THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

1 Qatari soldier killed in Yemen

as battle rages



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

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FINANCE MINISTER TO BRIEF PANEL ON BUDGET DEFICIT

Interior, human rights panels to discuss Bedoon issue



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Low Tide 06:35 & 18:25

UK MAY HALT ARMS EXPORTS TO SAUDI

DUBAI: Britain's foreign minister said it would halt weapons exports to Saudi Arabia if investigations found Riyadh had breached international humanitarian law in the war in Yemen. Saudi Arabia has since March led an Arab military campaign to restore government authority in Yemen after Iran-allied Houthi fighters took control of most of the country a year ago. Amnesty International has asked the United Nations to investigate allegations that humanitarian law has been broken during the war, in which UN figures show more than 5,600 people have been killed.

"The Saudis deny that there have been any breaches ... (but) we need to see proper investigations," Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond told BBC Newsnight on Tuesday. "We need to work with the Saudis to establish that international humanitarian law has been complied with. We have an export licensing system that responds if we find that it is not. We will then find that we cannot license additional shipments of weapons." According to a 2013 UK parliamentary report, Britain granted nearly 4 billion pounds (\$6.06 billion) of export licenses for arms to Saudi Arabia in the five prior years.

Amnesty has said the vast majority of civilian casualties in Yemen have been caused by the Saudi-led coalition and accused the Arab forces of using cluster bombs, which are banned by most countries. It said that violations of international humanitarian law had also been committed by the Houthis. — Reuters



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Director General of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde. — KUNA (See Page 2)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh will brief the National Assembly Financial and Economic Affairs Committee today with the government program for financing the expected budget deficit due to the drop in oil prices. The minister is expected to explain to the committee members government plans to meet the budget deficit and its plans to issue conventional bonds and Islamic sukuk as a way of tapping into the debt market to finance the deficit.

The government is projecting a deficit of KD 7 billion before deducting 10 percent of revenues in favor of the future generations fund which the government normally adds to expenditures. But actual finances, particularly revenues have so far been higher than projections. The government has projected revenues to be at KD 12.2 billion for the whole fiscal year 2015/2016 which ends on March 31

But after six months, revenues reached KD 7.8 billion due to high oil prices in the first quarter of the fiscal year -April to June. If income continues at the same level, total revenues will be higher than projected and this means that the budget will be lower. National Bank of Kuwait said in report last week that Kuwait will post its first budget deficit this year after 16 consecutive years of surplus. But it estimated the deficit to be much lower than projected. Saleh told reporters yesterday the government will not cancel any mega development project because of the drop in revenues. He also said that the government will issue bonds and sukuk to borrow funds to finance the deficit. But he gave no time frame for the process.

Continued on Page 13

H1N1 CASE IN PRIVATE SCHOOL

year old student in a private school. The student's day. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher parents were the ones who reported the case, as Education Bader Al-Essa said yesterday that there their child was currently receiving treatment, the was one confirmed case of Swine Flu (H1N1) of a six minister said during a tour to several schools yester-

SIX EXPATRIATES ARRESTED **OVER 'OFFENSIVE REMARKS'**

'Beware of what you post on social network'









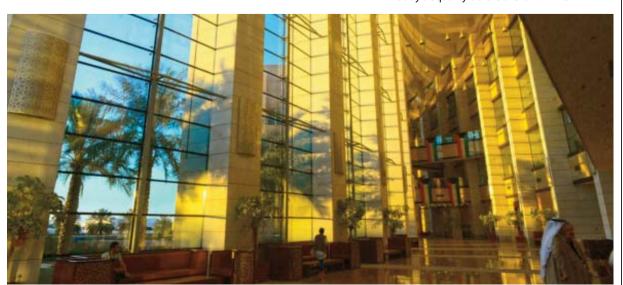


KUWAIT: Photo shows the six Egyptian expats who were arrested for posting offending remarks about Kuwait and Kuwaitis via their personal accounts on social network media yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Six Egyptian expats have been arrested for posting offending remarks about Kuwait and Kuwaitis via their personal accounts on social network media, the Ministry of Interior said yesterday. Security forces have arrested Ahmad Al-Sayed Farah, Ahmad Jaber Abdulsalam, Mohammad Farai Salim, Tariq Abdulhameed Abdulhakeem, Mohammad Obaid Al-Esharri and Abdulrahman Mohammad Ahmad, the Ministry's Security Media Department said in a statement.

The suspects have posted enticing messages directed to the Egyptian community in the country - encouraging them to go on strike, hate and called for revenge for a recent violent scuffle incident between Egyptian residents and Kuwaiti citizens in Hawally Governorate, said the statement. Their act is a clear violation of the Kuwait law, public order offence, and breach of security in addition to endangering the lives of citizens and residents, the ministry affirmed.

They will be referred to competent investigation agencies, the statement noted, reiterating the Ministry's determination and continued efforts to prevent any misconduct that would disrupt Kuwait's public security. The Ministry also warned of the abuse and misuse of social network media, affirming everybody's equality before the law. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Photo shows the inside lobby of Kuwait National Library. Kuwait National Library is housing the nation's ancient history. — KUNA



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KUWAIT: The head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde (right), attends the international conference on Islamic finance, in Kuwait City yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

LAGARDE LAUDS AMIR FOR HIS 'GREAT HUMANITARIAN ROLE'

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde yesterday lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for playing a great role at various levels, particularly in the humanitarian realm.

In statement to KUNA as she emerged from her meeting with His Highness the Amir, Lagarde said she was honored to meet him adding that the meeting was an opportunity to discuss a large number of economic and political issues. Lagarde added that she congratulated His Highness the Amir on his designation by the UN as the 'Humanitarian Leader,' also lauding his great role toward various humanitarian

The State of Kuwait namely His Highness the Amir plays a vital role toward regional and global issues, she said, adding that her talks with His

KUWAIT: The visiting Director General of Highness the Amir dealt with economic conditions in Kuwait "for sake of overhauling the sector for service of financial stability." She added that the discussions also dealt with various political issues, where she conveyed her perspective regarding the global economy and hazards it faces.

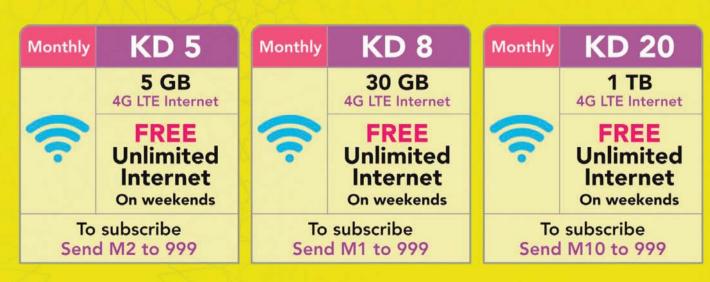
The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, Advisor at Amiri Diwan Mohammad Daifallah Sharar and Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Governor Mohammad Al-Hashel.

