

Amir leaves for Russian Federation on official visit



Kuwait to stop public healthcare for expats



Driving a car brings both fear and freedom for Afghan women



Man City held as Villa start Garde era with battling draw



RESIGN OR FACE GRILLING, MP SALEH URGES OIL MINISTER

COURT UPHOLDS 3-YEAR TERM FOR ANTI-UNITY TWEETS



Min 16°
Max 25°
High Tide 10:50 & 22:08
Low Tide 04:46 & 16:50



40 PAGES



KUWAIT: Photo shows motorists stuck in a traffic jam during the working hours. The crisis caused by congested roads in Kuwait awaits radical solutions. — KUNA

By a Staff Reporter

KUWAIT: MP Khalil Al-Saleh yesterday called on Oil Minister Ali Al-Omar to step down or face questioning in the National Assembly over alleged violations in the Oil Ministry and the Agricultural Authority which comes under him. Saleh said the Oil Minister has no place in the cabinet and should quit after failing in the oil ministry and after sowing seeds of disputes and controversy there.

The lawmaker, who has threatened to grill the minister for over a month, said the minister has been committing errors at the Oil Ministry especially with the awarding process of the new refinery. He said that after the contracts were awarded and just before the signing ceremony, the minister said the signing will be delayed and then a few days later the signing took place. Saleh said the process involved some suspicions and accused the minister of creating crises in the largest economic ministry in the country.



Oil Minister Ali Al-Omar

MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan said that the minister's answers on the Agricultural Authority would only aggravate his position if he faced grilling. The lawmaker said the minister failed to mention some names who apparently benefited from state-owned farms illegally. MP Ahmad Al-Qhudhaibi is another lawmaker who is preparing to grill the Oil Minister over violations in the Oil Ministry. Earlier reports said that Qhudhaibi may join Salem in questioning the minister but it now appears that the two will file separate grillings. Meanwhile, Omar declined to comment on the situation when asked in National Assembly yesterday. Coming out from a meeting with National Assembly speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem, the minister said there is nothing.

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DUBAI: With the world tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, in the background, tourists and visitors watch and take photos of the Dubai Fountain in Dubai. — AP

DUBAI AIRSHOW 2015 KICKS OFF

NEW SALES BACK DOWN TO EARTH

DUBAI: The Dubai Airshow took off yesterday to a slow start with a record low in sales expected as the Gulf's main airlines have already placed large orders with major manufacturers. "Due to large previous orders, the total show order tally this year will be much less than years prior," said Ben Moores, senior analyst at IHS Aerospace, Defense & Security. Organizers say the last edition of Dubai Airshow generated business of up to \$200 billion (185 billion euros), with orders for planes in the first few hours alone topping \$162.6 billion, beating the show's previous record of \$155 billion set in 2007.

But this year's show might have a "record set for lack of sales," Moores said. There is currently an order backlog of 750 widebody aircrafts for the Gulf region, so further orders are unlikely, he said. Over 1,100 exhibitors from more than 60 countries are taking part in the biennial fair. They include major aircraft makers Airbus and Boeing, which in competition for a larger chunk of orders from the ever-growing air travel sector in the Gulf region. Dubai's Emirates along with Abu Dhabi's Etihad and Qatar Airways-the Gulf Three-already have a long list of orders placed with the US and European rivals.

Some of those carriers have made it

clear that they do not intend to make major announcements at Dubai Airshow. James Hogan, the chief of Abu Dhabi's fast-growing Etihad, said earlier this year that his company has made enough orders to cover its expansion plans to 2040. The airline took delivery in December of the first unit of 10 Airbus superjumbo A380 planes ordered, as well as the first of 72 units of Boeing's long-haul 787 planes.

Yesterday, Etihad made one announcement, firming up orders for two Boeing 777 freighters that were part of options taken earlier. It said the new aircraft are valued at \$637 million at list prices and are due for delivery next year. Emirates Airline, the largest operator of A380 and Boeing's 777 widebody, last year finalized an order for 150 new 777 planes, valued at \$56 billion at list prices. "Emirates signed many deals two years ago," the carrier's chief Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum said, implying that no major deals are to be expected this year.

Earlier he told reporters that "most Gulf airlines agreed many deals in the last edition of the show. We do not expect it" to place major orders. Boeing said earlier this month that the Middle East region will require 3,180 planes over the next 20 years, worth \$730 billion.

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DUBAI: Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum (right), Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and ruler of Dubai, talks on the phone while walking past a poster of a US jetfighter during Dubai Airshow yesterday. — AFP

BURJ KHALIFA, WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDING TO OPEN FOR SUNRISE

DUBAI: It will soon be possible to watch the sun rise over Dubai from the world's tallest building. The Burj Khalifa said it is selling tickets on the United Arab Emirates' weekend on Friday and Saturday for sunrise viewings. The building's management says the sessions start from 5:30 am with viewings every 30

minutes on the 124th floor until 8 am. Weekend viewings previously started from 8:30 am. Tickets are 125 dirhams (\$34) for adults and 95 dirhams (\$26) for children ages 4 to 12. Children under 4 can enter for free. The spired 2,717-foot (828-meter) tall Burj Khalifa opened to the public in January 2010. — AP

FROM PEARLS TO SKYSCRAPERS, QATAR'S ALFARDAN STICKS TO THE FAMILY MODEL

DOHA: On the seventh floor of a Doha tower block, in a room filled with display cases containing old coins, clocks and Quranic manuscripts, 82-year-old Hussain Alfardan sits fingering a pearl necklace he says is worth \$2 million. "These pearls are yakka, the highest grade of natural pearl each piece is rare. Today the pearl is the number one stone in the world. The most expensive stone, the most precious is the pearl."

The room, known as the Tawach Gallery - one of the largest private collections of natural Gulf pearls in the world - is a commercial showroom and museum for Qatar's pearl industry and the achievements of its owner, Alfardan. The son of a pearl merchant, Alfardan opened a small jewelry shop after World War Two and over 50 years, grew it into Alfardan Group Holding Co, a multi-billion dollar conglomerate that trades automobiles, develops real

estate and provides banking services.

While state firms developed the Gulf's energy wealth, family-run businesses such as Alfardan Group built much of the rest of the economy. They generate over 80 percent of non-oil gross domestic product in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, consultants PwC estimate. Now family businesses around the Gulf face a more challenging environment. The plunge of oil prices since 2014 threatens slower growth, even in richer countries such as Qatar.

Governments have started to cut spending in some areas because of shrinking energy revenues. Last week, Qatar's ruler Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani warned citizens the government could no longer "provide for everything". But the shift may create opportunities for private business.

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MODI SUFFERS DEFEAT IN BIHAR

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi suffered a heavy defeat yesterday in an election in Bihar, India's third most-populous state, signaling the waning power of a leader who until recently had an unrivaled reputation as a vote winner. Modi's second straight regional election setback will galvanize opposition parties, embolden rivals in his own party and diminish his standing with foreign leaders amid concern he may not win a second term as prime minister. "This is a clear indication that Modi's popularity may now have

peaked," said Satish Misra, a political analyst at the Observer Research Foundation.

The loss in Bihar will also hamper Modi's push to pass economic reforms, because he needs to win most state elections in the next three years to gain full control of parliament. Investors are already fretting over the speed of change in Modi's India, and worries over an additional stumbling block will likely knock financial markets today. In the most significant vote since he won power 18 months ago, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) lost in Bihar after running a campaign that sought to polarize voters along caste and religious lines.

It was the most expensive state election ever fought by the BJP, with more than 90 top party figures addressing 600 rallies over the last six weeks, party officials said. "The Bihar election was a very important battle for us. We will have to analyze each and every aspect of the result," said Ram Madhav, a BJP general secretary. "There are lessons to be learned."

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets ministers Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

AMIR LEAVES FOR RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON OFFICIAL VISIT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation head today for the Russian Federation on an official visit. During his visit, His Highness is set to hold official talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received yesterday at Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and

Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah,

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih. — KUNA

KUWAIT-RUSSIAN ECONOMIC TIES DEVELOPING PROGRESSIVELY

KUWAIT: Economic and trade relations between Kuwait and Russia have been progressing with the two countries showing more keenness for cementing ties and cooperation in different domains. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's November 10th visit to Sochi, Russia, will be a turning point in bilateral ties, as investors from the two countries are looking forward for key resolutions by the Kuwaiti and Russian leaders to further activate economic cooperation and encourage investment. Kuwait-Russian trade exchange does not match the huge capabilities of the two nations.

Kuwait imported KD 52 million (\$171 million) of Russian goods in 2013, while exporting KD 2.5 million (\$8.2 million) to the Russian Federation, reflecting need to expand trade and economic ties. Thirty-seven percent of Kuwait's imports from Russia were copper, 35.5 percent cereals and 13.8 percent iron. Kuwait and Russia signed their first trade agreement in 1965, which called for promotion of trade and economic cooperation. A major trade deal was signed in 1985 and then an agreement to establish a committee for economic and scientific cooperation in 1995.

An agreement on encouraging and

protection of investment came into effect in May 1996. The last agreement, about prevention of dual taxation, was signed in 2003. All these agreements, in addition to Kuwait's participation in the Arabia Expo that was held in Moscow in 2008, mirror the two countries' desire to strengthen trade bonds.

Cooperation has indeed gone up to higher levels when Russian gas company (Gazprom) exported four LNG shipments between 2011-15. Gazprom Chairman Viktor Zubkov, in a previous statement to KUNA, said Kuwait and Russia could have good cooperation in the field of LNG, especially after Kuwait installed LNG-related facilities. Kuwait also hosted last year a delegation from the Arab-Russian Businessmen Council, which expressed desire to invest in the Kuwaiti market specially with the construction of mega development projects. The delegation said the Russian-Kuwaiti economic relations could be further strengthened by the private sectors, and that Russia welcomed bilateral collaboration in the fields of peaceful nuclear energy and water desalination. Russia, at a regional level, initiated a \$500 million investment fund with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 2007 with the aim of promoting and encouraging investments. — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met yesterday with US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman, then met with newly appointed Kuwaiti diplomats, mainly Ambassador to Chile Mohammad Al-Judai, Consul-General in Istanbul Mohammad Al-Mohammad and Consul-General in Kuwait Guangzhou Malek Al-Wazzan. — KUNA



FORTINET PLATINUM SPONSOR AT EGOV3 ORGANIZED BY NOUFEXPO, CAIT

KUWAIT: Fortinet, the global leader in high-performance cybersecurity solutions announced its participation as a platinum sponsor at 3rd E-Government Forum (EGOV3) which runs from November 15 - 17 at the Courtyard Marriot Hotel in Kuwait. The event, patronized by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, is a premier e-government gathering in Kuwait and the region. "Kuwait Information Network (KIN), the communications backbone of Kuwait's e-government implementation is secured by Fortinet's products and services. As partners in Kuwait's e-government program, we are delighted to be part of this prestigious technology event that is organized by NoufEXPO and the Central Agency for Information Technology," said Alain Penel, Regional Vice President - Middle East at Fortinet.

Penel was commenting on Fortinet's participation at the 3rd E-Government forum. He continued to say, "The Company will mark this edition by three key moments. During my keynote on November 15th, I will present Fortinet's vision and the company's strategy and security solutions that meet the current and future challenges for RSSI in the public sector. Osama Abduo, Systems Engineer-Middle East, will highlight the major problems that put networks at risk from modern threats, and will discuss how to avoid them, with a

combination of increasing user awareness, optimizing and deploying the latest technologies. Kalle Bjorn, Director, Systems Engineering - Middle East, in his turn, will discuss the



Alain Penel

anatomy and lifecycle of a threat, and will provide a look at a multi-layered approach to combating advanced persistent threats."

Advanced Persistent Threats

"Today's most damaging attacks are Advanced Persistent Threats. Cybercrime is no longer random or about brute force, it's more subtle - aiming to infiltrate, stay hidden, and extract data without detection. If security

controls cannot detect the malware during this period, then it's a matter of time before the organizations or governments become a statistic," said Penel. "Governments need high-performance cyber security solutions to combat threats. Their needs are unique due to the sensitive nature of the data they protect and the systems they operate; privacy and security requirements imposed by the laws. Through our participation at the EGOV3 forum, we are emphasizing our support for Kuwait's E-Government initiative, and are committed to helping institutions in the country tackle the growing threat landscape. We are proud of the role that we play in Kuwait Information Network and the Central Agency for Information Technology. However, Fortinet's portfolio of customers in Kuwait includes other government and public sector agencies as well as large enterprises, education, and the banking and finance institutions.

Concluding his statement, Penel said that he, and the Fortinet team, is looking forward to meeting technology leaders and professionals during EGOV3. He hoped that they will be able to share with the audience Fortinet's commitment to the region and why more than 210,000 customers worldwide, including some of the largest and most complex organizations, trust Fortinet to protect their brands and businesses.

AMIR PRAISES TRAITS OF LATE SHEIKH ABDULLAH MUBARAK AL-SABAH

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah praised the traits of the late Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah that helped the small Gulf country to develop in all fields during the 1940's-1960's. This remark was made by His Highness the Amir in a letter addressed to Dr Suad Mohammad Al-Sabah who has written a book on the late Sheikh: "History of Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah in Pictures." The book is published

by Suad Al-Sabah Publishing House. It tells the biography of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak in pictures. Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah was the deputy of the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, the 11th ruler of Kuwait. The late Sheikh contributed in developing vital sectors of the country such as the Army, the Police, Broadcasting and aviation. He resigned from office in 1962 and quit his political career. He died in 1991. — KUNA



MEXICO CITY: Head of government of the federal district of Mexico Miguel Angel Mancera meets with Kuwait Ambassador to Mexico Sameeh Johar Hayat and president of the Mexican-Kuwaiti Friendship Society Fuad Mohammad Al-Ghanim. — KUNA

MEXICO WELCOMES KUWAIT INVESTMENT

MEXICO CITY: Head of government of the federal district of Mexico, Miguel Angel Mancera, has said his government was ready to remove all obstacles facing Kuwaiti investors to further cement economic, investment and trade relations.

Mancera, also Mayor of Mexico City, made the remarks during a meeting with Kuwait Ambassador to Mexico Sameeh Johar Hayat and president of the Mexican-Kuwaiti Friendship Society Fuad Mohammad Al-Ghanim, a statement by Kuwait Embassy in Mexico City.

Mancera welcomed Ghanim for paying this "important" visit to Mexico and

said his government was ready to work on development of relations in different domains with Kuwait. Hayat said in the statement that discussions between Ghanim on one side, Mancera and his ministers of health and culture on the other touched upon the forthcoming visit to Kuwait of Mexican President Enrique Penal Nieto, due next January.

Hayat said the visit would pave way for expansion of investment and trade cooperation between the two countries. Ghanim is visiting Mexico City to participate in an international energy conference, which was held on November 5-6 in Mexico City. — KUNA

PARIS: The chairman of the organizing committee for the donors' conference for supporting education in Somalia, Dr Ghanem Al-Najjar, said the State of Kuwait's initiative to host the international conference next year is in line with its conviction that education "is the path for peace and stability in the whole region."

Dr Najjar, a political sciences professor at Kuwait University, made the remarks to KUNA as he emerged from a meeting of the four parties participating in the planned conference, namely Kuwait, Somalia, ISESCO (the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), ALECSO (the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization).

The Kuwaiti international expert indicated to KUNA that Paris "was the most appropriate venue to declare the State of Kuwait's adoption of the donors' conference," however he noted that preparations for the international meeting would take a long time.

The idea of holding the conference was first proposed during ALECSO's quarters as an initiative to help the Somalis survive wide-spread annihilation and chaos, since December 1990, thus causing losses at various levels in the nation.

'Somalization,' the term widely used in refer-

ence to the utter tragic conditions in the African nation has spread to several other countries in the region such as Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Libya and other regional countries, with the number of children failing to study hitting 14 million, "thus creating a fertile ground for terrorism and extremism. Therefore, there is a difficult future ahead of us, unless we take action, so our outlook is based on education."

Dr Najjar said action to relieve these crises-stricken nations would begin in Somalia, with emphasis on enabling children attend schools. The upcoming conference, tentatively due either in April or May next year, would be different from other conventions that had been held at this level to address such crises, in a hastily and immediate manner; for it would envisage an integrated perspective, aimed at securing teaching equally in all Somali regions.

Dr Najjar expressed satisfaction at responses of UNESCO's international group toward the Kuwaiti initiative, which envisions "new thinking and perspective; thus this will raise the name of Kuwait high and add to its bright record at the international quarters."

Solid perspective

The conference organizers will coordinate with

various states, namely the GCC countries and relevant UN agencies as well as the private sector "to hammer out a solid executive perspective with aim of tackling difficulties that lie ahead." He lauded Kuwait's Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa for adopting the initiative which had been born within the ALECSO and ISESCO quarters, and for conveying the initiative to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah "who expressed strong support for it." "The project had been referred to the Cabinet which relayed it to the Foreign Ministry as it holds the jurisdictions in this respect, thus we will hold consultations with the ministry officials and discuss some executive matters," Dr Najjar told KUNA.

Dr Najjar and his peers in the four-party coordination commission have recently visited crises-stricken regions in Somalia, examined humanitarian conditions first hand and held meetings with top leaders. The Kuwaiti professor had served as the UN commissioner for human rights in Somalia between 2011 and 2009. Kuwait, during the UNESCO 38th conference, had announced that the Gulf State would host the conference for Somalia to help children and contribute to stability in the country and the region. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S HUGE CASH RESERVES ALLOW IT TO MOVE AHEAD WITH REFORMS: IMF

'CITIZENS WILL UNDERSTAND' BUDGET ADJUSTMENT STRATEGIES

KUWAIT: International Monetary Fund's Chief Christine Lagarde said in remarks published yesterday that Kuwait is privileged with enormous financial reserves, which allow the country to conduct gradual economic reforms, especially by directing surpluses to productive spending.

She added in an interview with daily newspaper Al-Qabas that there is a dire need for the government to take serious steps towards economic reforms, especially following the decline in oil prices, calling on the country's competent authorities to take the right measures in increasing the non-oil revenues.

Lagarde also called on the government to impose taxes on commercial profits, as extra profits are expected, despite any low rates of taxes price, as "tax payers benefit from the government offered services, and thus should contribute to covering costs."

Financial reform

Reforming the public financial policy is the key tool for adjusting with the oil prices decline, Lagarde said, stressing on importance of setting strategies to adjust the general budget situation. "The citizens would understand the reasons behind such financial measures in the light of oil prices decline," she affirmed.

Kuwait budget registered a deficit which is less than a number of other Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC) countries, and it is still fulfilling financial surpluses despite the falling oil prices, and has large financial reserves, she said. Such reserves should immediately be invested in expanding the non-oil revenues, and to reorganize the national economic structure, she added.

She called on the GCC countries to increase the diversity of economic activities, as by 2020, a total of two million citizens will enter the Gulf labor market, however regarding the "general financial restrictions that limit the employment opportunities in the public sector, the private sector should contribute in facing such challenge".

Economic diversity

Lagarde added that the diversity of economic activities in the Gulf region requires reorganizing the available incentives for companies and national workforce, indicating that investment and good production in the local market entails less risk and more profits for companies compared to exports.

The continuation of jobs availability in the public sector leads to reducing any incentives to getting employed in private sector or establishing personal projects in the business sector, she said. Kuwait needs to take extra measures to improve the business atmosphere and boost the competence spirit, besides redirecting the gen-



Christine Lagarde

eral spending and following up with the implementation of labor market reforms, she mentioned.

Such reforms will tackle the fuel prices, salaries, in addition to warranted measures such as increasing taxes on companies, imposing added value taxes, besides fees on lands and real estate. Lagarde will visit Kuwait this week to attend the World Islamic Financing Conference, which is organized by the IMF in cooperation with Kuwait Central Bank, due next Wednesday. —KUNA

KUWAIT TO STOP PUBLIC HEALTHCARE FOR EXPATS

KUWAIT: Kuwait is considering plans to stop all access to public health services for expatriates - though they pay KD 50 per year for health insurance. The idea is to reduce stress on the government budget, weakened by lower oil international prices.

Suggestions in this regard include doing away with 'harmful subsidies' which include healthcare for expats in public medical facilities, according to a report by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development.

The report calls for imitating an example followed in the 1990's when the Kuwaiti government scrapped free education for expatriates in Kuwait, thus banning foreigners from studying at public and forcing them to enroll in private schools. The action led to a boom in the private sector and skyrocketing of private school tuition fees.

The scrapping of access to public health services would leave foreigners no option but to pay for private health insurance. Though it is unclear how the government will handle the KD 50

annual health insurance fee it currently charges each of the country's 3 million expatriates.

Shareholding company

Last year Kuwait established a shareholding company through the public-private-partnership (PPP) system, to service expatriates health needs. The company intends to build three 700-bed hospitals that provide integrated medical services to foreigners in Kuwait. The company also sells health insurance policies inside and outside Kuwait.

Expatriate health insurance would rise to KD 150 per person from the KD 50 per person per year. In a report published in local Arabic daily Al-Anbaw, no timeframe was given for the plan. It mentions, however, that the cabinet has assigned the finance ministry, oil ministry, commerce ministry, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Fatwa and Legislation Department and the privatization bureau to study the recommendation.

KUWAIT KEEPS UP WITH REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS

KUWAIT: Deputy Director General in the Central Agency for Information Technology Majida Al-Naqib said yesterday that Kuwait spares no effort to keep up with remote sensing system and harness all the capabilities to take advantage of the latest in science in this area.

She said in the opening of 'Discover Kuwait' conference organized by the Advisory Unit of the Geographical Information System (GIS) and remote sensing at the University of Kuwait that the apparatus seeks to acquire any device that would contribute to the development of performance and output including remote sensing and geographic information systems.

Naqib added that the device is making continuous efforts in promoting optimal utilization of information technology in all aspects of life, pointing out that all government services have been developed to

keep up with the latest developments in information technology.

Multiple uses

Meanwhile, Advisory Unit Manager of GIS and remote sensing at the University of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Sahli asserted the apparatus' keenness to raise awareness in the Kuwaiti society about the importance of GIS and remote sensing systems and clarify its multiple uses and its key pillar in the strategic, urban and environmental planning.

He noted that this can be achieved through scientific lectures, training courses and workshops, as well as through the provision of technical advice and participation in the preparation of strategic plans for the rehabilitation of national cadres to enable the government and private sectors to take advantage of science and technology associated with spatial analysis. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Participants at the 'Discover Kuwait' conference stand for a group photo. — KUNA

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KUWAIT: Customers shop for shrimp at the main fish market in Sharq yesterday. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

SHRIMP PRICES RISING AGAIN

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The prices of local shrimp shot up to KD 90 per basket compared to KD 60 when shrimping season open two months ago. The drastic rise in price are due to low supply and excessive demand, say shrimp merchants especially demand from restaurants and hotels throughout Kuwait. The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) manages shrimping season so as to give the shrimp enough time to resupply. Shrimp harvesting is banned from January 15 until mid-August, but one can find imported shrimps from India, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other sources in the market during these months, though in limited amount.

Low supply

"The supply is very low; you know restaurants in Kuwait nowadays have sprouted like mushrooms so the individual consumers are competing with the huge demand from commercial estab-

lishments, many of which also get their supplies in the fish market. This makes prices rise," explained Jalal Majid, an official from the fish market at Souq Al-Mubarakiya.

The price of shrimp per kilo reached KD6 for jumbo size and KD3 to KD4 for medium size in both Mubarakiya and the Souq Sharq fish market. There has been earlier proposal to allow only Kuwaitis participating in public fish auctions held daily in the fish market, but those proposals have yet to be implemented.

Faisal Al-Hasawi, Deputy Director General for Fish Resources at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources was quoted in local media "This proposal comes out of our keenness to supply fish and shrimps to the Kuwaiti market at reasonable prices," he said. He added that allowing the public, including restaurants and companies, to bid for fish has caused prices to rise to high levels, effectively 'depriving' Kuwaitis from "getting their (fair) share."

One proposal requires customers to show their

civil IDs as a way to make sure that only Kuwaitis enter the bidding process, while expatriates would be required to buy directly from vendors. Another proposal calls for allocating a weekly share for Kuwaitis to take by showing their civil ID at the auction.

Fish prices

The prices of some Kuwaiti fish have also shot up. Zubaidi, for example, now fetches KD14-KD15 per kilo compared with KD10-KD12 a month ago. The price of hammour per kilo hasn't change for the past one month at KD 7-KD8 per kilo. Meanwhile some fish which are usually eaten and consumed by South Asian and East Asian consumers remains the same in price as there are enough supplies from neighboring countries. About 20 percent of Kuwait's market needs are obtained from Kuwaiti waters, while the remaining 80 percent are imported from neighboring countries such as Iran, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Thailand.

TWEETER GETS FIVE YEARS

BLACK SLICK SPOTTED OFF SHAAB BEACH

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday sentenced blogger Musaed Al-Musaileem to five years with labor over a state security case filed against him for slandering the late Saudi king, Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz on his Twitter account. In similar cases, the criminal court yesterday adjourned a hearing in the state security case filed against former lawmaker Waleed Al-Tabtabae over charges of spreading false news about the position of His Highness the Crown Prince through his Twitter account. And the criminal court also adjourned hearing a state security case filed against blogger, Hamed Buyabes for tweets deemed sectarian.

Manpower and labor transfer fees

Manpower Public Authority Acting Director Ahmed Al-Moussa has asked that all decisions made regarding the six labor departments be unified regarding transferring visas of laborers working for governmental projects to the private sector. The laborer must pay a KD 300 fee for the transfer. Further, Al-Moussa stressed that all heads of departments would be subjected to special training courses on how to use the new automated system. The Manpower Authority has also sent inspection teams to check on firms' working hours and to ensure that citizens employed with companies are in fact working during office hours.

Black slick off Shaab beach

Puja celebrators still under arrest
Eleven Indian nationals remain in detention after being arrested for celebrating a 'puja' (Hindu religious ceremony) without having a permit. Noise from the puja reportedly attracted the attention of several citizens who filed a complaint with police. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has reached out to authorities regarding the men but so far has not been able to secure their release.

The Green Group environmental activists recently spotted a large black slick floating off Al-Shaab Al-Bahri coast and stressed that Environment Public Authority (EPA) and other concerned environmental authorities seem to be unaware of the situation. No official warnings have been made public. Meanwhile, the EPA responded by indicating that it was aware of the issue, saying that it was a red tide stretch and added that samples were taken for testing.



A red tide stretch observed off Al-Shaab's coast yesterday.



RIYADH: members of the Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council are pictured during the workshop. —KUNA

GCC SECRETARIAT ORGANIZES RAILWAY PROJECT WORKSHOP

RIYADH: The Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council yesterday held a workshop on economic returns and localization of supportive industries for the GCC railway project. The Secretariat said in a statement that outcomes and recommendations of this one-day workshop will be presented to the 15th Industrialists Conference to be held in Kuwait on November 25 and 26.

The workshop includes four main themes dealing with the experiences of some member states on the implementation of the railway project as well as the expected economic returns

from the implementation of rail projects in the GCC countries and their impact on economic integration among member states.

The workshop also discussed the training of national cadres for the development and operation of the railway projects in the GCC and the expected economic benefits of the project, in addition to encouraging the private sector to participate in financing, implementing and operating of the railway project as well as providing a suitable investment environment. —KUNA

HAWALLY FIGHT: PRIME SUSPECT REMANDED IN CUSTODY, 6 RELEASED

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The public prosecution yesterday ordered the detention of the prime suspect accused of murdering a man during a fight in Hawalli two weeks ago for 10 days pending investigations, and referred him to the central prison. The prosecution also released six others, three Kuwaitis and three expats who were arrested in the same case on KD 300 bail each. In this regard, lawyer Zaid Al-Khabbaz said that the public prosecution released his expatriate clients on bail pending forensic medicine reports about their injuries so that he could take proper legal measures. Notably, the first and second defendants, Kuwaitis, face first degree murder charges as they intentionally ran over the victim, Egyptian, with the intention of killing him.

Nationality

The administrative court yesterday ordered changing the nationality of a Yemeni in his thirties to become 'stateless' after he had sued the ministries of interior

and health, the immigration directorate, the Public Authority of Civil Information and the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents, demanding changing his nationality. In his case, the man explained that he had been born in Kuwait in 1986 and that due to certain harsh conditions, his father had to get Yemeni passports for all family members including him when he was still a child. The man explained that his father then handed over all the Yemeni passports back to the embassy and regained legal status as 'stateless' for all family members except for the plaintiff who had been suffering and reported wanted for violating residency laws while his parents and siblings held article 17 passports specified for stateless people in Kuwait.

Payroll alternative

Rapporteur of the parliamentary human resources committee MP Dr Oudah Al-Rowai'e said that the committee had several topics on its agenda for the current parliamentary term with the strategic payroll alternative project on top of it.

DRUNK MAN ARRESTED AT POLICE STATION

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A man was charged with damaging state property and drunkenness. A security source said that the citizen had first entered Nugra police station, very nervous, so he was asked to meet the officer in charge, there he raised his voice. Then when the officer asked him to calm down, he broke the glass of the officer's desk. It was found out he was extremely drunk.

Three survive fire

Two children and a woman were rescued by firemen as flames trapped them in an Ishbiliya house. The fire department received a call about a fire in the ground floor of the house. The woman and children were saved and handed over to paramedics for treatment from suffocation, as firemen fought the blaze.

Armed robbery

A man filed a robbery at knife point complaint at Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station. He said that a man stopped him and asked him to hand over his mobile phone, while others placed a knife on his neck and took away his wallet which contained KD 30 and his civil ID.

Liquor factory

Mubarak Al-Kabeer police raided a liquor factory in Sabah Al-Salem, and arrested two women and six men with possession of 450 bottles and 165 barrels filled with home-brewed liquor. The suspects were sent to concerned authorities.

Hacked

A lawyer told Khaitan police that a company owned by a member of the ruling family was swindled by an unknown person who hacked the account of an employee and asked him to transfer the money of previous dealings. The suspect took KD 11,779 in the process.



Pictures from the scene at an Ishbiliya house after a fire was put out.



Eight people arrested inside a liquor factory in Sabah Al-Salem yesterday.

COAST GUARD CONDUCTS DRILLS

KUWAIT: An Interior Ministry coast guard force will kick off two-day drills today, which start at 8:00 am and end at 02:00 am, the Kuwaiti Army said yesterday. The Ministry of Defense Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations added in a statement that the shooting zone will be 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Julaila to the Qaruh Island, and six nautical miles East of Ras Al-Zour to Umm Al-Maradim Island. The statement advised seagoers to avoid the drill zone for their safety. —KUNA

NO RADIATION LEAKAGE AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health has confirmed that no radiation leakage was detected at Kuwait International Airport after the accidental dropping of four containers of radioactive materials during transportation of a shipment to airport warehouses.

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health, Dr Majeda Al-Qattan, said that the Ministry received a call from the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate saying that four containers containing radioac-

tive iodine, imported for the Health Ministry's Nuclear Medicine Department, fell during transportation from a cargo plane to warehouses.

In a response, a ministry radioactive materials inspection team rushed to the scene and examined the containers, taking samples from the surrounding area to gauge the level of radiation. The radiation measurement showed that there was no leakage at all from any of the containers. —KUNA

In Brief

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF IN DUBAI FOR AIRSHOW

DUBAI: Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khudher and a delegation from the Air Force accompanying him arrived in Dubai on Saturday to attend Dubai Airshow 2015, which started yesterday. The visit aims at getting acquainted with the latest defense technology. Lt Gen Khudher was received Kuwait's Consul General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates Theyab Al-Rashidi, Staff of the Military Attache Office to the UAE and senior UAE army officers. — KUNA



MINISTER REFUTES RUMORS ON KUWAITI-IRANIAN UNIVERSITY

PARIS: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa refuted rumors on establishing a joint Kuwaiti-Iranian university. These rumors are "utterly untrue," the minister told KUNA yesterday. He clarified that his meeting with Iranian Minister of Science, Research and Technology Mohammad Farhadi did not discuss the establishment of a joint university. He added that his meeting with his Iranian counterpart took place on the fringes of the UNESCO's 38th General Conference. — KUNA



FM RECEIVES CALL FROM YEMENI COUNTERPART

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call yesterday from Yemeni Foreign Minister Riad Yassin on the latest political and security developments in Yemen. The Yemeni minister voiced thanks to Kuwait for its support to his country's constitutional legitimacy, represented by President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. He added that this Kuwaiti support contributes to boosting Yemen's security and stability. He also lauded Kuwait's role in supporting the humanitarian situation in Yemen. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Items of different colors displayed at a cosmetics shop in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

PRESS CONFERENCE AT VATICAN FOR WORLD RELIGIONS CHARTER ENDORSING CHILDREN'S PALLIATIVE CARE

KUWAIT: In a historic gathering at the Vatican, representatives of the world's religions are meeting to draw up a charter that will endorse the role of palliative care for children. The official presentation of the Charter will take place in a press conference at 11:30 on Wednesday, November 11th, 2015, at the headquarters of the Vatican Radio in Rome.

'Defining the Essence of Pediatric Palliative Care: Religions Together,' an international Workshop on pediatric palliative care, will be held on November 10th, 2015, at the headquarters of the Pontifical Academy for Life in the Vatican City. For the first time, leading world experts in the field of pediatric palliative care will meet with prominent theologians of the world's main faiths, preminent human rights advocates, and pediatric patients and their families, to draw up a document that affirms children's palliative care as the best response to addressing the complex needs of the 20 million children on our planet suffering from life-limiting and life-threatening diseases. The Workshop is divided into four groups working simultaneously: Technical Aspects, Human Rights Issues, Spirituality and Religion, and The Patients' Perspective. In the afternoon, the groups will join forces to prepare and endorse the Charter in favor of global access to children's pal-



Dr Hilal Al-Sayer

lative care. The event was conceived and organized by the Maruzza Lefebvre D'Ovidio Foundation, which has been engaged for over fifteen years in advocating palliative care for children with irreversible diseases and, in 2013, was awarded the Gold Medal of Merit for Public Health by the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano.

"Palliative care is global care, encompassing the clinical, psychological and spiritual needs of patients and their families and aims to achieve the best quality of life possible and respect for human dignity. The moral authority of religion has global reach, and one of the common Primary asp-



Margaret Al-Sayer

irations of all religions is the protection of the vulnerable. Since these patients are among the most vulnerable, our desire at the close of our workshop is to present a universal declaration, by all faiths, that pediatric palliative care is the best approach, and a right, for all children and young people suffering from life-threatening and life-limiting disease." - said Silvia Lefebvre D'Ovidio, leader of the Maruzza Foundation.

The event will be attended by Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, President of Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH), Chairman Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice, Kuwait (BACCH), and Margaret Al-Sayer, Founding Director KACCH and BACCH.

SHEIKHA AL-ZAIN CALLS FOR COMBATING VIOLENCE

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah stressed the necessity of finding radical solutions to growing violence in the Kuwaiti society. Sheikh Al-Zain made the remark yesterday while launching a campaign on ways to combat violence that was organized by Family Center for psychological and social counseling at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Kuwait University.

She said that the Kuwait University is the main platform in societal building as it creates leaders of the future, underling the key role of Faculty of Social Sciences in shedding light on societal issues and finding appropriate solutions to them. Combating violence and



Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah

addressing social problems contribute to developing society in all fields, she said, adding that human being in general and youth in particular are a main component of the society. She said the ministry was

keen on sponsoring the campaign and attending its session out of its key role in enhancing the values of tolerance and cooperation among the Kuwaiti youth and students as they are the country's future and a base of its renaissance.

The ministry contributes to evolving and supporting the Kuwaiti society by using advanced technology to cope with the latest developments across the globe so as to build a strong and coherent society for facing difficulties, she made clear. Sheikh Al-Zain called for implementing concepts of dialogue, respecting others' opinions, disseminating the culture of tolerance and discarding violence in the Kuwaiti society, especially among youth. — KUNA



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BLOOD ON SINAI SANDS

By Sami Al-Nisf

On February 21, 1973, Israeli fighters bombed down a Libyan commercial flight for flying over Sinai by mistake. On July 3rd, 1988, a US barge bombed down an Iranian commercial flight in the Gulf. On December 21, 1988, former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's agents blew a Pan Am flight over Scotland and Gaddafi paid \$2.7 billion in compensation for the victims. On December 22, 1992, Gaddafi's agents also blew a Libyan flight carrying the same Pan Am flight number and almost on the same date to claim that the blockade and embargo against Libya were behind it, and the debris was instantly removed without even compensating the victims with as much as he paid for the Pan Am passengers.

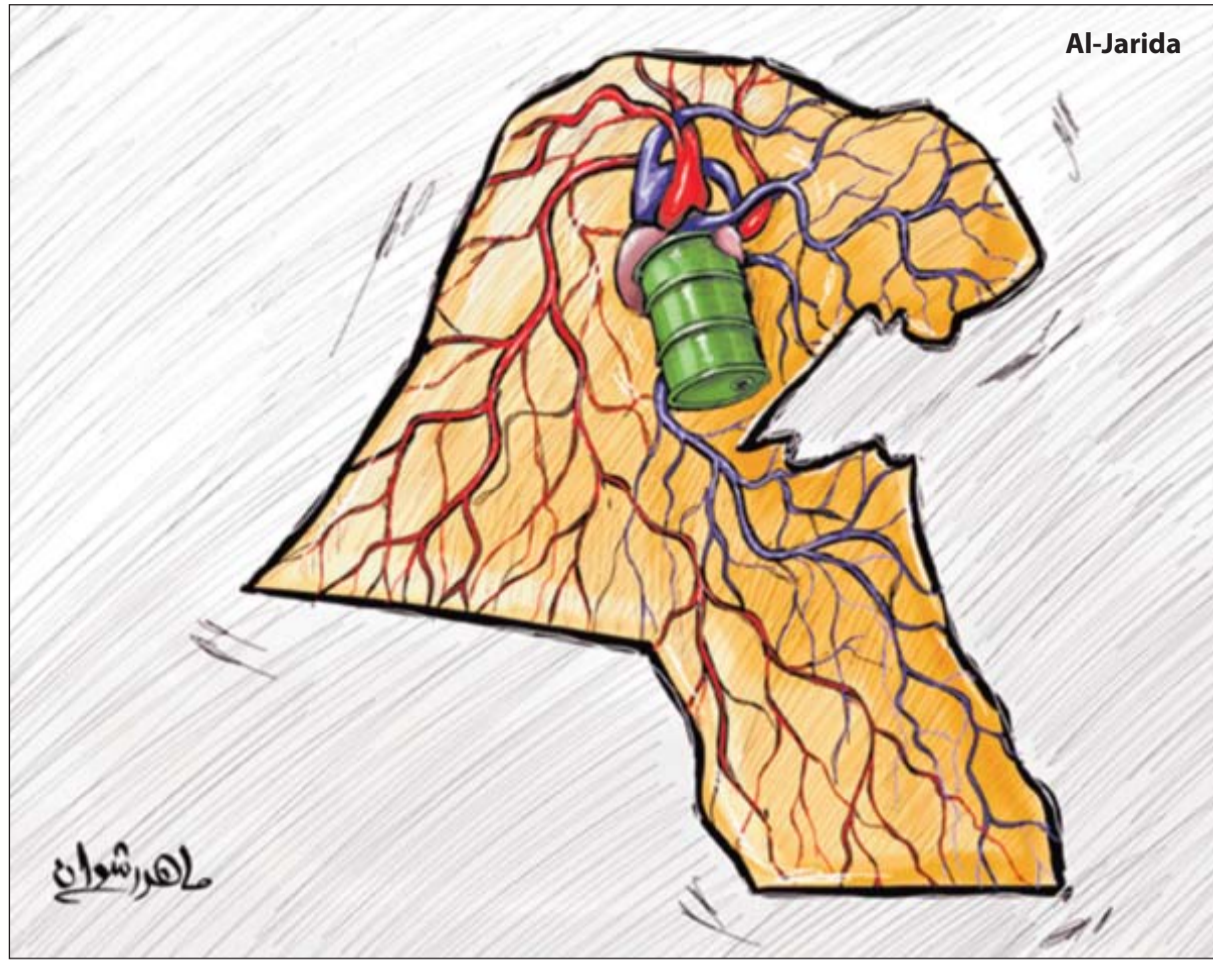
On March 8th, 2014, the Malaysia Airlines' flight number MH370 vanished and a search is still on for it after search teams found a piece of its debris near a tropical South Indian ocean island. Search is expected to stop by the beginning of 2016 for lack of resources. Four months later, the Russians bombed down the Malaysia Airlines' flight number MH17 and investigators concluded their work last month after the Russian rebels were accused of bombing it. Russia used veto in the UN against prosecuting the 'culprits.' Criminal investigation in that accident is due to end next year.

Latest reports about the Russian flight that crashed a few days ago over Sinai suggest that a bomb was smuggled into the plane inside a bag. The bag might not necessarily have been smuggled through the airport terminal that is heavily secured with CCTVs and bomb detectors. There are many other more logical possibilities such as throwing it in over the airport fence that runs along a road used by so many vehicles, greeting it through by flight supply vehicles or through a member of the maintenance and refueling teams. Very vicious and professional criminal minds are definitely behind this crime and identifying the real culprits might be very difficult.

With the presence of black boxes and the remains of the victims, a primary report can be made soon about the crash, and the Egyptian authorities must act quickly to fill in the loopholes in its security measures on the airport's perimeter and on supply, maintenance and refueling teams.

During a European flight leaving an African airport, the pilot noticed that the luggage compartment had been opened. He closed it quickly just before takeoff, and thus returned to the airport to discover that someone had climbed the perimeter fence and placed a bomb inside the luggage compartment.

Finally, the Pan Am flight explosion did not cause halting flights to Frankfurt and London airports through which the bombed bag used in the explosion found its way to the plane before it exploded over Lockerbie! — Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Jarida

FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITMENT TO BE CLOSED... AGAIN

KUWAIT: Kuwait plans to suspend issuing work permits to recruit labor forces from outside less than a year after it lifted a ban on foreign workers' recruitment, a local daily reported yesterday. The Manpower Public Authority is planning to take that step after discovering that opening foreign recruitment for private companies has allowed nearly 10,000 workers to

enter Kuwait in less than six months. As a result, the authority believes that the recruitment process needs to be stopped and reassessed in order to prevent further damage to Kuwait's demographic structure, reported Annahar.

Kuwait is home to 2.8 million expatriates, who make up 68 percent of the country's population of 4.1 million,

compared to 1.2 million Kuwaitis who make up 31.1 percent of the total population, according to Public Authority for Civil Information statistics. Meanwhile, official statistics show that the public sector employs 138,227 expatriates compared to 323,422 Kuwaitis, while the private sector employs 1,329,860 expatriates compared to 92,481 Kuwaitis. —Annahar

MINISTER ROCKS AIRPORT SECURITY FOLLOWING FLIGHT INFILTRATION

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah has penalized a number of high ranking officials at Kuwait International Airport over a huge security breach which saw an Aisan national infiltrate into the flight of the ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad. The list includes the airport's security director and his assistant, the manager of security surveillance, the preventive security officer, the chief of protocol and his assistant, heads of related departments and members of the force assigned to secure the ceremonial terminal.

"The minister was very decisive in handling the security breach," said

high-ranking sources, noting that the minister vowed that this breach would not go unaccounted for. Furthermore, the sources underlined that the investigation committee formed by minister Al-Khaled recommended punishing all those responsible for the security breach, for it indicates severe and clear failure in doing their jobs. "Airport security director and his assistant received a notice of warning, while the chief of protocol, his assistant and the head of the protocol department were transferred to other positions and were almost frozen", explained the sources, noting that other officers and security agents involved were all punished by salary deduction, detention or transfer. — Al-Rai



Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah

GATCA ON FACTA'S FOOTSTEPS

KUWAIT: A number of European countries are currently preparing to enforce a law similar to the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) to be imposed on the subjects of those European countries living in Kuwait, sources said. The law, to be known as the Global Account Tax Compliance Act (GATCA), will be imposed through the country's representatives in Kuwait in cooperation with the finance min-

istry. This decision comes at a time when European Union countries seek economic reform of their budgets as they seem to be in dire need for such sums at the time being, added the sources, explaining that the law would be applied on all European citizens residing and working in Kuwait.

The sources added that European countries currently preparing to impose the new GATCA tax, which is

due to be in effect within a year from now in order to prevent its citizens from tax-evasion, include France, UK, Germany, Spain, Italy and Portugal.

Responding to a question about Kuwait's reaction to imposing the GATCA tax, the sources explained that Kuwait had no objections since the new law would be an international one similar to the current US tax system. — Al-Anbaa

QNB VISITED YOUNG PATIENTS AT CHEST DISEASES HOSPITAL AS PART OF ITS DIVERSE CSR PROGRAMS IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: QNB, the leading financial institution in the Middle East and North Africa, recently visited the Pediatrics section of the Chest Diseases Hospital (CDH). The visit is part of the bank's CSR program, and aimed to provide support, lift spirits and leave a smile on young patients' faces. The tour included visits to various subsections of the pediatric section, where bank officials were introduced to some of the cases being treated at the hospital as well as the care being given to the patients. The visitors were also invited to visit the special wards which contain toys and activities for the children's entertainment. QNB officials also offered presents to all the young patients, in accordance to the hospital's rules and regulations in this regard and expressed their heartfelt wishes for a quick recovery.

On this occasion, Samir Salman, GM - QNB Kuwait, expressed his pleasure at the visit to the sick children, stating that this initiative is one of the most important CSR activities taken by the bank, since these visits offer the young patients much needed care and attention to boost their morale and leave a positive impact.

On the other hand, CDH officials lauded the generous gesture and kind visit by QNB officials to bring a smile to children's faces, calling upon other organizations to undertake similar initiatives to QNB's annual visits to the Pediatrics section. QNB Group's presence through its subsidiaries and associate com-

panies extends to more than 27 countries across three continents providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services. The total number of employees is more than 15,000 operating through more than 635 locations, with an ATM network of more than 1,350 machines.



Crime

Report

NEIGHBORS FIGHT OVER PARKING SPOT

KUWAIT: A man beat his neighbor in Rabiya following a dispute over a parking spot. The man, bedoon, went to the local police station and lodge a complaint against the Kuwaiti national.

Fight

Capital police are investigating video footage for a fight that allegedly took place in a restaurant in Sharq. Those involved in the fight are believed to be adolescents. The restaurant's owner opted against lodging a complaint.

Fugitive arrested

Fintas police arrested man wanted for the civil execution department on a KD 21,000 case. The arrest was made when patrol officers noticed a driver roaming in his car during a late hour of night. When they stopped the driver, the man got out of his car and attempted to run, but was caught despite showing fierce resistance.

