

4 arrested over
'offensive'
messages on
social media



Islamic State
'behind deadly
mustard gas
attack' in Syria



Djokovic extends
winning streak
as Federer falls
in Paris



150 Files

CHOLERA SPREADS FROM IRAQ TO SYRIA, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN

DROUGHT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT SEEN EXACERBATING SPREAD



Min 19°

Max 27°



LUXOR: Russian tourists visit the famed Karnak temple, one of Egypt's most popular heritage attractions, in the southern city of Luxor yesterday. Tempers flared and confusion gripped crowds of British tourists stranded at Sharm El-Sheikh airport as airlines scrambled to fly them home, days after a Russian plane crashed in the Sinai Peninsula. — AFP

RUSSIA SUSPENDS FLIGHTS TO EGYPT

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin ordered the suspension of all Russian passenger flights to Egypt yesterday until the cause of a deadly plane crash at the weekend was established. Putin's decision was a response to the crash of an Airbus A321 operated by a Russian carrier on Saturday over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. All 224 people on board were killed. The move, which follows decisions by Britain and others to suspend flights to and from Sharm El-Sheikh, the Egyptian resort where the downed Russian airliner originated, may be the first sign that Moscow is attaching credibility to the theory that Islamist militants somehow planted a bomb on the aircraft.

However, the Kremlin said the decision did not mean the crash was caused by a terrorist attack. The Kremlin has said it is too early to say what caused the crash and that all theories, including the possibility of technical failure, should be examined by the official investigation. Egypt has also said it is too early to conclude a blast had brought down the plane. Putin acted after Alexander Bortnikov, the head of Russia's FSB security service, recommended that Russia suspend all passenger flights to Egypt until it knew exactly what caused the crash. "The head of state agreed with these recommendations," Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

He said the government would find a way to bring Russians back home and would open talks with Egyptian authorities to guarantee flight safety. A Sinai-based group affiliated with Islamic State, the militants who have seized swathes of Iraq and

Syria, has claimed responsibility for the crash, which, if confirmed, would make it the jihadist organization's first attack on civil aviation. Britain has said a bomb planted by an Islamic State affiliate may have caused the jet to crash and also suspended regular flights to Sharm amid concerns over airport security. Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands also suspended flights to the resort.

Egypt is one of the most popular holiday destinations for Russians and any decision to suspend flights would cause major logistical problems for Russia's airlines and tourists. Tourist agency Tez Tour, which estimates it sells about 15 percent of trips to Egypt from Russia, said 10,000 of its Russian clients were in Egypt. "How are they (the authorities) going to bring people back? If people are at a resort and they come to them to say a plane was sent to take you back, they would say: no, we want to be on holiday for two more weeks, we're not going anywhere. An evacuation order would be needed," said Vladimir Kaganer, general director of Tez Tour.

British attempts to bring home thousands of stranded tourists were thrown into chaos yesterday when Egypt reduced the number of flights it would allow to take them home. Egypt's Minister of Civil Aviation, Hossam Kamal, said the operation to bring large numbers of British holidaymakers from their hotels to the airport and then put them on flights without their luggage was "a huge burden on the airport because its capacity does not allow for that". — Reuters

ERBIL: A cholera outbreak in Iraq has spread to neighboring Syria, Kuwait and Bahrain, and risks turning into a region-wide epidemic as millions of pilgrims prepare to visit the country, UNICEF's Iraq director said. The disease, which can lead to death by dehydration and kidney failure within hours if left untreated, was detected west of Baghdad in September and has since infected at least 2,200 people in Iraq and has killed six. "It (the outbreak) already has a regional dynamic and the risk of that can only be increased by people from all over the region coming into Iraq," UNICEF country director, Peter Hawkins, said on Thursday. "Kuwait, Bahrain and Syria have already had confirmed cases."

Millions of Shiite Muslims are due to visit Iraq in December for Arbadeen, a religious ritual marking the end of an annual mourning period for the Prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussein, whose death in 680 AD entrenched the schism between Shiites and Sunnis. Hawkins said UNICEF was working with clerics in the Shiite shrine cities of Najaf and Kerbala to convey information about how to guard against cholera, which is endemic in Iraq and the wider region.

The outbreak can be traced to a number of factors including low water levels in the Euphrates and winter flooding that has contaminated the river and shallow wells with sewage water. The war against Islamic State militants who control large swathes of territory in northern and western Iraq has also contributed to the outbreak. The conflict has displaced more than 3 million people, with many living in camps where conditions are conducive to the spread of cholera - a bite of contaminated food or a sip of contaminated water is enough to cause infection.

Hawkins said UNICEF has only limited access to areas controlled by Islamic State, which swept across the Syrian border in mid-2014 in a bid to establish a modern caliphate. Higher military expenditure and other costs associated with the battle against Islamist militancy has aggravated a cash crunch for Iraq, a major OPEC oil producer that has suffered from the drop in global crude prices over the past year. A higher proportion of the government budget is also being spent on security at the expense of other services and infrastructure such as water supply, Hawkins said.

One in five of the confirmed cases in Iraq is among children, and in large parts of the country the start of the school year was delayed by a month as a precaution, UNICEF said in a statement. In response to the outbreak, UNICEF is providing bottled water, oral rehydration salts and installing community water tanks, but like most humanitarian operations in Iraq it is severely underfunded.



Dr Majidah Al-Qattan

Continued on Page 13

Sixth Ring Road to be closed

KUWAIT: Traffic Department said the Sixth Ring Road will be closed for four days, with its intersection (Road 602). The closure will start on Sunday on Jahra exit route and - on Tuesday and Wednesday - on Messila route. The closure will be from 12 midnight until 5 am.

HALF CENTURY PASSES WITH KUWAIT FILM INDUSTRY STILL STRUGGLING

KUWAIT: Despite the advent of the 50th anniversary of Kuwait Television's (KTV) first short feature (the storm), the country's film industry is still struggling to be relevant in the world of cinema today. Produced in 1965, the storm-a 27-minute black and white feature-was the first cinematic venture by renowned media figure and director Mohammad Al-Sanousi who had actors Abdulhussein Abdulredah, Khaled Al-Nafisi and Johar Salem star in the film. The feature, written by Abdulamir Al-Turki, told the story of Kuwait, pre-oil discovery and through its ongoing development back then.

The film focused on the old and new generations of Kuwaitis and their conflicting ideals on whether to preserve tradition or embrace the modern era. Since then, the Kuwaiti film industry continued to struggle with producing movies and feature films with many being made through individualistic efforts and self-financing. Speaking to KUNA on the subject, film director Walid Al-Awadi said that the lack of a basic structure for a film industry made it very hard for inspired Kuwaitis to make their own features.

The director, behind the 2011 feature Tora Bora, also attributed the difficulties to a number of issues connected with private and public funding.

Al-Awadi said that doing features for television was less expensive than making a film which required the availability of high-tech equipment, locations and talented crew. In other GCC countries like the UAE and Qatar, there are authorities that back up and support their film industries, said the Kuwaiti director, stressing that Kuwait needed similar steps and infrastructures.

Al-Awadi welcomed the state's involvement in the process, noting that this could happen through Kuwait's National Fund for Supporting and Developing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

On his part, documentaries director Abdullah Al-Mkhyal said that his genre of film also suffered from similar struggles, noting that the production of television documentaries was less expensive documentary films.

He called on governments and production companies to get involved in making documentaries which mostly focus on delivering valuable information through research and study. Meanwhile, in his book (Culture in Kuwait: since the beginning till modern days .. a scientific study) Dr Mohammad Yousef Najem featured director Khaled Al-Siddiq who claimed that films had been produced since the 1940s, noting that that Mohammad Qabazar documented that era the exploration of oil in Ahmadi with his film (Kuwait between the past and today).

Al-Siddiq, better known for his 106-minutes film the Cruel Sea (Bas Ya Bahar) in 1972, said that, despite not being a film, documents such as (the Sons of Sinbad), a book by renowned Australian sailor and photographer Alan Villiers, had inspired generations of Kuwaiti directors to make their own films.

The Kuwaiti director called on public institutions to fund long feature films, affirming that once a base for an industry was established, private companies could join to take the industry to the next level. Though the struggle continues for Kuwait cinema, it seems ironic that most features focused on old Kuwait which hopefully would not become a hindrance for Kuwaiti directors' aspirations for a true film industry. — KUNA

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Photo shows The Avenues - the number-one lucrative shopping mall in Kuwait. Since it was first opened in 2007, The Avenues has continuously developed and enhanced the shopping experience in Kuwait to outstanding levels. The Avenues has set new benchmarks and standards throughout the industry. It is considered to be one of the largest malls in the world with more than 800 stores spread over the 7 districts. — KUNA

KUWAIT SUPPORTS UN MEASURES TO PREVENT POLLUTION DURING WARS

NEW YORK: In commemoration of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflicts, Kuwait called on all warring parties, all over the world, to cease and desist from exploiting the environment in their wars. On this occasion, the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the UN said in a press release that Kuwait knew first hand how the damage to the environment impairs the ecosystems and natural resources long beyond the period of conflict and beyond the national territories, especially that it "has suffered as a country from a major environmental disaster at hands of the former Iraqi regime."

The mission said "sadly, as we look all

around us, we see wars and armed conflicts still raging in our region." In Iraq, Syria and Sudan, the mission added in its press release, the frequent attacks at infrastructure objects that pollute water resources, destroy crops, poison the soil and kill animals, all to gain military advantage, without any consideration to their impact on future generations. Therefore, the Kuwait mission represented by Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, joined the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's call to "use all the tools at our disposal, from dialogue and mediation to preventive diplomacy, to keep the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources from fueling and financing armed conflict and destabilizing the fragile foundations of

peace." The diplomatic representation then recalled goal (13) of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals which calls for taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, as well as goal (14) to conserve the oceans, seas and marine resources, in addition to goal (15) which calls for the protection and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and to emphasize the importance of every action taken in order to protect the planet, at all levels. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (56/4) in 2001 that was a Kuwaiti initiative, and declared November sixth of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and armed Conflicts. — KUNA

News

In brief

Partly cloudy weather
with scattered rain

KUWAIT: Partly cloudy weather has returned to the country and it will get cloudy at evening that might be accompanied by scattered rains that might turn thundery at times, Acting Director of Kuwait Meteorological Center Sami Al-Othman announced yesterday. Wind will be south easterly, with speed of 15-40 km/h. Seas will be moderate to rough at times with waves at 3-6 feet.



Acting Director of Kuwait Meteorological Center Sami Al-Othman



Participants in sports cars contest in free-style tourney.

Racer Al-Azmi wins
free-style tourney

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti racer Moammad Al-Azmi came first in the sport cars' race category and his fellow citizen Nasser Al-Mutairi was crowned the champion in the four-wheel contest in the free-style tournament that got started at dawn yesterday. Ayyaf Al-Fadhli came second and Jarrah Al-Mershad third in the regular auto race. Melhem Al-Ajmi and Saud Al-Mansour came third in the four-wheel category of the championship, organized by Bassel Salem Al-Sabah Club and sponsored by the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS). Up to 40 contestants were involved in the race.



KRCS continues relief operations to displaced Yemenis in Somalia.

KRCS provides humanitarian
relief to displaced Yemenis

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced yesterday it was continuing the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni refugees in the state of Puntland in Somalia in coordination with the Somali authorities. Head of the the KRCS' mission Abdulrahman Al-Oun said in a press statement that the KRCS' efforts would keep flowing for the relief of Yemeni refugees in Somalia as well as to help Somalis displaced from Yemen as a result of the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in that country. Al-Oun added that the aid relief efforts carried out by the Kuwaiti field team in Somalia have reached many remote areas, including a large number of regions and cities. He recalled the many initiatives undertaken by Kuwait on the Somali arena since the team's arrival till now, calling on the organizations concerned to undertake humanitarian initiatives for easing the suffering of Yemeni refugees in Somalia. He said nearly 7,000 food baskets have been distributed in remote regions across Somalia.

INTERNATIONAL INVENTION FAIR
TO ATTRACT OVER 160 INVENTORS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: More than 160 inventors from 30 countries will be participating in the 8th International Invention Fair in the Middle East that is scheduled to be held in Kuwait from November 16 - 19, 2015 at the Kuwait Science Club (KSC). This was announced during the press conference held on Wednesday. Out of the 160 inventors, 20 are from Kuwait. The number of inventors and the countries participating in this Fair increased this year.

"For the first time we have participants from six continents participating in the Invention Fair. In the past, we were paying for the inventors to participate, and since the last two years, the inventors are paying to participate. This Fair has become the second biggest fair for inventions in the world after the Geneva Fair, and the biggest in the region," said Ahmad Al-Manfouhi, Chairman of KSC. "This is the first year the inventions will be manufactured - and ready for sell and display. For the first time, all displayed inventions will

be new, and there will be duplicated inventions. Furthermore, all inventors will have their inventions registered - with patent rights," he added.

One of the main goals of this Fair is to market the inventions that were displayed in this Fair. "Through this Fair, we aim to support and help the inventors to sell their inventions and make people benefit from them. For this reason we have invited many people to attend and meet the inventors to see the inventions and get live demonstration. The Fair will also include various symposiums and lectures," Al-Manfouhi explained.

More prizes will be given for the winners this year. "The KSC will present 15 thousand dollars; the Organizing Committee - 10 thousand dollars; GCC Patents Office Prize of Saudi Riyal - 50 thousand dollars; Geneva Fair Prize - \$5000; prize of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) - \$5000; Gulf Inventors Prize - \$1000 and four prizes presented by the World Intellectual Property Organization," stated

Dr Khalid Al-Fadhel, Head of the Science Committee. The Judging Committee was formed from international experts. "The prizes will go to the winners of gold medals with honor. After that, the inventors will be divided into categories. There will be gold, silver, and bronze medals. World Intellectual Property Organization will give a prize for the youngest inventor; best male and best female inventors and for best invention," he said.

Al-Manfouhi thanked HH the Amir for his support. "This Fair is held under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been supporting this fair since it started. I also appreciate the hard work of the young volunteers who are working with us. I would like to thank the sponsors - especially our main partner KFAS, sponsors Zain, Amerikana, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamic Development Bank, Awqaf Secretary General, Kuwait Cable and Elec Ind and both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information," he concluded.

RUSSIAN POLITICAL, SOCIAL CIRCLES
GREATLY INTERESTED IN AMIR VISIT

MOSCOW: Russian political and social circles are greatly interested in His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to Russia, due to start November 10th, hoping that it would give a major push to bilateral ties, a veteran Russian diplomat has said. "Political and social circles in Russia are paying special attention to the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," head of Russian society for friendship and cultural and economic cooperation with Kuwait Oleg Peresyepkin said. He

expressed hope that the visit would help further economic, investment and commercial relations between the two friendly countries. Peresyepkin, also deputy chairman of Russian Diplomats Association, pointed out that this is the first state visit of His Highness the Amir to Russia since he assumed the top leadership post 2006. The Russian-Kuwait relations, based on mutual respect and equality, have been steadily growing and developing in the past decades, he said.

He noted that His Highness the Amir

would hold extensive talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and several ministers and senior officials. Peresyepkin expected that a number of agreements would be signed during the visit to beef up bilateral cooperation in various domains. He applauded the great achievements of the State of Kuwait in its march for economic and social development. Peresyepkin called for developing scientific, cultural and tourism cooperation between two friendly countries.— KUNA

KUWAIT CALLS FOR ERADICATING 'SEEDS OF WAR AND VIOLENCE'

PARIS: Kuwait has called for eradicating "seeds of war and violence" through consolidating the concept of "peace education" and enhancing a culture of peace to maintain "Man's values and dignity" and safeguard children against the repercussions of armed conflicts. The call was voiced by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Hamad Al-Essa



Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Hamad Al-Essa

yesterday in an address to the UNESCO 38th Session of the General Conference in Paris, 3-18 November.

Leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the event, Al-Essa reiterated support to the UNESCO to fulfill its global role for serving humanity. Peace education is the process of acquiring the values and the knowledge and developing the attitudes, skills, and behaviors to live in harmony with oneself, with others, and with the natural environment.

Minister Al-Essa said that Kuwait appreciated the organization's efforts in a world being swept by disasters, crises, wars and extremism, where children are the major victims and the most exposed to psychological and physical impact. The entire society is exposed to danger owing to wars and disputes, but in fact, women are the first prey of marginalization, poverty and suffering resulting from armed conflicts, the minister said, noting that violence, or just threatening to use it, is the chief obstacle impeding the realization of "full equality for women." Al-Essa said that Kuwait had donated USD five million to support UNESCO educational initiatives, out of eagerness on disseminating such human values and principles. In addition, Kuwait will host a donor conference for supporting education in Somalia, an initial step to be later applied to other countries in the region, in cooperation with the Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the minister said.

In the meantime, the minister voiced appreciation to the UNESCO initiative "the Global Coalition, Unite for Heritage." The initiative was launched in response to the continuous threats to human cultural heritage, especially in the Middle East, cradle of Man's ancient civilizations. "The ceaseless destruction of our heritage due to attacks by terrorist groups that took of our cultural heritage sites strongholds, must urge us to call for boosting the Global Coalition, through launching a UN initiative, 2015-2024, with the chief aim of preserving human heritage for future generations," he said.

"Today, we are facing waves of violent extremism of all forms, religious, ethical and political, which urges us all to unite our efforts to face it through dialogue and spreading the culture of peace in our communities and among them," he added. Meanwhile, Al-Essa said that the fact that no unified world policy has been concluded to counter climate change constitutes a challenge for developing countries, especially the poorest. — KUNA



Ambassador to South Korea Jassem Mohammad Al-Bedaiwi speaking during the seminar.

SOUTH KOREA'S INVESTMENTS IN KUWAIT WORTH \$70 BILLION

GULF STATES URGED TO DIVERSIFY ECONOMY

SEOUL: South Korean companies have won investment and business deals with Kuwait for the next two years, worth up to \$70 billion, the State of Kuwait Ambassador to South Korea Jassem Mohammad Al-Bedaiwi has announced. Ambassador Al-Bedaiwi also disclosed that the South Koreans had won investment contracts, valued at approximately \$40 billion for 2016 and \$30 billion for 2017, thus Seoul's businesses in the country would amount to \$70 billion for the next two years. The Kuwaiti diplomat made the disclosures at a seminar, hosted by Bankyu city, located in Gyeonggi province, addressing current economic conditions in Kuwait, namely the environment for external investments.

South Korea is a key partner in Kuwait's development process, Ambassador Al-Bedaiwi affirmed, noting that the South Koreans' contribu-

tions have been envisaged in the State economic outlook till 2035. "This outlook has begun to materialize with the transformation of Kuwait into an international financial-commercial hub," said the ambassador, who also held conversations with attendees, namely experts and academics. The seminar was organized by a local agency specialized in video games, cartoons, digital programs, publications and movie-making.

Diversify economy

Meanwhile, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Abdul-Latif Al-Zayani has advised GCC member states to diversify national economies and boost non-oil exports to avoid the negative impacts of oil prices fluctuation. Addressing the 41st meeting of GCC industrial committee, Al-Zayani called for regular evaluation of Gulf countries experiences in attract-

ing foreign direct investments in particular to the industrial sector.

He underlined the need for creating congenial environment for investments, encouraging entrepreneurs' initiatives and benefiting from output of GCC infrastructure projects like electricity linkage and joint railway. He noted that GCC countries have adopted plans and programs that helped develop several industries in a record time. On his part, Qatar's Minister of Energy and Industry Mohammad Saleh, the session's head, said that GCC countries pay much attention and support to industrial development efforts. He indicated that efforts exerted by GCC led to a tangible increase in factories and investments as the GCC governments believe that the industrial sector has a pivotal role in their economies and diversification of their income sources. — Agencies

KUWAIT PRAISES HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN OMAN

GENEVA: Kuwait, addressing the UN Human Rights Council, has praised the Sultanate of Oman for bolstering and safeguarding these rights. Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghnaim, in his statement at a session late on Thursday, said the Sultanate has sought to honor its obligations on protecting and boosting the human rights, since examination of the first comprehensive report, regarding these rights in the Sultanate, in 2011. It has made strides since then, he added. The State in the Sultanate cooperates with official and non-official authorities and NGOs, Ambassador

Al-Ghnaim said, noting Muscat's endorsement of most international human rights treaties, in addition to making its national legislations and the constitution compatible with international human rights treaties. He singled out in this respect issuance of the military judicial law, regulation of the judiciary, enactment of the child law, joining the international anti-terrorism convention as well as empowering legislative assemblies to play their supervisory roles. Ambassador Al-Ghnaim lauded transparency of the recently-held polls for membership in the Omani Shura Council. — KUNA



Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghnaim

GULF SECURITY NEEDS SEEN DISPLACING JET ORDERS

DUBAI AIRSHOW TO BE DOMINATED BY ARMS MANUFACTURERS

DUBAI: After sizzling with record jetliner purchases from Gulf airlines in recent years, next week's Dubai Airshow will be dominated by the presence of arms manufacturers as Gulf states weigh their security needs in a region increasingly on edge. The Middle East's top aviation event won't be devoid of the commercial swagger which dominated past shows, but regional conflict, low oil prices and a trade dispute with US airlines mean the Nov 8-12 event is likely to be a more low-key affair. "The focus will be on military for the reason that the security environment in the region is deteriorating further," said Mustafa Alani, director of defense & security at the Gulf Research Centre (GRC), a thinktank.

Security in the Gulf and wider Middle East is at its most uncertain in years, with the region's conflicts sending hundreds of thousands of homeless into Europe and Islamic State expanding its anti-Shiite sectarian campaign of bombings

from Iraq and Syria into the Gulf Arab states, Yemen, Libya and Egypt.

The region is the largest market driver in the industry with billions of dollars spent annually on military equipment. The fighting in Syria and Yemen may bolster demand for defense hardware, though few deals will be signed at the show itself.

A recent deal between Iran and world powers over the country's nuclear activities has rattled states on the other side of the Gulf, while last week's Russian airliner crash in Egypt has increased the focus on security concerns. "This will mostly be a military show," said Richard Aboulafia, vice president of analysis at Virginia-based Teal Group, adding the focus would be on the UAE's fighter needs with a heavy Rafale and Eurofighter presence. The UAE has been in on-off talks for 60 fighters with France's Dassault Aviation for Rafales and Britain's BAE Systems for Eurofighter Typhoons.

Drone display

Regional arms buyers are also looking for surveillance and patrol aircraft since militaries in the region are relatively under-equipped, relative to their requirement, Aboulafia said.

"Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or UAVs could be part of that solution too. So expect a heavy presence from people promoting these," Aboulafia added. In a first for any international show, according to organizers, UAVs-more commonly known as drones-will be taking part in the flying display.

Key exhibitors include Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing and Dassault with new exhibitors including Oshkosh of the US and Turkey's Roketsan, maker of rockets and missiles including air defense systems.

The value of air power is not diminishing in the region as evidenced in Syria and Yemen and so investments will be in that direction-fighters, helicopters, air

transporters, drones, air refueling, reconnaissance etc, said GRC's Alani. Over 1,100 exhibitors are participating at the biennial show, which will see 160-plus aircraft on display including Canada's CSeries jetliner, looking for a much-needed sales boost as its manufacturer Bombardier addresses cash woes.

The Gulf's three big carriers announced orders with Boeing and Airbus for over 400 jets at the last Dubai Air Show in 2013. But the expansion plans of Dubai's Emirates, Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways could slow as low oil prices curtail investments and trade, according to some analysts. Boeing has played down expectations of large new orders, but there might be some big announcements. "Never say never; there might be some surprises. You have one of the fastest-growing airlines in the world here," an Abu Dhabi government source said, declining to be more specific. — Reuters



4 ARRESTED OVER 'OFFENSIVE' MESSAGES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Relations and Security Information Department said in a statement yesterday that four Egyptians were arrested including a woman for misusing their social media accounts. The suspects are accused of using insulting words against the State of Kuwait, its institutions and citizens. They also published offensive messages - urging the Egyptian community in Kuwait to demonstrate in front of the Egyptian Embassy and preaching hatred, following the fight inside and outside a mall in Hawally. The suspects are; Waleed Mahmoud Ahmad Al-Suwaisi, who works at the Interior Ministry, Yasser Abdelaziz who works as a teacher of Holy Quran at Awqaf Ministry, Mustafa Mahmoud Mahfoudh, a supervisor in a roaming taxi company and Muna Mahmoud Ali Shahata a cleaner lady at a nursery. The four have been sent to concerned authorities.

Military tank flips over

A military tank flipped over on the road. No injuries were reported. In another development, one person was killed when he was run over on Abdelnasser Road in Shuwaikh area.

EMIRATES DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY PICKS LEON AS DIRECTOR GENERAL

ABU DHABI: Emirates Diplomatic Academy, yesterday announced the appointment of Bernardino Leon as the first Director General of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy (EDA), the UAE's leading centre of excellence in diplomatic studies. Leon will take up his position in December, 2015. A career diplomat with rich international experience spanning more than 25 years, Leon's most recent role was as the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to Libya, a position he has held for the past year.

HH Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of EDA, said: "The Emirates Diplomatic Academy serves the important role of providing world-class training, research and intellectual leadership for our future diplomats. The deep experience and understanding of global geo-politics that Leon brings to EDA will be a rich resource for our new generation of diplomats. "The UAE's diplomatic corps are the pillars of our international engagement, upholding our interests and promoting our leadership's vision at global platforms. Developing the next generation of Emirati diplomatic talents is central to supporting our foreign policy objectives and in ensuring that our nation's voice is heard as we pursue our outlook of promoting regional peace and stability."

Understanding global politics

A Spanish national, Leon has a deep understanding of global politics, diplomacy and foreign affairs. He has worked extensively in the Middle East, playing a major role in the European Union team that followed up and supported the Taba talks as well as the Hebron, Wye River, Camp David and Shepherdstown Accords. He was actively involved in the Geneva Agreement, and has served in Spanish Diplomatic Services at the recently created European External Action Service in the United Nations and other international centers. He has worked widely in political and economic affairs, especially as a G20 Sherpa, and has contributed significantly to cultural diplomacy.

As Director General, Leon will work with EDA's Board of Trustees to establish the strategic direction of the Academy as a glob-



Bernardino Leon, the new Director General of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy.

al thought leader in diplomatic studies. He will lead the international faculty of experts at EDA in ensuring the highest standards in diplomatic education and competency to create the new generation of Emirati diplomats that the Academy nurtures. The appointment will also help enhance EDA's status as an elite diplomatic institution that provides vital policy direction and insights on contemporary regional and global issues.

Speaking about his new role, Leon said: "I am delighted to take up this new position and look forward to engaging with the young Emirati nationals and working with the seasoned faculty, training and research teams to establish EDA as a referral point in diplomatic studies. EDA is truly a path-breaking initiative by the UAE Government to nurture the next generation of diplomatic and foreign relations professionals. It's unique world-class academic and research platform is built on course offerings and research themes that match the UAE's growing prominence in regional and international affairs."

Dedicated talent pool

Emphasizing EDA's crucial role in developing the country's future diplomatic corps and foreign policy thought leadership, Leon said: "The Academy shapes a dedicated tal-

ent pool of young professionals who can enter diplomatic careers with an insightful world view of politics and foreign affairs. Such a forward-looking training initiative will further enable the UAE to achieve even more significant successes in its international relations." During his distinguished diplomatic career, Leon has been in active engagement with governments and diverse stakeholders in Europe, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Tunisia, among others. His sphere of influence has covered economic diplomacy, intercultural dialogue, security, energy and migration.

Leon conducted crucial negotiations in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia promoting Arab values and underpinning the need for tolerance and cultural understanding. His abiding respect for Arab values and fostering intercultural dialogue was instrumental in the launch of the Vienna Centre for Dialogue between Religions and the foundation of Three Cultures, a Moroccan-Spanish Centre. Leon holds a diploma in International Relations from the University of Barcelona and a Degree in Law from the University of Malaga, Spain. He is the author and translator of several books, lectures at universities around the world and has won over 20 international awards for his diplomacy work.



IT'S HERE Quaker Pasta With Oat



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International

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

**In Iraq, a unique school
brings children together**

9

**Aid workers shy away as
Afghan violence surges**

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**Painfully slow rebuild
post Philippine typhoon**

13



SINAI: Tourists wait in the departure hall to be evacuated from Sharm el-Sheikh airport. — AP

STRANDED TOURISTS ANXIOUS TO LEAVE RESORT 'WORKING WITH UK GOVT AT HIGHEST LEVEL FOR SOLUTION'

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Hundreds of British tourists stranded in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh waited anxiously yesterday for flights home as budget carrier easyJet said the Egyptian government had disrupted some of its flights out of Sinai, the site of a Russian jetliner crash.

Tensions were high and an irate British tourist, who had waited at the airport since early morning hours, harangued UK Ambassador John Casson with angry shouts of: "When are we going home?" Britain had grounded all flights to and from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Wednesday, saying there was a "significant possibility" the Russian airliner that crashed last Saturday, killing 224 people, was downed by a bomb.

The Metrojet's Airbus A321-200 crashed 23 minutes after takeoff from Sharm el-Sheikh en route to St. Petersburg, with mostly Russian tourists aboard. UK authorities had approved the flights back, starting yesterday, though passengers were only allowed to take carry-on bags with them. EasyJet had been due to operate 10 flights from the Red Sea resort but said eight would not be able to fly because Egypt had suspended them. "We are working with the UK government at the highest level on a solution," easyJet said in a statement.

Two other carriers, Monarch and British Airways, said they still planned to operate flights back from Sinai yesterday. Egypt's civil aviation minister, Hossam Kamal, said there would be eight flights in all to the UK yesterday, instead of the 29 planned earlier. He said the British airlines are flying without passengers' luggage, while Sharm el-Sheikh airport's storage can hold no more than 120 tons of luggage left behind.

"This big volume will affect the smooth operation of the rest of the domestic and international flights," said Kamal,

adding that a cargo plane would carry bags separately for each flight. The development is likely to hinder Britain's attempts to smoothly bring back the estimated 20,000 UK nationals in Sharm el-Sheikh. Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said earlier yesterday that "most of the people who were expecting to be home by tonight will be home by tonight."

On the ground in Sharm el-Sheikh, employee Mohammed Abdel Fattah who works as a handling agent for easyJet, said two of the budget airline's flights to the UK have been checked in. He told the rest of EasyJet passengers to return to their hotels, "until there are new updates." "Why all of a sudden is everything on hold," asked one of the stranded British tourists, Carla Dublin. "We don't know what's going on."

Casson, the ambassador, tried to reassure the tourists, saying that British authorities will "continue to work until we have everybody home." "There are challenging, difficult issues to work through, this is a busy airport and we need to make sure people leave in a way that is safe," he said. Early in the morning, the Egyptians carried out expanded security checks as dozens of busses, ferrying British and Russian tourists, waited outside the airport, the line stretching up to a kilometer (half mile) as police inspected each vehicle.

Russia and Egypt have dismissed Western suggestions that a bomb may have caused the crash last Saturday, saying the speculation was a rush to judgment and insisting the investigation must run its course. The United States and British leaders have stopped short of a categorical assignment of blame in the crash, but Prime Minister David Cameron said Thursday it was "more likely than not" that the cause was a bomb.

The crash prompted companies to ground flights from and to the Red Sea resort, stranding thousands of tourists this week. Britain later said additional security measures would be in place, including only allowing passengers to carry hand baggage, while checked luggage will be transported separately. The carry-on measure applies only to those departing from Sharm el-Sheikh, British officials said.

Inside the crowded airport, British tourists said they were just anxious to get home. "We were in the first flights that were cancelled Wednesday night, we were already queuing to board," said Amy Johnson, a 27-year-old British administrative assistant hoping to catch one of easyJet flights out. Standing in a crush of people waiting to pass through security, Terrance Mathurian, a British builder vacationing with his family, said hotel staff told them in the morning to head to the airport, following conflicting information. The British Department for Transport said travelers should not leave for the Sharm el-Sheikh airport unless they have a confirmed flight and asked for "people's patience at this difficult time."

'Out of precaution'

Meanwhile, Dutch carrier KLM announced it instructed its passengers leaving from the Egyptian capital of Cairo that they can only take hand luggage on the plane departing yesterday. A statement on KLM's website says the measure is "based on national and international information and out of precaution." KLM, which has no direct flights to Sharm el-Sheikh, did not elaborate on the unusual measure. Nothing has been revealed so far from the ongoing investigation into the plane crash. — AP

OBAMA: BOMB MIGHT HAVE CAUSED EGYPT PLANE CRASH

SHARM EL SHEIKH: US President Barack Obama and Britain's prime minister both believe a bomb may have downed a Russian plane in Egypt, with reports yesterday suggesting their theory was based on intercepted communications.

With concerns over security mounting, European airlines readied to bring home thousands of tourists from the Sinai peninsula resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, from where the crashed Russian plane took off last Saturday. But there were angry scenes at the airport as thousands of anxious Britons who had hoped to fly home were sent back to their hotels after Egypt blocked additional repatriation flights.

A first flight took off for London's Gatwick airport after a long delay. In a sign of mounting fears about the security of baggage handling in Egypt, Dutch carrier KLM announced that it had banned check-in luggage on an early flight from Cairo, mirroring moves taken by several European airlines on Sharm flights. The Islamic State (IS) jihadist group has claimed responsibility for the disaster, in which the Saint Petersburg-bound jet crashed minutes after taking off, killing all 224 mainly Russian tourists on board.

Cairo and Moscow have sought to downplay the suggestion of an attack. But Obama told a US radio station: "I think there is a possibility that there was a bomb on board and we are taking that very seriously," while emphasizing it was too early to say for sure. In London, where Prime Minister David Cameron hosted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Thursday, the British premier told reporters it was "more likely than not that it was a terrorist bomb" that caused the crash.

'No evidence'

And The Times newspaper reported yesterday that electronic communications intercepted by British and US spies suggested a bomb may have been carried onto the plane. A joint intelligence operation used satellites to uncover the chatter between militants in Sinai and Syria, it said. "The tone and content of the messages convinced analysts that a bomb had been carried on board by a passenger or a member of the airport ground staff," the newspaper reported, without giving a source.