Lagarde was also received by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who praised the IMF's role in supporting the concept of Islamic financing, wishing Lagarde a successful participation in the Global Islamic Finance Conference. Hashel attended the meeting as well. — KUNA



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SOCIETY HOSTS CAPITAL MARKET LAW SYMPOSIUM

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Economic Society (KES) held a symposium on the new Capital Market Law number 22/2015 on Tuesday at its premises. This law came into effect on November 10, 2015, and it is amending the previous Capital Market Law number 7/2010.

Legal consultant Hossam Abdullah, Managing Partner, Adlouni and Partners said that this new law is the platform to apply the changes and improve the situation of stock exchange in Kuwait. "The main purpose of this law is to rectify the deficiencies in the previous law, which were noticed during the past four years. Sixty four articles of that law were amended by the new law. In addition, the implementing regulation of 902 pages was issued," he noted during the symposium.

He also explained the kinds of dealing with securities and shares. He spoke about the mortgage, foreclosure, notifying the debtors and the guarantors, classifying of client's portfolios, and financial

Investment

"The Stock Exchange Authority aims to develop the Kuwait Stock Exchange market through verifying and improving its investment tools applying to international standards," Hossam stressed. "This law also issued special system for the market maker activities." "The legal people have

done their role, and now it is the chance of investors to exploit the new facilities given to them," he concluded.

Ali Khalil, Chief Operating Officer, Kuwait Financial Center 'Markaz' noted that the positive effect of this new low will be visible on the long term. "The investment products will not be of much effect on the short term. Actually, the demand on buying shares is weak in the present time and I think that the current problem of the stock market is not legal, but economic, which is still persisting even with issuing this new law," he explained.

"There should be an institutional investor and individuals. It is true that there are some funds that are investing in professional way, thus the investors that were present in the market before 2010 are not there anymore," added Khalil.

Ecosystem

Faisal Sarkhoh, Chief Executive Officer, KAMCO Investment Company stated that we need to improve the ecosystem to get the trust of investors back. "We live in a developing area and companies should continue to produce innovative tools. Unfortunately, the market's liquidity dropped under KD 10 million while it used to reach KD 200 million in the past. The bad situation of the stock market started last year and is still persisting, and this was caused from different factors including the drop of oil price, geopolitical factors, and others," he pointed out.

BURGAN BANK SPONSORS 'THE HUMAN MARATHON'

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is proud to announce its sponsorship of 'The Human Marathon 2015', which is a voluntary youth project. This new marathon will start at 9:00 am on Saturday November 14th, 2015 at the 360 mall, and will be shedding light on integrating those with special needs into the mainstream community and restoring their sense of belonging by engaging them in the marathon and through different activities throughout the day. This is in addition to encouraging a healthier lifestyle in Kuwait. The bank's sponsorship comes in line with its commitment to supporting and recognizing special needs

The event is organized by young entrepreneurs, targeting participants from all segments of the community, starting from the age of 10 and up. These participants include active social volunteering organizations along with non-profit organizations and a number of parties interested in people with disabilities.

As a firm believer of the ability and talents of those with special needs, Burgan Bank pledges to continue supporting several initiatives as part of its overall social responsibility framework that adds more value to the community.



NATIONAL GUARD LAUNCHES 2ND STRATEGIC PLAN: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Guard (KNG) has launched its second strategic plan under the theme of 'Security First,' covering the period from 2015 to 2020, said National Guard Undersecretary Major General Hashem Al-Refaie yesterday.

Maj Gen Refaie said in a speech that the plan aims at overhauling the structure of the KNG to enable it to perform its duties of providing the society with the security it aspires for. The plan seeks to streamline all measures to secure and protect all the nationís vital locations including government buildings.

In doing so, the KNG will work in close proximity with all military and societal organizations to ensure the safety of people and property, he said. The plan, he stressed, also seeks to beef up the readiness of the KNG in dealing with national emergencies, natural disasters, and terror-

A major priority of the plan is also to provide job opportunities to Kuwaiti youth qualified for work at the KNG, said Brigadier Isam Naif Isam, head of the team in charge of the plan. He emphasized the notion that the plan affects most aspects of functions that are carried out daily by the National Guard and that by the end of the plan in 2020 the National Guard will be an organization of commendable capabilities at the behest of serving the security and safety of the people. — KUNA



ISLAMIC FINANCE PROVIDES SYSTEM TO BOOST GROWTH: AL-HASHEL

KUWAIT: Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel said yesterday that the Islamic finance can play a role in financial system based on principles that create jobs, drive growth, reduce poverty and achieve equality.

This came in Hashel's speech at the opening of The Global Islamic Finance Conference, hosted by the State of Kuwait yesterday under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and with the presence of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh and Director General of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde.

The Islamic finance also contributes to directing the credit to productive investments as well as investment promotion, he added. He pointed out that the conference, which witnessed the first time the International Monetary Fund's participation, tackles Islamic financing and means of developing the sector.

Essential changes

Establishing a finance system based on Islamic Sharia requires essential changes not only in the financial sector but also in the way societies are working, thus building institutional capabilities is of prior importance, Hashel said.

Kuwait witnessed the establishment of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) - not only the first Islamic bank in Kuwait - but also one of the very first established anywhere in the world, Hashel told the conference. It was a humble start; with only four employees, KFH opened its doors to the public for the first time on 31 August 1978.

"I doubt anyone imagined that it would one day become a leading Islamic bank, with 8,000 employees and operations spanning across seven regions of the world," he said. According to the CBK Governor, the growth of Islamic finance as an industry is equally impressive. "This is however hardly surprising, as the basic principles of Islamic finance deservedly have a universal appeal, irrespective of religious beliefs," he said.

He noted that the golden rule of Islamic finance epitomizes the concept of justice which is "central to Islamic finance. Justice, in economic context, requires at least two things; proper allocation of resources for the welfare of the entire society, and sharing of risk and reward."

This is the 'golden rule' of a good society, a principle that has been conveyed by almost every major religion and ethical tradition. It requires that anything that harms a society is prohibited, even if it is beneficial for the individual.

Since banks mobilize savings from a large group of people and lend to relatively fewer borrowers, there is an element of asymmetry in banks' resource mobilization on the one hand, and resource allocation on the other, he

This necessitates that banks, in the world of Islamic finance, lend to those who can use these savings to benefit the whole of society by making productive investments and creating more jobs. "However, in recent years,

step further, as it also requires the sharing of profits and losses. That is not only important from the justice standpoint but also to ensure financial stability, he stressed.

Since the establishment of the first Islamic bank in Kuwait around four decades ago, "we now have five domestic Islamic banks that collectively account for 39% of domestic



KUWAIT: (From left) Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Director General of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde and Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel attend the Global Islamic Finance Conference yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

excessive liquidity amid unconventional monetary policies has mostly fueled asset growth, with limited impact on real economic activity."

Inseparable link

Hashel said: "Islamic finance, by establishing an inseparable link between finance and the real economy, encourages economic risk taking that helps improve growth and create jobs. It requires that credit must be provided for productive investments, not for conspicuous consumption or speculative activities." He pointed to three types of investment: First, currency based investments, which he considered 'the most dangerous though investors mostly considered them safe'.