Three held for resisting arrest

Three persons, including a man wanted by criminal detectives, resisted police in Sulabiya area and beat one officer in an attempt to free the fugitive, before the three were arrested with backup's help. The three were spotted in a car with totally tinted windows. Police stopped the car and later discovered that one of the men is wanted by detectives. When police started procedures of arresting him, the three resisted police and beat one of the policemen. The officers asked for back up and eventually made the arrests. —Al-Rai

KUWAIT 'TRANSIT STATION' TO SMUGGLE WEAPONS

KUWAIT: Investigations in a case involving an international network which used Kuwait as a transit station to smuggle weapons and ammunition has revealed several surprises, as the suspects confessed that they succeeded in smuggling large quantity of weapons during successive operations through the Iraqi border without being discovered.

Information and investigations led to the network members, as two citizens, a bedoon and an Iraqi national were arrested, said Director General of Weapons Detectives Department Major General Farraj Al-Zoubi. The network members used to bring the weapons from Turkey through Iraq into Kuwait. The weapons would then get transported to other neighboring countries, Zoubi added.

The leads of this dangerous case began when border security arrested two Iraqi men who infiltrated into Kuwait with possession of 60 shotguns, as well as tools used to cut the border metal mesh, Zouni said. Both men confessed that they were used to smuggle weapons and give it to others in Kuwait. They also gave the names of four Iraqis who help them in the smuggling operations, and Iraqi authorities were informed to arrest them. —Al-Qabas

HE WAS NOT ALONE!

By Saleh Al-Shayji

How terrible it is when rights are helplessly and unfairly usurped. When bad and evil boost around freely and brag with its control and the number of its followers! Our time is so ugly and full of human monsters that look down upon people's blood, lives and dignity and hauler loudly for death and killing.

The real IS-followers are not those bearded man-slaughtering butchers who appear waving their knives and selling women as slaves. The real ones are actually found around us in every street and alley. This time we are living is so terrible that all those living through them wish they had been dead long before seeing an IS-hearted senseless monster run a human being over several times, tearing his body apart right before everybody in a most inhumane scene.

It was a most terrifying crime that was condemned by everybody. The culprit was arrested and went through standard channels followed in such crimes: investigations and a trial. What made that crime even worse was the crimes resulting thereof that revealed that we do have so many of the likes of that criminal. He did not stand alone in this! The funny thing is that those accomplice criminals claim to condemn the actual criminal's crime and strongly criticize what he did while they are not any less brutal nor criminal than he is.

If that criminal only killed one person, then his likes would like to kill thousands more. They have argued that this culprit would never be caught. They also claimed that he would be soon released with the excuse of insanity. I wonder how they could predict what was likely going to happen?! Such illogical assumptions quickly contributed to instigating the mob, the simple and the most of people because they were promoted by as criminal, or even more criminal, people.

Though I am not a fan of conspiracy theories, but everything is so obvious and it is clearly evident that the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) were behind this stupid, ruthless campaign with the aim of spoiling Kuwait's bilateral relations with Egypt. In fact, the campaign targets Egypt more than it does Kuwait.

The proof that the MB was behind this bloody campaign lies in how identical it is to their own methodology and the amount of lies they use in promoting unreasonable hypothetical scenarios. It also resembles their organizational powers to promote an idea through illusionary fake social media accounts. They have a distinguished ability to penetrate the media through some of their disguised followers who appear on various satellite TV channels as anti-MBs while their pockets are loaded with money the MBs had paid them.

Well, I do not expect the insane to become sane but I am inviting those who are already sane not to be carried away with their calls and become fuel used in lighting their fires. May Allah have mercy on the victim's soul and damn that of the murderer. Heartiest condolences to his family and us, good people, all because he is the son of us all, he was never the son of those wicked demonic people who only wish to use his blood for propaganda reasons and to shed more blood! — Translated by Kuwait Times

'NO TO VIOLENCE'

By Nermin Al-Houti

Those are not just words that we point to, but rather a reality from which my column was inspired. The story began yesterday, and today violence has become a complicated issue that is being exchanged daily between citizens and expatriates in Kuwait. Meanwhile, officials are not doing anything.

No to violence. We do not want studies, nor committees meetings; rather we need actions that cuts strife before it worsens further in our society, turning us into blood shedding people instead of being forgiving ones.

We used to hear and read about violence due to temporary issues that took place between our children of various ages, be it in malls or outside of schools. Today, violence spread in our civil society, and is not differentiating between ethnicities and countries. Rather, violence has gone too far with its dark colors and deadly types, to a point that it became a political tool that threatens the political and security situation in the 'pride of the Gulf.' Where are officials from this situation? There is no action!

Today, many concerned authorities in the state must stand as a shield for the state and protect all those who stay on the land of the pride of the Gulf! Sorry, we do not want emergency meetings, we do not want speeches nor statements for the sake of media appearances. We want media and clear announcements that clean oneself from that disease. We want security that is not limited on citation and deportation. Rather, we need an iron fist that hits all those who seek strife in the national unity. We want an education that explains what is national unity and how to discipline oneself. Today, many private companies and public establishments should carry out campaigns all over the country under the slogan 'no to violence.'

A last word: The Late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber in October 1990 said: "Kuwait was an oasis of security, peace and stability... it was a refuge for the honorable, who found peace, security and dignified living."

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Death toll from Pakistan factory collapse hits 44

SAUDI ARABIA EXECUTES 3 IRANIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS

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GUNMEN EXECUTE NINE IN BURUNDI CAPITAL

RWANDA ACCUSES BURUNDI LEADERS OF COMMITTING 'MASSACRES'

NAIROBI: Gunmen executed nine people in Burundi's capital hours before police launched house-to-house searches for weapons yesterday, amid international fears of fresh bloodletting in the central African nation. Hundreds of police and soldiers ringed the opposition flashpoint Mutakura district of the capital Bujumbura early yesterday to start a widely feared crackdown on "enemies of the nation." Residents said security forces were carrying out house-to-house searches. "The police started the search operation for hidden weapons in Mutakura," city mayor Freddy Mbonimpa said, adding the raids were being "done professionally, because the police are using weapon detectors."

The mayor said seven people were killed in an "execution" attack on a bar on Saturday night, adding that a probe had been launched to track the "assassins." Two others later died of their wounds. Witnesses said attackers stormed into the bar, forcing those drinking outside to enter and lie on the ground before opening fire. International alarm has grown as a government amnesty ended to hand in weapons ended with fears that it will trigger further violence and drawing warnings from the head of the UN, Washington and the world's only permanent war crimes court.

'Corpses litter the streets'

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has accused Burundi's leaders of carrying out "massacres" on their people in his most critical speech yet of the crisis in the troubled neighboring state. "People die every day, corpses litter the streets... How can the leaders allow their population to be massacred from morning to night?" Kagame said, speaking in Kinyarwanda on Friday, in a speech heard by AFP yesterday. Relations between Rwanda and Burundi are tense, with Bujumbura accusing Kigali of backing those who oppose President Pierre Nkurunziza's controversial third term in office. Burundi has been hit by waves of violence

since Nkurunziza launched his successful bid to win a third term, with bodies found dumped in the streets on a nearly daily basis. People in largely opposition areas have fled Bujumbura, leaving key districts that have seen some of the

worst recent violence almost empty. But one resident of Mutakura district, who asked not to be named, said that while many had fled ahead of the security operation, "mostly men have stayed behind to protect their belongings."

The security warnings have sparked intense fear. "I was terrified, I understood that this time they would kill every last one of us," said Marie, a secretary in her forties who fled Mutakura on Saturday, taking her five children to a relative's

house in a calmer part of the capital. But apart from the bar attack, the city was otherwise reported to be largely calm overnight, the mayor said. At least 200 people have died in the latest turmoil and 200,000 have fled the country, sparking fears that the violence could spiral into mass bloodletting. "Inflammatory rhetoric deployed in recent days by some government officials and President Nkurunziza's planned security crackdown this weekend are increasing the risk of an outbreak of mass violence," the US said Saturday.

'No war or genocide'

But the government dismissed the concerns, saying it wanted only to crush "terrorism" and comparing the fight to Somalia's struggle against Islamist Al-Shebab insurgents that Burundi is fighting as part of an internationally backed African Union force. "There will be no war or genocide," presidential communications chief Willy Nyamitwe told AFP on Saturday. "It is amazing to see that a government that wants to put an end to terrorism is criticized instead of being encouraged," he added. The rising unrest has sparked fears Burundi could slide back into conflict after its 1993-2006 civil war, when some 300,000 people died as rebels from the majority Hutu people clashed with an army dominated by the minority Tutsis.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Friday that the discovery of bodies "many apparently summarily executed" has become a "regular occurrence" in Burundi's capital Bujumbura. Last week, the country's Senate president Reverien Ndikuriyo threatened to "pulverise" regime opponents who do not lay down arms before the Saturday deadline. "Today, the police shoot in the legs... but when the day comes that we tell them to go to 'work', do not come crying to us," he said. The loaded term "work" was a euphemism used in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide to describe the mass killings of at least 800,000 mainly Tutsi people by extremist Hutu militias. —AFP



BUJUMBURA: Policemen hold a position in the Musaga neighborhood of Bujumbura during a demonstration against the Burundian President. —AFP

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YEMEN FIGHTING KILLS MORE THAN 50



MARIB: Armed Yemeni tribesmen from the Popular Resistance Committees, supporting forces loyal to Yemen's Saudi-backed President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi, fire from a tank in the area of Sirwah, West of Marib city. —AFP

ADEN: More than 50 people were killed in Yemen in the past two days in fighting pitting an Arab coalition against Houthi fighters backed by troops loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, medical sources and residents said yesterday. In Taiz, medical sources said 29 people including eight civilians were killed in clashes in Yemen's third largest city, where relief workers have said fighting has blocked food supplies and left thousands of people in extreme hunger. About 30 people were killed in fighting in Damt district in Dhalea governorate in the south, residents said.

At least 5,600 people have been killed in seven months of war in Yemen, the poorest country on the

Arabian Peninsula, and the United Nations says the humanitarian situation, exacerbated by the Arab coalition's blockade of Yemeni ports, grows worse every day. The conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthis and army units loyal to Saleh against armed groups who support exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi alongside a Saudi-led Arab coalition. The coalition is fighting to restore Hadi to power following the Houthis' seizure of control of much of Yemen in late 2014 and early 2015, and reverse what it sees as an expansion of influence by Iran, the regional rival of Riyadh.

Residents and officials said that pro-Hadi forces seized of two strate-

gic entrepots to the city of Damt on Sunday after being air dropped weapons by coalition warplanes, solidifying their control over southern Yemen. Peace efforts have made only limited progress. All major combatants have publicly agreed to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2216, which calls on Houthi and Saleh forces to withdraw from the country's main cities and surrender arms captured from Yemeni government forces. But while Hadi and the coalition have previously demanded that this happen before talks begin, the Houthis and Saleh want talks to address the mechanism for implementing Resolution 2216. —Reuters

SOME LOCAL MEDIA ACTING LIKE 'SECRET POLICE': IRAN PRESIDENT

IRAN TO ATTEND NEXT ROUND OF SYRIA PEACE TALKS

TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani yesterday accused local media outlets opposed to his policies of behaving like "a secret police". Iran's most conservative newspapers have strongly criticized the moderate president elected in 2013 whose foreign policy in July led to Tehran signing a landmark nuclear deal with world powers. The accord seeks to curb Iran's atomic drive in return

row, what is going to be closed down tomorrow, which individual's reputation should be damaged," he said, without giving any names. The speech came several days after the arrest of three pro-reform journalists, one of whom had recently been critical of Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to news agencies.

State television said the elite

people," he said. Yet "from one part of the establishment, we attack the other part of the establishment." "The government must be criticized, the judiciary must be criticized, the parliament must be criticized," the president said. "But criticizing does not mean... smearing, insulting or lying."

Also this week, state television reported the arrest of a Lebanese-

detained since July last year on spy charges.

Syria peace talks

Meanwhile, Iran will attend the next round of Syria peace talks, a top advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was quoted as saying yesterday, a week after Tehran threatened to withdraw from the process. World and regional powers including Iran met in Vienna on Oct 30 to discuss a political solution to Syria's civil war. Days later, Iran threatened to pull out of the next round of talks, blaming the "negative role" played by regional rival Saudi Arabia.

"Iran will be actively present in (Syria peace) talks, while announcing its standards and preserving its red lines," Ali Akbar Velayati, Khamenei's top foreign policy advisor, was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency. "We will support our ally, Syria, not only in defense field, but also in political arena," he added. Iran supports Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad against rebels backed by regional powers including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey.

Diplomats have said the next round of international talks is likely to begin later this week. The Oct 30 talks, which failed to reach a solution, marked the first time Iran and Saudi Arabia were at the same table to discuss Syria's civil war, which has killed more than 250,000 people and displaced millions over nearly five years. The war has evolved into a wider proxy struggle between global powers, as Russia has joined the Assad-Iran axis and Western powers have stepped up support for Gulf Arab-backed rebels. Iran has said it could support Assad's departure only if he is ousted in elections held after a ceasefire. Western and Gulf Arab powers say the Syrian strongman, whose crackdown on initially peaceful protests in 2011 triggered the war, must leave power as part of any credible peace process. —Agencies



TEHRAN: A handout photo provided by the office of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani shows him (right) meeting with South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se in Tehran yesterday. —AFP

for lifting sanctions that have crippled its economy.

The media benefits from "a permanent security margin... so that not only can they say whatever they want, but they also sometimes act like the secret police," Rouhani told representatives of around 600 media outlets at a press event in Tehran. "You learn from some publications who will be arrested tomorrow,

Revolutionary Guards had arrested "several members of an infiltration network linked to hostile Western governments who were working in the country's media and social networks." Rouhani told the press "some claim to be revolutionary" but "being revolutionary means not to lie... it means not to accuse others." "Being revolutionary means giving hope to the people... reassuring

American, Nezar Zaka, on suspicion of having links to the US intelligence community. The US State Department, while not officially confirming the arrest, said the suspect was Lebanese with permanent US residency papers. There are also four Iranian-Americans being held in Iran, including Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian, who has been



MUKALLA: Water surrounds a Yemeni home following a tropical cyclone that has slammed into the war-ravaged country, in Mukalla in Yemen's Hadramawt province. Packing winds of more than 100 kilometers per hour, Cyclone Chapala made landfall in the southeastern provinces of Hadramawt and Shabwa, Minister of Fisheries Fahd Kafain said. —AFP

PANIC AS YEMEN'S SOCOTRA HIT BY NEW CYCLONE

ADEN: A new cyclone made landfall in war-ravaged Yemen's Socotra Island yesterday, causing panic amid locals as a minister posted an "urgent appeal" to save residents from the second tropical storm in a week. Heavy winds, rain, and flash floods swept through Socotra as the storm, named Megh, hit the island, already badly battered by last week's cyclone Chapala, residents said. The fisheries minister Fahd Kavieen, who hails from Socotra himself, urged the United Nations and neighboring Oman to "urgently intervene with emergency teams to save residents" on the island "which is now facing a cyclone stronger than Chapala."

The Arabian Sea island of Socotra is 350 kilometers off the Yemeni mainland. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) spokeswoman Clare Nullis said Friday that Megh is not as powerful as Chapala, which had killed eight people in southeastern Yemen. But Socotra resident and humanitarian activist Abdurauaf al-Juhaimali said yesterday that "this cyclone is stronger than Chapala." People who had returned to their seafront

homes, already destroyed by Chapala, fled again yesterday to government buildings on highlands as heavy floods hit again, he said. Tropical cyclones are extremely rare over the Arabian Peninsula, and having two back-to-back was "an absolutely extraordinary event," said Nullis.

The UN's humanitarian agency OCHA said Friday 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. Chapala had forced the evacuation of 18,000 people on the island and completely destroyed 237 homes, according to OCHA spokesman Jens Laerke. But no one on the island was killed, despite initial reports that three people had died, he said. OCHA had set up a special 11-man support and response team, based in Oman, to help with the relief efforts, added Laerke. 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

ANGER, FRUSTRATION GROW; BRITONS STRANDED IN EGYPT

SHARM EL SHEIKH: Stranded in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, British tourist Joanna Baker is growing increasingly frustrated despite her luxurious surroundings. Baker and her boyfriend were scheduled to fly out Friday after a week of holidays in the Red Sea town, but instead are stuck like thousands of fellow holidaymakers after Britain suspended flights to Sharm El-Sheikh over last week's crash of a Russian airliner.

Their airline has put them up at a luxurious hotel, but the resort's private beach and Sharm El-Sheikh's warm, sunny weather are no longer an attraction. "We feel like we are grounded," Baker, 22 said as she played a game of table tennis with her boyfriend. "We had a great time until Thursday, but now we are frustrated. The hotel is great, the people are great, but we just don't know when we are going." Britain suspended flights to Sharm El-Sheikh after the plane carrying Russian tourists crashed in the Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board. The Egyptian branch of the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for downing the plane. Britain, the United States and international investigators suspect a bomb was on board, but Egyptian officials insist there is no evidence yet of an attack on the plane. Nearly 17,000 Britons are still stranded in Sharm El-Sheikh, and London has warned that some may have to stay on longer before they can be flown home. About 2,500 travelers have been repatriated to Britain since Friday.

'Nobody knows anything'

But Baker and her partner have so far been unlucky. "All we do is get up early, pack our bags and just wait," said her boyfriend, Arjun Mehta, an accounting student at the University of Sussex. "We are tired of packing and unpacking," Mehta said, as the couple hoped to catch a flight on Sunday. "I have to go back to work on Monday and he has to go

back to the university. And we don't know when our luggage would reach" home, Baker said.

Under security measures imposed for the repatriations, passengers are allowed to travel only with hand luggage, with check-in bags to be transported later. At various hotels in the resort town, stranded Britons mostly stayed indoors or on private beaches, ready to leave for the airport at short notice. Tour operators and airlines are to reimburse them for extended stays, but many tourists blamed their airlines for "mismanaging" the situation. "The hotel and its staff are great, but the airline has not called us, nor telephoned or emailed," Rob Ashford,

27, said as he stepped out of the swimming pool at a luxury hotel. "We have been told not to step out of the hotel for security reasons." Ashford and his girlfriend were scheduled to return to Manchester on Friday, but on Sunday there was still no indication when they would take off. "We are living on a day-to-day basis. Nobody knows anything. Looks like we may be here for another week," he said. For 49-year-old software developer Paul, who gave only his first name, a few extra days on holiday was not an issue. "It's not that stressful, and to be honest it's better to be stuck in the hotel than get blown up," he said. —AFP



SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Tourists prepare to board a boat in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. Britain had suspended all flights to and from the resort over concerns the crashed Russian plane which flew out of Sharm may have been brought down by a bomb. —AFP

IRAN APPOINTS FIRST WOMAN SINCE REVOLUTION AS ENVOY

TEHRAN: Iran has appointed its first woman ambassador since the 1979 Islamic revolution, naming foreign ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham to head its embassy in Malaysia, the foreign minister announced yesterday. "Choosing Afkham as ambassador took a few minutes but choosing her successor took four months," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said at a ceremony in Tehran for the 50-year-old career diplomat who will be replaced at the ministry by a man, Jaber Ansari.

Iranian media first said back in April that Afkham was lined up for promotion to the rank of ambassador, but the reports were unconfirmed. Zarif paid tribute to Afkham, who was also the first woman in the Islamic republic to serve as foreign ministry spokeswoman, saying she had carried out her duties for two years with "dignity, brav-

ery and particular insight". In turn, the new ambassador to Kuala Lumpur, quoted by state news agency IRNA, praised Zarif for "the courage to take such a decision" and for his "trust in women".

After his 2013 election, Iran's moderate President Hassan Rouhani called on ministers to appoint women to high posts and said his government would stand up against discrimination, naming three women to the country's 11 vice presidential positions. Although deemed more liberal than those of many Arab countries, Iran's laws since the revolution have been criticized as unfair to women in cases of marriage, divorce and inheritance. While women may hold key posts, including in parliament and the cabinet, they can not serve as judges and have not been allowed to run for president. —AFP

SAUDI ARABIA EXECUTES 3 IRANIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday executed three Iranians convicted of drug trafficking, the interior ministry said, bringing to 145 the number of death sentences carried out in the kingdom this year. The three convicts had attempted to "smuggle a large amount of hashish by sea" into Saudi Arabia, the ministry said in a statement published on the official SPA news agency. They were executed in the eastern port city of Dammam, it said. Saudi executions are usually carried out by beheading with a sword.

According to AFP tallies, their cases

bring to 145 the number of locals and foreigners executed in the conservative Islamic kingdom this year, compared with 87 in 2014. Rights experts have raised concerns about the fairness of trials in the kingdom. London-based Amnesty International says Saudi Arabia had the world's third-highest number of executions last year, far behind China and Iran, but ahead of Iraq and the United States. Under the kingdom's strict Islamic legal code, murder, drug trafficking, armed robbery, rape and apostasy are all punishable by death. —AFP

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| MODEL | YEAR | EXT. COLOR | INT. COLOR | KM | PRICE KD. |
|--------|------|---------------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| ES250 | 2015 | Sonic Titanium | Beige | 4,396 | 12,750 |
| ES250 | 2015 | Sonic Titanium | Beige | 9,141 | 12,750 |
| ES250 | 2015 | Sonic Titanium | Beige | 1,760 | 11,750 |
| ES250 | 2015 | Sonic Titanium | Beige | 13,329 | 12,250 |
| ES250 | 2013 | Lapis Lazuli MC | Beige | 43,181 | 10,500 |
| ES350 | 2015 | Sleek Ecru ME. | Beige | 11,005 | 14,000 |
| ES350 | 2013 | Sleek Ecru ME. | Beige | 52,715 | 11,000 |
| ES350 | 2014 | Platinum Silver ME. | Beige | 44,213 | 12,750 |
| ES350 | 2015 | Fire Agate M.M. | Beige | 5,401 | 13,750 |
| ES350 | 2014 | Fire Agate M.M. | Beige | 28,824 | 12,000 |
| ES350 | 2013 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 72,098 | 12,000 |
| GS350 | 2014 | Crimson CS.GF. | Beige | 14,608 | 14,000 |
| GS350 | 2013 | Fire Agate M.M. | Beige | 18,699 | 14,000 |
| GS350 | 2014 | Fire Agate M.M. | Beige | 15,205 | 13,750 |
| IS300C | 2013 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 54,701 | 11,750 |
| IS350 | 2015 | White Nova GF. | Beige | 14,497 | 14,000 |
| IS350 | 2014 | Platinum Silver ME. | Beige | 45,782 | 12,000 |
| LS460 | 2015 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 7,958 | 25,000 |
| LS460 | 2013 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 42,580 | 19,000 |
| LS460 | 2015 | Sleek Ecru ME. | Beige | 31,155 | 24,500 |
| LS600h | 2013 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 45,566 | 20,000 |

SUV MODELS

| MODEL | YEAR | EXT. COLOR | INT. COLOR | KM | PRICE KD. |
|-------|------|---------------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| LX570 | 2014 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 29,165 | 20,500 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 22,047 | 23,750 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Sleek Ecru ME. | Beige | 49,525 | 24,000 |
| LX570 | 2014 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 15,543 | 20,000 |
| LX570 | 2015 | Platinum Silver ME. | Beige | 27,497 | 25,750 |
| LX570 | 2015 | Sleek Ecru ME. | Beige | 15,396 | 26,000 |
| LX570 | 2013 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 59,592 | 18,750 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 15,424 | 24,000 |
| LX570 | 2015 | Sleek Ecru ME. | Beige | 15,382 | 25,000 |
| LX570 | 2015 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 46,348 | 25,750 |
| LX570 | 2015 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 23,731 | 25,750 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 21,293 | 23,750 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 66,119 | 23,000 |
| LX570 | 2013 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 46,653 | 20,750 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 28,302 | 21,000 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Mercury Gray MC. | Beige | 56,314 | 22,500 |
| LX570 | 2014 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 66,868 | 23,750 |
| LX570 | 2014 | Starlight Black GF | Beige | 18,108 | 24,500 |
| LX570 | 2014 | White Pearl CS. | Beige | 42,509 | 21,500 |
| RX350 | 2014 | Garnet Red Mc, | Beige | 30,935 | 13,900 |
| RX350 | 2015 | Platinum Silver ME. | Beige | 17,197 | 15,250 |

Cars mentioned in this advert might vary upon availability

NORDIC WELCOME CHILLIER FOR MIGRANTS AS NUMBERS SWELL

OSLO: Asylum seekers flowing to Scandinavia are finding chillier welcomes as their numbers surge and far-right parties increasingly assert their influence on immigration policy, analysts say. Denmark, Norway and Finland—but also Sweden, heretofore especially welcoming to migrants—have begun cutting back the benefits they offer to newcomers while also hardening their asylum policies.

"It seems there's a certain amount of competition aimed at not offering the most generous social benefits to asylum seekers," said Asle Toje, a Norwegian international relations expert. Denmark's immigration policy has grown tighter since 2001, when the far-right Danish People's Party began influencing policy-making. In July, soon after elections made the DPP the country's second-largest party, Denmark moved to slash benefits to asylum seekers in a bid to reduce the influx. Under the new rules, which came into effect in

September, a recently arrived immigrant without children now receives 5,945 kroner (797 euros/\$897) per month, compared with the 10,849 kroner they got previously.

The move seems to have had the desired effect, since the number of asylum seekers declined in September from a year earlier while setting records elsewhere in Europe.

Syrians, Afghans and Eritreans are still arriving en masse in Denmark, but they generally move on to destinations considered more hospitable. "Many of them say that the conditions are better for them in other countries, perhaps Sweden, and so they go there," said DPP leader Kristian Thulesen Dahl.

The DPP, an indispensable ally of Denmark's minority liberal government, is doing all it can to make the country less attractive to refugees.

'Generous welfare states'
Norway and Finland, both led by govern-

ments with anti-immigration elements, are similarly moving to cut back social services and toughen conditions for uniting families and granting citizenship or permanent residency. "It's clear that the Nordic countries have generous welfare states, but we must ask ourselves if we should share them with those who come in," said Norwegian justice secretary of state, Joran Kallmyr, of the right-wing populist Progress Party.

Norway, an island of prosperity thanks to its hydrocarbons, is becoming unsure of preserving its comfortable lifestyle as oil prices decrease. Even ultra-liberal Sweden, despite taking in more asylum seekers per capita than any other EU state—expecting around 190,000 this year for a population of under 10 million—has decided to tone down its image of generosity.

In line with the rise of the far-right Sweden Democrats party, the kingdom is now demanding that its European partners

share more of the burden, and it plans to harden conditions for reuniting families.

Sweden's "Social Democrats are worried about losing voters to the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, who were capitalising on people's fears over mass migration to Sweden," said Magnus Hagevi, political scientist at Linnea University.

"Already we've witnessed a rash of arson attacks on migrant facilities across Sweden—people are also worried about the price of immigration. Many people are worried about what the future will bring and how that will affect the welfare state," he said.

Again on Saturday, a planned refugee shelter was burned down in Sweden, the latest in a string of suspected arson cases targeting a huge influx of migrants.

Using social media

The Nordic countries are also trying to use the media to help them stop the flow at its

source. In September, Denmark took out advertisements in the Lebanese press warning about new asylum regulations in the hope of discouraging Syrian refugees.

Norway and Finland have tried to get the message across on Facebook, where the bulk of migrants turn to compare possible destinations. "Human traffickers spread rumours on social networks to sell trips by making people believe they should leave for Europe now because the borders are open," Kallmyr said. "We should correct these rumours... and spell out what awaits them—less aid, difficulty reuniting families and lots of rejected requests."

Toje had a more nuanced view. "Refugees are not coming here mainly to take advantage of the welfare state," he said. "They are fleeing countries where there is war, conflict and hardship. So even if we reduce services, I don't think that will necessarily lessen the number of asylum seekers." — AFP



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, right, and Leader of the opposition Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn (centre) with SNP representative Angus Robertson, left, attend the Remembrance yesterday ceremony at the Cenotaph in London yesterday. — AP

CAMERON TO GIVE STRONGEST WARNING OVER LIKELY EU EXIT

BRITISH PM WARNS EUROPEAN LEADERS ON REFORM

LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron will this week give his strongest warning yet that he might back Britain leaving the EU unless other European leaders agree to his demands for reform of the bloc. Cameron is due to outline British demands for renegotiation of its European Union membership terms in a letter to the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, to be published on Tuesday.

In a speech the same day, he will say that if no deal can be reached, he could back a British exit when an in/out referendum is held before the end of 2017.

"If we can't reach such an agreement, and if Britain's concerns were to be met with a deaf ear, which I do not believe will happen, then we will have to think again about whether this European Union is right for us," Cameron will say, according to advance extracts of his speech.

"As I have said before—I rule nothing out." Cameron has faced criticism both at home and abroad—including from his own eurosceptic backbenchers—for not spelling out details of the concessions he is seeking from other European leaders with detailed discussions expected to accelerate before a summit next month.

Cameron's letter to Tusk is expected to include demands such as barring in-work benefits for EU migrants for four years, an exemption from any closer EU integration, and more powers for national governments to block EU legislation.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said the letter would draw together changes the government has previously said it is seeking but would not demand specific legislative measures.

"We don't want to be excessively prescriptive at the beginning of a discussion," Hammond told the BBC, saying that there were a range of ways to achieve most of Britain's objectives.

"This letter is not the end of the process, it's the beginning of the process," he said.

"DISHONEST GIMMICK"

The Vote Leave campaign, which wants Britain to exit the bloc, said Cameron's reform agenda lacked ambition, calling it a "dishonest gimmick." "We expect Cameron to get what he's asking for, but what he's asking for is trivial," the campaign's director, Dominic Cummings, said. Cameron's office said that Britain will begin a fresh round of meetings as the renegotiation

enters a new "intensive" phase, with senior representatives of member states invited to Brussels to discuss the letter along with European Council officials.

While Cameron has never ruled out campaigning to leave the EU if he failed to secure any agreement, the tone of the speech will be his strongest assertion to date that the status quo is unacceptable.

However, Cameron will also repeat that he wants Britain to remain in the 28-nation bloc, which it joined in 1973, and is confident a deal can be struck to satisfy Britain and its partners.

He will also deliver a strong message to those on both sides of the debate over a British exit.

"Those who believe we should stay in the EU at all costs need to explain why Britain should accept the status quo. I am clear that there are real problems with this," he will say.

"Those who think Britain should just leave now also need to think hard about the implications... What would being outside the European Union mean for our economic security?"

Opinion polls show most Britons favour staying within the EU although support for remaining versus leaving has narrowed in recent months. — Reuters

MERKEL AIDE DOWNPLAYS FLAP OVER SYRIA ASYLUM INITIATIVE

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel's chief of staff downplayed a short-lived initiative by the country's interior minister to give many Syrians restricted asylum, insisting yesterday that procedures remain unchanged.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere appeared to surprise Merkel's governing coalition when he said Friday that many Syrians should get "subsidiary protection," which comes with only a one-year renewable residence permit and wouldn't allow them to bring relatives to Germany for two years. Amid criticism, he shelved the idea hours later.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel has said the idea apparently was produced in the Interior Ministry without consultation. Merkel's chief of staff, Peter Altmaier, made clear in an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio he wasn't informed that the initiative had been launched. It remains unclear why the conservative de Maiziere's ministry made an apparent solo decision which angered members of Gabriel's center-left Social

Democrats, but government leaders appear keen to avoid further political infighting. The minister's announcement came only a day after Merkel's coalition ended a damaging, weeklong argument over how to speed up processing of migrants with poor asylum prospects. Altmaier, who was put in charge last month of coordinating refugee matters, called it "a discussion the day before yesterday ... that is now settled." He said nothing will be changed "unilaterally."

"Procedures for Syrians will continue to be handled as they have been so far," he said.

Gabriel made similarly conciliatory comments Saturday, saying he considered the matter finished. However, a senior official from the Christian Social Union - the tough-talking Bavarian branch of Merkel's conservative bloc - backed de Maiziere's idea, suggesting there is potential for the issue to fester. Germany saw 758,000 refugees and other migrants arrive between January and October and the government faces pressure to limit the influx. Syrians are the biggest single group currently arriving. — AP

KENYA READIES 10,000 POLICE TO BOOST SECURITY FOR POPE

NAIROBI: Kenya said yesterday it may deploy as many as 10,000 police officers to boost security during a visit by Pope Francis later this month, as the country readies for crowds of one million people.

Islamist rebels have staged a string of attacks in Kenya, including an April massacre at Garissa university in which 148 people were killed, and a 2013 assault on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall that killed 67. "Security agencies continue to fine-tune plans to secure the city during a particularly busy period, and when we expect Nairobi's population to swell by an

increased security concerns surrounding the pope's visit. In Nairobi, Francis will tour the Kangemi district, home to some 100,000 people who live in shacks without proper sewage systems and where some 20,000 residents belong to the local Catholic parish.

In July, Kenya hosted US President Barack Obama, a visit that effectively shut down the capital of Nairobi, with hundreds of American security personnel and military helicopters deployed.

Kenyans were urged to stay at home during the visit, with Nairobi's normally traffic-clogged



THE VATICAN: Nuns wait for Pope Francis' arrival to deliver his Angelus prayer from the studio window overlooking St Peter's Square, at the Vatican, yesterday. — AP

additional one million people," State House spokesman Manohar Espisu said in a statement. "Tentatively, some 10,000 police officers will be deployed," Espisu said, adding that another 10,000 members of the government's youth service will help in crowd control.

The pontiff will be in Kenya from November 25 to 27, before spending two days in Uganda and travelling to the Central African Republic (CAR), where his trip will end on November 30, according to a Vatican itinerary.

9,000 priests to help

The three countries—which have significant Catholic communities—have been troubled by civil conflicts and violence, leading to

roads closed off during the massive security operation. But Kenya organisers for the papal visit said this trip would be different. "Unlike the visit by President Barack Obama when the government encouraged Kenyans to stay home, we are encouraging Kenyans to flock into the city in their numbers to cheer the pope and celebrate mass with him," Espisu said.

Bishop Alfred Rotich, who is heading the church's preparations in Kenya, said they were planning for a tenth of all Kenyan Catholics to see the pope. The church says almost a third of Kenyans are Catholic—some 14 million of 44 million people—although other estimates put the numbers of believers at around a fifth. — AFP

N IRELAND'S FORMER 'BADLANDS' BRACE FOR BRITAIN'S EU VOTE

CROSSMAGLEN, Northern Ireland: For the Catholic residents of Northern Ireland village Crossmaglen, the prospect of Britain's only land border with the European Union rising around them to obstruct access to the Irish Republic is unthinkable.

But barely two decades after a peace deal brought down the military checkpoints that divided the two parts of Ireland, opinion polls show growing support in Britain to leave the European Union in a referendum due by the end of 2017. It's unclear if that would bring back the kind of border controls that Ireland's deputy leader recently dismissed as abhorrent, but any changes would have profound effects in the former border "badlands" Britain long struggled to control.

The biggest fear for many in Northern Ireland is that

new border restrictions could reenergise Catholic Irish nationalist demands for a united Ireland, which helped fuel three decades of violence with the British authorities and mainly Protestant unionists who wanted it to remain part of Britain. At least 3,600 people were killed in the "The Troubles."

"You'd be bringing things back 30 years," said Cathal Short, a businessman walking in the main square of Crossmaglen, a predominantly Catholic village where many shops accept euros alongside sterling and streets are strewn with bunting for Gaelic football, the Republic's most popular sport.

"I think it would be an absolute disaster for here." Many see the EU, with its guarantees of civil rights and free movement of goods, workers and capital as a sig-

nificant factor in securing the peace in 1998. On many practical levels the EU has united Ireland.

A British exit would deprive Northern Ireland, one of Britain's poorest regions, of 8.4 percent of its economic output in direct EU funding, according to an Open University report. An Irish think tank, meanwhile, said UK-Irish trade would fall 20 percent, with border towns hit hardest.

However opponents of EU membership have argued the EU is a drain on overall British resources and that Brussels bureaucracy hampers small and medium-sized businesses. An EU exit would also create a "significant psychological impact" in the border area, according to a report by a committee in the Irish parliament, which warned it would be "politically destabilising".

Martina Anderson, a Member of the European Parliament for the largest Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein - and native of another border area to the west - has said Northern Ireland should consider refusing to accept a British EU exit. "Britain wants to pull out of Europe, the discussion we need to have is that Britain pull out of Ireland," she said. "The decision that is going to be made in England should not be binding on the north."

VOTERS COOL ON BREXIT

The only major recent opinion poll on attitudes to a British exit in Northern Ireland, commissioned by Danske Bank, showed that 58 percent of the 1.8 million population were against leaving, one of the highest levels in the United Kingdom.

Only 16 percent were in favor of a British exit, or Brexit. The population is roughly evenly split between traditional Catholic and Protestant communities. There have been no major studies to break down support for an exit along those lines, and major unionist parties have not announced official positions. — Reuters



GEVGLIJA: Migrants and refugees wait for crossing the Greek-Macedonian border near Gevgelija yesterday. The flow of refugees and other migrants from Turkey to Greece is expected to continue at a rate of 5,000 daily this winter, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR. — AFP



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GOING DUTCH WITH XI - TAIWAN RECOUNTS ICE-BREAKING DINNER

TAIPEI: After waiting for more than six decades, it was a meal that lasted less than two hours. Seated next to each other at a round table, to avoid having to choose someone to sit in the "host" position at the top of a rectangular table, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou shared a relatively simple dinner in a Singapore hotel after their historic meeting on Saturday.

Over crayfish, fried asparagus and spicy noodles, Xi and Ma talked politics, education and knives made from old Chinese artillery shells, according to an

account provided by Ma to reporters on the flight back to Taipei late on Saturday.

"We did not drink that much," Ma said. "He said his capacity for liquor wasn't good and I said mine was not good either." Xi brought to the meal a famous spirit from Guizhou province, while Ma brought wine and spirits from two groups of islets just off the mainland that Taiwan forces have occupied since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

"We brought up the cooking knives of Kinmen. He also knew the knives are

made from old artillery," Ma said, referring to one of the islands which was heavily shelled by the mainland at the height of the Cold War, where knives are crafted out of old shells.

Xi also displayed his knowledge of the sorghum-based spirit Kaoliang that Kinmen is famous for.

"When we got to discussing kaoliang he said actually the production of Chinese sorghum in Kinmen is not enough so they have to import some from the mainland. And I said we already know this," Ma said. Ma did not say how much the dinner cost, but he

said they went Dutch, splitting the bill between them.

"We brought our own drinks so I don't think we spent too much money." The account is all the more remarkable because China has yet to provide an in-depth account of what transpired between the two leaders over dinner, though some newspapers have given details of the food and state television said Ma looked "flushed" after he left, as though he'd had a bit too much to drink. Unlike Ma, Xi did not meet reporters after their meeting. Xi rarely answers questions from the media. The

mainland's Taiwan Affairs Office did not respond to a request for comment.

Ma said he thought Xi was somebody who could make decisions quickly on certain subjects, and that he had used phrases with Xi which are taboo in China, like Taiwan's formal name, the Republic of China.

"I said 'Republic of China' in his presence," Ma said. "He did not react to this." Beijing recoils at any suggestion self-ruled and proudly democratic Taiwan is anything but a renegade province of China, to be bought under its control by force if necessary. —Reuters



YANGON: Supporters of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party cheer as they watch the result of general election on an LED screen displaying outside the party's headquarters yesterday.—AP

MYANMAR JUNTA VOTES IN 'MILITARY COUNTRY'

WIN OF DEMOCRACY CANDIDATES COULD INFLICT A BLOW TO USDP

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar: President Thein Sein, the archival of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, voted yesterday in Myanmar's grandiose capital, built from scratch by the military and symbolic of its half-century of iron-fisted rule over the impoverished Southeast Asian nation.

A not-unlikely victory by democracy candidates in this bastion of soldiers and civil servants would inflict a humiliating blow to Thein Sein's military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party and the generals, many of them resident here and who still exercise decisive behind-the-scenes control in Myanmar.

The 71-year-old president, making no comment to the media, cast his ballot at a high school near his opulent villa and the vast 664-seat parliament from which the country's next leader will emerge. Thein Sein has served as president since 2011, instituting tentative reforms but still widely viewed as beholden to the military for his power. Born of humble origins, he rose through army ranks to become a senior general and a military-appointed prime minister.

Waiting to cast their ballots at the school polling station were mostly government officials and employees who were reluctant to reveal their political colors or say little beyond that they were excited to be voting in a free election and hoped for positive change in their country. Khin Kyi Htun, a 30-year-old parliament staffer wearing a green blouse, finally revealed that she was "voting green," the USDP color.

Only one person interviewed, a 25-year-old woman who also works in the parliament, said in a whisper that she had seen Suu Kyi at work in the legislature and was "very proud of her." She would vote for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, she said, declining to give her name.

"Lion or peacock? I won't say. I just want a good leader," said Thin Myint, a deputy director-general in the Home Ministry, referring to the USDP's logo - a mythical lion - and the NLD's peacock symbol.

Monitors from the European Union and the South Korean Embassy were on hand to witness voting at the school. They along with the media and several embassies were also given unprecedented access to voting at a military base, but voters there were even more reticent and non-committal.

"We are ready to support any party which gets the most votes," said Sgt. Minh Aung, who like other soldiers voted in civilian clothes. A soldier's wife, 31-year-old Lu Ti, said she liked both Thein Sein and Suu Kyi, who was "also good in her own way."

Vigorous campaigns

Media, especially foreign reporters, and most citizens are rarely allowed inside bases. Although the USDP will almost certainly win in constituencies where civil servants and soldiers dominate, local observers say Suu Kyi's party may well emerge on top in others. Both major parties launched vigorous campaigns, with the NLD fielding a strong candidate in Zeya Thaw, a handsome hip-hop artist imprisoned for three years after his thinly veiled lyrics attacking the junta became popular. Out of jail, he was elected to parliament and became a close Suu Kyi aide. At a recent rally that drew some 30,000 supporters,

the 34-year-old politician sang a song he and Suu Kyi had co-written, carrying the basic message of "vote for us." He is being opposed by USDP's Wai Lwin, a retired general. Naypyitaw was proclaimed Myanmar's capital in 2005, although Yangon, 320 kilometers (200 miles) to the south, remains the primal city in every way but administratively. However, given its powerful tenants, the capital is endowed with much that the rest of the country lacks - decent housing, around-the-clock electricity and a good water supply, Wi-Fi Internet and superb roads, some as wide as 30 lanes and virtually traffic free. Although it has grown somewhat in population, vast areas of the Naypyitaw, translated as "Abode of the King," are occupied by scrubland, forests and empty lots. Forty times the area of Washington, DC, it is dot-

ted with enormous public buildings and luxury hotels that seem incongruous in one of the world's poorest countries.

To date, no embassies have moved here from Yangon. Many Burmese believe Gen. Than Shwe, who headed the junta for nearly two decades until 2011 and was the capital's prime architect, followed the examples of ancient kings who believed changing capitals was auspicious and consulted astrologers before giving the command. He and other generals live in a secluded compound. A restricted military zone is said to contain bunkers and tunnels with the wide highways designed to take aircraft in case of need. Than Shwe is still regarded as a puppet master when it comes to major decisions on which direction Myanmar should take. —AP

TAIWAN OPPOSITION SAYS ONLY DEMOCRACY CAN DECIDE FUTURE

TAIPEI/BEIJING: Only the people of Taiwan can decide its future and will do so in elections in January, the island's opposition leader and presidential frontrunner said yesterday, as China's top newspaper warned peace was at risk if it opted for independence. A day after Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou held historic talks in Singapore, Tsai Ing-wen, leader of Taiwan's independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), said the leaders' meeting had done nothing to make Taiwan's people feel safer.

"Only the majority public opinion on Jan. 16 can decide Taiwan's future and cross-strait relations," Tsai wrote, referring to ties with the mainland. At the meeting in neutral Singapore, the first get-together of leaders of the two sides since China's civil war ended in 1949, Xi told Ma they must not let proponents of Taiwan's independence split them.

Ma in return called for mutual respect for each other's systems and said Taiwan people were concerned about mainland missiles pointing their way.

Tsai said Ma's performance had angered many people in Taiwan, and what he did was not a representation of mainstream public opinion. "As a nation's leader, President Ma did not make his people proud or feel safe. Instead, he created more anxiety," she added. China's Nationalists, also known as the Kuomintang (KMT), retreated to Taiwan after losing the civil war to the Communists, who are still in charge in Beijing. Both agree there is "one China" but agree to disagree on the interpretation.

Beijing views self-ruled and proudly democratic Taiwan as a renegade province, to be bought under its control by force if necessary, and has warned that moves towards formal independence could stoke conflict.

In a commentary, the Communist Party's official People's Daily said the two leaders

sitting together showed a desire not to let the "tragedy of history" repeat itself nor to let the fruits of peaceful development be lost.

Progress over the past seven years - referring to the rule of the China-friendly Ma - has been possible due to a joint political will to oppose Taiwan independence and accept there is "one China," albeit it with different interpretations, the paper said.

"If this 'magic cudgel' did not exist, the boat of peace would encounter a fierce and frightening storm, or even flip over completely," it wrote. "Compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait must join together and resolutely oppose the Taiwan independence forces and their separatist activities," the newspaper added. While bilateral trade, investment and tourism has blossomed particularly since Ma and his KMT took power in 2008 - there is deep suspicion on both sides and no progress has been made on any sort of political settlement.

One source with ties to the leadership in Beijing said China was not counting on the meeting to help the Nationalists win the presidential elections, but hoped it would at least prevent them from disintegrating. "If the DPP controls the legislature and amended the constitution (formally) declaring independence, the mainland would be in a very difficult position," the source said.

In 2005, China enacted an "anti-secession law" that allows it to use force on Taiwan if deemed necessary. Previous Chinese attempts to influence Taiwan's elections have backfired.

In 1996, then-Chinese President Jiang Zemin ordered missile tests and war games in the seas around Taiwan to try to intimidate voters not to back Lee Teng-hui, who China believed was moving the island closer to formal independence. Lee won by a landslide. —Reuters

IS KIDNAPS, KILLS SEVEN IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN

KANDAHAR: Islamic State militants kidnapped and killed seven people, including three women, in the southern province of Zabul, a police official said yesterday, amid heavy fighting in the region between the group and Taliban insurgents. Groups associated with Islamic State have made growing inroads in Afghanistan in recent years, attracting fighters and support away from disenfranchised members of the Taleban.

They have been battling government forces and the Taliban in a challenge for supremacy of the Islamist insurgency, and its rise has caused alarm outside Afghanistan, with US commanders citing the movement as a reason to delay troop withdrawals. Ghulam Jilani Farahi, a deputy police chief in Zabul, said police found the victims, who were abducted on Oct 1 from Rasani village in the Gelan district of the neighboring Ghazni province.