The BBC's security correspondent Frank Gardner said Britain's security services suspect someone with access to the plane's baggage compartment inserted an explosive device shortly before the plane departed. But Egypt's civil aviation minister Hossam Kamal said there was "as yet no evidence or data confirming the theory" of an attack. And the Kremlin said Britain had not shared the intelligence on which its bomb suspicions were based.

"We don't know what data our British colleagues are basing themselves on," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. Sisi sought to use his trip to London to allay fears over the safety of tourists in Egypt after several nations suspended flights to and from Sharm el-Sheikh-leaving holidaymakers stranded while officials assessed security at the airport.

There is no global or European blanket ban and some flights, including all Russian ones, have continued from the airport. But France and Belgium have warned citizens against travelling to Sharm el-Sheikh and Britain has advised against all but essential travel by air to or from the resort.



AL-HOL: A fighter from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which includes Kurds, Arabs and Syriac Christians, monitors the countryside of the northeastern town in the Syrian Hasakeh province. — AFP

IS ACCUSED OF MUSTARD GAS ATTACK, REBELS PUSH BACK REGIME IN SYRIA REVERSING GAINS OF MONTH-LONG OFFENSIVES

BEIRUT: Activists accused the Islamic State (IS) group yesterday of being behind a deadly gas attack in northern Syria this past summer, which the global chemical weapons watchdog said was mustard gas. Meanwhile, Islamist rebels wrested back a flashpoint town in the central province of Hama, reversing the last of gains the army had made in a month-old offensive.

Mustard gas was used in the town of Marea in Aleppo province on August 21, a source from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said. "We have determined the facts, but we have not determined who was responsible," the source said. But activists and a monitoring group said it was clear that IS was behind the attack.

Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group, said "IS used toxic gases during its attack on Marea in August." He said IS had likely gotten the gas through Turkey or Iraq. Journalist Maamun Al-Khatib, who was in Marea at the time, said: "We knew it was IS because all the shells were being fired east of Marea, and that area is totally under the control of IS."

IS has attacked Marea for months in an effort to cut off a supply route into the country from Turkey. For activist Nizar Al-Khatib,

OPCW's report "comes too late and isn't enough, because it doesn't identify IS as the one responsible for firing the mustard gas."

Rebels roll back

Doctors Without Borders (MSF), which operated a nearby field clinic, treated four members of a single family for "symptoms of exposure to chemical agents." The Marea residents told MSF they saw a "yellow gas" when a mortar round hit their house.

An MSF spokesman said yesterday that the Paris-based group did not have enough evidence to finger IS. After a chemical attack that killed hundreds in the Eastern Ghouta region east of Damascus in August 2013, Syria agreed to declare and hand over its chemical weapons in a deal overseen by OPCW. Meanwhile, Islamist fighters including Ahrar Al-Sham seized a town in Hama province, rolling back a series of recent gains by the beleaguered armed forces of Damascus.

Ahrar Al-Sham and allied rebels overran Atshan and nearby villages in the morning and, despite Russian air support, the army was unable to push them back, the Observatory said. Russian warplanes had been key to the army's gains in the offensive it launched in Hama on October 7, one of several ground assaults across Syria backed by

Moscow. The government captured Atshan on October 10, but withdrew from it and nearby towns, including Umm Al-Haratayn, yesterday. "Regime forces lost control of the last remaining towns it had seized since the beginning of its ground operations in the northern parts of Hama province," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

TOWS against tanks

The setback comes a day after the army lost the towns of Morek and Tal Skeik to jihadists and other rebels. The loss of Morek cost the army the last town under its control along the main highway north from Hama to second city Aleppo. Morek has changed hands several times in Syria's four-year civil war.

Government troops last retook it in October 2014. The army still controls swathes of territory south of the town but is facing a fierce fightback from rebels using US-made TOW anti-tank missiles. According to the Revolutionary Forces of Syria Media office, which publishes news on opposition military developments, rebel groups across Syria destroyed at least 123 army tanks in October alone using TOW missiles. More than 250,000 people have died in Syria's conflict, which several rounds of diplomatic pushes have failed to end. — AFP

SAUDI FM HOLDS SYRIA, YEMEN TALKS IN OMAN

MUSCAT: Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir has held talks in Oman, a traditional mediator in the region, on the conflicts in Syria and Yemen where Riyadh has taken sides. Jubeir and his Omani counterpart Yussef bin Alawi reviewed "the situation in Syria and Yemen and means of strengthening cooperation" among the six Arab states in the Gulf, the Saudi foreign minister said late Thursday after their meeting in Muscat.

He told Oman's ONA news agency

that "the view is one" between Saudi Arabia and Oman on "all the matters discussed today". Unlike its Gulf neighbors, Oman maintains good ties with Shiite Iran—a key backer of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime and of Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen.

It is also the region's only Arab monarchy not to have cut ties with Damascus. Saudi Arabia has taken an active role, supplying arms to anti-Assad rebel groups and leading an Arab coalition battling rebels in

Yemen. Alawi, for his part, said the sultanate was "exerting diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution in Syria and Yemen".

Oman is seeking through "calm diplomacy... rapprochement among all parties to achieve long-lasting political solutions", Alawi, who met Assad in Damascus last month, told ONA. He said Riyadh and Muscat had "shared goals" on regional conflicts and "agreed to look forward and break from the past concerning regional

issues". His visit to Damascus had been "necessary", Alawi said, adding that the meeting with Jubeir had been scheduled before his talks with Assad.

Oman's discreet diplomacy has contributed to several breakthroughs this year, including the release in August of a French hostage held in Yemen and Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in July. The sultanate has also hosted closed-door meetings between Yemeni rebel leaders and US officials. — AFP

CYCLONE HEADING FOR YEMEN: UN

GENEVA: The UN weather agency warned yesterday that another rare cyclone was heading towards war-ravaged Yemen which would bring more rain to areas already badly battered by cyclone Chapala. The new storm, named Megh, is brewing in the Arabian Sea and is expected to intensify into "a severe cyclonic storm" over the next 24 hours, with wind speeds of up to 100 kilometers per hour (62 mph), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said.

Megh is not as powerful a Chapala, which killed eight people in southeastern Yemen this week, but is expected to slam into or pass close to the country's already badly hit Arabian Sea island of Socotra on Sunday, WMO spokeswoman Clare Nullis told AFP. From Socotra, the storm is expected to weaken into a low pressure area as it moves towards mainland Yemen, but will still bring large amounts of rain to areas already devastated by Chapala.

Megh "is not nearly as intense as Chapala. It is not as big. But obviously the rainfall associated with this storm is going to make the problems caused by Chapala... worse, and it will obviously complicate what is already a very complex humanitarian operation," Nullis told reporters in Geneva. Tropical cyclones are extremely rare over the Arabian peninsula, and having two back-to-back was "an absolutely extraordinary event," she said.

Key road damaged

The storms appeared to be caused by high sea surface temperatures and a naturally occurring climate phenomenon resembling the El Nino, called the Indian Ocean Dipole, which allows low pressure systems to move further west over warmer water than is traditionally the case, and develop into cyclones, WMO said.

The UN's humanitarian agency OCHA meanwhile said yesterday that up to 44,000 people had already been displaced by Chapala, which made landfall in mainland Yemen on Tuesday, triggering heavy flash floods and mudslides that killed eight people, two of them children, and injured 34 others.

Earlier, Chapala severely hit Socotra, forcing the evacuation of 18,000 people on the island and completely destroying 237 homes, OCHA spokesman Jens Laerke told reporters. No one on the island was killed, despite initial reports that three people had died, he said. The coastal road between Aden and the Hadramawt provincial capital Mukalla, which serves as a main transport route for aid supplies, had been damaged by flooding, he said.

Providing relief was also complicated by the fact that some affected areas are held by armed groups, including Al Qaeda. Getting fresh water in was a top priority, he said, adding that OCHA had set up a special 11-man support and response team, based in Oman, to help with the relief efforts. More than 900 UN staff are meanwhile already on the ground in Yemen to help respond to the needs after Chapala, but also from the violent conflict plaguing the country. — AFP

BLAST IN LEBANON BORDER TOWN WOUNDS 5 SOLDIERS

BEIRUT: Five soldiers were wounded in an explosion in the eastern Lebanese border town of Aarsal yesterday, security sources said, a day after a suicide bomber killed six people there. "An explosion targeted a small army patrol and wounded five soldiers," a security source told AFP. "The explosive device was planted on the side of the road," he added.

A second security source said the blast had struck near the site of Thursday's devastating suicide attack. Six people were killed Thursday when a bomber entered a meeting of Syrian clerics and "detonated an explosive belt, leaving five people dead and six wounded," a security source said.

One of the wounded later died. Aarsal lies along Lebanon's border with Syria and is a Sunni Muslim enclave in mainly Shiite eastern Lebanon. It hosts many Syrian refugees as well as rebel fighters in the surrounding countryside. The town was the scene of fierce fighting in August 2014 between Lebanese security forces and jihadists of Al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State group.

As they withdrew from Aarsal, the jihadists took dozens of Lebanese police and soldiers hostage and still hold them in the hilly terrain on the town's outskirts. In October, eight people were killed and others wounded when Lebanon's army targeted militant positions along the mountainous eastern border. — AFP



KIRKUK: Iraqi children listen during a class on October 26, 2015 at the Mariamana school in the multi-ethnic northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk where Kurdish, Arab and Turkmen children sit in the same classrooms and Islamic and Christian education textbooks are stacked on the same tables. — AFP

IN IRAQ, A UNIQUE SCHOOL BRINGS CHILDREN TOGETHER

HELPING TO RID SOCIETY OF ETHNIC TENSIONS

KIRKUK: Kurdish, Arab and Turkmen children sit in the same classrooms at a school where Islamic and Christian education textbooks are stacked on the same tables. Mariamana school in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk is a rarity in a country whose unique cultural, religious and ethnic mosaic is threatened by conflict and sectarianism. "The main idea was a school that would be attended by different ethnic and religious groups... in order to rid society of that tension," said Zakia Matty Dawood, the headmistress.

The school was the brainchild of Chaldean Patriarch Louis Sako who was still Kirkuk archbishop when it opened its doors in 2012. The number of pupils has now tripled to 150, including around 100 Muslims and 50 Christians aged six to 12. "I like my school because I learn here, because I play with my friends," said Hamza, a nine-year-old wearing a neat white shirt and red tie.

The pupils seem to have little notion of what makes their school special and that in itself is a victory for the staff's endeavor to promote an un-segregated society. "They go to school together, they become friends... Even their parents are coming together," said the headmistress, a Dominican sister donning her black and white habit.

Some parents are keen to send their children to a school that reflects the diversity that Kirkuk, Iraq's most culturally composite city, symbolizes. For Sako, "this school was a tangible way of building long-term peace", said Faraj Benoit Camurat, chairman of "Fraternite en Irak", a French NGO that focuses on

supporting minorities.

"This school's success shows that many Kirkuk residents do not want their town to be divided along sectarian and ethnic lines," said Camurat, whose group helped fund the project. Kirkuk is an oil-rich region that lies on territory contested by the federal authorities in Baghdad and the autonomous Kurdish region in the north.

It is also home to many of Iraq's feuding factions—Arabs and Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites—and has therefore often been portrayed as a tinderbox that would sooner or later erupt into bloody conflict. Mariamana was launched after 2011, a year that saw an increase in sectarian violence in Kirkuk, but the will to live together never completely collapsed in the city.

'A little oasis'

"It is shocking how little Iraqis know about each other's cultures," said Saad Salloum, author of several books on Iraq's minorities and chairman of Masarat, an institute promoting cultural exchanges. "It is easier to kill somebody you don't know," he said. "There is a real need for ecumenical action... to save what can still be saved of Iraq's cultural diversity but also to help and support peace."

But the quality of the education is the foundation of Mariamana's success, said Dawood, squaring a pile of books whose titles include "Koranic Education", "Jesus Loves Us" and "English in Iraq". The school was voted best primary school of the Kirkuk gover-

norate this year and notched up several other provincial and national honors.

Sending children to Mariamana costs around \$700 a year, a relatively low fee that can even be waived for the neediest families. Thirty of the pupils were displaced by the Islamic State jihadist group's devastating offensive in the summer of 2014. Minorities were among the first victims of the jihadist assault.

"We all live together, as students and as teachers," said Dunya Akram, the school's 25-year-old English teacher. "We are a bit different as Christians and Muslims but here we all learn from each other," said the young Muslim woman, as the children run around the playground during recess. An excavator is already at work to build an annex that will house a kindergarten as demand for Mariamana's educational model keeps growing.

The current Chaldean archbishop of Kirkuk, Yusef Thomas Mirkis, said Dominican sisters have a long tradition of providing educational and health services in Iraq. He said the Christian schools of Iraq were once a bridge between the West and the East but their impact faded after all schools were nationalized in the 1970s. "We have resumed this little experiment in Kirkuk," he said. Replicating Mariamana's model in other Iraqi cities could be a challenge, but the prelate sees the school's success as a reason to keep faith in the future. "Mariamana is a little oasis... hopefully a swallow that announces spring," he said. — AFP



LESBOS: Refugees and migrants arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey. —AFP

GERMANY TO SPEED UP PROCEDURE AS MIGRANTS NEAR MILLION MARK

‘WE TOOK A GOOD AND IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD’

ATHENS: Germany said Thursday it would speed up the repatriation of rejected asylum-seekers as new figures showed the country inching closer to the million-migrant mark and EU forecasts showed even more people seeking refuge in Europe next year.

After weeks of infighting in Germany's ruling coalition over how to absorb record numbers of migrants Chancellor Angela Merkel and the leaders of two allied parties agreed that those deemed economic migrants from countries not at war would be sent home within three weeks.

The coalition leaders also agreed to set up three to five “reception centres” for asylum-seekers deemed on arrival to have little chance of being allowed to stay—a move aimed at making it easier to repatriate those denied refugee status.

“We took a good and important step forward,” said Merkel, who had faced growing criticism over her open-door refugee policy. The agreement between the ruling CDU/CSU alliance and junior coalition partner, the Social Democrats, came as the European Commission said it expected the number of people fleeing war and poverty to Europe to reach three million by 2017.

From an estimated one million this year the Commission predicted the numbers would soar to 1.5 million in 2016 before falling back to half a million in 2017. Stormier seas at the onset of winter have failed to stem the trans-Mediterranean migrant deluge. The UN refugee agency said Thursday it expected up to 600,000 additional migrants to cross by boat from Turkey to Greece over the next four months.

Two more children, a young girl and

six-year-old boy, died in the quest for a new life Thursday, adding to the grim toll of around 3,400 deaths in Mediterranean migrant shipwrecks this year, many of them minors. The children died after the boat in which they were travelling sank off the Greek island of Kos.

On a visit to the nearby island of Lesbos, where a sailors’ strike has prevented thousands of arriving migrants continuing their journey to the Greek mainland, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras called the migrant deaths “a crime...which must be stopped.” Tsipras, who is to visit Turkey later this month for talks on the refugee issue, said registration facilities should be set up on the Turkish coast “so that no one has to risk losing their life in the cold waters of the Aegean.”

‘Migrants boost GDP’

The vast majority of the people fleeing war and poverty across the Mediterranean have their sights set on Germany, which registered more than 758,000 asylum seekers from January to October, mostly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, the interior ministry said Thursday. Berlin has already taken a firmer line against asylum-seekers from so-called “safe origin” Balkans states, leading to a sharp drop in October of arrivals from countries such as Albania and Kosovo.

In its first assessment of the economic effect of Europe's biggest migration crisis since World War II, the European Commission said the influx far from being a drain on economies as some Europeans fear—could boost gross domestic product by 0.2 to 0.3 percent.

The German government also sought to allay fears about the economic cost of its pro-refugee policies, assuring it could balance its 2016 budget despite spending billions more this year on migrant care.

Other European states foresee difficulty, however. Sweden, which has received more asylum seekers per capita than any other EU country, this week appealed to other countries to help share its load. The request earned a swift rebuttal from neighboring Denmark. “Each country has chosen (its) policy on refugees,” Denmark's foreign minister Kristian Jensen told Ritzau news agency. “They have chosen theirs, and they must now handle it whichever way they want.”

‘Three days hungry’

The sailors’ strike in Lesbos has trapped over 22,000 people on the island, state agency ANA said. “We are three days hungry. I have three children. My children are sick,” a migrant told Tsipras in one of the island's registration centers. Tsipras, who was accompanied by European Parliament chief Martin Schulz, was also approached by an eight-year-old Syrian boy named Mohamedeen asking for money, ANA said.

While the spotlight has been mainly on the migrant route through Turkey and Greece lately, packed boats continue to set sail each week from Europe from restive Libya. Nearly 1,000 migrants were rescued Thursday from a handful of rubber dinghies and a small fishing boat found adrift off the coast of Libya, another staging post for migrant crossings, the Italian coast-guard said. —AFP

FAMINE IN S SUDAN AS AID AGENCIES BLOCKED

NAIROBI: Weeks after UN-backed experts warned that thousands are dying of starvation in South Sudan war zones, aid agencies say they cannot access areas to stave off famine because of “spiraling” violence. Last month, UN agencies said 30,000 people were starving to death in Unity state, with Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) experts warning of a “concrete risk of famine” before the end of the year if fighting continues and aid does not reach the hardest hit areas.

Despite the warnings and an August peace deal, there has been no let-up in government and rebel battles, with diplomats accusing both sides of blockading life-saving aid. Medical aid agency Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warns that the “humanitarian crisis in southern Unity is on an unprecedented scale” with “repeated and targeted violence” against civilians. MSF, which has earned a reputation for operating in some of the world's most dangerous frontline battle zones, said it had “not seen this level of violence and brutality before.”

While an official famine has not been declared, the IPC report describes the worst conditions yet seen in a nearly two-year civil war marked by atrocities and accusations of war crimes, including gang rape and forced cannibalism.

Having been forced to flee their homes, many people are living in the open, said Lindsay Hamsik, policy advisor at South Sudan NGO Forum, an alliance of over 300 South Sudanese and international aid agencies. “The commitments at the political level are not being held up on the ground,” Hamsik told AFP. “That means more lives are being lost and civilians continue to be terrorized and denied their right to assistance.”

‘Mass rapes and killings’

Those worst affected are in the northern battleground state of Unity, once the country's key oil producing region, but now scene of some of the heaviest fighting, including the mass abduction and rape of women and children. “All parties urgently need to lift obstacles that prevent access of humanitarian organizations,” the United States and European Union warned last week, in a statement also signed by diplomats from Canada, Norway and Switzerland. “This is crucial to avoid the looming famine.”

Most aid agencies were forced to pull out in May amid intense fighting. “Our efforts to re-secure access have failed,” said Caelin Briggs from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). “While we are eager to return, and we will take any window that we can, we cannot do so unless the violence comes to a halt.” Aid workers said they feared that without boots on the ground, they simply may not know the full extent of the crisis. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said people were “hiding in the swamps and bushes” and that they were struggling with the “limited availability of evidence”. 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.

‘It will get worse’

Civil war began in December 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of planning a coup, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings that have split the poverty-stricken, landlocked country along ethnic lines.—AFP



AWEIL: A file picture taken on October 9, 2015 shows a two-month-old girl with a severe malnutrition lying on a bed next to her mother at the Aweil State Hospital. —AFP

NEPAL BORDER CRISIS DEEPENS PUBLIC DISCORD

BIRGUNJ: Nepal's busiest entry point for goods from India has witnessed a new wave of unrest after police failed to clear a border blockade, the attempt only strengthening the resolve of protesters to fight the Himalayan nation's new constitution.

Knots of demonstrators gathered around piles of smoldering tires in Birgunj, the latest flashpoint in agitation across the southern Tarai-Madhes strip, speaking of their anger at a federal setup enshrined in the new basic law. The lowlanders, many of them ethnically distinct from Nepal's hill and mountain groups, complain their region has been carved up, denying them a say in running the nation of 28 million as it seeks a new start after years of instability.

Stones and pieces of brick littered the streets around a clock tower on Thursday, marking where police had fought previous battles with protesters. Burned-out cars and motorbikes lay by the side of the road to the deserted bus station.

"We light fires in the morning, they (the police) come in the day and shout abuse at us, charge us with batons and shoot tear gas or bullets. We throw stones back, and sometimes petrol bombs," said Abdul Rahman at one of the fires in Birgunj. "All of us in this crowd voted for the mainstream parties in the last election after they promised to give us a Tarai province. Now we know they have lied to us, and we are out on the streets."

The middle hills and the capital Kathmandu have suffered fuel and cooking gas shortages after protesters in the south switched to blocking supplies from India, Nepal's largest trading partner, almost two months ago.

Many in Nepal accuse India of supporting the protesters - a charge New Delhi denies. India has expressed its dissatisfaction with parts of the constitution, although it also says it cannot allow trucks to enter Nepal while conditions are unsafe. An Indian national was shot dead by Nepali police on Monday during a protest that erupted after police cleared protesters from a highway. In a setback for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bid to improve neighborhood relations, Nepal has turned to China for help, getting an emergency consignment of fuel and opening seven border crossings to traders.—Reuters

CURFEW IN KASHMIR AHEAD OF MODI VISIT

SRINAGAR: Authorities ordered a curfew in parts Kashmir yesterday after hundreds of separatist activists were arrested on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the disputed region. In the main city of Srinagar shops and schools remained shut, university exams were cancelled for the day and public transport was suspended as hundreds of police and paramilitary forces patrolled the streets.

Modi is scheduled to address a public rally in Srinagar today, where he is expected to announce economic assistance, more than a year after massive flooding inflicted \$16 billion worth of damage across the territory.

"Restrictions were imposed to prevent breach of peace before the prime minister's rally," a senior police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity. Nearly 300 activists have been arrested to prevent them from mobilizing, another police officer said. Security has been beefed up ahead of Modi's visit, with the Muslim-majority region already tense following incidents of religious intolerance and attacks on minorities in many parts of India.

"I was not allowed to go to work because of the soldiers on the street outside my home," Waheed Ahmed, a mason living in the old city area of Srinagar told AFP by phone. After Modi's rally was announced earlier in the week, police detained all top separatist leaders or confined them to their homes, local media reports said.

Authorities denied permission for a counter-rally, dubbed Million March, called by separatist groups today to press their demands for self-determination and freedom from Indian rule. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed by both in its entirety.

Some separatist leaders remained defiant, however. "Our Million March will go ahead come what may," Syed Ali Geelani, the senior most separatist leader who called for the counter-rally said in a statement Thursday. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947.—AFP



KABUL: Afghan Solidarity members hold posters and chant slogans as they stage a protest against Taliban militants who stoned an Afghan woman to death, at Shar-e-Naw Park. — AFP

AID WORKERS SHY AWAY AS AFGHAN VIOLENCE SURGES

POSTS REMAIN 'EMPTY FOR A LONG TIME'

KABUL: Afghanistan was once a magnet for foreign aid workers but surging violence has left NGOs struggling to recruit staff and restricted their ability to deliver crucial aid to the country's vulnerable. Plagued by decades of war and natural disasters such as last month's earthquake, which killed more than 120 people in the country and left thousands homeless, up until around 2009 Afghanistan was considered a risky but rewarding post for humanitarian workers. But with a resurgent Taliban leaving Afghan forces floundering and forcing NATO allies to extend their presence in the country, increasing attacks are leaving would-be volunteers jittery. Posts now remain "empty for a long time" compared to a decade ago, said Elise, of France's Acted NGO in Kabul, who declined to provide a last name.

Candidates need to be reassured "nobody is blowing themselves up every day in front of our door". Afghanistan is considered the most dangerous country on Earth for aid workers, according to the Humanitarian Outcomes research group, which reported 54 major attacks against NGOs in 2014. Meanwhile international attention has shifted to Iraq and Syria, says Philippe Bonnet, who has just completed his tenure as Afghanistan head of the French NGO Solidarites International.

"This is attracting youngsters, who are more prone to following current trends," he says. Crises in South Sudan and the Ebola epidemic in West Africa also soaked up limited humanitarian resources in the last year, added Guilhem Molinie, country director for Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Another Western official in Kabul said that NGOs "moved in five years from a few thousand volunteers to just a few

hundred".

To attract employees, charities are offering short contracts-sometimes as brief as six months. "(They) leave just as they begin to understand the mission," Patrick, head of a Western NGO in Kabul who declined to give his last name, told AFP.

Changing tactics

The staff shortages combined with increased risks means many groups have scaled back work outside cities-such as the World Food Programme (WFP), which withdrew in September from Badakhshan, a once-calm northeastern province, after an attack on five of its trucks.

"Physically, expats can no longer go to many places, but NGOs are trying to find alternative means," said Fiona Gall, the director of Acbar, a group that represents more than 130 NGOs working in Afghanistan. Instead, charities are now working via telephone or bringing local workers from conflict areas to where they are based for discussions. "There are creative ways but it's not as satisfactory as you going," she said.

Despite the setbacks, the number of registered NGOs in the country has remained relatively steady — 274 today compared to 293 two years ago. But NGOs warn that scaling back staff could reverse recent gains, especially in the health sector, where their work has been critical. Infant mortality has dropped from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 66 today, according to the World Bank, a gain credited to aid groups among others.

"Children are often the first to benefit from the work of health programs," said one Western aid worker. Money is not the problem-some \$16 billion poured

into the country from international coffers between 2012 and 2015, with similar pledges promised over the next two years. But the management of those funds is a hurdle for NGOs seeking to attract foreign workers. Donors are sending money through the government, Acbar's Gall said, meaning "there's a huge amount of bottle-necking and funds are not being dispersed as rapidly as they should be".

'Walls are getting higher'

Meanwhile catastrophic, headline-grabbing attacks such as a bungled US air strike on a MSF hospital in Kunduz last month both reinforce the challenges and underscore the need for aid. The charity, which lost 13 staff in the bombing, has said it will not pull out of Afghanistan, but "it's very destabilizing", Molinie said.

The consequences for Afghans in Kunduz province have been devastating: the hospital was the only major trauma centre in a region that has been rocked by unrest. Even in Kabul, risks have increased for NGO workers, with the Taliban regularly striking at the airport, hotels, restaurants and foreign compounds.

Officially, the Taliban say they respect the work of NGOs and do not target aid workers. But they have also claimed attacks in places frequented by expatriates including aid workers, such as the January 2014 assault on the Taverna Du Liban in Kabul which killed 21 people including 13 foreigners. Humanitarian organizations have barricaded themselves in two central Kabul neighborhoods. "As time goes on, the walls are getting higher," quipped one retired US soldier who now works as a security contractor. — AFP

ANXIETY STALKS MYANMAR MUSLIMS AS POLLS LOOM

YANGON: As the faithful filled towards a Yangon mosque for Friday prayers, conversations readily turned to Myanmar's election, with hopes for greater freedom tainted by fear among Muslims at the sharp end of bilious hardline Buddhist rhetoric.

Tomorrow's election, billed as the freest the former junta ruled nation has seen in decades, has been accompanied by a crescendo in anti-Muslim sentiment led by a hardcore of Buddhist monks. That has heightened anxiety among the residents of Mingalar Taung Nyunt, a wedge of shacks and scruffy low-rise wooden houses that are home to a large Muslim community of roti sellers and merchants in central Yangon.

They fear shadowy Buddhist extremist groups could instigate violence in the election aftermath, especially if Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition, who the hardliners loathe, register an historic victory. "We're afraid of what happens after the election," Myo, 33, told AFP, requesting the use of an alias. "There are people who are ready to threaten or attack us," she said, blaming "the monk" for whipping up animosity as the poll looms.

She was referring to Buddhist monk Wirathu, whose notorious anti-Muslim tirades have garnered a significant following, including 100,000 Facebook followers. He has ramped up pressure on the army-backed government over the last few years and has applauded the exclusion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya Muslims from voter lists in febrile western Rakhine State. He also claims victory for a series of controversial race and religion laws endorsed by the ruling party, which rights groups say target Muslims.

While she is scared, Myo, who shares her ramshackle home with 13 family members, said Muslims were gritting themselves for any post-election fallout. "If anyone comes to fight... our community will come together," she said. Her fears carry weight in a country scored by religious violence since 2012 which has seen hundreds of people killed—the majority Muslims.

Few and unprotected

Myanmar's Muslims make up around five percent of the 51-million population. "We're only a few people here, we have no-one to protect us... we're living under pressure" 75-year-old Mohammad Hashim told AFP, his white fist-length beard lit up by the harsh sun. He blames the ruling, military-backed "government of problems" for the recent build-up of community tensions and fears a win for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) will presage unrest.

"The authorities will not let the NLD win, even if they claim 100 percent of the seats... I have seen them act before," he says with a rueful smile. An NLD landslide in 1990 was ignored by the army who simply locked up more political opponents and trampled on dissent. With national elections looming, the temperature is again rising. Wirathu and the Ma Ba Tha Buddhist nationalist movement have thrown their support behind the incumbent Union and Solidarity Development Party (USDP) as a reward for drafting the contentious religious bills.

At the core of their ideology is the belief that Myanmar's Buddhist identity is under attack from Muslims—tirades against the conversion of Buddhist women to Islam feature prominently in their output. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hit out Monday at "extreme elements among the majority community in Myanmar" using hate speech to incite "communal animosities" in the run-up to the poll.

Suu Kyi has also come under fire from rights groups for failing to use her moral force to denounce Wirathu or to speak up in defence of Muslims. Her NLD party has not put forward a single Muslim candidate. Observers describe it as a strategic silence to avoid a messy backlash from her core Buddhist vote-base.

But the residents of Mingalar Taung Nyunt refuse to blame Myanmar's pro-democracy heavyweight, with many still pledging allegiance to the NLD. "If Daw Suu Kyi had full authority she would fix our problems," said Ye Min Oo, a 29-year-old roti seller. "The Ma Ba Tha are extremists, playing a political game. Right now, Suu Kyi does not have the power to do anything about them." — AFP



YANGON: Muslim worshippers attend prayers at a mosque. — AFP



TAIPAI: In this March 28, 2014 file photo, student protesters against a Taiwan's trade pact with China continue to occupy the legislature floor. China and Taiwan have been separately ruled since the Chinese civil war of the 1940s, but China claims sovereignty over the island and insists the two sides eventually unify. They have in recent years set aside that dispute to build trust and sign economic cooperation deals, and their presidents will meet for the first time today in Singapore. — AP

HISTORICAL CHINA-TAIWAN MEETING MORE SYMBOLISM THAN SUBSTANCE EXTREME SENSITIVITY SURROUNDING THE EVENT

BEIJING: Today's first-ever meeting between the presidents of China and Taiwan presents a formidable challenge: How can they ensure the event's place in history when nothing of substance should happen?

No agreements or joint statements are to be issued and only a vague agenda has been sketched out, a reflection of the extreme sensitivity surrounding the event, especially on the part of Taiwanese wary of Beijing's unification agenda. Yet the event's symbolism as a moment of coming together is undeniable, putting a strong emphasis on presentation, atmosphere and optics.

The get-together is fundamentally "about recognition, not about results," said University of Virginia China expert Brantly Womack. "The meeting is the message." China's Xi Jinping and Taiwan's Ma Ying-jeou are the first leaders from the two sides to meet since their territories split during the Chinese civil war in 1949. Ma is the successor to Chiang Kai-shek, whose Nationalists retreated to the island, while Xi now leads Mao Zedong's victorious Communists, who set up government in Beijing.

Flexibility and patience

Already, arranging the meeting has required extraordinary flexibility and patience. According to Taiwan, planning for today's meetings began two years ago, complicated by the need to meet conditions consistent with China's refusal to recognize Taiwan's government and insistence on the "one-China principle," stating that Taiwan and China are part of the same nation.

Ma's government, meanwhile, needed to be highly mindful of public sentiment in Taiwan, where the Nationalists took a drubbing in local elections last year, due in large part to their pro-China policies. They're now struggling ahead of presidential and legislative polls in January and a negative response to today's meeting could deal them a knockout blow.

Ma had already committed to not traveling to China, while Beijing had ruled out meeting at multilateral forums such as the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economic leaders' meeting. In the end, they settled on the neutral ground of mainly ethnically Chinese Singapore, whose government is close to both Taipei and Beijing.

The two will meet in the afternoon at the luxurious Shangri-la Hotel and attend an evening banquet. It's not clear what contact they'll have with the horde of Chinese, Taiwanese and international media descending on the Southeast Asian city-state for the event. Mutual non-recognition requires a particular set of protocols and government agencies. Because they don't recognize each other's titles, Xi and Ma will refer to each other as "Mr", rather than "President." Unheard-of for a meeting of heads of state, no flags will be in view, at least where cameras are present. Although Taiwan is more relaxed about the matter, even low-level Chinese delegations to Taiwan threaten to cancel events unless the island's flag is removed from meeting venues.

Internal affairs

Confirmation of the visit on the Chinese side came not from Xi's office or the Foreign Ministry, but the Cabinet-level Taiwan Affairs Office, in keeping with Beijing's insistence that issues involving the island are an internal affair, not foreign relations. Sticking to those ideological guns, China's Foreign Ministry this week referred all questions about the event to the Taiwan Affairs Office, even though the country's president is holding a high-profile meeting on foreign soil.

When China's state broadcaster CCTV showed a portion of a news conference Ma held Thursday in Taipei to discuss the meeting, it blurred out his Taiwan flag lapel pin. With neither leader serving as host, and given the sensitivity over any sign of attempted dominance, the photo opportunities and other events will have to be handled like musical theatre: carefully choreographed, with the proper sets, and, most importantly, careful execution of the script. And as always, there's the question of the handshake. In 2005, at the first meeting between Taiwan Nationalist and mainland Communist leaders in 60 years, Beijing arranged for the two men to walk ceremoniously across a vast hall before meeting in the middle for their historic grip. The Nationalists did not hold the presidency at the time, but the act of reconciliation set in motion the move toward closer ties under Ma. Given the historic weight of today's meeting, the sides will no doubt be looking for a scene no less epic. —AP

JAPAN'S MILITARY PUSH LEAVE CITIZENS UNEASY

TOKYO: Japan's move to expand the role of its armed forces has left both veterans and fighting families uneasy in a pacifist country unsure whether a military that has never fired a bullet in anger is ready for combat. Since the carnage of World War II, Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) have been banned from waging any kind of combat beyond defense of the nation thanks to a US-imposed 1947 constitution.