The second is 'investments in assets like gold that never produced anything', while "the third type is 'investments in productive assets, whether businesses, farms or real estate' - and this is precisely what Islamic finance also requires banks to do - to promote investments in productive assets so that the entire society can benefit."

More importantly, Islamic finance goes a

est share of Islamic banks operating in any country with a dual banking system - where conventional and Islamic banks operate in

Globally, Kuwait has the fifth largest share of Islamic banking assets and the third largest share of Islamic funds. And it is not only in Kuwait that the Islamic finance industry has taken off in recent decades.

According to Hashel, estimates suggest that the "global market for Islamic financial services, as measured by Sharia compliant assets, has crossed \$2 trillion by now, a quantum leap from \$150 billion in the mid-1990's."

Last year, the sukuk market witnessed debut issuances from the governments of four non-OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) countries-the UK, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, and South Africa which indicates the growing popularity of sukuk beyond the Muslim world.

As these trends highlight that Islamic finance is neither a novelty nor is it restricted to Muslim countries only. Over the past decade, the industry has transformed itself from being a niche market to a viable alterna-

tive for consumers of conventional finance, irrespective of their religious beliefs.

Today Islamic banks serve millions of customers across the Middle East, SouthEast Asia and beyond, offering a variety of Sharia-compliant products and services. While it is indeed a remarkable achievement, Islamic finance has significant potential for further growth, the CBK Governor said.

Three areas

In this regard, he points out three such areas: First, both within Asia and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the regions where Islamic finance has a greater footprint, there is substantial scope for investments in infrastructure. These investments are invariably backed by tangible real assets and thus ideal candidates for Islamic finance.

Second, the world is increasingly recognizing the importance of investments that are socially responsible and environmentally sustainable. And given the similarity in their business philosophies, Islamic finance can be a natural choice for socially responsible investments, the CBK Governor told the IMF-CBK conference.

Third, in many developing countries a majority of the public still remains hugely underserved by a formal financial system, if not entirely unbanked. For instance, World Bank data on financial inclusion for 2015 reveals that only 45.5 percent of the adult population has a bank account in South Asia, and merely 14 percent in the MENA region incidentally, these two regions are home to more than 1.3 billion Muslims, around 82 percent of entire Muslim population.

These numbers collectively highlight that Islamic banks have the potential to reach millions of un-served customers. A banking model inspired by the philosophy of social justice can ill-afford to ignore its responsibility in serving the millions which are otherwise possibly at the mercy of exploitative, informal money lenders, he said.

Hashel then turned to the future of Islamic finance. Prediction is more difficult, if it is about the future of finance, he said. "So, instead of attempting to predict the future, I would like to discuss what needs to be done to help the Islamic finance industry reach its potential. In this regard, the role of four types of institutions is critical not only in providing an enabling environment for a sustainable and resilient industry, but also in bringing current practices closer to the true spirit of Islamic finance," he said.

The Muslim societies were once recognized for their contribution to various academic disciplines, ranging from alchemy to astronomy and mathematics to medicine. However, at present "the scholarly work being produced in our societies is more of an individual effort than anything at the institutional level."

Due to this lack of capacity building at the

institutional level, efforts of otherwise dedicated individuals have remained divergent and fragmented. Many with profound knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence know little about modern finance.

Top ten scholars

Hashel referred to a study revealing that the top ten scholars in Islamic finance account for 67 percent of all chairman positions of Sharia boards. No wonder then that Islamic banks struggle to find candidates for their Sharia boards who can suitably guide them in offering innovative products.

He referred to effective regulation of Islamic finance which is a "daunting task, particularly in a dual banking system." Additionally, the peculiar nature of Islamic finance poses its own challenges in terms of designing a robust regulatory regime.

"Take the case of Basel III reforms for example, where detailed guidance has been provided by the Basel Committee for Banking Supervision (BCBS) for the implementation in a conventional setting. However, for Islamic financial institutions, limited relevant guidance is available, if at all," he said.

This undoubtedly requires the use of discretion by respective regulators. But the greater use of discretion is bound to create differences across countries and may increase the risk of regulatory arbitrage, yet importantly such reforms were meant to foster a high level of convergence among regulatory regimes. The CBK Governor noted that high responsibility falls on Islamic financial institutions to make efforts in offering products and services that reflect the spirit of Islamic finance and are not just merely compliant with Sharia requirements.

"This requires building capacity to do better research and offer innovative services. Moreover, Islamic financial institutions need to operate with the aim of promoting social justice in their allocation of resources," he said.

Given these challenges, it is not possible for any one of these four types of institutions to make a meaningful difference on its own. Each institution, from academic to regulatory and legal to financial, has a distinct yet mutually reinforcing role to play.

While individually insufficient, collectively these institutions provide the very foundation for a dynamic and resilient Islamic finance industry and are thus the pre-requisites for its sustainable growth.

In conclusion, the CBK Governor noted that current economic and financial trends are a constant reminder that the world needs a better system. "The inherent fragility of modern finance is quite evident. And in recent years, the unfolding of events like manipulating currencies, rigging LIBOR and miss-selling mortgages has intensified the debate about the role of incentive structures and ethics," he said. —KUNA



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lan McNish and Omar Kutayba Alghanim are seen during the panel discussion.

OMAR ALGHANIM PARTICIPATES IN DISCUSSION DURING TMKEEN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

KUWAIT: Among the activities in the Tmkeen Youth Empowerment Symposium, held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Omar Kutayba Alghanim, CEO of Alghanim Industries and Chairman of Gulf Bank participated in the first panel discussion with Ian McNish, founding member of LinkedIn website.

Tmkeen, a non-profit organization, launched its fourth conference on Monday, November 9, 2015 at the Arraya Ballroom. The Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah and the Ambassador of the United States in Kuwait, Douglas Silliman. As a national youth initiative, Tmkeen holds this annual conference with the goal of spreading awareness, knowledge and inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs in addition to myriad other events throughout the year.

The activities on the first day of the conference started with a seminar presented by lan McNish, one of the founding members of LinkedIN, about the future of social networking. This was followed by a panel discussion which featured Ian McNish and Omar Kutayba Alghanim, CEO of Alghanim Industries and Chairman of Gulf Bank, spoke on the subject: Redefining Success.

Redefining Success:

Around this discussion, Omar Kutayba Alghanim said: "In the region, a challenge we face is the stigma of failure. When aspiring entrepreneurs are asked about the primary reason they didn't start a business, the answer we get is 'fear of failure'. That's unacceptable. When asked the same question in developed countries, you hear 'lack of capital' but in Kuwait and across the region, the fear of failure is so strong that it prevents people from even trying. Don't let fear of failure stop you. You will make mistakes and at times you will

fail. The lessons learned from mistakes and failures are invaluable.