"Daesh fighters brutally killed these people and their dead bodies have been carried to Shah Joi district hospital," Farahi said by telephone, using the local name for the Islamic State.

The victims were members of the Hazara ethnic group, Farahi said, adding

that police were investigating. Photos seen by Reuters showed their throats were cut.

The killings underscore the extent of violence directed at civilians as security in Afghanistan deteriorates. Heavy fighting between militants from the two groups was ongoing in three other districts in the province, with 60 Islamic State fighters and 15 Taleban killed, Farahi said.

It was not possible for Reuters to verify the report. The Taleban is making gains 14 years on from the US invasion that ousted it from power after the Sept. 2001 attacks on US landmarks. Afghan national forces, who took over from international troops after NATO ended most combat operations last year, have struggled to contain the spreading insurgency and remain reliant on its allies for air and logistical support.

Last month, in a show of its growing strength, the Taleban seized the key northern city of Kunduz and held it for three days. US President Barack Obama's decision to scrap plans for a major reduction in US forces next year was greeted with relief by the administration in Kabul, which had feared being abandoned by its most powerful ally. — Reuters

2 YEARS AFTER HAIYAN, DEAD STILL BEING DUG UP IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA: Villagers who perished when Typhoon Haiyan devastated the central Philippines two years ago continue to be dug up, including the skeletal remains of six people found over the weekend, an official said yesterday.

Regarded as the most powerful storm on record to hit land, Haiyan leveled entire villages and swept walls of seawater along with ships surging inland in Tacloban city and other outlying towns on Nov. 8, 2013, leaving 7,361 people dead or missing based on the latest government count last year.

More than a million houses were damaged or blasted away by the storm's enormous force, displacing about 4 million people.

Most of the skeletons, including that of a child, were found by residents on Saturday in Tacloban's coastal village of San Jose, where storm surges swept away houses and people, the city's chief health officer Joedina Gumagay said.

Along with police forensic investigators and other officials, Gumagay said she examined the skeletons, which were found with pieces of clothing, sandals and other belongings, and concluded they were among the thousands killed in the storm.

Villagers in another Tacloban commu-

nity dug up another victim, an unidentified woman, about two months ago, she said. A Catholic priest blessed the skeletons found in San Jose. After being photographed and tagged, the remains were to be buried in a mass grave for typhoon victims on Sunday, coinciding with the second anniversary of Haiyan's deadly onslaught, she said.

"We feel relieved that at least they can now have a decent burial," Gumagay said. Thousands of typhoon survivors, many of them teary-eyed, heard Masses in Catholic churches before joining a memorial march to a seaside sports stadium that had served as an evacuation center after the storm struck. Residents in Tacloban and three nearby towns lit thousands of candles along roads yesterday night to remember the dead. President Benigno Aquino III thanked governments that provided aid and deployed forces, planes and ships to help the Philippines deal with the disaster. The devastated communities have been rebuilt and "are once again working to have a safer and prosperous future," Aquino said. "This would not have been possible without the world's embrace of our people and our people's own heroic generosity and sacrifice." —AP

DEATH TOLL FROM PAKISTAN FACTORY COLLAPSE HITS 44

LAHORE: Nearly five days after a Pakistani factory collapsed, the death toll has reached 44, rescue officials said yesterday, in one of the country's deadliest industrial accidents in recent years.

More than 100 injured survivors were pulled from the rubble after the factory collapsed on Wednesday night, but no one had been recovered alive since Friday night, said Dr Zulfiqar Ahmad, the executive district officer health Lahore. It was unclear exactly how many people were in the building when it collapsed, he said, although survivors estimated between 150-200 people had been inside.

"Now we are using sniffer dogs to try to find people," he said. "Only the ground floor is left ... It will take another day to clear all the rubble after which we will be in a better

position to tell the final death toll ... We fear it will increase." Survivors said the factory's owner, who was adding a new floor to the building, had ignored advice from his contractor and pleas from his workers to stop construction after large cracks appeared in the building following last month's 7.5 magnitude earthquake.

The owner was among those killed in the collapse of the factory, which manufactured plastic bags 20 km (12 miles) south of the eastern city of Lahore.

The accident will once again raise questions over Pakistan's lax enforcement of safety and building codes. In September 2012, 289 people burned to death in a fire at a garment factory in the southern city of Karachi. On the same day, a fire at a shoe factory in Lahore killed 25. —Reuters



RAIWIND: Pakistani Muslims return after attending one of the world's largest Islamic religious meetings the Tablighi Ijtema, in Raiwind on the outskirts of Lahore yesterday.—AFP



DUBAI: US soldiers stand near a Sea Dragon helicopter displayed at the Dubai Airshow yesterday. Dubai Airshow took off yesterday to a slow start amid little expectations of major orders to match the multi-billion-dollar sales generated at the last edition of the biennial fair. — AFP

MODI SUFFERS DEFEAT IN BIHAR

Continued from Page 1

An anti-Modi alliance led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was ahead in 179 seats in the 243-seat regional assembly, an overwhelming majority, tallies compiled by the election commission showed.

Modi tweeted that he had called to congratulate Kumar, whose regional "grand alliance" could now become a template for politicians seeking to prevent Modi's march towards untrammelled power under India's federal system. The defeat could also dampen the mood as Modi heads to Britain for the first bilateral visit by an Indian leader since 2006. Modi is due to address a crowd next week at London's Wembley stadium.

Government, don't campaign

Modi's BJP-led alliance was ahead in 58 seats where trends were clear. Some regional party leaders expressed bitterness over a campaign that thrust Modi into the spotlight - he addressed more than 30 rallies - turning the election into a referendum on his personal leadership. Analysts said an Indian prime minister has never before invested so much time in a state election. "The role of the prime minister is to govern the country, and not become the lead campaigner in a state election," one senior BJP state leader said, asking not to be named.

Modi's campaign started with a message of econom-

ic development, then, as the race began to tighten, his party shifted to appealing to caste and religious alliances. The slaughter of cows, an animal revered by the majority Hindu population, became a major topic. Members of Modi's party also expressed concern about the rising Muslim population. Jyotiraditya Scindia, a leader of the opposition Congress party, said the BJP must end campaigning on issues that fracture the country along religious lines. "This is a decisive mandate against divisiveness in favour of development," he said.

Bihar is one of its biggest electoral prizes and the most pressing challenges of India prevail there, including widespread poverty, corruption and poor infrastructure. If independent, its 104 million people would be the world's 13th-largest nation, more populous than Germany. The loss will make it harder for Modi to secure backing for reforms in parliament's upper house where his party is in a minority and seat allocations are dependent on parties' strength in the states.

His government has struggled to pass laws, including the biggest overhaul of taxes since independence. "It raises the likelihood that the opposition will use this mandate to block important bills," said Milan Vaishnav of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. This may have been Modi's last chance to win a state election before the spring of 2017. He faces five elections next year in regions where his party has failed to make inroads. — Reuters

FROM PEARLS TO SKYSCRAPERS, QATAR'S...

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Tamim said he would reduce subsidies to some state-owned companies and wanted the private sector to play a bigger role. "I have been advocating a stronger push towards privatization for a long time. I believe that no country should be too reliant on the government only for income," Alfardan said in an interview for the Reuters Middle East Investment Summit.

Family

As a boy in the 1940s, Alfardan took boats out to the pearling grounds off Qatar's coast, watching his father buy from the divers. He recalls walking for hours because of a lack of motorized transport in Qatar, and using herbal remedies because of a shortage of hospitals. His business empire, now overseen largely by his sons Ali, Fahad and Omar, includes the luxury St. Regis Hotel, the 70-floor Kempinski Apartment Suites, which is Qatar's tallest building, and Commercial Bank of Qatar. Like most family groups in the Gulf, it does not reveal consolidated financial data.

Alfardan, wearing steel-rimmed glasses and a long white robe with a black-corded cotton headdress, indicated his group was now conservative about expansion. "I have been focusing efforts on what we currently have rather than expanding too much and then having to deal with the resulting complications, such as recruitment of new managers and numerous activities being overseen at the same time. I believe it's better to concentrate on the things you can run well."

Governments around the region are pressing companies to hire more local executives and staff rather than foreigners. This pressure may grow as low oil and gas prices increase the urgency of keeping non-oil income inside the country. Alfardan said he wanted to see all his companies run by Qataris one day, but that aside from his family, filling senior positions with locals had been difficult. Around a quarter of his staff are Qatari though at Commercial Bank of Qatar, whose chief executive is Qatari, the ratio is closer to a third.

Some other family groups in the region have declined in the past decade, hit by internal disputes or competitive pressures. Alfardan said he knew the risks but believed his diverse conglomerate could continue to thrive in the traditional manner. "Many family-run businesses start with a visionary and hard-working first generation, followed by a second generation that successfully sustains the momentum, and then unfortunately ending up with a complacent third generation who just let the business falter and eventually fail. I have carefully considered this common trend and have made extensive plans to avoid this from happening."

He dismissed solutions proposed by Western-educated management experts in the region, including going public: "Once you convert to a shareholding company, then you have to deal with the resulting pressures from shareholders and board meetings. Although I have brought in managers and experts from around the world to ensure operational excellence, my sons are the only ones I trust to carry my business forward as they are personally invested in its success." — Reuters

RESIGN OR FACE GRILLING, MP SALEH URGES OIL...

Continued from Page 1

In another development, MP Jamal Al-Omar asked the Finance Minister yesterday about ways to finance the budget deficit and if the ministry has stopped payments to the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the pension establishment because of shortage of available funds. The lawmaker asked if the government has decided on the methods to finance the deficit and the share of each source in the process. He also inquired about the funds available at the State Reserve Fund and how much will be used to finance the deficit. Finance

Minister Anas Al-Saleh has said that the ministry was contemplating issuing bonds to raise the funds needed for the budget deficit.

Also, the Court of Cassation yesterday confirmed a three-year jail term against Islamist activist Mubarak Al-Bathali for anti-national unity remarks he made on his Twitter account. The court also fined him KD 10,000. The ruling is final and must be implemented.

In the meantime, MP Abdulhameed Dashti said yesterday that the parliamentary committee investigating the situation at Kuwait investment offices abroad needs three more months to complete its report.

DUBAI AIRSHOW 2015 KICKS OFF

Continued from Page 1

"About 80 percent of the world population lives within an eight-hour flight" from the Gulf region, said Randy Tinseth, vice president for marketing at Boeing Commercial Airplanes. The Gulf carriers have established their home airports as major hubs for transcontinental travel, drawing accusations from European and American carriers of subsidies giving them an unfair competitive advantage.

Embraer, which specializes in making planes that

seat up to 130 passengers, forecast the Middle East to demand delivery of 220 new jets in the 70 to 130-seat segment through 2034, valued at \$10 billion at list prices. Although most of the region's double-digit growth over the past decade came from long-haul flights, "the regional segment has significant importance to the region, feeding the hubs and accessing smaller markets," it said. So far, "in 2015, 41 percent of the intra-Middle East flights departed with less than 120 passengers," it said, adding that these markets cannot be "efficiently served by bigger jets." — AFP

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MAFIA CAPITALE: GANG THAT PREYED ON ROME IN THE DOCK

By Angus Mackinnon

The alleged ringleaders of a mafia gang whose criminal tentacles reached into almost every department of Rome's City Hall went on trial Thursday on a landmark day for Italy's battle against organized crime. Massimo Carminati, a convicted gangster with a history of involvement with violent far-right groups, and 45 others are accused of operating a mafia-style network that used extortion, fraud and theft to divert millions of euros destined for public services into their own pockets.

Carminati and his alleged right-hand man Salvatore Buzzi, a convicted murderer, followed Thursday's opening session in Rome's criminal court by video link from their prison cells, their presence in court having been deemed a security risk. Subsequent hearings in a trial scheduled to run until next summer will be held in the Rebibbia prison on the outskirts of the capital. Prosecutors say the racketeering in Rome went on for years, helped to bring the city to the brink of financial collapse and contributed to the current sorry state of its infrastructure and many of its public services.

'Trial by Media'

Among those on trial are local politicians, businessmen and officials. All are implicated in rigging tenders and other corrupt schemes designed to siphon off cash destined for everything from garbage recycling to the reception of newly arrived refugees. Hundreds more, including former mayor Gianni Alemanno, have been investigated in a case dubbed "Mafia Capitale" by prosecutors. The scale and nature of the case make it the most significant anti-corruption operation in Italy since the "clean hands" campaign of the early 1990s led to half the country's lawmakers being indicted for taking bribes. Much of the case is expected to be taken up with debate over whether the accused individuals can be said to have constituted a mafia-type organisation as defined by legislation designed to combat more traditional crime syndicates such as Sicily's Cosa Nostra, the Neapolitan Camorra

and Calabria's 'Ndrangheta.

If the prosecution can prove that they did, Carminati, 57, and Buzzi, 59, will face much tougher sentences than they would if found guilty simply of corruption. Carminati's lawyer, Giosue Naso, said the prosecution had no proof of a mafia conspiracy and that his client would rebuff the charges. "He wants to clarify a load of things and believe me, he will do it," Naso told reporters. "In this whole story the thing that bothers him most is his name being linked to 'mafia' and to drugs. He has absolutely nothing to do with the mafia and drugs disgust him. "And let's not mention the supposed arms cache that has never been found. This is a media trial, purely for the consumption of journalists."

Middle World

For many non-Italian observers, the

most eye-opening aspect of the case is that Carminati and Buzzi were ever able to get anywhere near public money given their backgrounds. Carminati was given a 10-year prison term in 1998 for membership of the Banda della Magliana, a criminal crew which ruled Rome's underworld in the 1970s and 1980s and, prosecutors say, has reinvented itself in the form of Mafia Capitale.

Carminati is also a former member of the Nuclei Armati Rivoluzionari (Armed Revolutionary Nuclei), a far-right group that was involved in the 1980 bombing of Bologna railway station which left 85 people dead. He lost his left eye in a 1981 shoot-out with police. Buzzi, a native of the Magliana suburb of Rome which gave birth to the notorious gang, was convicted in 1983 of murdering an accomplice in a cheque-stealing scam who confessed to police. The brutal

killing-the victim was stabbed 34 times—resulted in Buzzi receiving a 30-year prison sentence. But he served only six behind bars after using his jail time to pursue his education and earn a reputation as a reformed character.

Much of the prosecution evidence is based on wiretaps obtained after judges accepted the prosecutors were dealing with a genuine mafia structure. In one recording, Buzzi is heard boasting that skimming cash intended to feed and accommodate asylum-seekers from Africa and the Middle East is more lucrative than drug dealing. In another, Carminati seems to describe himself and his associates as the link between the underworld and regular society. "There are the living up above and the dead down below, we are in between, in this middle world where everyone meets," he is heard to say. —AFP



ROME: Guards stand at the entrance of Rome's criminal court on the opening day of the Mafia Capitale trial, a case related to the alleged infiltration of City Hall by a mafia network. —AFP

IN MYANMAR, A FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY TINGED WITH DOUBT

By Andrew RC Marshall

As polls closed on Myanmar's historic election day, diplomats and other observers said the vote was largely free and fair, with no reports so far of violence or major fraud, just a solid turnout from a lively and informed electorate. "From the dozens of people we have spoken to since 6 am today, everybody feels they have been able to vote for whoever they wanted to in security and safety," said Durudee Sirichanya, an international observer with the ASEAN Secretariat.

Factory manager Shein Win and his wife, Khin Myat Maw, arrived holding hands to cast their votes in Yangon in Myanmar's first credible general election in 25 years. Both now 46, they took part in a 1988 democracy protest that brought Aung San Suu Kyi to prominence. "We've been waiting for this day for a long time," said Khin Myat Maw as they stood in line. There were cheers from crowds of well-wishers, who held up ink-stained fingers to show they had voted, as Suu Kyi made a whistle-stop tour of polling booths in her constituency near Myanmar's commercial capital.

Roughly 30 million people were eligible to vote on Sunday, many expressing joy at the milestone their country had reached after nearly half a century of dicta-

torship, and a sense of duty to be part of it. One man who works as an accountant in Singapore said he had flown home just to vote and would head back the next day. In a downtown neighborhood of Myanmar's northern city of Mandalay, Myint Myint, 95, was perched on a plastic chair carried by three men along a dirt path and past a snaking line of voters to the local polling station. "A vote is a vote," her granddaughter, Phyo Kyaw explained. "Come on, this is our responsibility."

Fear and anger

But there was anxiety, too, as many voters recalled the election of 1990, when a landslide victory for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party was brushed aside by military rulers. Khin May Oo, a 73-year-old doctor who voted in Yangon, said the election may have brought Myanmar to a turning point, but added nervously of the generals who retain significant power: "I'm not sure whether they will accept the election results." The military's commander-in-chief told reporters on Sunday the outcome of the vote would be respected, even if - as is widely expected - Suu Kyi's NLD emerges as the winner.

Indeed, at a military base in the capital, Naypyitaw, Captain Wai Yan Aung said when his duty shift ended he would change from his uniform into traditional

dress and cast his vote. "It's a big and exciting day for our country," he said. Dampening the celebration was the cancellation of voting in areas of the country affected by ethnic violence, which activists estimate has cut some 4 million people out of the electoral process. In Mandalay, about 100 people were stopped from voting after election officials discovered they were outsiders who had been added to the voter list by a third party and then bussed in to vote. "It was an attempt at fraud, that's why we didn't let them vote," said Hla Soe of the Union Election Commission.

There was also indignation about voter lists riddled with errors. Linn Htet Aung, 25, who works for an environment NGO in Yangon, said he was excited about the potential for change in the country but disappointed because his name was omitted from the voter list in a slum area on the outskirts of the city. "I am angry," he said. "All my friends are voting today but I can't. I want to choose the government I like but I can't." Aung Than Htun, an NLD official monitoring a polling station in the slum, said he had discovered dead people on the voting list. But other than that "it seems fine," he said. Behind him, small white voting slips sat in piles on a table, with rocks and pebbles serving as paperweights. A sudden gust of wind blew a handful off the table and election officials had to scurry to collect them. —Reuters

Focus

UK TO LAY CARDS ON THE TABLE OVER EU REFERENDUM

By Jacques Klopp

After months without a breakthrough, David Cameron will finally give more details tomorrow of what reforms he wants for Britain to stay in the European Union before a looming referendum. Nearly three years after promising a vote before the end of 2017, the British prime minister will deliver his shopping list in a letter to EU president Donald Tusk, which is expected to be made public. The letter comes ahead of a crunch European summit in Brussels next month and amid hopes that the British referendum on whether to remain an EU member state can be held next year.

Cameron will warn in a speech tomorrow that if Britain's concerns are met with a "deaf ear," he will have to "think again about whether this European Union is right for us." "I rule nothing out," he will add, according to pre-released extracts. His Europe Minister David Lidington told journalists last week not to expect too much new detail in the letter, adding it would be "ambitious" to hope for a deal at December's summit.

"My advice to the prime minister has always been don't publish a detailed negotiating position," he said. He also highlighted that there would have to be four months between any deal being agreed and the vote being held.

'Wants to appease eurosceptics'

Gabriel Siles-Brugge, a politics lecturer at Manchester University, said Cameron had always been "a bit vague" in his demands because he is carrying out "a difficult balancing act". "He wants to appease eurosceptics in his own party while avoiding Brexit (British exit from the EU). But he is of course now being pushed by EU leaders to concretise his proposals," he said.

"That may lead to the former being disappointed because the proposals aren't intended to push Britain towards Brexit but rather to allow him to proclaim a symbolic victory over Brussels." John Springford of the Centre For European Reform highlighted that Cameron first promised a referendum in 2013, when the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) was surging and his position looked shaky. His Conservatives subsequently won a House of Commons majority in elections this year while UKIP managed to win just one seat. "The strategy was a political one," he added. "I really don't think Cameron went into that speech with a clear view of what reform he even wanted from the EU."

Four key areas

In recent weeks, European partners have put increasing pressure on Cameron to lay out in more detail what kind of reforms he wants. British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on Sunday told the BBC that some of the reforms "will require changes to the body of law, to the treaties and secondary legislation," although the prime minister has accepted that this is highly unlikely before the referendum is held. Cameron has long identified four broad areas where he wants to see reforms improving competitiveness, greater "fairness" between euro-zone and non-euro-zone nations, sovereignty issues including an exemption from the aspiration of ever-closer union and making it harder for migrants to claim benefits.

When Cameron's de facto deputy and possible successor, finance minister George Osborne, gave a speech in Berlin last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel conceded that Britain had "justified concerns" and stressed she wanted to help prevent a Brexit. Experts say there is room for compromise in all areas except migration, where Cameron wants to stop EU migrants, including those in work, from claiming certain state benefits for four years after arriving in Britain. "In the UK, this is one of the key issues if not the key issue as far as the public is concerned," said Stephen Booth, co-director of think-tank Open Europe.

This will be particularly tough to achieve agreement on because of non-discrimination principles in EU legislation. A failure by Cameron, who has said he will step down as prime minister by 2020, to achieve what he wants over benefits would be particularly damaging to him and his centre-right Conservative party. Hammond warned that a Brexit was a real threat if Britons believed they were being "fobbed off with a set of cosmetic alterations." "This is about fundamental change. If we can't do that, then we can't win a referendum," he said. —AFP

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SHANGHAI: Russell Knox of Scotland poses with his trophy after winning the WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament in Shanghai. — AFP

KNOX SPRINGS SHANGHAI SURPRISE FOR MAIDEN WGC WIN

SHANGHAI: Russell Knox fired a final round four-under-par 68 to win the WGC-HSBC Champions event on his World Golf Championships debut yesterday, the Scot finishing two shots clear of Kevin Kisner at the Sheshan International Golf Club.

The only player not to complete his third round in fading light on Saturday, Knox returned to the course early on Sunday and birdied the par-five 18th to join American Kisner at the top of the leaderboard after 54 holes.

The 30-year-old then used some supreme wedge play to offset two bogeys with six birdies on his way to a 20-under 268 total to become the first Scot to win a WGC event and also the first debutant to claim victory since Jeff Maggert in 1999.

"China is now my favourite place in the world," Knox said after recording his maiden U.S. PGA and European Tour triumph. "I can't wait to come back here. For me, this now my favourite golf course and I'm over the moon."

"It sounds unbelievable. I always kind of thought I was going to win a big one, for some reason, as my first one. I have been close a few times before but yes, it's going to take a long time to sink in," added the

Florida-based Scot. Kisner again fell agonisingly short of claiming a first PGA Tour victory after signing off with a 70 to register his fourth runner-up finish of the year, the other three all coming in playoffs.

Danny Willett finished with the best round of the week, firing 10 birdies in his splendid 62 to join fellow Briton Ross Fisher (68) in a tie for third on 17-under and maintain his pursuit of Rory McIlroy in the European Tour Race to Dubai.

"It's special shooting 62 at home with the lads, it's always nice, but in a World Golf Championships on a Sunday when it means something a bit more, obviously it's that little bit more special," the 28-year-old said.

World number three McIlroy, who struggled with food poisoning at the start of the week, ended his tournament with a 30-foot birdie putt on the 18th for a 66 as the Northern Irishman finished just outside the top 10 on 14-under.

Jordan Spieth, who sizzled with a 63 on Saturday, carded a disappointing 70 to tie for seventh on 15-under but the American will have the consolation of leapfrogging absent Australian Jason Day at the top of the world rankings today. —Reuters

TARIQ AL QALLAF BAGS 3 GOLD IN US FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is proud to announce today that Tariq Al Qallaf, Kuwait's Wheelchair Fencing Champion, won three gold medals along with the title of 'Best Fencing Champion' during his participation in the US Fencing Championship for the Disabled. Burgan Bank is pleased to have sponsored the champion in this competition as part of its social responsibility strategy and will continue helping local athletes reach greater heights.

Al Qallaf, Kuwait's world champion wheelchair fencer, participated in more

than 70 international tournaments during his tremendous 30 years long career, bagging 29 gold medals. His significant talent and impressive determination were key factors behind Burgan Bank's sponsorship. Burgan bank seizes this delightful opportunity to renew its commitment towards improving the lifestyle of Kuwaiti talented youth by sponsoring their sportive path.

The USA Fencing Championship took place from 9 - 12 October, 2015 and will continue at Louis, Missouri from 8 - 11 January, 2016.



Hessa Al-Najadah - Burgan Bank's Senior Public Relation Officer honoring Tareq Al-Qallaf for winning 3 golden medals.

ENISEI MAKE HISTORY WITH EUROPEAN DEBUT

KRASNOYARSK: Rugby union will break new ground in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk this weekend when local team Enisei-STM become the first Russian club to play in the group stages of a European competition.

Enisei will host Irish side Connacht in the continent's second-tier Challenge Cup on November 14, some 6,000 kilometres (3,700 miles) east of Ireland, after overcoming the odds to get among the big boys of Europe's club game.

As the harsh Siberian winter sets in, Enisei will then switch their next two home group games against French club Brive and English side Newcastle Falcons to the considerably warmer climes of the resort city of Sochi, far to the west on Russia's Black Sea coast.

"It's the life-long dream of any rugby player to try his skills at the top level against the European elite," club captain Yury Baranov told AFP.

"To win a place in the Challenge Cup is already a great achievement for our team but now we all want to be competitive and not just whipping boys."

Banned under Stalin

Despite first coming to Russia in the 1880s with foreign workers building the trans-Siberian railway, rugby has struggled to take off in the vast country after a sometimes testy relationship with the authorities.

The sport was briefly banned under Communist dictator Joseph Stalin due to being "cosmopolitan" and despite the launch of a

national championship in 1966, the game is still a rarity even after an uptick of interest in recent years. Even in Krasnoyarsk-considered the centre of rugby in Siberia-the club admits that it may struggle to fill its 25,000-seater stadium for its European debut.

"I don't expect that the match will be sold out but people living in Krasnoyarsk are showing serious interest in the first ever European cup encounter in our city," said stadium manager Sergei Venevtsev.

But while the away side may not have to contend with the fiercest of home support, the Irish outfit will have to face the notorious Siberian weather. "The weather forecasters have promised the temperature will be around minus two degree Celsius by mid-November," Venevtsev said. "That's mild for Siberia."

Connacht team manager Tim Allnutt said the logistics of the trip were testing, not least two flights for a total 10 hours of airtime to play at a venue with a seven-hour time difference.

"It is a very severe trip and the time factor is going to be one of the issues," said Allnutt, quoted by the Irish Times. "They're definitely going to be different conditions than we are used to."

"We'll have thermals under our shirts but not on the legs. Just normal shorts. The unknown elements are the mileage and the time difference. We really we don't know what to expect."

As for the club, present day Enisei started off life in the mid-1970s as the team of a hulking local factory churning out heavy machinery for the vast Soviet empire.

After years playing in the lower leagues of

Soviet rugby, the team won promotion to the top division in 1989 just as the USSR was coming apart at the seams.

Since then the club, which was renamed as Enisei-STM in 2000, have won six Russian titles, four national cups and two Russian Super Cups.

Hopes for the future

But while they have racked up their fair share of domestic glory, the club is now facing a different proposition by taking on some of Europe's finest and they admit it will be tough.

"Enisei have proved that Russian rugby is able to compete on a European level but we do not set any grandiose goals for our first ever European Cup campaign," manager Alexander Pervukhin said.

"In any case, the experience of playing against Europe's top teams in official matches will be precious for Enisei players."

While Enisei's participation may be important for the club, Russian rugby chiefs are hoping the club's move up to the next level may help to spur interest in the game in the country, which is looking to bid to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

"It's a great success for the all of rugby in the country," Russia's rugby federation boss Vyacheslav Kopeiev said after Enisei-STM made it into the Challenge Cup group stages.

"We are set to join the race for the right to stage 2023 Rugby World Cup in Russia. Hopefully, the Challenge Cup matches in Russia will boost the interest for the game in our country." —AFP



HONG KONG: Japan rugby team celebrates after Japan qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics by winning the final match of Asia Rugby Sevens against Hong Kong in Hong Kong. —AP

JAPAN BEAT HONG KONG AT ASIA RUGBY SEVENS

HONG KONG: Japan booked Asia's berth at the 2016 Rio Olympics rugby sevens competition defeating arch-rivals Hong Kong 24-10 in a gripping final at the Asia Rugby Sevens qualifying tournament yesterday.

Japan trailed Hong Kong 10-0 at halftime but came back strongly, scoring four unanswered tries from Teruya Goto, Lomano Lemeki, Kazuhiro Goya and Katsuyuki Sakai to complete a remarkable turnaround.

The victory caps a superb year for Japanese rugby with the country still on a high after the Brave Blossoms' stellar performance at the World Cup that included a stunning win over the Springboks.

Japan's women's team also took a giant step toward Rio, winning the first leg of the two-legged women's qualifying competition against Kazakhstan by a 22-margin. The second leg will be played later this month in Tokyo.

Hong Kong, spurred on by their home fans, began superbly with winger Alex McQueen and skipper Max Woodward grabbing a try apiece to give the hosts an unexpected 10-0 lead at halftime.

Japan who had entered the final in the 10-team men's competition having scored 228 points without conceding a try looked edgy in the first half but they bounced back strongly with Hong Kong wilting under the pressure.

Errors started to creep into Hong Kong's game and Japan started to rule at the breakdown as they lifted the tempo and pace of the game resulting in space opening up for the pacy Japanese wingers.

Goto was the first to benefit, powerfully handing off Rowan Varty to touch down by the left corner flag though Sakai failed to slot through the conversion.

Lemeki who had missed Japan's winning campaign at the Asia Rugby Sevens Series added a second quickly when he sliced through from a quickly taken tap penalty from 10 metres out to score under the posts. Sakai converted this time to give Japan the lead for

the first time in the match.

Japan, who had knocked out Sri Lanka 43-0 in a one-sided semifinal, added a third with four minutes left on the clock with Goya receiving a superb pass from Lote Tuqiri.

Sakai delivered the final blow when Hong Kong's Chris Maize knocked on at a ruck resulting in the playmaker collecting the loose ball and darting 20 metres to score under the posts.

Hong Kong, which defeated South Korea 19-10 in the other semifinal, will still have a slim chance of making it to Rio as they qualify to play in the 16-team world repechage by virtue of finishing runners-up.

Japan are tipped to make it a double with the women also poised to win Asia's solitary berth. Two tries either side of halftime by flying winger Marie Yamaguchi helped Japan overcome Kazakhstan.

A superb defensive performance from Japan paved the way for victory as Kazakhstan was hampered by twice being reduced to six players.

Japan capitalized by scoring two of its four tries with the numerical advantage. Also scoring for Japan in the final was Chiharu Nakamura and Mifuyu Koide. Hong Kong's women's team finished third, defeating China 12-7 in the third place playoff. —AP

INDIA'S KUMAR WINS PANASONIC OPEN

NEW DELHI: India's Chiragh Kumar emerged victorious at the Panasonic Open India yesterday after firing a two-under par 70 in the final round, clinching his first Asian Tour title.

Kumar, 31, hit three birdies against a lone bogey to end the tournament with a four-day aggregate of 13-under 275, three shots ahead of Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant and Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman.

Namchok Tantipokhakul of Thailand and India's Jyoti Randhawa led the charge on the final day, firing rounds of 66 and 67 to finish joint fourth with Sri Lanka's Mithun Perera and Shubhankar Sharma at the Delhi Golf Club.

"Winning an Asian Tour event means a lot to me," Kumar said. "It is like a dream come true. This is the best thing that can happen to me. Everybody knows me at this club so it is very special to win." Kumar, who secured his Asian Tour card after finishing tied second at the Venetian Macao Open three weeks ago,

parred the first four holes before a bogey on the fifth.

But he made amends with a birdie at the eighth hole to make the turn at even par. On his way back, the Delhi golfer picked up a couple of strokes on the 11th and 13th holes to hold on to his overnight lead.

Leading scores (par-72):

- 275 - Chiragh Kumar (IND) 67-66-72-70.
- 278 - Thaworn Wiratchant (THA) 68-72-69-69.
- Siddikur Rahman (BAN) 68-70-68-72
- 279 - Namchok Tantipokhakul (THA) 71-71-71-66.
- Jyoti Randhawa (IND) 69-72-71-67.
- Shubhankar Sharma (IND) 70-73-67-69.
- Mithun Perera (SRI) 66-70-73-70
- 280 - Manav Jaini (IND) 72-71-69-68.
- Shankar Das (IND) 69-71-71-69.
- Vikrant Chopra (IND) 71-68-71-70.
- 281 - Rashid Khan (IND) 71-71-69-70. —AFP

COE 'SHOCKED AND ANGRY' AT IAAF DOPING BRIBERY SCANDAL

PARIS: IAAF president Sebastian Coe yesterday expressed his "shock, anger and sadness" at allegations of high-level bribery to cover up doping in track and field. "I'm shocked, angry and largely saddened," Coe told AFP, adding that the allegations that surfaced on Monday had come as a complete surprise. "The allegations that we woke up to around the potential for extortion and blackmail came out of the blue and the vast majority in the sport probably share exactly the same emotions I've just expressed. It's shock, anger and sadness."

Lamine Diack, from whom Coe took over the mantle of IAAF president in August, was on Wednesday charged by French police with corruption over suspicions he took bribes worth more than one million euros (\$1.09 million) to cover up doping cases involving Russian athletes. The IAAF have also opened disciplinary proceedings against one of

Diack's sons and three others including their own former treasurer and ex-doping chief. Asked whether he had been in touch with Lamine Diack, the 82-year-old Senegalese who he had praised as the "spiritual leader" of the IAAF when he won the election to succeed him, Coe replied: "No."

Coe added: "I'm determined more than ever that we will drive the review that I started the day after I became elected. Through the IAAF, we will drive those and accelerate them even harder."

"The allegations that we were confronted with on Monday, we had no feel for," Coe, a two-time Olympic 1500 metres gold medallist for Britain, insisted that the IAAF's anti-doping strategy was not completely flawed. "Our sport was the pioneering partner in the blood passport," he said. "It was introduced in 2009 and the very first sanction was in place in 2011. "Since then, through the

use of the blood passport there have been 85 sanctions in the whole of sport and 69 of them have come from athletics. That's more than any other sport and more than every other sport put together and interestingly more than through any national anti-doping agency. So no, we're not complacent."

Game-changer

"The best way to cover up an anti-doping case is not to test the athletes." But according to a report due to be published today, the scale of doping corruption and money laundering within athletics dwarfs the financial scandals engulfing FIFA, world football's scandal-tainted governing body. An independent commission set up by WADA is due to publish its findings in Geneva on Monday, with report co-author Richard McLaren telling BBC it would be a "real game-changer for sport."

"You potentially have a bunch of old men who put a whole lot of extra money in their pockets-through extortion and bribes - but also caused significant changes to actual results and final standings of international athletics competitions." The report is expected to be critical of both the IAAF and Russian athletics officials.

Coe, who has not seen the report, told AFP he had no interest in comparing the IAAF's woes to those of FIFA. "I'm not benchmarking the current situation we're in with any other sport or any other organisation," the former British conservative politician said. "My responsibility is very clear and it's a responsibility that I have on behalf of the sport and that is to rebuild trust-and that in itself is going to be a long road and we shouldn't kid ourselves-and it is to create an organisation that is accountable, responsible and responsive. "This is not going to be an

easy road and the journey is not going to be short, but I'm determined that we will get there, we have to." Coe beat off pole vault legend Sergey Bubka to take over from Diack on the back of a strong anti-doping stance, including the establishment of an independent anti-doping agency.

"It will go ahead and sit within an internal integrity unit, not just looking at and dealing with anti-doping issues but other issues of integrity," Coe said. "But the main thing that will come from that are the hearings. We will set up an independent tribunal so that the hearings will not be within the control of member federations. "I will be taking to the IAAF Council meeting in Monaco in November a raft of reforms and changes and I expect to get them through. "That work started the day after I got elected. It has been accelerated since the allegations that emerged on Monday." —AFP

HARDEN TOPS 40 AGAIN AS ROCKETS WIN AT CLIPPERS

LOS ANGELES: Guard James Harden scored a season-best 46 points to spark the Houston Rockets to a 109-105 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers at the Staples Center. Center Dwight Howard finished with 20 points and 20 rebounds for the Rockets (4-3), who posted their fourth consecutive win. Forward Marcus Thornton chipped in 16 points. Forward Blake Griffin had 35 points, 11 rebounds and five assists to lead Los Angeles (4-2), which lost its second straight game and played without point guard Chris Paul (sore right groin).

Warriors 103, Kings 94

Golden State survived a dreadful shooting night at Sleep Train Arena to beat Sacramento and remain the NBA's lone unbeaten team. Stephen Curry scored 24 points and Klay Thompson added 18, nailing a key three-pointer to cap off a decisive 16-5 run by the Warriors. Andre Iguodala scored 14 points, Harrison Barnes added 13 and Festus Ezeli had 10 points and 12 rebounds for Golden State.

Bucks 94, Nets 86

Greg Monroe scored 20 points and Jerryd Bayless added 19 off the bench as Milwaukee extended its winning streak to four games with a victory over Brooklyn at the BMO Harris Bradley Center. Monroe hit 8-of-16 shots and was 4-for-5 from the free-throw line but failed to record a double-double for the first time this season, finishing with eight rebounds.

Bayless scored 14 of his points in the second half, as the Bucks broke a 55-55 halftime tie with a 23-point third quarter and took a 78-72 lead into the fourth.

Mavericks 107, Pelicans 98

Despite the season being less than two weeks old, both Dallas and New Orleans took the floor with a sense of desperation. The Mavericks avoided a winless opening homestand by pulling away in the final period to top the injury-ravaged Pelicans at American Airlines Center.

Timberwolves 102, Bulls 93 (OT)

Guard Andrew Wiggins scored 31 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves outlasted the Chicago Bulls for a 102-93 overtime

win. Rookie center Karl-Anthony Towns scored 17 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to post his third double-double in five games. Forward Nemanja Bjelica added 17 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for Minnesota.

Magic 105, 76ers 97

Guard Elfrid Payton scored 12 of his season-high 20 points in the final 7:45 as the Orlando Magic held off the Philadelphia 76ers. Payton led seven players in double figures for Orlando, with forward Evan Fournier scoring 17, Victor Oladipo (15), Dewayne Dedmon (12) and guard Mario Hezonja 11.

Hawks 114, Wizards 99

Forward Kent Bazemore had a career-high 25 points and the Hawks pulled away with a finishing kick after a cold shooting start for a 114-99 victory over the turnover-plagued Washington Wizards. Forward Paul Millsap added 21 points as the Hawks forced 25 turnovers.

Spurs 114, Hornets 94

Small forward Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points as the San Antonio went berserk offensively in the third quarter of a 114-94 win over the Charlotte Hornets. The Spurs shot 55.6 percent for the game, but it was not until their 42-point explosion in the third quarter that they took control. Guard Manu Ginobili knocked down three three-pointers and point guard Patty Mills added another one in the middle of a 24-2 run late in the third that turned a six-point deficit into an 89-73 advantage.

Jazz 89, Grizzlies 79

Guard Trey Burke led all scorers with 24 points and sizzled with six three-pointers while the Utah Jazz defense stifled the struggling Memphis Grizzlies in a 89-79 victory. Forward Gordon Hayward had another solid outing after a slow start to the season, scoring 18 points on 6-of-10 shooting while Derrick Favors contributed 12 points and 16 rebounds. Guard Mike Conley led the Grizzlies with 20 points while center Marc Gasol, who has been dealing with a neck strain, totaled 13 points and 10 rebounds. — Reuters

NBA Results/Standings

Minnesota 102, Chicago 93 (OT); Orlando 105, Philadelphia 97; Atlanta 114, Washington 99; Dallas 107, New Orleans 98; Milwaukee 94, Brooklyn 86; San Antonio 114, Charlotte 94; Utah 89, Memphis 79; Golden State 103, Sacramento 94.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | PCT | GB |
|--------------|---|---|------|-----|
| Toronto | 5 | 1 | .833 | - |
| Boston | 2 | 3 | .400 | 2.5 |
| NY Knicks | 2 | 4 | .333 | 3 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 6 | 0 | 5 |
| Brooklyn | 0 | 7 | 0 | 5.5 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|------|-----|
| Cleveland | 5 | 1 | .833 | - |
| Detroit | 4 | 1 | .800 | 0.5 |
| Chicago | 4 | 3 | .571 | 1.5 |
| Milwaukee | 4 | 3 | .571 | 1.5 |
| Indiana | 3 | 3 | .500 | 2 |

Southeast Division

| | | | | |
|------------|---|---|------|-----|
| Atlanta | 7 | 1 | .875 | - |
| Miami | 3 | 3 | .500 | 3 |
| Washington | 3 | 3 | .500 | 3 |
| Orlando | 3 | 4 | .429 | 3.5 |
| Charlotte | 2 | 4 | .333 | 4 |

Western Conference

Northwest Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|------|-----|
| Portland | 4 | 2 | .667 | - |
| Utah | 4 | 2 | .667 | - |
| Minnesota | 3 | 2 | .600 | 0.5 |
| Oklahoma City | 3 | 3 | .500 | 1 |
| Denver | 2 | 4 | .333 | 2 |

Pacific Division

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|-------|-----|
| Golden State | 7 | 0 | 1.000 | - |
| LA Clippers | 4 | 2 | .667 | 2.5 |
| Phoenix | 3 | 3 | .500 | 3.5 |
| LA Lakers | 1 | 4 | .200 | 5 |
| Sacramento | 1 | 6 | .143 | 6 |

Southwest Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|------|-----|
| San Antonio | 4 | 2 | .667 | - |
| Houston | 4 | 3 | .571 | 0.5 |
| Dallas | 3 | 3 | .500 | 1 |
| Memphis | 3 | 4 | .429 | 1.5 |
| New Orleans | 0 | 6 | 0 | 4 |



SHOOTERS ATTAPON, JONGHYUN QUALIFY FOR RIO DE JANEIRO 2016 OLYMPICS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Thailand and Korea claimed gold medals that were distributed Saturday with competitions of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship being held at Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

The results are as follows: Results of the fifth day of the 13th Asian Championship are as follows:

50 Meter Rifle Prone Men - Individuals

1. Attapon Ver Aree - Thailand
2. Jinseop Han - S.Korea
3. Jonghyun Kim - S.Korea

50 Meter Rifle Prone Men - Teams

1. S. Korea
2. China
3. Kazakhstan

Shooter Attapon Ver Aree from Thailand and Jonghyun Kim from S Korea received qualifying seats for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics.

Meanwhile, Chinese shooter Yang said he was happy with his achievements so far and dedicated his medals to his country. He said victories are the result of good preparations for a long time, adding that "we are doing well despite the heated competition with India, though we still have the chance to win the championship as a large number of shooters who are highly qualified are yet to compete. Yang lauded the support shooters are receiving from Kuwait Shooting Federation and the Organizing Committee which had dedicated teams to facilitate things and remove obstacles away from the shooters making delegations concentrate on the competition only. Meanwhile, President of the Lebanese Shooting Federation Butrous Jalakh said the International Shooting Sport Federation did not follow the sports principles when it took its decision to consider the championship not qualifying for the Olympics. He said that there is a Lebanese shooter Rames Asmar who went to Lebanon from Australia to compete and be able to reach the Asian Championship, and then he came to Kuwait from Australia to fulfill his dream of reaching the Olympics, and now after this unfair decision, what am I to tell him after all the sacrifice he made? I wish the ISSF can answer.



PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy after winning the final tennis match against Britain's Andy Murray at the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 indoor tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

DJOKOVIC THE MASTER AS MURRAY WILTS IN PARIS

PARIS: Novak Djokovic won his sixth Masters title of the year yesterday when he defeated Andy Murray 6-2, 6-4 in Paris to put the finishing touches on one of the greatest years in tennis history. The top seed won the series-closing title for an unprecedented third straight year and a fourth time in all as he dominated the Scottish second seed from start to finish in 1hr 32mins.

The win brought Djokovic's final regular season win-loss record to a stunning 78-5 and took his unbeaten run, stretching back to August 23, to 22 matches. He will now go on to the World Tour Finals in London having won three out of four Grand Slam titles and six out of nine Masters 1000 series titles in 2015.

"It was a tough match today and I wish Andy all the best for the rest of the season both in London and the Davis Cup final. I know you want to do well, Djokovic said.

In what was the first Paris Masters final since 1990 featuring the top two seeds, Djokovic stamped his authority on the match from the start. He won eight straight points from the end of the first game to move clear and pile the pressure on Murray, who had lost nine out of the last 10 matches between the two.

The Scot looked increasingly tight and edgy, electing to play a series of drop shots to avoid a baseline battle with Djokovic which he was so far losing comprehensively.

Another dropped serve by Murray in the seventh game saw the Serb then pocket the set 6-2 in 42 minutes. When a rampant Djokovic broke again in the third game of the second set it looked all over, but out of the blue Murray broke to love to revive his hopes. Playing for the first time in the Paris final, the Scot moved 3-2 up and had pressure on Djokovic's next serve.

But as he has done all year, the Serb dug deep to level and then break again in the following game as Murray faltered. Two games later it was all over, Murray stabbing a backhand wide as Djokovic raised his arms in triumph over what he had achieved. At just 28, it was his 26th Masters Series title, just one shy of Rafael Nadal in first place.

"It's been a great year for him again. He fully deserves the number one spot, hopefully I can get a little bit closer next year," Murray said. "It's been a great week for me, the first time past the quarter-finals here. It's progress and I'll try next year to go one better."

Murray made it clear before Paris that his priority for the year was the Davis Cup final against Belgium in Ghent in late November when he will try to win the trophy for Britain for the first time since 1936. —AFP

KENT BECOMES FIRST BRITISH GP CHAMPION SINCE SHEENE

LONDON: Danny Kent won the Moto3 title yesterday to become Britain's first motorcycle grand prix world champion since the late Barry Sheene in 1977.

The 21-year-old, who had needed to finish 14th in the Valencia finale to be sure of the title but started only 18th, crossed the line in ninth place with championship rival Miguel Oliveira of Portugal winning.

The result meant Kent, who was led home by Japanese team mate Hiroki Ono after playing it safe throughout the race, took the title by six points.

"It's an amazing feeling," said the Leopard Racing rider, who had looked like wrapping up the title with several races to spare but then struggled as Oliveira hit a remarkable run of form and his own performances dipped.

"The last four races we've gone into the race with it in the back of our mind that we could be world champion and the emotions were high. And finally after the fourth race we were able to do it," he told BT Sport television.

"I think I'll go and have a little cry and let all the emotions out." Sheene, who died in 2003, won his second and last 500cc world championship with

Suzuki 38 years ago. British riders have, however, won the World Superbike championship since then—notably four times champion Carl Fogarty between 1994 and 1999.

Kent won five races in the first half of the season and had been 70 points clear with six rounds to go before a series of setbacks took the title down to the wire.