As a result, Japan's post war troops have never shot a bullet at an enemy, or been felled by one in a foreign land—a track record many are proud of. But in September the government of nationalist Prime Minister Shinzo Abe rammed through legislation allowing the nation's troops to fight abroad. It caused significant uproar both at home and overseas, especially among regional neighbors, including China and Korea, which suffered under Japan's wartime aggression.

The legislation will give the government the power to send the military into overseas conflicts to defend allies, even if Japan itself is not under attack. Abe sees an increasingly muscular and flexible military as necessary to protect against an increasingly powerful China and unpredictable North Korea. But opponents fear the vague wording could see Japan dragged into far-flung foreign conflicts similar to the US invasions of Iraq or Afghanistan while regional neighbors who suffered under Japanese occupation, particularly China and Korea, are incensed.

Military families are themselves divided over the move. "I feel more apprehension than relief over the legislation," explained one mother whose husband is stationed at a ground forces base on Tokyo's outskirts. "When I talked about the issue with my husband, he said he would have to go wherever if an order was issued. But for family members, it's an extremely worrisome development," she added, asking AFP not to use her name for fear of any backlash.

But another army wife in her 40s said she believed the legislation would beef up Japan's security by strengthening the country's alliance with the United States, which welcomed Abe's move. It would also, she said, embolden Japanese soldiers to protect themselves if they came under fire during peacekeeping operations.

"Currently, SDF servicemen are not allowed to fire a gun even if he or she faces the danger of getting killed," she said.

Japanese troops have been deployed in peacekeeping missions with increasing frequency, including a small detachment controversially sent to Iraq, as well as ongoing anti-piracy missions off the Horn of Africa. But during the deployment in war-torn Iraq, Japanese soldiers, on a reconstruction mission, had to be under protection of other foreign troops, who were in charge of keeping security. — AFP

CHOLERA SPREADS FROM...

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait denies rumors

Meanwhile, Kuwait Health Ministry has denied rumors on cholera outbreak in the country, Ministry official announced yesterday. Assistant Undersecretary of Public Health Affairs at the Ministry Dr Majidah Al-Qattan told KUNA that only five cases of cholera were confirmed in the country -the last of which was recorded on October 5.

She added that all cases of the disease came from Iraq and they were all fully treated. She pointed out that the Health Ministry is taking all necessary precautions to spot any suspected cases of cholera; laboratories are fully set and physicians are made aware to conduct special diagnosis to determine the disease.

Dr Al-Qattan said that special handling protocols of the disease from World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been distributed to all treatment centers in the country, adding that the Ministry is following up on any updates of the cholera outbreak in Iraq. She advised people, especially children, pregnant women and those of poor health, to postpone their travel plans to the neighboring country up north. Travelers from Iraq, meanwhile, should visit the nearest health centers as soon as possible once they witness acute diarrheal infection within seven days of their arrival. Neither contaminated water or food sources should be touched nor should it be carried while travelling, she cautioned. — Agencies



LEYTE PROVINCE: This photo taken on November 2, 2015 shows a general view of downtown Tacloban City. — AFP

PAINFULLY SLOW REBUILD POST PHILIPPINE TYPHOON

MILLION SURVIVORS WITHOUT SAFE HOMES

TACLOBAN: Two years after a super typhoon devastated the Philippines and sounded a global alarm on climate change, a massive rebuilding program has had big successes but at least one million survivors are still without safe homes.

In Tacloban, a major coastal city that was nearly completely destroyed and where thousands died, restaurants and shops are bustling again—showcasing the best of a remarkable resurrection for many communities. But on the city's outskirts and elsewhere, many people endure deep poverty as they live in flimsy new homes that make them extremely vulnerable to future storms that will inevitably whip in off the Pacific Ocean.

More than 7,350 people were killed or left missing after Super Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines on November 8, 2013, with the strongest winds ever recorded on land. Tsunami-like storm surges higher than trees exacerbated the disaster, demolishing communities on central Philippine islands that were already among the nation's poorest.

"I cry almost every night. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, how are we going to survive," Esliba Bascal, 59, who lost her son and home in the disaster and now lives in a makeshift dwelling just outside Tacloban, said last week. Like many others, Bascal's hopes for a new government-provided house in a safe place have not come true. She lives with her husband, widowed daughter-in-law and six grandchildren in a brick-and-tin structure built on the same site as their previous home that was wiped out by the storm surges. "We were poor, but now we're poorer. Life is hard but I have to be strong for my grandchildren," said Bascal, who earns about 20

pesos (50 cents) a day selling biscuits, chips, soap and other daily goods from her home.

Mixed success

President Benigno Aquino's government launched a 150-billion-peso (\$3.2 billion) reconstruction program for the disaster zones, which the United Nations has praised for its efficiency in some key sectors. About 60 percent of that money has been spent, much of it on roads, bridges and schools, according to Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, who is in charge of the recovery program.

Money has also been used for start-up capital for survivors to start small businesses, as well as farm and fishing supplies. A resilient local private sector and hundreds of millions of dollars in aid from the international community has also been extremely important. The Red Cross, for example, said it had given cash assistance to more than 90,000 families and rebuilt or repaired 65,000 homes.

Yet, the government has come under fire for not doing enough to help the more than one million survivors it identified as living in coastal areas who were vulnerable to future storms and needed to be resettled. Out of the 205,128 families living in the path of future storms, just 928 have been transferred to permanent shelters, according to the government. The government calculates an average of five people per family.

Many of the others who have yet to receive new homes are simply living in repaired or rebuilt homes, like Bascal. The government is aiming to relocate nearly 100,000 families by next year, with the project to be completed by 2017, Chito

Cruz, chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, told reporters this week.

Safe new land

Cruz said one of the reasons it was taking so long to relocate people was because buying safe new land from private title holders was extremely difficult. Locals also complain that the proposed resettlement areas are in isolated locations well away from the coast. The coastal areas are the main hubs of the regional economy, and people cannot afford to travel long distances.

"We have accomplished much over the last two years, but there is still a lot that must be done," Balisacan said in a briefing on the recovery program this week. But he also emphasized Haiyan had turned cities and towns into "wastelands", and that even the US government struggled after Hurricane Katrina caused massive damage in 2005.

Meanwhile, Haiyan has become a rallying point in the global campaign to contain global warming, with visits to the disaster zones this year by leaders such as Pope Francis and French President Francois Hollande. Scientists have warned storms such as Haiyan, which generated record winds of 315 kilometers an hour at landfall, could become the new normal as global warming worsens.

While in the disaster zones, the pope and Hollande issued similar warnings as they urged world leaders to take decisive action at a crucial summit in Paris starting on November 30. The summit is aiming to seal a pact aimed at keeping global temperature rises to no more than two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial levels. — AFP

WHAT TO CALL BILL IF HILLARY WINS RACE?

LOS ANGELES: Hillary Rodham Clinton is facing a question with global implications as she seeks the White House: What do you call the husband of a US president? First man? First gentleman? Funnyman Jimmy Kimmel asked the Democratic presidential contender about that quandary Thursday should her husband, former President Bill Clinton, become the official White House spouse.

Appearing on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," she offered a couple of ideas with a smile: "first dude" and "first mate." "We have to really work on what to call him,"

she quipped. Clinton could become the first woman in charge of the White House, and she said breaking barriers has been on the former president's mind, too. She said her husband has told her that he's determined to break the "iron grip" that women have had on being the spouse of a president.

Late-night comedy shows have been a staple for presidential candidates for years, allowing them to display a looser side for a younger audience that might not find time for a presidential debate. Kimmel wanted to know if Bill Clinton would pick out the official china pattern

for the White House, and a male sidekick dressed in a pantsuit gently ribbed Clinton for her signature wardrobe choice.

Clinton maneuvered around a question about the last time she was drunk - "a long time ago" - and didn't appear to have much sympathy for the struggling candidacy of Republican rival Jeb Bush. "It's really hard to do this and people's campaigns change," she said. "You start with something, that doesn't necessarily mean you'll stick with it all the way."

Clinton has been a favorite target of Donald Trump and other Republican can-

didates, but she told Kimmel the criticism is just election-season noise. Actually, Republicans like her, she said. When she's not on the ticket "Republicans say nice things," Clinton told Kimmel. "We have a long list of the nice things Republicans have said about me," she added. "You may be hearing more about it." She wasn't necessarily kind in return. Clinton said watching the Republicans debate left her "being appalled and being amused." "I disagree with a lot of what they are saying," she said. "I wish they would actually address the problems America is trying to face." — AP

US TASKED WITH AIDING TERROR SUSPECTS RETURN TO SOCIETY

KEEPING YOUTH AWAY FROM EXTREMIST MESSAGES

WASHINGTON: In the past two months two Minnesota men have admitted they plotted to travel to Syria to fight alongside the Islamic State, a New Jersey man pleaded guilty to helping his brother fly to the Middle East to join extremists and a 20-year-old intercepted at a Chicago airport took responsibility for backing the terror group.

The defendants, among dozens arrested in the United States in the past year, will ultimately be released into the society they railed against. Even as the Obama administration launches programs to keep young adults from embracing extremist messages in the first place, there's broad agreement that more needs to be done to de-radicalize terror suspects who entered prison after absorbing the violent ideology of the Islamic State and will someday return to neighborhoods.

"Not addressing these issues in the correctional facilities, you run the risk of the person being more of an extremist" than before, said John Cohen, a Rutgers professor of criminal justice and former counterterrorism coordinator at the Homeland Security Department.

Concerns about prisoner rehabilitation obviously aren't limited to terror suspects, but the issue has gained fresh attention as the FBI continues its arrests of American supporters of the Islamic State group. The FBI and Justice Department, acknowledging that prosecutions aren't the entire answer, have begun discussing more openly the need for community and family intervention before legal trouble occurs, and for ensuring convicts have access to services before rejoining their communities.

Re-acclimation

The Bureau of Prisons holds about 350 prisoners with a history of, or connection to, international terrorism, said spokesman Ed Ross. Only a fraction will remain imprisoned for life. Nearly 100 of them are due for release within five years. John Carlin, the Justice Department's top national security official, lamented at a public appearance last month that while there's help to re-acclimate gang members or domestic violence offenders, there's no similar effort aimed at terrorism-related convicts.

"We don't have the same resources in place now of established groups in the community, nonprofit groups who have an expertise in this area - and it's where we need one," Carlin said. The bureau says it works to ensure radical ideas aren't being spread in prisons, and it offers job training, education



MINNEAPOLIS: In this July 8, 2015 file photo, US District Judge Michael Davis poses in his Minneapolis chambers. — AP

and substance abuse treatment for all inmates, Ross said. But none of that is tailored for the relatively small population of terror-related convicts.

Sentences for Islamic State suspects vary, as do the charges. Many are charged with providing material support to a foreign terror organization, and a New Jersey man who recently pleaded guilty to that offense faces a maximum 20-year sentence, prosecutors say. But guilty pleas often result in lighter punishments, allowing defendants to get released earlier than they would have had they stood trial. Though interest in de-radicalization efforts has grown, there's no evidence prisons are a breeding ground for jihadist ideology, and none of the relatively few terror-related defendants already released from US prisons has returned to terrorist plotting, Jerome Bjelopera, a Congressional Research Service expert, told a House subcommittee exploring the issue.

It's also not clear what an ideal de-radicalization program would look like or whether a uniform approach would work for such a varied population, which includes those whose crime was helping a friend travel to the Middle East as well as those who plotted attacks themselves.

Radicalization efforts

Some experts see similarities in view-

point and background between terror defendants and the thousands of other extremists, including white supremacists, in American prisons. They say any de-radicalization effort must span the ideological spectrum, both because of those parallels and because of constitutional concerns about focusing on members of one particular religion. "While we very well may have to engage in a variety of rehabilitative and monitoring programs, it is crucial that they apply across the board to the vast threat," Brian Levin, an expert on extremist ideology at California State University, San Bernardino, told members of Congress. Focusing too narrowly could mean missing other ideological threats, he said.

Some European nations have taken a different approach. Jacob Bundsgaard, the mayor of Aarhus, Denmark, said his city has a program for returning fighters aimed at helping them exit Islamist radicalized groups. "These are typically young people that are either very religious or very interested in religion. We try to provide them with a way of expressing their faith in a manner that is acceptable to society," he said. A federal judge in Minnesota this year allowed creativity in the case of a teenager who was stopped at the airport as prosecutors say he was attempting to travel abroad to join the Islamic State. — AP

WHITE HOUSE HINTS AT GITMO CLOSURE

WASHINGTON: The White House said Thursday that if Congress blocks new plans to close the notorious Guantanamo Bay prison, President Barack Obama may resort to a controversial executive order to get the job done. With time running out for the 44th president to fulfill an incomplete election campaign promise, he looks increasingly likely to bypass lawmakers who have blocked the facility's closure. "I'm certainly not going to take anything off the table," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said when asked about possible executive action. He said Obama would do "everything that he can to make progress" towards Guantanamo's closure, which Earnest described as a "national security priority." Obama is expected within days to put forward a plan to Congress that would allow Guantanamo to close.

Created to hold terror suspects after the September 11, 2001 attacks, Guantanamo became notorious for harsh interrogation techniques and because many prisoners are, or were, held for years without being charged. As of now, the facility is home to 112 inmates.

The new closure proposal, drafted by Obama's top counterterrorism advisor, Lisa Monaco, and Defense Secretary Ash Carter would lift congressional restrictions on transferring detainees to the United States. Inmates who cannot be released or transferred abroad would be housed at a US facility like Fort Leavenworth, Kansas or the Navy Brig in Charleston, South Carolina. But that plan looks increasingly unlikely to pass muster in the Republican controlled Congress, raising the prospect of executive action, which would ignite a political firestorm.

Political fight

In 2009 Obama issued an executive order to close the camp, prompting a furious Congress to pass rules that made the transfer of detainees to US soil all but impossible. The White House has long said those rules are unconstitutional as they impinge on executive power, but it has tried to have them overturned rather than engage in a damaging political fight.

In a sign of the anger unilateral action might provoke, Republican Senator Pat Roberts said Wednesday he would block the nomination of any Obama government appointee if the White House moves ahead. "I currently have a hold on the president's nominee for the Secretary of the Army - and I will place holds on any nominee necessary to prevent this unilateral action," said Roberts.

"Congress has consistently stopped Obama by law from moving a single detainee to the US, and this would be an egregious overstep by the administration ignoring the will of the American people to accomplish the president's legacy goals." But Obama has argued that indefinite detention, "enhanced interrogation" and images of detainees in orange jump suits violated America's ethos and handed militants a potent recruiting tool. Closing Guantanamo "has always been the President's goal and remains a high priority," a senior administration official told AFP. "Leaders from across the President's national security team are energized and engaged in these efforts to responsibly close the detention facility at Guantanamo." — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Crude set for weekly loss as supply glut and dollar drag

US employment seen raising Dec rate hike chances

Greece approves reform bill, eyes bailout tranche



Abe: Pacific Rim free trade deal set rules for economy



Passengers queue at Lufthansa counters at the airport in Frankfurt yesterday. Germany's flagship airline, Lufthansa, canceled 290 flights yesterday as cabin crew workers went on strike at Frankfurt and Duesseldorf airports. — AP (See Page 19)

SLOWDOWN FORCING FIRMS TO RE-THINK CHINA

WEAK CHINA DEMAND BLAMED FOR MNCs' SOFT SALES, CUT FORECASTS

SHANGHAI/ZURICH: A slowdown in China is forcing multinational companies to treat the world's second-biggest economy more like a developed market, turning away from a headlong dash for growth to focus on premium businesses, or improving productivity by investing in staff. As the main driver of global growth for much of the past decade, China has been a godsend to big international firms looking to boost profits as economies elsewhere struggled.

Now, though, Beijing is attempting to rebalance its economy to a more sustainable rate of expansion dubbed the "new normal" by President Xi Jinping, and with growth at its slowest in a generation, the current quarter has seen a slew of companies citing China as a reason for underwhelming earnings. "We've entered the new phase, a new normal with slower growth, and that changes the business dynamic, and it changes the outlook," said John Lawler, Ford China CEO, at a recent conference for US businesses in Shanghai. In recent weeks, weakness in Chinese demand has been blamed for soft sales

and trimmed forecasts from companies ranging from luxury fashion retailer Burberry and KFC owner Yum Brands to US computer hardware and consulting firm IBM and Japanese robot maker Yaskawa Electric Corp. Economic data released in October also showed export growth slowing sharply in Japan, while South Korean exports fell - both blamed on the slowdown in their giant neighbor.

Companies in sectors such as construction and mining have felt the biggest pinch. Heavy equipment maker Caterpillar has outlined plans to slash capital spending and cut about 10,000 jobs, while industrial conglomerate United Technologies Corp said its business in China could drop as much as 15 percent next year.

LONG-TERM SHIFT

And the days of double-digit growth that had foreign companies scrambling to enter China in the first decade of the millennium may not be coming back. President Xi said on Tuesday growth would remain around the 7 percent level

for the next five years. As Beijing tries to steer the economy away from the export and investment-led growth model that fuelled China's rise, companies are having to re-evaluate their strategy.

"Generally, it has probably moved from 'go, go, go, growth, growth, growth' to 'things are getting complicated'," said Abinta Malik, general manager for Gap Inc in Greater China, when asked at the Shanghai conference how the message from head office had changed.

In response, some firms are investing more in development to cater to Chinese consumers' growing sophistication. "We have reformulated our products, we have invested in innovation and renovation very much like we do in Europe," Nestle Chief Executive Paul Bulcke told reporters after the world's biggest packaged food firm warned in mid-October it would miss its long-term growth target this year.

China's Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday that Beijing's policymakers estimated consumption in China's vast market was still only half its capacity. The problem is that consumers are not

yet picking up the slack from falling industrial demand. "The rapidly rising consumer spending has yet to offset the decline in traditional industrial investments," said Ulrich Spiesshofer, chief executive of Swiss engineering group ABB, after reporting a fall in net profit and revenues for the third quarter last week.

FINDING GROWTH

Healthcare is one promising area to target as the Chinese consumer grows older, richer and better informed. "The underlying fundamentals haven't changed," General Electric Co. Chief Financial Officer Jeff Bornstein said in October of GE's healthcare technology business.

"There is still 1.5 billion people. They're still building hospitals. The private market in China has grown 15 percent to 20 percent a quarter." Drugmaker Roche, which bucked the trend by increasing third-quarter sales in China, said the market for its mainstay cancer drugs was growing strongly, offsetting struggling sales for older products facing generic competition. —Reuters

WARBA BANK LAUNCHES NEW BANKING SERVICES THROUGH ONLINE CHANNELS

KUWAIT: Warba Bank has launched a new range of online banking services and applications for smart phones that operate through Android and iOS. This new service plan, which comes in line with the continuous pursuit to enhance customer's banking experience. The new services package enables customers to conduct a number of banking transactions that previously necessitated customer's presence at branches.

These new electronic banking service enable current Warba customer to open a new saving and deposit account. Additionally, the customer can request cheque books and services that give the customer a summary and details of carried out transactions. Moreover, the customer can obtain a detailed account statement, enable existing customer to download his civil ID copy and update his/ her informa-



Haytham A Al-Terkait

tion using Warba online. All these services are now available by just a press of a button or a touch of the customer's smart device, the customer only needs to manu-

ally enter the information requested with no need to visit a branch to fill out papers. All this is offered while maintaining the highest quality, speed and security standards.

Warba Bank has previously developed several on-going services such as card service that offer the customer a summary of his/her ATM card and credit card, as well as access to card account statement, find out the latest carried out transactions including withdrawn and available accounts, dates of operation and reporting lost cards. Transfer service enables Warba customer to transfer between his/her personal accounts or even process local and international transfers, pay mobile phone invoices and access all personal finance deals.

On this occasion, Haytham A. Al-Terkait, Chief Technology Officer at Warba Bank, said: "Today's digital world with increased

sophistication further renders great challenges to banks to keep pace. Through the new services package we, at Warba Bank, are able to keep pace with the latest technology to serve customers by giving them the opportunity to manage their accounts themselves at any time, in any place at the highest security standards and ensuring information confidentiality. We continuously strive to be the leaders in this field by proposing, developing and launching the best easy to use products and services. As such, we ensure serving our customers perfectly and availing from technology in facilitating their banking transactions through our constant quest to understand and keep up with the constant behavior and lifestyle change guided by the online-based services rather than the traditional approach requiring customers to visit the bank."

UAE'S KBBO GROUP PICKS LONDON FOR LISTING MERGED SUBSIDIARIES

ABU DHABI: United Arab Emirates' privately-owned KBBO Group has picked London for listing its merged subsidiary, two sources said yesterday as the firm pushes ahead with plans to raise over \$1 billion from a share sale. The family investment firm, named after chairman Khalifa Butti Bin Omeir, is merging subsidiaries Centurion Investment and Infinite Investment LLC this year and completing a 40 percent share sale next year, sources told Reuters in August.

At the time the sources said Abu Dhabi-based KBBO Group would list the subsidiary either in London or New York. "The listing venue will be London," the sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters, declining to be identified as the matter is not yet public.

"The merger of the subsidiaries is nearing completion and the process is moving ahead," they said. KBBO declined to confirm but a company statement yesterday said KBBO was assessing a range of strategic alternatives to support further growth and development of certain businesses, including an initial public offering, without giving details. Companies from the UAE, including Abu Dhabi's NMC Health and Al-Noor, have listed shares in London. There has been no IPO in Abu Dhabi since 2011 due to weak investor confidence. — Reuters

WARBA BANK LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH HONDA ALGHANIM MOTORS

KUWAIT: Warba Bank launched a new exclusive partnership with Honda Alghanim Motors in Kuwait to provide the best financing services to its customers as part of the "Pay Installments with the Price of Cash" campaign. This partnership provides exclusive offers giving Warba customers and everyone wishing to purchase any Honda Car from 2015-2016 models the chance to finance their favorite car at easy installments for a period reaching thirty months without increase on the original cash price in an easy way in full compliance with the rules of Islamic Sharia. Customers will be having the option for extending the installments to different periods.

Warba Bank provides this unique and exclusive offer to its customers in collaboration with Honda Alghanim, so that they can now purchase the Honda car of their choice without the burden of any additional burdens. This comes as part of Warba's continuous efforts to enhance the customers' banking experience and enable them to manage their daily needs smoothly and easily in Compliance with the rules of the Islamic Sharia.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank has recently launched a similar exclusive partnership with Hamad M. Al-Wazzan & Partners - Ford dealers in Kuwait giving customers the chance to purchase their favorite car from the selective car collection through easy financing for up to three years at the original cash price.

Warba Bank is keen to continue providing comprehensive and innovative banking solutions for Kuwaiti nationals and giving them the chance to acquire what they want without suffering financing burdens and without any additional charges on resale.



STEELE CITY: The Keystone Steele City pumping station, into which the planned Keystone XL pipeline is to connect to, is seen in Steele City, Nebraska. The Obama administration says, it is continuing a review of the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline, despite a request by the project's developer to suspend the review. —AP

CRUDE SET FOR WEEKLY LOSS AS SUPPLY GLUT AND DOLLAR DRAG
OPEC OIL PRICE DOWN TO \$43.28PB

LONDON: Crude oil prices were on track to post weekly losses yesterday as an oversupply of physical oil and a strong dollar bedeviled the market. Benchmark prices regained some ground in early trading, but any sustained recovery faced strong headwinds. "We expect crude oil prices to remain under pressure in the short term as the stubborn global supply glut continues to dominate the market," Sudden senior analyst Myrto Sokou said.

Brent crude futures had risen 45 cents to \$48.43 a barrel by 1256 GMT, still on track to fall more than 2 percent from the previous week. US crude futures were trading at \$45.45 a barrel, up 25 cents from the previous close.

The gains followed steep falls the previous day on climbing US crude inventories, and analysts said oversupply would continue to pressure oil markets. Any decline in weekly rig-count data from the United States due later yesterday could boost prices further as the market looked for indications that US oil production would slow. "We're deep into the industry's cost curve," said Harry Tchilinguirian,

global head of commodity strategy at BNP Paribas, adding that if there is a contraction in rigs, "the market can lift off this floor".

US shale producers are also looking for even more cost cuts for the coming year as they prepare for a longer downturn in prices. But there are other near-term obstacles for price momentum, including the strong dollar and a persistent overhang of physical oil.

The dollar has gained almost 5 percent against a basket of currencies since early October, making oil more expensive for non-US investors. US jobs data due later in the day was expected to help nudge the US Federal Reserve to be the first major central bank to raise interest rates since the financial crisis of 2008/2009.

Outside the United States, there has been little sign of lower oil output. A senior OPEC delegate told Reuters the group is unlikely to cut output when it meets in December if rival producers are unwilling to help reduce supplies. "With oil production of major producers strong, falling output from US shale will be

insufficient to balance the oversupplied oil market over the next two years," BMI Research said. BMI added that increased production from Russia and OPEC were serious obstacles to price recovery.

The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$43.28 per barrel (pb) Thursday, compared with \$44.43 pb the previous day, the cartel said here yesterday. The yearly average of the OPEC's basket price hit \$96.29 a barrel, it added. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

During their annual meeting here in June, the OPEC oil ministers agreed to maintain their output ceiling of 30 million barrels per day. The OPEC expects high demand for oil and high supply on the part of non-OPEC member states in the second half of 2015. — Agencies

HAPAG-LLOYD SAYS IPO 'SUCCESSFUL' AS SHARES START TRADING

FRANCFORT: German container shipping company Hapag-Lloyd said its planned stock market listing has been a success, raising around \$300 million or 265 million euros in fresh funding, as its shares started trading on the stock exchange yesterday. "The shares of Hapag-Lloyd start trading on the Frankfurt and Hamburg Stock Exchanges today. The successful initial public offering marks a milestone in the history" of the company, it said in a statement.

The shares, which had been issued at a price of 20 euros apiece, opened at 20.05 euros and hit 20.13 euros in late morning. The IPO had originally been scheduled a week ago, but was postponed.

In all, just over 13 million shares-equivalent to 14 percent of the total share capital-were bought by investors at the issue price of 20 euros, which was at the lower end of the subscription price range of 20-22 euros. The pro-

ceeds would be used "for investments in vessels and containers," Hapag-Lloyd said. The IPO values the company at some 2.3 billion euros. A number of stock market hopefuls have had to postpone or scale back their planned IPOs recently as a result of the market turbulence sparked by concerns about the fallout from the economic slowdown in China and the Volkswagen emissions-cheating scandal. These include Covestro, the former polymers

division of Bayer, and auto parts supplier Schaeffler.

Hapag-Lloyd already eyed a stock market listing after it acquired the container shipping activities of CSAV in mid-2014 to create the world's number four in the sector, with revenues of nearly nine billion euros. A former division of tourism giant TUI-which still holds a 14 percent stake in the company-Hapag-Lloyd has planned an IPO several times in the past, but postponed it. — AFP

CASH-STRAPPED FRONTIER ECONOMIES RUSH TO BOND MARKETS IN TIGHT WINDOW

LONDON: Dollar bond sales by smaller, junk-rated emerging countries have sprung back to life in October following a three-month hiatus as governments rush to raise much-needed cash before US interest rates start rising.

Sliding commodity prices and political turmoil have pummeled many countries labelled as "frontier" - a fast growing but less developed and higher risk sub-set of emerging economies that ranges from Angola and Belarus to Egypt and Pakistan. A mauling for emerging market assets sparked off by doubts over China's economic health and a devaluation in the yuan in August saw Eurobond issuance grind to a halt in the third quarter. For the first time since the 2008 financial crisis there was no fresh debt sale from frontier markets for more than two months, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Yet in October, issuers rushed back to the markets, selling \$2.5 billion - the heaviest month of issuance since January. November looks set to follow in that vein, having already seen \$2 billion of issuance via bonds from Jordan and Angola. "There are weaker credits that do need the money for budget financing where commodity weakness has opened up financing gaps," said Mark Baker, investment director at Standard Life Investments. "That's especially the case in Sub-Saharan Africa."

Some of these issuers, like copper producer Zambia or oil exporter Angola, had to pay hefty yields to plug the holes emerging from revenues getting hammered and fiscal positions deteriorate in the wake of tumbling commodity prices. Zambia, which sells almost 50 percent of its exports to China, issued \$1.25 billion in July at 9.375 percent. The country has seen its Kwacha currency lose more than half of its value against the dollar since the start of the year. Angola, which exports more than 60 percent of its crude to Beijing, had to promise 9.5 percent when raising \$1.5 billion on Thursday.

And Ghana at the start of October paid investors a 10.75 percent coupon, even though its \$1 billion bond was partially guaranteed by the World Bank. With few financing options, Accra wants to return to global bond markets before year-end. Looking at their credit worthiness, most frontier issuers - like Angola or Jordan - have a "junk" rating, meaning governments have to pay a premium over more secure "investment grade" issuers.

PENT UP DEMAND

And little change seems to be on the horizon. Ratings agency Moody's found that growth potential among frontier markets was strong compared to emerging markets overall, yet very few were well placed for credit improvements.

"None of the 29 rated frontier-market sovereigns in the study has seen dramatic credit improvements over the past 10 years," Moody's analysts said in their recent report.

While some investors harbor doubts over the economic health of frontier commodity exporters, the issues got a warm welcome from investors, with order books for Angola's issue bulging to more than \$7 billion. "Angola was a reflection of a recent recovery in appetite towards commodity-sensitive emerging markets, they managed to take advantage of that," said Baker. There is much pent-up demand in general. Despite Sri Lanka's recent economic troubles, investors placed orders worth \$3.3 billion for its end-October Eurobond, allowing it to expand the deal size to \$1.5 billion. With interest rates set by most major central banks hovering at record lows for extended periods, many western investors are hunting for yield around the globe. — Reuters



MIAMI: People attend a job fair at Dolphin Mall in Miami. The federal government issued its October jobs report yesterday. —AP

US EMPLOYMENT SEEN RAISING DECEMBER RATE HIKE CHANCES

NONFARM PAYROLLS FORECAST RISING 180,000 IN OCTOBER

WASHINGTON: US job growth likely accelerated in October after two straight months of tepid gains, with wages also picking up in a show of domestic strength that would bolster prospects for a December interest rate hike from the Federal Reserve.

A Reuters survey forecast nonfarm payrolls increasing 180,000, well above the 139,000 jobs per month average for August and September. Should payroll gains meet expectations, it would add to robust automobile sales in painting an upbeat picture of the economy at the start of the fourth quarter. With speeches from several Fed officials, including Chair Janet Yellen, suggesting a low bar for a December rate increase, economists say job gains above 150,000 in October and November would be sufficient for the central bank to lift benchmark overnight borrowing costs from near zero.

Minutes from the Fed's Oct. 27-28 meeting and subsequent comments from Yellen have firmly put a rate hike on the table at the central bank's upcoming Dec. 15-16 gathering. "It's not great job growth but it's respectable and will qualify as good enough for the Fed to feel comfortable to raise rates," said David Donabedian, chief investment officer at Atlantic Trust Private Wealth Management in Washington.

The Labor Department's closely watched

jobs report will be released yesterday at 8:30 am (1330 GMT). It will likely join October's strong services sector and auto sales data in supporting views that economic growth will regain momentum in the fourth quarter after braking sharply to a 1.5 percent annual pace the July-September period. Wages, which have been almost stagnant despite a tightening labor market, are forecast rising 0.2 percent in October after holding steady in September. Even with the expected gain, the year-on-year reading would bump up to only 2.3 percent, a still-tepid pace that threatens little inflation pressure.

The unemployment rate is expected to have held steady at a more than seven-year low of 5.1 percent, just a touch above the level many Fed officials see as consistent with full employment.

REVISIONS EYED

Economists also expect payroll gains for August and September will be revised higher as the sharp slowdown evidenced in prior reports was not supported by other labor market indicators, such as weekly claims for jobless benefits, which are near 42-year lows.

"The report will continue this pattern of an economy which is growing at a steady pace, but clearly with a labor market that is tightening," said David Kelly, chief global

strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management in New York. Economists anticipate some improvement in other labor market measures that Fed officials are eyeing as they contemplate raising rates for the first time since 2006.

But the labor force participation rate, or the share of working-age Americans who are employed or at least looking for a job, likely held at a near 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment gains in October were likely broad-based, though manufacturing and mining probably lost more jobs. Manufacturing has been hit by a strong dollar, efforts by businesses to reduce bloated inventory and spending cuts by energy companies cutting back on well drilling and exploration in response to lower oil prices.

Mining employment has already declined by 102,000 since reaching a peak in December 2014. Oilfield services provider Schlumberger last month announced further layoffs in addition to the 20,000 jobs it has already eliminated. Construction payrolls, however, are expected to have increased further, although the gains likely remained modest. Strong job gains are expected in the services sector, especially in retail, health and leisure. Government payrolls are expected to have increased by 15,000 last month. — Reuters

TATA MOTORS POSTS LOSS AFTER TIANJIN DISASTER

MUMBAI: India's largest car maker Tata Motors reported a quarterly loss of \$65.4 million yesterday due to a massive one-off hit from the Tianjin gas explosion and weak Jaguar sales in China. The firm, part of Tata's sprawling tea-to-steel conglomerate, said it had suffered a 24.93 billion rupee (\$378.89 million) charge following the chemical blast in August

that killed 161 people.

"The process for finalizing an insurance claim may take some months to conclude," the Mumbai-based firm added in a statement. Tata said 5,800 cars had been lost in the explosion as it reported a 4.3 billion rupee loss for the three months to September, compared to a profit of 32.9 billion rupees in the same period

last year. The earnings report also showed that a 32 percent slump in sales of Tata's luxury British unit Jaguar Land Rover in China had contributed to the poor results.