In my company, during the quarterly review, I ask my senior managers 'what mistakes have you made?' If the answer I get is that they didn't make any mistakes, I know something is wrong. They didn't take risks, they didn't try to grow fast enough and they didn't push the envelope. Taking risks, but calculated risks, is part of being an entrepreneur. The two run hand-in-hand."

On his part, McNish said, "It is very impor-



Omar Kutayba Alghanim speaking in the panel discussion

tant that we have a clear definition of success and failure. A lot of people think success is making fortune and increasing the value of their businesses, when in fact, the real success lies in important achievements that leave a mark on the world. As for failure, it is well known that most of the startups fail but their owners commonly succeed afterwards in accomplishing another successful idea. So failing an idea is not the end of the road".

The Working Environment

of Alghanim Industries When asked about the working environment in his operating companies, Alghanim replied: "We, at Alghanim Industries, are a meritocracy which means that we select and reward people based on their capabilities and contributions; not by their background or connections. We created an environment where your success is determined by the value you create. In a country where the role of wasta or what I like to call, "wastacracy" is common, I believe this gives us a competitive

Merit goes beyond people. It extends to ideas. In Alghanim Industries, the best idea can come from the most junior level employee at the beginning of his career. We make sure that they are able to share those ideas through "straight talking". It's one of our values, and it allows people the ability to say whatever they want, without fear or hesitation. An idea can be great, regardless of rank or title and this makes us more innovative."

Importance of Education

On the subject of education Alghanim said: "Education plays a key role in economic growth and setting the foundation for successful entrepreneurship. Research from the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicates that entrepreneurs are most successful when exposed to entrepreneurism in primary, secondary and university levels. This is precisely the reason I founded INJAZ.

On the same subject of education McNish said: "I cannot overemphasize enough the importance of education as it is the frame that borders passion. Without education as a frame, your passion may lose form. On a personal level, I never completed my studies for the sake of work, but if I can go back in time I would not have taken the same decision. And I hope the audience present will pursue higher education."



Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah honors Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti.



Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah is pictured with Zain officials.

ZAIN MAIN SPONSOR OF FOURTH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the fourth edition of the Youth Empowerment Symposium, which was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from 9 - 10 November.

HH the Amir's representative, Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, honored Zain Kuwait's **Corporate Communications and Relations** Director Waleed Al-Khashti for Zain's strategic support to the symposium for four consecutive years.

Zain has been a main sponsor of the Youth Empowerment Symposium since its inception four years ago, as the company's support comes in line with its long term strategy of providing the necessary support to national initiatives aimed at uplifting the capabilities and skills of Kuwaiti youth. The symposium is considered an ideal opportunity for young people in Kuwait, especially those who are interested in launching their own businesses, to gain valuable insights from a number of internationally and locally renowned industry pioneers, academics, and experts who exclusively shared their

Al-Anbaa

By Saad Al-Mo'tesh

During the opening ceremony, Khashti commented: "there is no doubt that Zain's support of this national initiative since its inception stands as an indication of the company's strong belief in the youth and the importance of their development across all fields of activity."

Khashti added: "we believe Kuwaiti youth possess great potential that only requires the slightest encouragement from industry leaders. Our support of the symposium is our own way of providing youth with a rich environment that provides local and international expertise at its best."

Khashti concluded: "this year's edition has a special essence to it as it features a number of local and international experts and pioneers in the fields of business, information technology, economics, and social media who will share their personal experiences and highlight the importance of building oneself through education."

Zain's presence in this national event showcases the company's dedication to empowering the entrepreneurial skills of youth in Kuwait. The symposium delivers outstanding knowledge to talented young people to be able to progress in their fields of interest as well as to spark the light of enthusiasm within them.



DEPORTEE ARRESTED WITH FORGED **PASSPORT**

KUWAIT: A man who was deported out of Kuwait before was arrested in Jaber Al-Ali with possession of a forged passport. The Indian man's true identity was discovered after he was fingerprinted. He was sent to criminal detectives to find out how he reentered Kuwait, and find out if he has any accomplices.

Driver stabbed

Two thieves stabbed an Asian driver in the shoulder in Saad Al-Abdallah. Police went to the area and sent the driver to hospital. Investigations are ongoing in search for the suspects who face attempted murder charges.

Confusion

Several people called interior ministry operations to report seeing a group of people dressed in black marching towards the Abdali border crossing. Judging from the way they looked and acted, the callers feared that the group could be Islamic militants. Police later discovered that the group were intending to cross in to Iraq in order to visit the Karbala City to attend the Arba'een event. There were 12 persons, most of whom belong to one family. Police told them that such gatherings are only allowed after taking a license from interior ministry, so they went back to their cars and returned to their homes.

Fights

A man was hospitalized with a broken nose following a fight in Mahboula. He pressed charges against his foe afterwards. A case was filed for investigations. Separately, a man sustained several broken bones in a 3-on-1 attack reported in Abu Hlaifa. The man reported the case to local police, and gave officers a medical report showing his injuries. Investigations are ongoing. —Al-Rai

اللئنباء

THE KUWAITI HURRICANE!

veniences.

urricanes are special weather conditions that may form in a certain spot and get much mightier in case they take place over huge water surfaces likes oceans and large seas. They usually cause a great deal of destruction to coastal areas, and get less destructive the further they travel inland.

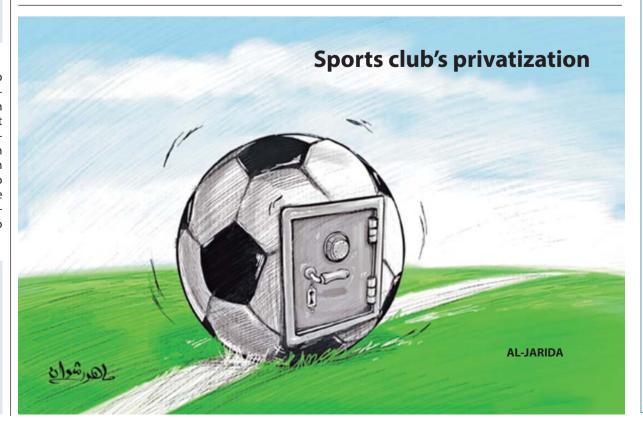
The most recent hurricane we know about was the Chapala hurricane that struck the Omani and Yemeni coasts, leaving considerable devastation behind it. The funny thing is that all hurricanes and cyclones are given feminine names and rumor has it that the reason for such names is that a woman is the only most devastating and harmful creature to all humanity!

Some people may mistakenly believe that, being fare from large open seas and oceans, Kuwait is far and safe from hurricanes. Well, I personally found out that they cannot be more wrong. I recently discovered a dangerous 'stunning hurricane' inside a restaurant opposite Al-Salhiya Shopping Mall, in downtown Kuwait City but will not mention the restaurant's name to avoid any incon-

People agree that hurricanes leave considerable destruction behind them, and that was what happened when that 'stunning' hurricane passed by inside the restaurant, 'stunning' everyone so off their minds that a friend dining there, Yousif Al-Jassir, kept asking for the bill more than once, thinking that he had not paid it off although he had!

