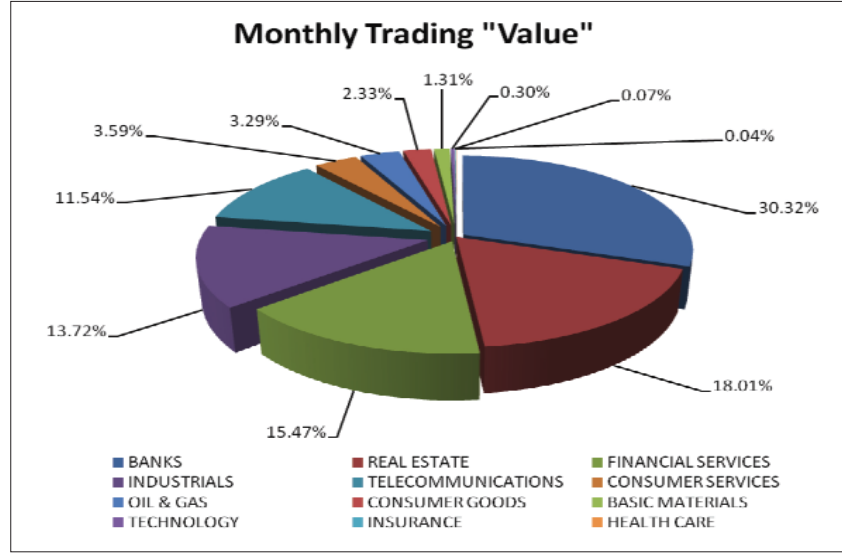
The Real Estate sector dominated total trade volume during last month with 987.91 million shares changing hands, representing 35.13% of the total market trading volume. The Financial Services sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 24.54% of last month's total trading volume, with a total of 689.94 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks where the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of KD 69.86 million or 30.32% of last month's total market trading value. The Real Estate sector took the second place as the sector's last month turnover of KD 41.50 million represented 18.01% of the total market trading value.

Sectors' Indices

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last month in the green zone, while the other four recorded declines. Last month's highest gainer was the Real Estate sector, achieving 4.66% growth rate as its index closed at 968.58 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Consumer Goods sector's index closed at 1,100.40 points recording 3.31% increase. The Industrial sector came in third as its index achieved 1.26% growth, ending the month at 1,079.42 points.

On the other hand, the Insurance sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 5.35% to end the month's activity at



AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al Hassad Islamic Saving program on October 21. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first and only prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: Jamal Ali Attallah.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Raqayya Sadiq Abbas, Merzajan Sha Mahmud, Ahmad Abdul Hakeem, Latifah A A Alduweesh, Yahya Hassan Alnagar, Shammaa Majed Alzeyadi, Salmaa Ali Alomar, Razi

Aldien Qureshi, Ghadeer Ahmad Mubarak, Ibrahim Adee Ibrahim, Husni Mohd Medhat, Salem Mohammad Alajami, Naema Ali Alshatti, Falah Ghazi Almutairi, Shereef Aslam Mosharaf, A Mohsin Mirza Hussain, Nair Rajendran, Ahmed Mounir Hassan, A.Razzaq A.Rahman, Ali Abdulla Khatem, Mohd Nasser Abdulla, Ahmed Ali Yaqoob, Alison Elizabeth Geoffrey, Mohammed Yousif A. Rahman, Mohammed Shawki.

The Prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner. In addition, prizes of Al Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 25,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 73 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

For further information about "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch.

OMAN: FISCAL DEFICIT TO OVERSHOOT BUDGET, GROWTH REMAINS HEALTHY

NBK'S ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Last year's sharp decline in oil prices has exposed the vulnerability of Oman's economy. With one of the highest breakeven oil prices in the GCC, Oman is likely to see a sizeable fiscal deficit this year and the next. Despite this, Oman is expected to avoid deep cuts in spending in the near term, choosing to maintain a supportive fiscal stance. The government can comfortably finance deficits in the near term thanks to its sovereign wealth fund, strong credit standing, and low debt levels.

Real GDP is expected to grow by 4.5% in 2015 and 3.8% in 2016, driven by a healthy non-oil performance and pick up in oil production. With lower oil prices highlighting the need to diversify the economy, authorities are keen to stick to their ambitious projects pipeline. As a result, project spending is expected to remain accommodative, which is seen supporting non-oil growth in the near term.

Fiscal pressures persist but in-line with expectations

Oman sunk into fiscal deficit in 2014 and is expected to record a larger one in 2015. Recent preliminary public finance data from the National Center for Statistics and Information estimated Oman's deficit to have reached OMR 1.8 billion post transfers in 1H15, almost 70% of its full year 2015 target of OMR 2.5 billion. At this pace, the deficit is expected to exceed the official target. Our expectations are for a deficit closer to OMR 5 billion, or 20% of GDP, in 2015.

NBK estimates

Oil and gas revenue, which roughly accounts for 85% of total revenue, came in 36.3% lower year-on-year in 1H15. Omani crude averaged \$54.7 per barrel for the first nine months of the year, according to the Dubai mercantile exchange, almost half its value for the same period a year ago. It has yet to recover from its decline in late 2014 and remains well below its estimated breakeven price of \$95 and the official budget projection of \$75 for 2015. We expect the Omani oil price to continue to average \$55 per barrel for 2015 and in 2016.

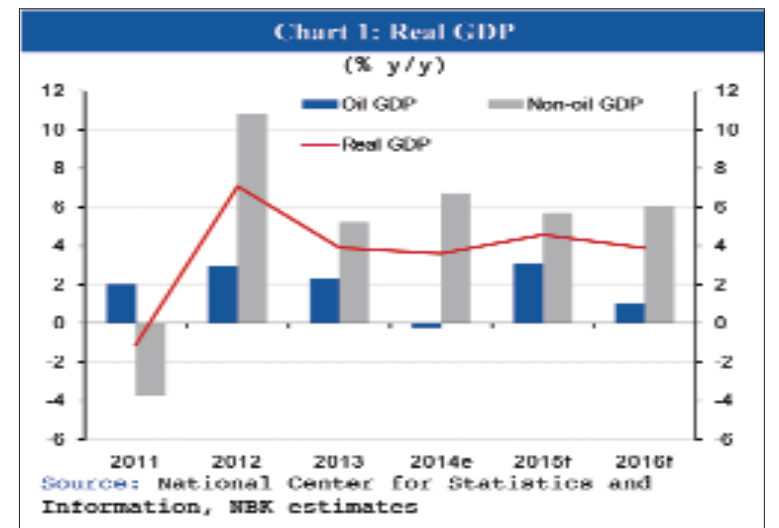
Current expenditures were little changed in 1H15, reflecting the stickiness of government spending, notably the difficulty of cutting popular spending items such as wages and salaries or household transfers. Civil ministry expenses, which include wages paid to the public sector, Oman's largest employer of its 2.2 million nationals, have seen rapid growth lately, growing by a compounded annual rate of 13% for the past four years and accounting for more than 50% of current expenditures.

Investment spending was down 6.8% in 1H15 mainly due to a drop in oil production expenditure as the low oil price environment may have streamlined some projects. Future investment behavior may weaken but is expected to remain accommodative, with the need for government led diversification highlighted by deflated energy prices. As of 3Q15, OMR 2.7 billion worth of projects have been awarded in Oman compared to OMR 3.7 for the same period last year.

Oman is well equipped to handle the strain on its budget and is easily capable of financing its current and investment needs. The Central Bank of Oman has already tapped debt markets for OMR 500 million, taking advantage of Oman's low debt levels and healthy credit rating. A sovereign sukuk, Oman's first, is scheduled for October. The CBO plans to borrow OMR 600 million this year, if not more, on behalf of the treasury, in addition to drawing on reserves and utilizing donor grants. The government may also take other steps to ease the burden on its purse. Oman cut natural gas subsidies to some industrial producers earlier this year. Further subsidy cuts are also being considered with the focus on consumer goods and energy. Preliminary figures show subsidies down 33% in 1H15 year-on-year. The government is also looking to privatize some public sector companies in the oil sector, while the GCC as a whole is mulling alternative taxation schemes.

Currency to remain pegged to USD

Following the rise of the US dollar and persistence of low oil prices, speculative talk of Oman abandoning its peg to the US dollar has surfaced as an alternative for fiscal relief. We believe that such an occurrence is unlikely. Floating the currency will invite external volatility, erasing the prevalent steady monetary environment and exposing the economy to increased sensitivity to future global economic downturns and commodity price swings. The energy dominated import bill, driven by a rapidly growing



averaged 978,000 barrels per day, 2,000 barrels short of the production target set earlier this year. July also saw Oman top its monthly crude oil production at a record average of 1 million barrels per day, an extraction rate it hopes to maintain in the short term. Petroleum Development Oman, the state's largest producer, is expected to shoulder the bulk of the production growth. However, a long term lull in oil prices may hinder such efforts, since complex geology and aging wells have seen Oman's extraction costs require constant investment to remain low. For now, producers' break even prices remain profitable, ranging between \$7 and \$12 per barrel.

Gas production has also been picking up. During the past nine months, output averaged 109 million cubic meters per

growth remains resilient maintaining a healthy growth of 10.3% over the first eight months of 2015. Meanwhile, government deposits continued to see weakening growth following the tumble in oil prices. Government deposits account for 30% of total deposits.

According to the CBO's latest financial stability report (May 2015), credit risk remains low in Oman with nonperforming loans (NPL) at 1.9% of gross loans and a coverage ratio (provisions to NPL) of 72% as of the end of 2014. Capitalization was high as well with a tier-1 capital ratio of 13%, making Oman's financial sector well prepared for any unlikely slowdown.

Lower global inflation

Oman's consumer prices have been subdued by declining global food and energy prices leading us to revise our inflation expectations downwards to 0.5% for 2015 and 2.0% for 2016. At -0.1% y/y, September's reading would mark the third time in 2015 the sultanate's consumer price index has slipped into deflation. The index has been pressured by reduced food and clothing prices and nearly flat transportation prices. Meanwhile, mild inflation was witnessed in housing, utilities, and furnishing prices which has benefited from strong growth in Oman's real estate market, which in turn has been driven by rapid population growth. Price growth is expected to remain modest, pressured by global factors but will be supported by domestic forces as real estate demand remains solid and subsidy reforms are implemented.

The stock market remains vulnerable to external shocks

Omani stocks continue to be heavily affected by the decline in global oil prices along with equities across the GCC. The perceived slowdown of the Chinese economy, Oman's largest energy importer, affected investor confidence, as did concerns about the sustainability of the government's fiscal situation. As of the end of September, the MSM30 has declined by 8.7% year-to-date, with the bulk of the drop occurring in August. The stock market has yet to recover. The IPO of Phoenix Power in June, Oman's largest power plant in operation, barely catalyzed positive sentiment before China rattled international markets. Oman's regular market cap stood at OMR 7.7 billion in September, down from OMR 8.5 billion in July.

CHINA TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO INVEST MORE ABROAD

SHANGHAI: China is considering relaxing limits to allow individuals to invest overseas in stocks and property, the central bank said, which would potentially unleash a flood of money if the government loosens strict capital controls.

The country keeps a tight grip on outflows of funds due to worries capital flight could disrupt the economy and weaken its control.

The People's Bank of China said it was studying letting "qualified" individuals invest abroad in industry, property and financial products through the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, according to a statement released Friday. "These policy initiatives are another important step toward complete capital account liberalisation," Zhou Hao, a senior economist at Commerzbank in Singapore, was quoted by Bloomberg News as saying.

China's premier free trade zone in the commercial hub Shanghai was set up in 2013 with the promise of a range of financial reforms, but foreign investors especially have expressed disappointment over the pace of change.

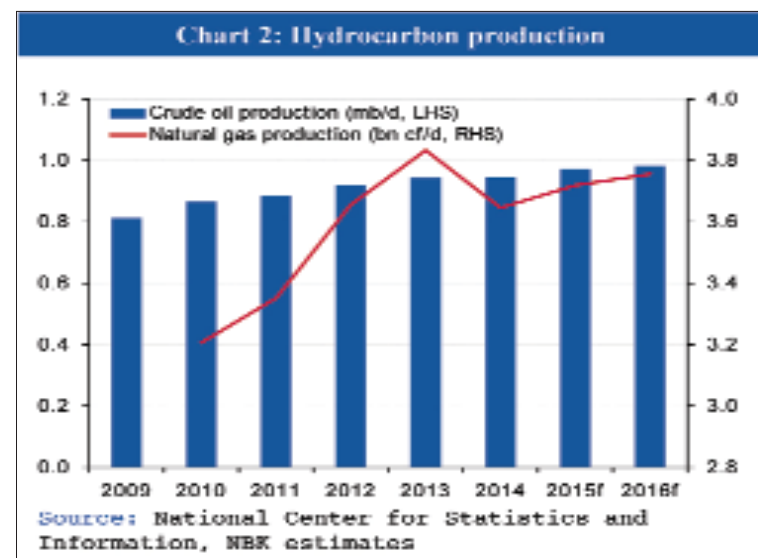
Chinese citizens are now only allowed to convert the equivalent of \$50,000 from the domestic yuan currency under an annual quota, state media said, which creates a limit on overseas investment though many evade the barrier.

Individuals are allowed to legally invest in stocks in Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China, through a special link with accounts on the Shanghai stock exchange.

The central bank announcement, which gave no timetable for the move, followed a top-level Communist Party meeting which discussed the country's development plans for the next five years. China also wants the yuan to join the International Monetary Fund's "special drawing rights" basket of currencies and is pursuing reforms to help gain the coveted status. In August, the central bank suddenly devalued the yuan, allowing it to lose nearly five percent of its value over a week, in a move which raised alarm over the state of the world's second largest economy. — AFP



ATLANTA: In this June 6, 2015, file photo, a customer, bottom, pays for goods while shopping at the Atlanta Farmers Market in Atlanta. The Commerce Department issues the first of three estimates of how the US economy performed in the July-September quarter. — AP



domestic demand, will also grow, putting further pressure on expenditures, notably subsidies, at a time when discretionary spending is warranted. Finally, the non-oil sector, which may benefit from an increase in domestic demand, is still nascent and may be inadequately prepared to comprehensively offer domestic substitutes for imports.

Oil production picks up, nearing target To offset the drop in oil prices, the government of Oman has ramped up oil production, pushing its output to record levels. Given this pick-up, we have revised our oil sector growth expectations upwards to 3.1% for 2015 and 1% for 2016.

As of September 2015, oil output has

day (mcm/d), up 5.5% from a year ago as domestic demand continues to strongly grow. In fact, some gas export commitments had to be rescheduled to quell domestic pressures. Gas exports are nearly all committed to Japan and South Korea. Supply should see a boost once the BP Khazan tight gas project comes into operation in 2017. A gas pipeline with Iran will also help meet the growing domestic demand, with imports set to flow in 2018. Meanwhile, talks of jointly developing oil and gas fields with Iran are underway.

Banking system healthy

Low oil prices have had a mild impact on Oman's banking system. Private credit

QALAA'S SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM NOTCHES GLOBAL AWARDS

COMPANY PREPARES TO PARTICIPATE IN EGX SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

CAIRO: The awards give merit to Qalaa's integration of sustainability within its corporate governance framework and recognize the company's innovative investment approach that places environmental principles at its heart.

Qalaa Holdings (CCAP.CA on the Egyptian Exchange), an African leader in infrastructure and industry, has received international recognition for its sustainability program as it prepares to file its first annual sustainability report as a member of the UN Global Compact (UNGC).

World Finance magazine has recognized Qalaa's governance framework as the best in Egypt in its 2015 corporate governance awards program, while Corporate Live Wire has recognized Qalaa's innovation by awarding it the Most Outstanding

Investment Firm - Egypt Innovation & Excellence Awards for 2015.

Qalaa Holdings' active participation in the UNGC - the world's largest voluntary corporate social responsibility initiative - and its membership to the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) - a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of for profit investing that addresses social and environmental challenges - provide the company with the necessary frameworks to deliver on its sustainability strategy, and make a lasting impact on the communities in which it does business.

"We have made the principles of sustainability, inclusivity, stewardship and innovation central to our growth as an institution from the time we were incorporated as a two-person partnership a decade

ago all the way through to where we stand today: A publicly traded company with operations in infrastructure and industry across North and East Africa," said Qalaa Chairman and Founder Ahmed Heikal.

"Within this, two themes have long been close to our heart as we have sought to leave the communities in which we do business better than we found them: A steadfast belief in the transformative power of education - and the conviction that you can do right by the environment even as you do right by your shareholders," Heikal noted.

Qalaa, which will be on stage at Egyptian Exchange Sustainability Conference, operates the largest private-sector scholarship program in Egypt and has worked for a decade to put environmental principles at the heart of investments including

Egyptian Refining Company (which will cut the nation's sulfur emissions by nearly a third), Tawazon (a waste management company that recycles and turns waste into energy) and Nile Logistics (which is relieving pressure on Egypt's roads and highways by using more fuel efficient byways on the Nile River).

"These important recognitions come as we prepare to submit our first Global Compact 'communication on progress,'" noted Ghada Hammouda, Qalaa's CMO and Head of Marketing Communications. "Principles of sustainability, good citizenship, good governance and responsible investing have been at the heart of our business model since inception, facts reflected in our business strategy and in our inclusion in the S&P/EGX ESG Index."



Shane O'Hare, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President Marketing (first row - fourth from right); Elizabeth Selby, Etihad Airways' Head of Social Media (first row - third from right); and the airline's social media team, celebrate its success at the SimpliFlying Awards.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS NAMED 'BEST OVERALL IN ME' AT SIMPLIFYING AWARDS 2015

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has been named 'Best Overall in Middle East' at the SimpliFlying Awards 2015.

The awards recognise excellence and innovation in social media and marketing campaigns in the aviation industry. Winners were announced last week at a glittering ceremony during the Travel Distribution Summit North America in Las Vegas, which was attended by more than 350 travel and hospitality executives.

An expert panel of industry experts selected Etihad Airways as winner of the Best Overall in Middle East Award, in recognition of the airline's innovativeness, engagement and business impact in the social space over the past 24 months.

Shane O'Hare, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President Marketing, said: "We are delighted to win this important award, which is a great reflection on our commitment to delivering powerful, effective social media strategies and campaigns."

"Social media is an integral part of our communications mix. We will continue to raise the bar in the global travel industry by creatively integrating digital and social media into our overall mar-

keting and business strategy to enhance guest experience."

Shashank Nigam, SimpliFlying's CEO, said: "Etihad Airways has made tremendous progress in the last year in how it uses social media, especially for customer service initiatives like the Twitter channel for elite flyers. It is a trailblazer in the Middle East, an innovative way to engage passengers."

Etihad Airways implemented various initiatives on its social media channels including a best-in-class customer service strategy, with a 90 per cent response rate and with 80 per cent of all enquiries answered within 10 minutes. Guests can communicate 24-hours a day in multiple languages including English, Arabic, Mandarin, German and Italian.

Earlier this year, the airline launched Etihad Premium, a first-of-its-kind Twitter account, providing its Gold and Platinum frequent flyer program members with exclusive prioritised service.

'Flying reimagined'

In 2014, Etihad Airways rolled out an innovative social media initiative, offering travel tips to Facebook and Twitter users through the EtihadSuggests hashtag. In the past 12 months, the hashtag earned 713 million impressions, which

equates to \$1.2 million in earned media value.

As part of its social first strategy, Etihad Airways used its social media channels as the first medium to break news, allowing it to benefit from maximum engagement and reach. In the past year, the airline launched its new A380 and B787 product and services, livery, and cabin crew and ground staff uniform with a social first approach. This earned the airline 224 million impressions, \$400,000 in earned media value and nearly 4,000 mentions.

The Etihad Airways 'Flying Reimagined' global TVC, which launched earlier this year, featuring Nicole Kidman, was also creatively leveraged on social media to inspire and engage guests. YouTube was the hosting channel for the TVC, supported by a paid-media campaign in key markets, as well as active community engagement using the #Reimagined hashtag. The TVC garnered 5.1 million video views on YouTube, with an impressive retention rate of 89 per cent.

Driving revenue and delivering commercial value through social media promotions and advanced targeting techniques has been a key goal for Etihad Airways in 2014 and 2015. These activations helped the airline realise

more than \$20 million in revenue from social media, including over 8,000 conversions resulting in a 17 times return on investment.

Promotional fares

This year, the airline launched its always-on paid media strategy to target quality-focused leisure and business travellers in Etihad Airways' top 15 markets. This is complemented by tactical activities to target a price-sensitive leisure audience with promotional fares. Etihad Airways was the first brand in the world to utilise Facebook's exact targeting feature, and combine it with its own data to create a highly-targeted Diwali campaign to drive bookings in the UAE to bring friends and family over from India.

Etihad Airways has more than 2.8 million followers across all of its social media channels, including over 1.6 million Facebook fans. Fans can stay connected with the airline by visiting any of its social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, WeChat, Youku and Sina Weibo.