The Briton and Oliveira, who will be team mates in Moto2 next season, ended up with six wins each for the season. Oliveira, who had to win to stay in the title reckoning, had a battle until the final corner when Nico Antonelli fell and took out Romano Fenati and Efrén Vazquez who had been challenging for the lead. — Reuters

BRISBANE WEATHER STALLS AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS

BRISBANE: Australia took a big step towards victory when they removed dangerman Kane Williamson just before tea on the fourth day of the first test against New Zealand yesterday but the Brisbane weather prevented any further progress.

Williamson's departure for 59 helped to reduce New Zealand to 142 for three at the break — 361 runs in arrears—but a rain storm wiped out the final session and ensured the match would go into a fifth day.

Ross Taylor, who has made 20 not out, and New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum (4) will resume on Monday looking to bat out the final day and save the test. Australia declared their second innings closed on 264-4 before the start of play on Sunday but home hopes of a quick win to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series fell foul of a combination of the weather and obdurate Black Caps batting.

New Zealand's victory target of 504 was always a highly improbable goal but anything looked possible while first-innings centurion Williamson remained at the crease.

The 25-year-old, who scored 140 in the first innings, looked to be heading comfortably for the break when Nathan Lyon took his second wicket to make what could be a crucial breakthrough.

Williamson attempted a pull shot but the spinner's delivery turned to hit his

thigh and the third umpire confirmed the lbw decision on review.

Lyon earlier broke a 54-run partnership between Williamson and Martin Guptill when the opener got a thick edge which skipper Steve Smith caught in the slips.

"I thought we bowled really well after lunch today, give New Zealand credit they made us work hard," Australia coach Darren Lehmann told Channel Nine.

"Couple of key wickets for Nathan Lyon there so not a bad day. We'd like to have a bit more cricket but you can't control the weather." Guptill's 23 came from 133 balls in 186 minutes and he had missed catches from Joe Burns and Lyon before lunch to thank for lasting that long.

The other opener, Tom Latham, was the first batsman to fall, making 29 from 71 balls before being trapped lbw by a Mitchell Starc yorker with 44 runs on the board.

The breakthrough came minutes before drizzle and bad light brought up an early and extended lunch break. Mitchell Johnson's first five overs were maidens and it was not until the final ball of his sixth that he finally conceded runs when Guptill clipped three off his pads through midwicket.

The hosts made 556 for four declared in their first innings before dismissing New Zealand for 317 on day three at the Gabba. — Reuters



ST PAUL: Tampa Bay Lightning center Cedric Paquette, left, checks Minnesota Wild center Ryan Carter (18) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in St. Paul, Minn., Saturday. — AP

CANADIENS SURGE CONTINUES WITH 4-2 WIN OVER BRUINS

LOS ANGELES: Center David Desharnais scored late in the third period to lift the Montreal Canadiens to a 4-2 come-from-behind win over the Boston Bruins. Goaltender Mike Condon stopped 29 shots for Montreal, while Jonas Gustavsson made 29 saves for the Bruins.

Center Tomas Plekanec and left wingers Lars Eller and Max Pacioretty also scored for the Canadiens. Left winger Loui Eriksson and center Frank Vatrano scored for Boston.

Wild 1, Lightning 0

Minnesota's Devan Dubnyk won a goaltending battle in a game in which a defenseman scored the lone goal as the Wild escaped with a 1-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning. Dubnyk made 30 saves to earn his 16th career shutout and second of the season while defenseman Jared Spurgeon's second-period goal stood up. Lightning goaltender Ben Bishop made 24 saves.

Sabres 3, Canucks 2

Defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen scored his second goal of the game with 16.8 seconds remaining to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 3-2 win over the Vancouver Canucks. Left winger Jamie McGinn also scored for the Sabres, who got 35 saves from goalie Linus Ullmark. Center Henrik Sedin and left winger Chris Higgins scored for the Canucks. Vancouver goalie Ryan Miller, playing in his first game in Buffalo against his former team, made 19 saves.

Kings 4, Panthers 1

Defenseman Drew Doughty and center Anze Kopitar scored goals less than a minute apart late in the second period as the Los Angeles Kings defeated the Florida Panthers. Center Jeff Carter and left winger Milan Lucic also scored for Los Angeles, while Jonathan Quick made 18 saves. Center Nick Bjugstad scored for the Panthers.

Flyers 3, Jets 0

Philadelphia goalie Michal Neuvirth posted his third shutout of the season as the Flyers beat

the Winnipeg Jets. Neuvirth blocked 27 shots as the Flyers halted a six-game losing streak. Flyers center Brayden Schenn fired a power play goal in the first period, before right winger Wayne Simmonds scored his second goal of the season at 9:44 of the third period. Right winger Matt Read scored his third goal of the season into an empty net with 1:35 remaining.

Capitals 3, Maple Leafs 2 (SO)

Nicklas Backstrom tied the score with less than one second left in regulation before Alex Ovechkin scored the only goal in the shootout as the Washington Capitals rallied to defeat the Toronto Maple Leafs. The first three players for each team missed their shots before Ovechkin took his time and shot past Toronto goalie James Reimer. Capitals goalie Braden Holtby then stopped center Nazem Kadri to seal the win. Backstrom forced overtime when he scored with eight-tenths of a second left in regulation off a

pass from right winger Justin Williams.

Hurricanes 3, Senators 2 (OT)

Jeff Skinner scored with 3.3 seconds left in regulation on Carolina's 43rd shot against Andrew Hammond before Jordan Staal won it in overtime. Hammond was under siege in the final 2-1/2 minutes of regulation with Cam Ward pulled for an extra attacker and then Staal scored his third goal of the season with 2:09 left in overtime. Alex Chiasson and Chris Wideman scored 4-1/2 minutes apart in the second period as the Senators took a 2-1 lead into the third period but could not hold it.

Blues 4, Predators 0

Colton Parayko and Alex Pietrangolo scored power-play goals and goaltender Jake Allen posted a shutout, leading the St. Louis Blues to a 4-0 win over the Nashville Predators. Allen made 46 saves for Nashville. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Australia 1st innings 556 for 4 decl (U. Khawaja 174, D. Warner 163, A. Voges 83no, J. Burns 71) | 63-0(nb-4); J. Neesham 9-0-61-0(w-1); M. Craig 14-0-78-3. |
| New Zealand 1st innings 317 (K. Williamson 140; M. Starc 4-57) | New Zealand 2nd innings (Target: 504 runs) |
| Australia 2nd innings (Overnight: 264-4) | T. Latham lbw b Starc 29 |
| J. Burns c Taylor b Craig 129 | M. Guptill c Smith b Lyon 23 |
| D. Warner c Boult b Craig 116 | K. Williamson lbw b Lyon 59 |
| U. Khawaja not out 9 | R. Taylor not out 20 |
| S. Smith c Williamson b Boult 1 | B. McCullum not out 4 |
| M. Marsh c B. McCullum b Craig 2 | Extras (b-3 lb-3 w-1) 7 |
| A. Voges not out 1 | Total (for 3 wickets, 53 overs) 142 |
| Extras (lb-1 nb-4 w-1) 6 | Fall of wickets: 1-44 T. Latham, 2-98 M. Guptill, 3-136 K. Williamson |
| Total (for 4 wickets declared, 42 overs) 264 | To bat: J. Neesham, B. Watling, M. Craig, D. Bracewell, T. Southee, T. Boult. |
| Fall of wickets: 1-237 D. Warner, 2-254 J. Burns, 3-258 S. Smith, 4-263 M. Marsh. | Bowling: M. Starc 13-4-24-1; M. Johnson 13-5-42-0(w-1); J. Hazlewood 10-3-24-0; M. Marsh 6-3-13-0; N. Lyon 11-0-33-2. |
| Did not bat: P. Nevill, M. Johnson, M. Starc, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon | |
| Bowling: T. Boult 8-0-61-1; D. Bracewell 11-1- | |



BRISBANE: New Zealand's Kane Williamson, left, plays a shot as Australia's wicket keeper Peter Nevill looks on during play on day four of the first cricket test between Australia and New Zealand in Brisbane, Australia, yesterday. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

Buffalo 3, Vancouver 2; Los Angeles 4, Florida 1; Montreal 4, Boston 2; Washington 3, Toronto 2 (SO); Carolina 3, Ottawa 2 (OT); Philadelphia 3, Winnipeg 0.

| Western Conference | | | | | | | Eastern Conference | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----------------------|-----|----|----|-----|----|--|
| Central Division | | | | | | | Atlantic Division | | | | | | |
| W | L | OTL | GF | GA | PTS | W | L | OTL | GF | GA | PTS | | |
| Dallas | 11 | 3 | 0 | 50 | 38 | 22 | Montreal | 13 | 2 | 1 | 59 | 29 | |
| St. Louis | 10 | 3 | 1 | 40 | 31 | 21 | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota | 8 | 3 | 2 | 38 | 35 | 18 | | | | | | | |
| Nashville | 8 | 3 | 2 | 35 | 31 | 18 | | | | | | | |
| Winnipeg | 8 | 5 | 2 | 42 | 41 | 18 | | | | | | | |
| Chicago | 7 | 6 | 1 | 35 | 36 | 15 | | | | | | | |
| Colorado | 4 | 9 | 1 | 36 | 42 | 9 | | | | | | | |
| Pacific Division | | | | | | | Metropolitan Division | | | | | | |
| Los Angeles | 9 | 5 | 0 | 35 | 29 | 18 | NY Rangers | 10 | 2 | 2 | 42 | 25 | |
| Vancouver | 6 | 4 | 4 | 40 | 32 | 16 | Washington | 10 | 3 | 0 | 43 | 31 | |
| San Jose | 7 | 7 | 0 | 38 | 36 | 14 | Pittsburgh | 9 | 5 | 0 | 31 | 28 | |
| Arizona | 6 | 6 | 1 | 35 | 38 | 13 | NY Islanders | 7 | 4 | 3 | 39 | 35 | |
| Anaheim | 5 | 7 | 2 | 22 | 33 | 12 | New Jersey | 7 | 5 | 1 | 33 | 33 | |
| Calgary | 5 | 9 | 1 | 37 | 59 | 11 | Philadelphia | 5 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 39 | |
| Edmonton | 5 | 9 | 0 | 37 | 43 | 10 | Carolina | 6 | 8 | 0 | 30 | 40 | |
| | | | | | | | Columbus | 4 | 11 | 0 | 35 | 54 | |

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

LORENZO WINS TITLE AS ROSSI CRIES FOUL

VALENCIA: Jorge Lorenzo claimed his third MotoGP world title at the Valencia Grand Prix yesterday amid acrimony and accusations of collusion from his vanquished Yamaha teammate Valentino Rossi. Rossi went into the season-closing race seven points clear of Lorenzo, but the Italian legend was left with a Herculean task starting from the back of the grid as punishment for pushing Marc Marquez off his bike in Malaysia. Rossi surged dramatically through the pack to finish fourth but Lorenzo led from pole to flag, despite intense pressure from his Spanish compatriots, Honda duo Marquez and Dani Pedrosa.

All eyes were on Marquez to see if he could overtake Lorenzo after his spat with Rossi who accused the two-time world champion of conspiring to help Lorenzo win the title. And after losing out on a 10th world title Rossi railed to Marca: "Incredible work by Honda eh?"

"I knew it would be like that and so it was in the end." He accused Marquez of turning into "Lorenzo's bodyguard." "It has never happened in sport and it has been embarrassing for our sport," he said. "At least the fans have seen what was Marc's plan and I don't want to comment on his behaviour. I suppose in the com-

ing months he will understand what he has done, it is an ugly end to the championship, a disappointment on the track.

"Lorenzo deserves the title, but he is not a real champion because something has happened in this sport that had never happened before and Lorenzo can't be happy." In a bizarre twist, Lorenzo appeared to support Rossi's claim in an interview with Movistar MotoGP channel Whilst denying that "any pact" existed between him and Marquez he intimated that his compatriots had helped him win the title by not passing him. "They knew what I had in play," Lorenzo said.

"The fact they are Spaniards like me helped me. "That helped me because for sure in another kind of race they would have tried to overtake which they didn't this time." He added: "If Valentino had been in my position and with Italians behind they would have done exactly the same. "The title had to be for Spain."

With 110,000 fans watching Lorenzo claimed his third MotoGP title and fifth overall by five points from Rossi with outgoing champion Marquez in third. He received his trophy from Spain's King Juan Carlos, but not before

giving Spain's former head of state a warm bear hug. Marquez meanwhile brushed aside any suggestions he and Pedrosa had helped Lorenzo. "Dani and I tried 100 percent and that was shown whether it was here, in Malaysia, in Australia, in other races, we always gave 100 percent." When asked about Rossi fans thinking he had colluded to help Lorenzo Marquez replied: "For a winner, accusations of letting another person win is a lack of respect and an insult because we always go out to win." Earlier, Danny Kent became the first British motorcycling world champion for 38 years after sealing the Moto3 title.

Kent needed just a point in Spain to ensure he couldn't be overtaken by Portugal's Miguel Oliveira and climbed from 18th on the starting grid to finish ninth. Barry Sheene was the last British champion back in 1977. Oliveira won his third consecutive race ahead of Spain's Jorge Navarro and Jakub Kornfeil of the Czech Republic. In Moto2, Spain's Tito Rabat claimed his third win of the season. Compatriot Alex Rins finished second to confirm second in the championship to already crowned world champion Johann Zarco down in seventh. — AFP



CHESTE: MotoGP rider Jorge Lorenzo of Spain celebrates on the podium next to Marc Marquez, left, after winning the race during the Valencia Motorcycle Grand Prix, the last race of the season, at the Ricardo Tormo circuit in Cheste near Valencia, Spain, yesterday. — AP

EMBATTLED GERMAN FA BOSS FACES CRISIS MEETING

BERLIN: German Football Association (DFB) boss Wolfgang Niersbach faces tough questioning at a crisis meeting today over claims that bribes were paid in order to host the 2006 World Cup.

Niersbach faces a grilling from the football officials and presidents of the 16 regional associations which make up the German FA when the governing body's extraordinary meeting in Frankfurt begins at 2:30 pm local time (1330 GMT).

German football has been plunged into crisis since magazine Der Spiegel alleged last month that the DFB made a 6.7 million euros (\$7.4 million) payment to FIFA in order to buy the votes of four Asian members of the executive committee in order to host the 2006 finals.

At the vote in July 2000, Germany saw off South Africa by 12 votes to 11 to win the right to stage the tournament finals, remembered here as the "summer fairytale".

Niersbach has vehemently denied the claims, saying "there was no slush fund, there was no vote buying", and claimed instead that the sum was used to secure 170 million euros of funding from world football's governing body. However, some 50 police officers swooped last Tuesday on the DFB's headquarters, as well as at homes of three accused-the DFB president, former DFB president and former general secretary.

The three are understood to be

Niersbach, his predecessor Theo Zwanziger and ex-general secretary Horst Schmidt. Prosecutors said they were launching a tax probe against the three football bosses, and that they only refrained from pursuing accusations of corruption because the statute of limitations on graft had expired.

Pressure to resign

The scandal has left 64-year-old Niersbach under intense pressure to resign. Zwanziger has accused Niersbach of lying, saying it was "clear that there was a slush fund in the German World Cup bidding process".

German daily Die Welt said the DFB plans to set up an ethics committee, but

both its members and the general public want answers now. "I hope that the DFB will shed light on the matter as soon as possible, because this affair irritates many people," said German politician Volker Bouffier, premier of central Hesse state.

Rumours of who might succeed Niersbach are already circulating, with Reinhard Rauball, president of the German Football League (DFL), and Oliver Bierhoff, manager of the German national team, mentioned among the likely candidates.

Despite ongoing investigations by both German authorities and FIFA's Ethics Committee, Niersbach still enjoys support in the DFB, but he needs to

come up with convincing answers.

Among the questions is how long he knew about the dubious payment of 6.7 million euros, what was the money used for and where did it go. Observers have also wondered why football legend Franz Beckenbauer, who led Germany's bid to host the 2006 World Cup and was head of the organising committee, has left his long-time friend Niersbach in the cold and refused to clarify the scandal.

Niersbach wants to stay in office and plans to travel with the world champions to play France in a friendly in Paris on Friday. But today's meeting promises to be the toughest test yet of his three years in charge of Germany's most powerful sporting body. —AFP

EPL Standings

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Man City | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 26 | 9 | 26 | Watford | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 16 |
| Arsenal | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 9 | 26 | Stoke | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 16 |
| Leicester | 12 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 25 | 20 | 25 | West Brom | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 14 |
| Man Utd | 12 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 8 | 24 | Swansea | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 13 |
| Tottenham | 12 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 20 | 10 | 21 | Norwich | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 16 | 23 | 12 |
| West Ham | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 23 | 16 | 21 | Chelsea | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 23 | 11 |
| Southampton | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 19 | 13 | 20 | Newcastle | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 22 | 10 |
| Crystal Palace | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 12 | 19 | Bournemouth | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 12 | 25 | 8 |
| Everton | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 20 | 16 | 17 | Sunderland | 12 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 26 | 6 |
| Liverpool | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 17 | Aston Villa | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 20 | 5 |

DORTMUND KEEP GOALS FLOWING TO WIN DERBY

BERLIN: Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang claimed his 14th Bundesliga goal of the season as Borussia Dortmund edged past arch-rivals Schalke to win a tense Ruhr derby 3-2 yesterday. Aubameyang joined Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski as the league's top scorer by netting Dortmund's third after Japan midfielder Shinji Kagawa and Germany defender Matthias Ginter had netted at Borussia's Signal Iduna Park stadium.

Schalke are now winless in their last six matches, but the Royal Blues fought to the end as Netherlands striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar scored goals in each half following mistakes in the Dortmund defence. "There was no need for it to have been so tense at the end," admitted Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel as his side enjoyed their seventh-straight win in all competitions.

"We had so many high-quality chances that we could have made it 4-1, but I had the feeling that the players didn't want to make any mistakes, which made us tense."

The result leaves second-placed Dortmund five points behind Bundesliga leaders Bayern, and eight points clear of third-placed Wolfsburg, while Schalke stay fifth. After Kagawa gave Dortmund a 30th-minute lead with a rare header, Huntelaar equalised three minutes later after Borussia captain Mats Hummels gave the ball away.

The hosts then netted twice as Ginter was left unmarked at a corner on 43 minutes as it finished 2-1 at the break. Aubameyang then slotted what proved to be the winning goal after a superb final pass from Gonzalo Castro, who started on the left wing in place of injured Germany star Marco Reus.

Aubameyang received a yellow card after pulling off his shirt in celebration to reveal a T-shirt bearing the text "Do you remember?" under the Batman logo, having donned a "Caped Crusader" outfit in the derby last February when he also scored in a 3-0 win over Schalke.

But Huntelaar grabbed his second when Dortmund centre-back Sokratis tried to back-heel a cross, but the ball landed at the feet of the Dutch player who slotted home on 71 minutes.

Schalke's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg hit the post with ten minutes to go, then cleared a Dortmund shot off the line in the dying stages.

Bayern run riot

Aubameyang is again the league's joint top-scorer alongside Lewandowski, who netted his 14th league goal in Bayern's 4-0 win over VfB Stuttgart on Saturday.

The Bavarian giants' star-studded attack ran riot with Arjen Robben, Douglas Costa and Thomas Mueller also getting on the scoresheet as defeat pushed Stuttgart back into the bottom three.

Bayern have turned the Allianz Arena into a fortress by scoring 28 goals in their last six home games, conceding just three, and have now claimed 34 points from 36 and are the only unbeaten team in Germany's top flight. Wolfsburg, last season's runners-up, are now 13 points adrift of Bayern after crashing to a 2-0 defeat at Mainz as Pablo de Blas and Yunus Mali scored.

Wolfsburg also had Germany midfielder Julian Draxler sent off early on. Fellow Champions League side Bayer Leverkusen were also beaten as they suffered a 2-1 defeat at home to neighbours Cologne in the Rhine derby as defender Dominic Maroh scored the visitors goals while Javier Hernandez scored for the sixth match running.

His Leverkusen team was reduced to 10 men when defender Kyriakos Papadopoulos was shown a red card for bringing down Cologne striker Anthony Modeste when he was through on goal.

Hoffenheim remain second from bottom after their goalless draw with Eintracht Frankfurt while Hamburg drew 1-1 at Darmstadt as Pierre-Michel Lasogga's first-half penalty was cancelled out by Marcel Heller's equaliser for hosts Darmstadt.

Borussia Moenchengladbach had their six-match winning streak ended by a goalless draw at home to Ingolstadt. On Friday, Ivory Coast striker Salomon Kalou grabbed a hat-trick to steer Hertha Berlin to a 3-1 win at Hanover and into the top four. —AFP



BARCELONA: FC Barcelona's Neymar, left, scores past Villarreal's goalkeeper Alphonse Areola during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. — AP

NEYMAR HITS DOUBLE AS BARCA SINK VILLARREAL

MADRID: Neymar and Luis Suarez once again shone for Barcelona in Lionel Messi's absence as Barcelona beat Villarreal 3-0 to move three points clear at the top of La Liga yesterday.

The European champions were frustrated by a solid first-half display from the visitors, but finally made the breakthrough on the hour mark when Neymar slotted home Sergio Busquets's through ball. Neymar then stood aside to let Suarez seal the three points from the penalty spot after Munir El Haddadi had been brought down by Jaume Costa.

And the Brazilian rounded off a sensational display as he volleyed home a stunning third five minutes from time. Real Madrid can move back to the top of the table on goal difference with victory at Sevilla later yesterday.

Barca's next outing comes against Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu on November 21. "I am happy with what I am giving the team, but I still think I can improve more," Neymar told Canal Plus. "As a team we all have to keep growing, but now we can rest and think about El Clasico."

Between them Suarez and Neymar have com-

pensated for Messi's injury layoff with knee ligament damage by scoring all of Barca's last 17 league goals as the Catalans have dropped just three points since the Argentine went off injured against Las Palmas six weeks ago.

Villarreal managed to limit the supply to the star South American duo for the first 45 minutes as Jeremy Mathieu had Barca's best chance when his low drive at the end of a flowing counter-attack was well saved by Alphonse Areola.

Great save

The visitors also had their chances on the break as Roberto Soldado puled a shot just wide when well-placed on the edge of the area before Claudio Bravo made a brave save at the feet of Samu Castillejo in the final action of the half.

Both Neymar and Suarez were booked within the first two minutes of the second-half for taking their protestations towards referee Clos Gomez too far as nerves began to spread around the Camp Nou.

However, they finally found a way through

when Busquets intercepted Bruno Soriano's pass and freed Neymar to fire home at the near post. Only another great save from Areola prevented Andres Iniesta from doubling Barca's advantage moments later.

However, the French 'keeper was helpless when Costa dived in on Munir and Neymar, who had taken Barca's last four penalties, allowed Suarez to score his 13th goal of the season.

The best was yet to come from Neymar, though, as he collected Suarez's pass and lifted the ball over Costa before turning to fire home on the volley.

Earlier, Athletic Bilbao moved into the top half of the table with their fifth consecutive win in all competitions thanks to Inaki Williams's wonder goal in a 3-1 victory over Espanyol.

The 21-year-old striker opened the scoring with his fifth goal in a week as he flicked the ball over Enzo Roco before unleashing a spectacular volley into the top corner.

Hernan Perez levelled for the visitors just after half-time before Raul Garcia headed home the winner 26 minutes from time. —AFP

ROMA WIN WITH CONTROVERSIAL PENALTY, FANS BOYCOTT DERBY

MILAN: A hugely controversial penalty set AS Roma on the way to a 2-0 win over neighbours Lazio in a derby which was boycotted by both sets of Ultras in a protest over security measures yesterday.

Edin Dzeko won and converted an early penalty for Roma, although the foul appeared to take place outside the penalty area, and Gervinho added the second in the 63rd minute after both sides had struck the woodwork.

Inter Milan ensured they will finish the weekend with at least a share of the Serie A lead after winning 1-0 away to Torino and titleholders Juventus came from behind to win 3-1 at Empoli, climbing to joint seventh. Roberto Mancini's Inter, who managed just two shots on target and won thanks to Geoffrey Kondogbia's first-half goal, have won eight of their 12 games this season, all of them by one-goal margins, and scored only 12 goals.

Inter have 27 points, followed by Roma (26) with Fiorentina (24) away to Sampdoria later yesterday. The Stadio Olimpico was only half-full for the derby as Lazio joined Roma's fans in their protest.

Roma's hardcore fans are furious because the civil defence service has ordered the Curva Sud to be split for security reasons and say their club's response has not been strong enough. As a result both ends of the stadium were almost deserted.

There was early drama when Dzeko was felled by Santiago Gentiletti and, although replays showed the tackle was outside the area, the referee pointed to the spot and the Bosnia international converted for only his second Serie A goal of the season.

Gentiletti, booked for the foul, escaped a red card for tripping Gervinho shortly afterwards. Felipe Anderson fired a long-range shot against the post for Lazio and then Radja Nainggolan's shot also struck the woodwork for Roma before

halftime. There were plenty of sneaky late tackles and flare-ups before Gervinho collected a long pass forward in his stride, burst into the Lazio area and found a gap between Federico Marchetti and the near post to keep Roma on Inter's heels.

Lazio, who have failed to win any of their last five meetings with Roma, slumped to their third successive Serie A defeat. Massimo Maccarone gave Empoli an early lead but Juventus hit back with goals from Mario Mandzukic and Patrice Evra before halftime and Paulo Dybala added a

third six minutes from the end.

Genoa snatched a 2-2 draw at Frosinone despite having Sebastian De Maio sent off in the first half after receiving two yellow cards in quick succession. A superb piece of trickery from Darko Lazovic set up Serge Gakpe who tapped in the equaliser in the 75th minute. Alberto Gilardino's goal gave Palermo a 1-0 win over Chievo to provide a lifeline for beleaguered coach Giuseppe Iachini, who had been expected to lose his job if they lost, and Sassuolo beat lowly Carpi 1-0. — Reuters



DORTMUND: Schalke's Leon Goretzka, left, and Dortmund's Mats Hummels challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and FC Schalke 04 in Dortmund, Germany, yesterday. —AP



ROME: Roma's defender from England Lucas Digne (L) fights for the ball with Lazio's midfielder from Italy Antonio Candreva during the Italian football match AS Roma vs SS Lazio at the Olympic stadium yesterday in Rome. — AFP

Sports

Djokovic the master as Murray wilts in Paris



Neymar hits double as Barca sink Villarreal



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BIRMINGHAM: Manchester City's Raheem Sterling, left, is tackled by Aston Villa's Ciaran Clark during the English Premier League soccer match between Aston Villa and Manchester City at the Villa Park, yesterday. — AP

CITY HELD AS VILLA START GARDE ERA WITH DRAW



BIRMINGHAM: Manchester City's shortage of recognised strikers was glaringly exposed in a goalless draw away to bottom club Aston Villa yesterday that saw them squander the chance to consolidate their position at the top of the Premier League.

Manuel Pellegrini lost the services of Wilfried Bony to a hamstring injury and then watched in frustration as City failed to make their second-half domination count in

a match where Villa ended a dismal run of seven successive defeats.

City had to operate without a recognised frontman for more than an hour, although Raheem Sterling, Kevin de Bruyne and Fernando all wasted gilt-edged chances to wrap up all three points in the closing stages.

It meant that Frenchman Remi Garde claimed a valuable point in his first game as Villa manager to stop the rot which led to his appointment as the successor to Tim Sherwood, although a draw still left the Birmingham club at the foot of the table.

City were left rueing the missed chances, and the continued absence of Sergio Aguero, as they had to settle for a share of the spoils in a game they were expected to win comfortably.

The return of former City defender Michah

Richards was one of six changes made by Garde to Villa's starting side from the team beaten at Tottenham Hotspur six days earlier.

As expected from a team under new management, Villa began the contest with great vigour and purpose, but the first real threat came when City's Aleksandar Kolarov was released by Sterling on the overlap and his cross flashed across the face of goal.

Nevertheless, there was encouragement for the home fans at Villa Park in the way their side started the game with Jordan Amavi getting forward at every opportunity, but Idrissa Gueye failed to trouble Joe Hart with a long-range shot after a burst from the centre of midfield.

Guzan saves

City went close to breaking the deadlock on two occasions in quick succession as

Kolarov saw his low shot pushed onto the post by Brad Guzan before Fernando lashed a close range effort over the bar from the resulting corner.

But just as Pellegrini's side seemed to be building up a head of steam, they suffered the setback of losing Bony to injury as he pulled up clutching his hamstring. Following their reshuffle, City had a chance to catch Villa on the break, but although Yaya Toure's instinctive pass sent Sterling bursting through the middle, the England winger stumbled inside the box at the crucial moment and subsequent protests he had been fouled by the backtracking Ciaran Clark were ignored by the referee.

There was a let-off for Villa early in the second half when Guzan fumbled the greasy ball when Kolarov tried his luck from a free kick, but fortunately for the home

side, they were able to scramble the ball away before Sterling could capitalise on it.

Guzan then pulled off an astonishing point-blank save to prevent what seemed an inevitable City opener when Sterling rose to meet Jesus Navas's cross with a firm header, though the United States international didn't know much about his block.

City were guilty of squandering another golden opportunity when de Bruyne was picked out by Navas's low ball to edge of the six yard box, but with the goal gaping in front he somehow managed to miscue his effort wide of the target.

The Premier League leaders were left cursing missed chances again in injury time when Fernando's close range header rattled the bar and former Villa midfielder Fabien Delph rolled his shot agonisingly wide of Guzan's left-hand post. — AFP

GIBBS THWARTS SPURS IN NORTH LONDON DERBY



LONDON: Arsenal substitute Kieran Gibbs scored three minutes after coming on to earn his side a 1-1 draw in yesterday's north London derby and deny Tottenham Hotspur a famous victory. Harry Kane's 32nd-minute goal, his sixth in four games, put Spurs on course for a first win at the Emirates Stadium in five years, but after Arsenal goalkeeper

Petr Cech had prevented the visitors from swelling their lead, Mesut Ozil teed up Gibbs for a 77th-minute equaliser.

Victory would have sent Arsenal to the top of the Premier League table, following Manchester City's earlier goalless draw at Aston Villa, but having seen his team humiliated 5-1 by Bayern Munich on Wednesday, manager Arsene Wenger will have been hugely relieved by Gibbs's strike. The left-back's goal, his first in over a year, left Spurs three points off the Champions League places and five points below second-place Arsenal. But while visiting manager Mauricio Pochettino could count himself unfortunate not to have emerged victorious, his side have now gone 11 league games unbeaten and look strong contenders for a top-four berth. Fit again after a hip complaint, Laurent Koscielny replaced Gabriel at

centre-back in the only change to the Arsenal team torn apart by Bayern as Wenger's side went in search of a sixth successive league win. Arsenal had bounced back from their previous Champions League defeat, at home to Olympiakos, by putting Manchester United to the sword and they looked to make a similarly quick start here.

Alexis Sanchez picked out Joel Campbell, who kept his place in the absence of Theo Walcott and Aaron Ramsey, with an early pass across the box, but the Costa Rican erred in using his left foot to receive the ball and the chance fled.

Arsenal looked to hit quick passes behind the Spurs defence, but with Olivier Giroud leading the line, rather than the rapid Walcott, it was a tactic that failed to work. Having felt their way into the contest, Spurs began to punch holes in the hosts' defence.

Giroud profligate

Moussa Dembele saw a shot blocked and new England call-up Eric Dier headed fractionally wide from Christian Eriksen's in-swinging free-kick before Kane marked his first appearance at the Emirates with the opening goal. Danny Rose bent a glorious pass in behind the Arsenal defence from inside his own half and with Koscielny mistiming his attempt to step up and play offside, Kane had the freedom of north London to canter down the inside-left channel and place a shot beyond Cech.

Sanchez squandered Arsenal's best chance to equalise before half-time when he failed to make telling contact with Campbell's low cross from the right, presenting Hugo Lloris with an easy save.

Arsenal made a change at half-time that saw Mathieu Flamini, whose brace sank Spurs in the League Cup last month, replace Santi Cazorla. Campbell immediately illustrated Arsenal's determination to show a greater cutting edge by darting in from the right flank and forcing Lloris into a one-handed save with a low, left-foot curler. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino (C) has a shot on goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at the Anfield stadium in Liverpool, north-west England yesterday. — AFP

PALACE INFLICT FIRST DEFEAT ON LIVERPOOL BOSS KLOPP



20 minutes when Yannick Bolasis fired powerfully home after some poor defending by the hosts.

Klopp's side struck back three minutes before half-time through Philippe Coutinho, who added to his two goals against Chelsea last weekend, when he arrived at the far post to finish a sweeping Liverpool move with a side-foot finish. Dann, however, grabbed all three points for the visitors when he headed a corner at Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet but reacted quickly to follow-up and finish. Liverpool, who had won three and drawn three in Klopp's first six games in charge, are 10th in the table on 17 points, two behind Palace in eighth. — Reuters

LONDON: Juergen Klopp tasted defeat for the first time as Liverpool manager after Crystal Palace's Scott Dann scored with eight minutes remaining to grab a 2-1 win at Anfield yesterday.

Liverpool, who made a draining Europa League trip to play Rubin Kazan in Russia on Thursday, fell behind after



LONDON: Arsenal's French defender Mathieu Debuchy (R) tackles Tottenham Hotspur's English midfielder Dele Alli during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates Stadium in London yesterday. — AFP



AIR ARABIA REPORTS STRONG NET PROFIT OF AED472M IN 9 MONTHS



DOHA: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde (center) poses for a group photograph with finance ministers during the the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) finance ministers meeting held in Doha yesterday. —AP

ADAPT TO OIL PRICE DROP, IMF CHIEF URGES GULF LAGARDE EXPECTS CRUDE PRICES TO REMAIN LOW FOR YEARS

DOHA: International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde warned yesterday that global energy prices could remain low for years and urged Gulf countries to adjust their budgets. Speaking in Qatar's capital Doha after meeting ministers and officials from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Lagarde warned that the countries could no longer rely on revenues from oil and gas.

"We believe that the price of oil will probably persist at the level where it is for a number of years and as a result all GCC countries should undertake some degree of fiscal adjustment," she said at a press conference. She said the IMF believed growth across GCC countries would fall from 3.2 percent this year to 2.7 percent in 2016.

Lagarde said all the GCC countries needed to adjust their budgets further to cope with low oil prices in the longer term, and that most had introduced fiscal policies which would allow them to make those adjustments from a position of strength, limiting the impact on their economic growth rates.

Lagarde also said that export revenues would be \$275 billion (256 billion euros) lower this year than in 2014 because of low energy

prices. The price of oil has dropped by more than half since the beginning of 2014, with Brent crude, the international benchmark, trading Friday at \$47.42 per barrel for December.

Lagarde said adjustments should include "firm control" on spending, particularly on public sector wages, and encouraging private sector growth. "Well-planned fiscal consolidation strategies need to be put in place as soon as possible and communicated so that people understand how the adjustment will take place," she said. She said the "size and urgency of this adjustment" varied for countries across the GCC.

Fiscal policies

Most of the six oil exporting nations in the Gulf Cooperation Council have put in place prudent fiscal policies, and those that haven't can learn from those that have, Lagarde said. Lagarde made the remarks in a statement after a meeting with senior GCC economic officials in Doha. The plunge of oil and gas prices since last year has slashed governments' energy revenues, saddling most with big deficits.

"Those who have not done it can certainly learn from those who have," she said without

naming individual countries.

She also urged GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to introduce a regional value-added tax as soon as possible, since even at a low rate it could raise considerable revenues. That reform should not be delayed, she said. Lagarde said governments needed to cut the growth of their current spending. "Given the new fiscal realities, there is not room for public wage bills to grow further. We have to face that reality."

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met visiting Managing Director of the IMF Christine Lagarde, and discussed bilateral relations, said the Qatar News Agency (QNA) yesterday. The meeting dealt with issues of common interest and ways to boost cooperation between the IMF and Qatar, it added.

During her visit, the IMF Managing Director is expected to participate in the joint meeting of the financial and economic cooperation committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the committee for governors of (GCC) central banks and monetary institutions which will be hosted in Doha later in the day, the agency said. —Agencies



DOHA: Qatari Minister of Finance Ali Shareef Al-Emadi (right) attends a joint press conference with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde yesterday. —AFP

SAUDI STEEL FIRM HADEED CUTS COSTS AS PRICES WEIGH

KHOBAR: Saudi Iron and Steel Co (Hadeed), the metals affiliate of Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC), will continue cutting its costs until end-2016 as it does not expect global steel prices to recover for two to four years, an executive said. "I will not say it is a crisis as such, it is a cycle - unfortunately a very long and painful cycle," Abdulaziz Al-Humaid, executive vice-president for metals at SABIC, told the Reuters Middle East Investment Summit.

"The cycle started let's say in late 2013... We don't see any recovery in the next two to four years globally." Since early 2015, Hadeed has cut costs by 20 percent, Humaid said; it plans to expand that reduction to 30 percent by the end of 2016. Costs of manpower and materials, as well as contractors' charges, have been cut.

SABIC's metals group has a workforce of 4,350 people and the plan is to take that number to 3,850, he said. Humaid predicted the plunge in oil prices since last year would slow construction activity to some degree in the Gulf; "maybe some projects will be delayed." But compared to other parts of the world, the Gulf is still healthy in terms of demand growth because of projects to prepare for events such as the 2020 World Expo in

Dubai and the 2022 soccer World Cup in Qatar, he said.

Hadeed cut its domestic retail price for rebar steel by about 10 percent in September. SABIC's domestic steel prices are affected by global trends.

The firm, which has a share of 40-45 percent of the steel market in Saudi Arabia, has not invested abroad, and Humaid said this could now prove to be an advantage in an era of low prices.

"We expect our competitors locally and globally to start having cash issues. We are the only local company that didn't invest abroad, which is helping us avoid this pain - we still have a lot of cash, we are very strong." Steel demand in Saudi Arabia has dropped about 5 percent from last year. Hadeed exports flat products and is the only producer of those in the region; the Saudi government has banned exports of rebar, which Humaid said were needed to supply the local market.

"I think (domestic) steel prices have bottomed out... We think in flat wire rod, it is at the bottom; maybe in rebar we will reach bottom very soon... Now you are reaching a stage where prices are below your cost. It is just a matter of time until people will start to slow down production."

WAITING GAME

Hadeed is the largest steel maker in the world's top oil exporting country. It is deliberately holding back from raising its market share, as it intends to wait until the global steel market recovers before moving ahead with projects such as a plate mill in the Saudi city of Jubail and an iron ore joint venture in Mauritania, Humaid said.

"It's still our ambition to raise capacity to 10 million tons in 2025... Considering the situation, let's wait until things clear up." Hadeed's current annual production capacity is 6 million tons and the Jubail plate mill will add 1.5 million tons at a cost of around \$3.5 billion if it goes ahead.

"We are beyond feasibility, we even prepared the preliminary basic engineering package, but we have not launched bids yet," Humaid said of the project. "I think if the situation gets better, we'll probably decide to go for bids."

In Mauritania, SABIC expects to decide around the end of 2017 whether to mine iron ore. The investment is estimated to be \$2 billion; Hadeed has chosen Mauritania because it is the world's lowest-cost producer, Humaid said. —Reuters

MARKETS PLUNGE AFTER US RATE HIKE THREAT

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: The threat of a US interest rate hike in December dragged down major Middle East stock markets yesterday, illustrating how fragile investor sentiment in the region has become in the face of low oil prices.

Short-term US bond yields rose to their highest in five years on Friday after very strong US jobs data for October boosted the likelihood that the Fed will raise rates before year's end. Money market rates have already been rising in the Gulf as liquidity shrinks because of lower oil revenues. Higher US rates could intensify the simultaneous fiscal and monetary squeeze in the region.

The Saudi stock index dropped as much as 1.9 percent during the day but closed 0.6 percent lower at 6,923 points, holding technical support at its August low of 6,921 points. It was the second test of that support since last week. Real estate developer Dar Al Arkan lost 0.8 percent. Saudi Printing and Packaging, which had begun tumbling on Thursday as a bubble in the stock burst, plunged a further 10 percent.

Oil prices fell as much as 2 percent on Friday, with Brent ending below \$48 a barrel. That hit petrochemical producers such as Saudi Basic Industries, which sank 1.5 percent.

DUBAI, EGYPT

The US interest rate threat had the biggest impact on markets in the United Arab Emirates through real estate developers. The dirham's peg to the US dollar could force the UAE central bank to raise rates, while appreciation of the dirham alongside the dollar may deter foreign buying of Dubai property by inflating prices.

The Dubai stock index sank 3.0 percent as blue chip Emaar Properties slipped 4.7 percent and Deyaar Properties lost 5.6 percent. Air Arabia fell 5.2 percent after reporting a 6 percent drop in third-quarter net profit to 235 million dirhams (\$64 million). Analysts had on average predicted 300 million dirhams. However, delivery firm Aramex gained 2.2 percent. It has been on an uptrend since Oct. 28, when its chief executive told Reuters that the company had several acquisitions in the pipeline and was expecting to close deals valued in range of \$150 million in the next two quarters.

Abu Dhabi's index lost 1.6 percent as Aldar Properties, the most heavily traded stock, dropped 5.8 percent. Qatar's index fell 1.9 percent with petrochemical producer Industries Qatar losing 2.9 percent and drilling rig provider Gulf International Services slipping 4.3 percent.

Egypt's stock index sank 2.6 percent. With a big external deficit and low foreign exchange reserves, Egypt is ill-placed to withstand higher US interest rates, which could hasten a currency devaluation that many think is inevitable. Egypt's two largest state banks have launched savings certificates for Egyptian pounds with an interest rate of 12.5 percent to support the currency, local media and bankers said yesterday, increasing the likelihood of an Egyptian central bank rate hike next month.

Property developer Palm Hills dropped 4.9 percent, giving up almost all of its 5.2 percent jump on Thursday, when it reported a better-than-expected third-quarter net profit of 182.02 million Egyptian pounds (\$22.7 million) after minority interests versus 129.70 million pounds a year ago. —Reuters

On Economics

INVESTMENT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND GOVERNMENT

By Khaled Al-Mutawa

What is Investment?

Investment is vital for customers, corporations and even governments; it is a strategy of planning to maximize income. Most large corporations reforecast their investment on a quarterly basis. Like consumers, governments also have to utilize and pay for the things they want or need. Having a budget or an investment plan is essential because it can help people and governments achieve prosperity.

When Forbes recently released a list of the wealthiest people on the planet, their personalities were carefully studied and the results wrinkled the eyebrows of many. The majority of the wealthiest people had one common characteristic: They were all investors and budget planners. Tai Lopez, a mentor of entrepreneurs, points out that true money is created within the economy if people start to see things from an investor's standpoint. The largest category of the 450 self-made billionaires in the world, were not in the sectors of the real estate, oil, media, nor in the food industries. Rather, what made 77 percent of the billionaires: investments. On a national level, even countries with no natural resources can manage to accumulate wealth through investment.

Investment in Kuwait

Invest in the petroleum sector: By removing plastic bags from supermarkets, money can be saved for the development of Kuwait's economy. Plastic bags are made from crude oil and natural gas - both nonrenew-

able energy sources, meaning they are in limited supply. Not to mention the pollution created by plastic bags on land and sea. In many supermarkets around the world, shoppers must bring their own reusable bags to cut down on unnecessary waste and pollution of plastic bags. This approach could have a real impact on Kuwait's petroleum base and free up money and resources for investment.

How investors think?

High in value but low in price:

Avenues Mall: According to Few Lessons for Investors and Managers, Peter Bevelin highlights that the value of something does not determine its price. Two of my friends and I went shopping the other day to the Avenues mall. Abdulrahman, a good friend of mine, paid KD 150 for a Louis Vuitton wallet. Youisf had a different approach. He went to H&M and bought a wallet for only KD 15. When both of them laid their new wallets down on the table, I could hardly tell them apart. Both wallets were brown and a zipper made them look similar. When the value of two things are scandalously equivalent, but with distinct prices, buy the one with the lower price even if you can afford the more expensive. Brand names mean nothing once the value of two objects is the same. This is investment.

Buying used stuff:

Hawaly: The latest iPhone 6 was just released from Apple. But have you ever thought of buying it used with 50 percent off? Why buy a brand new iPhone when you

can buy a used one? Not only it is still in good quality but you can save as much as 50 percent! You will find plenty of used iPhones, laptops, and printers across Ibn Khaldon Street in Hawally. Buying used stuff, such as used cars or other phones is a technique in the hands of investors.

The next time you ever think about buying something, think logically, think mathematically, if the greatest mathematician was alive, he would have surely shook my hands for my invention of this inequality:

$$\text{value} > \text{price} \quad \text{not price} < \text{value}.$$

Whenever you go shopping remember this principle: the price of the object must be lower than the value. This is the secret of investment and budget planning.

Investment and Budget planning:

Having an investment or a budget plan is very helpful. With it you can estimate your income, your planned expenses, your planned savings over a certain period of time and even maximize your income. A good record of saving also helps people set priorities for spending. To plan for your budget here are seven steps from the economic experts of Glencoe to help:

- **Step 1:** Set Your Financial Goals: What do I want to



accomplish in the next year? The next month? Are my goals realistic and practical? An investment plan can help you determine which goals you can meet.

- **Step 2:** Approximate Your Income: Include all your sources of income. Start by recording your estimated income for the next month.
- **Step 3:** Invest for Unexpected Expenses and Saving: You have to plan for expenses such as food, rent and clothing to satisfy your basic needs. You must also plan for unexpected medical visits or accidents. Luckily, if you are a Kuwaiti citizen your government provides free health care. But you should plan for your expenses to include rises in costs of certain things, such as gasoline.
- **Step 4:** Save for Fixed Expenses: Those include expenses that are fixed and regularly paid such as rent, a car loan or insurance.
- **Step 5:** Budget for Variable Expenses: Some expenses change from time to time and can be controlled easily. They include eating out, certain goods, phones charges and entertainment. The amount of these expenses vary from month to month
- **Step 6:** Record what you spend: There are many great apps now available to help record your budget. Knowing where your money goes each month will help you learn to spend more wisely and save accordingly.
- **Step 7:** Review Spending and Saving Patterns: Investing is a continuous process therefore, review your budget each month.

Al-Mutawa is a student at the American University of Kuwait.

OIL EXPERTS URGE ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION IN REGION

SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSES IMPACT OF DWINDLING OIL PRICES

DOHA: Oil experts and economists opined yesterday that diversified economies are the optimal way to offset the current dip in international oil prices, given that oil revenues of the OPEC's Arab members make up 85-95 percent of their budgets.

Speaking at a one-day symposium focusing on the repercussions of the drop in oil prices on oil exporting countries, the experts sounded the alarm about the looming adverse impacts of low oil prices on oil exporting countries. But, they predicted that the factors of supply and demand would lead to a slow drop in oil prices by the end of this year, and prices would rebound by 2016.