The funny thing about this Kuwaiti hurricane is that it was so quiet and silent. We rarely heard its 'voice' though it stunned everybody and knocked them off their minds. All the men in the place acted like cyclone pedestal fans following the hurricane with their blades (head and eyes) and almost developed herniated disc symptoms doing so, whereas women kept praying that hurricane would go past without causing any damage to or affect them. Long live those very nice Kuwaiti hurricanes and may the other devastating ones striking countries worldwide vanish forever!

— Translated by Kuwait Times





Al-Qabas

REWARD AND PUNISHMENT

By Qais Al-Usta

ecent statements of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah in regards to adopting the reward and punishment principle must be implemented on all government areas. Reward and punishment will give an incentive to all workers in the public sector to work hard and be serious.

The problem is that reality is different. If the interior minister is applying this principle in his ministry, it is because everybody knows that 'Abu Khaled' does things straight forward. He is fair with a live conscious, and it is enough that he recently passed the most difficult test that any government official may face, which is the confidence of all components of the Kuwaiti society. It is a test he passed with a large percentage that has not been achieved by a current or former official.

The interior minister is seen by me and others very clearly, and he is the safety board for anyone who wants to preserve the future of coming governments and the country's stability. That is because the region's circumstances, and the reflection of the sectarian crises in which we are going through and directly see the effects of need an alert and capable person, someone who can face existing problems in Kuwait.

Yet, the country is not only the interior ministry. The country is also health, education, social affairs, planning, power and public works ministries. I am almost certain that things there are different.

The airport for example is one of the worst facilities that a citizen may imagine. And despite that, the administration that heads this facility for four years, was recently given a new term, and I am still asking myself, why is this renewal despite the fact that the airport is in this shape? The same can be said about the majority of government bodies, but also with regret, matters are run personally, as contracts are signed without asking questions.

Abu Khaled, do not talk to us about reward and punishment, talk to your colleagues the ministers, because you are who you are and people trust you for your honesty. Yet, the bird is larger than the cage, and you understand enough. So, has the message been delivered? I hope so.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

NA COMMITTEES MEET TODAY

By Saleh

KUWAIT: The youth and sports committee plans to discuss two proposed laws on organizing some

clubs. In the meantime, the financial committee holds a meeting at 11:00 am in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh. The committee will discuss activities in the Kuwait Olympic the semiannual report on the annu-Committee, sports federations and al plan 2015/2016 for the period come the deficit.

(April 1, 2015 - September 3, 2015). Minister Saleh is expected to present the government's views and plans to deal with the budget deficit, as well as plans to issue sukuk over periods of time to over-

POSITIVE TALKS ON SCHENGEN VISA

BRUSSELS: Kuwait's ambassador to Belgium, the EU and Luxembourg, Dharar Abdul Razzak Razzooqi, has held "very good talks" with the EU Commissioner for migration and home affairs, Dimitris Avramopoulos, discussing the issue of exempting Kuwait citizens from the Schengen visa.

"The meeting was very good. The Commissioner said we know Kuwait and its position in the world," Ambassador Razzooqi said as he emerged from the meeting, held late on Tuesday. The ambassador said he explained to the EU Commissioner the steps Kuwait took in the last two years with different EU members and the European Commission to be included in the EU list for exemption of the Schengen visa. He also underlined that Kuwait is a major investor in Europe and an important humanitarian player as recognized by the UN which has honored His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for the humanitarian role he played in helping the UN dealing with refugee crises across the globe and in the region.

The EU Commissioner noted that currently, the EU "is very preoccupied with the refugee crisis and they will come back to the Schengen visa issue as soon as

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the situation has stabilized," the ambassador indicated. The two sides also discussed the issue of the Syrian refugee crisis and Ambassador Razzooqi informed Avramopoulos that Kuwait has hosted three international conferences for helping the Syrian people and that Kuwait has till now donated \$1.3 billion to help the Syrian refugees.

Kuwait also supports the Geneva I conference on Syria and supports a political solution to the crisis, he said. A number of Kuwaiti NGOS are also engaged in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan to help the Syrian refugees, he noted. Ambassador Razzoogi explained that Kuwait is a very small country but yet is hosting around 160,000 Syrians which makes up about 12 percent of the population of the country. — KUNA

XAVIER'S BODY TO BE FLOWN TO INDIA FRIDAY

KUWAIT: The body of Francis Xavier Moraes, the Sports Editor of Kuwait Times, who passed away on Monday, will be kept for viewing at the Sabah Hospital mortuary tomorrow, Friday November 13, 2015, from 9:30 am to 10:00 am so that family members, relatives and friends may pay their last respects to the departed. Xavier's body will be flown to his hometown Mumbai tomorrow evening for funeral.

CAMP LICENSES STILL **ISSUED TO EXPATS**

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's official spokesman Nadia Al-Sharaida denied social media rumors which claimed that camp licenses for non-Kuwaitis were suspended. She said licenses are still being issued for Kuwaitis and others, insisting that the rumors were false.

Sharaida said that the municipality, out of keenness on implementing the circular (24/2015), has taken several measures to prevent renting camps to others, including the cancellation of data amendments. and issuing the license to the person concerned only. She explained that some non-Kuwaitis bring several Civil IDs to get licenses, though only the person con-





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(From left) His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greeting. Sabah and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

AHMADI GOVERNOR CELEBRATES SON'S WEDDING

KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah celebrated the wedding of his son Mubarak to the daughter of Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown and ambassadors attended the event.

Al-Sabah, Head of Amiri Protocol and Chamber Lains at the Amiri Diwan. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah ing family members, ministers, parliament members



(From left) His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



(From left) Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah (left) and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.



(From left) Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, the groom Sheikh Mubarak Al-Fawaz Al-Sabah and his father, Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah greeting.



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah greeting.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem greeting.



Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain greeting.



The traditional 'ardah' dance performed during the wedding.



Major General Sheikh Mohammad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah greets the groom.



Sheikh Ali Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah greeting.

International

Republican White House Hopefuls Struggle to Break 2016 Deadlock

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

14 migrants drown as boat sinks off Turkey

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1 QATARI SOLDIER KILLED IN YEMEN

13 REBELS KILLED BY LOYALISTS IN SOUTH YEMEN AMBUSH

DUBAI: A Qatari soldier fighting alongside a Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen has been killed in clashes there, state media said yesterday, the first reported death of a soldier from the small Gulf Arab state in the conflict. Qatar has not formally announced its troops are among the Saudi-led forces trying to restore Yemen's government, which was sent into exile by Houthi fighters that Gulf states see as a proxy for their archrival Iran. A senior commander from the United Arab Emirates forces in Yemen denied in September that Qatar had sent any ground forces. The United Nations says more than 5,600 Yemenis have been killed since the Gulf Arab intervention began in March 26. Dozens of soldiers from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and other coalition members have also died. "The Qatari armed forces today announced the martyrdom of Mohammed Hamid Suleiman, a soldier from the Qatari armed forces in the line of duty with Arab coalition forces ... in the Republic of Yemen," Qatar's state QNA agency said.