The airline was also a highly commended finalist in the categories of 'Best Airline in Customer Service' and 'Best Airline in Driving Revenue.'

UKRAINE LEADER'S WEALTH GROWS DESPITE WAR, ECONOMIC WOES

KIEV: The value of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's assets soared despite economic crisis and conflict while those of other tycoons shrank in an annual wealth list published Friday. The 50-year-old Western-backed president's business empire ranges from chocolates to media holdings that still remain under his control. Friday's independent Novoye Vremya weekly showed the Ukrainian leader-often criticised for failing to curb the political powers of fellow tycoons-ranked as the country's sixth-richest man.

His assets reportedly rose by 20 percent to \$979 million (889 million euros) — barely supporting his claim of no longer being a billionaire. Poroshenko retains control of a top TV channel and has failed to follow through on his promise to sell off his Roshen chocolate empire due to a lack of foreign interest and a dearth of rich-enthusiast investors in Ukraine itself.

The president's official spokesman did not pick up his phone when contacted repeatedly by AFP. "Poroshenko's (wealth) rose thanks to the rise in value of his candy business that-even in the midst of the deepest of crises-is developing quickly, building new capacities and conquering new markets," the weekly said.

The wealth list is topped by the nationally renowned metals magnate Rinat Akhmetov. The 49-year-old is a controversial figure accused by

some Ukrainian media of impeding Poroshenko's efforts to halt the 18-month war in the pro-Russian east.

Novoye Vremya said Akhmetov's fortunes had plunged by 56 percent to \$4.5 billion due in a part to the sharp recent fall in global commodity prices. Poroshenko's sworn political foe and banking giant Igor Kolomoyskiy came in third with a fortune estimated at \$1.9 billion.

The 52-year-old grey-bearded and fiercely outspoken figure finds himself in the peculiar position of being at odds with both Kiev and Moscow. Russia's state media accuse him of funding Ukrainian neo-Nazi combat units that commit grave crimes in the separatist east.

Poroshenko's fight against Kolomoyskiy began with efforts to strip him of his indirect control of a state-owned oil company and culminated in the businessman losing his seat as governor of the industrially important Dnipropetrovsk region in March.

Kolomoyskiy's wealth reportedly slipped by 17 percent due to the EU-neighbouring country's financial woes. All the other names in the top 10 also suffered losses since the weekly conducted its study last year.

Ukraine's economy is on track to lose about 12 percent of its gross domestic product this year and only return to marginal growth should the eastern campaign end in 2016. — AFP

CHINA'S RICHEST MAN SAYS FIRM HAD TIES TO XI'S FAMILY

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping's brother-in-law owned shares in a firm controlled by the country's richest man Wang Jianlin, the businessman confirmed after allegations that political connections helped Wanda Group grow. The declaration by Wang comes after a sweeping anti-corruption drive under Xi has targeted a swathe of prominent cadres and low-level officials.

The campaign has seen thousands dismissed from their posts, with some receiving lengthy prison terms, but critics say it has been used to purge Xi's political rivals.

An investment company owned by Xi's brother-in-law, Deng Jiagui, bought shares in Wanda's commercial property subsidiary in a private placement in 2000, Wang told a Harvard Business School forum on Thursday.

Deng's firm sold them "at a low price point" two months before the company's multi-billion-dollar initial public offering in Hong Kong in December 2014, Wang said.

"He sacrificed the opportunity to realise a huge return in investment," he said according to a press release Friday. "This incident demonstrates that President Xi is not only strict in managing our country but is even more scrupulous when it comes to family affairs."

The comments were made in response to a question about a New York Times article alleging that friends and relatives of China's top leadership made more than \$1 billion from investments in Wanda's commercial property and cinema companies. China has not responded officially to the allegations.

'No political affiliation'

Wang has sought to play down overseas speculation on the link between his success and government ties, which in China can be crucial to seal land deals with local authorities.

"Wanda has no political affiliation," he said at the forum. Family members and friends of Xi, his predecessor Hu Jintao, former premier Wen Jiabao and other top officials all had links to companies controlled by Wang, according to the New York Times.

The release only quoted Wang addressing the specific case of Deng on Thursday. The son of a Red Army captain, Wang was a soldier before he founded Wanda in the 1980s, building it up with military discipline.

Its website says it is Asia's largest private property owner, and the Wanda Commercial flotation raised \$3.7 billion, valuing that unit alone at \$24 billion. — AFP

NISSAN'S VISION FOR FUTURE OF EVs AND AUTONOMOUS DRIVING

DUBAI: Nissan Motor Co, Ltd. unveiled a concept vehicle that embodies Nissan's vision of the future of autonomous driving and zero emission EVs: the Nissan IDS Concept at the Tokyo Motor Show 2015.

Presenting at the show, Nissan president and CEO Carlos Ghosn said: "Nissan's forthcoming technologies will revolutionize the relationship between car and driver, and future mobility."

After leading the development and expansion of EV technology, Nissan once again stands at the forefront of automotive technology. By integrating advanced vehicle control and safety technologies with cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI), Nissan is among the leaders developing practical, real-world applications of autonomous drive technology.

In August 2013, Ghosn said that by 2020 Nissan plans to equip innovative autonomous drive technology on multiple vehicles. Progress is well on track to achieve this goal.

Nissan Intelligent Driving is Nissan's concept of autonomous drive technology and represents what Nissan believes next-generation vehicles should be.

"Nissan Intelligent Driving improves a driver's ability to see, think and react. It compensates for human error, which causes more than 90 percent of all car accidents. As a result, time spent behind the wheel is safer, cleaner, more efficient and more fun," continued Ghosn.

The Nissan IDS experience

Some have compared a future with autonomous drive to living in a world of conveyor belts that simply ferry people from point A to B, but the Nissan IDS Concept promises a very different vision of tomorrow. Even when the driver selects Piloted Drive and turns over driving to the vehicle, the car's performance-from accelerating to braking to cornering-imitates the driver's own style and preferences.

In Manual Drive mode, the driver has control. The linear acceleration and cornering are pure and exhilarating. Yet behind the scenes, the Nissan IDS Concept continues to provide assistance. Sensors continually monitor conditions and assistance is

available even while the driver is in control. In the event of imminent danger, Nissan IDS Concept will assist the driver in taking evasive action.

In addition to learning, the Nissan IDS Concept's AI communicates like an attentive partner. From information concerning traffic conditions, the driver's schedule to personal interests, Nissan IDS Concept's AI has what is needed to help create a driving experience that is comfortable, enjoyable and safe.

Design-Together, we ride

"A key point behind the Nissan IDS Concept is communication. For autonomous drive to become reality, as a society we have to consider not only communication between car and driver but also between cars and people. The Nissan IDS Concept's design embodies Nissan's vision of autonomous drive as expressed in the phrase together, we ride," says Mitsunori Morita, Design Director.

Two interiors enable two ways for the driver to enjoy the experience



Together, we ride is clearly demonstrated in the interior design. "The Nissan IDS Concept has different interiors depending on whether the driver opts for Piloted Drive or Manual Drive. This was something that we thought was absolutely necessary to

express our idea of autonomous drive," says Morita. Even though it is a hatchback, the Nissan IDS Concept's long wheelbase enables comfortable seating space for four adults. But the cabin becomes even more spacious when the driver selects Piloted Drive. In this mode, the steering wheel recedes into the center of the instrument panel and a large flat screen comes out. Various driving-related operations are handled by AI, voice and gestures from the driver. The interior, which is comprised of natural materials such as mesh leather, is illuminated by soft light. All four seats rotate slightly inward, facilitating easier conversation. It's like relaxing in a living room.

When the driver selects Manual Drive, the roomy interior transforms to put the driver in control. All seats face forward. The steering wheel, which takes styling cues from reins for horse riding, appears along with driving meters and a heads-up display that shows route and other driving information. Interior lighting switches to blue, stimulating the ability to concentrate. Nissan's use of hollow-structure A-pillars helps ensure excellent visibility by reducing blind spots and also contributes to the feeling of open space.



SXSW FESTIVAL PLANS ONLINE HARASSMENT EVENT

NEW YORK: The SXSW Interactive technology festival said Friday that it will hold an "online harassment summit" after it was criticized for bowing to threats and canceling two panels related to video games and online harassment. Canceling the panels "sent an unintended message that SXSW not only tolerates online harassment but condones it," SXSW Interactive Director Hugh Forrest said in a blog post.

The original inclusion of the panels triggered threats of violence against the festival. That led organizers to cancel them "in the interest of public safety," Forrest said.

But scrapping the sessions was "not an appropriate response" and the festival is now "working with the authorities and security experts," he said.

Both panels had been related to the online campaign dubbed "GamerGate" that began last fall, during which women were harassed for criticizing the lack of diversity in the video-game industry and women's portrayal in it. Neither of the panels mentions GamerGate specifically.

The tech festival, held every March in Austin, Texas, attracts 33,000-plus attendees and is part of the larger SXSW extravaganza for music and film. Online media companies BuzzFeed and Vox Media had threatened to pull their panelists and moderators from the festival if the panels weren't reinstated. Neither company responded to emails asking if they now planned to participate.

The festival said Friday that it would

have a "day-long summit to examine" online harassment on Saturday, March 12. The event will be in-person and live-streamed, said Kelly Krause of SXSW's press team. Forrest's post said the event would include speakers from both of the originally scheduled panels. One was called "Level Up: Overcoming Harassment in Games," the other "SavePoint: A Discussion on the Gaming Community." The "SavePoint" talk had been set to discuss the "current social/political landscape in the gaming community" and included speakers who shared some GamerGate concerns, such as ethics in gaming journalism. The "Level Up" panel included several women who have been subjected to harassment.

Not all the participants were com-

fortable with the new arrangement. Randi Harper, who had been scheduled to be on the "Level Up" panel, wrote in an emailed statement that the original panelists were "not confirmed to be speaking" at the summit after the two panels were combined into one event. Harper is the founder of the Online Abuse Prevention Initiative, a non-profit, according to its website. "We were very surprised to find SXSW making GamerGate a part of the discussion about online harassment. While we fully support GamerGate being a part of SXSW Gaming, adding them to the summit creates a safety concern for many of the people who are currently scheduled to be participating," she wrote in the statement. "It is unfortunate that SXSW still lacks an under-

standing of online harassment, and I have no confidence in their ability to run this summit while keeping panelists safe and providing for a productive conversation."

Krause did not reply to an email asking for comment regarding Harper's statement. "We're cautious. We want to play it by ear and see where it goes," said Perry Jones, who had been on the "SavePoint" panel and is founder of the Open Gaming Society. Jones said that was an advocacy group that is critical of both video game journalism and "pandering" in diversity efforts in video games.

"The last thing you want is for someone somewhere to take up arms and cause on-site violence of some sort," he said.—AP

US REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH HOSPITALS OVER CARDIAC DEVICE

WASHINGTON: The Justice Department said Friday that it had reached settlements totaling more than \$250 million with hundreds of hospitals where doctors implanted cardiac devices in violation of Medicare coverage requirements.

The settlements encompass nearly 500 hospitals in 43 states where cardioverter defibrillators were implanted in Medicare patients too soon after they suffered a heart attack, had heart bypass surgery or angioplasty. Medicare sets waiting periods of up to 90 days before implanting the \$25,000 devices, which deliver mild electric shocks to restore a normal heart rhythm. Clinical trials have shown the heart often recovers its own rhythm during that time, making the pricey defibrillators unnecessary.

"The settlements announced today demonstrate the Department of Justice's commitment to protect Medicare dollars and federal health benefits," said Wifredo A. Ferrer, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. "Guided by a panel of leading cardiologists and the review of thousands of patients' charts, the extensive

investigation behind the settlements was heavily influenced by evidence-based medicine." A 2011 study led by researchers at Duke University of 111,707 patients that received cardioverter defibrillators found that nearly a quarter received no clinical benefit. Those patients were also shown to develop significantly more post-procedural complications, including death.

The settlements, said to be among the largest of their kind, are the result of a federal whistleblower lawsuit filed in Florida 7 years ago by cardiac nurse Leatrice Ford Richards and Thomas Schuhmann, a health care reimbursement consultant.

Under the False Claims Act, the whistleblowers will reap about \$38 million from the settlements. A portion of that will go to Bryan Vroon, their Atlanta-based attorney.

Among the large health-care providers involved, Hospital Corporation of America, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, agreed to pay \$15.8 million. Ascension Health, of St. Louis, Missouri, settled for \$14.9 million. The Justice Department says it continues to investigate additional hospitals.—AP



HANOVER: In this March 13, 2003, file photo, Selnuk Sirher removes a photo after scanning with the new HP printer PSC 1210 at the booth of the Hewlett-Packard company at the fair CeBIT in Hanover.—AP

HP, A SILICON VALLEY ICON, IS READY FOR ITS BREAK-UP

SAN FRANCISCO: One of the nation's most storied tech companies will split in two this week-end, another casualty of seismic shifts in the way people use technology - and big-company sluggishness in responding. Hewlett-Packard was an early pioneer of what became the model for Silicon Valley startups: Founded in 1939 by two Stanford graduates in a Palo Alto, California, garage, HP was long celebrated for its engineering know-how and laid-back corporate culture. It made hefty profits as it grew into a multinational giant that sold a wide range of computer gear and commercial tech services.

But after struggling to keep pace with recent trends like the rise of smartphones and cloud computing, HP's board decided last year to create two smaller companies, each with a narrower focus.

HP Inc. will sell personal computers and printers; Hewlett Packard Enterprise will sell commercial computer systems, software and tech services. Starting Monday, each will trade separately on the New York Stock Exchange.

The old HP "missed the emergence of the Web," said tech analyst Peter Burris at Forrester Research. "They missed the emergence of mobile."

HP's current chief executive, who pushed for the split, says the new spinoffs will be more nim-

ble. CEO Meg Whitman will run HP Enterprise, while PC industry veteran Dion Weisler will lead HP Inc. Each will be independent, with "flexibility to respond to a constantly evolving market," Whitman told an investor conference last month. "With less to focus on," she added, "each company will do core things better." By dividing HP into roughly equal halves, analysts estimate, each spinoff should produce more than \$50 billion in sales next year. But skeptics say neither will have the clout of the old HP, which became a leading consumer brand while using its vast size to negotiate volume discounts with suppliers and big contracts with business customers.

"They won't have the impact that HP once had, now that they don't have the depth of portfolio they once had," predicted Rob Enderle, a longtime industry analyst. "It's not clear what HP is anymore."

Each of the spin-offs will face significant challenges: Demand for PCs and printers is continuing to decline, as more people use mobile devices and store their documents and photos online in the cloud. And in the commercial computing sector, more businesses are using online software instead of buying servers and other hardware from companies like HP.

HP recently said it's giving up on competing directly in cloud computing, a growing business

in which companies large and small run software in remote data centers operated by Amazon and others.

The same trends are rocking other long-time tech giants. Microsoft has been forced to change the way it sells software, as fewer people buy PCs that run its Windows operating system. PC-maker Dell is shifting its focus to corporate data centers, paying \$67 billion to acquire commercial computing giant EMC Corp. IBM, meanwhile, has sold off units that made personal computers, servers and microprocessors as profits declined in each. It's investing in new sectors with more growth potential, such as data analytics, cybersecurity and cloud computing.

Along with external pressures, HP has struggled with internal problems - a series of controversial CEOs, botched acquisitions and scandals involving top executives and directors.

Critics still debate the wisdom of an earlier decision to spin off a unit that made scientific testing and measurement gear. That was HP's original, and some believe its most innovative, business. It became Agilent Technologies in 2000. As for the new spinoffs, Forrester's Burris said he's not ready to count them out. "It's reasonable to think both can be thriving companies, but a lot will come down to the quality of their management."—AP

TIME WARNER CABLE PLANS FOR TV ON THE INTERNET

NEW YORK: Hate your cable box? In a few weeks, Time Warner Cable is going to start testing in New York City a cable service that doesn't need one and is delivered over their customers' home Internet.

And that could one day expand beyond New York as cable companies try to appeal to younger people who have grown comfortable watching TV via Netflix or Hulu without a traditional cable box. The number of people skipping cable service is increasing as more people choose the Internet for their video fix. "Where we're headed is the ability of customers to access the complete video product without having to rent a set-top box from us," said CEO Rob Marcus on a call with analysts. He said one thing the company had to do was make sure that every channel was available for an Internet TV alternative that worked through a streaming-TV device like a Roku.

Marcus said you wouldn't need a tech to install cable for you. "You can simply type in your username and password and you have video," he said.

It's not clear how the service compares to traditional TV. It'll have a couple options for service packages, but Time Warner Cable spokeswoman Nathalie Burgos declined to answer questions about prices and package specifics.

Time Warner Cable's TV app is already available on a Roku or Xbox for cable subscribers, who can use it in place of a 2nd cable box. If you had two TVs in your house and one cable box, that app, as it exists now, serves as a second cable box. But it doesn't have DVR functionality or video-on-demand movies that you can pay extra to watch.

With the new trial, Time Warner Cable is eliminating the need for a first

cable box, which usually comes with a monthly fee for customers, and throwing in a free Roku. The service would require a TV that worked with Roku. Burgos wouldn't answer questions about how the service could affect a user's home Internet speeds.

Comcast is also trying to appeal to millennials with Stream, a TV service that cuts out the cable box and, when using Comcast's app, only works on mobile devices and computers. (If you subscribe, you can also log in to HBO Go through an Apple TV, say, and watch on a TV.) Stream has been testing for free in Boston. Comcast spokesman Steve Restivo says the service, which is just broadcast networks and HBO, will launch this quarter in Boston and Chicago. Using it doesn't count against Comcast's data caps when you use Comcast's app.

New York-based Time Warner Cable Inc., which Charter Communications is trying to buy, said Thursday that cable customers fell by 7,000 in the July-September quarter, to 10.8 million. (Like Comcast, Time Warner Cable said that it was its best third-quarter result since 2006.) The company said that the number of people signing up and the number of people who were leaving both improved in the third quarter, and that its internal measures of customer service showed gains.

But the real driver is the Web. It gained 232,000 Internet customers, to 12.4 million. The company said more customers are signing up for faster, more expensive Internet speeds.

Its net income fell 12 percent to \$437 million, or \$1.53 per share, hurt by costs related to merger activity. Adjusted earnings per share topped analyst expectations. Revenue grew 3.6 percent to \$5.92 billion, which was short of Wall Street's prediction.—AP



NEW YORK: In this May 26, 2015 file photo, the Time Warner Cable corporate logo is displayed at a company store. Time Warner Cable is going to start testing in New York City a cable service that doesn't need a cable box and is delivered over their customers' home Internet.—AP

GPS COLLAR STOPS TRACKING WANDERING WOLF OR-7

BEND: The wolf OR-7 became globally famous when he took off from his northeast Oregon pack four years ago and wandered thousands of miles in search of a mate, his movement tracked by a GPS satellite. His actions now be much harder to track.

Wildlife officials say the collar that transmitted his location through satellites and radio signals has stopped working. "It all finally wore out," said John Stephenson, Oregon wolf coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Bend. "The battery died, basically."

Without the regular information, biologists rely on trail cameras and in-person sightings to monitor him, Stephenson told the Bend Bulletin (<http://bit.ly/1Sdd0fs>).

Knowing the electronics were close to blinking out, state and federal wildlife managers made three attempts - last summer, last fall and early this spring - to trap OR-7 or another member of his Rogue Pack, said Mark Vargas, district wildlife

biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Medford. The hope was to replace the batteries and keep the GPS data coming in and the radio signal going from OR-7 or track the pack by collaring another one of the wolves. "We'd love to get a collar back on OR-7," Vargas said, "but that didn't happen." People around the world tracked OR-7 when he set off from the Imnaha Pack four years ago, wandering thousands of miles through Oregon, into Northern California and back. He found a mate, settled in the Cascade Range in southern Oregon and has had five pups. None of the wolves in the pack has a working tracking collar.

Although not able to track and locate OR-7 like before, Stephenson and Vargas know where he and his pack roam. For the past three years, the wolf and his mate have hunted and raised pups around the Sky Lakes Wilderness Area between Prospect and Fort Klamath.

Now 6 years old, OR-7 left his

pack when he was 2. His three older pups, born last year, are full-sized yearlings and may set out on their

own soon. "(It) wouldn't be surprising if one of them took off this fall," Stephenson said.—AP



OREGON: This remote camera photo taken May 3, 2014, and provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife shows the wolf OR-7. The GPS collar that allowed people around the world to track the movements of Oregon's famous wandering wolf has stopped working. State officials say the battery has died, and efforts to put a new collar on OR-7 were unsuccessful.—AP

STUDY: RACIAL GAP IN BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSES CLOSED

NEW YORK: For decades, breast cancer has been less common in black women than white women, yet killed black women at a higher rate. One of those gaps has finally closed. Unfortunately for black women, it's the first one. A new report suggests black and white women are now being diagnosed with breast cancer at the same rate, because diagnoses have grown more common in black women while the white rate has leveled off.