Mamdouh Salama, an international oil expert, believed that the surge in oil prices over the last years

made costly investment in unconventional oil production so economically feasible that unconventional oil production has been expanded in the US since 2012, but influence in oil prices began only in the second half of 2014. This increase in shale oil production has resulted in unprecedented output levels in the US, hitting 8.5 million barrels of oil a day from six million barrels in 2012, he added.

This synchronized with growing conventional and uncongenial oil output by OPEC members and Russia, and economic slowdown in several countries, mainly China, Salama noted. Qatar's ex-oil minister Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, said it was unfair to repeatedly urge the OPEC to cut its production while

non-OPEC members exerted no effort to maintain acceptable oil price levels. Al-Attiyah, who chaired the OPEC for several terms of office, dismissed allegations that the OPEC's decision to maintain output levels unchanged was part of a US-Saudi plan to rein in the financial and economic capabilities of Russia and Iran.

Khaled Al-Khater, a financial expert, suggested should high supply and low demand continue, then oil prices would not rebound in the near future.

The continuation of high supply is contingent upon two factors: output reduction and the ability of unconventional oil to absorb oil fall and expanded production, he pointed out. Amer Al-Tamimi, an economist, estimated that Kuwaiti oil revenues

for this year couldn't exceed KD 14 billion, which indicates a possible annual budget deficit worth KD 6 billion unless retrenchment measures are adopted. He called on Kuwaiti and Gulf governments to cut their capital and current spending and to reconsider their policies of subsidy which amounts to KD 6 billion in Kuwait annually. Organized by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, the one-day symposium focused on the repercussions of the current fall in oil prices.

The participating experts elaborated on the factors that control the global price of oil, and study and understand the implications of the long term decline in benchmark oil prices on oil exporting countries. —KUNA

EGYPT STATE BANKS LAUNCH PRODUCTS WITH 12.5% INTEREST TO SUPPORT POUND

CAIRO: Egypt's two largest state banks have launched savings certificates for Egyptian pounds with an interest rate of 12.5 percent to support the currency, local media and bankers said yesterday, increasing the likelihood of a central bank hike next month. A Cairo-based banker said the increase is significant as the average interest rate at Egyptian banks hovers around 10 percent currently.

"They did this to support the pound and take pressure off foreign currencies. The central bank will have to hike rates in its next meeting, otherwise these banks will be under pressure with very low margins," one banker told Reuters.

Egypt is facing a currency crisis due to what many economists say is an overvalued pound. It had allowed the pound to weaken to 7.9301 pounds against the dollar in October but the rate is still far from Saturday's black market rate of 8.51

pounds to the dollar. The central bank kept its overnight deposit rate at 8.75 and its overnight lending rate at 9.75 for the sixth consecutive meeting on October 29. It is due to meet again on December 17 under the leadership of a new central bank governor, Tarek Amer.

"The bank's launch for the saving certificate with a 12.5 percent interest rate is a preemptive step for the market's movement toward raising the interests on the saving products in the coming period," an official at the treasury of Banque Misr told Al-Basra newspaper. The official said that he expects other banks to follow suit and raise their interest rates on their main products or launch new savings products soon. Egypt's foreign currency reserves, which stood at about \$36 billion before the 2011 uprising, were down to \$16.4 billion at the end of October despite billions of dollars in Gulf Arab aid since mid-2013. — Reuters

US DOLLAR STABLE AGAINST DINAR

KUWAIT: The US dollar was stable vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti dinar exchanging at KD 0.303 yesterday whereas the euro dropped to KD 0.326 as compared to Thursday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait said. The Sterling Pound dropped to KD 0.457, the Swiss franc was at KD 0.301 and the Japanese yen remained at KD 0.002.

The gold price, in end of last week's trades, drastically dropped shedding 4.3 percent of its previous gains, reaching the lowest level since August, Sabayik Al-Kuwait Company said in a report issued yesterday. The gold prices were affected with the positive outcomes of the American labor market in October, where unemployment posted record fall, contrary to predictions, reaching five percent, with creation of 271,000 jobs in a single month-higher than the forecast 91,000 jobs.

These robust results led to pushing the gold price down lower than the \$1,100 per ounce. It decreased lower than \$1,138 per ounce to \$1,099 ending the week at \$1,098, thus losing \$49. The report projected that it would fall further to \$1,070 per ounce. As to silver, it followed the gold in falling reaching \$14.7 per ounce, four percent decline. Platinum stood at \$940 per ounce, losing \$35, and palladium shed \$44 dropping to \$618 per ounce. — KUNA



MANILA: A dog wearing sunglasses and its owner ride a bicycle past vehicles that will be used for the coming APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) forum in Manila yesterday. Hundreds of vehicles are being prepared to be used to service delegates to the venue, airport and hotels as the APEC forum draws near. — AP

UAE STOCKS REGULATOR APPOINTS ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DUBAI: The board of the United Arab Emirates federal stock market regulator has appointed Obeid al Zaabi as acting chief executive to take over from Abdullah Al-Turifi, who stepped down in October, three sources told Reuters yesterday.

He is reform-minded and will help push through planned regulatory changes including allowing companies to give their employees stock options and making it easier for strategic shareholders to raise or reduce their shareholding, one of the sources said.

Zaabi, who was deputy chief executive for licensing, supervision and enforcement at the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), was appointed as temporary head of the organization on Thursday, three sources aware of the matter said, speaking on condition of anonymity as the information is not public. The move signals he may be the lead contender to take over

the federal government body permanently, the sources said.

SCA's board is led by UAE Minister of Economy Sultan bin Saeed Al-Mansouri, who sits as chairman. Typically at UAE federal government bodies, when an appointment is made from within, a draft circular is sent to all government bodies for endorsement and then is submitted to the president's office to issue a decree for the appointment. It is very rare that government bodies will not endorse the circular, the sources said. Zaabi declined to comment when contacted by Reuters yesterday. The SCA could not be immediately reached for comment. Prior to his role at SCA, Zaabi worked at Abu Dhabi Investment Authority sovereign wealth fund, his last role there was internal investment funds manager, according to information on SCA's website. Turifi, who had been in office since 2003, resigned from his post in July, Reuters reported on July 9. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

| ASIAN COUNTRIES | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen | 2.475 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.639 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.888 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 2.161 |
| Nepali Rupees | 2.906 |
| Singapore Dollar | 215.830 |
| Hongkong Dollar | 39.323 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.900 |
| Philippine Peso | 6.503 |
| Thai Baht | 8.590 |
| GCC COUNTRIES | |
| Saudi Riyal | 81.310 |
| Qatari Riyal | 83.757 |
| Omani Riyal | 791.970 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 809.750 |
| UAE Dirham | 83.016 |
| ARAB COUNTRIES | |
| Egyptian Pound - Cash | 39.000 |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 37.998 |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000 | 1.423 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 153.140 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 429.470 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000 | 2.032 |
| Syrian Lira | 2.173 |
| Morocco Dirham | 312.560 |
| EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES | |
| US Dollar Transfer | 304.750 |
| Euro | 330.650 |
| Sterling Pound | 462.000 |
| Canadian dollar | 230.870 |
| Turkish lira | 106.540 |
| Swiss Franc | 305.060 |
| Australian dollar | 217.590 |
| US Dollar Buying | 303.550 |

| GOLD | |
|---------|--------|
| 20 gram | 222.00 |
| 10 gram | 113.70 |
| 5 gram | 57.53 |

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

| CURRENCIES | TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Australian Dollar | 206.73 |
| Canadian Dollar | 236.35 |
| Swiss Franc | 310.66 |
| Euro | 335.72 |
| US Dollar | 304.05 |
| Sterling Pound | 471.32 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.55 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.891 |
| Indian Rupee | 4.634 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 2.159 |
| Nepali Rupee | 2.902 |
| Pakistani Rupee | 2.887 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.08274 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.8080 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.03778 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.4324 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.7895 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.08383 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.08104 |

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

| Rate for Transfer | Selling Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar | 305.000 |
| Canadian Dollar | 231.220 |
| Sterling Pound | 459.980 |
| Euro | 328.955 |
| Swiss Frank | 304.310 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 809.515 |
| UAE Dirhams | 83.335 |
| Qatari Riyals | 91.370 |

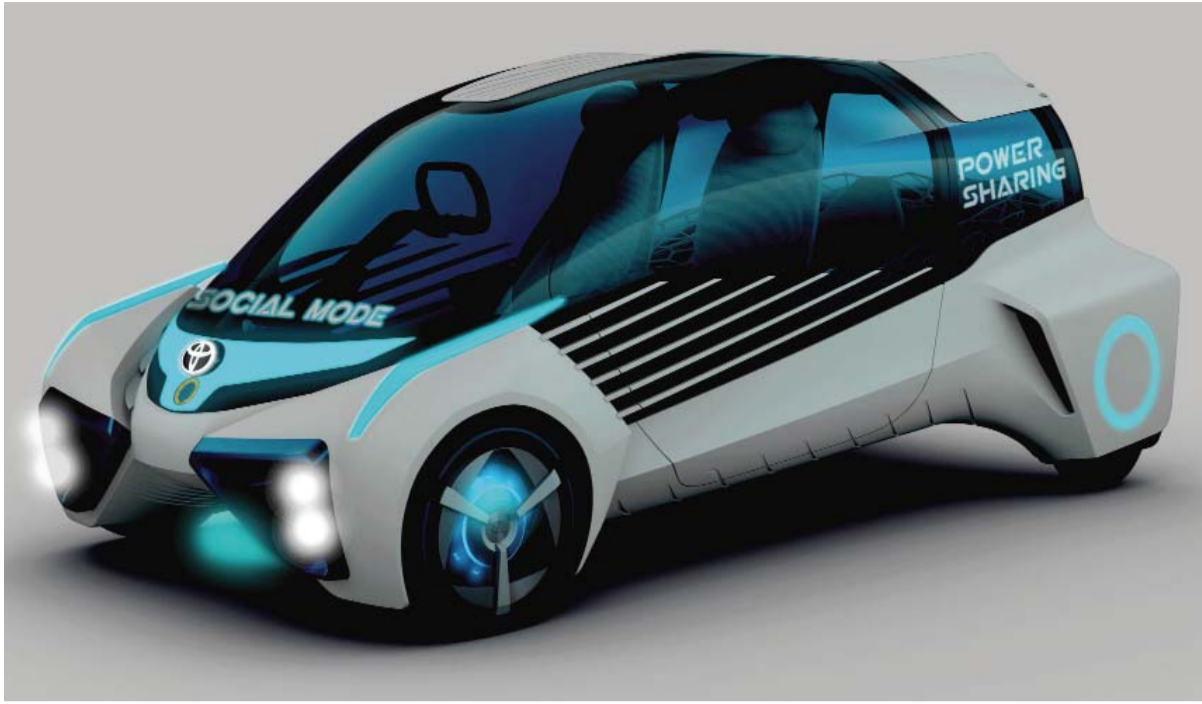
| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyals | 82.060 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 429.774 |
| Egyptian Pound | 37.873 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 2.161 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.631 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.889 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.897 |
| Philippines Peso | 6.494 |
| Cyprus pound | 580.935 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.470 |
| Syrian Pound | 2.613 |
| Nepalese Rupees | 3.891 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 70.729 |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 48.377 |
| Thai Bhat | 9.483 |
| Turkish Lira | 104.513 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Europe | | |
| British Pound | 0.453724 | 0.462724 |
| Czech Korune | 0.004258 | 0.016258 |
| Danish Krone | 0.040408 | 0.045408 |
| Euro | 0.323374 | 0.331374 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.031725 | 0.036925 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.087421 | 0.087421 |
| Slovakia | 0.009116 | 0.019116 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.031272 | 0.036272 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.296990 | 0.307190 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.102019 | 0.112319 |
| Australasia | | |
| Australian Dollar | 0.206963 | 0.218463 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.193153 | 0.202653 |
| America | | |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.224212 | 0.232712 |
| US Dollars | 0.300650 | 0.305150 |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| US Dollars Mint | 0.301150 | 0.305150 |
| Asia | | |
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003513 | 0.004113 |
| Chinese Yuan | 0.046685 | 0.050185 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.037220 | 0.039970 |
| Indian rupee | 0.004413 | 0.004803 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000018 | 0.000024 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.002420 | 0.002600 |
| Kenyan Shilling | 0.003167 | 0.003167 |
| Korean Won | 0.000257 | 0.000272 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.067710 | 0.073710 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.002920 | 0.003090 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002780 | 0.003060 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.006443 | 0.006723 |
| Sierra Leone | 0.000068 | 0.000074 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.213421 | 0.219421 |
| South African Rand | 0.015929 | 0.024429 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001803 | 0.002383 |
| Taiwan | 0.009284 | 0.009464 |
| Thai Baht | 0.008235 | 0.008785 |

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Arab | | |
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.801144 | 0.809144 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.037481 | 0.040311 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000086 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000201 | 0.000261 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.425839 | 0.433339 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000153 | 0.000253 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.020694 | 0.044694 |
| Nigerian Naira | 0.001261 | 0.001896 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.785138 | 0.790818 |
| Qatar Riyal | 0.082996 | 0.084209 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.080630 | 0.081330 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001292 | 0.001512 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.148251 | 0.156251 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.102019 | 0.112319 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.081991 | 0.083140 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.001377 | 0.001457 |



Toyota FCV Plus Concept



Toyota S-FR Concept

Toyota Prius takes center-stage on the Toyota stand at the Tokyo Motor Show

Toyota debuts three new concept cars at Tokyo Motor Show

Toyota presented its vision for the future of mobility at this year's Tokyo Motor Show, where three very different new concept cars were revealed. While some of the vehicles represent the development and commercialization of groundbreaking new technologies, others seek to explore and strengthen the emotional bond between car and driver. The Tokyo Motor Show started on October 29th and concluded yesterday.

Toyota's commitment to advanced powertrain technology was represented by the all-new Prius and the Toyota FCV Plus, a fuel cell concept that embodies Toyota's vision of a sustainable society in which hydrogen energy is in widespread use.

While the above vehicles represent the ever-changing nature of mobility, Toyota also showed two concepts created to reaffirm the fundamental relationship between car and driver: the Toyota S-FR, a fun-to-drive entry-level lightweight sports car, and the Toyota KIKAI, a design concept that reminds us of the innate beauty of machinery.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, TOYOTA Motor Corporation, "The Tokyo Motor Show is a great platform for Toyota to demonstrate its vision of how mobility is evolving while also showing our latest models including the fourth generation Prius which embodies our commitment to sustainability. We also took this opportunity to display three fascinating concept cars which offer a tantalising glimpse into an exciting automotive future where driver and machine are in harmony and advanced technology turns eco-cars into energy-cars. I would like to thank our loyal customers who have supported us over the years and believed in our bold vision and innovative initiatives aimed at setting new standards in the automotive industry."

Toyota Prius

Since its launch as the world's first mass-produced hybrid passenger vehicle in 1997, the outstanding environmental performance and advanced features of the Prius have set the stage for the growth of hybrid vehicles worldwide. Based on the pursuit of evolution truly worthy of the pioneering Prius brand, the fourth-generation model is our first global vehicle to use the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), an innovative, integrated development program for powertrain components and vehicle platforms.

The new model inherits the nameplate's signature triangular silhouette which, combined with a low center of gravity, results in

an impressively angular yet emotional design. A comprehensive program of size and weight reductions for major hybrid components transaxle, motor, battery, and engine has also been achieved. As a result, the Prius has achieved over 40 percent thermal efficiency and a huge boost in fuel economy.

The new Prius has also received an entirely new Toyota platform. This has resulted in improved handling, safety and heightened driving enjoyment. The model features a chassis that is 60 percent more rigid, while the powertrain unit's lower placement and low center of gravity has increased the vehicle's stability and comfort.

Toyota FCV Plus Concept (world premiere)

This concept showcases Toyota's vision of a sustainable society in which hydrogen energy is in widespread use. In addition to the vehicle's own hydrogen tank, the car can also generate electricity directly from hydrogen stored outside the vehicle. The vehicle can thus be transformed into a stable source of electric power for use at home or away. When the car is not being used as a means of transport, it shares its power generation capabilities with communities as part of the local infrastructure.

Toyota KIKAI Concept (world premiere)

The concept was designed to explore and emphasize the fundamental appeal of machines: their fine craftsmanship, their beauty, simplicity, and their fascinating motion. This concept takes the machinery, normally hidden beneath the vehicle body, and makes an open display of its beauty. The small window at the driver's feet is another distinctive aspect of this car's structure, communicating the movements of the tires and suspension and the rush of speed along the road surface. Through the windshield, the movements of the upper control arm are also visible. This provides a novel driving sensation in which the machinery that supports the operations of cruising, turning, and stopping in ordinary everyday driving can be directly perceived with the senses. The adoption of a central driver seat, which places the driver at the heart of the car, gives a more instinctive sensory connection with the vehicle.

Toyota S-FR Concept (world premiere)

The Toyota S-FR is a concept vehicle that continues the proud heritage of Toyota's fun-to-drive lightweight sports cars. Pitched as an entry-

level model, the new concept emphasizes responsiveness, and aims to make a whole new generation fall in love with driving. The concept's compact body is incredibly light, yet offers a smooth driving style. Benefiting from the unique advantages of a lightweight

sports car, the concept offers smooth, responsive and direct handling that gives a real sense of communication between car and driver one key benefit of the FR (front engine/rear drive) format. The concept's long nose and wide stance make for an archetypal

sports car profile, while the familiar roundness of its frame inspires a feeling of closeness. The simple and modern finish of the interior rounds off a design that stresses approachable simplicity while conveying the vehicle's performance and sporty spirit.



Toyota Kikai Concept



Toyota Prius



Toyota Prius

US PESSIMISM BURNS OFF AS CHALLENGES GROW

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEKAHEAD

LONDON/BENGALURU: A cloud of pessimism may have burned off for many investors on a bright October US jobs report, but much of the global economy-including China, which not long ago was a top worry for the US Federal Reserve- remains vulnerable. With markets having swung in just a few weeks from pricing out a Fed interest rate hike next month to a strong likelihood it will take place, however, economic releases in the coming week may be judged simply as supporting evidence.

The US jobs report not only revealed more hiring than even the most optimistic of 101 forecasters

polled by Reuters, but the unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent and average pay growth accelerated to a solid 2.5 percent annual pace. That pushed the dollar sharply higher against the euro on optimism the US economy may be stirring out a fitful, uneven expansion into something more vigorous.

Analysts and Fed officials had mused beforehand about how to clearly explain that a slowing labour market is still capable of generating inflation, but that obstacle to a putative December rate hike has now been substantially removed. For most Fed officials who have commented, average monthly payroll

growth of more than 180,000 since August is more than enough for them to be satisfied the job market is tightening at a strong enough pace.

Such optimism has its consequences, mainly a stronger US dollar, which itself has kept a lid on growth, particularly among manufacturers who are more vulnerable to rising prices on a competitive international market. That dollar strength also has weakened havoc on emerging markets, sending freely floating currencies plummeting, and even forcing China to modestly devalue the yuan.

While China's reported growth rate has barely

slowed, other data suggest its central bank has been right to cut interest rates six times in a year, with more stimulus seen in the pipeline.

"While the Chinese slowdown is going to take the edge off some of the growth figures in the major industrialized nations, so long as it's not an outright collapse, the growth picture remains intact - that is to say, modest," said Peter Dixon, global financial economist at Commerzbank.

Chinese trade figures released on Sunday fell far short of forecasts, with both imports and exports disappointing hopes that declines would be less pronounced in October than a month before, reinforcing views that more stimulus will be needed. The eighth monthly drop in net trade saw October exports fall 6.9 percent from a year ago while imports slipped 18.8 percent, leaving the world's second-largest economy with a record high trade surplus of \$61.64 billion.

Industrial output, due this week, is forecast in a Reuters poll to have expanded at a slightly faster pace in October. Investment is forecast to have weakened to the lowest in many years in October with a cooling in bank lending. Inflation is expected to slow to just 1.5 percent, extremely weak for a developing economy with such a high reported growth rate.

Commerzbank's Dixon noted that other emerging markets will be hurt not only by further dollar strength. "Commodity producers are also suffering from the China effect. The likes of Brazil for example, which endured a particularly tough 2015, is going to continue to suffer throughout the early part of 2016," he said. Growth data for the euro zone due on Friday are expected to be decent, but not spectacular. Economists polled by Reuters expected quarter-on-quarter growth of 0.4 percent for the July-

September period, steady on the prior quarter.

But growth in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, probably slowed to 0.3 percent last quarter from 0.4 percent in April-June, and it is far from clear whether that momentum can be sustained or speeded up in the current quarter. One debate opening up for the European Central Bank is whether or not it should have been so heavy-handed at its recent news conference flagging further stimulus ahead, especially now that the euro has fallen significantly on Fed rate expectations.

At the last meeting, ECB President Mario Draghi made it clear the central bank was seriously considering not only an expansion of its bond purchase program but possibly another cut to an already-negative deposit rate. There will be plenty of comments from ECB officials next week, including from Bundesbank head Jens Weidmann, who is likely to express opposition to more stimulus.

For the United States, the jobs report set the tone and data due on retail sales later in the week are not likely to do anything to alter those expectations.

A welter of Fed officials are due to speak later in the week, however, which could give more confidence on the prospects for a rate rise next month, especially given how the rhetoric had already swung in that direction. San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank President John Williams said on Saturday that a start to gradually increasing rates was the "next step" now the United States is closing in on full employment and inflation is likely to rise to target levels. Since the Fed took a pass at its September meeting, Reuters polls of economists have consistently showed expectations for a December rise in borrowing costs, although with weak conviction. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 08 November 2015

| Index | Change | Closing | Last Closing | High | Low |
|----------------|--------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Price Index | ▲ 6.06 | 5,776.84 | 5,770.78 | 5,776.88 | 5,745.05 |
| Weighted Index | ▲ 1.10 | 391.68 | 390.58 | 391.75 | 388.83 |
| KXSX 15 | ▲ 5.49 | 935.26 | 929.77 | 935.33 | 926.40 |

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Volume | 135,481,688 |
| Value (KWD) | 13,672,529 |
| Number of Trades | 3,473 |

| Security | High | Low | Volume | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | Change |
|----------|------|-----|--------|------------|--------|------|--------|
|----------|------|-----|--------|------------|--------|------|--------|

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|------|-----------|---------|----|------|---------|
| MARIN | 110 | 110 | 23251 | 2,558 | 1 | 110 | ▲ 6.0 |
| IKARUS | 100 | 100 | 52,553 | 5,255 | 6 | 100 | — 0.0 |
| IPG | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 265 | — 0.0 |
| NAPESCO | 600 | 600 | 2,000 | 1,200 | 1 | 600 | ▼ -10.0 |
| ENERGYH | 48.0 | 47.5 | 6,500 | 312 | 4 | 47.5 | ▲ 1.0 |
| GPI | 55 | 53 | 2,882,818 | 154,507 | 63 | 54 | — 0.0 |
| ABAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 99 | — 0.0 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Oil & Gas | 2,967,122 | 163,831 | 75 | 791.79 | ▲ 1.43 |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---------|---------|----|-----|--------|
| KFOUC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 232 | — 0.0 |
| BPCO | 580 | 540 | 838,626 | 466,092 | 30 | 580 | ▲ 30.0 |
| ALKOUT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 610 | — 0.0 |
| ALQURAIN | 190 | 186 | 78,732 | 14,764 | 15 | 190 | ▲ 2.0 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Basic Materials | 917,358 | 480,856 | 45 | 1036.10 | ▲ 23.97 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----|-------|---------|
| KCEM | 380 | 380 | 11,590 | 4,404 | 2 | 380 | ▲ 5.0 |
| REFRI | 325 | 325 | 25,495 | 8,286 | 4 | 325 | — 0.0 |
| CABLE | 410 | 405 | 21,587 | 8,793 | 6 | 405 | ▼ -5.0 |
| SHIP | 146 | 142 | 95,600 | 13,715 | 8 | 146 | ▲ 4.0 |
| PCEM | 1,140 | 1,120 | 179,623 | 202,835 | 19 | 1,120 | ▼ -40.0 |
| PAPER | 390 | 390 | 166 | 65 | 1 | 390 | ▼ -25.0 |
| MRC | 65 | 60 | 2,090 | 126 | 2 | 65 | — 0.0 |
| ACICO | 280 | 280 | 50 | 14 | 1 | 280 | ▲ 5.0 |
| GMCM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 495 | — 0.0 |
| HCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 144 | — 0.0 |
| KPAK | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 390 | — 0.0 |
| KBMMCA | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | — 0.0 |
| NICBM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 208 | — 0.0 |
| EQUIPMENT | 70 | 68 | 1,031,217 | 71,081 | 32 | 69 | ▲ 1.0 |
| NCCI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 84 | — 0.0 |
| GYPSSUM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 102 | — 0.0 |
| SALBOOKH | 87 | 83 | 13,100 | 1,109 | 3 | 87 | — 0.0 |
| AGLTY | 520 | 500 | 3,155,316 | 1,612,991 | 93 | 510 | — 0.0 |
| EDU | 216 | 216 | 5,000 | 1,080 | 1 | 216 | — 0.0 |
| CLEANING | 46.5 | 45.0 | 870,441 | 39,687 | 29 | 46.0 | ▼ -0.5 |
| CITYGROUP | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 410 | — 0.0 |
| KGL | 49.5 | 47.5 | 93,000 | 4,477 | 14 | 49.5 | ▲ 1.5 |
| KPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 206 | — 0.0 |
| HUMANSOFT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 940 | — 0.0 |
| NAFAIS | 162 | 154 | 245,000 | 39,636 | 4 | 162 | — 0.0 |
| SAFWAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 330 | — 0.0 |
| GFC | 94 | 94 | 1,500 | 141 | 1 | 94 | ▼ -6.0 |
| MAYADEEN | 26.0 | 25.0 | 6,840,761 | 174,138 | 92 | 25.5 | — 0.0 |
| CGC | 790 | 790 | 15,000 | 11,850 | 2 | 790 | ▲ 10.0 |
| MTCC | 75 | 70 | 4,264,456 | 312,289 | 136 | 73 | ▲ 3.0 |
| UPAC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 700 | — 0.0 |
| ALAFCO | 224 | 220 | 100,200 | 22,045 | 2 | 224 | — 0.0 |
| MUBARRAD | 84 | 83 | 1,161,500 | 96,480 | 31 | 84 | ▲ 1.0 |
| LOGISTICS | 80 | 77 | 1,900,801 | 148,503 | 57 | 80 | ▲ 1.0 |
| SCEM | 88 | 88 | 500,000 | 44,000 | 7 | 88 | — 0.0 |
| GCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | — 0.0 |
| QCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 81 | — 0.0 |
| FCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | — 0.0 |
| RKWC | 106 | 102 | 68,375 | 7,121 | 6 | 102 | — 0.0 |
| SPEC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 | — 0.0 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Industrials | 20,601,868 | 2,824,865 | 653 | 1072.48 | ▼ -3.24 |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|----|-------|--------|
| KSH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 220 | — 0.0 |
| NSH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62 | — 0.0 |
| PAPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 102 | — 0.0 |
| CATTL | 138 | 138 | 100 | 14 | 1 | 138 | ▲ 4.0 |
| DANAH | 90 | 88 | 2,075,184 | 183,013 | 79 | 88 | ▲ 1.0 |
| POULT | 180 | 176 | 520,609 | 93,128 | 7 | 178 | ▲ 2.0 |
| FOOD | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,700 | 6,210 | 2 | 2,300 | ▲ 40.0 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Consumer Goods | 2,598,593 | 282,365 | 89 | 1102.99 | ▲ 4.77 |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|---|---|---|-----|-------|
| MHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 190 | — 0.0 |
| ATC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 920 | — 0.0 |
| YIACO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 128 | — 0.0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Health Care | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 952.98 | — 0.00 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-----|-------|-------|
| KCIN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 970 | — 0.0 |
| KHOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 196 | — 0.0 |
| SULTAN | 75 | 73 | 58,412 | 4,312 | 7 | 73 | ▲ 1.0 |
| CABLETV | 27.5 | 27.5 | 216 | 6 | 2 | 27.5 | ▼ -1 |
| EYAS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 310 | — 0.0 |
| IFAHR | 114 | 98 | 2,453,016 | 252,992 | 116 | 112 | ▲ 6 |
| OULAFUEL | 116 | 112 | 62,104 | 7,198 | 8 | 116 | ▼ -4 |
| MUNTAZAHAT | 102 | 100 | 275,800 | 27,810 | 26 | 102 | — 0.0 |
| JAZEERA | 475 | 465 | 57,568 | 27,020 | 10 | 475 | — 0.0 |
| SOOR | 108 | 108 | 258,191 | 27,885 | 12 | 108 | — 0.0 |
| FUTUREKID | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 110 | — 0.0 |
| ALNAWADI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 | — 0.0 |
| ALRA | 164 | 162 | 54,363 | 8,808 | 5 | 164 | ▲ 2 |
| ZIMAH | 99 | 94 | 2,308,104 | 224,253 | 79 | 99 | ▲ 5 |
| UFIG | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 140 | — 0.0 |
| KOUTFOOD | 580 | 540 | 149,100 | 80,518 | 7 | 540 | ▼ -40 |
| Mezzan | 1,140 | 1,100 | 290,200 | 323,724 | 17 | 1,100 | ▼ -40 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Consumer Services | 5,967,074 | 984,525 | 289 | 986.18 | ▼ -1.18 |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|---------------|----------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-----|-------|-------|
| ZAIN | 370 | 365 | 1,134,649 | 418,813 | 65 | 370 | ▲ 5 |
| OOREDOO | 1,060 | 1,060 | 3,202 | 3,394 | 3 | 1,060 | ▼ -40 |
| HITTELEC | 31.5 | 30.5 | 2,002,640 | 61,815 | 48 | 31.0 | ▼ -1 |
| VIVA | 900 | 870 | 658,248 | 580,241 | 132 | 870 | ▼ -20 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Telecommunications | 3,798,739 | 1,064,262 | 248 | 566.91 | ▼ -10.02 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|-----------|-----------|----|------|-------|
| NBK | 840 | 830 | 2,455,537 | 2,046,926 | 67 | 840 | ▲ 10 |
| GBK | 275 | 270 | 107,000 | 28,915 | 8 | 275 | ▲ 10 |
| CBK | 520 | 520 | 271,178 | 141,013 | 8 | 520 | — 0.0 |
| ABK | 370 | 370 | 32,000 | 11,840 | 3 | 370 | — 0.0 |
| ALMUTAHED | 550 | 530 | 150,982 | 81,532 | 17 | 530 | ▼ -10 |
| KIB | 232 | 230 | 222,237 | 51,375 | 10 | 230 | — 0.0 |
| BURG | 400 | 395 | 1,718,453 | 687,211 | 39 | 395 | ▼ -5 |
| KOBYN | 570 | 560 | 346,309 | 196,385 | 23 | 570 | — 0.0 |
| BOUBAYAN | 435 | 435 | 251,156 | 109,253 | 18 | 435 | ▲ 5 |
| AUB | 212 | 210 | 305,100 | 64,071 | 11 | 212 | — 0.0 |
| ITHMR | 47.5 | 46.5 | 2,068,701 | 96,362 | 55 | 47.0 | — 0.0 |
| WARBANK | 208 | 208 | 238,202 | 49,546 | 84 | 208 | — 0.0 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Banks | 8,164,855 | 3,564,426 | 343 | 935.82 | ▲ 1.75 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-------|-----|---|------|-------|
| KINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | — 0.0 |
| GINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 600 | — 0.0 |
| AINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 410 | — 0.0 |
| WINS | 112 | 110 | 2,986 | 332 | 4 | 112 | ▲ 2.0 |
| KUWAITRE | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 206 | — 0.0 |
| FTI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | — 0.0 |
| WETHAQ | 39.5 | 39.5 | 5,000 | 198 | 1 | 39.5 | ▲ 1.0 |
| BKIKWT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |



Infiniti Q70 wins 'Best Executive Midsize Sedan' at Mideast Car Of The Year Awards

DUBAI: Building on its region wide success since its launch in June earlier this year, the Infiniti Q70 sedan has been named 'Best Executive Midsize Sedan' at the Middle East Car of the Year Awards, held in Dubai on 29th October at the exclusive Raffles Hotel in Dubai.

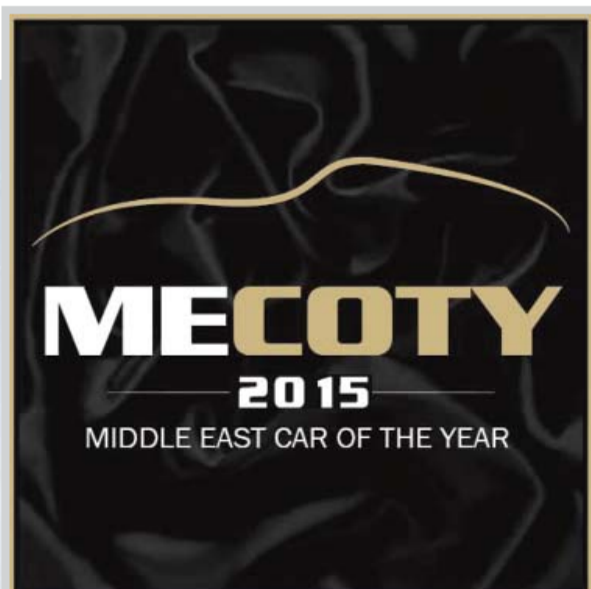
With a fresh new exterior, the latest evolution of the Infiniti Q70 takes the emotion-packed character of the performance sedan up another level. The new 2016 Infiniti Q70 continues to deliver evocative design, invigorating performance, innovative technology and superior craftsmanship.

Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director of Infiniti Middle East, said: "As one of the fastest growing premium brands in the region, the recent launch of the Infiniti Q70 has already started to contribute strongly with a growth of 225 percent (June - Sept) compared to the same period last year. Being awarded 'Best Executive Midsize Sedan' is further testament to the superior level of premium motoring the Q70 offers customers in this segment."

Currently in its second edition, the Middle East Car of the Year (MECOTY) integrates a complex yet transparent nomination and scoring methodology which is developed, tested and implemented by the most experienced 'motoring minds' of the industry.

Infiniti Motor Company Ltd is headquartered in Hong Kong with sales operations in over 50 countries. The Infiniti brand was launched in 1989. Its range of premium automobiles is currently built in manufacturing facilities in Japan, the United States and China. Production in the UK will start in 2015, bringing with it significant expansion of the brand's portfolio. Infiniti plans to also expand manufacturing into Mexico by 2017.

As the Title Partner and Vehicle Performance Partner of Infiniti Red Bull Racing, Infiniti has a far-reaching technical collaboration with the four-time FIA Formula One World Championship winning Team.



AIR ARABIA REPORTS STRONG NET PROFIT OF AED472 MN IN FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 2015 REVENUES EXCEED AED2.87BN FOR 9 MONTHS ENDING SEPT 30

SHARJAH: Air Arabia (PJSC), the first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC) in the Middle East and North Africa, yesterday announced its financial results for the first nine months ending September 30 2015, as the company continues to achieve strong financial performance

on the corresponding 2014 figure. Passenger numbers increased by 11 percent year-on-year in the first nine months of 2015 reaching 5.7 million passengers. The average seat load factor - or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats - for the period stood at an

while serving ever-increasing numbers of passengers. The Company continued its expansion mode throughout 2015 and we have launched 21 new routes this year, in addition to a multiple award-winning products and services".

He added: "We remain focused on expanding operations and entering new markets while consolidating our leading position in existing markets as well as delivering an innovative and appealing product offering to our customers every day."

Air Arabia global destination network has reached 115 routes and 21 new routes added to Air Arabia's network in the first nine months of 2015, as the airline continued to implement its expansion strategy, including the opening of a fifth international hub in Jordan earlier this year.

Revenues for the three months ending September 30, 2015, increased by 6 percent to stand at AED1.1 billion, compared with AED1 billion in the same period of 2014. Net profit in the third quarter of 2015 reached AED235 million, 6 per cent lower than the corresponding 2014 figure of AED251 million. More than 2 million passengers were served in the third quarter of 2015, an 18 percent increase on the corresponding period of 2014, while the average seat load factor was 80 percent.

Air Arabia was named 'Airline of Year' at the recent Aviation Business Awards that took place in Dubai. The carrier was also named "Best Low-cost Airline in the Middle East" at the annual Skytrax World Airline Awards in France, "Best Low-Cost Carrier" at the 2015 World Tourism Forum Awards in Turkey, and also took home the "Award for Customer Innovation" at the first Aviation Achievement Awards.



and solid growth.

The company delivered a record net profit of AED472 million for the first nine months of 2015, 5 per cent lower than the corresponding period of last year. The airline turnover reached AED2.87 billion for the nine months ending September 30, 2015, an increase of 2 percent

impressive 79 per cent.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al-Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia said: "Despite increased pressure on yield margins, spare capacity in the market and protracted political uncertainty within the region, Air Arabia continues to deliver strong profits and solid business growth

FORD'S ALL-NEW GT SUPERCAR READY TO ROCK AUDIENCES DUBAI INTERNATIONAL MOTORSHOW

DUBAI: Ford's all-new GT ultra-high-performance supercar is ready to wow audiences at this week's Dubai International Motorshow, serving as a technology showcase for top EcoBoost performance, aerodynamics and lightweight carbon fiber construction.

The GT is one of more than 12 new Ford Performance vehicles coming from Ford globally by 2020. It joins Focus RS, F-150 Raptor, Shelby GT350 and Shelby GT350R in

EcoBoost production engine ever - a next-generation twin-turbocharged EcoBoost V6 producing more than 600 PS.

The GT makes extensive use of lightweight materials, including carbon fiber and aluminium - enabling outstanding acceleration and handling with improved efficiency.

Ford's commitment to and capability in delivering technologies typically offered only in elite vehicles is evident in the GT. These include

gies that can be applied broadly across Ford's future product portfolio - another proof point that Ford continues raising the performance bar while ultimately improving vehicles for all of our customers."

Carbon fiber innovation

Few innovations provide a more wide-ranging performance and efficiency advantage than reducing weight. All factors of a vehicle's capabilities - acceleration, handling,

senger cell, the GT features aluminium front and rear sub frames encapsulated in structural carbon fiber body panels. Carbon fiber is one of the world's strongest materials for its mass - enabling an ultra-stiff foundation for chassis components, while creating a lighter overall package for increased dynamic performance and efficiency.

Most powerful production EcoBoost ever

Based on the same race-proven engine architecture serving Ford's IMSA Daytona Prototype endurance racing efforts, the next-generation twin-turbocharged 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 in the GT features a wide power band with impressive time-to-torque characteristics.

The engine demonstrates remarkable efficiency - a key attribute of its endurance racing-derived powertrain, where exceptional performance combined with efficiency is a critical competitive advantage.

The GT features an all-new, port/direct dual fuel-injection setup to improve engine response, plus a low-friction roller-finger-follower valve train. The twin-turbocharged EcoBoost V6 will be paired with a seven-speed dual-clutch transaxle for near-instantaneous gear changes and exceptional driver control.

Aero innovation gets active

Aerodynamic efficiency is at the heart of the GT design, actively reducing drag while aiding downforce and stability.

From its optimum tear-drop shape to its aircraft-inspired fuselage and visibility-enhancing curved windshield, every slope and shape is designed to minimize drag and optimize downforce. Although each surface on the GT is functionally crafted to manage airflow, it also features fully active aerodynamic components to improve braking, handling and stability.

An active rear spoiler is keyed to both speed and driver input, reactively deploying and adjusting its height and/or pitch angle depending on conditions.

Designed for purpose

While it shares a legacy with classic Ford racing and performance cars, GT is a fully contemporary and functional shape that communicates modernity and pure beauty.

The state-of-the-art chassis is suspended by an active racing-style torsion bar and pushrod suspension, with adjustable ride height. The 20-inch wheels are shod with Michelin Pilot Super Sport Cup 2 tires featuring a unique compound and structure designed specifically for the Ford GT. Multi-spoke wheels encircle carbon ceramic brake discs at all four corners.

The narrow-profile canopy reduces frontal area and caps a purposeful interior that provides state-of-the-art technology to ensure control, comfort and safety. The two-seat cockpit is accessed by upward-swinging doors, and features driver and passenger seats integrated directly into the carbon fiber passenger cell.



the growing Ford Performance lineup. Beginning production late next year, the GT hits the road in select global markets to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ford GT race cars winning first, second and third place at the 1966 24 Hours of Le Mans.

The all-new GT supercar features rear-wheel drive, a mid-mounted engine, and a sleek, aerodynamic, two-door coupe body shell. It is propelled by the most powerful

advanced active aerodynamics, such as a deployable rear spoiler, and a host of material and technology innovations to help better serve the driver, such as SYNC(r) 3 - the latest version of Ford's advanced connectivity system.

"The GT is the ultimate execution of an enthusiast supercar," said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president, Global Product Development. "GT includes innovations and technolo-

braking, safety, efficiency - can improve through the use of advanced, lighter materials.

The all-new GT features advanced lightweight composites, which will help serve Ford's entire product lineup moving forward. With the broad application of structural carbon fiber elements, the GT will exhibit one of the best power-to-weight ratios of any production car.

Anchored by a carbon fiber pas-



NAG REPRESENTS FLOURISHING KOREAN INDUSTRY AT KOREAN EMBASSY EVENT

With nearly 20 years of success in representing one of Korea's most celebrated brands, National Agencies Group, authorized distributor for KIA Motors in Kuwait, participated in the event organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea at The Regency Hotel Kuwait to celebrate Korea National Foundation Day, Armed Forces Day and the start of Korean Cultural Week, on Tuesday, October 13th 2015.

This yearly event brings together the top Korean brands to showcase their latest innovations to the public as part of a broader effort to promote Korean products and services in Kuwait. By participating, NAG is reinforcing the company's growing role in advancing the status of Korean industry in the country.

NAG's participation included a display of the all-new KIA Grand Carnival family minivan, which broke new ground in its segment earlier this year with an exciting exte-

rior redesign, spacious premium interior, and advanced family-focused features. The Grand Carnival is considered to be a classic example of Korean automotive excellence.

"We at National Agencies Group are proud to play a role in the continued rise of Korean industry, and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for their ongoing support and cooperation in this regard," explained Omar Gabr, KIA Kuwait Brand Manager.

NAG has achieved tremendous success for the KIA brand in Kuwait since forging its partnership with KIA Motors Corp. in 1997. Over the course of this partnership, KIA has succeeded in capturing 8 percent market share from longtime industry leaders and subsequently built a large base of loyal customers. National Agencies Group is part of the Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies.



Margot Robbie at the British Airways launch event in Abu Dhabi.

MARGOT ROBBIE, ORLANDO BLOOM AND JESSIE J CELEBRATE BRITISH AIRWAYS' NEW 787-9 DREAMLINER ROUTE IN ABU DHABI



Orlando Bloom surveys the sweeping Abu Dhabi cityscape.

ABU DHABI: British Airways celebrated the launch of its new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner on its daily London-Abu Dhabi-Muscat service on 6 November by hosting a secret island party with a star studded line up.

Australian actress Margot Robbie and fellow Hollywood star Orlando Bloom flew in for an exclusive VIP party on Zaya Nurai Island just off the coast Abu Dhabi.

Over 200 guests, celebrities and VIPs who attended the event were also treated to a live performance by Jessie J to celebrate the latest addition to British Airways' fleet - which made its inaugural flight into Abu Dhabi on Friday.

The UAE and Omani capitals become only the second and third destinations, respectively, operated by a British Airways 787-9 Dreamliner - an aircraft poised to become the mainstay of the UK carrier's fleet.

The Boeing 787-9 features an evolution of British Airways' First cabin, with just eight seats compared to the usual 14. It is 20 feet longer and four inches taller than its predecessor, the 787-8, with 30 per cent larger windows and 60 per cent less engine noise both inside and outside the cabin.

British Airways' Head of Middle East, Africa and Central Asia Sales, Paolo De Renzis, opened last Friday's event before award-winning British singer Jessie J took to the stage to perform a string of her hits, including Domino, Ain't Been Done, Nobody's Perfect, Masterpiece, Bang Bang and Price Tag.

Chart star and judge of TV's The Voice Jessie said it was her first time visiting Abu Dhabi and that she had been hugely impressed by the new aircraft. She said: "Flying is a huge part of my life now. Over the years I have flown so many airlines but British Airways has always been my favourite. I love Abu Dhabi and am excited to have been able to perform for the people who have helped me travel around the world with my music safely and comfortably. What I love even better - my bed tonight will be on the new 787-9 British Airways plane!"

Wolf of Wall Street actress Margot Robbie - who stars as Harley Quinn in the hotly anticipated cinematic adaptation of cult graphic novel,

Suicide Squad - told guests she had fallen in love with the city. She added: "I've only been in Abu Dhabi for a day or so but it is a place of beautiful contrasts. I visited the desert yesterday and the vast tranquillity of that landscape is the opposite of the cosmopolitan modernity of the city - it is a beautiful place."

Actor Orlando Bloom also took to the stage to hail the new 787-9 and spoke of his love for Abu Dhabi. "Ever since I was a kid, I've loved to travel. There's nothing quite like the luxury of the new First cabin on British Airways. I'm sure it will be warmly received by British Airways' passengers in Abu Dhabi. I have no doubt that travellers will love it," said Bloom.

British Airways' Head of Middle East, Africa and Central Asia Sales, Paolo De Renzis, said the introduction of the new 787-9 Dreamliner, which is the most technologically advanced aircraft in the British Airways' fleet, marked a new era of luxury travel for customers in Abu Dhabi and Oman.

"We have a long heritage in the UAE with over 80 years of operations and it is entirely fitting that our loyal premium customers in Abu Dhabi can now experience the new First cabin that has been created specifically for this aircraft," said De Renzis.

He went on to say: "We would like to thank Orlando, Margot and Jessie J, for joining us here in Abu Dhabi to celebrate the launch of our new aircraft and our partners at Boeing who have helped make the 787-9 a part of British Airways' new fleet of aircraft."

British Airways' first 787-9 Dreamliner recently launched on its Delhi route, with plans to roll out the aircraft on several more destinations including Kuala Lumpur, Austin and the airline's upcoming new route next year to San Jose, California.

The 787-9 features four cabins: World Traveller (economy), World Traveller Plus (premium economy), Club World (business class), and the new First cabin - which was created specifically for the aircraft. The new First suites were designed based on feedback from First customers to ensure comfort was at the heart of the experience.

TAG HEUER TO LAUNCH \$15,000 SMARTWATCH NEXT WEEK

GENEVA: Luxury Swiss watchmaker TAG Heuer will next week launch a smartwatch aimed at taking on the Apple Watch, but with an asking price of \$15,000, the company chief said in an interview published yesterday.