13 rebels killed

Meanwhile, pro-government forces yesterday killed 13 rebel fighters in an ambush in Yemen's south after the insurgents took back several positions in the area, a military source said. The Houthi rebels were travelling in two military vehicles south of Damt, the Daleh province's second-largest city, which they and their allies recaptured on Saturday. Forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi attacked them with rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns, the source said. The loyalists, backed by Saudi-led coalition strikes, supplies and troops, pushed the rebels out of Daleh and four other southern provinces in July.

But the rebels this weekend recaptured several positions in the south. Battles continued in the area Wednesday as the rebels were trying to advance on Daleh's provincial capital, which carries the same name, the military source said. Other fighting flared in Al-Madaribah on the border between the neighbouring Lahj and Taez provinces, leaving five rebels and three loyalist fighters dead over the past 24 hours, military sources said. The coalition, formed in March to halt the rebels' advance across Yemen, has dispatched military reinforcements to Al-Madaribah to prevent it falling to rebel hands, the sources said. —Reuters



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SHARM NIGHTSPOTS DESERTED AS TOURISTS VANISH

SHARM EL SHEIKH: Usually buzzing with foreigners on holiday, Sharm El-Sheikh's tourist nightspots have been deserted after thousands left the Egyptian resort following the crash of a Russian airliner. Only two weeks ago, popular Sharm areas like the Old Market, Naama Bay and Soho Square were teeming after dark, but now only a few holidaymakers can be seen once the sun sets.

"Last month, you couldn't walk here. It was packed with people," Essam Shawki, manager of an open air restaurant at Naama Bay said on a recent night. "Today the street is empty. I've served only four customers in the last six hours." Thousands of Russians and Britons have been repatriated from Sharm El-Sheikh after Moscow stopped all flights to Egypt and Britain halted air travel to the resort as suspicions grew that a bomb downed the Russian aircraft. All 224 people on board the Airbus A321, mostly Russians, were killed when the Saint Petersburgbound flight crashed over the Sinai Peninsula on October 31, minutes after taking off from Sharm El-Sheikh.

The Islamic State group's branch in the Sinai has claimed responsibility, but Egyptian officials insist there is no evidence yet of an attack on the plane. The streets of Naama Bay are brightly lit and loud music blares out from every restaurant. Jewelry shops, leather boutiques and cafes line both sides of the area's main thoroughfare, but there are no customers in sight. Staff wait for hours outside restaurants for customers, without any luck. At some times, the waiters and shopkeepers outnumber the tourists. Sharm El-Sheikh's Old Market-a favorite hangout for tourists-is nearly empty, with shopkeepers complaining of a sharp decline

Fears for future

Foreign holidaymakers can be spotted at Soho Square, with groups of British, Russian and Italian tourists strolling through the shopping and entertainment venue. But shopkeepers say it's only busy two nights a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, when tourists are ferried to the area in busses from across the resort. "You see tourists tonight, but come tomorrow and there won't be many," said Hossam Fares, whose shop sells souvenirs. The square's "Ice Bar", a popular venue with Britons where everything is made from blocks of ice including the glasses, was almost empty late Tuesday. And while some tourists may be visiting his shop, Fares said they aren't making any purchases.

"They're not buying because they can't carry these items." Some tourists may be afraid of losing items because of new security restrictions on luggage imposed after the crash. British and Russian passengers returning home from the resort are allowed to carry only hand luggage, forced to leave their hold bags behind to be transported separately. Fares said business had been brisk in October, with sales of about 70,000 Egyptian pounds (\$8,700/8,100 euros. "But after the plane crash, I am barely making 300 pounds a day. I won't be able to pay even the monthly rent for this shop."

Several tourists said they were sympathetic and feared that many people working in the resort could lose their jobs. "It gives me goosebumps, particularly because we are responsible for it too," said Dianne Lord, a Briton, who was scheduled to leave Sharm on Tuesday but was stranded in the resort. Like some other British tourists, she said Britain had been "hasty" in ordering flight restrictions. The full impact of the plane crash would be felt during Christmas, the eral manager of the Savoy group of hotels, which operates Soho Square. "Christmas will

peak tourist season, said Jacques Peter, gen- be quiet this year," Peter said, adding that earnings generated at Soho Square had already dropped by 50 percent. —AFP



SHARM EL-SHEIKH: A Russian flight leaves the airport in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. —AFP



LESBOS: Refugees and migrants jump off a dinghy upon their arrival on the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey yesterday. —AFP

EUROPE AGREES LABELING OF ISRAEL 'SETTLEMENT' GOODS

EU SAYS IT IS TECHNICAL, EXPLAINS EXISTING LAWS

BRUSSELS: The EU executive approved yesterday new guidelines for labeling products from Israeli settlements on occupied land, a move Brussels says is technical but which an Israeli diplomat said might affect peace talks with the Palestinians. Drawn up over three years by the European Commission, the guidelines mean Israeli producers must explicitly label farm goods and cosmetics that come from settlements when they are sold in the European Union.

Israeli officials were briefed ahead of the decision and some suggested it was anti-Semitic. "This is a technical measure, not a political one," one Commission source who declined to be named said on Tuesday. "The occupied territory is not part of the sovereign state of Israel, so goods cannot be sold as 'Made in Israel".

The EU does not recognise Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, lands it captured in the 1967 Middle East war. It says the labeling policy aims to distinguish between goods made inside the internationally accepted borders of Israel and those outside. Britain, Belgium and Denmark already affix labels to Israeli goods, differentiating between those from Israel and those, particularly fruits and vegetables, that come from the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank. Now all 28 EU member states would have to apply labels.

While there is no EU official wording, goods must carry the word "settlement" on the label when sold in European shops. If an Israeli farmer refuses, a retail outlet can do so, as the European Commission has sufficient information about where goods come from. Israel's ambassador to the European Union, David Walzer, warned it could make difficult peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians harder and the EU might no longer be a welcome broker. "We made it very clear that we welcome EU contributions to the peace process," Walzer said before the decision was formalized. "This might force us to reconsider that."

A second Commission source said the guidelines were requested by EU governments who sought clarity on existing EU labeling rules and that the five page document of some 12 paragraphs did not constitute new legislation. Since 2004, Israeli settlement products have not benefited from trade preferences to the European Union, while for all countries the EU has agricultural legislation that requires labeling of the origin of fruit, vegetables and honey.