Meanwhile, the death gap actually widened. "It's a terrible situation" for black women, said the lead author of the new report, Carol DeSantis of the American Cancer

Society. The article was published electronically Thursday in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. The findings are based in part on historical data from cancer case registries in nine parts of the country. Together, the areas represent about 9 percent of US population.

In 2012, the black and white rates converged at around 135 cases per 100,000 women, the researchers found. A decade earlier, the white rate was 132 and the black rate down at 124. Experts think white women have had higher rates for several reasons. One is more white women waited longer in life until they have children, and science suggests

earlier childbirth is associated with a lower risk of developing breast cancer later on.

Stepped-up screening

But while the white rate leveled off, the black rate continued to creep up. Researchers don't exactly know why. Stepped-up screening in some parts of the country may be a factor. But the researchers say the leading theory has to do with obesity. In older women, being obese is tied to a higher risk of developing breast cancer. And obesity rates are higher in black women and have been rising more dramatically.

The researchers looked at other data and

saw seven states where black women had higher rates of newly diagnosed breast cancer than white women. Nearly all were in the South, where obesity rates are particularly high. "I think (the obesity theory) makes sense," said Michelle Martin, a breast cancer researcher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She was not involved in the study.

As for breast cancer deaths rates, the good news is they've been falling for both black and white women, most likely due to earlier diagnosis and better treatment. But the white death rate has long been lower, and it's been falling for a longer time and at a steeper rate.

Over a decade, the white breast cancer death rate fell from about 25 to 21 per 100,000. The black death rate dropped from about 34 to 29 per 100,000. In other words, there was a 38 percent difference between white and black death rate in 2003, and a 42 percent difference in 2012. Again, researchers aren't exactly sure why, though they note that higher proportions of black women are diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer and with a particularly aggressive form of the disease. Also, in the South at least, black women tend to have more additional health problems at the time they're diagnosed, Martin said. —AP

BRAZIL, LAND OF AMPLE WATER GOING THIRSTY

NO WATER HERE LEFT TO DROWN IN

DUQUE DE CAXIAS: The sign—"risk of drowning"—outside one of Rio de Janeiro's freshwater reservoirs looks like a joke: there's no water here left to drown in. Instead, the Saracuruna reservoir near Duque de Caxias, outside Rio, is an expanse of sand, mud and vegetation. Four stray dogs scamper and

pendent activists say decades of bad policy is equally culpable.

Although the southern tropical rainy season is just beginning, scientists fear that the El Nino weather phenomenon active this year may disrupt that hoped for relief from the sky, leaving tens of millions of people at risk. Daily water

that until about three years ago rushed through to the Saracuruna reservoir, which was built principally to serve a Petrobras oil refinery.

"We used to fish there, take swims," said Renato Tomaz, 42. "There was a lot of water." Only a shallow, almost motionless stream

ume. The Cantareira system feeding Sao Paulo is in only slightly better shape, with 16 percent of active water left. A graphic on the water authority's website shows the dial hovering above the red danger zone. And the southeast is not the only area suffering. The biggest reservoir of the northeast, Sobradinho, is reported to have fallen to less than six percent active capacity.

Crisis? No, it's worse

The idea of drought in Brazil might sound ridiculous. Latin America's biggest country is one of the world's great sources for fresh water, accounting for about 12 percent of supplies. However, much of that water is locked into the mighty Amazon river in the north, of little use to greater Sao Paulo's 20 million and Rio de Janeiro's approximately 10 million people.

And even without the current drought, environmental experts say, government mismanagement has been enough to bring Brazil to the brink of disaster. "It's much more serious than a crisis. A crisis is something that ends eventually, but this is structural," said Rio-based environmentalist Sergio Ricardo. "You have a prolonged lack of rainfall but also prolonged bad management that has left Rio completely vulnerable."

Those mistakes range from inefficient exploitation of water supplies to relentless pollution of the precious resource. For example in greater Rio, 80 percent of sewage is dumped untreated, much of that into rivers, Ricardo said. Mario Moscatelli, another prominent expert on water issues, said blaming the drought alone misses the huge man-made damage.

"Beyond problems linked to global climate change and regional effects like El Nino, the domestic causes for the degradation of our bodies of water continue," he said. "Given the signs from nature, it's going to get much worse and the government response is always timid and always reactive rather than preventative." —AFP



ARLINGTON: This photo taken Oct 5, 2014, apples are displayed at a farmers market. —AP

EPA MIGHT BAN COMMON PESTICIDE USED ON FOOD

WASHINGTON: A common pesticide used on citrus fruits, almonds and other crops would be banned under a proposal announced Friday by the Environmental Protection Agency. The proposal would prohibit use of chlorpyrifos, a widely used insecticide that is sprayed on a variety of crops including oranges, apples, cherries, grapes, broccoli and asparagus.

The pesticide, in use since 1965, has sickened dozens of farmworkers in recent years. Traces have been found in waterways, threatening fish, and regulators say overuse could make targeted insects immune to the pesticide. US farms use more than 6 million pounds of the chemical each year - about 25 percent of it in California.

The EPA said it will take public comments on the proposal for at least two months, with a final rule expected in December 2016.

The rule would not take effect until 2017 at the earliest. The EPA said in a written statement that its current analysis does not suggest risks from exposure to chlorpyrifos in food. But when those exposures are combined with estimated exposure from drinking water in certain watersheds, "EPA cannot conclude that the risk from aggregate exposure meets the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act safety standard," the statement said.

'No-spray'

The EPA banned home use of chlorpyrifos in 2000 and placed "no-spray" buffer zones around sensitive sites, such as schools, in 2012. But environ-

mental and public health groups say those proposals don't go far enough. The Natural Resources Defense Council and other groups filed a federal lawsuit seeking a national ban on chlorpyrifos. The advocacy groups say the pesticide interferes with brain development of fetuses, infants and children.

California's agricultural industry has pushed back against state restrictions, arguing that misuse of the pesticide by some groups should not lead to widespread limits. Joel Nelson, president of the California Citrus Mutual, a trade association that represents citrus producers, said regulators in his state want to apply a "broad-brush approach" that he called unfair. Alternative pesticides exist, but Nelson said they're not as effective and are more expensive.

Veena Singla, a scientist with NRDC's health and environment program, said farm workers and rural communities "continue to be in harm's way" from the millions of pounds of chlorpyrifos applied to agricultural fields in California and other states.

The EPA's announcement "is a huge step in the right direction, but we think there's enough evidence to ban all its uses now," Singla said.

CropLife America, a trade group that represents pesticide producers, called the proposed ban a "drastic and unnecessary step that is caused by wasteful, agenda-driven litigation" filed by environmental groups. "We are confident that due legal and scientific process will make this proposed action unnecessary," said Jay Vroom, the group's president. —AP



AMAZONAS: A stranded floating house is seen on the bed of the Aleixo Lake, in the rural area of Manaus. —AFP

cattle come to drink from a stream still running through the middle. "It's been a long time since there was any water here," said a security guard walking up the dry bed to order AFP journalists away on Friday.

The scene at Saracuruna is repeated across much of eastern Brazil between Rio and the megacity of Sao Paulo, with reservoirs and rivers running dry and authorities scrambling to avoid having to impose rationing. Rio de Janeiro state's environmental department blames "the worst drought in 85 years" for the crisis, while inde-

pendent activists say decades of bad policy is equally culpable. Although the southern tropical rainy season is just beginning, scientists fear that the El Nino weather phenomenon active this year may disrupt that hoped for relief from the sky, leaving tens of millions of people at risk. Daily water

'We used to fish'

In Xerem, a neighborhood of Duque de Caxias, about 31 miles from Rio, locals talk in disbelief about what remains of the river

between two-meter deep banks thick with plants remains. "It's not a river anymore. It's a forest," Tomaz said. Scale that havoc up on a national level and you get the picture of what's happening along the huge system of reservoirs stretching through Sao Paulo and Rio states.

The Paraibuna reservoir, biggest in the chain serving Rio de Janeiro, is heading inexorably to dead pool status, meaning the remaining water is not usable. In all, the four main reservoirs of the Paraiba do Sul network dipped this month to less than six percent of active vol-

MEDICARE TO COVER DEATH COUNSELING

WASHINGTON: Medicare said Friday it will pay doctors to help patients plan what kind of care they want at the end of life - an idea more broadly accepted than six years ago, when it touched off a political uproar about "death panels."

The policy change was urged by numerous physician and health groups. Some doctors provide this "advance care planning" to their patients without getting paid for the counseling time, and some private insurers already reimburse for it. But the Obama administration's policy change could make the talks more common among about 55 million Medicare beneficiaries.

The rule, proposed last summer and finalized Friday as part of broader doctor-payment regulations, takes effect Jan 1. The counseling is entirely voluntary, and could take place during seniors' annual wellness visit, or during regular office visits. "As a physician and a son, I personally know how important these discussions are for patients and families," Dr Patrick Conway, Medicare's chief medical officer, said in an interview. "We believe patients and families deserve the opportunity to discuss these issues with their physician and care team."

Free from pain

Most Americans say they'd prefer to die at home, with treatment to free them from pain. But the landmark "Dying in America" report from the prestigious Institute of Medicine found the reality too often is unwanted invasive care and not enough comfort, in part because too few people make their wishes known to their doctors and loved ones.

The movement toward what's called

advance care planning also reflects that this isn't just an issue for people who already are seriously ill, but a process that may prompt different decisions at different stages of life. Involving a doctor in those decisions can help people fully understand their options. Relatively healthy people might want all-out efforts to resuscitate them after an accident, for example, but might make different decisions as advanced cancer worsens.

Medicare decided not to limit how often such counseling could take place, Conway said, in part because of feedback from doctors and the public that people may need repeat counseling as their health needs change. "If you made a choice and you become more ill, you might want to have the discussion again," Conway explained. "For some patients, it may need to occur multiple times in a year if they're quite ill and their circumstances may change. For other patients, they may not need this service at all in a year."

Medicare's new policy "is a turning point in end-of-life care," said Oregon Democratic Rep. Earl Blumenauer, a longtime congressional proponent of coverage for such counseling. He said next steps include helping ensure that advance directives for all patients are easily accessible and updated frequently, and that doctors are trained to have these difficult conversations.

"Ultimately, the care provided must align with the patient's stated goals, values and informed preferences," Blumenauer said. About three-quarters of the people who die each year in the U.S. are 65 and older, making Medicare the largest insurer at the end of life, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. —AP

MEAT FANS EMBRACE THE HOG ON CANCER REPORT

CHICAGO: Standing at the meat counter at a Mariano's grocery store in Chicago, a half-dozen customers bantered with the butchers about the recent World Health Organization report linking processed meat to colorectal cancer. "Give me two pounds of bacon," said Roland Marks, 47, a software engineer, rolling his eyes. "I'll take my chances."

It is too early for consumer or retail market data to show what any longer term impacts of the report will be in the United States, or whether shoppers will shun the traditional Christmas ham this year, say industry analysts. So far, public reaction on social media has been a clear vote in favor of all things sausage and bacon, as hashtags #FreeBacon and #JeSuisBacon joined the top-trending topics worldwide on Twitter.

The WHO took to Twitter, too, and also issued a statement to emphasize that its International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) review "does not ask people to stop eating processed meats," but just indicates that cutting consumption can reduce the risk of colorectal cancer.

Monday's WHO report is just the latest blow to the US meat industry, which has seen a years-long downward trend of general red meat consumption in the country, despite the booming popularity of high-protein trends like the Paleo diet.

Stirring controversies

Controversies over antibiotic use on farm animals to fight over chicken cage sizes, have also heightened public debate over how the modern food system produces meat. Demand for organic products is growing and chicken sales are rising, in part due to lower retail prices and public health warnings over high-fat foods. Whether the WHO report will prompt the meat industry - in particular,

bacon, sausage and other processed meat makers - to shift their businesses going forward remains unclear.

But there were some signs this week that the WHO report has rattled livestock markets. Lean hog futures prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange fell almost 7 percent this week in the heavily traded December contract. Prices for pork bellies - the cut of a pig used to

make bacon - took a more dramatic tumble, to their lowest level since July on Friday, at \$130.31 per cwt, or hundredweight, and a far cry from this summer's peak price of \$175.55 per cwt, seen on Aug. 12.



MCLEAN: Steaks and other beef products are displayed for sale at a grocery store. —AP

Livestock analysts said part of the price drop was seasonal following the end of the summer bacon-lettuce-tomato sandwich demand.

Prices, too, are falling amid a glut of pork bellies, partly the result of the industry aggressively rebuilding its hog herds after a deadly swine virus killed approximately 10 percent of the US pig population between 2013 and 2014, say livestock analysts. But the severity of the price drop had some livestock market analysts blaming the downturn on the WHO report.

"This market was in solid shape a week ago,"

said Dennis Smith, a broker with Archer Financial Services in Chicago, noting that by Thursday wholesale ham prices had also dropped, down 20 cents per pound since the news came out. "The consumer maybe hasn't even reacted yet, but the futures market is telling you the reaction is going to be a negative," Smith said. —Reuters

PRO-WHALERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST CONSERVATIONISTS

TOKYO: Some 50 nationalists yesterday staged a rally in the southern Japanese whaling town of Taiji to counter anti-whaling campaigns by conservation group Sea Shepherd. The demonstration came weeks after the small Japanese town thrust into the global spotlight in the Oscar-winning 2009 documentary "The Cove" - kicked off this season's controversial dolphin and whaling hunt.

Online video footage showed participants marching through the port with a banner which read: "Let's protect Japanese food culture from Western hypocritical values. Japanese should not give in to Sea Shepherd." "They are environmental terrorists," one of the demonstrators told the rally through a loudspeaker as many of the protesters waved Japanese flags.

Another demonstrator said: "They eat

beef, pork, chicken and everything. What's wrong with protecting our country's culture?" There was no clash as no environmentalists showed up during the rally. In the annual hunt, people from the southwestern town corral hundreds of dolphins into a secluded bay and butcher them, turning the water crimson red. The scene was featured in "The Cove" documentary, drawing unwanted attention to the little coastal community.

Environmental campaigners visit the town every year during the gruesome event and authorities have boosted their presence to prevent any clashes between locals and activists. Some of the dolphins are sold to aquariums. Defenders of the hunt say it is a tradition and point out that the animals are not endangered, a position echoed by the Japanese government. —AFP

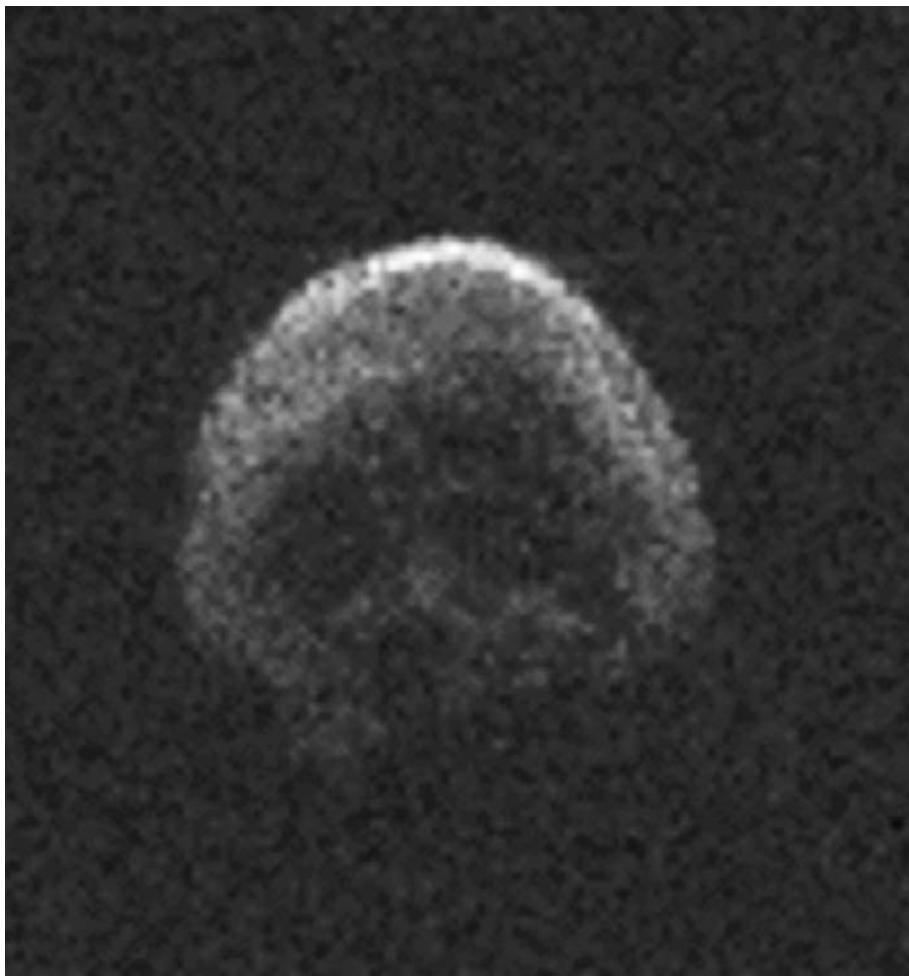
DEAD COMET WITH SKULL FACE TO HURTLE BY EARTH ON HALLOWEEN

MIAMI: A massive space rock that will shave by Earth on Halloween looks like a dead comet with a skull face, NASA said after gaining a closer look at the spooky space junk. Astronomers initially thought the object was an asteroid when they spotted it in early October, and named it Asteroid 2015 TB145.

But using the US space agency's Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, experts "have determined that the celestial object is more than likely a dead comet that has shed its volatiles after numerous passes around the sun," NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said in a statement late Friday. Scientists have also spotted an eerie skull-like resemblance on the face of the rock, based on radar data

from the National Science Foundation's 305-meter (1,000-foot) Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico.

"In the Arecibo images it appears to have donned a skull costume for its Halloween flyby," said Kelly Fast, IRTF program scientist at NASA and acting program manager for the US space agency's Near-Earth Object Observations Program. The space rock has already grabbed attention with its unusually high speed and big size, about as large as a football stadium at 2,000 feet in diameter. There is no danger of it hitting Earth, however. When it zips by, it will do so at a distance of 302,000 miles. That's about 1.3 times the distance between the Earth and the Moon. —AFP



This image obtained from NASA shows asteroid 2015 TB145, a dead comet, in an image generated using radar data collected by the National Science Foundation's 1,000-foot Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. —AFP



In this Aug 31, 2013 photo made available by NASA, astronaut Chris Cassidy, Expedition 36 flight engineer, exercises on the advanced Resistive Exercise Device (aRED) in the Tranquility node of the International Space Station. —AP

NASA REQUIRES BETTER HANDLE ON HEALTH HAZARDS FOR MARS

SPACE RADIATION, CANCER AMONG DANGERS

CAPE CANAVERAL: NASA needs to get cracking if it wants to keep its astronauts alive and well on missions to Mars, according to an in-house report issued Thursday. In an extensive audit, NASA's inspector general office looked at the space agency's overall effort to keep astronauts safe during lengthy space missions - especially trips to Mars, currently targeted for the 2030s.

Among the top health hazards for three-year, round-trip Mars missions: space radiation that could cause cancer, central nervous system damage, cataracts or infertility; extreme isolation, which could lead to psychological problems; and prolonged weightlessness, already known to weaken bones, muscles and vision.

There's also the issue of limited amounts and types of medicine and food, the latter potentially leading to weight loss and malnutrition. Inspector General Paul Martin acknowledged that NASA is making progress in identifying and managing

these health risks. NASA's first yearlong mission is underway at the International Space Station. But Martin pointed out that the space agency is optimistic in thinking it can resolve all the issues by the 2030s.

'Significant challenges'

"The agency still faces significant challenges to ensuring the safety of crew members on a human mission to Mars or deep space," the report concluded. As such, the first astronauts who fly to Mars may need to accept even more risk than subsequent crews, according to the report. Stalling the health-risk effort, in part, is the continuing uncertainty over the type of vehicles and habitats that will be used to carry astronauts into deep space, the report stated. NASA also needs to consolidate its expertise; right now, there's a lack of organization to manage crew health risks, the report noted.

NASA agreed with the conclusions. To date, no

American has spent more than seven months in space at a time. The Russians are the world's space endurance champions, but even they haven't ventured beyond 14 months for a mission. By coincidence, the watchdog's 54-page report came out the same day NASA astronaut Scott Kelly broke the US record for the longest single spaceflight.