"Weaker China sales and mix, foreign exchange revaluation and higher depreciation and amortization expenses in the Jaguar Land Rover business," had been a factor, the

statement said. Revenue from JLR fell to 9.8 billion pounds (\$14.85 billion) from 10.2 billion pounds. Tata Motors is hugely reliant on revenues from JLR, which it bought for \$2.3 billion from Ford in 2008 at the height of the global financial crisis. Consolidated revenue was at 613.18 billion rupees (\$9.53 billion) up from 606.41 billion rupees. — AFP

GREECE APPROVES REFORM BILL, EYES BAILOUT TRANCHE

EURO-ZONE MINISTERS TO MEET IN 3 DAYS

ATHENS: Greece's parliament approved early yesterday a bill with reforms prescribed by the country's international lenders, ahead of a euro-zone finance ministers meeting in three days which will decide if Athens qualifies for fresh bailout funds. Greece needs to legislate a series of reforms to pass the first review of a new bailout worth up to 86 billion euros it signed up to earlier this year. It must also revamp its banking system by the end of the year to start talks on much-needed debt relief which Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has made a priority.

A majority of lawmakers in the 300-seat parliament approved a bill which improves on previous legislation for the

calculation of pensions, forces Greece to comply with EU energy efficiency rules, lifts obstacles for the sale of Greece's largest port and scraps tax breaks for farmers. Passing the bill was crucial, but there are still issues holding up a review which can unlock 2 billion euros of aid, a sub-tranche of an initial 26 billion instalment. Greece's compliance assessment to date is set to be on the agenda of a session of euro zone ministers, known as the Eurogroup, on Monday.

Athens and its lenders are still at odds over an effective mechanism for Greece's troubled banks - which will be receiving bailout aid - to address non-performing loans affecting businesses, but also thousands of mortgage holders.

A 23 percent VAT tax on private education is also a thorn in talks with lenders. Athens signed up to the measure to plug a 300-400 million euro fiscal gap but later found it was highly controversial in a country where parents supplement perceived shortcomings in the state education system with extra tuition, and is now trying to find other ways to raise the revenue.

Deputy Finance Minister Tryfon Alexiadis said the government would announce its decision over the measures which will replace the VAT on education "within the day, tomorrow (Friday) the latest."

"The issue will be solved," he said. — Reuters

MEXICO TO BOOST ECONOMIC TIES WITH RAUL CASTRO VISIT

MEXICO CITY: Mexicans are looking to increase trade with Cuba as Cuban President Raul Castro makes his first state visit to Mexico, and the first such trip since relations between the two countries went cold in the early 2000s. With Cuba experiencing some limited economic opening in recent years and renewing diplomatic ties with the United States, Mexico sees an opportunity to expand its economic interests in Cuba and other larger economies of the Caribbean.

"We believe we are in a privileged position to have more presence on the island because it's close, we share the Caribbean Sea and because of many things," said Socorro Flores, Mexico's deputy foreign minister for Latin America.

Castro was scheduled to arrive in the Yucatan peninsula city of Merida late Thursday and meet with his Mexican counterpart, Enrique Pena Nieto, yesterday. For some experts, Mexico's interest runs parallel with what many consider Cuba's plans to increase ties with the outside world before the U.S. ends its 50-year embargo against the island.

"The strategy of Cuba, before the embargo is lifted and US can reach everything, (is) to diversify its foreign economic relationships, and Mexico can be a good partner," said Ana Covarrubias of the College of Mexico. After chilly relations under Mexico's two previous conservative governments, Pena Nieto has made clear he wants to renew historically close ties with Cuba. His Institutional Revolutionary Party, which ruled for 71 years before losing the presidency in 2000, always had a respectful relationship with Cuba's communist government despite U.S. pressure to cut off ties.

Cuban President Fidel Castro was in Mexico in 2002 to attend a United Nations conference in Monterrey, where he said then-Mexican President Vicente Fox told him to leave. Raul Castro, who assumed Cuba's presidency from his brother in 2006, participated in a Latin America summit in the Mexican resort city of Cancun in 2010.

According to official statistics, total trade between Mexico and Cuba in 2014 amounted to about \$374 million, a small sum against the \$500 billion in two-way business last year between Mexico and its main trading partner, the United States.

Two of the seven companies that received approval to develop the Cuban port of Mariel are Mexican. The Mexican government has said the signing of some bilateral agreements in areas such as tourism and education are expected during Raul Castro's visit.

Experts said there are some sensitive issues between Cuba and Mexico, such as migration. Mexico has seen an increase in the arrival of Cuban migrants in recent months, in what analyst Covarrubias said is a reflection of Cuba's new relationship with the United States.

Normalizing relations between Cuba and the United States will get rid of the automatic refugee status that Cubans enjoy as soon as they reach US soil. Many are trying to get in before that ends.

Migration statistics show that from January to September this year, 6,447 Cubans were stopped for not having proper documentation to be in Mexico, twice the number for all of 2014. — AP

100 PORTUGUESE BUSINESS LEADERS DECRY UNCERTAINTY

LISBON: One hundred Portuguese business leaders have signed an open letter expressing concern about the country's ongoing political uncertainty and warning it could hurt the economy if it goes on much longer. With Portugal's new government barely a week old and larger opposition parties vowing to force its resignation within days, the letter published Friday said the uncertainty is jeopardizing a fragile economic recovery.

The letter's signatories, who lead some of Portugal's biggest companies, said the political climate is a threat to their investment and hiring plans. They noted that the current annual growth rate of 1.5 percent is "modest," though better than the average rate of 0.7 percent recorded from 2000-2010, and required nurturing. Portugal's center-right government is due to present its policy program in a two-day parliamentary debate starting next Monday. Three left-of-center parties, who together have more votes than the government, say they will unite to force its resignation by rejecting the program.

At the heart of the political friction are the austerity policies introduced after debt-heavy Portugal's 78 billion euro (\$85 billion) bailout in 2011 amid a financial crisis gripping countries sharing the euro currency. The government says public spending must remain frugal to lower debt. Its opponents - the moderate Socialist Party, the

radical Left Bloc and the Communist Party - want to ease austerity and reverse pay and pension cuts.

Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho said yesterday he is ready to negotiate policies with the Socialists but added that "any more government spending needs to be

counterbalanced," either by savings elsewhere or through taxes. The Left Bloc announced late Thursday it has reached a written agreement on future government policies with the Socialists but gave no details. The Socialists are still negotiating a formal deal with the Communists. — AP



LONDON: Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney gestures, during an Inflation Report press conference, at the Bank of England, in London, Thursday. — AP

FM: TURKEY SHOULD CARRY OUT ECONOMIC REFORMS QUICKLY

ANKARA: Turkey needs to carry out economic reforms including to its tax system quickly and effectively after Sunday's general election returned the country to single-party rule, Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek told broadcaster NTV yesterday.

The election, which saw the ruling AK Party regain a majority lost only five months earlier, gives Turkey a window of opportunity to push ahead with badly-needed reforms, but success will depend

on the shape of its new cabinet. Simsek, who is expected to retain a role in the new government, said the planned reforms would include minor changes in the budget and medium-term program, but Turkey's macroeconomic framework would remain the same.

"We hope that the income tax draft will be prioritized. It's very important that government spending is financed through healthy tax revenues," he said in a live interview.

The reforms would strengthen the Turkish economy against possible volatility in emerging markets related to the expected hike in interest rates by the US Federal Reserve, he said. Simsek said Turkey would accelerate privatizations in the coming period, privatising ports next year and possibly holding a new tender for the national lottery license.

In April, The Turkish Privatization Administration (OIB) offered the license to the second-highest bidder in last

year's tender, ERG-Ahlatci, which offered \$2.75 billion. It has until mid-December to pay.

"If the payment is made, the national lottery will be privatized. But we will not give special treatment to any company. We can hold a tender again," Simsek said. The highest bidder at the lottery tender, a consortium led by a unit of Net Holding which bid \$2.76 billion, failed to meet an April deadline to complete the deal. — Reuters



FRANKFURT: Lufthansa aircraft are parked as Lufthansa pilots went on a three-day-strike in Frankfurt. A union representing cabin crews at Germany's Lufthansa is calling members out on strike in a contract dispute with the airline. — AP

LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS HIT AS CREW START LONGEST STRIKE

AIRLINE CANCELS 290 FLIGHTS, 37,500 PASSENGERS AFFECTED

BERLIN/FRANKFURT: German airline Lufthansa cancelled hundreds of flights yesterday after cabin crew union UFO announced a walkout on flights from Frankfurt and Duesseldorf from 1300 GMT that could start the longest ever strike action at the carrier. On the first day of a planned

week of strike action over failed pension talks, flight attendants are being called to strike at Frankfurt, Lufthansa's biggest hub, and Duesseldorf until 2200 GMT, affecting around 37,500 passengers. Lufthansa said it had cancelled 290 flights planned for yesterday including 15 long-haul departures, which

are typically more profitable for carriers. Eight long-haul flights will still take off, it said.

More strike action can be expected today at Frankfurt, the union said on Friday, but Lufthansa's other main hub in Munich will not be subject to walkouts until after Sunday, given school holidays in that region. Lufthansa Group airlines Swiss, Austrian Airlines, Germanwings, Eurowings, Brussels Airlines, Air Dolomiti and Cityline will not be affected by the strike. That means that overall, the airlines group can carry out 90 percent of the 3,000 flights it typically operates on a Friday.

The walkout comes after Lufthansa and the union failed to reach an agreement in a long-running row over early retirement benefits and pensions. Lufthansa is trying to negotiate with various staff groups to bring down pension costs as part of a savings drive to allow it to better compete with low-cost rivals and leaner Gulf carriers.

Should Lufthansa management not make concessions, the union will carry out a threat to stage more walkouts until Nov 13, it said. "We regret this course of action, but we see no alternative," union head Nicolety Baublies said. Lufthansa shares were up almost three percent yesterday, nearly recovering from Thursday, when they closed down 4 percent after the union confirmed it would strike. — Reuters

UNITED AIRLINES CEO PLANS TO RETURN IN Q1

NEW YORK: United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz says he plans to return to work sometime in the first quarter of 2016. Munoz, 56, has been out on medical leave following an Oct. 15 heart attack. The company's general counsel, Brett J. Hart, has led the company in his absence.

"My time away will be a little longer than I would like, but based upon discussion with my doctors I will be back in the first quarter," Munoz said in a letter to employees released by the company.

Munoz had spent a month leading the Chicago-based United Continental Holdings before having the heart attack. He became CEO on Sept. 8 after Jeff Smisek was pushed out amid a federal investigation into the airline's dealings with the government agency

running one of its most important airports.

During his short tenure, Munoz acknowledged that United had failed its passengers with chronic delays and computer outages and that it had poor relations with its workers. He promised to fix both. Munoz served as president and chief operating officer of CSX Corp. before accepting the CEO job with United. He joined the United Continental board in 2010. United has been plagued by technology challenges since its 2010 merger with Continental. More recently, federal prosecutors began investigating whether under Smisek the airline gave preferential treatment to a former chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the New York-area airports. — AP

AFRICAN TELECOM GIANT BATTLES NIGERIA OVER \$5.2BN FINE

LAGOS: Africa's biggest telecommunications company is locked in a nasty battle in powerful Nigeria, with billions of dollars at stake. MTN Nigeria, MTN Group's subsidiary here, was fined \$5.2 billion for failing to meet an August deadline to deactivate 5.2 million unregistered cellphone SIM cards - considered a security threat with Nigeria confronted by an Islamic uprising and rampant kidnappings and armed robberies.

The fine amounts to nearly two years' profits for MTN Nigeria, by far the company's most profitable subsidiary. It also equals nearly a quarter the national budget of Nigeria, which has been hammered by the global plunge in oil prices. Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil producer and President Muhammadu Buhari, who was elected this year, says he inherited depleted coffers as he struggles to create jobs and fulfill other campaign promises.

In a telephone interview Thursday with The Associated Press, Tony Ojobo, the spokesman for the Nigerian Communications Commission, said the regulator won't buckle to pressure from MTN shareholders to reduce the fine levied against the South African-based telecommunications giant.

Underscoring the perceived reliance on mobile phones by Islamic extremists in Nigeria's war, the military regularly cuts cellphone service in areas under attack by Boko Haram. Unregistered mobile phones can also be used by criminals to hide their tracks.

Ojobo said unregistered MTN SIM cards were used to make calls demanding ransom in the September kidnapping of former Finance Minister Olu Falae.

Institutional shareholders in MTN, the biggest telecommunications company in Africa, have complained that the huge fine is punitive, and warned it could hurt investor confidence in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation of about 170 million people.

South Africa's Public Investment Corporation, MTN's biggest shareholder with more than 15 percent of shares, said Tuesday it is concerned about the fine and allegations that MTN did not immediately disclose it to shareholders, according to Daniel Matjila, CEO of Public Investment Corporation. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange is investigating. Ojobo said Nigeria's four cellphone service providers signed an agreement that set the fine at 200,000 naira (about \$1,000) for each unregulated SIM card in 2011. He said MTN was the only company not to comply and that the 5.2 million cards were actually deactivated by the regulator. Until a couple of years ago, people could buy SIM cards without producing identity documents. The regulations are aimed at helping law enforcement and security forces to track criminals.

Ojobo even said "there is an orchestration to try to black-mail the regulator," without offering details. "MTN should operate in the rule of law - the same rule of law that protects ... investment," he told AP. He added that in South Africa, MTN has ensured 98 percent compliance in registering its SIM card holders. In Johannesburg, MTN spokesman Chris Maroleng said the company is above board in its dealings with Nigeria.

"MTN is committed to engaging with authorities in Nigeria ... (adhering) to the highest principles of sound corporate governance and transparency," Maroleng said.

Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo late Thursday denied that he is heading the Nigerian team negotiating with MTN executives from South Africa, as the AP erroneously reported. His spokesman Laolu Akande said local reports to that effect were planted. — AP

CHINA TO RESUME IPOs AS IT WINDS DOWN EMERGENCY MEASURES

BEIJING: China is resuming initial public stock offerings as it winds down emergency measures imposed to stop a market plunge, a government spokesman was quoted by state media as saying yesterday.

Regulators suspended IPOs in July after China's main market index plunged 30 percent from its June 12 peak. That disrupted fundraising plans for dozens of companies. The end of the moratorium was announced

by a spokesman for the China Securities Regulatory Commission, Deng Ge, according to the Xinhua News Agency and financial news outlets.

"Currently, the stock market has entered a self-healing and self-adjusting stage," Ge was quoted as saying. "Resuming IPOs will help enhance the vitality of the market and repair its functions."

The Shanghai Composite Index has

surged 17.6 percent in the past month. Before the June slump, the index soared more than 150 percent starting late last year after state media said shares were inexpensive. That led investors to believe Beijing would step in to prop up prices if necessary.

The bubble burst after an unrelated change in banking rules in early June made investors think Beijing's support might be weakening. A group of state entities is

believed to have spent tens of billions of dollars buying shares to prop up prices. Goldman Sachs estimated in a report in August that the group, dubbed the "National Team" by financial analysts, spent 860 billion-900 billion yuan (\$135 billion-\$140 billion) in June and July. July's order canceled planned IPOs by 28 private companies in electronics, food processing and other industries. — AP



TAIPEI: A student protester against a Taiwan's trade pact with China takes a phone call inside the occupied legislature in Taipei, Taiwan. China and Taiwan have been separately ruled since the Chinese civil war of the 1940s, but China claims sovereignty over the island and insists the two sides eventually unify. — AP

ABE: PACIFIC RIM FREE TRADE DEAL SET RULES FOR ECONOMY

'JAPAN, US LEAD ECONOMIC RULE-MAKING UNDER TPP'

TOKYO: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday hailed a huge Pacific Rim free-trade deal, saying it showcased a bid by Japan and the United States to set rules for the global economy. His comments come a day after the long-secret text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was made public. The massive document, posted online by several governments, offered the first detailed look at the world's biggest free trade area, which aims to break down barriers to commerce and investment between a dozen countries comprising about 40 percent of the global economy.

The US and Japan are the proposed bloc's two biggest economies. "Rules should not be something that are imposed on you—you make them," Abe told an economic forum in Tokyo.

"The TPP is the structure where Japan and the US can lead in economic rule-making," Abe also said he would "enthusiastically welcome" South Korea and Indonesia, which have signalled interest in joining, into the zone, so long as they "accept the rules" that Tokyo helped write.

The pact, agreed a month ago, aims to break down trade and investment barriers among participating nations Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam. The deal now awaits legislative approvals in each one of the dozen members a potentially contentious and lengthy process.

Abe and many Japanese experts have long supported the TPP, which should give greater foreign market access for "Japan Inc."



TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe answers questions during the Yomiuri International Economic Society (YIES) lecture meeting entitled "What We Should Do Next" in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

But politically connected farm lobbies and some consumer groups have passionately opposed the zone, fearing it would destroy Japan's agriculture by opening a floodgate for cheap foreign imports and altering Japan's rules for consumer protection. Abe stressed that the TPP will bring "transparent and fair rules" of trade among the participating economies. "The TPP truly constitutes a grand plan for the long-term future of our nation," he said. On the domestic front, Abe suggested that he might compile an extra budget "if necessary" to fund social and economic programs to be drafted by the end of this month.

Abe also touched on what he described as

"increasing concerns" over China's economic slowdown. "I would like the Chinese government to steadily implement structural reforms while ensuring transparency," Abe said of Japan's giant neighbor and world's second-largest economy. "China's peaceful development is an opportunity for Japan and is necessary for growth of the global economy," he added. Bilateral tensions over a maritime territorial dispute, clashing interpretations of World War II-era history and Abe's visit to a controversial Tokyo war shrine have hamstrung ties. But Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping have held two formal meetings since last year amid an effort to improve icy relations. — AFP

FORMER RABOBANK TRADERS CONVICTED OVER LIBOR RIGGING

NEW YORK: A federal jury found two former traders at Rabobank guilty of fraud on Thursday in the first US trial arising from a global investigation into manipulation of Libor, the leading benchmark for pricing financial transactions around the world.

Anthony Allen, Rabobank's former global head of liquidity and finance, and Anthony Conti, a former senior trader, were convicted in district court in Manhattan on every count of conspiracy and wire fraud they faced. The verdict marked a victory for the US Justice Department, which brought charges against the British citizens a year after the Netherlands-based bank in October 2013 reached a \$1 billion deal resolving related US and European probes. "Today's verdicts illustrate the department's successful efforts to hold accountable bank executives responsible for this global fraud scheme," Leslie Caldwell, head of the Justice Department's criminal division, said in a statement.

Allen, 44, slumped over a table in court as the jury foreman read the verdict, while Conti, 46, held his head up. Lawyers for both men said they planned to appeal.

"This is just round one," Michael Schachter, Allen's lawyer, said. "Tony Allen looks forward to pursuing all available options. He is disappointed with the verdict."

GLOBAL INVESTIGATION

Libor, or the London interbank offered rate, is a short-term rate financial institutions charge each other for loans that is calculated based on submissions by a panel of banks. Hundreds of trillions of dollars in short-term interest rates, swaps and other financial products are pegged to Libor.

The case was the first by the Justice Department to go to trial following global investigations into whether banks submitted artificial rate estimates to bolster profits on trading derivatives tied to Libor.

Those investigations resulted in charges against 22 people in the United States and United Kingdom and around \$9 billion in regulatory settlements with financial institutions.

Their trial follows an earlier one in London involving yen Libor manipulation that led to the conviction of Tom Hayes, a former UBS AG and Citigroup Inc trader who was sentenced in August to 14 years in prison. Another trial is meanwhile ongoing in London for six former brokers accused of manipulating yen Libor rates. They have pleaded not guilty.

Among the 13 people charged by the Justice Department were seven former Rabobank traders, including Allen and Conti, who earlier this year waived their right to extradition to fight the charges. Prosecutors said Allen, 44, and Conti, 46, participated in a five-year conspiracy at Rabobank to rig US dollar and yen Libor rates in order to gain an unfair advantage trading derivatives linked to the rate.

Prosecutors relied on testimony by three former Rabobank traders who pleaded guilty as part of cooperation deals, as well as emails and instant messages they sent at the time. Libor was supposed to be an "impartial market tool," Paul Robson, one of the traders, testified. "But we were biasing submissions or shading it to help the traders," he said. Lawyers for Allen and Conti countered that while others at the bank may have been trying to rig Libor, their clients had submitted honest rate estimates.

They argued prosecutors took documents out of context, and that cooperating witnesses lied about their clients' role in the scheme in hopes of getting lenient sentences.

Allen opted to testify in his own defense, telling jurors he rarely was involved personally in submitting numbers used to calculate Libor and that he in those few instances ignored traders' requests to bias the rate. — Reuters

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**Jolie and Pitt seek to rekindle
their romance in 'By the Sea'**

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A picture shows the Weeping Window poppy installation by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper at St George's Hall in Liverpool, north west England, yesterday.— AFP



A handout computer generated image released by Gangnam District Office yesterday shows a metal sculpture consisted of two giant fists overlapped at the wrist in the style of the horse dance, outside the COEX shopping and exhibition Centre in Seoul. — AFP

Seoul district to erect ‘Gangnam Style’ statue

A statue dedicated to South Korean singer Psy’s global music video hit “Gangnam Style” is to be erected in the eponymous, upscale Seoul district made famous by the song. Gangnam district council said yesterday that the statue-modeled after Psy’s signature horse-riding dance move-would be unveiled next month outside the COEX shopping and exhibition Centre, where the first part of the video was shot. The metal sculpture will consist of two giant fists overlapped at the wrist in the style of the dance from the 2012 video that was imitated across the world.

“Thanks to the music video, Gangnam became known throughout the world. We hope this will become a landmark for our district”, said Gangnam tourism director Park Hee-Soo. “Tourists can take pictures under the statue and the song will play automatically when you stand there,” Park told AFP. “Gangnam Style” remains the most-watched video of all time on YouTube with more than 2.4 billion views. But Psy’s next two singles-“Gentleman” and “Hangover”-received a relatively lukewarm response from fans. The 37-year-old is set to release his first album for more than three years next month. —AFP

Bad Blood: Katy Perry still outearns Taylor Swift

The “bad blood” between Taylor Swift and Katy Perry may be about to get worse. Even though Swift has dominated the pop scene of late, Perry has bested her in a new list of top-earning women in music. Forbes magazine in its annual list said that Perry earned \$135 million to be the highest-earning woman in music, well above Swift’s \$80 million. But Perry’s dominance is partly a quirk of the calendar, as Forbes looked at pre-tax income for the year ending on June 1. Swift enjoyed massive success with her album “1989,” which in October last year scored the biggest US debut in more than a decade, but she did not begin her tour until May, weeks before the end of Forbes’ reporting period.

The wealth magazine said Swift was on track to top the list next year as she was earning some \$4 million in each city she performs, about twice the \$2 million that Perry grossed on each stop of her year-and-a-half global tour that ended last month in Costa Rica. Perry and Swift have long hinted at animosity, with Swift’s song “Bad Blood” widely seen as addressed to her pop rival. Other young pop divas including Lady Gaga and Beyonce made the Forbes list, but the number three rank went to the veteran rock outfit Fleetwood Mac, which features Stevie Nicks. —AFP

Review: Tim McGraw’s ‘Damn Country Music’ is darn good



This CD cover image released by Big Machine Records shows “Damn Country Music,” the latest release by Tim McGraw. — AP

Few veteran artists straddle contemporary and traditional country music styles as well, and as entertainingly, as Tim McGraw. On his new album, “Damn Country Music,” McGraw includes tunes George Jones would have felt comfortable performing, while others push country music into new territory. On the traditional side, the cheating song “Don’t Make Me Feel At Home” conjures up the sort of psychological dilemma found in classic country works by singers like Johnny Paycheck. “Here Tonight,” with harmony vocals by daughter Gracie McGraw, draws on upbeat Celtic sounds with the timeless, celebratory feel of early Dixie Chicks.

On the moody country-rocker “Losin’ You,” McGraw and longtime producer Byron Gallimore mix atmospheric and dramatic touches to great effect. The melodic, sunny pop of “California,” which features country duo Big & Rich, is the aural equivalent of the ocean breezes and palm trees that, in the lyrics, prove so alluring to a woman the singer loves. To McGraw’s credit, “Damn Country Music” shows that old and new sounds can work together - especially when the emphasis is on originality rather than following trends. — AP

Review

‘On Your Feet!’ is an infectious, earnest musical

If you aren’t humming a Gloria Estefan hit when you leave the Marquis Theatre on Broadway, it might be time to check your pulse. The infectious, earnest musical “On Your Feet!” initially stutters out the gate and ends somewhat awkwardly, but has a fun, percussive middle, even as it skates perilously close to melodrama. It’s saved by its genuine heart - and a list of great tunes, ones that nicely make the transition from radio to stage. The musical about Estefan and her husband, Emilio, is a love story that uses their hits like “Turn the Beat Around” and “Conga” to tell how the budding singer and producer met, battled for crossover success, handled interfamily squab-

including an improbable number when everyone taps in sandals. Book writer Alexander Dinelaris, who penned the “Birdman” screenplay, has a knack for pulling everything down a notch when it seems to get too overblown, as he does by repeatedly mocking Emilio’s heavy accent. There are some winning scenes, as when the couple first starts to have feelings for each other. The crowd around them melts to leave only Villafane singing to Segarra the tune “Anything For You.”

Classic Broadway

The bus crash is handled quite understatedly, followed by Segarra singing a nifty “Don’t Want to Lose



This image released by Vivacity Media Group shows Ana Villafane, center, as Gloria Estefan in the musical “On Your Feet!” — AP

bles and overcame a bus crash that nearly claimed Gloria’s life.

Ana Villafane stars as Gloria, and it’s uncanny how she sounds and moves like the real pop star. Josh Segarra plays Emilio and while his voice sometimes isn’t as strong, his acting is fearsome. What they have onstage is pure chemistry. “On Your Feet!” which opened Thursday, is a fine addition to the ranks of jukebox musicals. It resembles “Motown: The Musical” in its look at the struggles minority musicians face and the show “Beautiful” in the way it celebrates songwriting. It’s also the story of two immigrants who are fighting for their culture and music to be accepted. Segarra gets perhaps one of the loudest applauses by telling a nervous record executive: “This is what an American looks like.”

“Kinky Boots” director Jerry Mitchell keeps the action going with a fearless optimism. (Like “Kinky Boots,” the new show deals with reconciliation with parents.) “Memphis” choreographer Sergio Trujillo mixes hectic group numbers with pizzazz,

You” and the lovely duet “If I Never Get to Tell You,” an original song with lyrics by Gloria and music by the couple’s daughter, Emily. Perhaps the show’s best moment is when the couple is trying to gain traction for their budding hit “Conga,” and they perform it at a bar mitzvah, a wedding and a Shriner’s convention, a zany sequence that harkens back to classic Broadway. There are also some odd moments, as when Gloria is singing to her dying father who is clearly a puppet head. And a scene when fan letters come to life to cheer her up is a little self-serving.

But while the show may need a little more editing, “On Your Feet!” is charming. It’s got a grandmother (Alma Cuervo) who almost steals the show, and a dancing boy (Eduardo Hernandez) who pretty much does. It’s taken far too long to have Latin rhythms - and a Latin cast - dominate a Broadway show, not just operate as comic asides or dance breaks. Even the usual turn-off-your-cellphone warning was welcome this time - it was partly in Spanish. — AP

Peter Case 'HWY 62' leads to a good place

Peter Case, former frontman for the 1980s alt-rock band The Plimsouls, is an extremely seasoned soul these days. His latest solo album, "HWY 62," is a solid release displaying his heartfelt songwriting and no frills approach to offering up his beautiful musical messages. The album is a guitar-heavy collection of hard luck stories with Case at the helm, singing guttural tones in fine troubadour fashion.

"If I Go Crazy" would be just at home in the hands of a proper street corner busker (which Case has been), but in the hands and voice of Case, it evolves into a study of perseverance when faced with life's dice rolls. The best stuff comes on "Pelican Bay," an ode to the notorious Pelican Bay State Prison in northern California, where the state's worst of the worst got to do their time.



French actor Alain Delon poses on May 25, 2013 as he arrives for the screening of the new restored version of the film "Plein Soleil" presented in Cannes Classics at the 66th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes. — AFP

Case sings about the loneliness of solitary confinement and the sliver of light through a narrow window that serves as the sun. It all comes off like a modern day Johnny Cash who sees value in not ignoring the many lives that exist behind bars. Even during his '80s alt-rock days, Case made his songs feel weighty and worrisome, as though there were some omnipresent force forever threatening any hopes of a life in harmony. But here, with Ben Harper handling lead guitar and Case singing beautifully throughout - as on "Bluebells" for instance - even dour times can resonate with the listener. — AP

Shoppers queue up for low-cost offering from French designer



The latest collaboration between a high-fashion designer and a low-price retailer produced long lines at H&M stores around the world Thursday, while online shoppers complained they couldn't get on the chain's website before most items from its new Balmain collection were sold out. Shoppers waited for hours outside H&M stores in London, Sydney and San Francisco on Thursday, according to local news reports, as the chain began selling an assortment of dresses, purses and other items from its collaboration with Balmain, a high-end French fashion house. By midday Pacific Time, the chain's website showed more than 65 items in the collection, from a \$649 beaded dress to a \$34.99 cotton T-shirt, were sold out. Only a "ribbed bandeau top" was still available online, at \$24.99 for either black or white versions.

Shoppers vented on social media, including Twitter and Facebook, where some gushed about the new offerings and others griped that H&M's website had stalled when they tried to visit. A Twitter account for H&M stores in the United Kingdom offered apologies, saying: "The interest for this launch has exceeded all collaborations and we're truly sorry for those not being able to shop." — AP



In this photo provided by Universal Pictures, Angelina Jolie Pitt, stars as Vanessa in the film "By the Sea." The movie directed by Jolie Pitt releases in US theaters on Nov 13, 2015. —AP photos

Jolie and Pitt seek to rekindle their romance in 'By the Sea'

Hollywood power couple Angelina Jolie and husband Brad Pitt were all smiles at the world premiere of "By the Sea", her latest directorial outing and their first on-screen pairing in a decade. The much anticipated movie, which had its official opening at the American Film Institute festival late on Thursday, is an intimate drama about a married couple in the 1970s whose relationship is verging on collapse. "We are so honored to be here and open the AFI, we did our best, we tried to be honest, to give ourselves out," Jolie, 40, said after her dramatic red carpet entry along with Pitt, 51.

"This movie is inspired by grief and by the loss of my mother, but in the end it is also about how your surpass it." At the presentation the AFI organizers paid homage to Jolie's mother, Marcheline Bertrand, and actress and producer who died in 2007 and was an AFI member for three decades.

Second 'Brangelina' movie

This is only the second time that Jolie, whose movies include "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" (2001) and "Maleficent" (2014), has starred alongside her husband. The couple, nicknamed "Brangelina," appeared together in the action-comedy movie "Mr and Mrs Smith" (2005). The glamorous duo shot "By the Sea" during their honeymoon in Malta last year-the first time Jolie has directed Pitt in a movie role. In the film, Pitt plays an alcoholic writer lacking inspiration, while Jolie is a depressed former dancer who still dresses up as if she were about to go on stage. The New York couple try to find some inspiration at a French seaside hotel, where meeting a newly-wed couple helps rekindle their love of life.

"By the Sea" is the third feature film that Jolie has produced and directed, following the Bosnia war drama "In the Land of Blood and Honey" (2011) and "Unbroken" (2014), about a former Olympic athlete held at a Japanese prisoner camp during World War II. "Unbroken," which got middling reviews and no major Oscar nominations, was a disappointment for Jolie. However the film still made \$161 million in worldwide ticket sales on a budget of just \$65 million, according to the specialty website Box-Office Mojo. "By the Sea" needs a good showing at the AFI



Robert De Niro, from left, Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt attend the WSJ Magazine Innovator Awards 2015 at The Museum of Modern Art.

to get into awards contention, Tom O'Neil, the founder of showbusiness awards prediction website Goldderby.com told AFP.

"By the Sea" opens in the United States and Canada on November 13. The AFI Fest plays a crucial role in the competition for the coveted golden Oscar statuettes. The NFL drama "Concussion" starring Will

Smith and "The Big Short"-about the credit and housing bubble collapse of the mid-2000s-are also debuting at the 29th AFI Fest, which runs through November 12. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announces Oscar nominations in mid-January, ahead of the ceremony on February 28. — AFP



Angelina Jolie, left, and Brad Pitt arrive at the 2015 AFI Fest opening night premiere of "By The Sea" on Thursday, in Los Angeles. — AP photos

The Merch Awakens: 'Star Wars' blitz before film opens



Salesperson Jenn Scott takes a Star Wars Shadowtrooper Super Shogun, one of the Star Wars collectibles available at Meltdown Comics and Collectibles.

Macaroni and cheese in the shape of Darth Vader, Yoda and R2-D2? Check. Action figures? Check. A Jedi robe for your dog? You can have that too. Disney is pulling out all the stops ahead of the hotly-anticipated release of the next film in the blockbuster "Star Wars" series, with a massive merchandising blitz expected to reap billions of dollars. The push to drive up excitement for the film began in earnest in September more than three months before "Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens" hits screens worldwide in mid-December.

Disney tapped into the growing toy unboxing phenomenon during its "Force Friday" event, and the hype has been mounting ever since, with ecstatic fans snapping up advance tickets and products related to the film's beloved characters. "They have done a remarkable and effective job in getting people into such a state of anticipation," said Tom Nunan, a film producer and lecturer-



A vintage Star Wars poster for sale at Meltdown Comics and Collectibles in Los Angeles. — AFP photos

stuff are totally adults," she added, pointing to the displays of action figures, baseball cards, puzzles and comics. "We got the Funko Pop figures for the new movie as soon as they came out and we sold out immediately." At the entrance of the store also sits a life-size figure of Yoda, the iconic Jedi master, which is selling for \$900. Several store customers said they had already purchased tickets for the movie and were mulling which collectibles to buy.

"We have watched all six Star Wars movies and we are going to see the latest one at 9:30 on the morning of December 19," said Adam Duncan, 30, as he and his pregnant wife Jennyfer debated which action figures to purchase. They ended up buying two-Captain Phasma and Chewbacca. "She'll definitely also watch all the movies-she has to," added Adam, pointing to his wife's belly.