Jean-Claude Biver told the Le Matin Dimanche weekly that the titanium Carrera Connected watch would hit stores in New York at noon (1700 GMT) today. Three days later, the new watch will come to Europe. "Our watch will have almost the same functions as an Apple

Watch, but I don't want to divulge too much," he said.

TAG Heuer has joined forces with technology behemoths Google and Intel to develop a connected watch able to claw back some market share from Apple, which has shipped millions of its smartwatches since launching six months ago.

TAG Heuer's new watch will meanwhile target a more high-end clientele than the average Apple Watch buyer. It had been rumoured to go for \$18,000,

but Biver said in Sunday's interview it would carry a price tag of \$15,000 (14,000 euros).

"The Carrera Connected is an exclusive, luxury watch," he said. In comparison, it is possible to acquire an Apple Watch for under \$400, although more exclusive models can cost around \$17,500, he pointed out.

Biver, an industry legend who also leads the watch division of TAG Heuer's owners LVMH, insisted that he does not consider Apple a direct competitor.

"We are not Apple. We are a watch brand. I forbid my colleagues to say Apple is our competitor," he told the paper. He acknowledged that the two companies were engaging in "similar work", but stressed TAG Heuer had no interest in selling millions of connected watches.

For its New York launch today, the brand will make nearly 1,000 of the connected timepieces available, he said.

The new TAG Heuer watch is based on the brand's Carrera classic model, Biver

said, insisting that at a distance the two could not be told apart.

But like the Apple Watch, the Carrera Connected is able to connect wirelessly to a user's mobile phone to provide a range of functions, Biver said. "It does not just count your steps or take your pulse," he added.

Buyers will be able to choose between six brightly coloured wristbands, and the appearance of the face of the watch can be modified just like the screen on a mobile phone, he said. — AFP

THE GOOD, THE GREAT, AND THE SIMPLY CRAZY

DUBAI: As one of the largest premier electronic shows in the world, IFA annually brings the largest names in the technology industry together in Berlin to showcase the latest and greatest technological offerings to a global audience. Join IDC in taking a look at some of the remarkable smartphone and smartwatch developments shown at IFA 2015.

Alcatel Brings Hip Back

Alcatel took the wraps off several new products at this year's show; however, two devices stood out prominently from its new offerings. The OneTouchGo Watch, Alcatel's latest smartwatch, was one of these new standout products. At first glance, the watch will look familiar to those who know the hip Casio G-Shock line of watches. Nonetheless, at a time when most smartwatch makers are focusing on high-end designs, it is nice to see a brand take a different approach that focuses on a sporty-yet-hip segment of users. The watch itself is incredibly customizable, with the face and wristbands all able to be swapped out to suit one's mood. Furthermore, the watch has an "Emotional Pulse" feature that uses sensors to tell its owner to do something - like scream or eat - and provides an option to post that activity on social media. The OneTouch Go watch runs its own software that will be work on either Android or iOS operating systems.

The second Alcatel product that stood out at IFA 2015 was the OneTouch Pop Star, a phone that features interchangeable back covers that come with quick response (QR) codes. When scanned, these QR codes will provide the phone owner with wallpapers and themes that match the overall look of the cover. Moreover, these back covers will be offered in denim alongside the usual options already seen such as wood and leather. The OneTouch Pop Star comes with a 5" high-definition screen, a quad-core processor, an 5 MP front-facing camera, and a 8 MP rear camera. The phone will be aggressively priced when released, proving that Alcatel is serious about targeting the mid to low-end segment of the market. According to IDC, this segment has large growth potential as the sub-\$200 price band in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region accounted for approximately 65% of smartphone shipments in Q2 2015. Furthermore, according to IDC's Q2 2015 Mobile Phones Tracker, Alcatel currently has over 4% share of the MEA smartphone market.

Huawei Follows Apple with Force Touch

Huawei has recently become a massive force to be reckoned with in the smartphone field, with IDC's latest research showing that the vendor currently commands over 11% share of the MEA smartphone market. And the vendor's rapid rise through the rankings shows no signs of slowing down.

A major hit at IFA 2015 was the unveiling of Huawei's Mate S 5.5" metal smartphone. The Android device features a rear-mounted fingerprint scanner that also allows users to navigate the screen by simply swiping over it in the desired direction. Another interesting feature is Knuckle Sense 2.0, which is capable of differentiating between the user's fingers and knuckles. Using this feature, the user can write the first letter of a desired app that will automatically run; for example, the letter C can be written with a knuckle anywhere on screen, and the camera app will subsequently launch.

A further intriguing feature of the Mate S is the inclusion of Force Touch, which is already used by Apple to describe a pressure-sensitive surface that is capable of providing additional features with the use of extra force or pressure. With Huawei's device, this feature allows users to zoom into pictures and fast forward



Saad El Khadem

through videos by simply applying additional pressure to the device's screen.

Samsung Goes Round

Samsung recently took the wraps off two new smartphones, the Galaxy Note 5 and the Galaxy S6 Edge+. The company also teased its long-awaited smartwatch, the Samsung Gear S2 running Tizen, during the launch of these new smartphones.

At IFA 2015, Samsung finally unveiled two variants of the watch, the Gear S2 and the Gear S2 Classic. The former comes with interchangeable sporty silicon wristbands, while the latter is more traditional and comes with changeable leather straps.

This time round, Samsung opted to go for a circular SAMOLED display instead of the more traditional squared designs of smartwatches of the past. The crown or bezel of the Samsung smartwatch is actually rotatable, allowing users to easily and intuitively navigate the device's menu and touchscreen. This interesting feature can be considered as Samsung's attempt to take on Apple's current digital crown. The smartwatch will also be able to work with other Samsung devices as well as most smartphones running Android 4.4 and above.

Sony Unveils the First 4K Smartphone

It is no secret that the smartphone arm of Sony has had a rough time recently in the face of incredibly tough competition. According to IDC, the company held less than 2% share of the MEA smartphone market in Q2 2015. In a bid to grow this share, Sony unveiled three variants of its flagship Z5 phone at IFA 2015.

The high-end model of the three phone variants, the Sony Z5 Premium, stole the show with its 5.5" screen and whopping 4K display resolution - the first of its kind for a smartphone. Despite being encased in a glass and metal build, the phone is waterproof and incorporates a fingerprint scanner on its side. The phone also has a 23 MP rear camera.

The 4K display has a pixel density of 806 PPI that many were quick to attack, saying that the feature might be overkill and will only drain the battery. Whatever the case, in this competitive day and age of smartphones, companies need such standout features to get mentioned and noticed in the market. Whether the display will be beneficial or not, Sony has gotten itself and its new phones some much-needed publicity; it is now down to consumer acceptance and the vendor's channel strategists to ultimately determine their fate.

— Saad El Khadem is a Research Analyst at IDC Middle East and Africa.



TOKYO: Toyota Motor Corp.'s Executive Technical Advisor Gill Pratt, left, and President Akio Toyoda, right, shake hands during a press conference on artificial intelligence in Tokyo. Toyota is investing \$1 billion in a research company it's setting up in Silicon Valley to develop artificial intelligence and robotics, underlining the Japanese automaker's determination to lead in futuristic cars that drive themselves and apply the technology to other areas of daily life. — AP

TV OPERATORS SEEK SILVER BULLET TO FIGHT ONLINE RIVALS

FIRMS WANT NETFLIX TO SHARE DATA WITH THEM

SAN FRANCISCO: The empire has not yet figured out how to strike back. The major legacy television companies are struggling to find the formula to stem the loss of customers to Internet rivals like Netflix, Amazon and others.

Time Warner - one of the mainstays of the industry with its channels including TNT, Cartoon Network, WB and HBO - has seen its stock come under heavy pressure since lowering its outlook in its last quarterly update.

While Time Warner is still a major industry force, the loss of viewers translates to lower advertising revenues, raising the prospect of a downward spiral.

"Similar to the rest of the industry, ratings at our key domestic entertainment networks have declined to a greater degree than we anticipated a year ago and that will negatively affect ad revenue next year," said chief financial officer Howard Averill.

"We are assuming declines continue at a similar rate in 2016." Elsewhere in the industry, 21st Century Fox reported lackluster results dragged down by its box office performance while CBS reported a rise in advertising revenues.

Walt Disney Co - which owns key television assets including ABC and ESPN - reported strong earnings including a record annual profit, but some observers remain skeptical whether the industry "dinosaurs" can stem the online juggernaut led by Netflix.

Netflix, friend or foe?

The traditional television firms, while working with Netflix, are debating whether to treat the streaming giant as a friend or foe. While these firms may sell content to Netflix, they also are trying the Netflix formula of standalone online subscriptions for services such as

HBO Now and CBS All Access.

"We're seeing more companies starting to tell Netflix 'We're not going to sell you our content or as much of it anymore, or at least not at the same price that we were,'" said James McQuivey, analyst at Forrester Research.

"They want to undermine Netflix at this stage because they decided that Netflix is too powerful. And partly it's a negotiating tactic, because there are things they want from Netflix that Netflix isn't giving them. They want it to pay more money for their shows, they also want Netflix to share data with them."

CBS is taking a new approach by launching its updated "Star Trek" series on its online service. McQuivey calls this "a really smart idea," adding that "CBS knows there are millions of Star Trek fans" who will pay for it. "This is the right kind of audience to try it, and it is the right time," he said.

McQuivey said the major TV companies "have been in experimentation mode" with digital but now need to step up those efforts. "The experimentation has taught them that they can make some money in digital, but now it's time to optimize the money they make," he said.

Streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and others meanwhile are creating original programming, adding to the tensions between old and new media groups.

Some executives like Discovery's CEO David Zaslav argue that streaming services are eating the lunch of traditional TV firms and question the model of handing over too much content at too low a price.

Comcast's NBCUniversal, one of the other major TV operators, is fighting back with its own streaming service called Seeso, offering original comedy pro-

grams. NBCU's Evan Shapiro said big services like Netflix can confound viewers with too many choices.

"By focusing on a specific, yet large niche, and providing a curated experience, we can help viewers find good stuff they might not or cannot find," he said.

Holding back content

Time Warner chairman and chief executive Jeff Bewkes said this week the company is considering holding back some of its programs from streaming operators for a longer period.

"We are evaluating whether to retain our rights for a longer time and forego or delay certain content licensing," he said. Its HBO unit already has a three-year wait before it allows programs to be shown on Amazon Prime in the United States.

Disney chairman and CEO Bob Iger also spoke of re-evaluating the relationship with streaming firms. "When we made these decisions to sell these shows to Netflix, those decisions made the most sense for us in terms of the economics," he said.

"Longer-term, it's possible that we'll make different decisions based on other factors." Executives are also being forced to acknowledge that consumers are gravitating to online services because they offer convenient on-demand viewing, often with little or no advertising. Iger noted that "consumers are demanding a better user experience, and they are migrating to platforms and services that deliver it." The Disney chief said that "consumers now dictate where they want to access media, and it is essential for legacy distributors to crack the mobile code."

Bewkes said that "in our efforts to improve the consumer experience on our networks, we are also looking for opportunities to reduce our ad loads." — AFP

PIRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, TIME TO CHANGE THE CONSUMER MINDSET

DUBAI: With consumers across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) becoming more connected and tech-savvy than ever before, the complex issue of content piracy is showing no sign of letting up, according to the latest insights from International Data Corporation (IDC). The global ICT consulting firm asserts that the use of illegal set-top boxes, unauthorized VPN subscriptions, and torrent downloads has become so rife across MEA that they now pose a serious threat to the region's legitimate ecosystem of production, acquisition, delivery, and commercialization.

"At IDC, we believe that illegal content transmission within MEA costs the industry in excess of \$750 million in lost revenue every single year," says Tracey Grant, the firm's program manager for digital media and broadcasting in MEA. "Sitting at the heart of the problem is the 'laissez faire' consumer mindset that characterizes much of the region, with large sections of the population viewing content piracy as entirely socially acceptable and as a victimless crime. It is an incredibly ingrained and difficult mindset to overcome, and represents the single biggest challenge facing industry stakeholders looking to bring the practice under control."

"It is clear then that the consumer mindset toward piracy across the region needs to change," continues Grant. "This will certainly not be easy to achieve, but there is scope to educate the market in an attempt to alter the region's prevailing attitudes. A key area of focus for consumer education should be the damage that piracy causes to local industries. In this regard, it is a simple matter of return on investment, because if an industry is not properly protected, growth is inevitably restricted and the

cost of innovation and production becomes prohibitively high." "There is considerable demand in the region for more localized content, but consumers must understand that such content comes at a price," concludes Grant. "If the content created by independent production houses is continuously pirated and made available for free via illegitimate

channels, those same independent production houses will simply cease to make the content that the region's consumers have long been crying out for. As such, there is a pressing need to educate consumers on the damage that piracy inflicts on the ability of the region to develop and sustain a truly viable ecosystem of local production."

ALIBABA TO TAKE OVER CHINA'S YOUTUBE

BEIJING: Billionaire Jack Ma's Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba announced an estimated \$4.8 billion deal to take over video streaming service Youku Tudou as it seeks to spread its online empire.

Alibaba is snapping up Youku Tudou, China's equivalent to YouTube, in the latest of a string of acquisitions as it sets its sights far beyond its core e-Bay-style transactions business.

In a "definitive merger agreement", Alibaba will pay \$27.60 in cash per US-traded American depositary share in Youku Tudou, the companies said in a statement, without giving the overall value.

That is up just \$1 from an initial takeover bid Alibaba made last month.

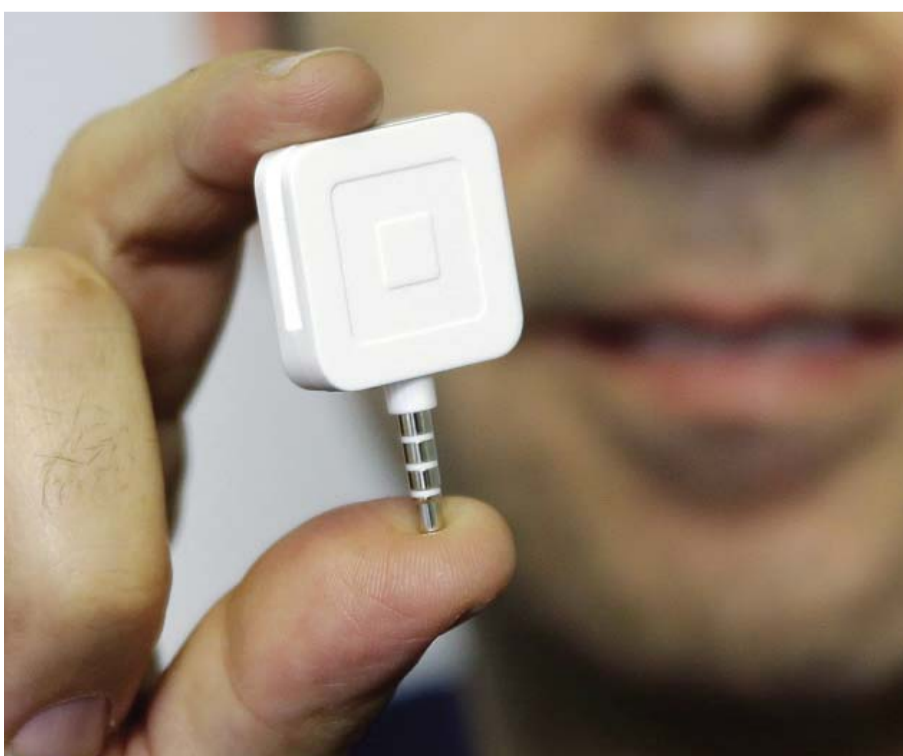
The total value of the deal is \$4.8 billion, according to Bloomberg News, which cited a person who familiar with the agreement who asked not to be identified because the details are not public.

When taking into account the cash held by Youku Tudou, the deal is worth about \$3.7 billion,

Bloomberg said. Alibaba already owns more than 18 percent of Youku Tudou, which offers mostly professionally produced video content licensed from copyright holders. Launching the takeover bid last month, Alibaba's Ma said he aimed to develop the hugely popular Youku Tudou as China's leading digital entertainment platform.

Youku Tudou welcomed the agreement.

"We are confident that we will strengthen our market position and further accelerate our growth through the integration of our advertising and consumer businesses with Alibaba's platform and Alipay services," said Youku Tudou chief executive Victor Koo. The deal, unanimously approved by Youku Tudou's board, is expected to be concluded in the first quarter of 2016, subject to approval by shareholders, the two firms said. Alibaba, which last year launched a record initial public offering in New York, has been dogged by concerns about slower growth in China and a sluggish pace of international expansion. — AFP



NEW YORK: In this Monday, Jan. 5, 2015 file photo, Dr. Greg Werner poses for a picture with his Square credit card reader at his office in New York. Square, the six-year-old company known for its white, cube-shaped card readers that plug into smartphones, is boosting its planned initial public offering value by 47 percent in what has become a very dicey market for new companies trying to raise cash, reported. — AP

NEW KIND OF 'DESIGNER' IMMUNE CELLS CLEAR BABY'S LEUKEMIA

NEW YORK: A baby whom doctors thought almost certain to die has been cleared of a previously incurable leukemia in the first human use of an "off-the-shelf" cell therapy from Cellectis that creates designer immune cells. One-year-old Layla had run out of all other treatment options when doctors at Britain's Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) gave her the highly experimental, genetically edited cells in a tiny 1-milliliter intravenous infusion. Two months later, she was cancer-free and she is now home from hospital, the doctors said at a briefing about her case in London on Wednesday.

"Her leukemia was so aggressive that such a response is almost a miracle," said

Paul Veys, a professor and director of bone marrow transplant at GOSH who led the team treating Layla. "As this was the first time that the treatment had been used, we didn't know if or when it would work, so we were over the moon when it did." The gene-edited cell treatment was prepared by scientists at GOSH and University College London (UCL) together with the French biotech firm Cellectis, which is now funding full clinical trials of the therapy due to start next year. It is designed to work by adding new genes to healthy donated immune cells known as T-cells, which arm them against leukemia. Using a gene-editing technology called TALEN, which acts as

"molecular scissors," specific genes are then cut to make the T-cells behave in two specific ways: Firstly, they are rendered invisible to a powerful leukemia drug that would usually kill them and secondly they are programmed to only target and fight against leukemia cells.

Other drugmakers including Novartis, Juno Therapeutics and Kite Pharma have tested genetically modified T-cells extracted from an individual patient. However, this is the first time cells from a healthy donor have been used in a process could lead to a ready off-the-shelf supply for use in multiple patients. Some scientists have questioned Cellectis' approach because of

potential problems with patients rejecting foreign cells.

But the French biotech, working with the US giant Pfizer, as well as Novartis believes its method is faster and cheaper than creating single patient-specific gene therapies. Results from Layla's case were due to be presented at the American Society of Hematology's annual meeting in Orlando on Wednesday. "This is a landmark in the use of new gene engineering technology and the effects for this child have been staggering," said Waseem Qasim, a professor of Cell and Gene Therapy at UCL and immunologist at GOSH who worked on her medical team.

If the success in this case is sustained and replicated in other patients, he said, the therapy "could represent a huge step forward in treating leukemia and other cancers." Matt Kaiser, head of research at the leukemia and lymphoma charity Bloodwise, said that while the concept of editing immune cells to recognize and hunt out leukemia cells is "very exciting," patients and their families should note that the technique is still in the very early stages of development. "We need to establish whether it can offer a long-term cure, whether there are any side effects and which patients are most likely to benefit from it," he said. — AP



WESTMONT, Illinois: Burgess Square Health Center resident John Kurland, 65, describes the outings he takes with the center's administrator, Neal Glein, right, in Westmont, Ill. — AP photos

PERSON-CENTERED HEALTH CARE FOCUSES ON PATIENT AS INDIVIDUAL

'TOO MUCH, TOO SOON AND AT TOO GREAT COST'

CHICAGO: Every time JoAnna James took her husband, Lawrence, to the doctor, she left the hospital without understanding what was wrong with him. "You ask (doctors) to break it down so you can understand what they are saying and they make you feel like there is something wrong with you," said James, 67. Frustrated, the couple signed up two years ago for an experimental program at the University of Chicago Medicine. The James' new primary care doctor explained Lawrence's prostate cancer diagnosis and every procedure that followed until they understood each of

them. "She speaks your language," JoAnna James said.

The Comprehensive Care Program, funded with a \$6.1 million federal grant, is an example of a new model of care aimed at changing the culture of America's health care system to one where doctors treat people rather than symptoms. For example, when Lawrence James became too sick to leave the house, the program sent a doctor to the couple's home. After he died in the spring, the couple's doctor alerted specialists treating JoAnna James, in case her health deteriorated.

The individualized model of care, called "person-centered care" or "patient-centered care," is based on the concept that costs can be reined in by preventing expensive emergency room visits. It is beginning to take hold among those caring for the sickest and oldest patients. But by far, the fee-for-service model, where doctors are paid for the services they provide regardless of the outcome, is still the main system in the United States. "It's hard to change what's been embedded in concrete for decades," said Robert Berenson, a fellow at the Urban Institute and co-author of "The Road to Making Patient-Centered Care Real: Policy Vehicles and Potholes." He added, "There is a lot of resistance from major stakeholders that do well in the status quo."

Cut services

One hurdle to overcome is getting people to buy into the concept. Its wonky name makes people think it's just a gimmick to cut services, experts say. A poll of Americans age 40 and over conducted this year by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research revealed some skepticism among those who have not tried this new kind of care. More than half of people receiving or providing care without a single health care manager, an aspect of person-centered care, didn't think their care would improve much if they had one, while more than three quarters of those who had one said it improved

things a lot.

Lynda Crandall, executive director of Pioneer Network, a nonprofit promoting a culture change in nursing homes, said some nursing facilities have adopted person-centered care measures on paper, but in reality, the concept is not being put in place. They might have a document that notes a resident's wish to shower at night, but the resident might only get to shower in the morning for lack of staff, she said. The renewed push for person-centered care comes as the US population continues to age and the health care system is in a transition of sorts. To fully evolve, there should be financial incentives for those who embrace the new model of care, said Dr Marshall Chin, a professor of medicine and health care ethics at the University of Chicago who focuses on health disparities. "The more that we say that patient-centered care is something we value and that it would be rewarded, the faster that it would happen," he said.

Facilities administrator

The federal government is beginning to align payment with this kind of care, but critics including the American Health Care Association say much more is needed. The association, which represents nursing facilities and other health care providers, points to proposed regulations that require additional training for staff on patient-centered care and on preventing hospitalizations and infections. — AP



WESTMONT, Illinois: Burgess Square Health Center resident Jane Hail, 73, and center wellness director Rebecca Vrba talk next to the events calendar the two create together each month at the center.

FEDS WORRY THAT LOW-INCOME PEOPLE MAY NOT GET HEPATITIS CURE

WASHINGTON: Confronting the consequences of high-priced drugs, the Obama administration Thursday pointedly reminded states that they cannot legally restrict access by low-income people to revolutionary cures for liver-wasting hepatitis C infection. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also sent letters to several drug manufacturers, requesting details of what they are doing to make their medications more

affordable. Among the companies getting federal letters was California based Gilead Sciences, maker of market-leading Harvoni.

The moves echoed government pressure decades ago to make sure that low-income people covered by federal-state Medicaid programs had access to groundbreaking HIV treatments. It's coming at a time the cost of prescription drugs is the leading health care issue for

the public, according to opinion polls. Hepatitis C is a viral illness that affects some 3 million people in the US and claims more lives here than AIDS. Patients say it feels like a bad flu that never goes away. While the disease advances gradually, it can ultimately destroy the liver, requiring a transplant to save the patient's life.

Previous treatments were hit and miss, and many patients couldn't tolerate the side effects. With new drugs like Harvoni and Viekira Pak, patients finally have a choice among highly effective cures with minimal side effects. But with a course of treatment priced at around \$100,000, the costs are straining government programs and private insurers alike. In a notice to state Medicaid directors, the administration reminded states of their legal obligations to cover prescription medications for the poor.

Federal officials said they are concerned that some states are restricting access "contrary to ... statutory requirements" by "unreasonably" imposing limitations on which patients can get the new drugs. They questioned requirements by some states that patients must have advanced liver disease first before they can get the cure. Since the new drugs cure hepatitis C, doctors say such restrictions don't make sense from a clinical perspective. Federal officials also cited requirements by some states that patients abstain from illegal drugs and alcohol as condition of getting treatment. The administration also requested explanations from drug companies that make, or are working on, breakthrough treatments. Although Medicaid programs are entitled to substantial savings from drug makers, that hasn't been sufficient with the new hepatitis C drugs. Officials also asked for details on what the companies are doing to help states cover the cost of their medications. — AP



CALIFORNIA: This Thursday, March 12, 2009, file photo shows Gilead Sciences Inc headquarters in Foster City, Calif. — AP

LEGALIZE IT? MEXICAN CARTELS' POT SALES COULD GO UP IN SMOKE

MEXICO CITY: For Mexico City anti-narcotics cop Nieto Lara, a decision by the country's Supreme Court that could eventually lead to the legalization of marijuana means only one thing: Major cartels abandoning the drug and focusing on harder stuff. Wednesday's landmark Supreme Court ruling would allow four people to grow and consume the plant for recreational use in a country ravaged by a decade of drug violence, but any nationwide legalization of marijuana is likely years away.

The potentially game-changing prospect that California could join a growing list of US states that have legalized pot, coupled with low prices and shifting attitudes in Mexico, could eventually lead the country's gangs to shift away from one of their original exports, many Mexican dealers, police and drug policy experts say. "If the government allows the sale of marijuana, the price will fall and the cartels will get into some other type of drug, because it won't give them the same profits as it does now," Lara said.

What happens next in Mexico will be keenly watched by proponents and critics of drugs reform elsewhere in the Americas, as governments from Uruguay to Canada have grown weary of the four-decades-long US-led "war on drugs." It would take four more consecutive decisions of the same kind, or eight of the 11 permanent justices to agree, for the Mexican Supreme Court's ruling to set an official precedent and force the government to review the law.

Some marijuana advocates say the decision has inspired them to redouble their efforts. Fernando Belaunzarán, a leftist politician and leading advocate of drug reform, said he would be one of "many" Mexicans to submit similar appeals in the coming days so the court could establish a wider precedent. "Appeals are going to rain down," he said, estimating that the process could take between one and two years. With legalization fervor bubbling in both Mexico and many parts of the United States, the fallout from the end of US prohibition in the 1930s could inspire the cartels' next move. View gallery A burning pile of marijuana and other drugs are being incinerated at a camp of the Mexican Army ... "The Mafia abandoned alcohol," said Mark Kleiman, a drug policy expert who advised regulators in the US state of Washington as they drafted marijuana regulations. "Any illegal business cannot compete with a legal business except for under extraordinary circumstances."

Small weed, big weed

Nevertheless, some in the underground economy, like Mexico City marijuana dealer Jose, see legalization as a way to go legit. Along with friends, he is already investigating how he could jump on what he views as an inevitable change, and professionalize his

operation to raise his weekly sales above the 3,000 pesos (\$181) he currently makes. "For me, (legalization) would be so wonderful. I see it as more professional, like when you go to the supermarket, and you can choose organic products or more basic products," he said.

Still, he said, for the big cartels, a legal pot market would offer "next to nothing." Marijuana sales in the United States make up between 20 and 30 percent of Mexican drug gangs' sales, experts say, but in Mexico, where less than 10 percent of the population uses the drug, they make up far less. In Mexico City's tough-as-nails Tepito neighborhood, one of the capital's major drug distribution hubs, 5 grams of cannabis sells for 40 pesos (\$2.37), Lara said.

Marijuana is the capital's best-selling drug, and drug "shops" in Tepito usually shift 200-300 kilograms every two weeks, he said. But the drug is much less profitable than crack, which goes for 60-80 pesos per half-gram, or cocaine, which sells at 120-140 pesos for the same amount, Lara said. With marijuana already so cheap, and any legalization likely to increase supply and lower prices further, Lara said cartels would be forced to drop the unprofitable product. Research by brokerage Convergenx on marijuana prices in Colorado, which legalized its use and sale in 2012, showed that the average price of an eighth of an ounce fell from \$50-\$70 in June 2014 to \$30-\$45 in June this year.

US and them

Not everyone is convinced that Mexican legalization will push the cartels into harder narcotics. "I don't think there's any sense that if we take marijuana away from them, that will incentivize them to move into other areas," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance. "I think they're already incentivized to move into as many areas as they can." However, experts said the growing possibility that California would legalize marijuana in 2016 - despite voters in the US state of Ohio earlier this week soundly rejecting a legalization proposal - had the potential to dramatically change overall US policy toward the drug.

"I see no reason for (the cartels) to continue to have marijuana as a significant percentage of their business once large-scale legalization is achieved," said Alison Holcomb, one of the architects of marijuana legislation in Washington state. Mexican officials are keenly aware that legalized dope in California could heighten pressure for them to follow suit, Nadelmann said. During a recent visit to the Mexican capital, California Governor Jerry Brown was asked by Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto whether he thought California might soon legalize pot. Brown said he expected it to be on the ballot in 2016, and that it would win, Nadelmann said. — AP



NEW YORK: In this photo Barnes Intermediate School student Jessica Pellegrino, left, hugs classmate Brandon Williams at the Barnes Intermediate School in the Staten Island borough of New York. — AP

AUTISTIC NYC BOY SAYS 'SPONGEBOB' TAUGHT HIM HEIMLICH

NEW YORK: A 13-year-old autistic boy says he performed the Heimlich maneuver on a classmate at his New York City school after learning the technique from "SpongeBob SquarePants." The Staten Island Advance reports that Brandon Williams was eating lunch at Barnes Intermediate School on Oct 28 when he noticed that classmate Jessica Pellegrino was choking on a piece of apple.

He wrapped his arms around her mid-section and gave a sharp thrust to her diaphragm, and she spit out the piece of apple. Brandon was asked how he learned the Heimlich a few days later. He said, "Learned it on SpongeBob." Brandon's and Jessica's seventh-grade class had a party to celebrate Brandon's heroism. Some adults at the school said Brandon deserves a medal but he said he doesn't need one. — AP

SUPERSIZED SCANNER TO EXPLORE THE BODY AND HUNT DOWN DISEASE

NEW YORK: When they were kids, Simon Cherry and Ramsey Badawi both wanted to be astronomers, unlocking mysteries in far off galaxies. That didn't work out for them. The pair still plan on unlocking mysteries but this time inside the human body. They've received a \$15.5 million grant to build the world's first full body PET scanner. Unlike X-Rays and MRI's that image structure in the body, Positron emission tomography, or PET, images function on a molecular level.

"We are able to say something about what the cells in the body are doing," said Simon Cherry a professor of radiology and biomedical engineering at the University of California, Davis. "How actively they are metabolizing, for example, or how quickly they are dividing. So taking cancer for example that could be tremendously powerful to see when you give a drug whether that shuts down the metabolism of a tumor," he added. The new scanner is called 'Explorer' and sets

it apart is its size. Current PET scanners are only able to image parts of the body. This new device will be able to image the whole body in one go.

"If you think about it really no organ in the body acts on its own," said Ramsey Badawi, a professor of radiology at UC Davis. "We are actually a system, a system of organs and all of the organs interact with each other. And we have never really been able to interrogate that with imaging before and now we are going to

be able to look at that and that is tremendously exciting and it opens up a bunch of science that we really don't know where that is going to lead, actually," he added.

What it could lead to is better and safer drugs, as well as more targeted diagnostic treatment for diseases, thanks to the unprecedented blueprint of the body this scanner could potentially provide. "So we are going to collect effectively more signal with this scanner

than we do with current devices. And that lets us do a couple of things. We can either image much more quickly and collect our signal in 1/40th of the time so we can do scans in 30 seconds that currently take 30 minutes. Or we can drop the radiation dose significantly and do scans at a fraction of the radiation dose that we currently do them at," said Cherry. The team is hoping to start human trials to test the scanner in three years time. — Reuters

CAN UN CLIMATE TALKS CATCH UP WITH THE REAL WORLD?

BARCELONA: While companies and citizens find ways to cope with climate change on the ground and push governments to swap fossil fuels for clean energy, officials negotiating a UN deal to curb global warming often appear stuck in a time warp, experts say. At final talks before a Paris summit due to agree the new deal, South Africa's top climate diplomat Mxakato-Diseko told journalists climate change was a day-to-day reality for developing states - "a matter of life or death" for some. Yet the discussions in Bonn seemed far off dealing with the impacts of worsening extreme weather and rising seas as an urgent threat, tripping up over procedural rows and the precise wording of a 51-page draft text to be taken to Paris.

Mxakato-Diseko, who chairs a key group of 134 developing states at the climate talks, insisted success in Paris next month would hinge on industrialized countries committing more public money to help poorer nations adapt to growing climate stresses and adopt renewable energy. But some climate change experts - and developed-country negotiators - see this as an old-fashioned view of the world. Insisting that rich governments alone pay to fix the consequences of their historically high carbon pollution symbolises what a European Union official described as "very rigid and somewhat outdated rhetoric", dividing the world according to income levels in the early 1990s, when the bedrock UN convention on climate change was crafted.

"To be effective, the new agreement must reflect today's reality and evolve as the world does," said Elina Bardram, head of the European Commission team, at the October talks in Bonn. That reality, experts say, means recognizing that all countries, rich and poor, need to play a part in curbing planet-warming emissions by moving away from dirty energy sources and protecting their people from climate change impacts.

With China now the world's top emitter of greenhouse gases, and India fourth after the United States and the European Union, efforts by major emerging economies to develop in a greener way are a centrepiece of the new accord now being stitched together. Whatever is agreed at the Paris conference starting on Nov. 30, the six-year process leading up to it has resulted in 155 governments submitting national climate action plans for the coming decades - including 114 developing countries. That in itself is a huge achievement, analysts say. "The world has changed significantly, and Paris will be a recognition of that," said Saleemul Huq, director of the Dhaka-based International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

Developing nations have made a big concession by putting forward plans to use more solar, wind and water power and to conserve forests, but there is a limit to how far they can shoulder more of the burden of curbing climate change, he added. An analysis of the national climate action plans, released last week by the UN climate change secretariat, found that a quarter of the emissions reductions pledged are conditional on receiving financial and technical support to make them happen. "Developing nations are saying 'We'll do something, and if we get more money we will do even more, and so it's about how much money are you going to give us?'" said Huq.

Barriers break down

But people working on renewable energy projects - from Africa to Latin America - have a different take, said Monica Araya, a former climate negotiator for Costa Rica and founder of sustainable development strategy group Nivela. "If you talk to citizens, entrepreneurs or investors in renewables, or people working on energy efficiency in cities, the conversation is all about the country we want to build... the cooperation we need, the collaborations we want," she said.

A citizens' platform she set up called Costa Rica Limpia is pushing for cleaner forms of public transport, to improve quality of life and decarbonize the economy further. In other fast-developing places like China, a key reason governments have begun to crack down on dirty industries and step up efforts to rein in emissions is public dissatisfaction over air pollution, she noted. Meanwhile, expertise in preventing floods or building solar power systems is increasingly being shared across borders in the southern hemisphere, as well as between the north and south - along with funding to put those ideas into practice. China, for example, recently promised \$20 billion (\$3.1 billion) to establish a fund that will assist developing countries in combating climate change. And some developing nations, including Peru and Colombia, have made contributions to the UN Green Climate Fund, which will finance efforts to adapt to and curb climate change in poorer countries. Such moves have begun to break down the traditional division between rich donor governments and recipient states, but the rhetoric in the negotiating rooms often fails to reflect this, experts say.

Paris politics

Until wealthy governments clarify how they will make good on a promise to mobilize \$100 billion a year in climate change funding for vulnerable nations by 2020 - and how it will be scaled up after that - the G77 and China group of developing countries is expected to continue using finance as a bargaining chip at the UN talks. "For Paris, you can almost guarantee that this is going to be an end game," said Athena Ronquillo-Ballesteros, a finance expert with the World Resources Institute. Wrangling is likely over the definition of which countries should - or could - provide climate finance, and to which vulnerable states. Even developing nations that are willing to put money on the table don't want to be bound by the same accounting and reporting rules as their richer counterparts, experts noted. The complex UN process and the tough challenge of getting some 195 countries to agree on limiting environmental damage - for which some are more responsible than others - mean negotiators, many of them government officials, will be unable to get the job finished in Paris themselves.

More than 80 world leaders are due to attend the opening, to give the talks political impetus. And in the second week, ministers will arrive to hammer out anticipated sticking points such as finance and a mechanism for addressing "loss and damage" from climate change, such as displacement due to rising seas. "I don't believe (an accord in) Paris will be the result of the negotiators' willingness," said Araya. "I think (it) will be the product of a broader equation." — Reuters



COYUCA DE BENITEZ, GUERRERO, Mexico : Pictures of tiger Ankor, who escaped from a cage of Paradise of Mangroves unit of environmental management (UMA) In Coyuca de Benitez. — AFP photos

HUNT FOR BENGAL TIGER ON THE LOOSE IN MEXICO

ACAPULCO, Mexico: Mexican authorities stepped up the hunt Friday for a Bengal tiger that escaped from an ecological park last month and warned people not to approach the roving beast. The tiger, named Ankor, has been on the loose in the southern state of Guerrero since October 26 and is believed to be hiding in mangroves close to where it went missing.

There are indications that the animal, which weighs about 300 kilos (650 pounds), may have wandered close to a ranch in Coyuca de Benitez, about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the park, said the Federal Attorney of Environmental Protection (Profepa). "If the situation gets out of control and puts human life at risk it will be necessary to give orders to kill it, but we are doing everything possible to recapture the animal," said Zenon Alvarado Serano, a Profepa inspector. Local media said that the animal had killed five cows so far. — AFP



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GUST HOSTS TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES KUWAIT CONFERENCE

IMPROVE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF ENGLISH

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) hosted the Third Annual Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference at its campus in Mishref, carrying the theme "Reshaping English Teaching in an Age of Innovation." 500 local and regional educators who teach English attended the event.

The event was attended by a number of leading academics including Professor Mohamad Terro, President of the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), Dr Fahad Al-Khulaifi, PUC representative, Dr Najat Al-Mutawa, Dean of the College of Education at Kuwait University, Dr Salwa Darwish, HOD College of Basic Education at PAAET, as well as GUST students and faculty.

Mohamed Etedali, TESOL Kuwait's President, said, "The conference pulled together various strands of the language teaching profession, and wove them together to create a rich professional development program unprecedented in Kuwait. Leading experts, experienced researchers, and classroom teachers anchored the program; everyone has something to offer and something to learn." Conference attendees learned new meth-

ods on how to teach English to native Arabic speakers, in addition to learning about the latest innovations and research in the field of English language teaching. Attendees were also able to network with educators throughout Kuwait and the region benefiting from this conference as English is their medium of instruction.

Unique conference

Professor Donald Bates, GUST President, said, "I would like to thank Dr Ilene Winokur, Director of the Foundation Program Unit at GUST, and Conference Chair, for her dedication to this unique conference through which TESOL Kuwait has been able to engage hundreds of professionals to collaborate locally and create a world of opportunity for people of all ages who want to learn English."

TESOL Kuwait is a non-profit organization of teachers to speakers of other languages affiliated with the U.S. based TESOL International, housing 46,000 members worldwide. TESOL seeks to improve the teaching and learning of English and content subjects to non-native speakers of English. It is a professional community committed to advancing

excellence in English language teaching. The community fosters the exchange of ideas, research and peer-to-peer knowledge, and provides expertise, resources, and a voice on issues affecting the profession.

Dr Dudley Reynolds, Keynote Speaker and 2015-2016 TESOL International Association President-elect said: "We live in a swim or sink world. Staying abreast of trends, forces, and innovations is key. I believe that helping us do this is one of the most important functions of a professional association like TESOL Kuwait

and TESOL International." Dr Reynolds currently teaches first year English writing at Carnegie Mellon University-Qatar. His research focuses on the development, assessment, and teaching of second language reading and writing.

Featured speakers

There were three other featured speakers during the conference, Heidi Faust, Adjunct Faculty in the Lehigh University TESOL Certificate program and TESOL International Association's Intercultural Communication

Interest Section Chair, who spoke about building cross-cultural communities and different classroom activities to create a culture of respect; Dr Patricia Ann Brock, faculty member at the School of Education, Pace University in New York City, who discussed how to overcome the challenges of TESOL in order to maximize the rewards; and Dr Mashael Al-Hamly, Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics and Chair of the Department of English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Arts at Kuwait University, who presented reports on a study investigating Gulf Arab EFL students' preferences when being assessed in their university-level English courses. The conference also included over 20 workshops, 30 presentations and 5 panel discussions for the attendees to choose from based on their specialties and interests.

GUST takes a special interest in solidifying the teaching of the English language, which is reflected in the international standards implemented in its Foundation Program, which was accredited by the CEA in 2013. The university continuously implements the best methods to develop its curricula and ensure a premier educational experience for its students.



Mishari Deyain, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Qurtoba Cooperative Society, is seen here honoring the 'Kuwaiti Positivity Volunteer Team' in recognition of their efforts to improve their local neighborhoods.



WIN KD 400,000 WORTH OF GOLD COINS THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Malabar Gold and Diamonds, the leading jewelry retailer unfurled the details of its much awaited campaign to celebrate this festive season. This campaign will run at all Malabar Gold and Diamonds outlet in Middle East and Far East from 22nd Oct 2015. The customers get unprecedented opportunities to win a total of

KD 500,000 worth gold coins. A true shopper's delight, Malabar Gold and Diamonds will captivate the customers by exhibiting eye catching designs in gold, platinum, diamonds and precious stones from different parts of the world to flaunt any occasion or event and are well priced too.

For every purchase of gold jew-

elry above KD 150, the customers get a 'Scratch and Win' coupon through which they can win a guaranteed gold coin or up to 250 gold coins instantly. The customers can also avail a free one gram gold coin for every KD 200 spend on diamond jewelry.

Keeping the convenience of their customers in mind, they also offer advance booking facility, where the customers can book their ornaments in advance by paying a certain percentage of the total cost. Furthermore, to ease the shopping stress on Dhanteras day, the most auspicious day to buy ornaments and one of the busiest jewelry trading days in the whole year.

The customers also get a fabu-

lous chance to buy 8 gm gold coins with absolutely no making charges from any of Malabar Gold and Diamonds outlets in GCC during this period.

To add more glitter to this season, they have also unveiled the latest collection of jewelry specially designed for the festive season in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. Moreover, the customers can update any of their old ornaments purchased from GCC with the brand new enticing collection of Malabar Gold and Diamonds without any loss. Any 22K old gold ornaments purchased from GCC can be exchanged with Malabar Gold and Diamonds designs by paying only

making charges ensuring they don't lose any value on the rate of gold. All these offers will be valid at their outlets in GCC until 14 Nov 2015.

The group offers one of the most admired brands in the jewelry segment that includes Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era-Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine-Indian Heritage Jewelry, Precia - Precious Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids Jewelry.

Their mesmerizing collection of jewelry is available at all their outlets in India and GCC with unique exchange offers and buyback policies. The jewelry chain also offers lifetime free repair and maintenance service for all its products.

CZECH EMBASSY OPENS VISA APPLICATION CENTER

The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait is pleased to announce the opening of the Visa Application Center in Kuwait City. Starting from November 15, 2015 the visa applications can be submitted at the Joint visa application Center in Kuwait.

The Address is:
VFS Global.
Czech Republic Visa Application Center
1st floor Al-Banwan Building, Ali Al-Salem Street, Al-Qiblah Area, Kuwait City

Submission of Applications: 9:00 - 16:00 (Sunday - Thursday)
Passport collection time: 16:00 - 17:00 (Sunday - Thursday)
Further instructions you can get from the website :
www.vfsglobal.com/Czech/Kuwait or on call line: 00965 22971114
Note: Applicants need to come in person to submit the visa application at the Czech visa Centre. The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait reserves the right to invite the applicant for a personal interview.

NBTC FESTIVE NIGHT CELEBRATION 2015



Nasser M Al-Baddah General Trading and Contracting Company (NBTC), celebrated their 17th Annual Employee Festive Night on November 5, 2015 from 5.30 PM to 11.30 PM at NBTC corporate office premises, Mina Abdullah. Many distinguished guests and celebrities marked their presence and spread happiness and joy among NBTC family members.

The chief guest for the night, Sunil K Jain, the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, inaugurated the evening with words of encouragement and appreciation for the success of the company. NBTC was established in 1977 and has grown to be a company with over 10000 employees from 20 nationalities undertaking major civil, mechanical, HVAC and electrical projects in Kuwait.

During the festive night, Chairman Mohammed N M Al-Baddah and the Managing Director K G Abraham encouraged the employees with their kind words. An array of awards for the NBTC employees were distributed. Cash awards were given to recognize the class toppers of 10th and 12th grade among the children of NBTC employees. As conducted every year, the proceeds of the employee welfare

fund were distributed to help the families of employees in the unfortunate event of death or permanent disability. Scholarship for professional courses and safety awards were also distributed.

The presence of Indian cine actor Prithviraj and famous film director Blessey along with the world renowned singer, Padmasree Dr K S Chitra captured the minds of the audience and

as the evening progressed, the aroma of the food and the sound of music with the melodious voice of Chitra in 5 different languages echoed into the late hours of the night. Superb dance performances from Shamma Kazim and her team led her crowd into action. The largest and biggest event of the year, the Festive Night 2015 concluded with great joy and excitement and in anticipation for a blessed 2016.





RUSSIAN CULTURE SHOWCASED AT IWG MEETING

By Faten Omar

The International Women's Group (IWG) - a multinational group of women from more than 50 countries - held an event about Russian culture, yesterday at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bida'a.

At the event, Elena, wife of the Russian Ambassador to Kuwait, told Kuwait Times some details about the celebrations of Russian culture "Our children in the Russian school here in Kuwait will represent a folklore dance to a very famous Russian song, and we will show our guests a short

promo film about Russia." She explained that the event aims to help increase the number of tourists from Kuwait to Russia because Russia is large and beautiful country. "We have also a lot of mosques, and we have the biggest mosques in Europe. It is more than 19,000 square meters, which enables it to hold at least 10,000 worshippers," Elena said.

About the relationship between Kuwait and Russia, she said "His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to Russia will add a new chapter to the already strong relations linking the two countries and will broaden the scope of Kuwaiti-Russian ties. The visit will

result in the signing of several agreements and memos of understanding aimed at bolstering relations."

Gloria Agaronova, attaché of protocol affairs at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Kuwait, said "Today, We are here to represent Russian culture with the international women's group. We will hold a small fashion show as well as give out traditional Russian souvenirs for the guests. And we have a corner showcasing traditional Russian crafts. The event has also the most well known traditional Russian foods and sweets that may seem strange to an outsider. They will also served caviar, traditionally made from the

eggs of sturgeon found in the Black Sea or Caspian Sea." Agaronova pointed out that there will be for the first time in GCC, the Russian Legendary Igor Moiseyev ballet show, at the Abdullhussain Abdul Redha Theatre in Salmiya, on November 24-25, 2015, the show will begin at 19:00.