Kelly is more than halfway through a one-year station stint, as is Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko. They won't be back on Earth until March. On Thursday, Kelly told a TV interviewer that while it definitely feels like he's been up there a long time, "I'm pretty sure I'm going to get through it without much of an issue." He said he hopes his mission will help get astronauts to Mars. Medical researchers expect to learn much from Kelly's flight. As a bonus, Kelly's identical twin, Mark, a retired astronaut, is submitting to testing so doctors can compare the results of the space and ground-based brothers. —AP

DOCTOR CONVICTED IN DEATHS OF 3 PATIENTS

LOS ANGELES: The second-degree murder convictions this week of a Los Angeles-area physician were the first against a US doctor for recklessly prescribing drugs, the Los Angeles district attorney's office said. Dr Hsiu-Ying "Lisa" Tseng was convicted of murder on Friday in a landmark case for killing three patients who overdosed on what a prosecutor called "crazy, outrageous amounts" of painkillers she prescribed.

It's rare to bring homicide charges against a physician, but the case came amid a prescription drug abuse epidemic that has led lawmakers to try to rein in so-called pill mills that dole out medications with little scrutiny.

"You can't hide behind a white lab

coat and commit crimes," Deputy District Attorney John Niedermann said. "Writing a prescription to someone knowing that they're going to abuse it and potentially die was the theory of second-degree murder that we had." A dozen of Tseng's patients died, though prosecutors only brought three murder charges because of other factors involved in some of those deaths, such as drugs prescribed by other doctors and a possible suicide.

Tseng, 45, showed no emotion as the convictions were read out loud, though her lawyer said she was emotional and very upset later. Jurors deliberated for 10 days before reaching the verdicts. She was also convicted of ille-

gally writing prescriptions for two of the deceased patients and 16 other people, including two undercover agents who were investigating how easily she prescribed addictive pain pills after brief office visits. She was acquitted of illegally writing a hydrocodone prescription to a third undercover officer.

'Crazy, outrageous amounts'

Tseng prescribed "crazy, outrageous amounts of medication" to patients who didn't need the pills, Niedermann told jurors in Los Angeles County Superior Court during closing arguments.

The doctor repeatedly ignored

warning signs even after several patients died as she built a new medical clinic in Rowland Heights with the money she made from them, earning \$5 million in one three-year period. One patient even overdosed in her office and had to be revived.

"Something is wrong with what you're doing if your patients are dying," Niedermann said. Tseng's lawyer said her client naively trusted her patients. Defense lawyer Tracy Green said patients testified they were legitimately in pain and later became dependent on the drugs, hiding their addictions by seeing other doctors and picking up prescriptions from different pharmacies. —AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
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

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	Sao Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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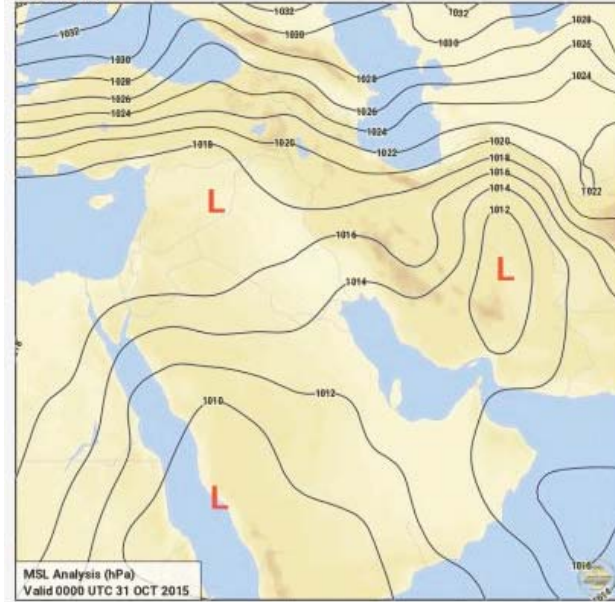
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 31/10/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 28 °C

By Day : Cloudy to partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times.
By Night : Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

SFC. CHART



MSL Analysis (hPa) Valid 0000 UTC 31 OCT 2015

Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	Mostly sunny.	Clouds will increase gradually+light rain	unstable + Thunder rain .	Mostly sunny.
Min Temp °C	18	17	17	16
Max Temp °C	29	28	26	27
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	north easterly to northerly	north easterly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	08 - 30	15 - 40	08 - 28

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings

Scattered thunder rain

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	23		30	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22		28	
ABDULY	20		29	
BUBYAN	22		28	
JAHRA	22		33	
FAILAKA ISLAND	23		30	
SALMIYAH	24		29	
AHMADI	24		29	
JAL ALIYAH	20		31	
QAROH ISLAND	28		31	
UMM AL-MARADEM	27		31	
NUWAISIB	26		33	
WAFRA	23		34	
MANAGISH	21		34	
SALMY	19		32	
MUTRIBA	19		32	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	32
Min Temp (°C)	21
Max Rel Hum (%)	96
Min Rel Hum (%)	46
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	.99 mm

Sunrise	06:01
Sunset	17:03

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:40
Sunrise	06:01
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:40
Sunset	17:03
Isha	18:21



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955
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REPUTED TRAINER ILLUSTRATES THE TOOLS NEEDED TO MANAGE TIME

"As Time Goes By" A Time Management Story - by Richard Coles - is an illuminating 2-day workshop designed to enhance one's established strengths with a range of knowledge and skills that are fundamental to positively contribute to making more effective use of time available each day. The program will focus on the many areas of self-management through simple and practical action steps that will have a radical cumulative effect on your everyday work and life. This



Workshop will equip the learner, with Time saving techniques which can be successfully applied at work and in one's personal life.

This engaging program is a must for Managers of any discipline, whose organizational role requires them to organize their own time and that of their team members. They will learn how to empower others by using the five key principles of delegation and effectively control their time leading to increased production, less stress, reduced costs and

ultimately more profitable company operations.

With more than 35 years of international experience working with leading companies in over 50 countries, Richard Coles incorporates his valuable background into appropriate training of various levels in leadership and management. He believes in bringing innovative and creative ideas to his training that engage and enthuse his audiences worldwide. His recent client list includes major companies such as IKEA, Emirates Airways, Jaguar, Toshiba, KLM, Toyota, and Grand Hyatt

"As Time Goes By" A Time Management Story

Workshop will take place on 9-10 November 2015 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Jumeirah Messilah Hotel as part of the Knowledge Club 2015 series which is organized by Vigor Events, co-organized by Al Gas Events, and sponsored by Zain Telecommunication Company as the lead sponsor, Quality Net as the Silver sponsor, Warba Insurance as Event Sponsor, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Kuwait Oil Company as corporate sponsors, Equate as Success Partner, ABK as Strategic Partner, and media support from the International Advertising Association-Kuwait Chapter.



SHIVADHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE CELEBRATES 2ND ANNIVERSARY

Shivadham School of Dance, a pavilion for children to mold and polish their rhythm and pace, celebrated its second anniversary on the auspicious day of 'Vijaydashami' on 23 October, 2015 at Sangeetha Auditorium, Mangaf. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Vijay Karayil, honorary Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Indian Community School, Kuwait and Sajeev K Peter, Business Editor, Kuwait Times in addition

to several members of various associations and PAC members. The speakers expressed best wishes for a bright and brilliant future for the academy. The welcome address was delivered by Sarath T P while Manjumithra Sarath, Director, Shivadham School of Dance expressed her gratitude.

A leading Indian dance academy based at Mangaf and Khaitan, Shivadham School of Dance is dedi-

cated to the promotion and propagation of various south Indian dance forms. Over the last two years, the academy has established a reputation for excellence in emotive performance and innovative choreography and, gained accolades for the talent and technical perfection exhibited by its students. Shivadham School of Dance had staged numerous productions - original works choreographed by Manjumithra Sarath.

APPETIZING JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF FRUIT PIZZA

Cooking without fire a fun filled activity conducted at LKG of IISM. Students learned making fruit pizza with variety of fruits. Kids enjoyed making, serving and eating fruit pizza. So what could be a better activity than this where kids learn safe cooking and enjoyed it! Along with these we organized a Fruit or Vegetable Carving Competition for UKG, under the reverent guidance of our KG Head Nilofar Qazi and her diligent team of teachers on the remarkable "World Food Day". Students enthusiastically participated in the competition. According to our Director Malayil Moosa Koya, such competitions will help the students to express their hidden talents and to know more about the importance of activities. Principal F M Basheer Ahmed and Sr Vice Principal Narinder Kaur appreciated and encouraged our budding tiny tots "Indeed! These little ones are our blooming artists, their activity find new horizons".



INDIAN OVERSEAS CONGRESS HOLDS ARTS FESTIVAL



Birthday greetings



Belated birthday wishes to our sweet Deep Tissue Reddy, who recently celebrated her 2nd birthday. May God bless you. Greetings from uncle N Sri Hari.

Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) conducted its 9th Arts Festival- IOC-2015 for the Indian community in Kuwait on at United Indian School, Abbasiya recently. IOC Arts Fest-2015 was inaugurated by K.J John, President of Indian Overseas Congress. Raju Zacharias, Gen Secretary welcomed the audience, John Abraham, Vice president-IOC felicitated on the occasion and Jacob Kavalam delivered vote of thanks. Conveners Sunil Rappuzha and Roy Kuttanad were on the lead to conduct the festival successfully. Various competitions were held in two days with participation from children from all parts of Kuwait.

The competitions started with the Classical Dance followed by Folk Dance, Mono act, Poster Poetry and Patriotic Song on the first day. The day long programs

continued on the second day also with drawing/painting, Elocution, Poetry recitation, Solo singing and conclude with Group Dance in the evening. The competitions were conducted for different age groups on two different stages. A huge audience from different walks of life along with their children attended the programs.

The Special Memorial Award established in the name of Late Pala K.M Mathew, "Kalasurya" and "Kalamayukha" will be given to those who secure top in the individual

items complying the requirements set for the award separately for boys and girls sections. Various committees of IOC put strenuous efforts including our treasurer Mr Tony Mathew and Sunil Sonny for their successful conducting of the activities. IOC is indebted to the valuable contribution rendered by Adv. John Thomas in all activities of IOC. Complete and detailed Results of the competitions will be published in major Indian web-portal shortly.

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:35 Tigerfish: Africa's Piranha
04:25 The Cannibal In The Jungle
06:02 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
06:49 Hunt For The Tasmanian Tiger
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Treehouse Masters
International
09:15 Treehouse Masters: Bionic Treehouse
10:10 Treehouse Masters: Buxtrolls Special
11:05 Treehouse Masters: View From Above
12:00 Treehouse Masters
12:55 Deadly After Dark: Polar Bear Invasion
13:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
14:45 World's Wildest Cities: Manaus
15:10 World's Wildest Cities: Manaus
15:40 Mutant Planet
16:35 Wildest Islands
17:30 Zoltan The Wolfman
18:25 Zoltan The Wolfman
19:20 Zoltan The Wolfman
20:15 Zoltan The Wolfman
21:10 Zoltan The Wolfman
22:05 Zoltan The Wolfman
23:00 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
23:55 Deadly After Dark: Polar Bear Invasion

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 Idris Elba: No Limits
04:05 Idris Elba: No Limits
05:00 Idris Elba: No Limits
06:00 Yukon Men
06:50 Junkyard Empire
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Contender Wars
08:55 Highway To Sell
09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Yukon Men
11:25 Ice Lake Rebels
12:15 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:05 Auction Hunters
13:30 Highway To Sell
14:20 Yukon Men
15:10 Fire In The Hole
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How It's Made
17:40 Railroad Alaska
18:30 Railroad Alaska
19:20 Dual Survival
20:10 Garage Goo
21:05 Baggage Battles
21:30 Valley Uprising
22:40 Wheeler Dealers
23:30 Fire In The Hole

Disney CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Wolfblood
04:30 Wolfblood
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Loloizer
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:50 Girl Meets World
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
07:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place
09:45 Dog With A Blog
10:10 Good Luck Charlie
10:35 Jessie
11:00 Liv And Maddie
11:25 I Didn't Do It
11:50 Gravity Falls
12:20 Love Violetta
12:40 Phineas And Ferb
12:45 H2O: Just Add Water
14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts
14:30 Mako Mermaids
14:55 Loloizer
15:20 Liv And Maddie
15:45 Jessie
16:10 I Didn't Do It
16:35 Austin & Ally
17:00 Gravity Falls
17:25 Girl Meets World
17:50 I Love Violetta
18:00 Zapped
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Dog With A Blog
20:10 Jessie
21:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:50 Good Luck Charlie
22:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
22:50 Binny And The Ghost
22:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood
23:30 Wolfblood

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 Eric And Jessie: Game On
03:40 Eric And Jessie: Game On
04:10 El Entertainment Special
05:05 The El True Hollywood Story
06:00 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
06:55 Kourtney & Kim Take New

- York
07:50 Style Star
08:20 El News
09:15 House Of DVF
10:15 House Of DVF
11:10 Fashion Bloggers
11:35 Fashion Bloggers
12:05 El News
13:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 Dash Dolls
16:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
17:00 New Money
17:30 New Money
18:00 El News
19:00 Fashion Bloggers
19:30 Fashion Bloggers
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 Dash Dolls
23:00 Hollywood Cycle

food network

- 03:00 Man Finds Food
03:30 Man Finds Food
04:00 Food Court Wars
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
06:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
18:30 Siba's Table
19:00 Siba's Table
19:30 Siba's Table
20:00 Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook Off
21:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran
22:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera
22:30 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera
23:00 Mystery Diners
23:30 Mystery Diners

itv CHOICE

- 03:20 Coronation Street
04:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
05:15 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
06:10 Shetland
07:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
08:45 Keep It In The Family
09:35 Doc Martin
10:25 Who's Doing The Dishes?
13:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
14:30 Eggheads
15:00 Prince George At One
15:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
16:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:35 Shetland
18:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
19:00 Prince George At One
19:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
20:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
21:45 Lewis
22:40 Prince George At One
23:30 Doc Martin

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 03:00 Manhattan Love Story
03:30 Cristela
04:00 Marry Me
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:00 Community
06:30 Til Death
07:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Marry Me
09:00 Manhattan Love Story
09:30 Benched
10:30 Til Death
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Community
12:30 Marry Me
13:30 Til Death
14:00 Cristela
14:30 Benched
15:30 Last Man Standing
16:30 Community
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
19:30 Benched
19:30 2 Broke Girls
20:30 Two And A Half Men
21:00 Last Man Standing
22:00 Comedians
22:30 Silicon Valley
23:00 Man Seeking Woman

OSN FIRST

- 06:00 The Fosters
07:00 Witches Of East End
08:00 Sleepy Hollow
09:00 The Whispers
12:00 Emmerdale
14:00 Sleepy Hollow
16:00 Emmerdale
16:30 Coronation Street

- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Sleepy Hollow
19:00 Heroes Reborn
20:00 Switched At Birth
21:00 Scandal
22:00 How To Get Away With Murder
23:00 The Knick

OSN FIRST MORE

- 03:00 Odyssey
05:00 Legends
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
12:00 Switched At Birth
13:00 Franklin & Bash
15:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 Switched At Birth
18:00 Franklin & Bash
20:00 Switched At Birth
21:00 Franklin & Bash
22:00 Odyssey
23:00 Strike Back

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 04:00 Special ID
06:00 Last Passenger
08:00 Falcon Rising
10:00 Rush Hour
12:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
14:00 Last Passenger
16:00 Destruction: Las Vegas
18:00 Rush Hour
20:00 Falcon Rising
22:00 Battle Of The Damned

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 04:00 Last Passenger-PG15
06:00 Falcon Rising-PG15
08:00 Rush Hour-PG15
10:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow-PG
12:00 Last Passenger-PG15
14:00 Destruction: Las Vegas-PG15
16:00 Rush Hour-PG15
18:00 Falcon Rising-PG15
20:00 Battle Of The Damned-PG15
22:00 300-18

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 04:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
06:00 The Ladykillers
08:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day
10:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
12:00 Captain Ron
14:00 For Better Or For Worse
16:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day
18:00 Liar, Liar
20:00 A Case Of You
22:00 Reginald D. Hunter: Live

OSN MOVIES DRAMA

- 03:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Her-PG15
06:00 Maleficent-PG
07:00 Dawn Rider-PG15
10:30 Still Mine-PG15
09:00 Return To Nim's Island-PG
11:00 Dawn Rider-PG15
13:00 The Truth About Emanuel-PG15
15:00 Penthouse North-PG15
17:00 Return To Nim's Island-PG
19:00 Reclaim-PG15
21:00 Tracks-PG15

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 04:00 Julie And Julia
05:00 Against The Ropes
08:00 Evita
10:30 1911
12:30 The Invisible Woman
14:30 Diana
16:30 Calvary
19:00 The Savages
23:00 Northern Soul

OSN MOVIES HD

- 04:45 Godzilla-PG15
06:45 The Fault In Our Stars-PG15
09:00 Step Up All In-PG15
11:00 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day-PG
12:45 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend-PG
14:45 The Book Of Life-PG
16:30 Step Up All In-PG15
18:30 Divergent-PG15
21:00 Automata-PG15
23:00 About Last Night-18

OSN MOVIES KIDS

- 03:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
04:45 Krazy Planet
06:00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
08:00 Hatching
10:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
11:30 Scooby-Doo! Frankencreepy
13:00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
14:30 Memory Loss



FALCON RISING ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 16:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
18:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
20:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
22:00 Memory Loss
23:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure

OSN MOVIES PREMIERE

- 00:00 The November Man-18
02:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit-PG15
04:00 10 Years-PG15
06:00 Maleficent-PG
08:00 Saving Mr. Banks-PG15
10:30 The Bag Man-PG15
12:30 Billy Elliot The Musical-PG15
15:30 Searching For Sugar Man-PG15
17:30 Captain America: The Winter Soldier-PG15
20:00 Deadfall-PG15
22:00 The Conjuring-18

ADISPORTS 3

- 00:00 Copa Sudamericana Highlights 2015
00:30 UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifiers - Matchnight
01:30 Copa Brasil
03:15 Copa Brasil
05:00 Copa Sudamericana 2015
06:45 Copa Sudamericana 2015
08:30 Copa Sudamericana 2015
10:15 Copa Brasil
12:00 Russian Premier Football League H/Ls
12:30 UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifiers
14:15 Copa Sudamericana 2015
16:00 Copa Sudamericana Highlights 2015
16:30 Copa Sudamericana 2015
18:15 Countdown To Rio
18:45 Copa Sudamericana 2015
20:30 Copa Sudamericana Highlights 2015
21:00 Game Over 2015 Qualifiers
23:00 UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifiers - Matchnight

ADISPORTS 4

- 00:29 MLS Cup Play Off Matches 2015
02:12 MLS Cup Play Off Matches 2015
03:57 MLS Highlights 2015
04:27 MLS Cup Play Off Matches 2015
06:09 Goalissimo
07:10 MLS Cup Play Off Matches 2015
08:55 The Football Review
09:28 Extra Time
09:58 MLS Cup Play Off Matches 2015
11:42 Goalissimo
12:42 MLS Cup Play Off Matches 2015
14:26 The Football Review

ADISPORTS 5

- 01:00 Juventus TV Magazine (Ar) 2015
02:15 Roma TV Magazine (Ar) 2015
03:30 Lazio TV Magazine (Ar) 2015
04:45 Italian Serie B Champ H/Ls 2015-2016
05:30 Juventus TV Magazine (Ar) 2015
06:45 Roma TV Magazine (Ar) 2015
08:00 Lazio TV Magazine (Ar) 2015
09:15 Italian Serie B Championship 2015-2016
11:00 Manchester City Football Club Blocks 2015-
13:00 City Life 2015 - 2016
13:30 Inside City 2015 - 2016
14:00 Juventus Matches 2015
15:45 Roma Matches 2015
17:30 Benfica TV - 2015
18:30 Italian Serie B Champ H/Ls 2015-2016
19:30 Italian Serie B Championship 2015-2016
21:30 Manchester City Football Club Blocks 2015-
23:30 City Life 2015 - 2016

ADISPORTS 6

- 01:00 The Football Review
01:30 Indian Super League 2015-2016
03:15 Countdown To Rio (Eng)
03:45 Copa Libertadores
05:00 Building Dream Homes
11:25 Building Dream Homes
11:55 Building Dream Homes
12:25 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook Cosmo Cook
13:15 Michela's Classic Italian
13:50 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook Cosmo Cook
13:45 Vacation Vacation Vacation
14:05 Vacation Vacation Vacation
14:25 Vacation Vacation Vacation
14:50 Vacation Vacation Vacation
15:15 Masterchef: The Professionals
16:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
16:30 Masterchef: The Professionals
17:00 The Roux Legacy
18:05 Homes Under The Hammer
19:50 HairY Dieters
20:40 Come Dine With Me
21:05 Come Dine With Me
21:30 Come Dine With Me
21:55 Come Dine With Me
22:45 Come Dine With Me
23:10 Fantasy Homes By The Sea
23:55 Building Dream Homes