For all ages

Even pets are getting in on the craze, with owners decking their pooches and cats in "Star Wars" outfits, headbands and hoodies. "The Chewbacca costumes, the Yoda costumes, the Darth Vader costumes-these are flying off the shelves right now," said Ebony Patton, manager at a Petco store in Los Angeles. The chain retailer Target said it had stocked up on 600 "Star Wars" products ranging from toys and apparel to groceries and housewares in anticipation of the holiday season. "Star Wars was huge for us earlier this year," said Lee Henderson, a spokesman for the compa-

ny. "And we expect another uptick in sales when the movie is released."

He said one of the most popular items was the BB-8 droid-new in the latest film-which is expected to be high on Christmas lists. Experts said one added advantage for Disney was the fact that the series appeals to fans of all ages. "Star Wars comes with a strong baseline," said Steve Pasierb, CEO of the US Toy Industry Association, a trade organization. "This is a multi-generational product, so it appeals to dads and sons, mothers and daughters, families, grandparents and grandkids." He said Disney had done a superb job at using this loyal fan base to orchestrate its "Star Wars" campaign and to roll out products linked to the film at a steady pace.

"They have done it in a way that hasn't annoyed the public," said Pasierb. "Normally when there is a marketing blitz like that, the public will wear out," he explained. "But the public has not pushed back and they have been able to do it with just the right level to peak people's interest and keep it there." — AP



Customers shop for Star Wars collectibles at Meltdown Comics and Collectibles in Los Angeles.



Misty chooses a new Star Wars toy at a Petco pet store in Los Angeles.

er at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. "And Disney knows that many of the items they are selling will never be opened and will be kept like an artifact or jewel that someone might sell some day."

'Pretty crazy'

Experts predict that products tied to the film could bring in up to \$5 billion in revenue for Walt Disney Company, which paid \$4 billion for "Star Wars" creator George Lucas's Lucasfilm in 2012. Many stores that have stocked up on "Star Wars" merchandise say the products are selling quickly, with interest expected to peak on the eve of the film's release in US theaters on December 18 and during the holiday gift-giving season. "We have two aisles of Star Wars merchandise in the store, which is pretty crazy," said Jenn Scott, a sales rep at Meltdown Comics and Collectibles in Los Angeles.

"A lot of the people who are buying



Misty poses with her Yoda outfit at Petco pet store.



A figurine of Liam Neeson's character Qui-Gon Jinn in "Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace" is for sale at Meltdown Comics and Collectibles in Los Angeles.

Japan's dainty geishas in secret fast-food raids

A craving for fast food presents few obstacles to most people, but for Japan's dainty, doll-like geishas, it calls for a daring undercover operation-and a cunning disguise. While strictly taboo for a geisha to be seen munching French fries, some "geiko"-as they are known in the ancient city of Kyoto-and their young "maiko" apprentices have hatched a clever plan to avoid detection. "It's necessary to be very careful about the image we project," celebrated geiko Kikumaru told AFP in an interview, kneeling on the floor of a wooden teahouse in the fabled entertainment district of Gion. "A maiko is basically banned from



In these photos doll-like "geiko" Kikumaru performs a traditional dance during an interview with Agence France-Presse (AFP) at a traditional teahouse in the fabled entertainment district of Gion in Kyoto, western Japan. — AFP photos

going into fast-food restaurants, or trendy stores selling short skirts. But sometimes they just crave fried potatoes," she smiled. "When they do, we have to put on a pair of jeans and go and buy them some, and let them eat at home in secret." In the cloistered world of Kyoto's five geisha quarters, known as "hana-machi" (flower towns), seemingly little has changed since their rise in the 17th century. "It is a geiko's duty to protect Japanese customs and culture which are dying out, and to continue those traditions," explains Kikumaru in the soft regional dialect. "When we go outside, we must always be careful about how we walk, our posture, our behavior. No, we're not allowed to be on Facebook or things like that." Adorned in crisp kimonos, their faces powdered white, geishas float elegantly along Gion's cobbled streets between engagements at the district's quaint, but cliquish, teahouses. Skilled in Japanese arts such as dance, the lute and three-stringed shamisen, the job of a geiko-performing girl-is to enter-

tain exclusive guests, normally over dinner or at banquets. Their clients are often high-profile politicians or businessmen, who do not even know how much a night costs until they receive an eye-watering monthly bill.

Geisha yoga

"People think it's glamorous but it is a test of strength," Kikumaru said with a giggle. "It's hard work but geishas are made of hard stuff, very determined and strong women. Some go to the gym. I do yoga, or did. You really don't get enough free time." Kyoto's geikos begin as maids after completing Japan's compulsory education at the age of 15, soon becoming maiko-dancing girls. They spend the next five years training in performing arts, gracious social etiquette and conversation skills. Usually at around 20, they assume the title of geiko. However, the strict convention governing the life of the some 175 geikos currently working in Kyoto sits in stark contrast to the freedom and mod cons enjoyed by the upwardly mobile women of modern Japan. It is a divide Kikumaru, now 31, is acutely aware of. "You are constantly aware you're living a life which is not a normal one," she nodded. "You're coloured by this lifestyle as a geiko and you do feel a disconnect with the general public." "If a maiko on her way to a banquet in her kimono sees schoolgirls of the same age in their uniforms, she will imagine them going off to eat dinner together while she's sitting on a tatami floor. She doesn't have any private time and shares a room with three or four other girls. "You sacrifice your teenage years training to become a geisha and sometimes you can feel you want to give up. But you have to conquer those feelings."

Perceptions of geishas are often far from reality. Many among Kikumaru's profession were horrified by the novel-and 2005 Hollywood hit movie-"Memoirs of a Geisha" whose subject, the former geisha Mineko Iwasaki, sued the book's writer Arthur Golden for allegedly likening Kyoto's famed hostesses to prostitutes.

Gilded world

"There are even Japanese people today who don't fully understand a geisha's craft," added Kikumaru, referring to the mystique surrounding her gilded world. "Movies exaggerate, of course. What specifically is it that's different between that movie and a real-life geisha? Well, basically everything!" she laughed. "There are women who perform very different jobs to a geiko but somehow we were all painted the same color." While some past geishas in other parts of Kyoto and Japan offered sex, those in Gion complain that foreigners often mistake them for prostitutes because of their showy outfits. "There is no physical intimacy," insisted Kikumaru. "A geiko is a confidante."

But if gender equality appears alien to this fantasy time warp, think again. "Geishas in Kyoto were once daughters of samurai warriors," said Kikumaru. "When the feudal system collapsed, these girls from military stock naturally possessed the social graces and became entertainers to support their families. —AFP

French artist Alexandre Ouairy poses in front of his paintings during preparations for an exhibition at the Red Gate Gallery in Beijing. — AFP



China artist comes out... as French

For someone who cites his "oriental identity" as a source of inspiration, China-based artist Tao Hongjing is remarkably white. According to the biography distributed at his exhibitions, Tao is a stereotypically Chinese man. "The big change came when his father bought a TV, the first one ever in the neighborhood. From then on, Tao could see the world and understand his country," it read. Except that China was not his country. Tao Hongjing was the fictional creation of French artist Alexandre Ouairy, born in Nantes, who assumed the pseudonym a decade ago to sell more art as an unknown foreign name in China.

He lays his conception to rest with an exhibition opening at Beijing's Red Gate Gallery this weekend titled "Death is Going Home".

Ouairy's art trades on digestible Chinese symbolism familiar to foreign audiences: gold-plated Buddha statues, prints of bowdlerized funeral currency, Chinese characters in neon lights, and

scenes on paper of heavy industry stamped in red ink with signature chops on rice paper.

The "Tao Hongjing" idea was based on a suggestion by his gallerist in Shanghai a decade ago, when the country's contemporary art market was soaring but the Frenchman's early exhibitions proved flops.

"Public interest was limited, zero even," he recalled, offering a simple explanation: "It was because I was a foreigner. 'The collectors were primarily foreigners and they wanted to buy Chinese work, because for them it was a good investment. 'In Shanghai, I saw all that counterfeit Louis Vuitton and Prada, and I said to myself: If they make fake bags, why don't I make a fake Chinese artist?' The name was taken from a fifth-century Chinese philosopher 'who was a bit of a joker', he said. Humour aside, it worked. He began to sell one or two works a month, rather than one or two per exhibition. —AFP

The Godfather gets African look for Mali exhibition

To the casual observer, the black-and-white stills of Al Pacino, Marlon Brando and Diane Keaton look like run-of-the-mill publicity shots for Francis Ford Coppola's classic mafia caper The Godfather. A closer inspection of the photo series reveals one important addition, however: black characters. Nigerian artist Uche Okpa-Iroha has pasted himself into scenes from the 1972 movie for "The Plantation Boy", a photo exhibition causing a stir in Mali and bemoaning the paucity of African American actors in Hollywood." The intervention is a tribute, as well as an investigation, into how movies affect the individual and society," he says in a blog post explaining the photo-essay.

"Many movies are based on true stories and facts, but are replayed by actors who, by leaving traces of their own emotions and identities, blur out the differences between real, fantasy and fiction." Okpa-Iroha photographed himself in a studio in his home town of Lagos for the 2012 series and then added his image into the original film stills. Across 40 pictures, he can be seen taking part in the iconic wedding scene, plotting with crime boss Don Corleone and his associates, and stashing a gun for a gangland hit. The work has earned the 43-year-old artist the prestigious Seydou Keita Grand Prize at the 10th African Photography Biennial, the continent's premier photo show which opened in Mali's capital Bamako last week.

Turmoil

The Biennial-returning after a cancellation in 2013 brought on by Mali's political and security crisis-is spread over several locations across the city, but its beating heart is the national museum. In the gardens of the museum, Fatoumata Diabate throws a cloth over her head and antique camera before taking a portrait of a young girl as visitors arrive for the first day of the exhibition. "I use this camera, which dates from the 1960s and is called a 'view camera'," says the Malian photographer, who readily admits preferring to create her art the old-



Photographs on display at the Modibo Keita museum in Bamako.

fashioned way. Beside her makeshift studio there are wigs, dark sunglasses and other props "to flavor the sauce" says Diabate-smiling as her pictures do steady business. The theme this year is "Telling Time", an English-language title with a deliberate double-meaning which can signify "telling someone the hour of the day" or "a significant époque". It is inspired in part by the country's recent turmoil, when jihadists linked to Al-Qaeda seized the towns and cities of the desert north with the help of Tuareg rebels in the wake of a military coup. The jihadists quickly sidelined their Tuareg allies but were themselves ousted by a French-led military intervention launched in January 2013. — AFP



A man looks at photographs taken by Nigerian photographer Uche Okpa-Iroha on November. — AFP photos

Egypt's grand plans to boost tourism marred after crash



German tourists visit the Karnak Temple in Luxor, Egypt, Friday. — AP photos

Egypt had launched festivities, archaeological openings and a new tourism campaign to draw much-needed foreign visitors. But with many flights to Red Sea resorts grounded Thursday amid suspicion that a bomb brought down a Russian airliner, hopes for a recovery were fading. Egyptians, who depend on the key sector, were keeping a brave face even as some stranded tourists grew angry and tour operators bristled over possible cancellations.

The cause of Saturday's crash of a Metrojet flight packed with Russian tourists is still under investigation, but British Prime Minister

David Cameron said it was "more likely than not" that a bomb brought down the flight. All 224 people on board were killed. Cameron grounded all British flights to and from the Sinai Peninsula, stranding thousands of tourists, citing "intelligence" information. Germany's Lufthansa Group announced Thursday it was also suspending flights to and from the main Red Sea resort, Sharm El-Sheikh, joining other carriers in halting flights in the aftermath of the disaster.

Elephant looming

Descending into the tomb of a pharaonic

viceroy opened to the public for the first time in the ancient city of Luxor, Antiquities Minister Mamdouh Eldamaty said: "It is very sad what happened, but we have to wait on the result of the investigation." "It was not a terror act, it was an accident," he added, voicing the official narrative that many Egyptians in tourism-dependent areas like Luxor and Sharm El-Sheikh have clung to.

A night earlier, a gala dinner in Luxor celebrated the anniversary of the 1922 discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb, with speakers reassuring patrons that Egyptian tourism was poised for growth.

As the Cairo Opera's ballet troupe danced across a stage in pharaonic costumes, no mention was made of the crash, the proverbial elephant looming over the four-course meal served in front of the brightly lit Hatshepsut temple. Security was beefed up at Sharm El-Sheikh's airport, where dozens of additional policemen patrolled halls that earlier in the day were full of stranded travelers, but later emptied out as vacationers sought new accommodations.

Some British tourists clashed with Sharm El-Sheikh hotel staff as tensions rose over delayed flights, a dearth of information from carriers and additional costs tacked on to budget vacation packages. "Because English people are frustrated and upset, they are taking it out on the staff here, which is not fair," said Briton Emma Smyth, who said she witnessed one British family object loudly to extra charges.

"They said they should be allowed to stay and with that one man grabbed one of the managers - they ripped his shirt, ripped his

name-badge off and everything," she said, adding that despite the delays and lack of information, she and her party were not concerned about their safety.

Paul Modley, a Briton who has travelled to Sharm El-Sheikh seven times in the last nine years, said he understood his government's decision to suspend flights as a precaution, but hopes the resort he stayed at is not too badly affected. "The staff at the hotel is putting on a very positive face," he said. "I do not think they will fully appreciate it right now, but if this carries on for some time they will start to see the impact."

Tourism, which represents 11 percent of Egypt's economy and almost 20 percent of crucial foreign currency revenues, is making a gradual recovery after years of political upheaval since the 2011 popular uprising that deposed longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak,

Under control

However, its future could be grim if it is proven that an Islamic State bomb brought down the Russian passenger plane. In a northern corner of Sinai, the army is fighting Islamic militants who claim allegiance to the Islamic State group, and such a revelation would undermine President Abdel-Fattah El-Sissi's assertion that the insurgency is under control and Egypt is safe for tourists. The sector was looking to re-launch itself on the world stage this week with a multimillion dollar promotional campaign highlighting the country's history and all-year-rounding sun-worshipping opportunities, primarily in and around Sharm El-Sheikh.



A couple enjoys a jacuzzi in a swimming pool in Sharm El-Sheikh, 400 kilometers (250 miles) southeast of Cairo, Egypt.



File photo shows passengers line up to depart from Sharm El-Sheikh Airport hours after a Russian aircraft carrying 224 people, including 17 children, crashed about 20 minutes after taking off from Sharm El-Sheikh, a Red Sea resort popular with Russian tourists, in south Sinai, Egypt.



File photo shows tourists build a sand pyramid at a closed beach in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

At the World Travel Market at London's Excel Exhibition Centre, Egypt's Pharaoh boat-shaped pavilion was one of the biggest and certainly one of the most eye-catching. Morsi Shehata, general manager of Cairo-based Spring Tours Egypt, which organizes beach vacations in Sharm El-Sheikh and has 12 Nile cruise boats, said the British government's decision will undoubtedly hurt his business. "All this has actually caused a panic among the tourists," he said, speaking at the tourism fair, which he had hoped would bring a fresh start after the years of upheaval following Mubarak's ouster.

"Of course there are some worries now," said Shehata, whose company has put up about 65 of its British clients in a Sharm el-Sheikh hotel as they await news on how they can return home. Meanwhile in Luxor, the show went on, with antiquities authorities opening three 3,000-year-old New Kingdom tombs in hopes of revitalizing the Egyptology craze that has weathered wars, colonialism, and even terrorism in the past.



Tourists visit the Karnak Temple in Luxor, Egypt.

The most significant tomb was that of Huy, Viceroy of Kush under the famed King Tutankhamun. Inside the tomb, wall paintings depict a great festival with Nubian subjects giving tributes of gold and animal pelts to confirm Egypt's then-domination. Elsewhere in the famed Valley of the Kings, a new exploration was scanning King Tutankhamun's tomb in hopes of discovering a new chamber. British Egyptologist Nicholas Reeves, in Luxor for the scanning, speculated it could conceal two unexplored doorways, one of which might lead to the tomb of Queen Nefertiti, famous since her bust was discovered in 1912. Eldamaty, the antiquities minister, said infrared thermography would be used to scan the tomb overnight, with another scan at the end of the month and results released by the end of the year. But he said he doubts Reeves' theory that Nefertiti's tomb lies within. "We will scan to find what is behind the burial chamber," he said. "I agree with him that we will find something - but not Nefertiti, maybe another grand lady." — AP

Picasso sells for \$67.45m in windfall for US tycoon

A Picasso picture of a cabaret artist, which carries a second painting on the reverse, sold for \$67.45 million in New York Thursday, scoring a windfall for American billionaire Bill Koch. It was the top lot of the season so far, proving a savvy investment for the Republican party donor who paid just \$3 million for the canvas in 1984 and later discovered he had got two for the price of one. Sotheby's had valued the canvas, "La Gommeuse," at \$60 million. It was painted in Paris in 1901 when the artist was just 19 years old and grieving the suicide of a close friend.

In 2000, during restoration work, Koch 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. It was a lucrative night for Koch. Just minutes earlier, at the same auction, Sotheby's sold his Monet "Water Lilies" study in oil for \$33.85 million, clearing its minimum pre-sale estimate of \$30 to 50 million. Another high-



Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani's "Portrait de Paulette Jourdain" is pictured during Sotheby's press preview of the Autumn Evening Auctions in New York. — AFP

light was a Vincent van Gogh, which sold for \$54 million. "Paysage sous un ciel mou-

vemente" (moving sky over a landscape) was painted a year before the artist's death

and shows storm clouds over fields outside Arles, France.

A small van Gogh of a fat baby in a bonnet, "Le Bebe Marcelle Roulin" smashed its pre-sale estimate by selling for \$7.64 million following a prolonged and frenetic bidding war. Thursday's auction saw Sotheby's kick back with a strong performance after starting the fall season with a rather sluggish evening sale on Wednesday of \$377 million worth of art collected by self-made billionaire Alfred Taubman, a former Sotheby's chairman. Taubman did a brief spell in jail in 2002 for price fixing.

Christie's and Sotheby's go head to head in a week of auction sales six months after the spring season smashed a string of records and netted more than \$2.6 billion for the rival auction houses. The most expensive lots this season are a sumptuous nude by Modigliani valued at \$100 million, and a pop art masterpiece from Roy Lichtenstein estimated at \$80 million. Both go under the hammer at Christie's. — AFP



This photo provided by Restoration Hardware shows oversized faux fur throws large enough to use on a bed, as well as exotic faux fur throws that mimic Siberian red and grey fox.—AP photos



This photo shows Nate Berkus designed an elegant stool for the fall collection, clad in a shaggy chic striated faux fur.



This photo shows faux fur covered water bottles would make a luxe and welcome gift.

Right at Home: Faux Furs

add panache to fall's home decor

Faux fur. For decades, the term conjured up images of obvious artificiality. Its fakeness often became a style feature - "fun fur" had colors and patterns so exaggerated there was never any doubt that the fur came from a factory, not a forest. And while the look may have been sometimes passable as real, the "hand," or feel, gave the game away. Like early versions of the shag rug, faux fur felt rough and plastic-y. Today's versions are remarkably realistic. Often, the acrylic pile that makes up much of faux fur is augmented with natural fibers like wool, silk and cotton rayon, with various silicones and resins used to improve the luster. Manufacturers are working with other techniques, like mixing shrinkable and non-shrinkable fibers, as well as fine and coarse fibers, to even more closely resemble complex furs like beaver, mink and river otter.

In this season's home decor offerings, faux furs are common in pillows, throws and stools. They add a touch of drama and cruelty-free coziness. Set decorator Beth Kushnick, whose chic rooms on CBS' "The Good Wife" garnered such a following that she launched her own line of decorative accessories, called BAK Home and available at Wayfair and AllModern, likes to use faux fur throws and pillows as a textural element. "Keeping them in the same color palette as the sofa or bed works best and creates another layer," she says. For her taste, a little fur goes far. "I use it sparingly, but specifically. Picture a crisp bed of white linens with a white faux fur throw, or a black velvet sofa with black faux fur pillows as a backdrop for some other patterned pillows," she says. Pottery Barn has throws and pillows in a warm, caramel-hued faux fur, as well as imitation chinchilla and brown bear.

At Wayfair, find faux red fox, cheetah and sable patterned throws, all machine-washable. A white, shaggy, oversize ottoman at Urban Outfitters would be a fun addition to a family room, or a playful element in an otherwise traditional living space. Cute little stools are popping up like furry mushrooms all over the winter décor marketplace. World Market's got a faux flokati one on distressed wooden legs; Target's has a tan and black fur seat and brass hairpin legs. Unusual faux furs like coyote, lemur and snow leopard are found in accessories at www.fabulousfurs.com. Z Gallerie's Ludlow slipper chair, all dressed up in ivory plush with Lucite legs, would be a cushy spot to relax in a bedroom. And Restoration Hardware's oversize ultra-faux-fur throws, in a neutral palette of fog, graphite and cream, are an indulgence best savored on a bed or chaise. An exotic collection mimics Siberian fox and Russian mink. —AP



This photo shows a faux fur ottoman stool from the fall Threshold collection with hairpin legs, creates a cozy yet chic resting spot.



This photo shows oversized faux fur throws large enough to use on a bed, as well as exotic faux fur throws that mimic Siberian red and grey fox.

Tips on making a room feel bigger



In this photo provided by Young Huh, just as mirrors can make a small room feel larger, fabrics that reflect light and ceiling paint with a reflective finish can accomplish the same trick, as shown in this seating nook that is part of a lounge vestibule, designed by Huh.



In this photo provided by Young Huh, bold colors, small-scale patterns and a shimmering painted ceiling in this modestly-sized bathroom designed by Huh work together to make this small space feel expansive and bright.



In this photo provided by Apartment Therapy, LLC, curtains that extend from the ceiling to floor can make a room seem taller than it really is, as seen in this living room says designer Maxwell Ryan.—AP photos

As the weather gets colder and we come indoors, it's easy to wish your indoor space had some of the open, airy feeling of the outdoors. It is possible to make a room feel larger than it really is: Choosing the right colors and finishes and arranging furniture properly can create the illusion of space. Here, three experts on designing small living spaces share their strategies for making rooms feel larger and more open, without the expense of construction or major redecorating.

Reflections

That classic advice is really true: Strategically placed mirrors will make a room feel larger. "They let your eye travel beyond the room," explains Maxwell Ryan, founder of ApartmentTherapy.com. In small dining rooms, Ryan suggests, place a large, horizontal mirror along one wall, so that while entertaining, you'll see the reflection of guests at your table and flickering candles. But mirrors aren't the only reflective option: New York-based designer Young Huh uses reflective, glossy paint finishes on ceilings to make her clients' rooms feel taller and more open.

Go big

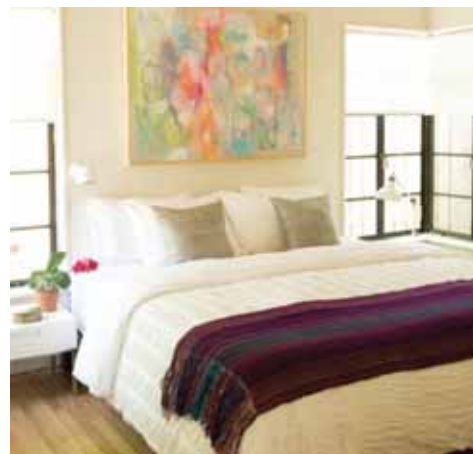
Surprising as it sounds, Huh recommends adding one oversize piece of furniture to a small room. Playing with scale by adding something large amid more modest-size furniture, she says, tricks the brain into perceiving that the room must be fairly large if it can hold something oversize. Ryan says this works with art as well: Consider adding a large painting or other big piece of art. "It seems counterintuitive," he says, "but our eye likes contrast. We like variation." Long, dramatic curtains can trick your eye in the same way. "Hanging curtain rods all the way at the ceiling, using large art and big mirrors and vertical stripes with paint are great ways to make your eye go up visually," says Kyle Schuneman, co-author of "The First Apartment Book: Cool Design for Small Spaces" (Potter). This has the effect of "lifting the ceiling and making it feel more spacious than it actually is," Huh agrees: "Where you have small or low ceilings, definitely have curtains go all the way up to the ceiling."

Location, location

"Decluttering and cleaning up is always essential," Ryan says, but you don't have to pare down your furniture. Instead, try rearranging it to let energy flow more easily. "A room has good energy and good flow if you can vacuum it without moving any furniture, including the corners," Ryan says. "If you can't get behind stuff, that's a sign that the space is gonna feel a little crowded." Experiment with small changes in furniture placement and see whether the room feels different. "If your bed is pushed up against the wall on two sides," Ryan says, it may make the room feel tighter. Try moving the bed out so you can step out either side, he says. Losing a bit of actual space could make the room feel roomier.

Areas of interest

"If you have just a studio or an open space, defining the areas



This bedroom, depicted in designer Maxwell Ryan's book "Apartment Therapy: Complete + Happy Home," features a large, boldly colored painting over the bed, contrasted with light, neutral walls.

makes it feel like there is more space," Schuneman says, "because your eye is seeing multiple ideas." Try using several small rugs to define different areas for sleeping, dining and relaxing. Or use different wall treatments, he says, like reclaimed wood or wallpaper, to further differentiate these areas. And in a studio apartment, "try creating a nook for your bed," Schuneman says, "making it feel like a room within a room."

Light or dark?

This subject is open to debate. Huh has made clients' rooms feel bigger with dark and bold colors. "Dark colors recede," she says, so if you paint a small room a rich chocolate brown or peacock blue, "you don't notice how small the room is." But Ryan thinks light walls contrasted with a darker rug or dark-stained wood floor are also a strong choice. "Darkness contracts," he says, while "lightness expands." Whether you choose light or dark colors, "consider painting the ceiling the same color as the walls," Huh says. "It's like that fashion tip ... wearing the same color all over" makes you look taller.

Brighten up

"Your eye will only go where there's light. It won't go where there are shadows," says Ryan. "So lighting is the most important thing." It's also easy to remedy, and "doesn't require moving anything."

The goal is to eliminate shadows. "Make sure you have at least three points of light in every room," Ryan says, preferably floor and table lamps "so the light is down where you're living." The light from ceiling fixtures doesn't count. "It's very far away," he says, "and makes you look bad." One exception to that rule: "Really good track lighting ... if it's directed, pointed at your walls or cabinets."—AP



MOSCOW: (From left): Daria Komissarova, Tatyana Shuguyeva, Polina Kuznetsova, Inna Nosikova, Anna Kussmaul and Elena Luchitskaya answer questions after the eight-day imitation flight to the moon at a mock-up spaceship in Moscow yesterday.—AP

RUSSIAN WOMEN FINISH TEST ON SPACE FLIGHT CONFINEMENT

MOSCOW: After emerging from an eight-day space simulation yesterday, the all-female Russian crew said they had missed their loved ones in the experiment more than they missed the comforts of regular life.

The six-woman crew climbed into a grounded space capsule last week to imitate a lunar flight and test the effects of confinement and stress that come with space travel.

While Russia's space medicine center in Moscow has conducted similar experiments in the past, including one several years ago in which six males were locked up for 500 days to model a flight to Mars, this is the first time the crew was all female. At least one of the women from the crew hopes to become a cosmonaut in the future.

"Of course I want to go into space," said Inna Novinova. "This was an invaluable experience both in methods and isolation," that come with space flight, she said. Speculation swirled in the Russian media about whether they would be able to survive without males or cosmetics for a week. The women assured reporters it was possible.

Asked whether she missed the comforts of regular life, such as showering and sweets, while in confinement, crewmember Anna Kussmaul told

reporters she was more concerned about her family.

"Not knowing what was going on in their lives for eight days bothered me a lot more than not having shampoo, or chocolate," Kussmaul said. The women were not allowed to take their cell-phones with them and communicated exclusively with the medicine center's command crew which monitored all of

their activities and conversations.

"To those who said we'd end up ripping each other's hair out: we didn't even come close to that," Daria Komissarova told the dozens of journalists that greeted the women as they exited the space capsule installed at the Institute of Biomedical Problems, part of the Russian Academy of Sciences.—AP



MOSCOW: Inna Nosikova exits a mock-up spaceship after an eight-day imitation flight to the moon in Moscow yesterday.—AP

US ASTRONAUTS STEP OUT ON RISKY SPACEWALK

MIAMI: Two US astronauts stepped out on a risky spacewalk yesterday to complete the repair of an ammonia cooling system at the International Space Station. Highly toxic ammonia is used to cool electronics at the orbiting outpost, and the thermal system has been plagued by problems.

Yesterday's outing aims to complete the final repairs to a system that broke down about three years ago. Scott Kelly and Kjell Lindgren switched their spacesuits to battery power at 6:22 am (1122 GMT) and floated outside the orbiting outpost moments later, according to a live broadcast on NASA television. In 2012, NASA detected a major leak in the ammonia cooling system. Astronauts replaced the ammonia pump on the station's truss in May 2013.

The goal for yesterday's 6.5 hour spacewalk is to "restore the port truss ammonia cooling system to its original configuration," the space agency said in a statement. After that, they will top off ammonia in the system. Should any of the liquid get on the astronauts' spacesuits, they may have to stay outside the airlock longer than planned to allow it to bake off.

Yesterday's spacewalk is the 190th in support of the International Space Station, which just marked 15 continuous years of human habitation. Kelly and Lindgren did another spacewalk nine days ago to perform maintenance and upgrades outside the ISS.

Kelly is more than halfway through a year-long mission at the space station that aims to help NASA study the effects of long-term spaceflight on the body and mind. He is scheduled to return to Earth in March 2016.

It was the second spacewalk in 1 1/2 weeks for Kelly, who's more than halfway through a US record-setting yearlong flight, and fellow American astronaut Kjell Lindgren. They got started an hour early, eager to make the home improvements.

"Going off grid for spacewalk," Kelly said via Twitter before heading out. "I'll be back w you again soon!" Yesterday's excursion involved work on the space station's cooling system. The spacewalkers needed to undo jury-rigged repairs made to a leaky cooling line three years ago. The ammonia leak subsequently was fixed another way - by replacing a failed pump - so NASA wanted the system back in its original setup.

Kelly and Lindgren kept a close lookout for any ammonia flakes that might escape and contaminate their suits. Their Oct 28 spacewalk featured a robot-arm lube job and other mundane maintenance.

Kelly has been at the 250-mile (400-kilometer)-high outpost since March, and isn't due back until next March. Yesterday marked his 224th day in orbit, already a US record. His companion for the long haul is Russian Mikhail Kornienko. Four other astronauts are on board for the typical six months: Lindgren along with a Japanese and two other Russians. This was the 190th spacewalk in the station's 17-year history. Astronauts have been on board, continuously, for 15 years.—Agencies

CHINA WATCHDOG TRIES TO DOUSE FLAMES OF ALIBABA, JD.COM STAND-OFF

SHANGHAI: A Chinese regulator has tried to cool a brewing war of words between Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and JD.com, the country's top two e-commerce firms, after they accused each other of foul play. The intervention comes as the long-time rivals jostle to win over customers ahead of China's biggest shopping day of the year, Nov. 11 "Singles' Day", also known as "Double Eleven". The stakes are high: Last year, Alibaba logged \$9.3 billion in transactions on its platforms.

Zhang Mao, head of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC), urged players in China's booming online shopping sector to safeguard market order and fair competition. He called on them to "not use malicious marketing methods to engage in competition" in Nov. 11 sales that could be even bigger this year.

"With Double Eleven approaching, JD and Alibaba have clashed many times. There is gunsmoke everywhere on the e-commerce battlefield," news agency Xinhua late on Thursday quoted Zhang as saying. JD.com, China's no.2 e-commerce firm, shot the first barb in the latest bout on Tuesday, lodging a complaint with the SAIC against its bigger rival for "forcing merchants" to exclusively choose its site for promotional activities - something Alibaba denies. JD.com then said on Thursday the SAIC had formally accepted the complaint.

Under a regulation that took effect on Oct. 1, e-commerce platforms are forbidden from limiting or barring their merchants from participating in promotions on other platforms.

Alibaba fired back that its smaller rival was "panicking". An Alibaba spokesman added JD.com had itself been cen-

sured by authorities multiple times, while an Alibaba-linked microblog said JD.com's allegation was like "a chicken accusing a duck of monopolizing the surface of the lake".

In the next salvo, JD.com yesterday said it had filed a separate lawsuit against Alibaba's Tmall shopping site for what it said was false advertising over its same-day delivery capabilities.

Alibaba declined to comment specifically on the suit. A spokesman referred Reuters to a previous statement: "We win merchants and customers because we offer them a superior shopping experience on our marketplaces." Calls to the Zhejiang provincial branch of the SAIC, where JD.com filed its complaint on Tuesday, went unanswered. An official in the information office at the Beijing headquarters of the SAIC declined to comment.—Reuters

FACEBOOK SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS ON UPBEAT EARNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook shares rocketed to an all-time high Thursday as investors welcomed solid earnings for the social networking giant, which has seen big gains in advertising and better connections in mobile and video. Shares in Facebook rose 4.6 percent to close at \$108.76, pushing the company's market value to more than \$306 billion.

The stock, which struggled following its public offering in 2012, has seen spectacular gains from the low of \$17.72 in September 2012. Facebook's market value is now roughly equal to that of online giant Amazon (\$307

billion) and above that of industrial conglomerate General Electric (\$299 billion).

However, it remains well below the world's biggest company by market value, Apple (\$674 billion), Google parent Alphabet (\$523 billion) and Microsoft (\$434 billion). In its quarterly update Wednesday, Facebook said surging mobile advertising lifted its profits and revenues and that its user base grew to over 1.5 billion people.

Net profit in the third quarter jumped 11 percent from a year ago to \$891 million as revenues leaped 41 percent to \$4.5 billion,

despite the negative impact of a strong dollar. The vast majority was from advertising, and mobile accounted for 78 percent of ad revenues in the quarter, compared with 66 percent a year earlier.