IWG, is a non-profit group, which was formed with the objective of providing a forum for ladies to meet, form friendships and learn about each other's culture. The members of the organization are entertained by various cultural activities and cultural programs that aim to introduce the different cultures of the organization's members.



AUK, GW ESTABLISH PROGRAM FOR STUDENT EXCHANGE, COLLABORATION



The American University of Kuwait (AUK) entered into an agreement with The George Washington University (GW) - Washington DC, to establish a program for undergraduate student exchange and collaboration. GW and AUK agreed to an Undergraduate Exchange for up to a maximum of two academic semesters (fall or spring) with the other institution on a non-degree basis. Undergraduate students may each enroll at the other institution for no more than one academic year.

Late in April 23, 2015, a delegation from AUK, consisting of the President of AUK, Professor Nizar Hamzeh and the Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Dr Rawda Awwad, visited GW to meet with Provost, Dr Steven Lerman, Associate Provost for

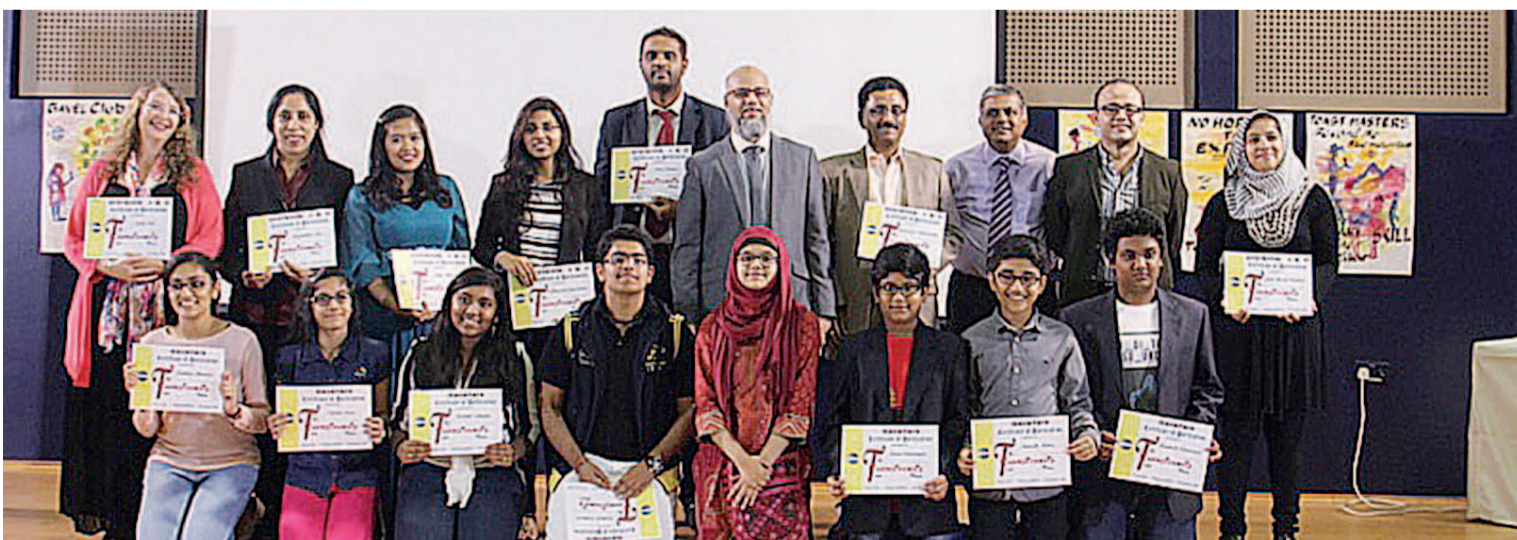
International Programs, Dr Donna Scarboro, Associate Provost for International Programs, Professor Edward W Gnehm Jr and other GW senior administrators, and discussed academic collaboration between the two institutions.

The Undergraduate Student Exchange Program will be administered through the Office of International Programs at GW and the Office of the President at AUK.

President Hamzeh of AUK explained that the purpose of the MOU is to promote academic collaboration between the two universities and to provide AUK and GW students with the opportunity to experience education outside their classrooms and environments. "Studying abroad must be viewed as an essential component of a college degree and critical to preparing future leaders," said

President Hamzeh. This is the first step towards a larger goal for the two institutions. "In the future, our mutual goal is to expand this academic collaboration to include faculty exchanges, research collaboration and development of new programs," explained President Hamzeh.

Dr Donna Scarboro, Associate Provost for International Programs at GW said, "We look forward to our engagement with AUK. GW is very active in both receiving and sending students to provide a vital dimension to higher education. Students from abroad enrich our local classroom by bringing new perspectives and knowledge; and exchange gives our students a means to achieve nuanced awareness of world cultures, strengthening the links among citizens in the future."



TALL TALES CHAMPIONSHIP 2015 ORGANIZED

Division I and O from District 20 have joined hands to bring not only for the Adult Toastmasters but also for the first time on the Division level the Young Gavelier's an opportunity to represent their clubs to participate in the Tall Tales Championship 2015.

All participants were required to compete in their clubs' levels. Only the first place from the Club Contest was eligible to represent their clubs at the Tall Tales Semifinals held at the American

University of Kuwait on the 23rd of October. There were 19 contestants of which only 10 Adults have moved into the Final along with seven Gavelier's who will also compete in their own category but not different in Creativity, Imagination and Talent on the 6th November at the Australian College of Kuwait. There was just one champion on the 6th of November, amongst the Adults and Gavelier's, both received their Championship Trophy, however The Adult Champion not only took the trophy

home but also received an Economy Return Ticket sponsored by Gulf Air to any destination on their network.

Division I and O are affiliated to Toastmasters International, which is a world leader in communication and leadership development. It has a membership of more than 332,000, through 15,400 clubs in 135 countries. In Division Directors in are Kuwait Division I, Dr Mohamed Makhoulouf and Division O, DTM Charles Basil Pinho.

BSK SUPPORTS SIDRA ASSOCIATION

For a number of years now the coordination of global efforts to raise awareness of Breast Cancer has meant that educational and fundraising events in this area have become firmly established as important events on the annual calendar at this time of year. The British School of Kuwait (BSK) has been associated with this most worthy of causes for over ten years now and this year was, of course, no exception. First launched back in 2002, the fundraising baton has since been passed to successive groups of students who, led by the Sixth Form, work together to organize a month long program of events.

This year the Pink Saturday program of activities was coordinated by Year 13 students Abdulrahman Alsaleh, Leena Albader, and Joeseephina Saager in support of Al Sidra Association for Psychological Care of Cancer Patients. As always, there has been a wide range of fundraising activities taking place throughout the month, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the Pink Saturday event that took place on Saturday 17 October 2015. A host of Sixth Form student-led activities were on offer, including face-painting, arts corner, sporting challenges, and the ever popular Soak the Teacher! Among the entertainment provided on stage were performances from the BSK RandB music group led by

Simon Amura, and the BAIA Dance group led by Alley Hunter. Another highlight was the BSK Staff Bake-off, featuring stunning baked creations by staff at the school. Representing Al Sidra at the event were Executive Director Manal Shadeed, Clinic Coordinator Shebina Amlani, and Information Officer Karen Webster.

BSK is proud to lead the way in promoting social responsibility as part of its philosophy of education, something which the senior students have exemplified in having organized such a successful event in aid of so worthy a cause. BSK is pleased to acknowledge the invaluable support of IFA International Travel and Tourism, Alsayer Group Holding (Toyota), Aroobfit Centre, and the Regency Hotel Kuwait whose generosity has helped raise almost KD3000 so far, and ensured the success of the event. BSK would also like to thank Alexia Lodge, the wife of HE the British Ambassador; Catherine Silliman, the wife of HE the American Ambassador; Viv Anthony, President of the British Ladies Society Kuwait; Lynda Van Greenstone, President of the AWL; Michelle Blackett, President of the IWG; and Manal Shadeed, Executive Director of Al-Sidra Association, for joining Madame Vera Al-Mutawa, Director and Founder of BSK, on stage to open this special event.



- 00:20 Snake Sheila
- 00:50 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 01:45 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 02:40 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 03:35 The Beauty Of Snakes
- 04:25 Night
- 04:50 Night
- 05:15 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 06:02 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 06:49 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 07:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:25 Dogs 101: Specials
- 09:15 The Beauty Of Snakes
- 10:10 Treehouse Masters
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Dogs 101: Specials
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 14:45 The Beauty Of Snakes
- 15:40 Treehouse Masters
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Roaring With Pride
- 18:25 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 19:20 Bondi Vet
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Gangland Killers
- 22:05 Treehouse Masters
- 23:00 Bondi Vet
- 23:50 Ten Deadliest Snakes



- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 Impossible Engineering
- 02:00 Impossible Engineering
- 02:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 03:40 Auction Hunters
- 04:05 Garage Gold
- 04:30 Baggage Battles
- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How It's Made
- 06:00 Alaskan Bush People
- 06:50 Classic Car Rescue
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Auction Hunters
- 08:55 Garage Gold
- 09:20 Baggage Battles
- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How It's Made
- 10:35 Fast N' Loud
- 11:25 Wheeler Dealers
- 12:15 Cuban Chrome
- 13:05 Auction Hunters
- 13:30 Garage Gold
- 13:55 Baggage Battles
- 14:20 Alaskan Bush People
- 15:10 Classic Car Rescue
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 17:15 How It's Made
- 17:40 Deadliest Catch
- 18:30 Outback Truckers
- 19:20 Dual Survival
- 20:10 Garage Gold
- 20:35 Baggage Battles
- 21:00 Deadliest Catch
- 21:50 Outback Truckers
- 22:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
- 23:30 Classic Car Rescue



- 00:40 Cosmic Collisions
- 01:30 Cosmic Collisions
- 02:20 Deadliest Space Weather
- 04:00 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 06:24 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
- 07:12 Landing On A Comet: Rosetta
- 08:00 Alien Mysteries
- 08:50 Alien Mysteries
- 09:40 Alien Mysteries
- 10:30 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 11:20 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 12:10 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 13:00 Uncovering Aliens
- 13:50 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 14:40 Are We Alone?
- 16:20 Alien Mysteries
- 17:10 Alien Mysteries
- 18:00 Alien Mysteries
- 18:50 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 19:40 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 20:30 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 21:20 Uncovering Aliens
- 22:10 Uncovering Aliens
- 23:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 23:50 Are We Alone?



- 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 Mook
- 06:00 Lolorock
- 06:25 Hank Zipzer
- 06:50 Girl Meets World
- 07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
- 07:40 Jessie
- 08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 09:45 Austin & Ally
- 10:10 Austin & Ally
- 10:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 11:00 Jessie
- 11:25 Jessie
- 12:20 Hank Zipzer
- 12:45 Gravity Falls
- 13:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:35 I Didn't Do It
- 14:00 Dog With A Blog
- 14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
- 14:55 Lolorock
- 15:20 Austin & Ally
- 15:45 Girl Meets World
- 16:10 Violetta
- 17:00 The Next Step
- 17:25 Mako Mermaids
- 17:50 Girl Meets World
- 18:15 Dog With A Blog
- 18:40 Gravity Falls
- 19:05 H2O: Just Add Water
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:20 The Next Step
- 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
- 23:35 Wolfblood



- 00:00 The Soup
- 00:30 WAGs
- 01:25 Sex With Brody
- 01:50 The Grace Helbig Show
- 02:20 E! News
- 03:15 Extreme Close-Up
- 03:40 Extreme Close-Up
- 04:10 The E! True Hollywood Story
- 05:05 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 E! News
- 13:05 The Grace Helbig Show
- 13:35 The Grace Helbig Show
- 14:05 Hollywood Cycle
- 15:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 16:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 17:00 Stewart And Hamiltons
- 18:00 E! News
- 19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 20:00 House Of DVF
- 21:00 Hollywood Cycle
- 22:00 WAGs
- 23:00 Sex With Brody
- 23:30 Fashion Bloggers



- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Siba's Table
- 01:30 Siba's Table
- 02:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran
- 03:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera
- 03:30 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera
- 04:00 Mystery Diners
- 04:30 Mystery Diners
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 06:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 11:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 12:00 Chopped

- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 21:00 Food Court Wars
- 22:00 Mystery Diners
- 23:00 Ching's Restaurant Redemption
- 23:30 Ching's Restaurant Redemption



- 00:20 Shetland
- 01:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 02:00 Emmerdale
- 02:25 Emmerdale
- 02:55 Coronation Street
- 03:25 Doc Martin
- 04:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 05:15 Take On The Twisters
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:05 Coronation Street
- 07:30 Doc Martin
- 08:25 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 09:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 10:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 11:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 12:30 Take On The Twisters
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Eggheads
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 16:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 17:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 18:20 Take On The Twisters
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 20:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 21:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 22:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 23:40 Eggheads



- 00:30 Last Man Standing
- 02:00 Silicon Valley
- 02:30 Man Seeking Woman
- 04:00 Marry Me
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Marry Me
- 09:30 Benched
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:30 Marry Me
- 14:30 Benched
- 15:30 Last Man Standing
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 19:00 Hot In Cleveland
- 19:30 2 Broke Girls
- 20:00 Community
- 23:30 Community



- 00:00 Downton Abbey
- 01:00 Better Call Saul
- 02:00 How To Get Away With Murder
- 06:00 Parenthood
- 08:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 12:00 Emmerdale
- 12:30 Coronation Street
- 14:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 16:00 Emmerdale
- 16:30 Coronation Street
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 19:00 Scandal
- 20:00 How To Get Away With Murder
- 21:00 Quantico
- 22:00 Homeland
- 23:00 The Leftovers



- 03:00 Odyssey
- 07:00 Emmerdale
- 07:30 Coronation Street
- 10:00 Emmerdale
- 10:30 Coronation Street
- 12:00 Graceland
- 22:00 Odyssey
- 23:00 Banshee



- 00:00 In The Blood
- 02:00 Bro'
- 06:00 Mercenaries
- 06:00 Superfast
- 08:00 The Core

- 10:15 I, Frankenstein
- 12:00 Superfast
- 14:00 Getaway
- 15:45 The Core
- 18:00 Double Take
- 20:00 I, Frankenstein
- 22:00 Aeon Flux



- 00:00 Bro'-18
- 02:00 Mercenaries-PG15
- 04:00 Superfast-PG15
- 06:00 The Core-PG15
- 08:15 I, Frankenstein-PG15
- 10:00 Superfast-PG15
- 12:00 Getaway-PG15
- 13:45 The Core-PG15
- 16:00 Double Take-PG15
- 18:00 I, Frankenstein-PG15
- 20:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
- 22:00 The Prince-PG15



- 00:00 Keith Lemon: The Film
- 02:00 Until She Came Along
- 04:00 Shanghai Calling
- 06:00 Streedance: All Stars
- 08:00 Admission
- 10:00 Shanghai Calling
- 12:00 Until She Came Along
- 14:00 Foodfight!
- 16:00 Admission
- 18:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
- 20:00 Dumb And Dumber To
- 22:00 Wedding Crashers



- 01:00 Shadow Witness-PG15
- 03:00 Decoding Annie Parker-PG15
- 05:00 Romeo & Juliet-PG15
- 07:00 Christmas Magic-PG15
- 09:00 The Signal-PG15
- 10:45 Romeo & Juliet-PG15
- 12:45 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom-PG15
- 15:15 Stand Off-PG15
- 17:00 The Signal-PG15
- 18:45 Testament Of Youth-PG15
- 21:00 The Devil's Hand-18



- 01:00 See Girl Run
- 03:00 The Brass Teapot
- 05:00 The Way We Were
- 07:00 I Am All
- 09:00 Grace Of Monaco
- 11:00 The Way We Were
- 13:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
- 15:00 Casanova
- 17:00 Grace Of Monaco
- 19:00 Collaborator
- 21:00 Hateship Loveship
- 23:00 Choke



- 01:00 Curve-PG15
- 03:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15
- 05:15 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast-FAM
- 07:00 Grudge Match-PG15
- 09:00 The Single Moms Club-PG15
- 11:00 Hours-PG15
- 13:00 Knight Rusty-PG
- 15:00 The Lego Movie-PG
- 17:00 The Single Moms Club-PG15
- 19:00 Good People-PG15
- 21:00 The Guest-18
- 23:00 Tammy-PG15



- 01:00 The Elf Who Stole Christmas
- 02:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 04:30 Jelly T
- 06:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 08:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 10:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
- 11:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 13:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 14:30 Goat Story 2
- 16:00 Imaginum
- 18:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
- 20:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 22:00 Goat Story 2
- 23:30 Marvel's Ultimate Avengers



- 00:00 Animal-PG15
- 02:00 The Good Witch's Wedding-PG15
- 04:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine-PG
- 05:30 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies-PG
- 08:00 Searching For Sugar Man-PG15
- 10:00 Mr. Peabody & Sherman-FAM



MERCENARIES ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 12:00 Schuks! Your Country Needs You-PG15
- 14:00 The Past-PG15
- 16:15 Searching For Sugar Man-PG15
- 17:45 Captain America: The Winter Soldier-PG15
- 20:00 Think Like A Man Too-PG15
- 22:00 The Baytown Outlaws-PG15

- 16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 17:30 Teen Titans Go!
- 18:20 Regular Show
- 19:05 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 19:51 Adventure Time
- 20:15 New Steven Universe
- 20:27 Steven Universe
- 20:40 Uncle Grandpa
- 21:00 Teen Titans Go!
- 21:50 Ben 10: Omniverse
- 22:15 Ben 10: Omniverse
- 22:40 Adventure Time
- 01:00 Regular Show
- 01:40 Total Drama World Tour
- 02:03 Total Drama World Tour
- 02:26 Total Drama World Tour
- 02:51 Grojband

- 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 Doc McStuffins
- 12:55 Loopedoo
- 13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 14:00 Sofia The First
- 14:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 14:45 Calimero
- 15:00 Doc McStuffins
- 15:30 Zou
- 15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 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
- 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:55 Cars Toons
- 19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:30 Sofia The First
- 19:55 Doc McStuffins
- 20:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 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 Loopedoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopedoo
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster

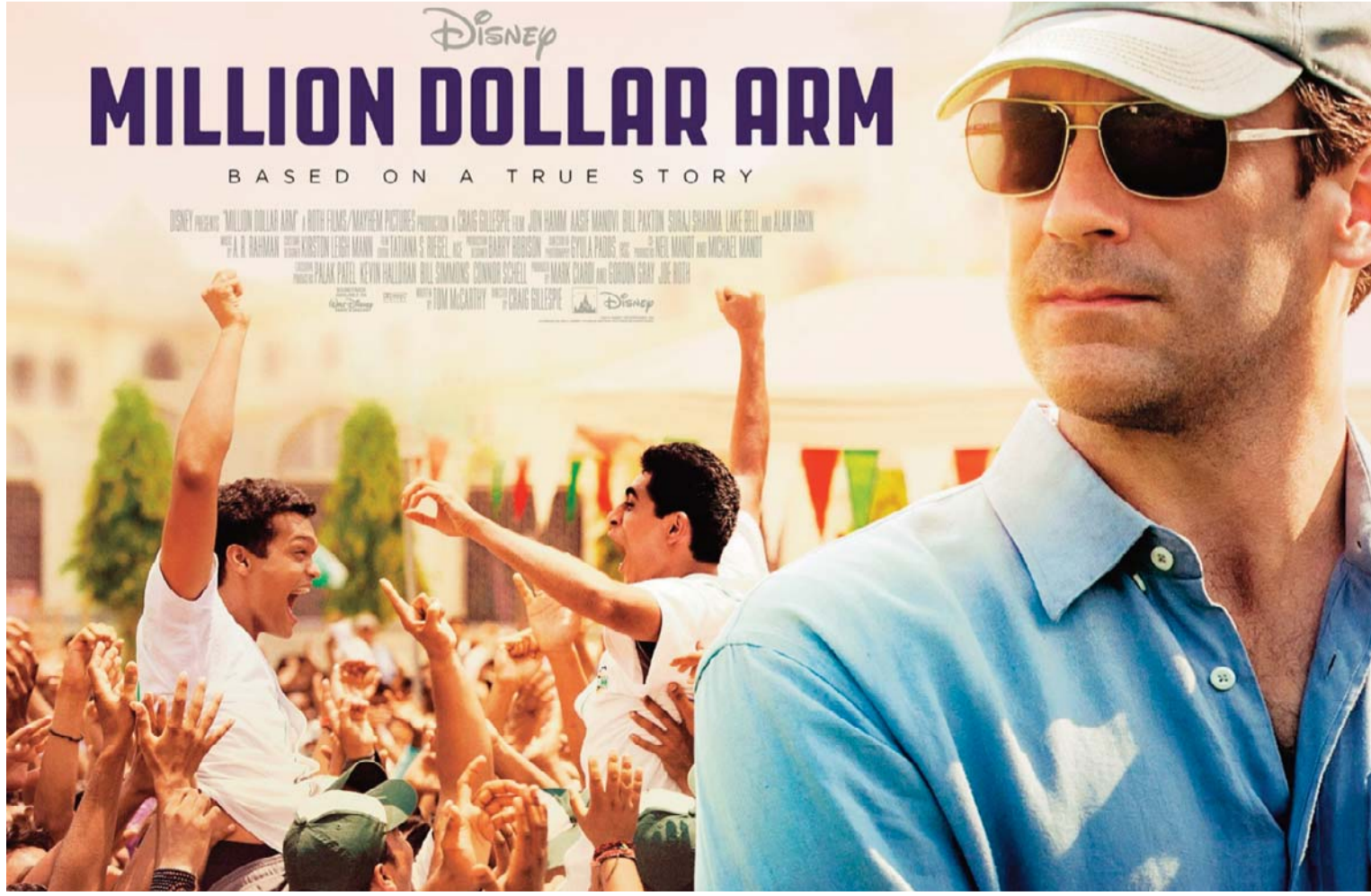
- 20:55 Lab Rats vs Mighty Med
- 21:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 22:15 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 23:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 23:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA



- 03:45 Shane Untamed
- 04:40 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
- 05:35 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
- 06:30 Animals Gone Wild
- 07:25 Shane Untamed
- 08:20 Surviving The Serengeti
- 09:15 Built For The Kill
- 10:10 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 11:05 Zoo Confidential
- 12:00 Shark Men
- 12:55 World's Deadliest Killers
- 13:50 Animals Gone Wild
- 14:45 Caught In The Act
- 15:40 Wild Survivor
- 16:35 Cameramen Who Dare
- 17:30 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 18:25 World's Weirdest Pets
- 19:20 Caught In The Act
- 20:10 Wild Survivor
- 21:00 Cameramen Who Dare
- 21:50 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 22:40 World's Weirdest Pets
- 23:30 Shark Men
- 00:30 World's Deadliest Killers
- 01:10 Animals Gone Wild
- 02:00 I, Predator
- 02:50 Dangerous Encounters



- 03:40 The Undateables
- 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 05:00 Little People, Big World
- 05:30 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:25 Bakery Boss
- 07:15 Toddlers & Taras
- 08:05 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
- 08:30 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
- 08:55 Oprah's Lifeclass
- 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 10:10 Little People, Big World
- 10:35 Sister Wives
- 11:25 Cake Boss
- 11:50 Cake Boss
- 12:15 Cake Boss
- 12:40 Bakery Boss
- 13:30 Perfect Look
- 14:20 Our Little Family
- 14:45 Our Little Family
- 15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 15:35 Little People, Big World
- 16:00 Toddlers & Taras
- 16:50 Sister Wives
- 17:15 Sister Wives
- 17:40 Cake Boss
- 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
- 18:30 The Undateables
- 19:20 Perfect Look
- 20:10 Bakery Boss
- 21:00 Nida'a
- 21:50 Love In The City
- 22:40 Psychic Matchmaker
- 23:05 Mob Wives
- 23:55 Nida'a
- 00:45 Love In The City
- 01:35 Psychic Matchmaker
- 02:00 Mob Wives
- 02:50 Sister Wives



MILLION DOLLAR ARM ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:05 Calimero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:30 Loopedoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopedoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopedoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopedoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calimero
- 08:10 Zou



- 07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 K.C Undercover
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 09:35 Kirby Buckets
- 10:00 Kickin' It
- 10:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 10:55 Rocket Monkeys
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Super Matrak
- 12:10 Super Matrak
- 12:40 Mighty Med
- 13:05 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 13:30 Supa Strikas
- 14:00 Kickin' It
- 14:25 Pokemon: XY
- 14:50 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:35 Kirby Buckets
- 17:00 Mighty Med
- 17:25 K.C Undercover
- 17:55 Supa Strikas
- 18:20 Lab Rats vs Mighty Med
- 19:00 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts
- 19:10 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:40 Kickin' It
- 20:05 K.C Undercover
- 20:30 Supa Strikas



- 03:05 Calimero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:30 Loopedoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopedoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopedoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopedoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calimero
- 08:10 Zou

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

| Programme | Time | Programme | Time | Programme | Time |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| SHARQIA-1 JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: | 12:45 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM | FANAR-5 SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE | 9:30 PM 12:30 AM 11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM | 360°-2 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION | 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 9:45 PM 11:45 PM |
| SHARQIA-2 SPECTRE HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE | 12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM | MARINA-1 JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS | 1:15 PM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM | 360°-3 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 AHWAK AHWAK AHWAK | 1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM |
| SHARQIA-3 SPECTRE GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS SPECTRE SPECTRE | 1:00 PM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM | MARINA-2 SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE | 12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM | AL-KOUT.1 SPECTRE EYAL HAREEFA FRI SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE | 12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM |
| MUHALAB-1 JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS EYAL HAREEFA GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS | 12:45 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM | MARINA-3 GOOSEBUMPS SPECTRE GOOSEBUMPS SPECTRE NO FRI SPECTRE FRI SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION | 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM | AL-KOUT.2 JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS | 12:45 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM |
| MUHALAB-2 SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE SPECTRE | 11:30 AM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM | AVENUES-1 HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA | 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM | AL-KOUT.3 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE EYAL HAREEFA SPECTRE EYAL HAREEFA PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION | 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:30 PM 1:15 AM |
| MUHALAB-3 SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE | 12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM | AVENUES-2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA | 12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM | BAIRAQ-1 SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE | 12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM |
| FANAR-1 JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS | 11:45 AM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM | AVENUES-3 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 SPECTRE SPECTRE THE LAST WITCH HUNTER SPECTRE THE LAST WITCH HUNTER SPECTRE VEDHALAM VEDHALAM THE LAST WITCH HUNTER | 11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM 12:15 PM 3:15 PM 6:15 PM 9:30 PM 12:45 AM | BAIRAQ-2 SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE | 1:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM |
| FANAR-2 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION EYAL HAREEFA PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION | 11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM | AVENUES-4 SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION | 1:15 PM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 7:15 PM 10:15 AM 1:15 AM | PLAZA SPECTRE SPECTRE NOT TUE+WED VEDHALAM TUE+WED SPECTRE | 4:15 PM 7:15 PM 7:15 PM 7:15 PM 10:15 PM |
| FANAR-3 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER BURNT SPECTRE SPECTRE BURNT THE LAST WITCH HUNTER | 12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM | 360°-1 SPECTRE | 12:00 PM | | |
| FANAR-4 SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE SPECTRE | 12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM | | | | |

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rakesh holder of Indian Passport No. Z1172230, S/o Pravin Chandra Ratilal, R/o of Flat No. 501, P, Vardhaman Nagar Mulund, (W), Mumbai, have changed my name from Rakesh to Rakesh Pravin Chandra Ratilal. (C 5069) **9-11-2015**

Sheikh Khader, Indian Passport No. M6101253, change my name to Pathan Khadar Khan. (C 5068) **8-11-2015**

I, HOZEFA (old name) holder of Indian Passport No. L1165262, R/o B-241, Saheli Nagar, near Bheruji,

Driver Wanted

Driver wanted for Kuwaiti family. Must have transferrable visa and driver's license. Please email CV and salary requirements to driver2016@outlook.com

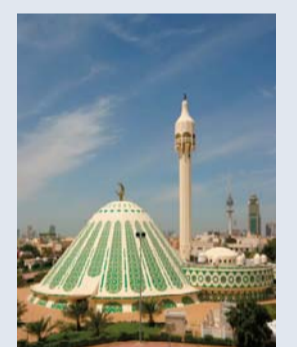
Udaipur (Raj.), changed my name as HUZEFA PARSOLA. (C 5066) **3-11-2015**

SITUATION VACANT

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

Prayer timings

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Fajr: | 04:45 |
| Shorook | 06:07 |
| Duhr: | 11:32 |
| Asr: | 14:35 |
| Maghrib: | 16:57 |
| Isha: | 18:16 |



Flight Schedule

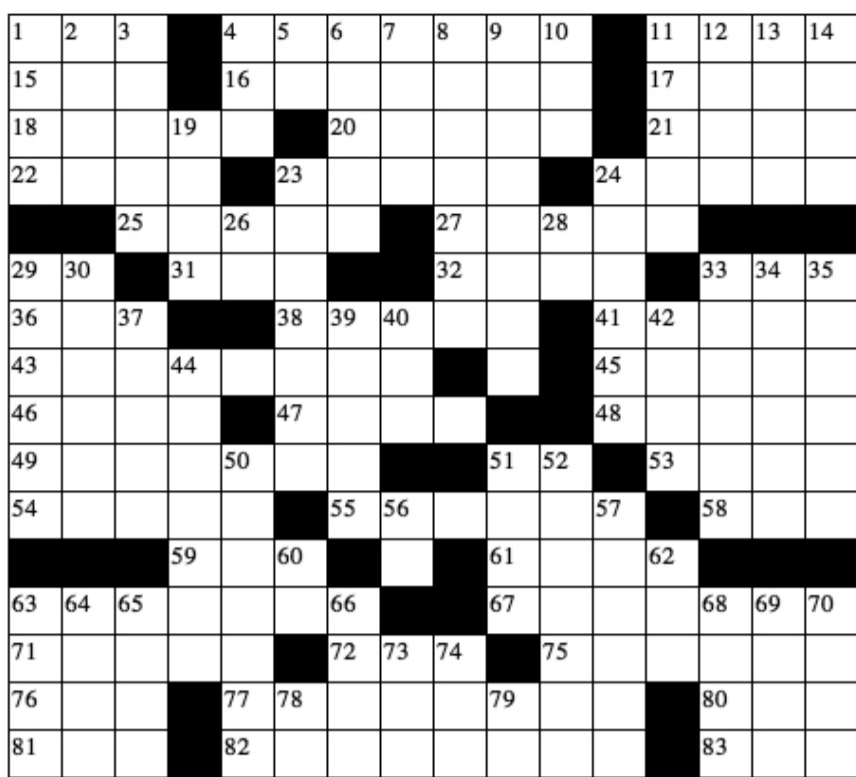
| Arrival Flights on Monday 9/11/2015 | | | | Departure Flights on Monday 9/11/2015 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time | Airlines | Flt | Route | Time |
| MSC | 405 | Sohag | 00:05 | MSC | 408 | Alexandria | 00:01 |
| MSC | 403 | Asyut | 00:15 | AIC | 982 | Ahmedabad/Chennai | 00:05 |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:30 | JZR | 528 | Asyut | 14:50 |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 00:40 | PIA | 206 | Lahore | 00:40 |
| FDB | 069 | Dubai | 00:55 | FDB | 072 | Dubai | 00:40 |
| BBC | 043 | Dammam | 00:55 | JAI | 573 | Mumbai | 00:55 |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 01:05 | MSC | 406 | Sohag | 01:00 |
| THY | 772 | Istanbul | 01:05 | UAL | 981 | IAD | 01:10 |
| DLH | 635 | Doha | 01:35 | MSC | 404 | Asyut | 01:15 |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 01:45 | BBC | 044 | Dhaka | 02:25 |
| PGT | 858 | Istanbul | 02:00 | THY | 773 | Istanbul | 02:30 |
| UAE | 853 | Dubai | 02:30 | DLH | 635 | Frankfurt | 02:35 |
| GFA | 211 | Bahrain | 02:30 | ETH | 621 | Addis Ababa | 02:45 |
| OMA | 643 | Muscat | 02:55 | UAE | 854 | Dubai | 03:45 |
| FDB | 067 | Dubai | 03:05 | PGT | 859 | Istanbul | 03:55 |
| MSR | 612 | Cairo | 03:10 | OMA | 644 | Muscat | 03:55 |
| CEB | 7694 | Manila | 03:15 | JZR | 238 | Amman | 04:00 |
| QTR | 1076 | Doha | 03:15 | MSR | 613 | Cairo | 04:10 |
| KKK | 6507 | Istanbul | 03:20 | ETD | 306 | Abu Dhabi | 04:15 |
| ETD | 305 | Abu Dhabi | 03:25 | KKK | 6508 | Istanbul | 04:20 |
| THY | 1464 | Istanbul | 03:25 | QTR | 1077 | Doha | 05:00 |
| JZR | 503 | Luxor | 04:25 | THY | 765 | Istanbul | 05:15 |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:40 | CEB | 7695 | Manila | 05:20 |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:55 | JZR | 560 | Sohag | 06:10 |
| THY | 764 | Istanbul | 05:55 | FDB | 070 | Dubai | 06:30 |
| FDB | 5061 | Dubai | 06:30 | JZR | 164 | Dubai | 06:55 |
| BAW | 157 | London | 06:40 | THY | 1465 | Istanbul | 06:55 |
| JZR | 529 | Asyut | 06:50 | RJA | 643 | Amman | 07:05 |
| KAC | 412 | Manila/Bangkok | 07:20 | THY | 771 | Istanbul | 07:05 |
| QTR | 1086 | Doha | 07:40 | FDB | 5062 | Dubai | 07:10 |
| FDB | 053 | Dubai | 07:45 | GFA | 212 | Bahrain | 07:15 |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 07:50 | KAC | 537 | Sohag | 08:20 |
| KAC | 382 | Delhi | 08:00 | FDB | 054 | Dubai | 08:30 |
| KAC | 352 | Kochi | 08:20 | QTR | 1087 | Doha | 08:40 |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 08:25 | BAW | 156 | London | 08:40 |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:40 | KAC | 671 | Dubai | 09:15 |
| KAC | 362 | Colombo | 09:00 | KAC | 787 | Jeddah | 09:25 |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:00 | ABY | 126 | Sharjah | 09:40 |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 09:10 | KAC | 541 | Cairo | 09:55 |
| ETD | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 09:20 | UAE | 856 | Dubai | 09:55 |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:25 | KAC | 561 | Amman | 10:00 |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 | KAC | 501 | Beirut | 10:00 |
| IRA | 667 | Esfahan | 10:00 | ETD | 302 | Abu Dhabi | 10:25 |
| OMA | 641 | Muscat | 10:05 | FDB | 056 | Dubai | 10:35 |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 | KAC | 153 | Istanbul | 10:40 |
| UAE | 873 | Dubai | 11:05 | KAC | 165 | Rome/Paris | 11:00 |
| AXB | 889 | Mangalore/Bahrain | 11:15 | QTR | 1071 | Doha | 11:00 |
| JZR | 165 | Dubai | 11:30 | IRA | 666 | Esfahan | 11:00 |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 11:55 | OMA | 642 | Muscat | 11:05 |
| FDB | 075 | Dubai | 12:25 | GFA | 214 | Bahrain | 11:25 |
| MSC | 401 | Alexandria | 12:30 | AXB | 890 | Mangalore | 12:15 |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 12:45 | JZR | 776 | Jeddah | 12:20 |
| UAE | 871 | Dubai | 12:50 | KAC | 103 | London | 12:25 |
| MSR | 610 | Cairo | 13:00 | UAE | 874 | Dubai | 12:30 |
| KNE | 460 | Riyadh | 13:50 | MEA | 405 | Beirut | 12:55 |
| KAC | 672 | Dubai | 14:00 | KAC | 785 | Jeddah | 13:00 |
| | | | | FDB | 076 | Dubai | 13:10 |

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

CROSSWORD 1074



ACROSS

1. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary and stimulates growth of Graafian follicles in female mammals, and activates sperm-forming cells in male mammals.
4. A situation in which no progress can be made.
11. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
15. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
16. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
17. A human female who does housework.
18. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
20. Bar temporarily.
21. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
22. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
25. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
27. Relating to the blood vessels or blood.
29. An informal term for a father.
31. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
32. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
36. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
38. Of or relating to Oman or its people.
41. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
43. A category in some early taxonomies.
45. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
46. Type genus of the Amidiidae.
47. Make an etching of.
48. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
49. Hard fiber used in making coarse twine.
53. Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants.
54. British composer (1857-1934).
55. Relating to or existing in the mind or thoughts.
58. (Greek mythology) Greek goddess of the night.
59. The bill in a restaurant.
61. 100 toea equal 1 kina.
63. A virility drug (trade name Vasomax) to treat erectile dysfunction in men.
67. The first of the Old Testament patriarchs and the father of Isaac.
71. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
72. A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
75. On a list.
76. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
77. Not based on fact.
80. The universal time coordinated time when a transmission is sent from Earth to a spacecraft or other celestial body.
81. A long projecting or anterior elongation of an animal's head.
82. Clear soup usually of beef or veal or chicken.
83. 100 pyas equal 1 kyat.

DOWN

1. (nautical) Situated at or toward the bow of a vessel.
2. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
3. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
4. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
5. A unit of weight equivalent to 1000 kilograms.
6. 'Father' is a term of address for priests in some churches (especially Roman or Orthodox Catholic).
7. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
8. Of or pertaining to Sabah or its people.
9. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
10. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
11. Of or relating to a seizure or convulsion.
12. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
13. A public area set aside as a pedestrian walk.
14. (Scotland) A slope or hillside.
19. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
23. A young unmarried woman.
24. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
26. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
28. Informal terms for a mother.
30. Of the appetites and passions of the body.
33. A kind of sedan chair used in India.
34. A building where birds are kept.
35. (trademark) An antacid.
37. Growing old.
39. New Zealand conifer.
40. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
42. Deeply moved.
44. A person who travels through the water by swimming.
50. Of or relating to the ancient Aramaic languages.
51. A collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn.
52. A state of difficulty that needs to be resolved.
56. A state in southeastern United States.
57. Treat or speak of with contempt.
60. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
62. An associate degree in applied science.
64. A unit of area (4840 square yards) used in English-speaking countries.
65. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
66. A city of central China.
68. A protocol (utilizing TCP) to transfer hypertext requests and information between servers and browsers.
69. Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality.
70. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
73. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
74. A federation of North American industrial unions that merged with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.
78. A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.
79. A metric unit of length equal to one billionth of a meter.

Yesterday's Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | T | O | | P | S | A | L | T | E | R | | P | A | S | S |
| P | A | C | | A | P | L | A | S | I | A | | A | K | K | A |
| E | R | T | | N | A | B | O | O | M | | D | P | H | I | L |
| C | A | E | S | A | R | | S | U | E | R | | E | A | S | E |
| | | | T | A | X | E | R | | I | R | A | T | E | | |
| C | C | | H | | R | B | | C | I | B | O | T | I | U | M |
| A | R | T | I | F | I | C | E | | A | A | R | E | | B | A |
| B | A | O | B | A | B | | C | E | | T | E | | T | Y | R |
| A | V | O | | C | | R | A | T | I | O | | T | A | K | A |
| L | A | N | C | E | | E | R | N | E | | Y | A | C | H | T |
| A | T | A | R | | B | A | T | A | | B | A | S | H | | |
| | | | E | | A | C | E | | L | | K | M | | S | R |
| P | A | G | E | A | N | T | | D | A | G | | A | G | U | E |
| A | B | A | | N | I | A | C | I | N | | A | N | I | M | A |
| B | E | N | | T | A | N | E | K | A | H | A | | G | A | T |
| A | D | D | | E | N | T | R | A | I | L | S | | O | C | A |

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You're quite thankful for coworkers who support you even when you're acting like a pain in the neck. Nevertheless, others still demand a lot from you today and they will give you their opinions, whether you ask for them or not. You are confident that you are doing the right thing now and don't want anyone to question your motives. However, remaining open to constructive feedback ultimately helps you achieve better results in nearly anything you do. Success can be yours if you keep your ego in check.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Although there's a lot of work in front of you today, you still might find it difficult to shift into gear. Part of your problem stems from your lackadaisical attitude now; you assume you can accomplish all your chores because you tend to underestimate the time tasks will take and overestimate your capacity for speed. Ask someone you trust to help you correctly gauge the size of a job before saying yes. A little realism from the start prevents you from finding yourself in over your head tomorrow.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your laissez-faire management style works wonders today as long as your coworkers agree with your strategy. However, they might not tell you if they have issues with your plans, and their reluctance to communicate can be problematic. You may go along believing that everyone is on board and supporting your ideas, only to later discover that your ship has been abandoned. Avoid a mutiny by checking in with each person on an individual basis to make sure every voice is heard. Taking a proactive approach saves the day.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your laissez-faire management style works wonders today as long as your coworkers agree with your strategy. However, they might not tell you if they have issues with your plans, and their reluctance to communicate can be problematic. You may go along believing that everyone is on board and supporting your ideas, only to later discover that your ship has been abandoned. Avoid a mutiny by checking in with each person on an individual basis to make sure every voice is heard. Taking a proactive approach saves the day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You might not realize there are conflicts brewing on the home front today, until a difference of opinion erupts into a minor crisis. Paying attention to the minute details enables you to see past your dreams of perfection. But instead of avoiding unpleasant feelings, keep in mind that you're not the only participant in this unsettling situation. Everyone has a particular part to play in the drama so make sure each individual gets a turn in the spotlight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The weekend is over, yet you might be resistant to the workload on your desk. Instead of following the rules, you're searching for ways to extend your playtime. Maybe you are burning the candle at both ends and realize you deserve a well-earned break from the grind now. Luckily, an unplanned activity could be the source of great fun. Just remember, you can relax with a guilt-free conscience if you clear the responsibilities from your path first.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You can be overly generous in your encouragement of your associates today, making you a lousy negotiator for your own agenda. You might even be tempted to offer assistance that's beyond your capability. It's all too easy now to forget that some decisions about money should not be made with your heart. Just because you admire a particular person doesn't mean you should pay more than a service or product is worth. Keep your wallet in your pocket until your logic returns.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Even if you are feeling unmotivated, you start to emerge from your easygoing attitude now. You're more opinionated and may overreact to what you hear today. Nevertheless, don't be afraid of saying what's on your mind. Your perceptions are keen and you would be smart to trust your impulses as long as you remember to be kind in your delivery. Honor your own feelings as much as you respect everyone else's.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 18)

You may feel external pressure to tie up loose ends early in the day, and this cosmic message makes good sense. But you won't likely want to work very hard while the moody Moon is camped out in your 12th House of Escapism. You would be better off spending a bit of quiet time alone, taking a nature walk during lunch or cultivating a spiritual connection with someone special. Even if it's challenging to process your emotions now, it's easier to experience them when you're not in a crowd.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your social inclinations are luring you to reach out beyond your personal network today, but you might have trouble deciding on a course of action. You want to be available for a spontaneous invitation now, making it difficult to commit to any one event. Thankfully, you possess the uncanny ability to turn a casual interaction with an acquaintance into an exciting encounter. Luckily, the fun seems to follow you wherever you go.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You are chosen to play the role of a highly skilled diplomat today because everyone knows you can see both sides of a complex issue. Additionally, you bring analytical tools to the table, empowering you to take what you know and shape it into a convincing argument. Don't fall into the trap of picking sides now; instead, help all those involved reach common ground. Your objective outlook is a powerful catalyst for positive change.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Keeping your attention on the here and now could be tricky business when your thoughts are being pulled to a distant horizon. Your futuristic thinking enhances your visionary skills, but it may not have anything to do with the chores you need to accomplish today. Nevertheless, if you have been dreaming about taking a short vacation, get out your calendar and mark the dates. Just remain on high alert so you can return to the present moment when reality calls.