AMC

- 00:40 Fear The Walking Dead
01:40 Pieces Of Dreams
03:40 Futurworld
05:05 It Runs In The Family
06:30 Late For Dinner
08:05 Miracles
09:30 Modern Girls
10:55 The Norseman
12:25 The Apartment
14:30 Cannon For Cordoba
16:15 Empire Of The Ants
17:45 Follow That Dream
19:35 Miracles
21:00 Intacto
22:50 Hamburger Hill

BBC entertainment

- 00:05 The Cafe
00:30 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
01:15 Live At The Apollo
02:05 Inside No. 9
02:35 A Farmer's Life For Me
04:10 Doctor Who
05:00 The Green Balloon Club
05:25 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock N Roll
05:45 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock N Roll
06:05 Jollywobbles
06:15 The Green Balloon Club
06:35 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock N Roll
06:55 Jollywobbles
07:10 Doctors
07:40 Doctors
08:10 Doctors
08:40 Doctors
09:10 Eastenders
09:35 Eastenders
10:10 Eastenders
10:40 Eastenders
11:05 Abandoned At Birth
11:55 The Weakest Link
12:40 Doctor Who

- 20:00 The Great Disrupters
21:00 Brilliant Ideas
21:30 Mobil 1: The Grid
22:00 Asics Beat The Sun
23:00 Studio 1.0
23:30 Studio 1.0

Boomerang

- 00:05 Tiny Toon Adventures
00:27 Tiny Toon Adventures
00:49 Tiny Toon Adventures
01:10 Tom And Jerry
02:15 Pink Panther And Pals
02:35 Pink Panther And Pals
03:00 The Looney Tunes Show
03:20 The Looney Tunes Show
03:45 Lazytown
04:05 Lazytown
04:30 What's New Scooby-Doo?
04:50 What's New Scooby-Doo?
05:15 Tom And Jerry
06:00 Lazytown
06:25 Krypto: The Super Dog
06:50 Pink Panther And Pals
07:00 Baby Looney Tunes
07:11 Baby Looney Tunes
07:22 Baby Looney Tunes
07:35 The Garfield Show
07:48 The Garfield Show
08:01 The Garfield Show
08:20 The Tom And Jerry Show
09:10 Tom And Jerry Tales
09:55 Scooby-Doo! Knight Time Terror
10:17 Scooby Doo Where Are You!
10:39 Scooby Doo Where Are You!
11:05 The Mr. Bean Animated Series
11:17 The Mr. Bean Animated Series
11:30 Pink Panther And Pals
11:55 Pink Panther And Pals
12:20 Inspector Gadget
12:30 Inspector Gadget
12:40 Inspector Gadget
12:50 Inspector Gadget
13:05 Scooby-Doo Meets The Boo Brothers
14:40 The Garfield Show
14:52 The Garfield Show
15:04 The Garfield Show
15:16 The Garfield Show
15:25 New The Owl & Co
15:35 Tom And Jerry
16:25 Scooby-Doo! Knight Time Terror
16:50 Pink Panther And Pals
17:15 Pink Panther And Pals
17:40 The Mr. Bean Animated Series
17:50 The Mr. Bean Animated Series
18:00 Baby Looney Tunes
18:25 Baby Looney Tunes
18:50 The Tom And Jerry Show
19:00 The Tom And Jerry Show
19:10 The Tom And Jerry Show
19:20 The Tom And Jerry Show
19:35 The Looney Tunes Show
20:00 The Looney Tunes Show
20:20 The Mr. Bean Animated Series
20:31 The Mr. Bean Animated Series
20:45 Pink Panther And Pals
21:10 New The Owl & Co
21:25 Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries
21:50 Road Runner
22:35 The Looney Tunes Show
22:55 The Looney Tunes Show
23:20 Duck Dodgers
23:40 Duck Dodgers

CNN

- 00:00 World Sport
00:30 Winning Post
01:00 CNN Newsroom
01:30 The Circuit
02:00 CNN Newsroom
02:30 World Sport
03:00 CNN Marketplace Africa
03:15 Make, Create, Innovate
03:30 Best Of Quest
04:00 CNN 30: Events That Changed Our World
05:00 Amanpour.
05:30 The Circuit
06:00 Backstory
06:30 Inside Africa
07:00 CNN Newsroom
07:30 The Silk Road: Past, Present, Future
08:00 World Sport
08:30 Vital Signs With Dr. Sanjay Gupta
10:00 CNN Newsroom
10:15 CNN Marketplace Africa
10:30 Open Court
11:00 CNN Newsroom
12:00 CNN Newsroom
13:00 CNN Newsroom
14:00 Best Of Quest
14:30 African Voices
15:00 Fareed Zakaria GPS
16:00 CNN Newsroom
16:30 Leading Women
16:45 Make, Create, Innovate
17:00 State Of The Union
18:00 Erin Burnett Outfront
18:30 Best Of Quest
19:00 Connect The World With Becky Anderson
20:00 World Sport
20:30 Winning Post
21:00 CNN Newsroom
21:30 African Voices
22:00 CNN Newsroom
22:30 Vital Signs With Dr. Sanjay Gupta
23:00 Fareed Zakaria GPS

BBC lifestyle

- 00:05 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
00:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook Cosmo Cook
01:20 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook Cosmo Cook
01:45 A Taste Of Greenland
02:35 A Taste Of Greenland
03:30 The Planners
04:20 The Planners
05:10 Come Dine With Me
05:35 Come Dine With Me
06:00 Come Dine With Me
06:20 Come Dine With Me
06:45 Come Dine With Me
07:10 The Planners
08:00 Come Dine With Me
08:25 Come Dine With Me
08:50 Come Dine With Me
09:15 Come Dine With Me
09:40 Come Dine With Me
10:05 Fat & Fatter
10:55 Building Dream Homes
11:25 Building Dream Homes
11:55 Building Dream Homes
12:25 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook Cosmo Cook
13:15 Michela's Classic Italian
13:50 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook Cosmo Cook
13:45 Vacation Vacation Vacation
14:05 Vacation Vacation Vacation
14:25 Vacation Vacation Vacation
14:50 Vacation Vacation Vacation
15:15 Masterchef: The Professionals
16:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
16:30 Masterchef: The Professionals
17:00 The Roux Legacy
18:05 Homes Under The Hammer
19:50 HairY Dieters
20:40 Come Dine With Me
21:05 Come Dine With Me
21:30 Come Dine With Me
21:55 Come Dine With Me
22:45 Come Dine With Me
23:10 Fantasy Homes By The Sea
23:55 Building Dream Homes

CCTV NEWS

- 00:00 News Update
00:30 Dialogue
01:00 News Update
01:15 China 24
02:00 Full Frame
03:00 News Update
03:30 New Money
04:00 News Update
04:30 Closer To China With Robert Kuhn
05:00 News Update
05:30 My China
06:00 News Update
06:30 News Hour
07:00 News Hour
08:00 Full Frame
09:00 News Update
09:30 Talk Africa
10:00 News Update
10:30 Sports Scene
11:00 News Update
11:30 Travelogue
12:00 News Update
12:30 Faces Of Africa
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update
14:30 Dialogue
15:00 News Update
15:15 China 24
16:00 News Update
16:30 Closer To China With Robert Kuhn
17:00 News Update
17:30 Travelogue
18:00 Asia Today
18:30 Spectrum Asia
19:00 News Update
19:30 New Money
20:00 Africa Live
20:30 Faces Of Africa
21:00 My China

Discovery world

- 01:30 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud
02:20 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud
03:05 Blue Angels: A Year In The Life
03:50 Blue Angels: A Year In The Life
04:35 Showdown: Air Combat
05:20 Showdown: Air Combat
06:05 Showdown: Air Combat
06:50 Deadliest Catch
07:35 Chasing Classic Cars
08:00 Surviving Katrina
09:40 Deadliest Catch
10:30 American Car Prospector
11:20 American Car Prospector
12:10 Oil, Sweat And Riggs
13:00 Strip The City
13:50 Strip The City
14:40 Strip The City
15:30 Strip The City
16:20 Blue Angels: A Year In The Life
17:10 Showdown: Air Combat
18:00 Showdown: Air Combat
18:50 Showdown: Air Combat
19:40 Journey Through The Valley Of The Kings
20:30 Surviving Katrina
21:10 Life On A Wire
22:00 Casino Secrets
23:50 Escape From The Impact Zone



SPECIAL ID ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (29/10/2015 TO 04/11/2015)

SHARQIA-1 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 9:45 PM 11:45 PM
SHARQIA-2 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA	1:15 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
MUHALAB-1 GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-2 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 AM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM
FANAR-1 GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM
FANAR-2 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-3 BURNT BURNT BURNT	1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM

BURNT BURNT BURNT	8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
FANAR-4 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-5 THE GUARDIAN ANGEL THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE GUARDIAN ANGEL THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE GUARDIAN ANGEL THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
MARINA-1 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM
MARINA-2 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM
MARINA-3 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
AVENUES-1 GOOSEBUMPS WAR PIGS GOOSEBUMPS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:15 PM 11:15 PM
AVENUES-2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 AHWAK AHWAK AHWAK	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:45 PM 11:30 PM
AVENUES-3 BURNT BURNT BURNT BURNT BURNT BURNT	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:15 PM
AVENUES-4 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:45 AM

Special Show "AHWAK" PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
AVENUES-5 GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS Special Show "GOOSEBUMPS" GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM
360°- 1 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 9:45 PM 11:45 PM 1:15 AM
360°- 2 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM
360°- 3 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 AHWAK AHWAK AHWAK	1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
AL-KOUT.1 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM
AL-KOUT.2 GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS THE GUARDIAN ANGEL THE GUARDIAN ANGEL	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM
AL-KOUT.3 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM
AL-KOUT.4 BURNT	11:30 AM

A reputable company is currently looking for applicants who are dynamic, highly qualified and committed individuals for the following positions:

- Job Code #1 - HR Manager
- Job Code #2 - HR Coordinator
- Job Code #3 - Accountants
- Job Code #4 - Cost Controller
- Job Code #5 - Social Media Specialist
- Job Code #6 - Graphic Designer
- Job Code #7 - Marketing Coordinators
- Job Code #8 - Restaurant Supervisors
- Job Code #9 - Pastry Assistant/Baker
- Job Code #10 - Prep Cook
- Job Code #11 - Waiter/ Waitress
- Job Code #12 - Barista
- Job Code #13 - Cashiers/ Juice Makers

Interested candidates are requested to send their CV (with photo) to employer@outlook.com please indicate job code number in your email subject.

MATRIMONIAL

Seeking alliance for Marthoma Girl 31, 151 cm, M.A. Teacher, divorced, from educated non alcoholic smoker boys. Email: shaadimeonly@gmail.com (C 5065) 29-10-2015

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Modapothula Elamma holder of Indian Passport No. G1689507 has converted Islam by name Shaik Ayesha, address 3/65, K.S Aghraharam Chitvel, Kadapa, A.P. (C 5064) 28-10-2015

I, Morasudhakar, holder of Indian Passport No. L5934350, R/o Nakkapalli Village, Kumpinipuram Post, Nandalur Mandal, Kadapa Dist, A.P., Changed my name as Muhammad Mora. (C 5063)

I, Potturi Harshavardhana Naidu, holder of Indian Passport No. M7062597, R/o Diguvalanlaguttapalli Village, Guttapalli Post, Sambepalli Mandal, Kadapa Dist, A.P., Changed my name as Muhammad Arshad. (C 5063) 26-10-2015

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- 3 Bedroom (1 Master)
- Huge Living Room
- Maid Room with Bathroom

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SITUATION WANTED

Art Director, Jordanian, BA Graphic Design, 12 years experience with international agencies (Dubai, Riyadh & Amman) in Marketing, advertising, graphic skills, Web Design, Story boarding, Creative Solution & Mobile Design, Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign, seeks job in Kuwait, please call +966 582 904 264 or e-mail mamoon-alqutob@gmail.com Note: I can visit Kuwait without visa. (C 5059)

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:40
Shorook	06:50
Duhr:	11:32
Asr:	14:39
Maghrib:	17:02
Isha:	18:20

Flight Schedule

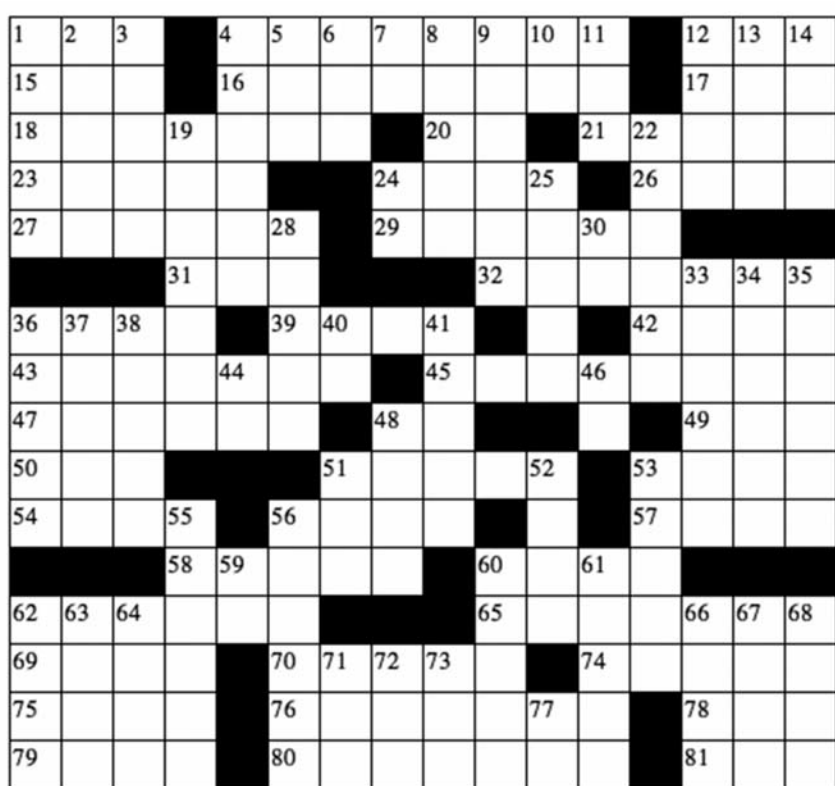
Arrival Flights on Sunday 1/11/2015				Departure Flights on Sunday 1/11/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
NIA	251	Alexandria	00:15	OMA	648	Muscat	00:05
JZR	239	Amman	00:25	MSC	406	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAD	302	Amman	00:15
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	UAL	981	IAD	01:10
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	NIA	152	Cairo	01:15
MSR	614	Cairo	01:20	MSR	615	Cairo	02:20
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:30	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	03:05
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:25	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	LMU	511	Cairo	05:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	CEB	7695	Manila	05:20
KAC	544	Cairo	03:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	05:45
LMU	510	Cairo	04:05	JZR	560	Sohag	06:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	04:45	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
THY	764	Istanbul	05:55	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:55
QTR	8516	Doha	06:10	RJA	643	Amman	07:05
FDB	0561	Dubai	06:30	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	QTR	8517	Sialkot/Doha	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	QTR	1087	Doha	08:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	BAW	156	London	08:45
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	OMA	642	Muscat	08:55
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	KAC	171	Frankfurt	09:05
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30	KAC	117	New York	09:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	501	Amman	10:00
KAC	362	Colombo	09:00	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25	IRC	6508	Shiraz	11:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
RJD	135	Abu Dhabi	11:35	KAC	103	London	12:25
AGY	682	Asyut	11:40	SYR	342	Damascus	12:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:20	RJD	136	Abu Dhabi	12:35
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	AGY	683	Alexandria	12:40
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1066



ACROSS

1. Used of physical heat.
4. Having no fever.
12. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
15. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
16. A person who commits larceny.
17. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
18. A person who is authorized to act as an agent for the sale of land.
20. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
21. Jordan's port.
23. (Old Testament) The wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac.
26. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
27. The longest river in England.
29. (heraldry) Applied to a fish depicted horizontally.
31. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
32. An oral antidiabetic drug (trade name DiaBeta and Micronase) that stimulates the release of insulin from the pancreas.
36. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
39. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
42. The sixth month of the civil year.
43. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
45. Exhibiting self-importance.
47. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
49. A cry or noise made to express displeasure or contempt.
50. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
54. A less than average tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon.
57. Declare untrue.
58. An oily colorless liquid obtained by the condensation of two molecules of acetaldehyde.
62. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
65. The Japanese art of folding paper into shapes representing objects (e.g., flowers or birds).
69. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
70. A brief description given for purposes of identification.
74. Of or relating to the feet.
75. Using speech rather than writing.
76. (Greek mythology) The Titan who was father of Atlas and Epimetheus and Prometheus in ancient mythology.
78. Dish baked in pastry-lined pan often with a pastry top.
79. A quantity of no importance.
80. Resembling an arm.
81. A single-reed woodwind with a conical bore.

DOWN

1. A ridge of the earth's crust that has been forced upward between two faults and so is higher than the surrounding land.
2. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
3. A crown-like jewelled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
4. Any of various plants of the genus *Althaea*.
5. The United Nations agency concerned with the international organization of food and agriculture.
6. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
7. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
8. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
9. Adorned by inlays.
10. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
11. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
12. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
13. A small cake leavened with yeast.
14. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
19. An oral antifungal drug (trade name Lamisil) used to treat cases of fungal nail disease.
22. A knapsack (usually for a soldier).
24. An associate degree in nursing.
25. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
28. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
30. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
33. Suitable for use as food.
34. A family of North American Indian language spoken in southwestern United States.
35. One or more large merchant ships.
37. Tie again or anew.
38. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
40. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
41. A virtually extinct Caucasian language spoken exclusively in Turkey.
44. Being one more than one hundred.
46. 1,000,000,000 periods per second.
48. Act of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
51. Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
52. (Roman mythology) God of love.
53. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
55. (Spanish) Saffron-flavored dish made of rice with shellfish and chicken.
56. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
59. 16 ounces.
60. Important food fish of the Nile and other rivers of Africa and Asia Minor.
61. A mistake resulting from inattention.
63. God of death.
64. Toward the mouth or oral region.
66. A system of one or more computers and associated software with common storage.
67. Type genus of the Majidae.
68. A large genus of dicotyledonous trees and shrubs of the family Aquifoliaceae that have small flowers and berries (including hollies).
71. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
72. (music) The pace of music measured by the number of beats occurring in 60 seconds.
73. The fatty flesh of eel.
77. A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles.