Facebook said the number of monthly active users of the network hit 1.55 billion, up 14 percent from a year earlier, with more than a billion using Facebook daily. And it counted some 1.39 billion of its members using mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets. Jefferies analyst Brian Pitz said in a research note that Facebook's results were

impressive, getting more advertising in mobile and establishing itself as a player in video, with more than eight billion videos viewed daily. This ramps up Facebook as a video rival to YouTube and opens up a new stream for ad revenues.

"We think Facebook looks well positioned to capture an increasing portion of TV ad budgets as markets migrate toward data-driven, highly-targeted online video ad campaigns," Pitz said, estimating that this "could be worth some \$17 billion a year in the US alone." —AFP

EU EXPECTS NEW DATA TRANSFER DEAL WITH US IN THREE MONTHS

BRUSSELS: The EU said yesterday it hoped to reach a new deal with Washington within three months on data transfers which major firms like Facebook rely on, but demanded "bullet-proof" privacy protections.

The European Court of Justice last month ruled that the EU-US "Safe Harbour" arrangement allowing firms to transfer European citizens' personal information to the US was "invalid" because it did not properly protect the data from spy agencies.

EU and US officials have since held several rounds of talks for a new arrangement. "I believe Europe and the US have all tools at hand to achieve this in three months," European Commission Vice President Andrus Ansip, who is in charge of the digital single market, told a press conference in Brussels.

"But I want to be clear: we need a bullet-proof solution." European Commissioner Vera Jourova told the press conference the ball was in Washington's court.

"It is now for the US to come back to us with their answers," she said. "It takes two to do this tango."

She said she would travel to the United States next week to discuss the issue at the highest political level, including with senators preparing to vote on key legislation. US lawmakers have moved to pass a bill allowing non-citizens to enforce their data protection rights in US courts under the Privacy Act.

"The court ruling will be our benchmark in our talks with the United States," Jourova said. She added that she is taking seriously businesses' concerns about the legal void following the court ruling.

It has alarmed Washington which says it "put at risk the thriving transatlantic digital economy."

The landmark verdict stemmed from a case lodged by Austrian law student Max Schrems, who challenged the deal between Washington and Brussels on the grounds it did not properly protect European data. His concerns were raised by the scandal involving Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency whistleblower who in 2013 revealed a worldwide US surveillance program harvesting the data.

Jourova said in the absence of "Safe Harbour," data can still flow between the two continents under provisions of a 1995 EU directive where data protection, for example, is guaranteed by clauses in individual contracts. The commission released legal guidelines on Friday, while admitting there was no substitute for a new arrangement. The EU says it started negotiating a new Safe Harbour arrangement with the US before the verdict. —AFP



Kalys and Athena play with toys in Paris. —AFP

THREE ANDROID PHONES THAT OFFER SOMETHING DIFFERENT

NEW YORK: New Android phones appear with regularity, but far too few of them really seem ... new. Sure, cameras keep getting better and phones keep getting faster. For the most part, though, you'd be hard-pressed to single out many new features that aren't just tweaks for the sake of tweaking. Though manufacturers frequently customize Google's Android software to set their phones apart, those alterations often just make things worse by hiding features or breaking some apps. So it's a delight to see three phones with unusual characteristics in their hardware - all released in a span of just nine days.

BlackBerry's first Android phone is notable for its physical keyboard, while Motorola designed its screen to withstand cracking from accidental drops. LG's new phone has two screens and two front cameras.

BLACKBERRY PRIV

For years, BlackBerry has struggled to make its BlackBerry 10 phone software a viable alternative to Apple's iPhone and Google's Android. While the company isn't giving up on BlackBerry 10, it's also hedged its bets with its first Android phone.

The new Priv has a physical keyboard, a

rarity on Android phones these days. It looks like any other phone until you slide the keyboard out from the bottom, like a desk drawer. It's an engineering feat given that the phone still feels thin, although it's thicker than Samsung's flagship phones and the iPhone.

Typing on BlackBerry's keyboard feels much better than it did on the original Motorola Droid in 2009. As my first smartphone, the keyboard model seemed safer given that I wasn't sold on its touch-screen counterpart. But on-screen keyboards have grown on me, and the Priv's physical keyboard slowed me down. Friends who've tried the new device, including former BlackBerry users, felt much the same way.

BlackBerry devices are known for their security and privacy protections, and the company built some of those features into the Priv's hardware. It comes with an app that rates your device security based on factors such as whether you've enabled a passcode. The BlackBerry app also identifies other apps that grab personal information. I saw that Facebook has accessed my location 41 times in the past week, for instance.

Among other notable features:

* The 5.4-inch screen is curved on both

sides, similar to Samsung's Galaxy S6 Edge devices. Slide a toolbar from the side to access your calendar, messages and contacts. The email app is also more sophisticated than most; it supports rich-text formatting, such as italics and colors, when composing messages.

BlackBerry offers icons that serve as shortcuts to frequent tasks, such as composing a message, viewing alarms or checking data usage. Windows phones have a similar feature, but like BlackBerry 10, few people use them. Battery capacity is also higher than most phones. BlackBerry promises 22.5 hours of mixed use.

MOTOROLA DROID TURBO 2

Motorola replaced glass with various forms of plastic to make its 5.4-inch screen shatter-proof. Most leading smartphones use chemically strengthened glass. But it's still glass, and it will crack if it hits a hard surface with enough force.

The shatter-proof technology allowed me to do careless things like leave the phone in a side pocket while getting a massage. Sure enough, it fell out - but the screen survived. It also withstood two intentional drops on a concrete sidewalk, including once face down from waist height.—AP



00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Call Of The Wildman
02:40 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
03:35 Tanked
04:25 The Beauty Of Snakes
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Roaring With Pride
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Tanked
12:55 Snake Sheila
13:50 Gangland Killers
14:45 Sharnwari: A Wild Life
15:40 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
16:05 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
16:35 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan
17:30 Roaring With Pride
18:25 Gangland Killers
19:20 Sharnwari: A Wild Life
20:15 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
21:10 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan
22:05 Roaring With Pride
23:00 Keiko: The Untold Story Of The Star...
23:55 Snake Sheila



00:20 Ultimate Cops
01:10 Fast N' Loud
02:00 Wheeler Dealers
02:50 Cuban Chrome
03:40 How It's Made
06:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
06:50 Kings Of The Wild
07:40 Deadliest Catch
08:30 Outback Truckers
09:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
10:10 Fast N' Loud
11:00 Wheeler Dealers
11:50 Cuban Chrome
12:40 Garage Gold
14:45 Baggage Battles
16:50 Yukon Men
17:40 Ice Lake Rebels
18:30 Troy
19:20 Superhuman Science
19:45 Superhuman Science
20:10 The Pop Illusionist
21:00 Yukon Men
21:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
22:40 Flying Wild Alaska
23:30 Wheels That Fail
23:55 Wheels That Fail



00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 Mythbusters
02:20 Deadly Dilemmas
04:00 Sci-Fi Saved My Life
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 Deadly Dilemmas
07:12 Mythbusters
08:00 Storm Chasers
10:30 Engineering Hurricanes
11:20 Hacking The Planet
13:00 Curiosity: Megastorm
13:50 Strangest Weather On Earth
16:20 Storm Chasers
18:50 Engineering Hurricanes
19:40 Hacking The Planet
21:20 Curiosity: Megastorm
22:10 Strangest Weather On Earth



00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Wolfblood
02:05 Wolfblood
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Wolfblood
04:35 Wolfblood
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:50 Girl Meets World
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
07:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place
09:45 I Love Violetta
09:55 Violetta Recipes
10:10 Good Luck Charlie
10:35 The Princess Diaries
12:30 Get Frozen
12:45 Girl Meets World
13:10 Mako Mermaids
13:35 Dog With A Blog
14:00 Gravity Falls
14:30 I Love Violetta
14:40 Violetta Recipes
14:55 Lolirock
15:20 Austin & Ally
15:45 Girl Meets World
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 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
19:55 Dog With A Blog
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood



00:00 House Of DVF
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Hollywood Cycle
02:20 E! News
03:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
04:10 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
05:05 E! Entertainment Special
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:10 New Money
12:05 E! News
13:05 Stewarts And Hamiltons
14:05 Hollywood Cycle
16:00 WAGs
18:00 E! News
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 Dash Dolls
21:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
22:00 E! News
23:00 The Soup
23:30 Sex With Brody



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Siba's Table
02:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Siba's Table
19:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man Finds Food
23:00 Food Court Wars



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
02:00 Shetland
02:55 Emmerdale
05:40 Coronation Street
07:55 Eggheads
08:25 Doc Martin
09:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
10:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
11:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
12:45 Lewis

13:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
14:40 Doc Martin
15:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
16:30 Lewis
17:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
18:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
19:00 Doc Martin
19:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
20:45 Lewis
21:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
22:30 Eggheads
23:00 Coronation Street



00:30 Last Man Standing
02:30 Man Seeking Woman
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
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Marry Me
09:00 Manhattan Love Story
09:30 About A Boy
10:30 Til Death
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30 Marry Me
13:30 Til Death
14:00 Cristela
14:30 About A Boy
15:30 Last Man Standing
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Manhattan Love Story
18:30 Cristela
19:00 Benched
19:30 New Girl
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Last Man Standing
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:00 Man Seeking Woman
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Better Call Saul
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 Survivor: Cambodia
06:00 The Fosters
08:00 Sleepy Hollow

13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Sleepy Hollow
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Sleepy Hollow
19:00 Grey's Anatomy
20:00 The Whispers
21:00 Heroes Reborn
22:00 The Blacklist
23:00 The Player



00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
03:00 Odyssey
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:00 Graceland
22:00 Odyssey
23:00 Banshee
OSN MOVIES ACTION
00:00 John Wick
01:45 The Devil's Rock
03:45 Star Trek
06:00 Red Sky
08:00 King Arthur
10:15 Clockstoppers
12:15 Star Trek
14:30 Assassin's Bullet
16:15 King Arthur
18:30 Batman: Assault On Arkham
20:00 Days Of Thunder
22:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still



01:45 Star Trek-PG15
04:00 Red Sky-PG15
06:00 King Arthur-PG15
08:15 Clockstoppers-FAM
10:15 Star Trek-PG15
12:30 Assassin's Bullet-PG15
14:15 King Arthur-PG15
16:30 Batman: Assault On Arkham
18:00 Days Of Thunder-PG15
20:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still



00:00 Svengali
02:00 The Waterboy
04:00 Roommates
06:00 Major Payne
08:00 A Valentine's Date
10:00 Roommates

12:00 The Waterboy
14:00 Cuban Fury
16:00 A Valentine's Date
18:00 Last Vegas
20:00 Every Day
22:00 We're The Millers



01:00 United Passions-PG15
03:00 What Maisie Knew-PG15
05:00 Stash House-PG15
06:45 Miss Julie-PG15
09:00 Song For Marion-PG15
11:00 Stash House-PG15
13:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15
15:00 Breathless-PG15
17:00 Song For Marion-PG15
19:00 I'll Follow You Down-PG15
21:00 Haunter-PG15
23:00 Parts Per Billion-18



01:00 Enchanted Kingdom
03:00 The English Teacher
04:45 Great Expectations
07:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
09:00 Seven Days In Utopia
10:45 Great Expectations
13:00 Upside Down
15:00 To The Wonder
17:00 Seven Days In Utopia
19:00 Hoffa
21:30 Siberian Education
23:30 The Departed



01:45 Lucy-PG15
03:30 Need For Speed-PG15
05:45 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG
07:15 Non-Stop-PG15
09:00 Earth To Echo-PG15
11:00 Blended-PG15
13:00 Annie-PG
15:00 Postman Pat: The Movie-PG
17:00 Earth To Echo-PG15
19:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Pompeii-PG15
23:00 The Rover-18



THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:00 Miffy The Movie
02:45 Worms
04:30 Hammer Boy
08:00 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
10:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
11:30 Sir Billi
13:00 Worms
14:30 Egon And Donci
16:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
18:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
20:00 Marco Macaco
22:00 Egon And Donci
23:30 Beethoven's Treasure Tail

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 Dom Hemingway-18
02:00 Hercules-PG15
04:00 Horizon-PG15
06:00 Imogene-PG15
08:00 10 Years-PG15
10:00 Justice League: War-PG15
12:00 Ender's Game-PG15
14:00 Maleficent-PG
16:00 10 Years-PG15
18:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit
20:00 Welcome To The Punch-PG15
22:00 Without Men-18



03:14 Grojband
03:35 Johnny Test
05:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
05:27 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
05:50 Regular Show
06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
07:00 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
07:25 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
07:50 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
08:10 Ben 10: Omniverse
08:35 Ben 10: Omniverse
09:00 Matt Hatter New
09:20 Teen Titans Go!
09:45 New Uncle Grandpa
10:10 Johnny Test
10:30 The Amazing World Of Gumball
11:20 Adventure Time
12:05 Regular Show
12:30 Regular Show
12:41 Regular Show
12:50 Johnny Test
13:40 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
14:00 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
14:25 Teen Titans Go!
15:10 Matt Hatter New
15:35 Ben 10: Omniverse
16:00 Ben 10: Omniverse
16:20 New Steven Universe
16:45 Steven Universe
16:56 Steven Universe
17:10 New Uncle Grandpa
17:30 Regular Show
17:55 Regular Show
18:06 Regular Show
18:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
18:40 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
19:05 Teen Titans Go!
19:16 Teen Titans Go!
19:27 Teen Titans Go!
19:38 Teen Titans Go!
19:50 The Amazing World Of Gumball
20:40 Clarence
21:00 Regular Show
21:11 Regular Show
21:22 Regular Show
21:33 Regular Show
21:50 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
22:15 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
22:40 Johnny Test
00:10 Adventure Time
01:40 Total Drama World Tour
02:03 Total Drama World Tour
02:26 Total Drama World Tour
02:51 Grojband



03:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
03:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
04:00 Blood Relatives
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:30 The Haunted



KING ARTHUR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

06:20 Forensic Detectives
07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
08:00 Fatal Encounters
08:50 Disappeared
09:40 Disappeared
10:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
11:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn
12:10 The Will
13:00 The Will
13:50 California Investigator
14:15 California Investigator
14:40 Nightmare Next Door
15:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
16:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn
17:10 Disappeared
18:00 Disappeared
18:50 California Investigator
19:15 California Investigator
19:40 Forensic Detectives
20:30 Forensic Detectives
21:20 Forensic Detectives
22:10 Forensic Detectives
23:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
23:50 Deadly Women
00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:30 Deadly Affairs
02:20 Blood Relatives



03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopdidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First

11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:55 Miles From Tomorrow
12:25 Miles From Tomorrow
12:55 Miles From Tomorrow
13:20 Miles From Tomorrow
13:45 Miles From Tomorrow
14:00 Sofia The First
14:30 Sofia The First
14:55 Sofia The First
15:20 Sofia The First
15:50 Sofia The First
16:15 Sofia The First
16:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:10 Aladdin
17:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
18:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
18:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
19:30 Sofia The First
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:35 Sofia The First
22:00 Aladdin
22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
23:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
23:30 Lilo & Stitch
00:00 Nina Needs To Go
00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
00:20 Calimero
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopdidoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calimero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopdidoo
02:30 Art Attack
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster



06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Supa Strikas
07:15 K.C Undercover
07:40 Lab Rats
08:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
08:35 Kirby Buckets
09:00 Annedroids
09:30 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
09:55 Mighty Med
10:20 K.C Undercover

10:45 Lab Rats
11:10 Kirby Buckets
11:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
12:00 Toy Story 2
12:55 Phineas And Ferb
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:50 Supa Strikas
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Supa Strikas
15:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
15:35 Star Wars Rebels
16:00 Mighty Med
16:25 Toy Story 2
17:55 Phineas And Ferb
18:10 Phineas And Ferb
18:40 Annedroids
19:05 K.C Undercover
19:30 Supa Strikas
19:55 Lab Rats
20:25 Kirby Buckets
20:50 Star Wars Rebels
21:15 Mighty Med
21:40 Phineas And Ferb
22:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
22:30 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA



03:45 The Living Edens
04:40 Life On The Barrier Reef
05:35 Shane Untamed
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Caught Barehanded
08:20 Yukon Vet
09:15 Predator Fails
10:10 Philly Undercover
11:05 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
12:00 Salmon Wars
12:55 Hunter Hunted
13:50 Predator Battleground
14:45 Wild Yellowstone
15:40 Expedition Wild
16:35 Great Migrations
17:30 Predator CSI
18:25 The Croc Catchers
19:20 Wild Yellowstone
20:10 Expedition Wild
21:00 Great Migrations
21:50 Predator CSI
22:40 The Croc Catchers
23:30 Salmon Wars
00:20 Hunter Hunted
01:10 Predator Battleground
02:00 Monster Fish
02:50 Built For The Kill



03:15 My 150lbs Tumour: Body Bizarre
04:05 Ballroom Blitz
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Bakery Boss
09:45 Cake Boss
10:35 Nida'a
11:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8
13:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
13:55 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
14:20 Oprah's Master Class
15:10 Cake Boss
17:15 Perfect Look
18:05 Oprah's Master Class
21:00 Oprah's Master Class
21:50 Nida'a
22:40 Long Island Medium
23:05 Mob Wives
23:55 Mob Wives
00:45 Love In The City
01:35 Outrageous 911
02:25 Long Island Medium



01:40 No Mercy
03:30 Beer
04:50 The Beast Of Hollow Mountain
06:10 Empire Of The Ants
07:40 Cannon For Cordoba
09:25 American Rhapsody
11:10 Apache
12:40 Charge Of The Light Brigade
14:45 The Apartment
16:50 Beachhead
18:20 The Beast Of Hollow Mountain
19:40 Movers And Shakers
21:00 No Mercy
22:50 Breaking Bad
23:50 LA Bamba

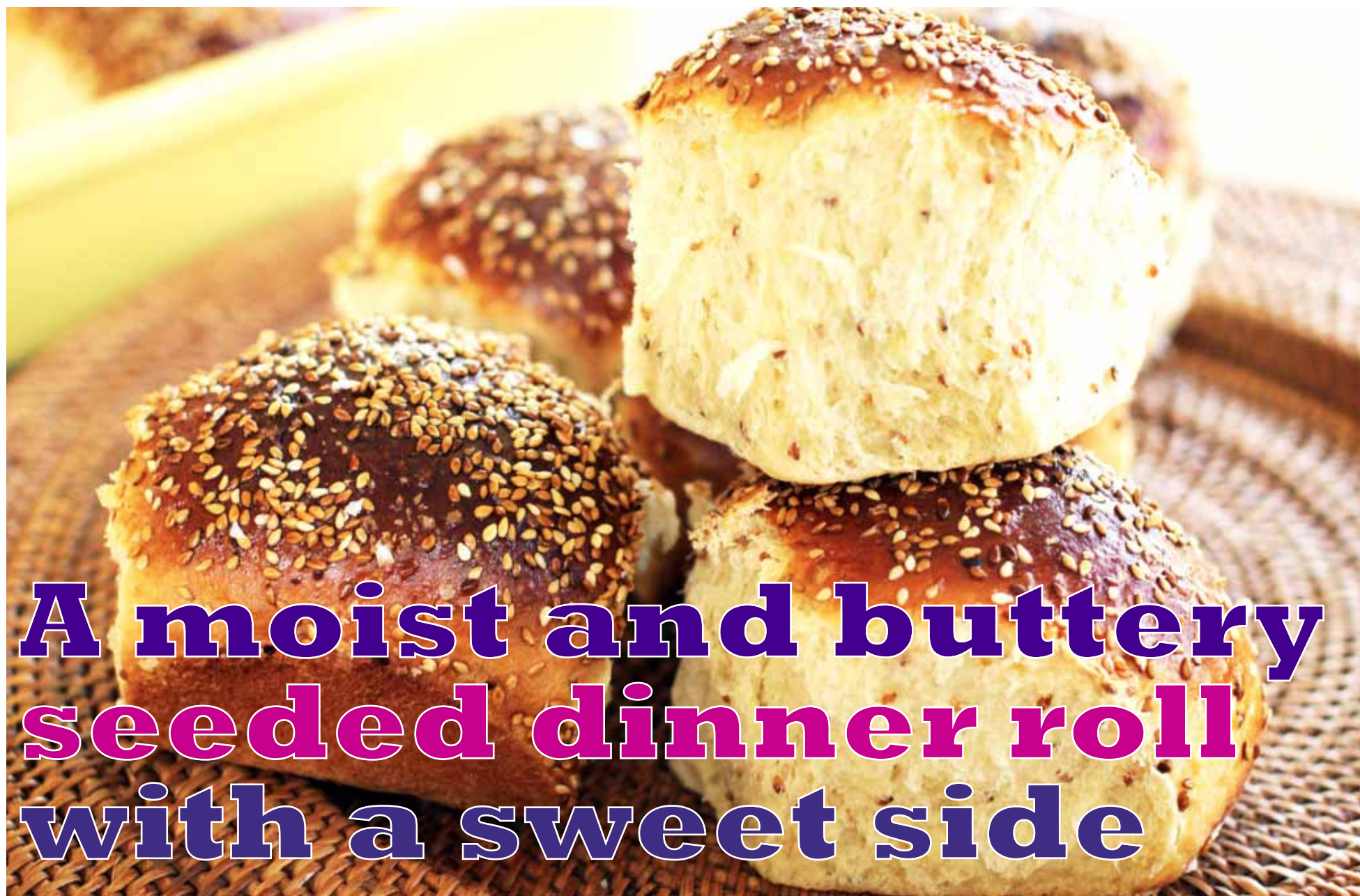


00:10 Doctors
00:40 Casualty
01:30 Silent Witness
03:15 Getting On
03:45 Watson & Oliver

04:15 The Weakest Link
05:00 The Green Balloon Club
05:25 Show Me Show Me
05:45 Jollywobblers
06:05 The Green Balloon Club
06:25 Show Me Show Me
06:45 Jollywobblers
06:55 Jollywobblers
07:05 Gigglebiz
07:20 The Weakest Link
08:05 Doctors
10:35 Doctor Who
11:15 The Cafe
11:40 A Farmer's Life For Me
12:30 Abandoned At Birth
13:25 Casualty
14:15 Eastenders
16:15 The Weakest Link
17:00 The Cafe
17:45 Last Man Standing
18:35 Breaking Pointe
19:15 Doctor Who
20:00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
20:45 Live At The Apollo
21:30 Inside No. 9
22:00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
22:45 Live At The Apollo
23:35 Inside No. 9



00:40 Masterchef: The Professionals
01:30 Come Dine With Me: Supersized
03:05 Homes Under The Hammer
03:55 Come Dine With Me
04:20 Beat My Build
05:10 Masterchef: The Professionals
06:00 Come Dine With Me: Supersized
07:35 Homes Under The Hammer
08:30 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
10:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook
10:35 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook
11:00 Food Glorious Food
11:45 Bargain Hunt
12:30 Homes Under The Hammer
14:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
15:50 Homes Under The Hammer
17:35 Come Dine With Me
19:50 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
21:15 Masterchef: The Professionals
21:40 Masterchef: The Professionals
22:35 Fantasy Homes By The Sea



A moist and buttery seeded dinner roll with a sweet side

By Alison Ladman

The turkey, the stuffing, the gravy, the mashed potatoes, the sweet potatoes, the Brussels sprouts medley, the corn, the salad, the cranberry sauce... A bountiful table, for sure. But no Thanksgiving dinner is complete without fresh dinner rolls. Because what else will you use to sop up all the juices and sauces and gravies that don't make it

onto your fork?

So we created these buttery, tender seed rolls that are pull-apart delicious. They are a cross between an Italian scali bread - a light, tender bread crusted in sesame seeds - and a Portuguese sweet roll. The result is a soft, pillowy roll with a light crumb, all perfect for wiping your plate clean. The lightly sweet flavor is the perfect complement to the many savory staples Thanksgiving offers.



SWEET SESAME DINNER ROLLS

Ingredients

Start to finish: 3 hours

Servings: 16

4 1/2 cups (1 pound 3 ounces) all-purpose flour
1/4 cup (1 1/2 ounces) potato flour (also sold as potato starch)
1 tablespoon instant yeast
1/2 cup orange juice, room temperature
1/2 cup water, slightly warmed
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
1/2 cup (3 1/2 ounces) packed brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
3 eggs, divided
1/2 cup toasted sesame seeds, divided
Coarse sea salt
Coat a 9-by-13-inch pan with cooking spray.

Preparation

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, potato flour and yeast. Set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook attachment, add the ingredients in the following order: orange juice, water, butter, brown sugar, salt, the flour mixture, 2 whole eggs plus 1 egg yolk (reserve the extra egg white for later). Mix first on the lowest speed, scraping the bowl to ensure all the ingredients are incorporated. Continue to mix on speed 2. The dough should start out very sticky, but then become cohesive after about 2 minutes. It will not clean the sides of the bowl.

Add a little more flour, a tablespoon at a time, if the dough is too sticky. Add 1/3 cup of the sesame seeds once the dough ball comes together, then knead in the mixer with the dough hook for another 5 min-

utes. Remove the hook and cover the bowl loosely with plastic wrap. Allow to rise in a warm place until doubled in size, 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and divide into 16 even pieces. Roll each piece into a ball and place in the prepared pan; the balls should touch. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and allow to rise in a warm place until puffy, about another hour. Toward the end of the rising time, heat the oven to 350 F. Once the rolls are puffy, beat the reserved egg white until frothy. Gently brush the egg white over the tops of the rolls. Sprinkle with the remaining sesame seeds and a bit of coarse salt. Bake for about 30 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through. Allow to cool in the pan. — AP



Recipe for *Italian-style roast turkey breast*

Let's say that this year's Thanksgiving feast is going to be a more intimate affair than the usual cast of thousands, yet you still want turkey. It can be done.

Instead of cooking up a whole bird, why not go with a turkey breast? "Because," you reasonably reply, "white meat turkey tends to turn out dry as card-



board." And indeed, that's certainly a possibility, especially if you overcook it, which is easy to do. Happily, I've figured out just how to have your turkey breast and eat it, too.

Working on a cookbook several years ago, I came across an old Italian recipe for roast chicken. It required you to stuff a mixture of cheese and vegetables under the chicken's skin before roasting.

Intrigued, I gave it a whirl and was absolutely flabbergasted by the results. Not only was the flavour a knock-out, but the meat - including the white meat - was the moistest I'd ever eaten.

The secret, I think, is that the stuffing underneath the skin insulates the meat. My stuffing combines sautéed onion, garlic and shredded zucchini with Parmesan and ricotta cheeses, all bound together with fresh breadcrumbs. But feel free to experiment, as I'm sure that any moist stuffing would do the trick.

Of course, it's still important to avoid overcooking the bird. But you also need to make sure you cook the meat to a safe temperature. This is a balancing act. Cooking the bird to 165 F is the best bet for safety, but that doesn't mean you need to leave the bird in the oven until it reaches that temperature. Meat continues cooking even after you pull it from the oven. So if you leave it in until it hits 165 F, you'll actually cook it to about 170 F.

My solution is to pull it out of the oven at 160 F. As the meat rests on the counter (20 minutes is ideal), it reaches 165 F. Resting also allows the juices in the turkey to redistribute so that when you slice the bird the juices don't all come streaming out, leaving you with dry turkey meat. And by the way, to get an accurate reading when you take the bird's temperature, be sure to insert the thermometer deep into the meat, not just into the stuffing, and not next to the bone.

When you finally carve the breast, make sure that every slice has a little bit of stuffing and skin at the top. Also, while this turkey is wonderfully delicious as is, this is Thanksgiving, after all, and folks expect gravy with their turkey. You can whip up some pan gravy while the breast is resting.

ITALIAN-STYLE ROAST TURKEY BREAST

Ingredients

Start to finish: 3 1/2 hours (1 1/2 hours active)

Servings: 8

2 medium zucchini (about 1 pound)

Salt

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra

1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped

1 tablespoon minced garlic

1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme

3 ounces finely grated Parmesan cheese

2 cups fresh breadcrumbs

1/2 cup whole milk ricotta cheese

Ground black pepper

5- to 7-pound bone-in turkey breast

Preparation

Heat the oven to 325 F. Set a rack in the lower third of the oven. Using a food processor or box grater, coarsely grate the zucchini. In a colander, toss the grated zucchini with 1/2 teaspoon of salt, then let it drain over the sink for 20 minutes. A handful at a time, squeeze out the zucchini to remove excess liquid. Set aside.

In a large skillet over medium, heat

the oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the garlic and thyme and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add the zucchini and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Remove the skillet from the heat and stir in the Parmesan, breadcrumbs and ricotta. Season with salt and pepper.

Use paper towels to pat dry the turkey skin, then rub with a bit of oil and season with salt and pepper. Using your fingers, a chopstick or a grapefruit knife, gently separate the skin from the meat on the breast, being careful not to tear it and leaving it attached at the edges. Stuff the zucchini mixture evenly under the loosened skin of the turkey (this is a messy project; just do your best), then place the turkey on a rack set in a roasting pan. Cover the breast loosely with foil.

Roast the turkey breast for 1 hour. Remove the foil and roast for an additional 1 to 1 1/2 hours, or until the turkey reaches 160 F. If the turkey starts to brown too much, cover it again with foil. Transfer the turkey breast to a platter and let it rest at least 20 minutes before carving. —AP



NEW DELHI: In this photograph twenty eight year-old Indian surrogate mother, Manu Kani poses after an interview with AFP at The Surrogacy Centre India (SCI) clinic.—AFP



AHMEDABAD: In this file photograph Dr Nayna Patel (right), a pioneer of reproductive surrogacy in India, conducts an ultrasound on a surrogate mother at Kaival Hospital in Anand.—AFP

ANGUISH OVER INDIA'S MOVE TO BAN 'RENT-A-WOMB' INDUSTRY

NEW DELHI: Childless couples from around the world have been left in limbo after the Indian government revealed plans to ban them from the country's booming multi-million dollar surrogacy industry. The industry has exploded in recent years with thousands of infertile couples flocking to India, one of only a handful of countries offering cheap surrogacy using skilled doctors and with relatively little red tape. But the unregulated industry's growth has sparked debate about exploitation of the 25,000 mainly poor Indian women whose wombs are hired to carry couples' embryos through to birth.

After announcing plans last week for legislation banning commercial surrogacy, the government issued a notice to the country's 350-odd fertility clinics, ordering them "not to entertain any foreigners". The move sparked an outcry from fertility specialists, along with rallies by surrogate mothers, pressing the government to dump the decision in favor of

strict regulation of the industry. "Why should foreigners be discriminated against? We are all human beings," Nayana Patel, one of India's leading IVF specialists, told AFP.

"I have been doing this for 11 years and it's a beautiful arrangement. Banning it is not the answer," Patel, who heads the Akanksha clinic in western Gujarat state, added. Clinics scrambled to reassure confused and anxious foreigners who have already started the process, but others have been told to put their plans on hold. "We have told couples who are still at the very start to wait and watch what happens," Patel said, adding her clinic has given such advice to 30 to 40 couples in recent days.

Two clinics in Mumbai were this week successful in getting the ban lifted temporarily for couples already expecting a surrogate birth, after taking legal action. But their lawyer Vikrant Sabne told AFP that the Bombay High Court's order did not apply nationally. Shivani Sachdev Gour, head of Surrogacy Centre India in Delhi, said it was "logical" that parents already signed up be allowed to continue. "There are no guarantees but if they have started the process they should be able to keep going," Gour said. A health ministry official declined to comment until after the Supreme Court resumes hearing a lawyer's petition later this month that seeks to shut down the "unethical" industry.

'Our only option'

After arriving in Ireland this week, one couple said they were determined to go ahead, confident that since they already registered with a clinic, "our case holds up in a court of law". Unable to have children and born with a heart

defect that rules out IVF treatment, the woman said they turned to India as a last resort after learning adoption was outlawed in Ireland for people with certain medical conditions. "Realistically this is our only option," the 35-year-old from Cork, who did not want to be named, said at a Delhi clinic. "Ninety-nine percent of the children born this way will have a more loved life because their parents have made so much of an effort to have them," her husband, also 35, added.

"It would be madness to ban it." After opening up to surrogacy in 2002, India has become one of the world's leaders, generating between \$500 million and \$2.3 billion annually, according to various estimates. Russia, the Ukraine and some US states are among those that also allow commercial surrogacy. But India's clinics charge couples between \$20,000 and \$30,000, a fraction of the price in the United States. Thailand passed a law this year banning commercial surrogacy for foreigners after a series of high-profile scandals.

Nepal's top court also closed the doors in August, leaving dozens of expectant parents in turmoil, before the government stepped in, granting visas allowing them to take their babies home. India has steadily tightened its industry, barring gay couples and single people from using surrogates in 2012.

Denied payment

Currently, couples and surrogate mothers, many of whom live in shelters during pregnancy, sign a contract before starting the process. But research shows some surrogates do not receive a copy, while others do not understand its contents. Many women, some illiterate, have children of their own, but few have undergone a caesarean commonly used in surrogate pregnancies and are unprepared. Others are not paid the promised amount and lack health insurance if things go wrong, the Delhi-based Centre for Social Research said. But Manasi Mishra, the center's head of research, said a ban would only force the industry onto the black market and out of reach of regulators.

"The industry will go underground and the bargaining capacity of the surrogates will diminish even further," Mishra told AFP. For Manu Kami, the reasons for bearing another woman's child were clear. Her husband earns 6,000 to 7,000 rupees (\$96 to \$106) a month as a cook, barely enough to feed their two young children. After being paid 300,000 rupees (\$4,500) for her first surrogate pregnancy to an American couple, Kami could afford school fees and a new home. "It has one bedroom and a kitchen and a bathroom," the 28-year-old said with a smile.—AFP

STUDY: TEEN OBESITY SURGERY BENEFITS LAST AT LEAST 3 YEARS

NEW YORK: The largest, longest study of teen obesity surgery shows huge weight loss and health gains can last at least three years, and many say it's worth the risks. "I feel awesome. It's like a new life," said Miranda Taylor, a Cincinnati nursing student in the study who had surgery when she was 16 and weighed 265 pounds. She lost more than 100 pounds, along with severe depression, pre-diabetes and an obesity-related hormonal condition.