Wordsearch Puzzle

THE CAT'S MEOW WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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

| | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| ABYSSINIAN | CALICO | MANX | SCOTTISH FOLD |
| BALINESE | CHESHIRE | MUNCHKIN | SIAMSE |
| BENGAL | HIMALAYAN | PERSIAN | SPHYNX |
| BOBCAT | JAVANESE | RAGAMUFFIN | TABBY |
| BURMESE | MAINE COON | RUSSIAN BLUE | TOYGER |

Daily SuDoku

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 5 | 1 | | | 7 |
| | 1 | | | 8 | | 2 | |
| 6 | | | | 2 | | | |
| 5 | 2 | | | | | 8 | 3 |
| | | 7 | 3 | | 6 | 5 | |
| 9 | 8 | | | | | | 6 |
| | | | | 2 | | | 6 |
| | 6 | | 8 | | | | 3 |
| 7 | | | 6 | 9 | | | |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO GOLD RUSH PUZZLE

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital | 24812000 |
| Amiri Hospital | 22450005 |
| Maternity Hospital | 24843100 |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700 |
| Chest Hospital | 24849400 |
| Farwaniya Hospital | 24892010 |
| Adan Hospital | 23940620 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | 24840300 |
| Al-Razi Hospital | 24846000 |
| Physiotherapy Hospital | 24874330/9 |

Clinics

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center | 25716707 |
| Rawda | 22517733 |
| Adaliya | 22517144 |
| Khaldiya | 24848075 |
| Kaifan | 24849807 |
| Shamiya | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem | 22549134 |
| Nuzha | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadsiya | 22515088 |
| Dasmah | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar | 22531908 |
| Shaab | 22518752 |
| Qibla | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla | 22451082 |
| Mirqab | 22456536 |
| Sharq | 22465401 |
| Salmiya | 25746401 |
| Jabriya | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally | 25623444 |
| Bayan | 25388462 |
| Mishref | 25381200 |
| W Hawally | 22630786 |
| Sabah | 24810221 |
| Jahra | 24770319 |
| New Jahra | 24575755 |
| West Jahra | 24772608 |
| South Jahra | 24775066 |
| North Jahra | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya | 24884079 |
| Firdous | 24892674 |
| Omariya | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan | 24710044 |
| Fintas | 23900322 |

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan | Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd | 23915883 23715414 23726558 |
| Jahra | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92 | 24575518 24566622 |
| Capital | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop | 22436184 24833967 |
| Farwaniya | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11 | 24734000 24881201 24726638 |
| Hawally | Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | 25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan | 0093 | Luxembourg | 00352 |
| Albania | 00355 | Macau | 00853 |
| Algeria | 00213 | Macedonia | 00389 |
| Andorra | 00376 | Madagascar | 00261 |
| Angola | 00244 | Majorca | 0034 |
| Anguilla | 001264 | Malawi | 00265 |
| Antigua | 001268 | Malaysia | 0060 |
| Argentina | 0054 | Maldives | 00960 |
| Armenia | 00374 | Mali | 00223 |
| Australia | 0061 | Malta | 00356 |
| Austria | 0043 | Marshall Islands | 00692 |
| Bahamas | 001242 | Martinique | 00596 |
| Bahrain | 00973 | Mauritania | 00222 |
| Bangladesh | 00880 | Mauritius | 00230 |
| Barbados | 001246 | Mayotte | 00269 |
| Belarus | 00375 | Mexico | 0052 |
| Belgium | 0032 | Micronesia | 00691 |
| Belize | 00501 | Moldova | 00373 |
| Benin | 00229 | Monaco | 00377 |
| Bermuda | 001441 | Mongolia | 00976 |
| Bhutan | 00975 | Montserrat | 001664 |
| Bolivia | 00591 | Morocco | 00212 |
| Bosnia | 00387 | Mozambique | 00258 |
| Botswana | 00267 | Myanmar (Burma) | 0095 |
| Brazil | 0055 | Namibia | 00264 |
| Brunei | 00673 | Nepal | 00977 |
| Bulgaria | 00359 | Netherlands | 0031 |
| Burkina | 00226 | Netherlands Antilles | 00599 |
| Burundi | 00257 | New Caledonia | 00687 |
| Cambodia | 00855 | New Zealand | 0064 |
| Cameroon | 00237 | Nicaragua | 00505 |
| Canada | 001 | Nigar | 00227 |
| Cape Verde | 00238 | Nigeria | 00234 |
| Cayman Islands | 001345 | Niue | 00683 |
| Central African | 00236 | Norfolk Island | 00672 |
| Chad | 00235 | N. Ireland (UK) | 0044 |
| Chile | 0056 | North Korea | 00850 |
| China | 0086 | Norway | 0047 |
| Colombia | 0057 | Oman | 00968 |
| Comoros | 00269 | Pakistan | 0092 |
| Congo | 00242 | Palau | 00680 |
| Cook Islands | 00682 | Panama | 00507 |
| Costa Rica | 00506 | Papua New Guinea | 00675 |
| Croatia | 00385 | Paraguay | 00595 |
| Cuba | 0053 | Peru | 0051 |
| Cyprus | 00357 | Philippines | 0063 |
| Cyprus (Northern) | 0090392 | Poland | 0048 |
| Czech Republic | 00420 | Portugal | 00351 |
| Denmark | 0045 | Puerto Rico | 001787 |
| Diego Garcia | 00246 | Qatar | 00974 |
| Djibouti | 00253 | Romania | 0040 |
| Dominica | 001767 | Russian Federation | 007 |
| Dominican Republic | 001809 | Rwanda | 00250 |
| Ecuador | 00593 | Saint Helena | 00290 |
| Egypt | 0020 | Saint Kitts | 001869 |
| El Salvador | 00503 | Saint Lucia | 001758 |
| England (UK) | 0044 | Saint Pierre | 00508 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 00240 | Saint Vincent | 001784 |
| Eritrea | 00291 | Samoa US | 00684 |
| Estonia | 00372 | Samoa West | 00685 |
| Ethiopia | 00251 | San Marino | 00378 |
| Falkland Islands | 00500 | Sao Tome | 00239 |
| Faroe Islands | 00298 | Saudi Arabia | 00966 |
| Fiji | 00679 | Scotland (UK) | 0044 |
| Finland | 00358 | Senegal | 00221 |
| France | 0033 | Seychelles | 00284 |
| French Guiana | 00594 | Sierra Leone | 00232 |
| French Polynesia | 00689 | Singapore | 0065 |
| Gabon | 00241 | Slovakia | 00421 |
| Gambia | 00220 | Slovenia | 00386 |
| Georgia | 00995 | Solomon Islands | 00677 |
| Germany | 0049 | Somalia | 00252 |
| Ghana | 00233 | South Africa | 0027 |
| Gibraltar | 00350 | South Korea | 0082 |
| Greece | 0030 | Spain | 0034 |
| Greenland | 00299 | Sri Lanka | 0094 |
| Grenada | 001473 | Sudan | 00249 |
| Guadeloupe | 00590 | Suriname | 00597 |
| Guam | 001671 | Swaziland | 00268 |
| Guatemala | 00502 | Sweden | 0046 |
| Guinea | 00224 | Switzerland | 0041 |
| Guyana | 00592 | Syria | 00963 |
| Haiti | 00509 | Serbia | 00381 |
| Holland (Netherlands) | 0031 | Taiwan | 00886 |
| Honduras | 00504 | Tanzania | 00255 |
| Hong Kong | 00852 | Thailand | 0066 |
| Hungary | 0036 | Toga | 00228 |
| Ibiza (Spain) | 0034 | Tonga | 00676 |
| Iceland | 00354 | Tokelau | 00690 |
| India | 0091 | Trinidad | 001868 |
| Indian Ocean | 00873 | Tunisia | 00216 |
| Indonesia | 0062 | Turkey | 0090 |
| Iran | 0098 | Tuvalu | 00688 |
| Iraq | 00964 | Uganda | 00256 |
| Ireland | 00353 | Ukraine | 00380 |
| Italy | 0039 | United Arab Emirates | 00976 |
| Ivory Coast | 00225 | United Kingdom | 0044 |
| Jamaica | 001876 | Uruguay | 00598 |
| Japan | 0081 | USA | 001 |
| Jordan | 00962 | Uzbekistan | 00998 |
| Kazakhstan | 007 | Vanuatu | 00678 |
| Kenya | 00254 | Venezuela | 00582 |
| Kiribati | 00686 | Vietnam | 0084 |
| Kuwait | 00965 | Virgin Islands UK | 001284 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 00996 | Virgin Islands US | 001340 |
| Laos | 00856 | Wales (UK) | 0044 |
| Latvia | 00371 | Yemen | 00967 |
| Lebanon | 00961 | Yugoslavia | 00381 |
| Liberia | 00231 | Zambia | 00260 |
| Libya | 00218 | Zimbabwe | 00263 |
| Lithuania | 00370 | | |

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

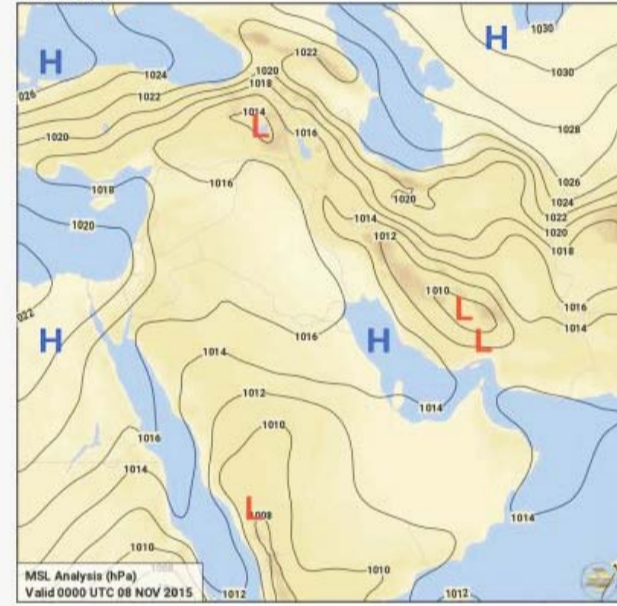


Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 08/11/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 26 °C

By Day : Mostly sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h
By Night : Fair with light north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Expected Weather | clouds to increase + scattered rain latter on | partly cloudy + scattered thunder rain | Mostly sunny | sunny |
| Min Temp °C | 17 | 17 | 15 | 13 |
| Max Temp °C | 26 | 25 | 25 | 23 |
| Wind Direction | variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly | south easterly | north westerly to northerly | north westerly |
| Wind Speed km/h | 06 - 26 | 15 - 40 | 15 - 40 | 20 - 40 |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings
NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

| Station | MIN °C | REC | Max °C | EXP |
|----------------|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| KUWAIT CITY | 21 | | 25 | |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 20 | | 26 | |
| ABDALLY | 18 | | 28 | |
| BUBYAN | 20 | | 26 | |
| JAHRA | 20 | | 28 | |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 21 | | 25 | |
| SALMIYAH | 22 | | 26 | |
| AHMADI | 22 | | 26 | |
| JAL ALIYAH | 18 | | 27 | |
| QAROH ISLAND | 24 | | 29 | |
| UMM AL-MARADEM | 27 | | 29 | |
| NUWAISIB | 21 | | 27 | |
| WAFRA | 19 | | 28 | |
| MANAGISH | 18 | | 27 | |
| SALMY | 16 | | 27 | |
| MUTRIBA | 18 | | 28 | |

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 28 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 22 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 100 |
| Min Rel Hum (%) | 57 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 46 N |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR | 3.02 mm |

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 06:07 |
| Sunset | 16:57 |

Prayer Times

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr | 04:45 |
| Sunrise | 06:07 |
| Zuhr | 11:32 |
| Asr | 14:36 |
| Sunset | 16:57 |
| Isha | 18:16 |



PRIVATE CLINICS

| Ophthalmologists | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor | 25622444 |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabea | 25752222 |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb | 25321171 |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy | 25739999 |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel | 25757700 |
| Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl | 25732223 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghy | 25732223 |
| Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) | |
| Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner | 2455050 Ext 510 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali | 25644660 |
| Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel | 25646478 |
| Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah | 25311996 |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory | 25731988 |
| Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary | 22620166 |
| Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz | 25651426 |
| General Practitioners | |
| Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi | 2455050 Ext 123 |
| Dr. Yousef Al-Omar | 24719312 |
| Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem | 22636920 |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi | 25730465 |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah | 25655528 |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoubi | 24577781 |
| Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae | 25333501 |
| Urologists | |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy | 22641534 |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul | 22639955 |
| Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi | 22616660 |
| Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) | 25313120 |
| Dr. Leons Joseph | 66703427 |

| Plastic Surgeons | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf | 22547272 |
| Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari | 22617700 |
| Dr. Abdel Quttainah | 25625030/60 |
| Family Doctor | |
| Dr Divya Damodar | 23729596/23729581 |
| Psychiatrists | |
| Dr. Esam Al-Ansari | 22635047 |
| Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan | 22613623/0 |
| Gynaecologists & Obstetricians | |
| Dr Adrian arbe | 23729596/23729581 |
| Dr. Verginia s. Marin | 2572-6666 ext 8321 |
| Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan | 22655539 |
| Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami | 25343406 |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly | 25739272 |
| Dr. Salem soso | 22618787 |
| General Surgeons | |
| Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer | 22610044 |
| Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher | 25327148 |
| Internists, Chest & Heart | |
| Dr. Adnan Ebil | 22639939 |
| Dr. Mousa Khadada | 22666300 |
| Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan | 25728004 |
| Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra | 25355515 |
| Dr. Mobarak Aldoub | 24726446 |
| Dr Nasser Behbehani | 25654300/3 |

| Paediatricians | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Khaled Hamadi | 25665898 |
| Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed | 25340300 |
| Dr. Zahra Qabazard | 25710444 |
| Dr. Sohail Qamar | 22621099 |
| Dr. Snaa Maarroof | 25713514 |
| Dr. Pradip Gujare | 23713100 |
| Dr. Zacharias Mathew | 24334282 |
| Dermatology | |
| Dr. Mohammed Salam | 23845955 |
| Dentists | |
| Dr Anil Thomas | 3729596/3729581 |
| Dr. Shamah Al-Matar | 22641071/2 |
| Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed | 22562226 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer | 22561444 |
| Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan | 22619557 |
| Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash | 22525888 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan | 25653755 |
| Dr. Bader Al-Ansari | 25620111 |
| Neurologists | |
| Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri | 25633324 |
| Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan | 25345875 |
| Gastrologists | |
| Dr. Sami Aman | 22636464 |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly | 25322030 |
| Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali | 22633135 |

| Endocrinologist | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman | 25339330 |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari | 25658888 |
| Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr | 25329924 |
| Physiotherapists & VD | |
| Dr. Deyaa Shehab | 25722291 |
| Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees | 22666288 |
| Rheumatologists: | |
| Dr. Adel Al-Awadi | 25330060 |
| Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah | 25722290 |
| Internist, Chest & Heart | |
| DR. Mohammed Akkad | 2455050 Ext 210 |
| Consultant Cardiologist | |
| Dr. Farida Al-Habib | 2611555-2622555 |
| MD, PH.D, FACC | |
| Inaya German Medical Center | |
| Te: 2575077 | |
| Fax: 25723123 | |



Sophie Ellis Bextor has given birth

Sophie Ellis Bextor has given birth to her fourth son. The 36-year-old singer and husband Richard Jones quietly welcomed baby Jesse on Tuesday and waited until Saturday to announce the news on Instagram. Sophie wrote: "He's here! Baby Jesse Jones, born on Tuesday 3rd November and now home safe with his family. We are all a bit smitten. Welcome to the world, darling boy. Xx (sic)." The 'Murder On The Dancefloor' hitmaker already has sons Sonny, 11, Kit, six, and Ray, three, with her husband and recently admitted she was finding it tough to juggle looking after her boys with being heavily pregnant. Speaking to BANG Showbiz last month, she said: "I

think it's a little bit harder to allow myself to be pregnant because obviously I've got the three others that I'm looking after and they don't cut me a lot of slack. I'm not allowed to sit down that much." Meanwhile, her new arrival couldn't have come at a better time as she's just had the "best year" of her career, following the release of her fifth studio album 'Wanderlust' last year. She added: "Last year I brought out my first album on my own label and it was my most successful since my first album and it was the best feeling ever. I had the best year of my career. There are so many benefits to being independent and getting older and all of those things, I embrace all of it."

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini buys £5million mansion



Cheryl Fernandez-Versini has splashed out on a new £5million mansion. The singer and her husband Jean-Bernard have reportedly moved into the six-bedroom home in Hertfordshire after leaving their previ-

ous North London property. According to the Sun on Sunday, their new house includes a gym, swimming pool, steam room, rooftop bar and cinema. A source said: "They think the house is perfect. It's got plenty of rooms for Cheryl's family to stay in when they travel down from Newcastle." While Cheryl is currently busy with the 'X Factor' in which she stars as a judge, her restaurateur husband has been away on business in Dubai, Italy and France. Cheryl - who was previously married to soccer star Ashley Cole - tied the knot with Jean-Bernard in 2014 after just a few months of dating and recently insisted she's not a very demanding wife. Asked if she's an easy person to be in a relationship with, Cheryl said: "Well, I think I'm low maintenance, but maybe I'm deluded. I know my environment isn't easy - my day gets planned out in advance all the time, so I'm like, 'Oh, actually, change that. We can't meet tonight.'" Cheryl, 32, also confessed that while it "helps" that Jean-Bernard, 34, is good looking, it's not important. She added: "Integrity is a big thing for me."

Vergara and Manganiello are 'so ready' for marriage



Sofia Vergara and **Joe Manganiello** are "so ready" to get married. The 'Modern Family' star and the 'Magic Mike XXL' actor are set to tie the knot on the 22nd of this month and are looking forward to the big day as they are growing "tired" of the constant questions surrounding the wedding. A source told Us Weekly magazine: "They are so tired of people asking about their wedding, and they are tired with dealing with all of the wedding details. They are just so ready to do it and be done with the wedding. They literally joke about counting the days to the wedding. They are excited but they are both really stressed out about it right now." Meanwhile, the 43-year-old actress previously admitted she is "beyond" being a bridezilla. She shared: "I think I am beyond that. I am very detail-oriented so I am kind of like a nightmare. I have a very good memory. If you show me swatches of things, I can in two months exactly remember, 'What happened with the one with the little border that had the little print?' I'm like, really bad." He's [Joe's] a pleasure to be doing this with. He lets me do whatever I want. I show him options that of course I already want and I'm happy with, so whatever he's going to pick I already like."

Samuel L Jackson

I'm not worried about winning an Oscar

Samuel L Jackson isn't worried about winning an Oscar. The 'Django Unchained' star has confessed he was gutted when he missed out on the Academy Award after being nominated for 'Pulp Fiction' but insisted he's not bothered anymore. He said: "Some people only do movies that are meaningful and that are going to come out during Academy Awards season, but I'm not that person. I've done enough work now not to worry about getting an Academy Award. "When I got nominated for 'Pulp Fiction' I kept going to all of these award shows and I wasn't winning and it's kind of like, 'God dam, what is going on?' By the time we got to the Academy Awards I thought to myself, 'Maybe they'll get it right this time'. When they didn't call my name I just went, 'S**t!' and everybody in TV-land read that on my lips and they said that I was the first and only person to have an honest reaction to not winning." The 66-year-old actor also claimed he would never go to the same lengths Oscar winners do to promote his own films in an attempt to bag a prestigious award. He explained to British GQ magazine: "These actors would like you to believe that it's truly based on the merit of what they've done in the film, and occasionally it is, but most of all it's the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people, who go everywhere to promote it. "You go to the actor's home and you make sure there are copies of the film that you're in and you have a discussion with them, watch it with them, have a talk about it or go to the post-screening discussions. I ain't doing that."



Barrymore: My parents were hippies



Drew Barrymore's parents were "total hippies". The 40-year-old star admits her parents John and Jaid Barrymore had "no work ethic" when she was growing up so she had to learn how to balance her career and family life as she got older. She said: "My parents were both total hippies. They had no work ethic. But I've had to really figure out how it works with children because they come first, so it's been a shift for me, but a very easy shift. "I've put films aside for a while as my kids grow up. My choice to work less, for me feels like no sacrifice at all. I've worked my entire life and I wouldn't trade time with my children. Film was a really good springboard for me to do things I really wanted to do in life." And despite going off to film 'Miss You Already' only five months after 19-month-old daughter Frankie was born, Drew insists it was worth doing. She told HELLO! magazine: "I'm so relieved I did it. It's better than I ever hoped." Meanwhile, Drew insists she is still "trying to figure out" how to be a parent but loves having her eldest daughter Olive, three, help out in the kitchen. She said: "She loves helping ... but if she burns herself, someone will say, 'You are the biggest a-hole, why did you let her near a stove?' I'm just trying to figure this all out."

Port and Rosenman are married



Whitney Port has tied the knot with Tim Rosenman. The former 'Hills' star wed her fiancé in Palm Springs on Saturday, two years after they got engaged. A source told E! News: "They married at sunset and it was so romantic! They seemed so in love when they exchanged vows. Whitney is so happy." Whitney wore a custom-made wedding dress by Ashi Couture while the couple exchanged rings by Tacori. Whitney previously revealed she "made the first move" with Tim and doesn't think they would ever have started dating if she

hadn't asked him out because, as a producer on her show 'The City', he wasn't willing to "cross that line" and approach her. She said: "I definitely made the first move. I got his phone number and made up some excuse why I needed to reach him for something. "I kind of felt he was never gonna try it with me. He's not shy but I know in his past with girls he had difficulty making the first move. "And I know, because of our jobs - because I was the talent and he was the producer - he wasn't going to cross that line. It had to be me, you know."

Jonas: Diabetes hard to live with

Nick Jonas admits his diabetes can be hard to live with. The 'Chains' hitmaker, who is known for his chiselled physique, admits he has to be very careful about his diet because he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes 10 years ago. He said: "I live a pretty low-carb life. I wish I was eating pancakes all the time. That would be so much fun! When I do, it's whole wheat or buckwheat." The 23-year-old star was terrified when he was first diagnosed with the blood sugar disease. He told Us Weekly: "It was scary. The initial step was to learn as much as possible ... about carbohydrates and sugar intake, and how that would affect my levels. "I've had a couple of diabetic episodes. Most recently, I was walking home and out of nowhere I felt my sugar drop. I was in an elevator, luckily with a friend, when I started to pass out. I got to my room and got some juice and snacks to get my sugar up. It could have been very scary." But the 'Jealous' hitmaker, who has recently been linked to 36-year-old actress Kate Hudson, refuses to let the disease affect his entire life. He said: "I might have to take extra precautions, like checking my blood sugar, but I don't let diabetes hold me back."



Anderson cured of Hepatitis C

Pamela Anderson says she has been completely cured of Hepatitis C. The former 'Baywatch' star, who claimed she contracted the blood-borne virus after sharing a tattoo needle with her ex-husband Tommy Lee, believes she is free of the disease, which can result in damage to the liver, thanks to a new course of drugs. She wrote on Instagram: "I am CURED!!! - I just found out #nomorehepc #thankyou #blessing #family #prayer #live I pray anyone living with Hep C can qualify or afford treatment. It will be more available soon. I know treatment is hard to get still...#dontlosehope #itworkedforme #thereisacure #love #happy #americanliverfoundation #celebration #Idontknowwhatto do #iwanttohelp (sic)." Speaking about the treatment previously, she said: "I am taking medicine right now, they have come up with a cure. I am almost half way through and by November 1, I should be cured - a 98 per cent chance." The 48-year-old blonde bombshell, who has battled with the illness for 16 years, announced that she had decided to try the antiviral drug after seeing Hepatitis C - also known as Hep C - as a "death sentence" for almost two decades. She said: "I'm very fortunate that I've had Hep C for about 16 years. 16 years ago that was [presented to me] as a death sentence. I think it really worked on my self-esteem. Even though I may have looked confident on the outside, I think it really was a dark cloud that lingered over me."





Honoree James Turrell speaks onstage at LACMA 2015 Art+Film Gala Honoring James Turrell and Alejandro G Inarritu, Presented by Gucci at LACMA in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos



Honoree Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu speaks onstage.



Musician Joe Walsh performs onstage.

Sam Smith is a no-show at LACMA's Art + Film Gala

The sick Grammy winner was to be the featured performer at the glitzy event, which honored filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu and artist James Turrell. The writing is on the wall: Sam Smith didn't show up for his scheduled performance last night at LACMA's fifth annual Art + Film Gala. Museum rep, Miranda Carroll, tells THR that the Grammy-winning singer was under the weather this weekend and had to cancel. "Sam Smith has fallen ill and regretfully was unable to perform tonight at the LACMA Art + Film Gala. He was required to go on vocal rest," Carroll said. According to sources, the Grammy-winning singer informed gala organizers sometime in the late afternoon that he wouldn't be able to make it. A rep for Smith did not respond to a request. Fortunately, Joe Walsh stepped in and performed at the Gucci-sponsored event, which brings together the film and art worlds in one gathering to raise funds for the museum and its film-related programming and exhibitions. "Well, here I am. I'm glad to be here, I think," Walsh joked onstage. "I'm just gonna play a couple songs, and we'll see what happens."

Despite the sudden illness, it's already a big weekend for Smith. He's featured in the new James Bond entry, Spectre, courtesy of his song "Writing's on the Wall." During the cocktail portion of the evening, which preceded the gala dinner and awards presentation, Universal Music Group chairman and CEO Lucian Grainge told The Hollywood Reporter that he was looking forward to hearing Smith perform. "I always love hearing him," Grainge said of Smith, an artist under his UMG umbrella. Smith recently performed for Grainge at the Nov 5 Spirit of Life gala in Santa Monica, a benefit for City of Hope which honored the music industry veteran. Other musical artists who have taken the stage at previous Art + Film galas include Stevie Wonder, Florence + the Machine, Sting and Culture Club.

— www.hollywoodreporter.com

Smith might not have been at the event honoring filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu and artist James Turrell, but plenty of other power players were. Joining LACMA CEO Michael Govan, co-chairs Eva Chow and Leonardo DiCaprio were Gucci creative director Alessandro Michele, Gwyneth Paltrow, Reese Witherspoon, Jared Leto, Kim Kardashian, Salma Hayek Pinault, Diane Kruger, Joshua Jackson, Chloe Sevigny, Dakota Johnson, Saoirse Ronan, Usher, Gia Coppola, Brit Marling, Jacqui Getty, Rosie Huntington Whiteley and Jason Statham and Aaron and Sam Taylor Johnson. Industry players included Bob Iger, Brad Grey, Jim Gianopulos, Ted Sarandos, Richard Lovett, Brian Grazer and others.



Recording artist Usher



Actress Saoirse Ronan



Reese Witherspoon



Gwyneth Paltrow



Actress China Chow (left) and designer Jeremy Scott.



Actress Salma Hayek



Actor Jared Leto



Actress Chloe Sevigny



Musician Asia Chow



Model Naomi Campbell (left) and partner.



Actors Joshua Jackson (left) and Diane Kruger



Dakota Johnson

Dutch fashion designer melds the traditional and high-tech

Drawing inspiration from sources including art, architecture, the movement of the human body and science, Iris van Herpen creates cutting-edge fashion using a combination of traditional craftsmanship and innovative technology. And though van Herpen's name may not be well-known to the average fashion-loving consumer, fashion-forward singers like Lady Gaga, Bjork and Beyonce have all worn her creations.

"Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion," a new exhibition opening Saturday at Atlanta's High Museum of Art, features 45 pieces pulled from 15 of the Dutch artist's collections designed between 2008 and this year. Organized chronologically, it gives visitors insight into the evolution of the young designer's career.

Many of the couture pieces look like costumes from a futuristic science fiction movie, with dramatic flourishes created from unexpected materials and contrasting textures.

The pieces are displayed on custom mannequins in such a way that visitors can walk around and see them from every angle because they are as much sculpture as clothing, said High curator of decorative arts and design Sarah Schleunig. Van Herpen, 31, said people sometimes assume she is inspired by technology, but that is not the case. Rather she sees technology as a tool to help her achieve the physical representation of ideas in her head, she said.

"Often my inspiration doesn't come from something visual," she said. "Often I'm inspired by things that are invisible to us, like magnetic motion or electricity." Her creative process often includes collaborations with other artists, designers, architects and scientists. Once she has an idea in her head she experiments to see whether it can best be executed by hand or using more high-tech methods, like 3-D printing.

The first 3-D printed piece she sent down a runway was from a collection called Crystallization in July 2010 and was inspired by the way limestone deposits harden. The cream-colored polyamide material extends out from the torso in ridged loops, and thin strips of acrylic stick out from the waist of a matching short leather skirt in a way that mimics water squirting out from a fountain.

In the same collection is a water-inspired dress. A simple iridescent beige leather sheath with columns of ruffles and draped in metal chains is accented by a giant plastic collar that makes it look as if someone came up and threw a bucket of water on the model and that splash is frozen in time. One of the most remarkable pieces in the exhibition, which the High recently acquired, is

from van Herpen's spring 2015 collection, Magnetic Motion. It looks like a delicately carved ice sculpture. The structures are so fine and delicate that the technicians at the company that printed it for her initially didn't think it would be possible to create with a 3-D printer using the transparent resin she wanted.

The result is a stunning short strapless dress that hinges open along one side and snaps onto the model. Like many of the other pieces in the exhibition, it's hard to imagine how it looks on a human body. Luckily, a video in a side gallery showcases six of her runway shows so visitors can see the outfits on models and watch the extraordinary way they move.

Made from materials that include woven metal gauze, the metal ribs of children's umbrellas, leather, laser-cut acrylic, foil, stones, cotton and more, the dresses scream to be touched, and the High is happy to oblige. There are samples of six materials from outfits in the exhibition, including the ice dress and water dress, both of which are made from hard, unforgiving plastic, as well as a rubber material that feels like the skin of a Halloween mask, a fine wire mesh that is surprisingly flexible and a mat of fastened-together umbrella ribs. The show debuts Saturday at the High, where it ends May 15, and then will travel to the Grand Rapids Art Museum in Michigan (fall 2016), the Dallas Museum of Art in Texas (spring 2017), the Cincinnati Museum of Art in Ohio (fall 2017) and the Phoenix Art Museum in Arizona (spring 2018). — AP



Dresses from the Refinery Smoke collection by designer Iris van Herpen are displayed at the High Museum's new exhibit, "Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion" in Atlanta. — AP photos



Record auctions bring sparkle to diamond market



A model holds a 12.03-carat blue diamond during a press preview by auction house Sotheby's in Geneva. — AFP

A 12.03-carat blue diamond could fetch a record \$55 million (\$1 million euros) when it goes under the hammer at Sotheby's auction house in Geneva on Wednesday. The "fancy vivid blue diamond" Blue Moon, discovered in South Africa in January last year, is the largest cushion-shaped stone in that category to ever appear at auction. Sotheby's put its estimated sale price between \$35-\$55 million which, at the higher end, would mark an all-time record for the sale of a diamond at auction.

"Fancy vivid" is the highest category for coloured diamonds. On the eve of that event, Sotheby's competitor Christie's is set to auction off a cushion-shaped 16.09-carat pink diamond that is tipped to fetch up to \$28 million. Christie's said only three fancy vivid pink diamonds of over 10 carats have been up for sale in 250 years. The flawless pink diamond is the largest in its class ever graded by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). The sparkling oval-cut rock has received the highest possible GIA colour and clarity rating.

The world record for a diamond sale at auction is currently held by a 24.78-carat pink diamond, known as the Graff Pink, which sold in Geneva in November 2010 for just over \$46 million. In November 2013 a plum-sized diamond that weighed in at 59.60-carats and was known as the "Pink Star," was auctioned by Sotheby's in Geneva for \$83 million, a world record for a gem, but the buyer, New York diamond cutter Isaac Wolf, defaulted on the payment. The current record for a blue diamond belongs to the Zoe Diamond, which in November 2014 fetched \$32.6 million in New York.

The stunning 9.75 carat, pear-shaped diamond was bought by a private Hong Kong collector. The price also set a new world auction record for price-per-carat for any diamond, the auctioneers Sotheby's said. Only five white diamonds weighing more than 100 carats have been sold at auction, according to Sotheby's. The most expensive was the 118.28-carat gem which sold by Sotheby's for \$30.6 million at a Hong Kong auction in October 2013. In May 2014, a 100.09-carat yellow diamond sold for \$16.3 million at auction in Geneva, a record for a diamond of this color. The Graff Vivid Yellow Diamond is one of the largest yellow diamonds in the world and its color is described as "daffodil yellow." — AFP

Haiti Fashion Week 2015



Models present creations by Michelle Lesniak Franklin during the Haiti Fashion Week 2015 held in Port-au-Prince yesterday. — AFP photos

IRIS VAN HERPEN TRANSFORMING FASHION

Iris van Herpen (Dutch, born 1984) works at the nexus of fashion, design, technology and science. With a dynamic and path-breaking body of work, she is widely heralded as a pioneering new voice in fashion. She produced her first collection in 2007, shortly after graduating from the Aalto Institute of the Arts in the Netherlands. Based primarily in Amsterdam, away from the fashion world of haute couture (she has been a member of the Chambre Syndicale de Haute Couture since 2012), van Herpen divides her time among the contained world of her studio, her global network of collaborators, and the international stage of fashion, where her designs regularly appear in biannual fashion weeks.

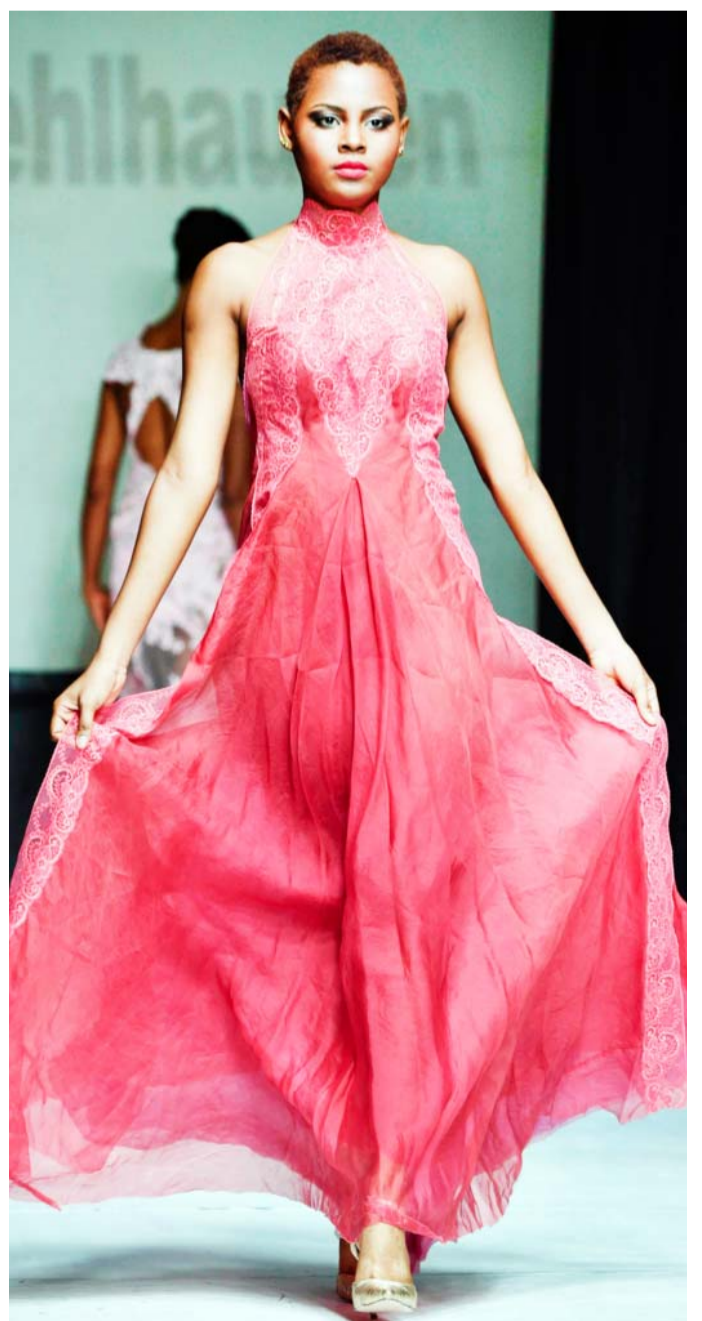
Fashion is about quick deadlines, international collaborations and the need for the next new thing. It is a discipline that requires tremendous creativity and a willingness to experiment with unexpected and non-traditional materials, and pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

Van Herpen has created a body of work that is both a reflection of the contemporary world and a commentary on it. The resulting works, often as fine art than as design, document the evolution of her vision through a series of collections through 2015 and illustrates the many ways she continues to seek inspiration from science, technology and craftsmanship.

All works are designed and made by Iris van Herpen. Photography by Bert Oostes. No. 6 Studios.

Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion is on display at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, through May 15, 2016. The exhibition was curated by Sarah Schleunig, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia.

Designer Iris van Herpen poses for a photo at the High Museum.





Hilary Lentz, of Pittsburgh, Pa, and her husband Shane leave the tiny house which they rented for a weekend.



Shane Lentz, of Pittsburgh, Pa, and his wife Hilary leave the tiny house, which they rented for a weekend, in Croydon, NH. — AP photos

Think you want a tiny house? Businesses offer a tryout first



A guest register and information regarding property rentals are seen on a kitchen table.



Sunlight illuminates the bedroom loft of a tiny house rental.



The kitchen and bathroom area are prepared for guests at a tiny house rental.

Hilary and Shane Lentz were hooked on the idea of a tiny house, but they weren't sure the reality would be so appealing. Their curiosity led them to the hills of New Hampshire, where a business that started at Harvard University rents out tiny houses for \$99 a night. The company, Getaway, has drawn visitors from afar who come to sample life in a 160-square-foot house before they dive headlong into the lifestyle. "It's a way to test-drive tiny house living," said Jon Staff, the founder and CEO of Getaway. "We operate them a little bit like hotel rooms in the woods."

Across the country, more businesses are letting the curious try out tiny living. Caravan, a hotel in Portland, Oregon, offers six tiny houses ranging from 84 to 170 square feet, for \$145 a night. Dozens of tiny houses are available through vacation rental websites, posted by their owners. Definitions vary, but some say a tiny house is anything smaller than 400 square feet. Advocates tout the environmental and financial perks of tiny living.

Fewer distractions

The Lentz couple, from Pittsburgh, had been considering a major downsizing for years. It could free them from the mortgage on their three-bedroom home. They could build the

house on wheels and take it anywhere. By shedding some belongings, there would be fewer distractions. "Having a smaller living space allows you to be more open to experiences, and to really enjoy your day to day life," said Hilary, 27. But the couple had a few lingering questions. Shane, 29, wondered whether waterless toilets, a common feature in tiny houses, were odorless, too. They both worried about cooking in a tiny kitchen. Hilary wanted to know whether the coziness would fade to isolation.

Getaway is the first project at Harvard's Millennial Housing Lab, a group of business, law and design students exploring new housing ideas. Staff, a graduate student in business, said his stints living on a boat and in an Airstream trailer inspired him to help spread the tiny house movement. "Small spaces force you out into the world, and I think that's a good thing," he said.

Backers of tiny living say the movement is growing, and certain areas have become hotspots. Villages of little homes have popped up in cities like Portland and Seattle. Other cities have considered relaxing their zoning rules to open the door for more tiny houses. But industry experts say it's hard to pinpoint actual numbers behind the trend. In an annual survey, the National Association of Realtors



Shane Lentz, of Pittsburgh, Pa, and his wife Hilary, talk before leaving a tiny house, which they rented for a weekend.

found that the share of home buyers who opted for houses of less than 1,000 square feet has stayed at about 1 percent for the past five years. "The data is revealing that the tiny-sized home is not what people will consider the American dream," said Lawrence Yun, the association's chief economist.

Shipping container

He predicts that the growth of big cities will fuel demand for smaller apartments and condos, but not stand-alone houses. Either way, tiny houses have caught the public's attention as the subject of TV shows and documentaries. Popular websites entice audiences to ogle at

small houses in bucolic landscapes. Some cities are exploring tiny houses as a tool to fight homelessness. The Lentz couple signed up for a rental as soon as they heard online about Getaway. They spent the weekend in a wood-paneled house the size of a shipping container, powered by solar panels. The only water came from a 110-gallon tank. Its composting toilet required a spritz of water from a spray bottle after use.

"Our tiny houses are a little bit simpler than the standard tiny house," Staff said. "They're rustic." During their tryout, the Lentzes played board games and went hiking. They built a campfire and looked at the stars. Despite their concerns, the cramped kitchen had plenty of space to prepare a spaghetti dinner. After warming up slowly, the small propane heater eventually warded off the fall chill. "It was very comfortable," Hilary said. "I was pretty surprised. I didn't feel that closed-in feeling, even up in the loft." By the end of their stay, Shane wasn't sold on the composting toilet. But overall, they said, the trip bolstered their decision to downsize. They've even chosen possible designs. The only obstacle now is the zoning in Pittsburgh, which can make it tough to find space for a tiny home, they said. "If we can find a place," Hilary said, "I don't think there would even be a question about it." — AP



Iwan & Manuela Wirth



Chinese artist Ai Weiwei (left) and his son Ai Lao pose for a picture prior to a press conference at the University of Fine Arts in Berlin. —AFP

Art 'lifestyle' couple tops ArtReview Power 100 list

Swiss husband-and-wife art dealers Iwan and Manuela Wirth, who offer clients a lush English country lifestyle along with their big-tag purchases, were named the most influential people in the contemporary art world by ArtReview magazine. Chinese dissident artist and free-speech activist Ai Weiwei, who has previously topped the list, took the number two spot, while German gallery owner David Zwirner was ranked third in the British-based magazine's "Power 100" of contemporary art.

The Wirths, who have been in the magazine's top 10 for some years, claimed the top spot for the impact of a cultural centre-cum-gallery they have opened in Somerset, southwest England, where they renovated a 15th-century farmhouse and landscaped and installed sculptures on the grounds around it.

"It's partly about breaking away from the conventional gallery model which is sort of a slightly oppressive white-cube space that could be in

any place almost at any time and moving towards a series of galleries that are specific to their content," Mark Rappolt, ArtReview's editor, told Reuters.

"It's a departure from the sort of very forbidding gallery that we're used to," he said in a telephone interview in advance of publication of the list on Thursday in the magazine, which says the rankings are compiled by a 16-member international jury.

Rappolt said that Ai, who was able to leave China this year when Chinese authorities returned his passport they had confiscated four years ago, "combines activism and art making in a way that makes him quite influential."

"He shows that art can be something more than just pretty," Rappolt said of Ai's works, which frequently take jabs at the Chinese authorities. Rappolt said several museum directors, including Nicholas Serota of the Tate museums in London, Glenn Lowry of the Museum of

Modern Art in New York and Julia Peyton-Jones of the Serpentine Galleries in London, had made the top 10 because museum shows of an artist's work remain influential, despite the boom in art dealers and galleries. "I think there's still the sense that a museum exhibition validates an artist ... and these kinds of shows tend to be more important than maybe a conventional gallery show," he said.

The top 10 list is as follows:

1. Iwan & Manuela Wirth
2. Ai Weiwei
3. David Zwirner
4. Hans Ulrich Obrist & Julia Peyton-Jones
5. Nicholas Serota
6. Larry Gagosian
7. Glenn D Lowry
8. Marina Abramovi
9. Adam D Weinberg
10. Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev. —Reuters

John Lennon guitar sells for over \$2.4 million at California auction

A guitar stolen from the late John Lennon in the 1960s sold for \$2.41 million on Saturday in an auction in Beverly Hills, California, fetching one of the highest prices ever for an item of rock and roll memorabilia. The 1962 J-160E Gibson acoustic guitar had for decades been in the possession of John McCaw, a novice musician who bought it in the late 1960s without knowing it had been stolen from the legendary Beatle several years before, said auctioneer Darren Julien.

Half of the proceeds from the sale of the guitar, which was stolen from Lennon at a December 1963 Christmas concert, will go toward the Spirit Foundation, a charitable organization that he and his widow, Yoko Ono, created, Julien said. The instrument's authenticity was determined by its matching serial number and wood grain, among other things, Julien said.

The buyer, who paid \$2.41 million at a Julien's Auctions event, has asked to remain anonymous, Julien said. Though only in Lennon's possession for just over a year, the guitar had an illustrious history. Lennon

bought it at a Liverpool music shop in 1962 and used it on recordings of a number of Beatles songs, including "P.S. I Love You" and "Love Me Do," according to Julien's Auctions. He also is said to have strummed it while writing several Beatles hits with Paul McCartney, such as "I Want To Hold Your Hand" and "All My Loving."

"It's such an important part of Lennon's career and Beatles history," Julien said. "I knew it would go over \$1 million; I had no idea it would go over \$2 million."

The price far surpasses the \$965,000 paid at a 2013 Christie's auction for the electric guitar Bob Dylan played at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, where he

shocked folk traditionalists with a set of rock songs.

But according to Guinness World Records, the most expensive guitar sold at auction was a Fender Stratocaster signed by the likes of Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney and others. It sold for \$2.7 million at a 2005 charity auction in Qatar. — Reuters





A woman walks in front of the Qol Sharif mosque in the Kazan Kremlin in central Kazan. — AFP

For Afghan women, driving a car brings both fear and freedom

Since Rokhsar Azamee began driving the streets of Kabul last year, she has endured condescension, ridicule, and even threats to her life with some men deliberately causing "accidents" to harass her. But she will not be deterred. The 23-year-old journalist learned to drive to avoid aggravation from men in the street as she waited each morning for a taxi with a driver who would not hassle her on the way to work. But even the purchase of her own car has not shielded her from condemnation in the male-dominated, ultra-conservative society of Afghanistan. "For many men," she says, "it is a new thing to see a woman drive a car, they will harass you. One way to do so is by causing an accident."

Once as she was heading home in her white 1997 Toyota Corolla, she was followed by a group of four or five men driving a SUV. Her anxiety growing, she kept driving until they blocked her in a semi-deserted street in downtown Kabul, forcing her to pull over. But as the men began to clamber out of their vehicle, she saw her chance to escape—reversing quickly then hitting the accelerator. "It was very horrible experience for me," she says.

It was not always like this. Up until the 1990s Afghan women were commonly found behind the wheel—even driving buses, in the big cities at least. But in 1992, when the communist regime in Kabul collapsed and civil war broke out, women drivers were slowly discouraged. And as the extremist Taliban group swept to power in 1996, women were banned not only from driving, but from even leaving their homes without a burqa or the company of a male chaperone.

'Intolerable'

Change did not come again until the US invasion toppled the Taliban from power in late 2001 and a government backed by Washington took over. Gender equality was enshrined in the Afghan constitution, and millions of women came out from the shadows to



Traffic is backed up during a jam at Kote Sangi in Kabul. — AFP photos

attend schools and universities and work in offices again. Fourteen years on, however, the idea of a woman driver is still seen as controversial, provocative and even immoral. Islam does not prohibit women from driving, but laws and cultural norms vary throughout the Islamic world, from Saudi Arabia—where women are banned from driving entirely—to Iran and Pakistan, where women drivers are more common.

In Afghanistan, woman drivers are seen as a Western imposition and a rejection of Muslim values, Babrak, an Afghan man in his fifties, tells AFP. "Women, especially young girls, driving can increase immorality and even lead to prostitution in Islamic societies," he says. "These women driving encourage our devout

Muslim sisters towards immorality. It is becoming intolerable." His view is not uncommon in Afghanistan where ultra-conservative men fear such freedoms increase women's independence and the lack of a male chaperone will result in increasingly liberal behavior.

But in big cities like Kabul women are attempting to shift change into high gear. The increase in the number of women drivers has been growing at a steady rate: Kabul's traffic department estimates show that up to 1,000 women each year now apply to join driving schools in the Afghan capital alone. In the early years after the end of Taliban rule that figure hovered around 50, Kabul's traffic police chief General Asadullah told AFP. "The women have the right to learn, they have the right to drive,

and we encourage them for that," he says.

Social activist Sohaila Sama, 25, looks forward to driving her own car to the green plains of northern Afghanistan without persecution. "I have felt better, more confident since I learned how to drive," she says.

"When I see other women drive their vehicles, I feel like our country is moving forward towards a better future, a more civilized one." The progress is promising, but it may not be enough.

A Taliban resurgence in recent months has UN officials and rights activists fearing that the fragile gains women have made could be further eroded when international forces eventually leave. Testimony from women's rights

activists who fled the Taliban's recent brief capture of the northern city of Kunduz revealed harrowing stories of death squads methodically targeting women—an ominous blueprint of what could happen should the insurgents ever return to power. Azamee—who, bareheaded and with the radio blaring, took AFP on a ride through the streets of the capital—is frustrated but determined she will not back down. "I am proud, because when I started driving, I think I set an example for other women," she says. "Yesterday one of my friends called and said, 'You have to come to my office.' I said, 'Why?' She said, 'I have bought a car and I will take you around the city.' I was like, that is cool!" — AFP



An Afghan instructor (left) teaches during a lesson at the Haidari Driving School in Kabul.



Afghan woman, Rokhsar Azamee, 23, gestures as she drives her car along the streets of Kabul.



Suhaila Sama gets out of the car during a driving lesson with an instructor from the Haidari Driving School.



Identity photographs of students who completed their driver training course are stuck on a wall at Haidari Driving School.