Industrial goods, including processed food, are not subject to mandatory labeling under EU law, but can be voluntary. Israel's Economy Ministry estimates the impact will be about \$50 million a year, affecting fresh produce such as grapes and dates, wine, poultry, honey, olive oil and cosmetics. That is around a fifth of the \$200-\$300 million worth of goods produced in settlements each year, but a drop in the ocean next to the \$30 billion of goods and services Israel exports to the EU annually, a third of all its exports. $\stackrel{\cdot}{ ext{—}}$ Reuters

14 MIGRANTS DROWN AS **BOAT SINKS OFF TURKEY**

ISTANBUL: At least 14 migrants, including seven children, drowned yesterday when their flimsy boat sank off Turkey's Aegean coast while trying to reach Greece, the latest fatalities in Europe's refugee crisis. The Turkish coastguard recovered the bodies from the wooden boat which was heading from the western province of Canakkale to the Greek island of Lesbos, the Dogan news agency said. "This morning another 14 refugees died... Must there be another Aylan for the world to wake up. Humanity is watching from the sidelines," said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

He was referring to three-year-old Syrian refugee Aylan Kurdi, whose body was pictured washed up on a Turkish beach in September in harrowing images that shocked the world, pressuring European leaders to step up their response to the crisis. Dogan reported that 27 people were rescued in the Aegean yesterday, among them a pregnant woman, and the survivors were said to be in good condition.

Coastguard workers backed by helicopters were continuing a search for those unaccounted for, Dogan said, without specifying how many might be missing. "The boat probably sank after hitting rocks. It was severely damaged and apparently started to take in water but they decided to go ahead anyway," Canakkale governor Hamza Erkal told Anatolia news agency. "They apparently turned back after the boat took in more water but it sank before reaching the shore." There was no immediate information on the nationalities of those on

Main launching point

The latest tragedy came as European leaders were due to meet African counterparts in Malta to discuss the migration crisis. There has been a sharp spike in the numbers of migrants and refugees setting out from Turkey for the European Union in search of better lives. Turkey has surpassed North Africa as the main launching point for migrants heading to Europe, and currently hosts more than 2.2 million refugees from the war in neighboring Syria.

An EU report on Turkey released on Tuesday was highly critical about the state of the rule of law and freedom of expression but praised its "humanitarian support" for the refugees and said the EU had to step up its cooperation with Ankara to tackle the crisis. Last month, the EU announced a refugee cooperation deal with Turkey including a possible three billion euros (\$3.3 billion) in aid. The deal included pushing forward Turkey's longstalled EU accession process, which has inched forward since starting in 2005, and speeding up visa liberalization for Turks travelling to the EU, but was played down by Erdogan shortly after its announcement.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR said last week up to 600,000 migrants and refugees were expected to cross from Turkey to Greece and onwards over the next four months despite the onset of winter. More than 650,000 migrants and refugees, mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, have reached the Greek islands so far in 2015 using the eastern Mediterranean route, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Tuesday. Of those, 512 peo-

MAN 'HID IN GUTTER TO PEEP UP SKIRTS'

TOKYO: A man in Japan who hid in a drain for five hours, allegedly to snap photos up women's skirts, was given away when passers-by spotted his hair sticking out of a grate, police and reports said. Yasuomi Hirai, 28, allegedly squeezed himself in a section of a gutter 28 centimeters wide, with his head under a piece of iron grating,

a police spokesman said yesterday. "His hair got caught at the edge of the grate, which drew the attention of some pedestrians," the spokesman with the Hyogo prefectural police in Kobe said. The alleged offence took place in the port city August, but police said that Hirai's arrest on Monday came after a lengthy investigation. Police did not elaborate but the Sports Hochi tabloid reported Tuesday that Hirai kept himself in the small space for about five hours, holding a smart phone to take photos from under the grate.

Local reports said it was not the first time Hirai has been arrested for the same offence, which violated a local ordinance preventing nuisance acts. He was nabbed two years ago after squeezing himself into a gutter allegedly for the same purpose, Sports Hochi said. Hirai reportedly told police at the time that he wanted to be reborn as "part of pavement in the next life." Peculiar offences involving the harassment of women and girls are frequently reported in Japan. In 2012, several high school girls from a small neighborhood reported to police that they were tackled by a sock-stealing thief. —AFP



SILVAN: Photo shows a view of a deserted street of Silvan, southern eastern Turkey, during a curfew following clashes between Turkish forces and Kurdish militants. —AFP

SILVAN, THE URBAN FLASHPOINT IN TURKEY'S KURDISH CONFLICT

DIYARBAKIR: Tanks and armored vehicles patrol the largely deserted streets, snipers are stationed on rooftops of bullet-riddled buildings. Shops are shuttered and food is becoming scarce as a curfew enters its second week. Urban warfare has become the bloody new face of Turkey's Kurdish conflict in the flashpoint southeastern town of Silvan.

At least seven people, including two civilians and a policeman, have been killed as Turkish forces battle to wrest control of three districts of Silvan from militants belonging to the youth wing of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). "There is no safety in the neighborhoods under curfew. People are scared of going out because they don't know where the bullets will come from," said local journalist Ibrahim Bakhtiyar. "People are getting shot even in the neighborhoods where there is no curfew."

The rebels dug trenches and set up roadblocks in Silvan after the November 1 election that saw President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party tighten its hold on Turkey while the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) was almost voted out of parliament. Security forces

retaliated by imposing a strict curfew and launching sweeping security operations in three neighborhoods of Silvan, a provincial town of about 90,000 people. HDP lawmaker Sibel Yigitalp claimed that the Turkish forces were randomly shelling civilian homes in Silvan. "If you are using tanks in residential areas, it means you have launched a war on your own people," she said on Monday.

'Risk of starvation'

In the neighborhoods of Tekel, Mescit and Konak, scars of fierce street battles are clearly evident in bullet-riddled buildings. The streets are mostly deserted, but strewn with rubble, shattered glass and rubbish, with many residents holed up inside their apartments. Members of Turkey's special police units armed with rifles and batons, some wearing masks, ensure no one crosses them or makes an attempt to defy the curfew.

A 45-year-old taxi driver was shot dead outside a tea house on Monday and an elderly man was wounded when his house was hit by a rocket. "Witnesses said the police had started shooting at the tea house out of the blue," said Omer

Onen, the co-chair of HDP's Diyarbakir office. "There is no access to communication, people are at risk of starvation," he said after visiting the areas under curfew as part of an HDP delegation. "They didn't give us any permission to distribute food." On Tuesday a Turkish soldier was killed after a tank fell on him in Silvan, security sources said.

Urban fighters

The PKK initially took up arms in 1984 with the aim of establishing an independent state for Turkey's Kurdish minority, although lately the demands have focused on greater autonomy and rights. As prime minister, Erdogan launched secret negotiations with jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan and a landmark ceasefire was agreed in 2013. But the truce fell apart in July this year after attacks on pro-Kurdish activists blamed on Islamic State jihadists triggered a wave of tit-for-tat violence. Since then, a new generation of urban fighters has taken centre stage in the conflict, attacking security forces in cities with heavy weaponry, setting up street barricades and digging trenches.