Yesterday's Solution

E	P	A	S	E	A	S	C	A	P	E	T	L	C
A	A	R	C	U	B	O	I	D	A	L	A	Y	R
S	C	A	T	R	I	S	C	R	E	W	I	R	E
E	A	O	B	O	E	U	A	G	A	R	I	C	
	C	P	A	S	E	T	P	I	R	A	C	Y	
C	I	A	B	A	A	T	H	A	R				
O	R	I	Z	A	B	A	H	C	A	N	A	L	
M	I	L	B	I	B	B	E	D	G	A	B	A	
E	D	I	B	L	E	A	M	A	D	A	V	A	T
D	I	A	L	E	M	B	E	D	L	A	S	H	
O	C	C	A	M	C	I	A	M	L	E	E		
	H	I	G	H	R	E	C	A	P				
R	E	I	S	S	U	E	P	A	R	A	G	O	N
A	D	O	H	A	L	L	A	H	A	D	A	P	A
J	E	T	A	M	O	E	B	A	N	D	E	E	D
A	N	A	P	A	N	O	C	H	A	A	L	C	A

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Unresolved partnership issues make you more impatient as the days go by, and you might not know which way to turn now. You don't enjoy being caught in the middle of an emotional drama; in fact, you prefer to skip some of the required responsibilities that come along with a relationship. Nevertheless, you're still aware of the potential for growth, even if you must confront your own discomfort to foster positive change. The truth is logic won't steer you in the right direction, so just follow your heart.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your desire to establish solid connections with others could conflict with your growing need for solitude today. This emotional dichotomy may be frustrating, provoking you to strike out at someone who is supportive of your goals. Luckily, your unexpressed feelings don't have to be the primary focus of the day if you take the time to reexamine your goals. Clarifying your personal and professional commitments enables you to respond more sensibly and appreciate those who are on your side. Expressing your gratitude is the key to your happiness.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Thankfully, you could receive a much-needed reprieve from the recent hectic pace of your life. You may as well settle into the silence because you won't likely make much progress now even if you try. However, an unexpected emotional outburst on your part today might trigger someone else to overreact in turn. Honestly stating your needs as they arise allows you to avoid being sideswiped by your own unconscious feelings. Don't ask too many questions; just enjoy the peace and quiet while you can.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The Moon's current amble through your nurturing sign may be the start of something new, even if you're not yet eager to forge ahead. Thankfully, you will have a good shot at reaching your goals as long as you take the extra time you need to explore all of your options. Pushing too hard could inadvertently stir up a hornet's nest of resistance today. Be patient; it's smarter to chill out now and try again once the energy settles down. Timing is everything.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your friends may tempt you to play a round of Truth or Dare today, even if you know better than to engage in games when you have more important concerns on your mind. Their eloquent words inspire you to act more spontaneously, but the power of the present moment isn't all that matters when you have your hopes pinned on the future. Ultimately, it's smarter to err on the side of discretion and confess your secrets on another day. There's no need to succumb to peer pressure; sometimes it's okay to simply smile and just say no.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Take a few steps backward to reevaluate your long-term goals, especially if you feel pressured to initiate action today. Instead of being coerced into a bad decision, retreat to maintain your current position. You recently learned a valuable lesson and now you want to teach others how to achieve success. Integrate your feelings into your social interactions by sharing what's in your heart. Your wisdom can act as an emotional catalyst to inspire someone else's journey.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may face a stressful emotional dilemma while the moody Cancer Moon creates anxious aspects with several planets today. Your unexpressed negativity intensifies if you make light of what you are enduring. Although your defenses are likely strong enough to keep others at bay now, you'll feel better if you include your friends in your process instead of just trying to pretend you are okay on your own. Sharing a burden with someone you trust is all it takes to lighten your load.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It feels as if relief is on the way now, but there aren't any angels magically winging their way to your rescue just yet. Therefore, take precious care of your own heart as best as you can. Luckily, following your instincts won't likely steer you wrong today if you don't waste energy worrying about something you can't control. Roll with each event as it comes by responding from your gut and not your head. Heavenly intervention isn't necessary when you realize that the Divine exists within.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You might experience a big disappointment today if you are seeking a logical reason for everything that happens to you. Unfortunately, quick explanations are not forthcoming now, turning up the volume on your frustrations. Thankfully, you can consciously shift your attention from your current discontent toward exciting possibilities in the future with a simple attitude adjustment. Putting the present moment in a wider perspective inspires you to cross over to the sunny side of the street. Smile and the world smiles with you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

It seems as if the rug is pulled out from beneath your feet today if your partner withdraws just as you're ready to engage in a romantic dance. The emotional Moon's current visit to your 7th House of Relationships kindles the flames of passion, especially if you already have your eye on someone special. But your sense of urgency bends your energy out of shape. Play it cool instead of overcompensating by demanding more attention now. Surprisingly, your natural self-sufficiency acts as a magnet to pull others in.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

The odds are against you making it through the entire day without encountering a relationship drama. Spontaneously jumping in to help a friend handle an emotional crisis might be unavoidable since you can't ignore someone else's cry for help. Although it's admirable to support those you love, just be careful that your own agenda is not completely lost in the process. In the bigger picture, chores can wait until another day; showing up for those in need is what matters most.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You wake up anticipating a day of fun, but you can't just run off and amuse yourself now until you have met your obligations. Family members may even apply peer pressure to keep you on the straight and narrow path. Don't give up on the idea of partaking in pleasurable activities today because you might be able to sneak out for a well-deserved break — as long as you return to finish your responsibilities with replenished vitality. Whistle while you work and others can't help but join in.

WORD SEARCH

GRAND CANYON WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

U	B	F	K	S	C	E	N	I	C	V	I	E	W	S	R	X	U	I
R	K	M	Q	O	P	M	B	E	U	L	A	D	O	A	T	B	W	I
A	Y	H	O	N	I	C	N	C	L	I	S	N	W	N	Y	W	A	H
F	C	D	O	O	H	C	V	Q	A	M	T	W	I	H	G	C	H	
T	N	E	D	J	L	O	J	R	G	M	U	O	J	D	T	V	D	O
E	A	O	P	R	C	L	H	Z	D	W	P	L	U	B	E	Q	Z	P
R	T	B	I	A	O	V	A	I	E	L	G	E	R	V	F	P	I	
S	I	N	G	F	F	R	O	S	V	N	Y	U	R	D	I	A	R	H
X	O	G	U	Y	M	A	I	A	G	A	G	C	M	O	E	S	O	O
J	N	H	A	W	M	D	H	Z	S	E	S	R	E	I	U	E	T	U
W	A	O	N	K	U	O	L	O	O	T	M	U	A	D	B	N	R	S
B	L	R	O	I	M	R	B	R	L	N	A	P	P	B	C	D	D	E
Q	P	N	P	Y	N	I	M	E	Z	K	A	A	O	A	W	O	O	S
D	A	S	O	R	V	V	Z	X	L	D	A	J	K	I	Y	H	W	
I	R	H	I	G	X	E	Q	B	A	C	K	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y
O	K	E	N	M	S	R	Y	Z	G	L	M	I	B	B	N	V	H	
C	K	E	T	O	E	T	H	A	S	O	U	T	H	R	I	M	G	
E	R	P	O	S	K	Y	W	A	L	K	N	Z	H	I	K	I	N	G
R	A	R	P	A	C	K	M	U	L	E	S	T	X	C	W	O	O	I

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| ARIZONA | GUANO POINT | MOHAVE POINT | ROOSEVELT |
| BACKCOUNTRY | HAVASUPAI | MULE DEER | SCENIC VIEWS |
| BIGHORN SHEEP | HIKING | NATIONAL PARK | SKYWALK |
| CAMPGROUNDS | HOPI HOUSE | PACK MULES | SOUTH RIM |
| COLORADO RIVER | HUALAPAI | RAFTERS | TOURISTS |

Daily SuDoku

		8	2	6				7
						5		
9		2	1		5			8
					6			5
	3	9				8	1	
8			5					
3			6		8	9		2
		6						
1				2	7	6		

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO FIRST NOVELS PUZZLE

T	H	E	T	I	M	E	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	K	A	A	F	T
I	U	O	L	Q	T	H	E	B	I	G	S	L	E	E	P	E	R	J
W	T	S	T	O	N	E	S	F	O	R	I	B	A	R	R	A	A	S
T	H	T	H	E	B	L	U	E	S	T	E	Y	E	N	O	N	G	
J	H	T	E	P	L	A	Y	E	R	P	I	A	N	O	C	K	K	T
C	A	E	H	P	W	L	D	Q	L	O	E	W	A	J	O	P	E	K
O	U	N	J	E	I	W	C	B	Y	K	O	U	C	B	L	S	N	U
L	X	X	E	O	R	C	F	R	L	W	K	O	U	Z	D	P	S	Y
A	C	P	E	E	Y	I	K	P	A	A	C	L	U	P	M	O	T	W
T	E	W	D	Q	Y	L	N	W	V	V	X	Q	A	O	P	E	C	
I	Q	M	E	S	U	R	U	G	I	T	I	K	N	S	U	Z	I	A
M	D	R	F	U	M	P	E	C	H	C	J	J	B	F	N	Z	N	R
E	Z	R	O	O	M	W	G	G	K	E	K	Z	S	E	T	Y	I	R
T	H	E	H	O	B	B	I	T	A	C	I	P	W	K	A	U	M	I
O	X	U	H	K	T	F	S	C	E	V	L	G	A	F	I	U	P	E
K	K	W	H	O	G	S	V	R	P	S	I	U	H	P	N	Y	T	T
I	T	H	E	N	O	T	E	B	O	O	K	E	B	T	E	P	E	Y
L	T	H	E	S	U	N	A	L	S	O	R	I	S	E	S	R	I	A
L	A	S	T	U	D	Y	I	N	S	C	A	R	L	E	T	W	S	S

Yesterday's Solution

1	4	8	7	2	9	6	5	3
6	3	5	4	1	8	2	9	7
7	2	9	5	6	3	1	8	4
4	8	3	1	9	7	5	6	2
9	7	2	3	5	6	4	1	8
5	6	1	8	4	2	3	7	9
8	1	6	2	7	4	9	3	5
3	9	4	6	8	5	7	2	1
2	5	7	9	3	1	8	4	6

Features

Drew Barrymore talks her new book, having a family

The last time Drew Barrymore released a book about her life, it was 1991's "Little Girl Lost," about her troubled childhood. Her new book is titled "Wildflower," and it reflects the positive changes in her life. The 40-year-old actress is now married to art consultant Will Kopelman and the mother of two young daughters. She has a beauty line called Flower and runs a production company called Flower Films. Her new film, "Miss You Already," with Toni Collette opens Nov 6.

Barrymore says it isn't easy juggling various career demands with being a mother. "I just don't know any mom who's like, 'Yep, I feel like I've figured it out, I've got this great system and it makes me feel guilt-free,'" she said. "I think it feels really difficult a lot of the time."

Barrymore added: "I think it's positive for my kids to see me working and loving what I do. I want to teach them responsibility and work ethic. I want them to be the kind of kids like, 'Yeah, mom worked.' Not 'work made mom not be around.'" Barrymore talked about "Wildflower," having a family and the Hollywood pay gap in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

AP: This book is about your life but it's not really a memoir. Can you talk about

that? Barrymore: It's stories; it's not a memoir. It's thinking about things and times in my life that were meaningful and special. I always wanted to write, and I was never brave enough and I never had the time, which with two kids it's ironic - that gave me the time, but I pushed so many other things aside in my life to be present with my kids that it made me have these windows to write. You get to a certain moment in your life when it's different and you get reflective and I thought, 'Let's try this.'

AP: You write about your family in the book. It must be a great feeling to know that your daughters have a strong family unit.

Barrymore: Will is a good father and he is a good person. Their grandparents are great people. My sister-in-law and her kids are an amazing tribe and unit. There's a whole world set up there that I really respect and admire. They also will have family with each other because they are sisters. I always idealized sibling relationships. Just to have someone in life you can look to and have this amazing connection to whether you're close or not is extraordinary. They have me, who is not going anywhere - ever. I am unbreakably in love with

them and will be every single day for the rest of my life, no matter how nuts they drive me.

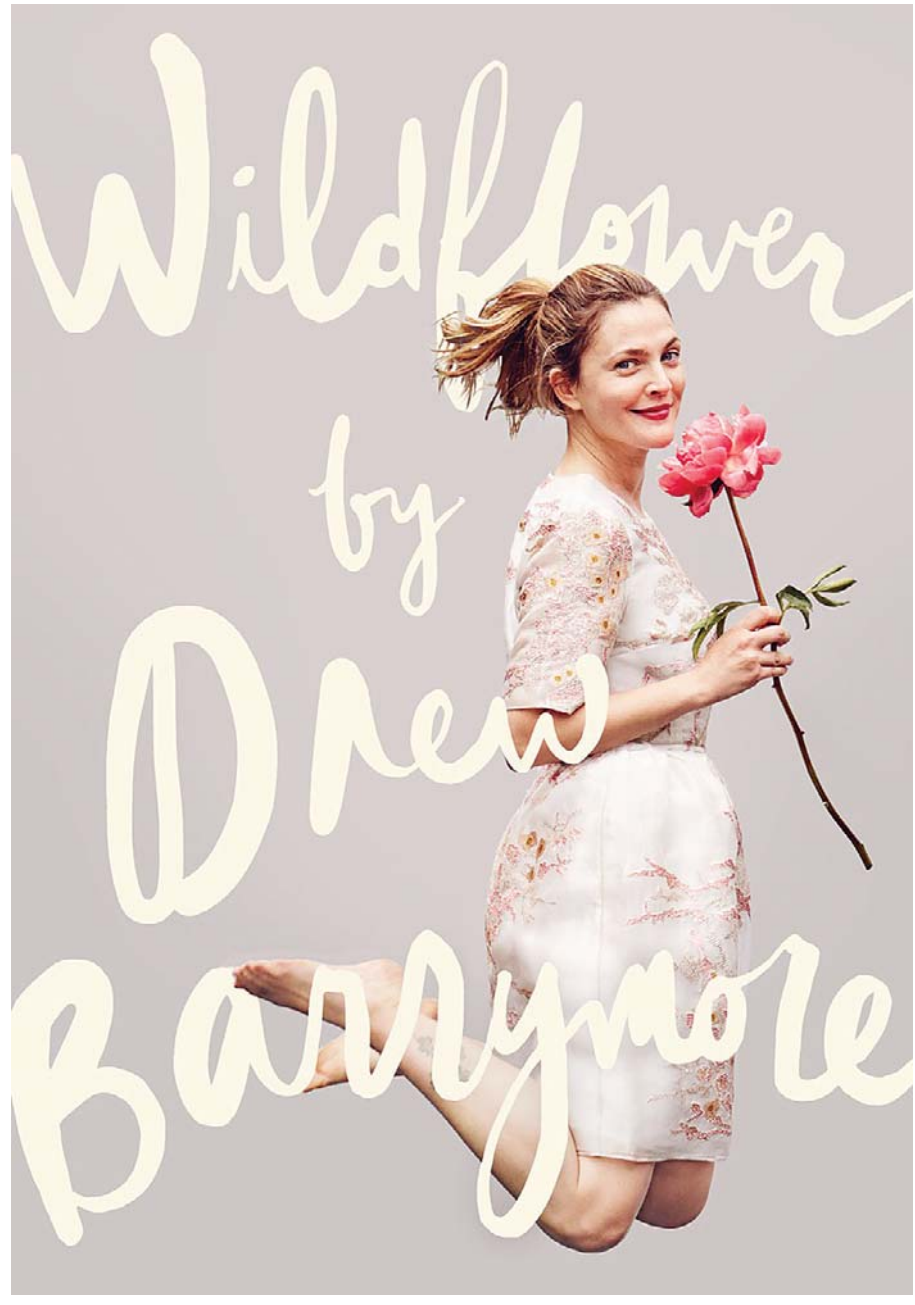
AP: You're a boss at your production company and also an actress. What do you say about the Hollywood pay gap?

Barrymore: Obviously, it should be equal and that's that. I don't think there's much more to say on it. It's just a matter of fact.

However, I feel so grateful for the opportunities I got along the way because being a young twenty-something and asking to be given the opportunity to do films and work in this business and be trusted ... however much I always want to support everyone, I also want to always remain very, very grateful. —AP



Drew Barrymore poses for a portrait to promote her new book "Wildflower," in New York. —AP photos



This photo provided by Dutton, Penguin Random House shows the cover of the book, "Wildflower," by Drew Barrymore.



This photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows, Ann Dowd, from left, as Nell, Sandra Bullock as Jane and Reinaldo Pacheco as Eddie, in Warner Bros. Pictures and Participant Media's satirical comedy "Our Brand is Crisis," a Warner Bros. Pictures release. — AP

Our Brand is Crisis

Bullock entertains as a ruthless campaign operative

They say timing is everything - or at least a whole lot. And on several fronts, the George Clooney-produced "Our Brand is Crisis," starring Sandra Bullock as a damaged, ruthless political consultant, has absolutely perfect timing.

First, it's election season: Enough said! And second, with all the recent discussion about the need for more diverse, open-minded casting, here's a role that was originally written for a man. And happily, in retrospect, the role seems like it SHOULD have been written for a woman - for Bullock, in fact. It's a thornier, meatier role than she's had in a while, one that allows her to use her well-honed comic chops while also digging deeper into a complicated, very flawed character.

As for the film itself, directed by David Gordon Green, it's undeniably entertaining, but a conundrum. At times, it seems like a funny and penetrating political satire along the lines of "Veep" on HBO. (Check out the amusing llama scene. Yes, we said llama.) At others, it's trying to be a much weightier morality tale (It's based on - or rather "suggested by" Rachel Boynton's 2005 documentary of the same name). At moments, these two aims mesh well enough; at others, the zig-zag effect is jarring.

Bullock is Jane Bodine, otherwise known as Calamity Jane, famous for winning elections at any cost. "The truth is what I tell the electorate the truth is," she likes to say. When we first meet Jane, she's retired from the down-and-dirty world of politics, having been felled by a scandal involving the violation of election laws. She's living in the boonocks somewhere, making pottery. She doesn't drink or smoke anymore, and says she can finally look herself in the eye.

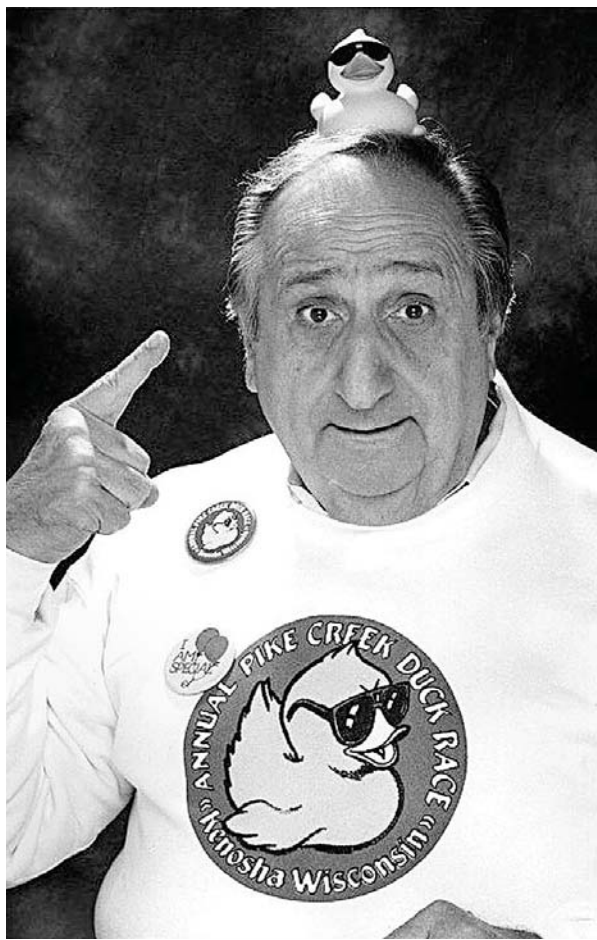
But, like the proverbial wizened former cop brought in for one last case, Jane is convinced to join the campaign of a failing candidate in Bolivia. It's good money, but the real reason she agrees is that an old nemesis, Pat Candy (Billy Bob Thornton, channeling James Carville - who actually did work on the 2002 Bolivian election) is already down there working for the opposition. These two are warriors to the death.

Arriving in La Paz, Jane confronts a candidate who is standoffish, elitist, and 28 points behind (Portuguese actor Joaquim de Almeida is perfect for the role, and will be readily recognized by fans of "24"). After some initial sluggishness (and slapstick altitude sickness) her competitive juices kick in.

Observers of US politics will recognize every lesson learned here; When Pat seeks to exploit Jane's candidate's short temper, resulting in the candidate punching a man, Jane stops her team from crafting an apology, and frames the punch as a sign of his no-crap approach. It's classic spin. Jane gets her guy to doff his suit jacket and roll up his sleeves. His poll numbers rise. "Our brand," Jane tells the team, "is crisis." Convince voters they're in crisis, and tell them how you're gonna save them. The backdrop is the contentious relationship between Jane and Pat. While their byplay is entertaining, it's also frustrating. We don't learn enough about the background; it would help to know more, and sooner.

It all ends with the election, of course, but a subplot involving an idealistic young volunteer (appealing Bolivian actor Reynaldo Pacheco) keeps the film honest, as it were, with an ending aimed at making us wonder what it all was for in the first place.

An excellent supporting cast includes Anthony Mackie and the terrific Ann Dowd as fellow consultants. Yet it all rests on Bullock. She's fun to watch. Check out her priceless final remark in that llama scene. Her brand is Bullock, and it works pretty well. "Our Brand is Crisis," a Warner Bros release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language including some sexual references." Running time: 107 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. —AP



In this file photo, date not known, actor Al Molinaro points to a plastic duck on his head, while promoting a fund-raising event in his hometown of Kenosha, Wisconsin. —AP

'Happy Days' actor Al Molinaro dies at 96

Al Molinaro, known for playing "Big Al" Delvecchio on the hit US sitcom "Happy Days," died Friday, reports said. He was 96. Molinaro passed away in a California hospital from complications of a gall bladder infection, his son Michael told the Los Angeles Times. Molinaro played the owner of the 1950s Arnold's Drive-In on the popular TV show "Happy Days," which ran from 1974 to 1984.

It was here that the main characters would gather-including leather-jacketed bad boy Arthur "The Fonz" Fonze, played by Henry Winkler, and the clean-cut Richie Cunningham, depicted by Ron Howard. Molinaro played Delvecchio in more than a 100 episodes, according to the LA Times, which quoted him as saying: "When you live with a character as long as I have, you know how he would talk in almost any situation."

Molinaro also starred in the "Happy Days" spinoff "Joanie Loves Chachi," as well as in "The Odd Couple," and appeared in commercials later in life. Molinaro also co-founded a chain of diners called Big Al's in a bid to capitalize on his on-screen success, the Washington Post reported. The diners eventually went out of business. Born in Wisconsin, Molinaro was the son of Italian immigrants. —AFP

Roman Polanski 'very happy' with Polish court ruling

Poland cannot extradite filmmaker Roman Polanski to the US on a charge that he had sex with a minor nearly four decades ago, a judge ruled Friday, a decision that could finally close the case in the country where the Oscar-winning director grew up and still makes movies. "I can breathe now with relief," Polanski told reporters in Krakow, where the case was heard. "I pleaded guilty. I went to prison. I have done my penalty. The case is closed." The Polish prosecutor who argued for extradition on behalf of the United States did not immediately say whether there would be an appeal. The victim in the case has repeatedly called for the prosecution to be dropped.