Although she has since gained about 20 pounds, she's still healthy and has surpassed her initial goal of fitting into size 16 jeans - she wears size 14. "I knew that this might not get me down to like model-size, which I wasn't concerned about. I just wanted to be able to fit into a healthy size," said Taylor, now 20.

Additional operations

Many of the 228 teens studied started out about three times heavier than what is considered healthy - almost 330 pounds on average. Their average weight loss was more than 90 pounds and for many, obesity-related health problems that vanished early after surgery remained at bay three years later. Still, after three years most remained obese - just 5 percent achieved a normal weight. And there were drawbacks: A little over half developed low iron levels, which can lead to anemia, and a few had vitamin deficiencies. About 13

percent required additional operations - most for removal of gallstones related to obesity but some were for bowel obstructions or hernias that may have been surgery-related. There was one death, although the researchers said it was unrelated to surgery. Similar results for weight-loss surgery have been shown in adults, but there has been more reluctance to perform the operation on teens because of the risks - and until now, the long-term effects in a large group of young patients have been unknown.

The study authors say the benefits from the most drastic way to fight fat still seem to outweigh the risks. But Mary Evans, who oversees obesity research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, said the patients need to be tracked even longer "to really know what the effects are." The institute paid for the study, and several more years of follow-up are planned. The study shows teen surgery can reverse obesity-related complications that can have life-shortening consequences, "and that ultimately is more important than actual pounds lost," said Dr David Ludwig, an obesity expert at Boston Children's Hospital who had no role in the research.

Quick-fix

Ludwig noted that the study lacked a comparison group that didn't have surgery. He said it's likely similar results could be achieved with extremely intensive programs including lifestyle changes, mental health help, nutrition counseling and involving all family members - and without the risks. But such programs are rare and lack the quick-fix appeal of surgery. Guidelines say surgery should be reserved for extremely heavy teens with obesity-related health problems who have failed at other weight-loss methods.

About 20 percent of US teens are obese, meaning their body-mass index is much higher than their peers. In adults, obesity means a BMI of at least 30. In study patients, it was 53 on average before surgery. The results were published Friday in the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at the Obesity Society annual meeting in Los Angeles.—AP



CINCINNATI, Ohio: In this photo, Miranda Taylor poses outside Christ College of Nursing and Health Science in Cincinnati.—AP

RICH GERMANS SPLURGE ON SUN-THIRSTY OLIVE TREES

LOEWENSTEIN, Germany: Some people like to splurge on jewelry or cars, but a growing number of wealthy Germans prefer to pay tens of thousands of euros to move olive trees from their sunny habitats to cold northern climes. With their gnarled, thick trunks, most of the centuries-old olive trees imported from Spain are past their fruit-producing prime. Rather, the sculpture-like trees are sought for their aesthetic value and the Mediterranean touch that they can add to German gardens, better known for their geraniums, berry shrubs and gnomes. Some are even prepared to pay as much as 20,000 euros (\$22,000) for a very old olive tree.

"I no longer need to get on a plane, I can stay at home and enjoy my olive trees. It's better for the environment," said Karl Heinz

Maier, who owns two such trees in Willsbach, a village north of Stuttgart. One of them, aged 400 years, stands proudly at the entrance of his villa. The second plant, at a relatively young age of 120 years, has found its place in the exotic garden of banana, lime and orange trees. Olive trees are a synonym for longevity in some countries, as it is not uncommon for them to live for over a millennium. But they are defeated by the cold. "It can't stand anything below -15° degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit), said Olivier Nasles, president of Afidol, France's olive industry association.

'Pampered like a baby'

To help them survive the sub-zero German winters, they are wrapped in a thick

plastic and fibre mattress, and heated with a spiral-shaped apparatus, said Torsten Jablonski, who sold the trees to Maier. Jablonski said that as a result of the anti-frost strategy, none of the 800 olive trees he had brought to Germany had died from the cold. Every year, the German businessman imports hundreds of olive trees from Andalusia, Spain which he then sells on to often wealthy clients from Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland. Prices depend on the age and circumference of the tree, with one 400-year-old with a trunk of 150-175 centimeters (60-70 inches) in the catalogue for 1,499 euros. "These are extremely robust trees that do not fear transport," said Jablonski.

But Nasles said having to take such

extreme measures to ensure that the trees stay alive over winter is problematic in itself. "It's a bit like if you told me 'I'm going to move my grandmother to 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) from her home'. Your grandmother will not be able to stand this move," he said. Nasles went as far as to call it a "scam", saying there are "some crafty people who make money out of this." But Jablonski shrugged off the criticism, saying the trees are well cared for. "For some of my clients, it's a real sacred object" that they pamper like a baby, he said. And to illustrate how close to the heart the trees can get, Jablonski recounted the example of a customer who was separating from his wife. When she walked out, "she left with the heater in the middle of winter," said Jablonski.—AFP



LOEWENSTEIN, Germany: A photo shows Torsten Jablonski, gardener and dealer of Mediterranean trees, who stands next to an old olive tree in Loewenstein.—AFP photos



LOEWENSTEIN, Germany: A photo shows an old olive tree before being transported to a customer in Loewenstein.

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
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 Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
 M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM FRIDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/11/2015 TO 11/11/2015)

SHARQIA-1		
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:45 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	1:30 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	3:30 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	5:30 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	8:00 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	10:15 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:	12:45 AM	
SHARQIA-2		
SPECTRE	12:30 PM	
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:30 PM	
SPECTRE	3:30 PM	
SPECTRE	6:30 PM	
SPECTRE	9:30 PM	
SPECTRE	12:30 AM	
SHARQIA-3		
SPECTRE	1:00 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	1:45 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	4:00 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	6:15 PM	
SPECTRE	8:30 PM	
SPECTRE	11:30 PM	
MUHALAB-1		
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:45 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	3:15 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	5:30 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	7:45 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	10:15 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:30 AM	
MUHALAB-2		
SPECTRE	11:30 AM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	3:00 PM	
SPECTRE	5:00 PM	
SPECTRE	8:00 PM	
SPECTRE	11:00 PM	
MUHALAB-3		
SPECTRE	12:00 PM	
SPECTRE	3:00 PM	
SPECTRE	6:00 PM	
SPECTRE	9:00 PM	
SPECTRE	12:05 AM	
FANAR-1		
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	11:45 AM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	2:30 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	5:00 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	7:15 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	9:30 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:05 AM	
FANAR-2		
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:30 AM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	1:30 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	3:30 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	5:45 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	8:00 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	10:00 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	12:15 AM	
FANAR-3		
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM	
BURNT	2:15 PM	
SPECTRE	4:30 PM	
SPECTRE	7:30 PM	
BURNT	10:30 PM	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:45 AM	
FANAR-4		
SPECTRE	12:30 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	1:30 PM	
SPECTRE	3:30 PM	
SPECTRE	6:30 PM	
SPECTRE	9:30 PM	
SPECTRE	12:30 AM	
FANAR-5		
SPECTRE	11:30 AM	
SPECTRE	2:30 PM	
SPECTRE	5:30 PM	
SPECTRE	8:30 PM	
SPECTRE	11:30 PM	
MARINA-1		
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	1:15 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	1:30 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	3:45 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	5:45 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	7:45 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	10:00 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:30 AM	
MARINA-2		
SPECTRE	12:00 PM	
SPECTRE	3:00 PM	
SPECTRE	6:00 PM	
SPECTRE	9:00 PM	
SPECTRE	12:05 AM	
MARINA-3		
GOOSEBUMPS	11:30 AM	
SPECTRE	1:45 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	4:45 PM	
SPECTRE	7:00 PM	
NO FRI		
SPECTRE	7:00 PM	
FRI		
SPECTRE	10:00 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	1:00 AM	
AVENUES-1		
HE NAMED ME MALALA	12:00 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	2:00 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	4:00 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	6:00 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	8:00 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	10:00 PM	
HE NAMED ME MALALA	12:05 AM	
AVENUES-2		
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	12:45 PM	
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:00 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	5:15 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	7:30 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	9:45 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	12:15 AM	
AVENUES-3		
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	11:30 AM	
SPECTRE	1:30 PM	
SPECTRE	4:30 PM	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:30 PM	
SPECTRE	10:00 PM	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	1:00 AM	
SPECTRE	12:15 PM	
SPECTRE	3:15 PM	
VEDHALAM	6:15 PM	
VEDHALAM	9:30 PM	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:45 AM	
AVENUES-4		
SPECTRE	1:15 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	2:00 PM	
SPECTRE	4:15 PM	
SPECTRE	7:15 PM	
SPECTRE	10:15 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	1:15 AM	
360°- 1		
SPECTRE	12:00 PM	
SPECTRE	3:00 PM	
SPECTRE	6:00 PM	
SPECTRE	9:00 PM	
SPECTRE	12:05 AM	
360°- 2		
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:45 AM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	1:45 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	3:45 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	5:45 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	7:45 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	9:45 PM	
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:45 PM	
360°- 3		
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM	
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM	
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:15 PM	
AHWAK	7:15 PM	
AHWAK	9:45 PM	
AHWAK	12:15 AM	
AL-KOUT.1		
SPECTRE	12:30 PM	
EYAL HAREEFA	1:30 PM	
FRI		
SPECTRE	3:30 PM	
SPECTRE	6:30 PM	
SPECTRE	9:30 PM	
SPECTRE	12:30 AM	
AL-KOUT.2		
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:45 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	3:15 PM	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	5:30 PM	
GOOSEBUMPS	8:00 PM	

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, HOZEFA (old name) holder of Indian Passport No. L1165262, R/o B-241, Saheli Nagar, near Bheruji, Udaipur (Raj.), changed my name as **HUZEFA PARSOLA. (C 5066) 3-11-2015**

I, Modapothula Elamma holder of Indian Passport No. G1689507 has converted Islam by name Shaik Ayesha, address 3/65, K.S Agraharam 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 Diguwanallaguttapalli Village, Guttapalli Post, Sambepalli

Mandal, Kadapa Dist, A.P., Changed my name as Muhammad Arshad. **(C 5063)**

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1889988

EMERGENCY



112

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:43
Shorook	06:04
Duhr:	11:32
Asr:	14:36
Maghrib:	16:59
Isha:	18:18





Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 7/11/2015

Arrival Flights on Saturday 7/11/2015				Departure Flights on Saturday 7/11/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	JZR	528	Asyut	00:05
KLM	413	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	MSC	410	Alexandria	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	MSC	406	Sohag	01:00
MSR	614	Cairo	01:20	KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:35
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	MSR	615	Cairo	02:20
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:25	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:50
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:50	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	AGY	85	Sohag	05:30
AGY	680	Alexandria	04:30	ETH	21	Addis Ababa	05:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	04:45	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
THY	764	Istanbul	06:30	RJA	643	Amman	07:05
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:40	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	JZR	240	Amman	07:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	JZR	778	Jeddah	07:55
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	BAW	156	London	08:45
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	KAC	101	London/New York	09:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	KAC	561	Amman	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05	JZR	356	Mashhad	10:30
IRC	526	Mashhad	10:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
RJD	135	Abu Dhabi	10:30				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
SYR	341	Damascus	10:55				
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05				
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30				
AGY	684	Sohag	11:35				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:50				
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55				
MRJ	4815	Mashhad	12:00				
SVA	2618	Jeddah	12:05				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50				
JZR	241	Amman	12:50				
OMA	645	Muscat	13:00				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
IRC	6511	ABD	13:05				
SVA	2312	Jeddah	13:05				
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:35				
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	13:55				
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10				
KNE	72	Jeddah	14:35				
SVA	314	Jeddah	14:45				
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:50				
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50				
KNE	462	Madinah	14:55				
GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00				
IRM	1186	Tehran	15:00				
SVA	2610	Jeddah	15:00				
IZG	4167	Mashhad	15:00				
KAC	562	Amman	15:40				
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				
JZR	535	Cairo	16:10				
QTR	1072	Doha	16:10				
JZR	357	Mashhad	16:30				
FDB	051	Dubai	16:30				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40				
KAC	542	Cairo	16:55				
RJA	640	Amman	16:55				
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15				
UAL	982	IAD	17:15				
KNE	474	Jeddah	17:25				
KAC	502	Beirut	17:30				
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30				
JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50				
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55				

Word Search Puzzles

FARMS & RANCHES WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

J	X	R	S	G	U	E	G	C	S	T	R	A	W	B	A	L	E	S
T	Y	Z	F	I	M	S	Y	I	O	C	B	F	H	Q	X	M	V	E
C	S	C	C	Y	N	I	L	T	N	M	R	Q	J	U	X	M	S	K
D	M	I	H	N	J	I	X	W	J	V	B	X	H	X	E	T	I	J
I	Q	O	L	X	C	C	B	V	Q	D	A	I	R	Y	C	O	W	S
N	G	T	J	O	L	C	O	J	M	T	A	Y	N	K	Q	I	K	O
N	L	R	G	I	U	Y	D	P	Z	D	L	O	W	E	C	F	Z	C
E	F	A	A	U	P	S	C	S	H	E	E	P	D	O	G	K	W	A
R	F	S	L	G	X	Q	T	Q	M	Z	Q	M	W	N	C	Y	Q	T
B	A	W	O	H	R	S	B	A	T	R	A	C	T	O	R	K	N	T
E	R	N	E	N	O	I	M	D	B	H	V	R	T	B	H	J	F	L
L	M	R	C	T	R	S	C	V	E	L	O	S	D	G	A	N	C	E
L	H	Q	L	H	C	O	U	U	U	E	E	R	U	T	B	B	O	G
H	O	U	Q	S	H	K	M	V	L	V	P	O	S	Y	S	O	W	U
N	U	A	C	G	A	A	V	X	I	T	R	I	F	E	Q	E	B	A
D	S	S	H	O	R	G	N	L	B	T	U	P	G	R	S	X	O	R
E	E	N	S	K	D	C	Z	D	S	B	Q	R	V	S	F	G	Y	D
C	H	I	C	K	E	N	S	J	O	W	K	D	E	R	T	J	S	N
F	H	B	A	R	N	Y	A	R	D	L	M	F	L	X	E	Y	U	A

AGRICULTURE	COWBOYS	LIVESTOCK	SIL
BARNYARD	DAIRY COWS	ORCHARD	STABLE
CATTLE GUARD	DINNER BELL	PIG STY	STRAW BALES
CHICKENS	FARMHOUSE	RANCH HAND	TRACTOR
COMBINE	HORSES	SHEEPDOG	TROUGH

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO GRAND CANYON 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	I	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	N	I	A	Q	V	A	I	E	L	G	E	R	V	F	P	I
S	I	I	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	B	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	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	U	Z	G	L	M	I	B	B	N	V	H
C	K	E	T	O	E	T	H	A	H	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

Daily SuDoku

				5		7		1
					4		9	5
	2	1		7		8		
	7					4		2
			6		2			
1		2						8
		6		8		5	3	
8	3		4					
7		9		3				

hard

CROSSWORD 1072

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
15					16							17			
18					19				20			21			
22							23	24					25		
				26		27				28	29		30		
31	32	33									34			35	36
37					38				39				40		
41			42	43				44				45			
46						47							48		
49					50				51		52	53			
54					55		56				57				
				58	59					60	61				
62	63	64					65	66				67	68	69	70
71					72	73	74					75	76		
77					78								79		
80					81								82		

ACROSS

1. A protocol (utilizing TCP) to transfer hypertext requests and information between servers and browsers.
5. Disorderly fighting.
11. In bed.
15. Using speech rather than writing.
16. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
17. A noisy fight.
18. United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
20. Produce ankylosis by surgery.
22. Of or relating to Oman or its people.
25. A port in southwestern Scotland.
26. Someone whose business is advertising.
28. To fix or set securely or deeply.
31. Very reluctant to give out information.
34. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
37. The sign language used in the United States.
38. An enclosed space.
41. The state that precedes vomiting.
45. Produced by a manufacturing process.
46. (Sumerian) God of the air and king of the Sumerian gods.
48. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
49. Disgraceful gossip about the private lives of other people.
51. The quality of being united into one.
54. A plant lacking a permanent woody stem.
55. Free from risk or danger.
57. Short underpants for women or children (usually used in the plural).
58. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit with poisonous seeds.
62. United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
65. Formerly the chief magistrate in the republics of Venice and Genoa.
67. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
72. Coelenterate genus of order Madreporaria, including staghorn corals.
76. The cry made by sheep.
77. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and sec-

- onds.
78. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
79. Top part of an apron.
80. Standard time in the 5th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 75th meridian.
81. A mountain peak in south central Sri Lanka (7,360 feet high).
82. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.

DOWN

1. A disreputable vagrant.
2. A conveyance that transports passengers or freight in carriers suspended from cables and supported by a series of towers.
3. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
4. Involving two dimensions.
5. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.
6. Being or moving higher in position or greater in some value.
7. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
8. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
9. An island of central Hawaii.
10. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
11. A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
12. Having great (or a certain) extent from one side to the other.
13. Posing no difficulty.
14. Someone whose job is to dye cloth.
19. Scottish sea captain who was hired to protect British shipping in the Indian Ocean and then was accused of piracy and hanged (1645-1701).
21. A cruel and brutal fellow.
23. An informal term for a father.
24. An associate degree in nursing.
27. Flat tableland with steep edges.
29. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
30. Electronic warfare undertaken to insure effective friendly use of the electromagnetic spectrum in spite of the enemy's use of electronic warfare.
32. (commerce) The period of time permitted by commercial usage for the payment of a bill of exchange (especially a foreign bill of exchange).
33. (zoology) Pertaining to alulae.
35. Marked by simplicity.
36. Lacking a sense of security or affording no ease or reassurance.
39. The dynasty that ruled much of Manchuria and northeastern China from 947 to 1125.
40. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
42. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
43. Late time of life.
44. A public promotion of some product or service.
47. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
50. Inquire about.
52. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
53. A lawman concerned with narcotics violations.
56. Felt hat with a creased crown.
59. People having the same social or economic status.
60. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
61. A source of danger.
63. Oval reproductive body of a fowl (especially a hen) used as food.
64. American political cartoonist (1840-1902).
66. Affording unobstructed entrance and exit.
68. A French abbot.
69. Anything that serves as an enticement.
70. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
73. An accountant certified by the state.
74. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
75. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution

H	U	D		R	E	A	D	A	B	L	Y		C	S	T
A	L	E		A	P	I	A	C	E	A	E		L	A	W
D	N	A		J	A	R	G	O	N		A	B	I	D	E
J	A	F	F	A		W	O	R	D	S		A	C	H	E
				A	B		A	N	E		C	A	C	H	E
S	S	R	I			Y		A	P	A	C	H	E		
A	P	E	R	C	U		N		A	B	C		D	A	B
T	E	E		H		M	A	N	N		R	U		M	A
R	E	C	T	A	L		S	E	A	M	A	N		A	T
A	C	H	I	R	A		A	R	C	A		M	A	H	A
P	H	O	N	I	C	S		N	E	C	T	A	R		
				G		E	Q		S	A	L	O	N	I	K
B	O	A		A	D	U	L	T		E	M		O	E	D
A	R	D	E	B		A	I		C	A	B	O	M	B	A
B	A	A		C	A	L	I	S	A	Y	A		M	A	N
A	D	D		S	U	L	I	N	D	A	C		A	B	A

AL-DAWLI IS A STRATEGIC SPONSOR OF AL-ARABI SC

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank "KIB" announced the unique strategic sponsoring of Al-Arabi Sports Club, the first football team, as part of its CSR strategy that aims to support the youths and their activities, so that they become active contributors and leaders of tomorrow. This comes as a result of the bank's commitment and belief that the youths play an essential role in driving big change while building the promising future of Kuwait and reviving its history and culture.

On this occasion, the Chairman of KIB, Sheikh Mohammad Al Jarrah Al Sabah, expressed his pride to sponsor Al-Arabi Sports Club, one of the most notable and pioneering football teams in Kuwait who won a number of official trophies at tournaments. During its long track record, the prominent team has succeeded in achieving hundreds of victories and holding titles after participating and winning several local and global leagues.

Sheikh Al Jarrah confirmed that KIB, driven by its Corporate Social Responsibility commitment, gives attention to sports and athletes by sponsoring their various activities, be it cultural, social or sports, while fixating on football. Not because it's known as one of the most vital sports that prepare them mentally and physically, but rather of being the most popular game worldwide that is considered fundamental to build highly-developed societies. In fact, the football game has positive effects on the health and safety of every member of the society, because a healthy mind in a healthy body.

On the other hand, the Chairman of Al-Arabi SC, Abdulaziz Ashour, expressed his deepest appreciation and gratitude for KIB's outstanding role in supporting the various social activities, wishing a continuous progress and success. He added that KIB is on the top list of local banks that is keen to support the sports sector in general, being one of the most vital sectors that play larger



role in serving the youth segment and driving social change.

It's worth noting that Kuwait International Bank has constant strive to support the development of the Kuwaiti community and its institutions, emphasizing on its commitment to good corporate

citizenship and social responsibility. Since its inception and transformation to an Islamic Bank in 2007, KIB strives to promote its social contributions in all fields by adopting ongoing initiatives that serve our local community and make the world a better place.

BASEBALL TO MAKE GLOBAL PITCH AT PREMIER 12 TOURNEY

TOKYO: Baseball will be looking to move a step closer to an Olympic return with the start of the new Premier12 tournament this week. Featuring the top 12 nations in the WBSC rankings, the inaugural tournament will be played in Japan and Taiwan from Nov. 8-21.

The quadrennial tournament is being organized by the World Baseball Softball Confederation with Olympic qualification going to the winner, beginning in 2019, should the sport be reinstated to the games.

"The Premier12 platform provides another key opportunity for players to represent, promote and honor their countries," WBSC president Riccardo Fraccari said. "It's a chance to build on the wave of continued globalization and excitement within our sport, particularly during this time when it's under

Olympic observation for potential inclusion at the 2020 Games in Tokyo." Baseball has been out of the Olympics since the 2008 Beijing Games but is favored to return to the program for the Tokyo 2020 Games because of its popularity in Japan. The joint bid of baseball-softball has been recommended for inclusion by the Tokyo organizing committee along with four other sports.

A final decision on which sport or sports to add to the Tokyo program will be made by the International Olympic Committee next August. Japan enters this year's event as the top-ranked team followed by the United States and Cuba. Taiwan is ranked fourth ahead of the Netherlands (5) and the Dominican Republic (6).

The other teams taking part in order of ranking are; Canada, South Korea, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Italy and Mexico. The teams are divided into two groups of six for round-robin play, with the top eight progressing to the knockout stages.

Japanese All-Star Shohei Otani will be the starting pitcher for the opening game against South Korea on Sunday at the 40,000-seat Sapporo Dome. The 21-year-old Otani posted a 15-5 record for the Nippon Ham Fighters with a 2.24 ERA and 196 strikeouts this season.

The United States, featuring a squad comprised of players from the farm systems of Major League Baseball teams, plays its first game on Nov. 10 against the Dominican Republic at the Taoyuan Baseball Stadium in Taipei. — AP

'FLAT' MCILROY FALLS BACK AS KISNER STREAKS AHEAD

SHANGHAI: Rory McIlroy finally climbed out of bed 10 pounds lighter from a bout of food poisoning and shot 68. Jordan Spieth returned from his longest break without touching his golf clubs and also had a 68. Both felt good about their start Thursday in the HSBC Champions. It just wasn't enough to be anywhere near the lead. Branden Grace of South Africa, a month removed from his sterling performance in the Presidents Cup, birdied half of the holes at soft, vulnerable Sheshan International for a 9-under 63. It was the lowest opening round in the 11-year history of the World Golf Championship event Kevin Kisner made his debut in China by playing bogey-free for a 64. He was joined by Steven Bowditch of Australia and Thorbjorn Olesen of Denmark, who opened with five birdies in six holes and was 7 under through 10 holes. It was enough to make Olesen wonder how low he could go, though that ended when he made a sloppy bogey on the par-5 14th and he had to settle for a 64. Dustin Johnson, the winner the last time he was here two years ago, drilled a 3-wood over the water and onto the green at the par-5 second hole and made an eagle to join Patrick Reed and Danny Willett at 65.

CHARLES SCHWAB CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

Bernhard Langer left Colin Montgomerie and Jeff Maggert and everyone else behind in the Champions Tour's season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Langer shot a 7-under 63 on Desert Mountain's Cochise Course to take a two-stroke lead. The 58-year-old German star began the week third in the Charles Schwab Cup race, 66 points behind Montgomerie and 27 behind Maggert. With players receiving a point for every \$500 earned in the \$2.5 million tournament, Langer was \$33,000 behind Montgomerie and \$13,500 behind Maggert. Montgomerie had a 70, leaving him tied for 17th in the 30-man field. Maggert three-putted the par-5 18th for a bogey and a 72 that dropped him into a tie for 24th. Langer is trying to win the season title for the second straight year and record third time overall. The champion will receive a \$1 million annuity, the runner-up a \$500,000 annuity, and the third-place finisher a \$300,000 annuity. Scottsdale resident Michael Allen and Billy



SHANGHAI: Kevin Kisner of the United States hits a shot on the 4th hole during the second round of the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China yesterday. — AP

Andrade were tied for second at 65. Andrade had a hole-in-one on the 190-yard second hole, using a 6-iron.

SANDERSON FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Roberto Castro shot a 10-under 62, his lowest score on the PGA Tour, to take a two-shot lead in the Sanderson Farms Championship. The 30-year-old Castro avoided trouble all afternoon with a bogey-free round in nearly ideal conditions for low scores. He made 10 birdies - five on each nine at the Country Club of Jackson. Conditions were forgiving thanks to a course softened by rain and very little wind. That could change in the coming days - more rain is expected. Aaron Baddeley and Bryce Molder were tied for second at 64. Adam Hadwin and Brian Davis shot 65.

TOTO JAPAN CLASSIC

Americans Angela Stanford and Ryann O'Toole shared the lead at 7-under 65 yesterday in the LPGA Tour's Toto Japan Classic. The 37-year-old Stanford had eight birdies and a bogey at Kintetsu Kashikojima in the event also sanctioned by the Japan LPGA. She has five LPGA Tour victories and played a key role in the United States' Solheim Cup comeback with a victory over Suzann Pettersen. The 28-year-old O'Toole closed with a bogey on the par-4 ninth after playing the previous seven holes in 6 under with an eagle on the par-4 fourth and four birdies. She's winless in her five-year career. Japan's Ai Suzuki was a stroke back along with South Koreans Ha-Neul Kim, Ilhee Lee, Jenny Shin and Mi-Jeong Jeon. Third-ranked Stacy Lewis and fourth-ranked Lexi Thompson topped the group at 67. — AP

BACKLUND SCORES IN OT AS FLAMES BEAT FLYERS 2-1

CALGARY: Mikael Backlund scored 35 seconds into overtime and also had an assist to give the Calgary Flames a 2-1 victory over the skidding Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday night. With the Flames breaking in on a 2-on-1, Johnny Gaudreau's shot was stopped by Michal Neuvirth. The rebound popped straight out, hit Backlund's leg as he skated toward the crease and went in. Calgary improved to 3-0 in overtime, while Philadelphia fell to 1-3.

Josh Jooris also scored for Calgary (4-9-1). The Flames improved to 2-5 at home. Michael Raffl scored his first of the season for Philadelphia (4-6-3). The Flyers are 0-3-1 on a five-game road trip that ends Saturday in Winnipeg. In a matchup between struggling teams - the Flames with one win in their previous six games and the Flyers winless in five - both looked tentative all night in a sloppy affair. Neither side could generate any sustained pressure and there were numerous turnovers and bobbled passes. It appeared Calgary was going to head to the second intermission with a lead for just the second time this season, but the Flyers tied it 1-all with 36 seconds left in the period.

Controlling the puck behind the Flames net, Claude Giroux centered a pass to Raffl, whose shot from 15 feet out fluttered past Karri Ramo, who only got a piece of it. Dating back to last season, it was the first goal in 17 games for Raffl, who scored 21 in 2014-15 as an NHL sophomore. It was a familiar storyline for Calgary, outscored 23-8 in the second period this season. Opening the scoring for the eighth time, the Flames took a 1-0 lead less than 5 minutes into the game. After serving a minor, Jooris stepped out of the penalty box just in time to scoop up the puck at center ice and charge in on a breakaway. Neuvirth stopped his initial shot and stopped Backlund on the rebound, but the Flyers' goalie couldn't control the puck and it squirted back out front, where Jooris whipped it in for his second of the season. Making his third consecutive start, Ramo had 26 saves. He entered the game ranked second-to-last in the NHL in save percentage at .871. He improved to 2-4.

Canadiens 4, Islanders 1

David Desharnais' goal stood as the winner as the Montreal Canadiens beat the New York Islanders 4-1 at the Bell Centre. Dale Weise, Brendan Gallagher and Tomas Plekanec also scored for the Habs while Kyle Okposo tallied for the Isles. Goaltender Jaroslav Halak stopped 20 shots for the Islanders (7-4-3) and Mike Condon made 17 saves for Montreal (12-2-1).

Lightning 4, Sabres 1

A three-goal burst in the first period led the Tampa Bay Lightning to a 4-1 win over the Buffalo Sabres. Steven Stamkos, Tyler Johnson,



CALGARY: Philadelphia Flyers' Radko Gudas, right, of the Czech Republic, checks Calgary Flames' Johnny Gaudreau during second-period NHL hockey game action in Calgary, Alberta, Thursday. — AP

Nikita Kucherov and defenseman Victor Hedman scored for the Lightning. Goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy made 30 saves. Jack Eichel scored for the Sabres, who replaced starting goalie Linus Ullmark after he surrendered three goals on 11 shots in the first period. Chad Johnson stopped all 10 shots he faced.

Capitals 4, Bruins 1

Goaltender Braden Holtby finally allowed a goal to the Boston Bruins, but Washington were too strong as they recorded a 4-1 victory. Holtby blanked the Bruins in three games last season, but a first-period goal by Jimmy Hayes ended the run. Holtby still finished with 28 saves. Brooks Laich ended a 16-game streak without a goal, while John Carlson and Alex Ovechkin also scored before defenseman Karl Alzner added an empty-net goal with 1:48 remaining. Boston goaltender Tuukka Rask made 27 saves.

Senators 3, Jets 2 (shootout)

The Ottawa Senators rediscovered the feeling of winning on home ice Thursday night after shootout goals by Bobby Ryan, Kyle Turris and Mika Zibanejad gave them a 3-2 win over the Winnipeg Jets at Canadian Tire Centre. Goalie Craig Anderson made the only save of the shootout, coming out of his net to stop Jets winger Andrew Ladd.

Predators 3, Wild 2

Cody Hodgson scored late in the third period to lift the Nashville Predators to a 3-2 win over Minnesota, handing the Wild their first home loss of the season. Mike Fisher and Roman Josi also scored for

the Predators (8-2-2) and goaltender Pekka Rinne had 27 saves in the win.

Coyotes 4, Avalanche 2

Coyotes defenseman Nicklas Grossmann posted the first two-goal game of his 11-year career, and Martin Hanzal notched two assists in his return to the lineup as Arizona snapped a three-game home losing streak with a 4-2 win over Colorado. Hanzal missed time with a lower-body injury but benefitted from the team's five-day layoff after their last contest.

Sharks 5, Panthers 2

Five different skaters scored goals and back-up goalie Alex Stalock won his first game of the year as the San Jose Sharks beat the Florida Panthers 5-2 at SAP Center. Stalock stopped 31 shots while getting his third start of the year in favor of starter Martin Jones, who got pulled after two periods from Tuesday's loss. Stalock, who was 0-2 with a 3.94 goals-against average and .847 save percentage, won for the first time since April 1 last season.

Blue Jackets 3, Kings 2

Gregory Campbell's first goal of the season midway through the third period lifted the Columbus Blue Jackets to a 3-2 win over the Los Angeles Kings at Staples Center. Campbell converted a beautiful drop pass by defenseman Jack Johnson at 10:52 of the third to put the Blue Jackets on top 3-1. Brandon Dubinsky finished with a goal and an assist as Columbus (4-10-0) captured their fourth win in six games. — Reuters

NHL Results/Standings

Tampa Bay 4, Buffalo 1; Washington 4, Boston 1; Montreal 4, NY Islanders 1; Ottawa 3, Winnipeg 2 (So); Nashville 3, Minnesota 2; Calgary 2, Philadelphia 1 (OT); Arizona 4, Colorado 2; Columbus 3, Los Angeles 2; San Jose 5, Florida 2.

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Dallas	10	3	0	46	37	20
St. Louis	9	3	1	36	31	19
Nashville	8	2	2	35	27	18
Winnipeg	8	4	2	42	38	18
Minnesota	7	3	2	37	35	16
Chicago	7	5	1	33	32	15
Colorado	4	8	1	35	40	9
Pacific Division						
Los Angeles	8	5	0	31	28	16
Vancouver	6	3	4	38	29	16
San Jose	7	6	0	38	35	14
Arizona	6	5	1	34	34	13
Edmonton	5	8	0	36	41	10
Calgary	4	9	1	32	57	9
Anaheim	3	7	2	17	31	8
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Montreal	12	2	1	55	27	25
Ottawa	7	4	2	40	39	16
Tampa Bay	7	6	2	38	37	16
Boston	6	5	1	43	40	13
Detroit	6	5	1	30	31	13
Florida	5	5	3	36	31	13
Buffalo	5	8	0	29	39	10
Toronto	2	8	2	26	40	6
Metropolitan Division						
Washington	9	3	0	40	29	18
NY Rangers	8	2	2	36	23	18
NY Islanders	7	4	3	39	35	17
Pittsburgh	8	4	0	27	22	16
New Jersey	6	5	1	29	31	13
Philadelphia	4	6	3	25	39	11
Carolina	5	7	0	26	34	10
Columbus	4	10	0	33	50	8

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

BURGESS EPISODE LEAVES ENGLAND AT ALL-TIME LOW

LONDON: Sam Burgess's decision to reject rugby union and head back to the 13-man code in Australia has left the English game at an all-time low, according to World Cup-winning coach Clive Woodward.