Judge Dariusz Mazur, who ruled in Krakow, where Polanski has his apartment, said the case was very complicated but an extradition would violate Polanski's human rights because he could be held in confinement while it was happening.

"I find no rational answer to the question: What is the real point of the US extradition request?" said Mazur, who spent more than two hours explaining his reasoning in the court. Polanski's attorneys had argued that the US request was legally flawed and contended he had already served prison time under a plea-bargain deal with a Los Angeles judge.

'Voluntary deportation'

Polanski was initially charged on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, but was allowed to plead guilty in 1977 to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl during a photo shoot in Los Angeles. In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the other charges and sentenced him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation. Polanski was released after 42 days by an evaluator who deemed him mentally

sound and unlikely to offend again.

The California judge then said he was going to send Polanski back to prison for the remainder of the 90 days and that afterward he would ask Polanski to agree to a "voluntary deportation." Polanski fled from the United States on Feb 1, 1978, the day he was scheduled to be sentenced to the additional time.

Mazur said Polanski served his punishment in the US, and later for 10 months - partly under house arrest - in Switzerland in 2009 and 2010, when the US unsuccessfully sought his extradition from there. Mazur found that US judges and prosecutors violated legal procedures, broke the 1977 plea deal, denied Polanski the right to a proper defense and appeared biased. He said Polanski had reason to fear he would be sentenced to more than the remaining 48 days.

Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey said she was disappointed with the ruling, but it was up to the US State Department to decide whether to pursue an appeal. She said she'll continue to pursue justice in the case as long as she's district attorney "because justice has never been served." "It just isn't fair to allow someone with resources to escape justice for so long," Lacey said.

Polanski was not in court for the ruling, but followed live TV coverage. The 83-year-old appeared exhausted and thin when he spoke to reporters afterward. "I am glad that I have trusted Poland's justice system," he said. "I knew it would end well ... Listening to the court today I was really moved because I had not imagined the judge would know the case in such detail, with all the dates quoted correctly. There was not one mistake." He said he now needs to return to working on a movie he is planning to shoot in Warsaw. "This case held up everything for a year," Polanski said. "Now we need to pick up the pieces and put them together." —AP



Filmmaker Roman Polanski tells reporters he can "breathe with relief" after a Polish judge ruled that the law forbids his extradition to the US, where in 1977 he pleaded guilty to having sex with a minor, in Krakow, Poland. —AP



Hulu sets Stephen King's '11.22.63' premiere date

Hulu will debut "11.22.63," based on the time-travel novel by Stephen King about the JFK assassination, on Presidents Day, Feb. 15, 2016. JJ Abrams, Stephen King, Bridget Carpenter and Bryan Burk serve as executive producers for "11.22.63." The nine-hour limited event series stars James Franco as a high-school history teacher who travels back in time to stop the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. "11.22.63" also stars Chris Cooper, Josh Duhamel, TR Knight, Cherry Jones, Sarah Gadon, Lucy Fry, George MacKay and Daniel Webber.

Scottish director Kevin Macdonald ("Last King of Scotland," "State of Play") directs and executive produces the first two hours. Hulu will release episodes of "11.22.63" on a weekly basis, as it has done for its other original series. That's in contrast to

Netflix's binge-friendly strategy of releasing the entire season of a show at once.

The series will be available exclusively to Hulu subscribers on either the \$7.99 monthly plan with ads, or the \$11.99 commercial-free option. Hulu, owned by Disney, 21st Century Fox and NBCUniversal, has been steadily ramping up its slate of original series with big-name talent in a bid to win more paying customers and compete more aggressively against Netflix and Amazon. Hulu's recently debuted originals include "The Mindy Project" season 4 after Fox canceled the show, and Amy Poehler's "Difficult People," which will be returning for a second season. Hulu had previously styled the name of the series as "11/22/63," the same as King's book, but now refers to it as "11.22.63." —Reuters



Lady Gaga nearly quit music because it became too easy

The 'Pokerface' hitmaker admits there was a point where she felt "overworked" and decided to put her happiness before her career. She shared: "I have had to make decisions. 'Why am I unhappy? Okay, Stefani (her real name), Gaga, hybrid-person. Why are you unhappy? Why is it that you wanted to quit music years ago?' I feel sad when I'm overworked, and that I just become a money making machine, and that my passion and my creativity take a back seat; that makes me unhappy. It feels shallow. I have a lot more to offer than my

image." However, the 29-year-old singer changed her mind once she "slowly but surely" started to remember who she is as a person. Speaking as part of the Emotion Revolution project, she added: "Slowly but surely, I remembered who I am. Then you go home and you look in the mirror and you're like 'Yes, I can go to bed with you every night.' 'Cause that person? I know that person. That person has balls. That person has integrity. That person just doesn't say yes."

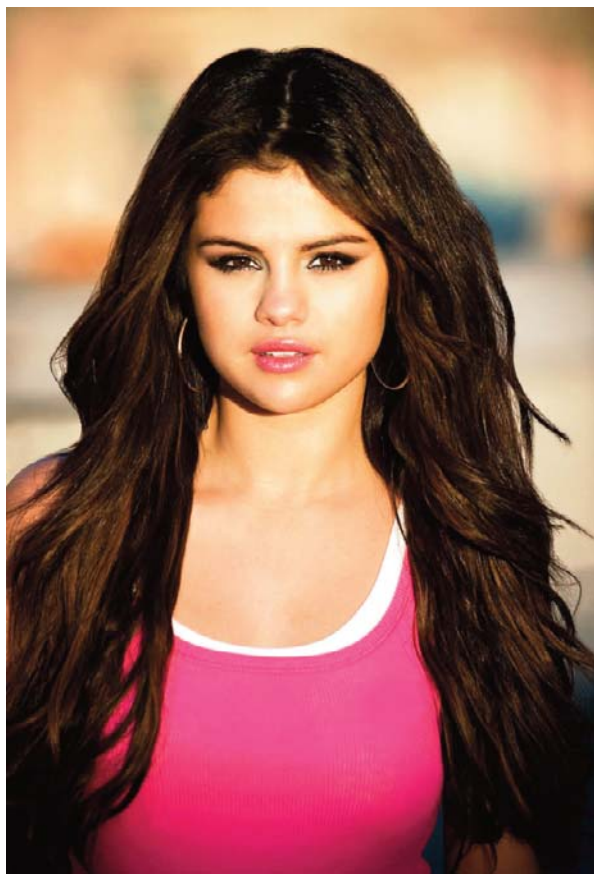
Gomez's outfit choices make her 'feel like a woman'

The 'Good For You' hitmaker credits her stylist Kate Young, who she presented the Stylist of the Year going to at the InStyle Awards, for helping her realize that she could be "sexy" without opting for barely-there outfits. She told InStyle magazine: "I just feel like she brings me to this very classic, simple place. I just feel like a woman, if that makes sense. She's made me feel like a woman. 'Ultimately, when you push yourself and there's change, that's when you get your best anything - your best music, your best work, your best everything. To me, she made me feel really great. 'When you're young, especially my generation, you think sexy is always the way to go. I didn't know that there were different versions of sexy that could be possible until I met Kate. She really opened my eyes to feel sexy as a woman without needing certain things.' Meanwhile, the 23-year-old beauty previously admitted she was "coming into [her] own". She shared: "It's almost like a metamorphosis. I feel like I'm coming into my own. I've been through stuff and I think that it's been able to test me as a person. And I feel like I'm in charge of everything. 'It's my time to just stop and say this is my perspective on where I am. I can't make everyone happy. I need to learn to love myself first."



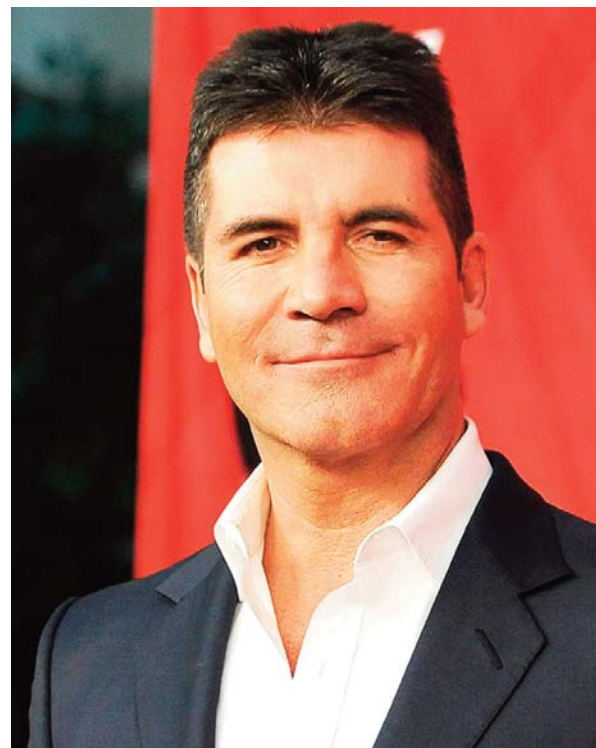
Beckham's new tattoo was designed by his daughter

The former soccer star took to Instagram to reveal the new inking, a sketch of a girl drawn by his four-year-old daughter Harper, which he has had etched on his palm. Captioning the photo, he wrote: "Apparently Harper is allowed to scribble on daddy (sic)" Whilst wife Victoria Beckham wrote alongside a similar image: "Harper is a true little artist x x vb (sic)" The 40-year-old star also debuted another new inking on his left ribcage of a scrawled message, 'We love you Daddy', which appears to have been based on the handwriting of one of his sons, Brooklyn, 16, Romeo, 13, and Cruz, 10. Captioning a photograph of the tattoo, he wrote: "The boys expressing how they feel about daddy (sic)" Meanwhile, David recently showed off a rose tattoo on his neck near his 'Pretty Lady' inking, a tribute to Harper. Writing at the time, he shared: "Hey Pretty Lady ... Just adding to the collection of tattoos that mean so much to me... Thanks Mark as always looks amazing ... @sham-rocksocialclub (sic)" David is a huge fan of tattoos, with each having a strong meaning for him. He recently got the number 99 inked on himself to note the year he married the 41-year-old fashion designer as well as celebrate his soccer achievements during that season.



Cowell has had 'too much Botox'

The 56-year-old music mogul insists he has "mellowed" when it comes to his beauty regime since welcoming son Eric, 20 months, with partner Lauren Silverman but admits he used to have the procedure a lot because "everyone on TV has it". He said: "Hopefully I look better now - I probably did have a little too much Botox a couple of years ago, because everyone on TV has it. Now I have facials, but nothing too extravagant at the moment. I have a girl who comes here and does a great face massage - it's very relaxing. 'I also had a sheep placenta facial once, which was quite out there. Then Sinitta recommended I try another detoxifying machine, and this thing turned up in my bedroom and it was like something out of Dr Who. It was like a spaceship had landed in my bedroom." And the 'X Factor' judge also admits he has tried a number of other pampering procedures as he's a "sucker" for believing things will work. He added to the Daily Mirror newspaper: "I'm a sucker for reading about something out there and believing it will work. Once in LA, years ago, I met this girl who would wrap me up in cling film and then tin foil, after covering me in oils. 'It was meant to be detoxing. She then put me in this tube in my house, locked me into it for an hour, and told me what she liked or didn't like on the show. And because she was half-deaf, she was literally screaming at me. After about two months I realized, this is actually torture. That was crazy."



Mara prefers to be a 'nomad'

The 'Pan' star insists she would rather be on her own during downtime as she spends so much time with other people when on a movie set. She shared: "I like being alone. I need a lot of alone time as a human. And especially on a movie set when you're around people all day long. So it's actually kind of nice to go home to a hotel and be alone and unwind. 'But, of course, it gets lonely. I'm constantly either in hotels or somewhere else. But I like it. I might get tired of it at some point, but for now I like being a nomad." However, the 30-year-old actress enjoyed working alongside her "idol" Cate Blanchett on their latest film 'Carol'. She gushed to Interview magazine: "She's just so incredible. It was pretty easy to pretend to be enamored by her. And she's quick and witty and funny. She's very confident. It's amazing. 'Usually it's not that great to meet your idols and work with them; it's kind of a letdown. This definitely wasn't. She's much different than I had in my head, but kind of better, in a way. It was also obviously terrifying."

Coyle suffered serious carbon monoxide poisoning

The Girls Aloud singer revealed she rushed herself to hospital for blood tests when she and her family felt incredibly tired after they moved into the Californian property but claims the doctor didn't specifically mention the cause. She said: "I was renting a house in LA ... you don't really notice it, you're like 'I'm really tired, is it with all the flying around, is it jet lag, am I getting sick, is it a cold, have we got a bug, why are we so tired all the time?', and then you would forget simple things, we couldn't remember the word for table, like, 'What is that? Put it on the...; we couldn't remember what it was. And it was the chest pains, I felt like I couldn't breathe.' 'So I went to the doctors and ... then when the blood tests came back they said it was exposure to high levels of gas, but still he hadn't said it was carbon monoxide." And the 30-year-old star insists it was only by chance that the faulty boiler was discovered by a workman who came to service the appliance. Speaking to ITV's Good Morning Britain, she added: "The boiler was faulty, there was a crack in it. It just happened to be someone was coming round, it was so lucky. '[We were told] immediately, 'Everybody needs to get out, everybody needs to be out the house.'"



Martinez wants normal life for his and Halle Berry's son

The 49-year-old actor is reportedly desperate for the couple's two-year-old son Maceo to not be stuck in the middle of any disagreements like Halle's daughter Nahla, seven, was when she split from Gabriel Aubry. He is believed to have been horrified by the bitterness between the 'Extant' actress and her ex, gossip website TMZ reports. Meanwhile, Halle recently submitted a second lot of court documents, filing for divorce from her husband of two years after speculation that her original documents, filed on Monday, may be invalid as she used aliases and gave her estranged husband the documents herself, something forbidden under Californian law. Meanwhile, a source admits the 49-year-old actress is "very sad" about the couple's split. They said: "She is sad, very sad. This is never easy. Olivier has definite anger management issues. I think this was coming for a long time and [Berry was] not wanting to have to do this." The pal also claims that the 'Dark Tide' star was "intimidated" because Halle "was the breadwinner". They added: "He was emasculated by her beauty and her power, and his temper could erupt."





Sheeran's family 'worry' about his lifestyle

The 'Thinking Out Loud' hitmaker's cousin, Jethro Sheeran, 39, has spoken out about his fears for the singer's health during the past year and believes that Ed's track 'Bloodstream' is about taking the class A drug MDMA. Speaking about his reaction to seeing pictures of Ed stumbling out of the Brit Awards after party in February, he said: "I was worried about him, I think he had had too much to drink. He was a bit embarrassed about it but what are you going to do?" Ed is very open about drugs. He has said how he fell in love with a bean bag because he was on MDMA. That is what 'Bloodstream' is about, chemicals in his bloodstream." What's more, Jethro thinks 24 year old Ed's split from girlfriend Athina Andrelos earlier this year left him "confused" about the female

attention he receives. He added: "It was tough for him when he split up with her, he was quite into her, he took her to Ireland and met my grandma. Now he is getting used to the fact that everyone wants to get with Ed Sheeran, he is a bit confused because if he was a taxi driver I don't think that would happen. I think they fall in love with his voice." Meanwhile, Jethro thinks the 24-year-old singer will benefit from a well deserved break in Ghana. He told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "I think he just wants to sit at home and watch movies. He likes the music that has come out of Ghana, he knows that there is going to be no pressure. He just doesn't want to be recognized."

George and Amal Clooney have adopted a dog

The couple - who tied the knot in a lavish Italian ceremony in 2014 - adopted a four-year-old Basset hound named Millie, who was rescued by the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society in California. The humane society shared a photograph on its Facebook page of the couple with Millie and their other canine Louie, 10, who they rescued in March. SGVHS wrote: "ADOPTED! Millie was adopted by George Clooney and his wife Amal! Millie, a basset hound, now has a new brother named Louie who is also a rescue! Congratulations and thank you for adopting!!" A message on the charity's website also detailed how Millie got to know her new family. It said: "Millie was found without a home and hop-

ing for food scraps outside of a local restaurant in San Gabriel earlier this month. "Today her luck changed for the better when she was adopted by George and Amal Clooney. They were searching for a basset hound and saw Millie's picture on Petfinder. They did a 'meet and greet' with her and spent time introducing her to their other rescue, a cocker spaniel named Louie. It was good news that Millie and Louie hit it off and the happy, new family headed home together! We hope Millie will stay in touch and send photos. Congratulations to the Clooney family and thank you for adopting!"



Louis Tomlinson was kicked out of a hotel room

The One Direction star and his pals were reportedly kicked out of the posh Malmaison hotel in Newcastle after partying at a popular student night following his gig at the Metro Radio Arena. A source said: "Louis was having a lot of drinks at Digital, which is a favorite with students on the Toon. A vodka and lemonade only costs a quid." The 23-year-old singer - who is expecting his first child - was seen clutching a bottle of alcohol as he made his way back to the hotel in the early hours of the morning but was soon shown the door, forcing him to sleep in the band's tour bus. The insider told The Sun newspaper: "He went back to the Malmaison with a bottle of booze and two friends. "But they were kicked out at 4am by security who were aware of the incident and were absolutely furious. "He ran out of the hotel carrying all of his clothes and another bottle of booze. A waiting car drove him to the band's tour bus. "He seemed to think it was a right joke but it's pretty disrespectful. He didn't seem too worried though." While Louis was meant to be staying at the Malmaison - where a corner suite costs £195 a night - his One Direction bandmates Harry Styles, Liam Payne and Niall Horan are said to have been at a different hotel. The source added: "Louis is partying hard at the moment."



Kylie doesn't 'care' about rumors anymore

The 'Keeping up with the Kardashians' star is fed up with the constant speculation surrounding her love life and her body and insists she's had enough. She tweeted: "I think I've just heard everything that could possibly be said about me already that I just don't care anymore." Meanwhile, the 18-year-old television personality was previously forced to deny she had undergone any plastic surgery, admitting she found it "surprising" that people think she has gone under the knife. She wrote: "Well, I haven't done anything except my lips but nobody seems to believe that, so ... I don't really care. But, I did just turn 18, so it kind of surprises me when people think I've undergone so many surgeries. "My mom wasn't even going to let me get my lips done. So, there's no way in hell she was going to let me get anything done. So, whatever." Most recently, Kylie took to her website to insist her apparent breast enlargement was just the result of good contouring. She shared: "No, people - I haven't gotten breast implants! Everyone is obsessed with that. Truth is, as I've gotten older, I've gained 15 pounds and my body has changed; I've definitely filled out. "I swear there are things you can do to work on problem areas without having to think about plastic surgery. Contouring has changed my life!"



Derulo worried about prison sentence



The singer threw a huge party at his castle in Tarzana, California, last month to celebrate his 26th birthday but was shocked when the Los Angeles Police Department raided it after noise complaints. He told The Sun: "I had a party at my house and it was pretty crazy. I threw it with my friend The Game. "Girls could direct message promoters to get to the party and those promoters would decide who they wanted to come." It was fly, we were having a lot of fun. Then all of a sudden a helicopter starts circling my house. I'm like, "What the hell?" "An hour later 50 police officers come barging in. Because of noise complaints. But I don't really have any neighbors close by. "I was like, 'Is this really necessary? This is embarrassing.' "I gotta go to court. I might be in jail for eight years. They'll go, 'What you in for?' "Erm, noise complaints. But if y'all wanna throw a party, holler me!" However, Jason didn't let the raid stop him from partying and after he kicked most of his male guests out, he, The Game and 40 women enjoyed a late night swim. Speaking about the women, Jason added: "I didn't tell them to leave. I basically went upstairs."



Juliette Lewis is scared of love

The 42-year-old singer-and-actress - who previously dated Brad Pitt and was married to skateboarder Steve Berra for four years until 2003 - worries about "letting someone in" to her life and getting her heart broken. Asked what scares her, she said: "Oh man, love. The fear of letting someone in. I went through that recently." The 'Jem and the Holograms' star is also afraid of crowds, but uses the gigs she plays with her band, The Licks, as a "therapeutic exercise" that forces her to confront the phobia. She added: "Also, crowds. I have a huge fear of crowds. The irony is that my band is a therapeutic exercise. I hurl myself into thousands of people." Juliette doesn't cope well with too many rules, and was terrified she would accidentally swear when she met Britain's Queen Elizabeth. She told Elle magazine: "I met the Queen at one of her meet and greets. They told me not to cuss and I thought I was gonna have Tourette's and say, 'I forgot to say Your Majesty. Sorry!' "If you give me too many rules, the rebel in me goes bananas."

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini 'coped in public and crumbled in private'

The 32-year-old star has opened up about having to go through with her performance at the BRIT Awards in 2010 shortly after news broke that her then husband and soccer star Ashley Cole had been unfaithful. She said: "To be honest, I coped in public and crumbled in private. "It's growth, it's life. They say a good sailor would never be a good sailor if he hadn't experienced a rough sea." Cheryl also revealed that many people who judged her for getting back together with Ashley, 34, after they'd split have since apologized to her after going through the same thing in their own relationships. The 'I Don't Care' hitmaker told InStyle magazine: "It's funny - those who didn't understand

my actions at the time have now had that happen to them and they get it. A friend of mine told me her husband was having an affair and she said, 'I understand everything that must have been going through your head. But what I will never understand is how you had to face the world.'" Cheryl - who split from Cole for good after discovering he'd cheated on her again - is now happily married to French restaurateur Jean-Bernard Fernandez-Versini. — BANGSHOWBIZ



'Ash vs Evil Dead' sees return of Bruce Campbell

More than 30 years after the low-budget horror movie "The Evil Dead" was released and became a cult classic, Ash is back and battling deadites. "Ash vs Evil Dead," premieres Halloween on cable network Starz. Bruce Campbell reprises his role as Ash Williams. Campbell's fellow original filmmakers Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert are also involved in the television production, which is a mix of horror and comedy. The Associated Press talked with some of the stars and producers during filming near Auckland, New Zealand. Here's what they had to say:

Bruce Campbell, actor and producer

"Well, mostly what we've enjoyed as filmmakers is being unrestricted in content. There's a lot of networks that require all kinds of rules and regulations of what you can't say, what you can show, what you can't show and that gets very debilitating. As an artist, we like to just say what we want to say, do what you want to do in an unrestricted fashion, and Starz is finally allowing us to do that."

"Yeah, it's very bizarre that these guys that I've known - Sam I've known since high school and Rob I met shortly thereafter - but it's kind of amazing that this many years later, we're still alive, we're still in the business, we're still working together, we're still talking to each other. So, it's a very special situation. There aren't many directors like Sam or producers like Rob, and that's been the funnest part - is getting back with the guys that you know so well. You don't have to really rework this, you don't have to beat it to death, you understand each other a lot better."

Lucy Lawless, on her character Ruby

"Well, I always like to keep it spicy, no matter whether she's a good girl who has got a nasty kink in

her character, or a bad girl who is kind of likable. She's going to be mixed up, she's going to be a mixed up bag of goods is Ruby, but she's going to be a lot of fun."

Rob Tapert, producer, on the character Ash

"TV was really the right format to tell this particular story of this character. So, in the first season we will have spent more time with the character of Ash than we have through the previous three movies. To Sam and I, in particular, Bruce was the show and so to do something in this format, that allows us to concentrate on Bruce, was really the way to go."

Ray Santiago, on his character Pablo

"He is the heart and the good conscience of the show, of the trio, and he's the eyes and the ears of the audience. So, you root for him and the team through what he does, because you see yourself in him. I think it's really nice that they're allowing and that they've made the decision to make Bruce's sidekick Latino, because I don't think that we have any Latino superheroes out there."

Jill Marie Jones, actor

"The 'Evil Dead' fans have been amazing. Social media is good gauge, you can really kind of see. And, for the most part, everybody has been really positive, excited - I think they've been waiting for a long time."

Dana DeLorenzo, actor

"Obviously the target audience is the loyal fans that have already been established, but also I think it's going to find a new audience - people who have never been exposed to it. Because, if you're someone who just likes good television and likes to be entertained;



if you're too afraid of the horror, close your eyes and you'll still be laughing. If you're someone who wants more of the horror, you'll be laughing in between, and you might even cry a little bit - I'm just going to put that out there - you might even get a little sad sometimes."

"These are real people, these are real characters and I think because they're so relatable on so many different levels and they all have their own demons that they're dealing with and going through their

own transition, I feel like there's someone in there for everyone, and you're going to be along for the ride, and how great is that?" — AP

In this June 9, 2015, publicity image, actor and producer Bruce Campbell, left, playing the role of Ash Williams, walks with actor Dana DeLorenzo, playing the role of Kelly Maxwell, during a scene from "Ash vs Evil Dead" filmed in Auckland, New Zealand. — AP

New York braces for \$2 bn bumper autumn art sales

It's fall. Leaves in Central Park are golden and so are profits in the art world, as Christie's and Sotheby's prepare to auction off \$2 billion worth of works in New York. From November 4 to 12, the two auction houses go head to head in selling hundreds of pieces of modern, impressionist, post-war and contemporary art, six months after the spring season smashed a string of records and netted more than \$2.6 billion.

rary art at Sotheby's. "Ten years ago you'd say an American abstract expressionist painting is probably going to end up in the States but I think now genuinely, as never before, it could go to any corner of the world."

Sotheby's kicks off the season by selling the private collection of the American philanthropist Alfred Taubman but it is rival Christie's that grabs the headlines with two top lots. The work estimated to be the most expensive is a sensuous nude by Amedeo Modigliani valued at \$100 million, followed by an iconic pop art masterpiece from Roy Lichtenstein estimated at \$80 million. Modigliani's "Reclining Nude" comes to auction for the first time, expected to set a new record for the Italian artist.

Two for one

The picture of the naked woman reclining on a luscious red couch and blue cushion, painted in 1917-18, provoked a scandal when it was first exhibited in Paris. "It is unquestionably a masterpiece," said Jessica Fertig, co-head of the Christie's sale. Christie's believes Lichtenstein's "Nurse"—a shocked looking blonde with sexy red lips—could also fetch more than \$100 million, which would nearly double the artist's current record.

That would make it a shrewd investment for its most recent owner, who acquired the comic book-inspired portrait for \$1.65 million in 1995. US billionaire and Republican party donor, Bill Koch, can also expect a giant windfall. He is parting company with Picasso's "La Gommeuse," the portrait of a cabaret artist dating back to 1901 when the artist was just 19 years old and grieving the suicide of a close friend.

Koch bought the canvas for \$3 million in 1984. Sotheby's expects it to fetch around \$60 million. Not only that, but Koch got two for the price of one. In 2000, he discovered that there

was another painting on the reverse—a mocking depiction of Picasso's art dealer that had been hidden under the lining for a century. Koch is also parting company with a Monet Water Lilies piece, which Sotheby's is selling on November 5, valued at \$30-50 million.

Camilla's ex

Another highlight is a Vincent van Gogh—moving sky over a landscape—valued at \$50-70 million, painted a year before the artist's death and showing storm clouds over fields outside Arles, France. Celebrity watchers can also look out for a Picasso portrait of his lover, Dora Maar, valued at \$25-35 million and once owned by Gianni Versace, the murdered Italian fashion designer.

On the contemporary front, the Sotheby's standout is an Untitled by American painter Cy Twombly from his Blackboard series dating back to 1968 and valued at \$60 million. The former army cryptographer painted six bands of repeated loopy lines on a grey background, which is being sold by a prominent US collector to benefit a reform temple in Los Angeles.

Another household name is an Andy Warhol painting of Mao, from his first series of the late Chinese communist leader, valued at more than \$40 million. Back at Christie's, a portrait of the ex-husband of Britain's Duchess of Cornwall, Andrew Parker Bowles, by Lucian Freud is valued at up to \$30 million and was painted between 2003-04, shortly before Camilla married the Prince of Wales, her longtime lover. In a moment for women artists, Christie's expects to sell Louise Bourgeois' giant bronze statue of a spider for \$25-35 million, smashing the French-American's current record of \$10.7 million. — AFP



A media person looks at Roy Lichtenstein's "Interior with Yves Klein Sculpture".



Louise Bourgeois' "Spider" on display at a press preview.



A member of the media looks at Jeff Koon's "Balloon Swan (Yellow)" on display at Christie's New York. — AFP photos

Fueled by rising demand from Asia and the Gulf, it was 10 days of eye-watering extravagance that set a new world record for any work of art sold at auction — \$179.4 million for a Picasso. "Buyers in the art market have never been more diversified," explained Michael Macaulay, head of evening sales in contempo-

One Direction will return, says Tomlinson

Direction "fully intend" to reform, the British pop phenomenon's Louis Tomlinson said ahead of yesterday's final concert before their planned hiatus. The four-piece boy band, who have sold more than 50 million records worldwide, are ending their On The Road Again Tour at the Sheffield Arena in northern England.

The group are set to separate for at least a year, leaving the band's enormous global teenage following devastated. "We fully intend to come back," Tomlinson told ITV television. "We absolutely love this. We had a little sit down before and we decided that we wanted a break."

"We've had a very intense couple of years so

we're just going to have a little bit of breathing time and spend that with our families. "I don't think anyone could keep this pace up forever so I think it's the most healthy and constructive thing for all of us." The band consists of Tomlinson, 23, Niall Horan, 22, Liam Payne, 22, and Harry Styles, 21. Zayn Malik, 22, quit due to stress in March.

Horan admitted the last gig of the tour would be difficult. "We've done almost 1,000 shows or more over the last few years so to think we won't do one for over a year will be strange, so it will be a little bit emotional," he said. The group's fifth studio album, "Made In The AM" will be released on November 13 and they will make a promotional

appearance on US television four days later.

Put together for a British television singing contest in 2010, the group swiftly developed a giant, fiercely loyal following of young girls worldwide. Malik has signed a new recording deal as a solo artist. "I am leaving because I want to be a normal 22-year-old who is able to relax and have some private time out of the spotlight," he said at the time. The Sunday Times newspaper's Rich List 2015 reckoned the band members were worth £25 million (\$39 million, 35 million euros) each. — AFP



Former NWA manager sues over 'Straight Outta Compton'

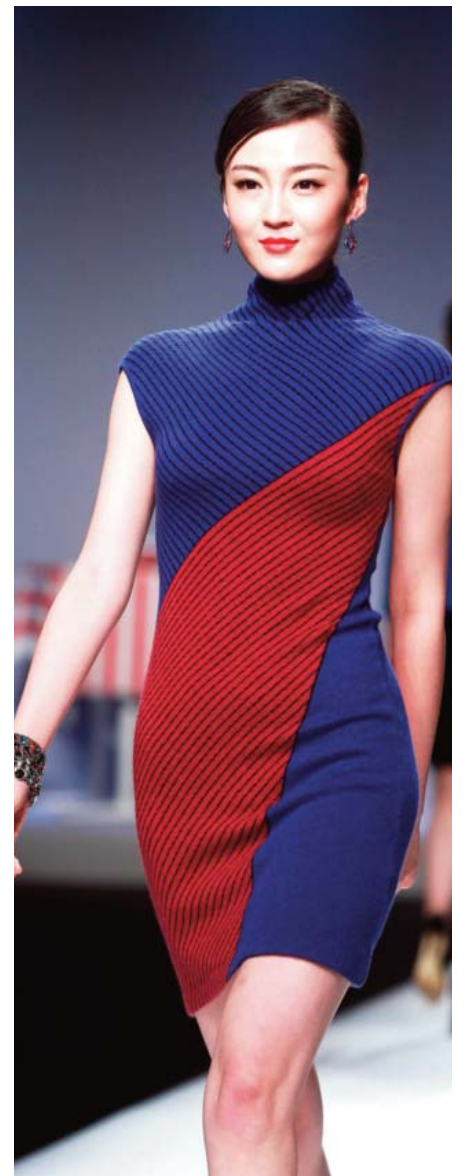
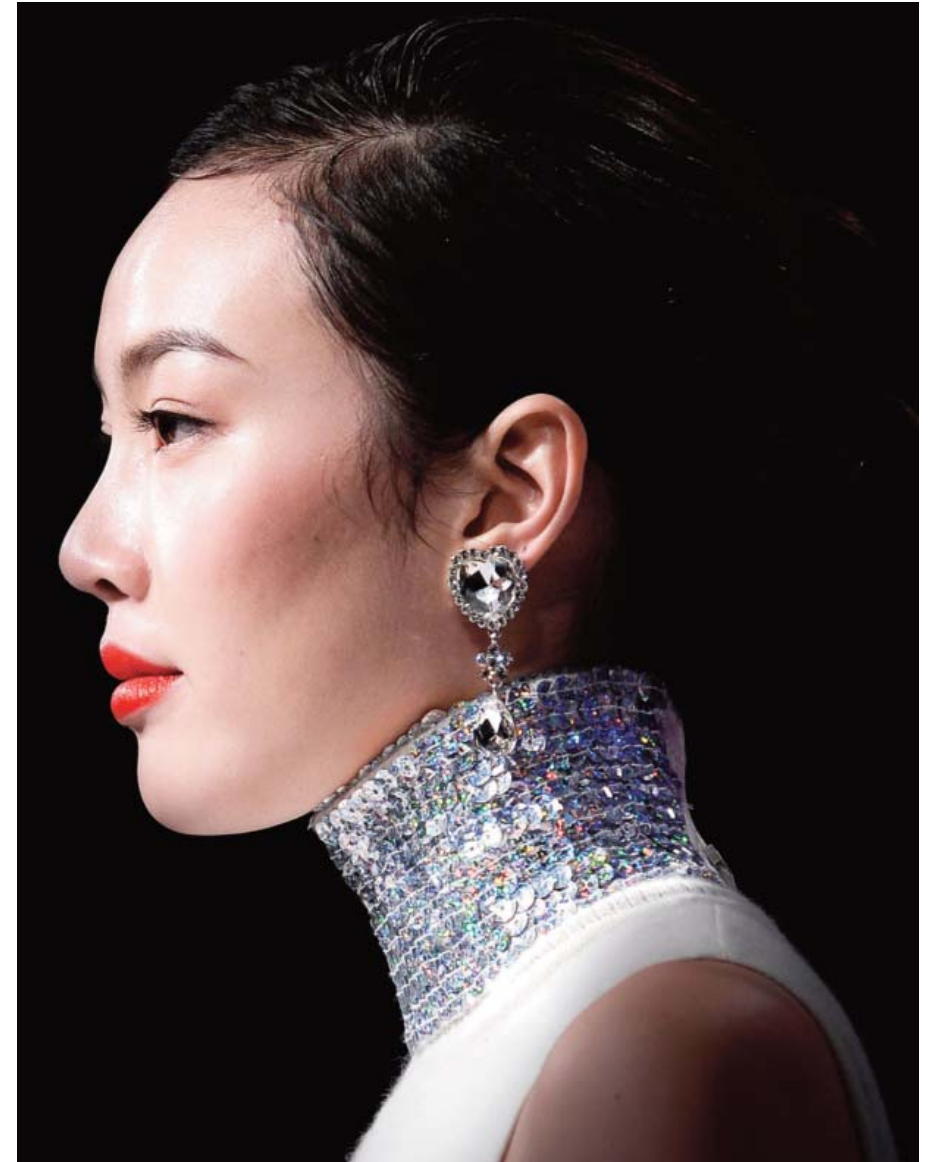
The former manager of the pioneering rap group NWA has filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit over the movie "Straight Outta Compton", claiming the summer hit portrays him as a "sleazy, dishonest thief." Jerry Heller is seeking \$110 million dollars in damages in the lawsuit filed on Friday in Los Angeles against the film's producers, the artists who were the subjects of the biopic and others connected with the film.

"Straight Outta Compton" charts the creation of the hugely successful hip-hop group NWA and its eventual demise. "Everyone who sees that movie would come away with a notion that Jerry Heller is a sleazy, dishonest thief and his behavior was the reason the group broke up," Heller's attorney Michael Shapiro told AFP. "The movie is a huge global

success and ironically, as the movie becomes more successful, the damages that befall Jerry become greater."

According to the lawsuit, Heller met rappers Eazy E, Dr Dre and Ice Cube in the late 1980s and the trio, along with other rappers, subsequently formed NWA, an abbreviation of Niggaz Wit Attitudes. Heller was the group's manager and was portrayed in the movie by actor Paul Giamatti. The group, which broke up after the release of their last album in 1991, has helped launch the careers of Ice Cube and Dr Dre and brought gangsta rap into the mainstream.— AFP

China Fashion Week



Models parade creations from Rabbit-Warm Zhuang Ganran Collection designed by Zhuang Ganran at China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP photos

Lifestyle

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In this picture taken early on October 31, 2015, people wear costumes as they take part in a Halloween parade in Tokyo. Tens of thousands of people gathered at Tokyo's Shibuya fashion district to celebrate Halloween. — AFP

Family builds **Star Wars** costume for son with cerebral palsy

A Star Wars-loving Utah family devised an elaborate and awe-inspiring solution to the challenge of finding a Halloween costume for their 5-year-old son with cerebral palsy. Chantelle and Patrick Bailey built a detailed replica of the Millennium Falcon that fits around Sebastian Bailey's walker. It is made of corrugated plastic with a wood foundation. It features blue lights in the back

and headlights in the front to match the famous spaceship. On top near Sebastian's arm is a small black apparatus with a big yellow button called a speech button. It's what Sebastian uses to communicate since he can't talk. For the costume, they've programmed it with his older brother saying, "trick or treat" interspersed with some of Han Solo's

iconic one-liners from the Star Wars movie, such as "Sure hope the old man got that tractor beam out of commission, or this is gonna be a real short trip. Ok, hit it!" Sebastian will go trick-or-treating in it dressed as Han Solo. His older brother, Holden, 8, is dressed as Luke Skywalker and their parents will go as R2-D2 and Chewbacca. But the Baileys couldn't persuade their two daughters, Eden, 9, and Ava, 3, to join the theme. Eden insisted on being a bee and Ava Spiderman.

Sawing, drawing and gluing

Chantelle Bailey said she and her husband stayed up late nearly every night for three weeks after their four children were asleep to build the spaceship. They did the sawing, drawing and gluing in the kitchen, so they could watch TV. At first, she assigned the job to her husband, but she quickly realized it would be a two-person job.

It wasn't their first foray into elaborate Halloween costume-making. Two years ago, they built the red phone booth where Clark Kent becomes Super Man to go around Sebastian's walker. Sebastian debuted his personal Millennium Falcon on Tuesday at a trunk and treat event at their church. It was a hit, with people giving Sebastian high fives and pats on the back all night, Chantelle Bailey said. He'll wear it again Saturday to go trick or treating in their neighborhood in the Salt Lake City suburb of Sandy.

"It makes it easier for other kids to approach him," she said. "He's happy. He likes to hit the button." People are already asking what they'll do next year for an encore, but Chantelle Bailey says this might be their final act. Sebastian is starting to walk a bit on his own, she said. "Maybe he won't need one next year," she said. — AP



Chantelle Bailey, and her husband Patrick pose with their children, from left, Holden, Eden, Sebastian, and Ava, 3 in their Halloween costumes.

and headlights in the front to match the famous spaceship. On top near Sebastian's arm is a small black apparatus with a big yellow button called a speech button. It's what Sebastian uses to communicate since he can't talk. For the costume, they've programmed it with his older brother saying, "trick or treat" interspersed with some of Han Solo's



In this Oct. 27, 2015, photo, provided by Chantelle Bailey, Sebastian Bailey, 5, who has cerebral palsy, stands in his Halloween costume dressed as Han Solo aboard the Millennium Falcon from the original "Star Wars" movies in Sandy, Utah. — AP photos

Kurt Geiger's Trend Alphabet for Autumn/Winter 2015

Worried about seasonal trends being too restrictive? The problem with being a blind fashion follower is ending up looking like everyone else, so Kurt Geiger unveils something different for Autumn/Winter 2015 - the Trend Alphabet. With 26 themes to live your sartorial life by this season, you won't run out of choices when it comes to styling! We've narrowed down the list to some of the most noteworthy trends to look out for this Autumn:

A - All about the Backpack

Sling the fashion world's favorite bag - the backpack - on

your shoulders this Fall. That's the easiest way to dress down like a model off-duty!

B - B series

Kurt Geiger's B series of heels, including the Berwick, are your ultimate weapon for the upcoming party season.

E - Equestrian Burgundy

It's okay to wear boots again! Give your boot closet a posh makeover with the addition of these beautiful burgundy styles with an equestrian inspiration.

H - Handbag Envy

Flaunt your style and induce serious handbag envy among onlookers with Kurt Geiger's range of must-have accessories. The fur-covered Kate is an absolute fashion indulgence!

Q - Queen of Stilettoes

Kurt Geiger is known all over the world for exquisite stilettoes - and we've come out with even more interesting designs this Autumn, like this reiteration of the popular Bond in beautiful cobalt.

R - Red

The ultra-versatile London tote gets an exotic makeover this season - croc skin in an eye-catching red hue that will have everyone ogling at your arm candy everywhere!

W - Wet Look

Dare to wear thigh-high, wet look boots in gorgeous patent leather! The Wolf boots may come at a higher cost-per-use, but you'll feel like a completely different woman every time you wear them! The AW'15 collection for women is available at the Kurt Geiger Stores located at The Avenues and 360 Mall.