Weeks after being selected at centre for England's World Cup showdown with Wales, code-switching Burgess has left his club Bath to rejoin South Sydney Rabbitohs. Although Burgess said his decision was for family reasons, the timing, just after England's humiliating early exit from their own World Cup, could not be worse for the Rugby Football Union (RFU) as it starts the post-mortem into what went wrong. When Burgess joined Bath little over a year ago, the RFU trumpeted the fact that one of rug-

by league's biggest stars had switched codes and his rapid elevation to the England ranks suggested a long career would follow.

The 26-year-old Yorkshireman who made his name with Bradford Bulls has seen enough, however, and Woodward does not blame him for turning his back on those who welcomed him. "I said last week that Sam Burgess is not to blame for this mess and I stand by it," Woodward, who plotted England's 2003 World Cup triumph in Australia, told the Daily Mail.

"But with his return to rugby league we've reached one of the all-time lows and most embarrassing points in English rugby history," Woodward believes the RFU need-

ed to take the blame for England's World Cup debacle, saying the organisation had "marched confidently into a total mess by wrongly appointing Stuart Lancaster as coach. "The review after (the) 2011 (World Cup) was a shambles," he said. "Players and coaches let down by media leaks, good men exposed as scapegoats and lesser men hiding and shirking responsibility. Nothing has changed. "The panel chosen to identify (former coach) Martin Johnson's successor somehow selected Stuart Lancaster, a coach lacking any true coaching experience at any level to prepare our national team for a home World Cup. "We are the laughing stock of not only world rugby but also sport and business." — Reuters

WARNE, TENDULKAR WANT TO MIMIC BECKHAM IN US

NEW YORK: David Beckham is the million-
aire model, sportsman and nice guy credited
with helping make soccer more popular in
the United States. And now Shane Warne
wants to do the same for cricket.
The Australian spin king has jetted into
New York with Indian batting great Sachin
Tendulkar to embark on an exhibition tour
designed to get baseball-loving Americans
up to speed with a sport few of them under-
stand, play or ever watch.
“Soccer wasn’t big. David Beckham came
over here and suddenly the sport is starting
to grow,” Warne told reporters at a hotel in
Times Square ahead of the first All-Stars
game today.
Cricket is second only to soccer in terms
of world popularity, he said, no matter that

baseball and American football reign
supreme in the United States.
“We don’t think it’s a gamble, we think
Americans are ready,” said Warne in a nod to
his sideline as a poker player. Warne and
Tendulkar will captain two sides-Warne’s
Warriors and Sachin’s Blasters-that will show-
case the talents of some of the greatest stars
in world cricket, playing three Twenty20
three-hours games in New York, Houston
and Los Angeles.
Tendulkar, who offers a softly-spoken
bookish counterpart to Warne’s tell-it-how-it-
is drive, said their dream was to one day see
an American team in the World Cup.
“We’re here to establish cricket in
America” he said. “The next time we come
here it would be nice to find an American kid

with a cricket bat in his hand alongside a
baseball bat.”
Win hearts
They will be doing cricket clinics for
young children, interact with players as
much as possible and invite women crick-
eters to their practise sessions as well, he
said. Among the talent on the Blasters are
Graeme Swann, Brian Lara, Curtly Ambrose,
Glenn McGrath, Moin Khan and Shoaib
Akhtar. Included in the Warriors are Ajit
Agarkar, Matthew Hayden, Courtney Walsh,
Ricky Ponting, Michael Vaughan and Wasim
Akram. They may not be as quick as they
were 10 years ago, but these retired stars
insist they’ve lost none of their skills-nor their
competitive streak.

“We’re going to go out there and play as
hard as we possibly can, and we’re going to
win. Simple as that,” said Warne. “We’re good
friends, but not on the field,” said Tendulkar.
“We want to go out and not disappoint the
fans... We want to win the hearts of as many
people as possible here.”
The ICC-sanctioned matches will be
played on drop-in pitches at major baseball
fields in New York, Houston and Los Angeles.
A portion of the proceeds will go to the ICC
for the development of cricket within the
United States. Warne said the response “had
been overwhelming” and if all goes well, it
could become an annual event. He batted
aside suggestions that the rules of cricket
were too complicated for Americans to fol-
low. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day in the first Test between Australia and New Zealand yesterday in Brisbane, Australia.

Australia 1st innings (Overnight: 389-2)		New Zealand 1st innings	
J. Burns c Watling b Southee	71	M. Guptill c Warner b Hazlewood	23
D. Warner c Taylor b Neesham	163	T. Latham c Lyon b Starc	47
U. Khawaja c Guptill b Williamson	174	K. Williamson not out	55
S. Smith b Boult	48	R. Taylor c Smith b Johnson	0
A. Voges not out	83	B. McCullum c Voges b Johnson	6
Extras (lb-7 nb-6 w-4)	17	J. Neesham b Starc	3
Total (for 4 wickets declared, 130.2 overs)	556	B. Watling not out	14
Fall of wickets: 1-161 J. Burns, 2-311 D. Warner, 3-399 S. Smith, 4-556 U. Khawaja		Extras (lb-2 nb-6 w-1)	9
Did not bat: M. Marsh, P. Nevill, M. Johnson, M. Starc, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon		Total (for 5 wickets, 45 overs)	157
Bowling: T. Southee 24-8-70-1(nb-2); T. Boult 29-3-127-1; D. Bracewell 27-3-107-0(nb-3 w-1); M. Craig 31-3-156-0; J. Neesham 11-1-50-1(nb-1 w-3); K. Williamson 8.2-0-39-1.		Fall of wickets: 1-56 M. Guptill, 2-102 T. Latham, 3-105 R. Taylor, 4-114 B. McCullum, 5-118 J. Neesham	
		To bat: M. Craig, D. Bracewell, T. Southee, T. Boult	
		Bowling: M. Starc 10-4-30-2(nb-2 w-1); M. Johnson 12-2-52-2(nb-1); J. Hazlewood 12-2-33-1(nb-1); N. Lyon 8-2-22-0; M. Marsh 3-0-18-0(nb-2).	

KHAWAJA, PACEMEN PUT AUSTRALIA IN CHARGE

BRISBANE: Usman Khawaja’s magnificent 174 helped Australia to a dominant 556 for four declared and an imposing lead of 399 at the end of the second day of the first test against New Zealand yesterday.
Australia’s pace attack, with Mitchell Johnson to the fore, fired up with a lethal 20-minute spell in the final session to reduce the tourists to 157-5 at the close of



BRISBANE: Australia’s Mitchell Johnson celebrates after he got the wicket of New Zealand’s Ross Taylor during play on day two of the first cricket test between Australia and New Zealand in Brisbane, Australia, yesterday. — AP

play. Only Kane Williamson, who finished the day unbeaten on 55 alongside BJ Watling (14 not out), looked like offering any more than token resistance to the Australian onslaught. What already looked like a huge task to save the first of three tests in the series for the tourists became even harder after paceman Tim Southee left the field with a back injury before lunch.
While the potent strike partnership of Southee and Boult was behind much of New Zealand’s confidence heading into the series, the hosts’ pace attack showed on Friday why many in Australia were confident they would survive a string of retirements. The Mitchells, Johnson and Starc, took the new ball but it was Josh Hazlewood who made the breakthrough after tea when he had Martin Guptill caught by David Warner in the slips to break a solid 56-run opening partnership.
Starc returned in the 31st over and had an immediate impact when opener Tom Latham sliced an attempted drive to Nathan Lyon at point and departed for 47.
Starc hoped his senior fast bowling partner Johnson, 34, could continue leading Australia’s attack for a few more years. “Hopefully he can keep going for a lot longer,” Starc told reporters. “He’s the leader of the attack... he’s our enforcer. “It’s great to watch and great to be in the same team as him. It’s not great to face him in the nets. “He’s bowling fantastically, bowling with great aggression, pace and bounce.” — Reuters

INDIA EXTEND LEAD, ASHWIN TAKES FIVE

MOHALI: Cheteshwar Pujara’s unbeaten 63 gave India a firm hold on the opening test against South Africa after off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin picked up his 13th five-wicket haul to restrict the touring side to 184 on the second day yesterday.
Pujara compiled his seventh half-century in tests to lead India to 125 for two at stumps, an overall lead of 142 in the low-scoring match. He added 86 for the second wicket with Murali Vijay (47), who fell to an acrobatic catch at short leg by substitute fielder Temba Bavuma, after opener Shikhar Dhawan was dismissed for his second duck of the match to Vernon Philander.

India captain Virat Kohli was unbeaten on 11. Dale Steyn, the world’s number one bowler, was troubled by a tight groin and did not take the field as a precaution in a blow to South Africa’s hopes of restricting India to a low total in the second innings. AB de Villiers struggled initially but made a swashbuckling 63 off 83 balls to top score for his side, who conceded a first-innings lead of 17. Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, returning to the test arena for the first time in almost 15 months, took three wickets while leg-spinner Amit Mishra picked up the other two. South Africa, who resumed on 28-2 after dismissing the hosts for 201, appeared set for a first-innings lead through a stubborn third-wicket stand of 76 between Dean Elgar (37) and captain Hashim Amla (43) before Ashwin struck.

NERVOUS MOMENTS

The 29-year-old, who had dismissed Stiaan van Zyl the previous evening, sent back Elgar after the opening batsman had kept India at bay for 75 minutes along with Amla. Kohli opted not to open with Ashwin and Jadeja, who looked the most likely to pick up wickets on a Mohali pitch offering plenty of assistance to the spin bowlers, but soon found success once he did turn to them.
Elgar survived some nervous moments until he attempted a rash slog-sweep against Ashwin, with the ball taking a top edge and falling into the hands of Jadeja at short third man.



MOHALI: India’s Murali Vijay bends to avoid a ball during the second day of their first cricket test match against South Africa in Mohali, India, yesterday. — AP

Amla looked unperturbed and displayed a solid technique against the Indian slow bowlers before he fell in a freakish way to the off-spinner. The right-hander danced down the track but missed the ball, which hit wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha’s chest to drop on the off-stump with Amla short of his crease. Ashwin also dismissed wicketkeeper Dane Vilas (1) in the same over for his fourth wicket, after the batsman top-edged a sweep for Jadeja to complete a tumbling catch at short fine leg. De Villiers sur-

vived a confident appeal for caught behind off Jadeja before he had opened his account and after a few more loud leg before appeals against him were turned down, the 31-year-old finally edged the left-arm spinner to Kohli.
However, he was given not out after replays showed the bowler had marginally overstepped during the delivery. De Villiers then went on the attack and completed his 37th fifty in tests before getting bowled by a beautiful delivery from Mishra. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day in the first Test between India and South Africa yesterday in Chandigarh, India.

India 1st innings 201 (M. Vijay 75; D. Elgar 4-22)		South Africa 1st innings (Overnight: 28-2)	
D. Elgar c Jadeja b Ashwin	37	Villiers, 10-184 I. Tahir	
S. van Zyl lbw b Ashwin	5	Bowling: R. Ashwin 24-5-51-5; U. Yadav 6-1-12-0; V. Aaron 8-1-18-0; R. Jadeja 18-0-55-3(nb-1); A. Mishra 12-3-35-2.	
F. du Plessis b Jadeja	0	India 2nd innings	
H. Amla st Saha b Ashwin	43	M. Vijay c sub b Tahir	47
A. de Villiers b Mishra	63	S. Dhawan c de Villiers b Philander	0
D. Vilas c Jadeja b Ashwin	1	C. Pujara not out	63
V. Philander c Rahane b Jadeja	3	V. Kohli not out	11
S. Harmer lbw b Mishra	7	Extras (b-4)	4
D. Steyn st Saha b Jadeja	6	Total (for 2 wickets, 40 overs)	125
K. Rabada not out	1	Fall of wickets: 1-9 S. Dhawan, 2-95 M. Vijay	
I. Tahir c Pujara b Ashwin	4	To bat: A. Rahane, W. Saha, R. Jadeja, R. Ashwin, A. Mishra, V. Aaron, U. Yadav	
Extras (b-6 lb-7 nb-1)	14	Bowling: V. Philander 7-0-17-1; S. Harmer 10-3-28-0; D. Elgar 7-1-34-0; I. Tahir 8-0-33-1; K. Rabada 8-5-9-0.	
Total (all out, 68 overs)	184		
Fall of wickets: 1-9 S. van Zyl, 2-9 F. du Plessis, 3-85 D. Elgar, 4-105 H. Amla, 5-107 D. Vilas, 6-136 V. Philander, 7-170 S. Harmer, 8-179 D. Steyn, 9-179 A. de			



KUWAIT WOMEN'S SKEET TEAM BAGS MEDAL

INDIA BRILLIANT, WINS 5 GOLD MEDALS IN SHOTGUN EVENTS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait's women skeet shooters' team were outstanding and took the skeet bronze medal, as well as Qatar's shooter Mohammad Al-Mubarak who won the bronze of the 50m rifle prone junior event.

Meanwhile India was brilliant in winning 5 gold medals in shotgun events during the third day of competition of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship being held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

The championship is being held according to the international rules and regulations as well as doping testing.

Meanwhile Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said efforts of the organizing committee of the 13th Asian tournament are very clear, and makes the entire continent of Asia, not only Kuwait proud, as things are going on smoothly and regularly.

Sheikh Salman lauded the highly advanced level of participating countries and the strong competition between all shooters. He said the Asian Shooting Confederation will do its best to support the rights of all athletes participating in the champion, and pointed to the importance of cooperation between all Asian countries.

President of Iraq Shooting Federation Zahed Nouri said that what he saw at the facilities at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex is at a world level. He said there is total attention to all details, the atmosphere is exciting and competition is at its highs among all shooters.

Zahed said this championship is the best during the recent years due to good organization and removal of all obstacles by Kuwait shooting sports club board members, saying "this is not strange for Kuwait which always sets the example in ideal organization. He said that there were surprises as countries like Mongolia has progressed a lot in shooting along with other countries that began to see results, while at the same time Arab shooters will face tough competition and must prepare better.

Secretary General of Saudi Shooting Federation Saeed bin Salem Al-Qarni lauded the organization of the 13th Asian tournament, adding that everything is going as planned, and the organizing committee has full control over everything and succeeded in removing all obstacles, making Kuwait an example that should be followed in organizing such major events, and proves that it is still a pioneer in welcoming athletes. Bin Salem said China is still outstanding at this championship, as it is participating with a large number of shooters who participated in several training camps to be at this level.



Results of the 13th Asian Championship were as follows:

Skeet Women Individual:

1. Isarapa Imprasertsuk, Thailand
 2. Piao Piao Lin, China
 3. Ning Wei, China
- Kuwait's Eman Alshamaa was fourth.

Skeet Women Team

1. Thailand
2. China
3. Kuwait

10M Air Pistol Men Team

1. China
2. Korea
3. Vietnam

10M Air Pistol Men Individual

1. Jongoh Jin, Korea
2. Wei Pang, China
3. Pu Qifeng, China

10M Air Pistol Men Junior Team

1. India
2. Korea
3. Thailand

10M Air Pistol Men Youth

1. Shainki Nagar, India
2. Jinseok Yeom, Korea
3. Samarjit Singh, India

50M Rifle Prone Men Junior Individuals:

1. Swapnil Kusale, India
2. Mohammad Saad Almubarak, Qatar
3. Ce Wang, China

50M Rifle Prone Men Junior Team:

1. India
2. Korea
3. China

10M Air Pistol Men Youth Team:

1. India
2. Korea
3. Thailand

10M Air Pistol Men Junior Individual

1. Jaebeom Bae, Korea
2. Bowen Zhang, China
3. Sumedh Kumar, India

10M Air Pistol Men Youth Team

1. India
2. Korea
3. Thailand





CHICAGO: Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, right, runs into Chicago Bulls guard Jimmy Butler, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago, on Thursday. The Bulls won the game 104-98. — AP

ROSE SCORES 29, BULLS BEAT THUNDER 104-98

CHICAGO: Derrick Rose scored 29 points and Jimmy Butler added 26 to lead the Bulls to a 104-98 victory over Oklahoma City on Thursday night. Rose scored 10 points over the final 3 1-2 minutes to lift the Bulls after they blew a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter. Oklahoma City tied it with just over 5 minutes left in the game. But Rose's performance down the stretch helped offset Durant's 33 points and lifted the Bulls after

they got blown out at Charlotte two nights earlier. Russell Westbrook had 20 points and 10 assists and Serge Ibaka scored 17 points for the Thunder, who lost their third straight. Chicago was clinging to a 98-96 lead when Rose hit consecutive jumpers to make it a six-point game with just over a minute remaining. After Durant hit a jumper, Pau Gasol nailed a sweeping hook with 38.4 seconds left, sealing the win for the Bulls.

NBA Results/Standings

Chicago 104, Oklahoma City 98; Miami 96, Minnesota 84; Charlotte 108, Dallas 94; Utah 96, Denver 84; Portland 115, Memphis 96.

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	5	0	1.000	-
NY Knicks	2	3	.400	3
Boston	1	3	.250	3.5
Philadelphia	0	4	0	4.5
Brooklyn	0	5	0	5
Central Division				
Cleveland	4	1	.800	-
Detroit	3	1	.750	0.5
Chicago	4	2	.667	0.5
Indiana	2	3	.400	2
Milwaukee	2	3	.400	2
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	5	1	.833	-
Washington	3	1	.750	1
Miami	3	2	.600	1.5
Charlotte	2	3	.400	2.5
Orlando	1	4	.200	3.5
Western Conference				
Northwest Division				
Portland	4	2	.667	-
Utah	3	2	.600	0.5
Oklahoma City	3	3	.500	1
Minnesota	2	2	.500	1
Denver	2	3	.400	1.5
Pacific Division				
Golden State	5	0	1.000	-
LA Clippers	4	1	.800	1
Phoenix	3	2	.600	2
Sacramento	1	4	.200	4
LA Lakers	0	4	0	4.5
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	3	2	.600	-
Memphis	3	3	.500	0.5
Dallas	2	3	.400	1
Houston	2	3	.400	1
New Orleans	0	4	0	2.5

HEAT 96, TIMBERWOLVES 84

Dwyane Wade, showing no ill effects from a migraine headache two days ago, scored 25 points to lead Miami. Chris Bosh had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who were playing one day after reserve guard Gerald Green was hospitalized for unspecified reasons. Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said Green's condition had improved by Thursday, but it remained unclear why he was hospitalized and how long he will be away. Shabazz Muhammad had 14 points and six rebounds on a brutal shooting night for the Timberwolves, who shot just 35 percent from the field. Andrew Wiggins was 5 for 18 and Karl-Anthony Towns made just 3 of 13 shots. Goran Dragic added 18 points as all five Heat starters scored in double figures. Wade suffered a migraine in the third quarter against Atlanta on Tuesday, but he was able to finish the game. He showed no ill effects on Thursday and helped Miami close the first half in a flash.

HORNETS 108, MAVERICKS 94

Al Jefferson scored a season-high 31 points on 15-of-18 shooting and Marvin Williams added 17 points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte, which pulled away in the third quarter. Deron Williams led the Mavericks with 15 points, while Dirk Nowitzki, Zaza Pachulia and Dwight Powell added 14 each. The victory was the first in Dallas following 11 defeats for the franchise that began as the Charlotte Bobcats in 2004-05. The Mavericks had run off 14 straight home wins over Charlotte's two NBA teams since the original Hornets won at Reunion Arena in January 1998. Charlotte led 54-53 at halftime thanks in great measure to a 30-20 advantage on points in the paint. The Hornets outscored the Mavericks 24-14 in the third quarter, shooting 50 percent while Dallas hit 22.7 percent and missed on all eight of its 3-point attempts. Jefferson had nine rebounds.

JAZZ 96, NUGGETS 84

Gordon Hayward scored 20 points, including seven in the fourth quarter, and Utah pulled away late. Trevor Booker added 13 points and Rudy Gobert had eight points and 16 rebounds for Utah, which kept the Nuggets winless in their two home games this season. Alec Burks and Trey Burke added 12 points apiece. Danilo Gallinari had 18 points to lead Denver while Will Barton added 12. Utah outshot Denver 43.5 percent to 38.9 percent. Rodney Hood and Hayward hit successive 3-pointers as part of a 12-0 run carrying the Jazz to a 90-73 lead with 4:17 left. — AP

STUTTGART OUT TO AVOID A THUMPING AT BAYERN

BERLIN: Goals are set to fly yesterday as the Bundesliga's most potent attack meets the league's worst defence when leaders Bayern Munich host strugglers VfB Stuttgart in Germany's southern derby.

Pep Guardiola's Bayern are five points clear at the top of the table and are Germany's only unbeaten team after 11 matches while Stuttgart are just above the relegation places.

Bayern's star-studded attack inflicted a record 5-1 defeat on Arsenal in the Champions League on Wednesday as Thomas Mueller netted twice. Between them Germany's Mueller and Poland hot-shot Robert Lewandowski have netted 31 goals between them in all competitions, including 23 in Germany's top-flight. In contrast, Stuttgart only hauled themselves out of the bottom three last week and their leaky defence has conceded 23 goals so far-the joint worst record in the Bundesliga alongside bottom side Augsburg. Stuttgart have lost their last 13 matches against Bayern in all competitions.

They will be missing key midfielder Martin Harnik, who needs an operation on a knee injury, but Australia winger Robbie Kruse is set to return from a hamstring strain. "Our goal is to take a point," said Stuttgart coach Alexander Zorniger, who was talking up his side's chances by insisting 'any side is beatable'.

Bayern dropped their first points of the season last Friday when they were held to a goalless draw at Eintracht Frankfurt, who packed defenders behind the ball. But Zorniger was realistic about his side's chances against Germany's top side.

"We are not going to play 90 minutes of counter-pressing, but we're also not going to defend for 90 minutes, because we can't do that," he said. "In Munich, you need to try and control the situation so that you don't get hit by their big right hook."

Stuttgart lost their opening five games of the season, but have shown a marked improvement of three wins, a draw and two defeats in their last six games. — AFP

PSG LEAVE LIGUE 1 RIVALS FIGHTING

PARIS: The suspense in the Ligue 1 title race appears to already be over, with Paris Saint-Germain 10 points clear and unbeaten after 12 matches, leaving the rest of the top flight to battle for lesser honours.

Laurent Blanc's PSG side are firmly on course for a fourth straight title, and while they clearly admit that winning the Champions League is their main priority, even a 1-0 defeat at Real Madrid in mid-week was met by positive feedback after a proud performance.

It was the capital side's first defeat of the season in all competitions, but the manner in which they dominated the 10-time European champions only underlined their status as one of the top teams in Europe. PSG return to the comforts of the Parc des Princes on Saturday when Blanc will lead his men out against second-from-bottom Toulouse expecting to take maximum points from what appears a home-win banker. Seven-time champions Lyon are second and ahead on goal difference above Angers as well as their arch-rivals Saint-Etienne, who visit the Stade Gerland in the weekend's feature match on Sunday.

However the fashion in which Hubert Fournier's side were all but eliminated from the Champions League on Wednesday, following a 2-0 defeat at home to Zenit St Petersburg, again shows the gulf in class between PSG and one of their closest rivals. "We would have been more comfortable, heading into the Saint-Etienne match, if we would have won on Wednesday but it's up to us to recover and rely on the things that have working for us this season," said Fournier. Lyon's key striker Alexandre Lacazette added the team would bounce back for one of the fiercest rivals in French football.

Avoiding relegation

"We have to just prepare the best we can for Sunday because a derby against Saint-Etienne is a match we have to win."

Angers, who kick off the weekend slate on Friday at home to mid-table Rennes and are tied with Lyon, are more concerned about avoiding relegation after their recent promotion.

Another telling statistic is that apart from PSG and Monaco, the other four French clubs that have qualified for the Champions League-Lyon, Marseille, Lille and Montpellier-have won just one match between them in 22 matches at the top continental level since 2012. Monaco have climbed the table after a stuttering start to their campaign, and come into their Sunday tie at Bordeaux in sixth place, while Marseille are well out of the running with four wins from 12 fixtures and a distant 17 points adrift, ahead of their clash at home to Nice on Sunday. — AFP

'OLD BOY' BILIC KEEN TO BEAT EVERTON

LONDON: Slaven Bilic accepts West Ham's meeting with his former club Everton today will carry extra significance as he attempts to reignite his side's unexpected top four challenge. Bilic spent part of his playing career in England with the Merseysiders but his priority now is to ensure the Hammers respond to last weekend's defeat at Watford that left them in sixth place, a point behind fourth place Manchester United.

"Is it a special game for me?" asked West Ham manager Bilic of the match against Everton at Upton Park. "On one hand yes, on the other no. Every game is special for different reasons.

Everton are a great side, big club with good players. It's a great test for us and I am looking forward to it, definitely yes." The Hammers' 2-0 loss at Vicarage Road came on the back of impressive victories over Crystal Palace and Chelsea.

Bilic said he was left perplexed by his side's display against Watford but insisted he knew what needed to be fixed when Everton visit east London. "Our game against Watford was strange, not for the Premier League, but for us. We weren't near to our usual levels but overall we look dangerous too, we are scoring quite a lot," Bilic said.

"We lost at Watford, but we know why we lost and we can learn from that and make sure it doesn't happen again." West Ham will again be without striker Diafra Sakho but Bilic has been lifted by the return to fitness of Enner Valencia, the Ecuador forward. "Diafra Sakho is still out, it is nothing major, he did normal training on Thursday last week but then felt something in his thigh. Unfortunately it is a small tear and he is out for Saturday's game. He should be back for our first game after the international break.

"Enner is fit. We've got options at the moment. From a fitness perspective he is in a good way, he just needs to get his match fitness up. He is very close to being ready, but it depends which game that'll be."

Everton confidence

Everton head to London lifted by their biggest Premier League win in eight years last weekend. Roberto Martinez's side ended a run of three league games without a win as they recorded a 6-2 victory over struggling Sunderland. And Martinez hopes that performance - in which Arouna Kone completed a hat-trick in a burst of four goals in 21 second-half minutes - will help Everton sign off on a high before the international break. Martinez, whose side are four points behind West Ham in ninth position in the league, said: "I think our game against Sunderland gave us a real

sense of confidence in what we can do going forward.

"We know we need to improve in other aspects but you will always take confidence from scoring six goals from open play." The Spaniard added: "We see the West Ham game as one of the games of the season for many reasons.

"The best is to highlight that probably Leicester and West Ham have been the best teams in this opening campaign... The West Ham game is as important as a final within a league competition."

Everton could have midfielder Tom Cleverley back following an ankle injury which has kept him out since the end of August. But Bryan Oviedo is out with a hamstring injury and England international

Leighton Baines will not return from ankle surgery until after the international break as the defender is given more time to build up his match fitness. — AFP

UNITED AIM TO BUILD ON EURO WIN AGAINST ALBION

MANCHESTER: Wayne Rooney's goal saw Manchester United re-assert themselves in Europe in mid-week but anything less than a comfortable win over West Bromwich Albion today will leave Louis van Gaal facing fresh questions.

Rooney's late goal against CSKA Moscow, which lifted him level with Denis Law as United's second-highest ever goalscorer, took van Gaal's side to the top of Group B in the Champions League.

Rooney's header-his 237th United goal-avoided a fourth successive goalless draw for the first time in the club's history.

It also papered over a few cracks United manager van Gaal must hope won't be reopened against West Brom at Old Trafford in

United's final Premier League game before the international break.

United played positively against the Russian league leaders but still lacked a genuine cutting edge, through either pace or guile, and the impatience of the supporters will be again be evident if the goals don't flow against Tony Pulis' defence-minded team.

United have failed to score in three of their last four Premier League games and van Gaal admits that getting his philosophy for winning football to work on a consistent basis is proving a challenge.

"We try to do that but I think the rhythm of the game in the Premier League is more difficult to develop and you can see it every week, not only with Manchester United but the other

teams," the Dutch manager said.

"Everyone can win or lose against each other. "Maybe it is more difficult in the Premier League, I don't know, but we are trying to do that. We, not only the players, but the manager and his staff. "I think we are improving every day and you can see that in the results we have made."

Attractive football

On the plus side, United are just four points behind league leaders Manchester City and have kept five clean sheets in their last six games. West Brom, who have won on their last two visits to Old Trafford, may not pose frequent problems for United's defence.

But the Baggies have won three times away from home without conceding this season and their deep-lying, counter-attacking football could again test United's resolve if they don't strike early.

Midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin is expected to return to United's squad after missing their Champions League win on Tuesday through illness.

Former United defender Jonny Evans, who will line up at Old Trafford for the first time since joining West Brom in pre-season, said he expected van Gaal to win over the club's supporters.

Evans said: "Fans want to be entertained. "They want to be successful, win games, but there's always that little feeling at the back of their head that they want to see nice attractive football. "Sometimes it's not always possible.

"And against teams like Manchester United, teams do raise their game and I'm sure we'll raise our game, it's an easy thing to say but subconsciously you do. "I think he (van Gaal) is a very good manager and I think with time he will get it right. I certainly learned a lot in the year that I spent with him as coach."

Evans added that Rooney's European goal would help him end his domestic drought and still some criticism. "Wayne Rooney is such a good player, on his day he's one of the best in the world...I'm sure he'll relish this opportunity to prove people wrong.

"I'm sure he'll take a few things on board and he'll try to put it right but he's had a career under the microscope and it's not always an easy place to be. — AFP



SAINT-ETIENNE: Dnipro's Matheus, left, challenges for the ball with Saint-Etienne's Fabien Lemoine, right, during their Europa League Group G soccer match in Saint-Etienne, central France, Thursday. — AP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Bournemouth v Newcastle	15:45
beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN	
Leicester v Watford	18:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Manchester v Albion	18:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Norwich v Swansea	18:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Sunderland v Southampton	18:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
West Ham v Everton	18:00
beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN	
Stoke v Chelsea	20:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Vigo v Valencia	18:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Levante v Coruna	20:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Rayo v Granada	22:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Eibar v Getafe	22:30
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Hellas Verona v Bologna	20:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Milan v Atalanta	22:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Mainz v Wolfsburg	17:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Hoffenheim v Frankfurt	17:30
beIN SPORTS	
Bayern Munich v Stuttgart	17:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Bayer v Koln	17:30
beIN SPORTS	
Borussia v Ingolstadt	17:30
beIN SPORTS	
Darmstadt v Hamburger	20:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Paris Saint v Toulouse	19:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Lille v Bastia	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Reims v Ajaccio	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Montpellier v Nantes	22:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Caen v Guingamp	22:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Lorient v Troyes	22:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Kuwait Times

Sports



Kuwait women's skeet team bags medal

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PARIS: Britain's Andy Murray returns the ball to France's Richard Gasquet during their quarter final tennis match at the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 indoor tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

DJOKOVIC WINS, FEDERER FALLS IN PARIS

PARIS: Novak Djokovic kept his win streak alive at the Paris Masters on Thursday, but there was defeat for Roger Federer at the hands of big-serving American John Isner. Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray also reached the quarter-finals, but in contrasting styles.

World number one and defending champion Djokovic went through to the last eight in the final tournament of the ATP's regular season with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Gilles Simon that took his unbeaten run to 19 matches. It was far from being the world number one's most commanding performance of late as he struggled with his serve, but it meant he has not dropped a set since the US Open final against Federer in early September. He has now won 26 sets in a row, taking him past his own previous best of 24 sets which he achieved in early 2014.

The Serb, who has won three of the four Grand Slam titles and five of the eight Masters 1000 series titles so far contested this year, dropped serve five times against the wily Frenchman, four coming in the second set. But on each occasion he immediately struck back to prevent Simon from gathering any momentum.

The 10-time major tournament winner said his struggles on serve had been frustrating.

"I can assure you, losing four service games in a set, I don't think that has happened to me," he said. "I'm not a serve specialist, but I think I have a solid serve and it hasn't happened for a long time. "It wasn't pleasant, but I knew that I have a good return. I was feeling the ball very well from the back of the court.

"So that kind of was a positive to that, knowing that I can break him most of the time. That was the kind of mindset."

Djokovic will next play fifth seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic who eased past an injury-hampered Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-3, 6-4 for a place in the semi-finals of a tournament he has won three times previously, including the last two years Federer was shocked to find himself leaving for home without once having dropped his serve as Isner typically won on two tie-breaks 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), hammering down 27 aces in the process.

Nadal saves match point

The Swiss legend agreed that Isner had

served superbly on the big points.

"He's got the size, got the power, got the angles," the 34-year-old said. "I thought he did very well today when he needed it. The breakers, he served great. Those are the ones he needed. Yeah, that was the difference. "It's tough to get out of the tournament not having lost your serve, you know, but that's how it can go against John."

Federer, who won his hometown tournament in Basel last weekend, will now switch his focus to London and the ATP World Tour Finals. Isner will play David Ferrer for a semi-final spot after the Spanish eighth seed outlasted Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 6-4. Asked where the win ranked in his career best Isner replied: "It's up there, for sure. I don't know off the top of my head. It's certainly top five I would say.

"This is a very big tournament. He's an incredible player, obviously. My favourite player and the greatest of all time, my opinion. It was a huge win for me. I'm very proud I was able to get it done." Nadal saved a match point in the second set tie-breaker against

South African Kevin Anderson before prevailing 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-2. He will next take on French Open champion Stan Wawrinka who beat Victor Troicki 6-4, 7-5.

In earlier action, British second seed Andy Murray set up a quarter-final clash with Richard Gasquet of France by pounding Belgium's David Goffin 6-1, 6-0 in just 53 minutes. The match had extra significance in that the two will lead their respective countries at the Davis Cup final in Ghent from November 27-29. Murray certainly chalked up some psychological points in what was just the second career meeting between the two men.

Gasquet's win over Kei Nishikori came when the Japanese star abandoned due to back pain while trailing 7-6 (7/3), 4-1. The Frenchman, whose best showing in Paris Masters was a run into the semi-finals in 2007, said that Murray would present the toughest of challenges.

"He's one of the best players in the world. He's extremely difficult to beat every time because he makes few unforced errors," he said. — AFP