The government says more than 150 police and soldiers have been killed in attacks blamed on the PKK, most of them in cities, a significant departure from the group's emphasis on fighting in rural areas. Cizre, a mainly Kurdish town near the border with Syria and Iraq, became a symbol of the renewed conflict after the army imposed a controversial nine-day curfew during violent clashes with the PKK youth wing in September. Rights groups said 21 civilians were killed during the military lockdown but the government says all the dead were "terrorists"

and claimed killing up to 32. In fresh fighting this week, a rocket fired by the militants hit a public hospital in Cizre, hitting the morgue and a dialysis unit. Analysts say Turks' concerns about security were a major factor in the Justice and Development Party (AKP) winning back its majority in a major victory for Erdogan, who has vowed to "liquidate" the rebels. And in operations unleashed just a day after the election, Turkish war planes pounded PKK targets in the country's southeast and in northern Iraq, killing more than 30 rebels according to government figures. —AFP

REPUBLICAN WHITE HOUSE HOPEFULS STRUGGLE TO BREAK 2016 DEADLOCK

RIVALS RIP TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION PLAN

MILWAUKEE: Republican White House hopefuls struggled to break away from the pack Tuesday in an election debate with fewer personal barbs, but some feisty exchanges on immigration and national security. Eight top candidates gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a forum that distilled differences between candidates in substance and style, but did little to dramatically change the contours of the race.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and billionaire real estate mogul Donald Trump entered the evening leading the race to become the Republican nominee in the November 2016 contest to succeed President Barack Obama. But it was their establishment rivals who took the lead in the debate, hoping to punch through with a command of economic policy and by training the focus on Obama and likely Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Former Hewlett-Packard chief executive Carly Fiorina, offered some of the sharpest criticism of the Democratic frontrunner.

"A Clinton presidency will corrode the character of this nation. Why? Because of the Clinton way. Say whatever you have to, lie as long as you can get away with it," Fiorina said. Coming into the forum fighting for his political life, one-time favorite Jeb Bush-the sometimes avuncular son of the 41st president and brother of the 43rd president-sought to break through with some tougher talk. "Hillary Clinton has said that Barack Obama's policies get an 'A'-really?" Bush asked derisively, listing woes ranging from a discouraged work force to high poverty levels, to kids on food stamps. That "may be the best that Hillary Clinton can do but it is not the best America

'We will have a wall'

Bush took the debate to Trump by trashing his immigration plan as unworkable and unpatriotic. Addressing proposals to repatriate 12 million illegal immigrants, Bush said: "500,000 a month is just not possible, and it's not embracing American values and it would tear com-

ernor."I know I have to get better," Bush told supporters last week after his lackluster performance in the previous

It remains to be seen if he did enough Tuesday to retain the crown of establishment Republicans against a tough challenge from one-time political protege



MANCHESTER: Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at 'Politics And Eggs' at the Radisson Hotel yesterday in Manchester, New Hampshire. Coming off the fourth debate Trump continues to run strong in the polls. —AFP

munities apart." Trump hit back by saying: "We need borders. We will have a wall. The wall will be built. The wall will be successful. And if you think walls don't work, all you have to do is ask Israel." Flagging poll numbers and poor debate performances have spooked Bush's supporters, as well as crucial big money donors, who once fawned over the former Florida govMarco Rubio, who again turned in a polished and disciplined performance. He won applause for a spirited rejection of rival Rand Paul's call for a more modest national security policy, with military spending to match. "I know that the world is a safer and better place when America is the strongest military power,"

Out with the 'gotcha'

But Tuesday's Republican debate saw little of the fractious infighting that has marked the Republican campaign so far. The previous debate, hosted by cable business channel CNBC, was defined by the confrontational tone that moderators took with the candidates, many of whom complained about being asked "gotcha" questions. Carson, a retired neurosurgeon who has stumbled in recent days amid questions about the veracity of his inspirational personal narrative, largely avoided scrutiny.

"Thank you for not asking me what I said in the 10th grade. I appreciate that," Carson, the only African-American in the field, told moderators. His accounts of receiving an offer of a prestigious military scholarship and his violent adolescence, when he says he attempted to stab a classmate, have come into question. "I have no problem with being vetted. What I do have a problem with is being lied about," he said. Amid pressure to narrow the field for Tuesday's debate, which initially focused on the economy, broadcaster Fox Business Network changed the format, with only eight candidates at the podiums instead of 10. Senator Ted Cruz and Ohio Governor John Kasich rounded out the main debate field.

Low-pollers Chris Christie and Mike Huckabee however failed to make the cut. They were relegated to an undercard debate that was held prior to the main event and which also featured Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and former senator Rick Santorum. Christie made a strong case for himself getting back on the main stage, arguing that Republicans ought to stop attacking one another and focus their efforts on preventing Clinton from expanding government. "She is the real adversary and we'd better stay focused on... her," he said. "Hillary Clinton's coming for your wallet, everybody. Don't worry about Huckabee or Jindal, worry about her."—AFP

CAMPUSES HOLD RACE PROTESTS AFTER MISSOURI RESIGNATIONS

NEW YORK: Students will hold events to highlight racial issues at a handful of US college campuses this week, spurred by the impact of protests at the University of Missouri that culminated in the resignation of the school's president and chancellor.

Peaceful marches or walkouts have been held, or are planned, at Yale University, Ithaca College and Smith College, though none has yet reached the intensity of demonstrations at Missouri, where hundreds of students and teachers protested what they saw as soft handling of reports of racial abuse on campus.

Soon after Tim Wolfe, president of the university, announced he would step down on Monday, a crowd of more than 1,000 gathered peacefully at the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, for a "March of Resilience," in solidarity with Missouri.

The crowd sang and chanted for an end to racism on campus. The issue has been in focus at Yale after a fraternity turned away black guests at a Halloween party, saying, according to reports at the time, that only white women would be admitted. —Reuters



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NEW YORK: Disabled veteran Gloria Montes answers questions in her Bronx apartment in New York. Montes, who was forced to sleep in a car or on friends' floors until she found a place at a housing unit in the Bronx in September 2014, says she wants the military to do more to help veterans adjust to civilian life, and navigate the benefits that are open to them. —AFP

NEW YORK CITY TURNING TIDE ON HOMELESS VETS

NEW YORK: Four years ago Craig Hinds was homeless. A US Navy vet who served back-to-back tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, he had no job and was suffering from PTSD. His life turned around when he moved into a veterans-only housing unit in New York City. He is one of thousands who have been saved from living on the streets in a US push to end homelessness among ex military. The homeless population may have soared to record highs but the city has seen a staggering reduction in the number of veterans who have no proper

Whereas more than 4,600 veterans were classified as street homeless in the city four years ago, campaigners say the latest count was 800. Officials say more than 1,700 homeless veterans have been put in permanent housing since January 1, 2014. It is a rare success story for a needy, vulnerable segment of the population in America's biggest city, its glitzy business capital that worships relentless wealth creation. A massive injection of federal money, political will and the creation of more affordable housing mean that the Big Apple is on the cusp of eliminating homelessness among vet-

Hinds served from 2005-2009 as a hospital corpsman, but was emotionally exhausted and missed his family, so left the military when his mother was diagnosed with cancer. "I was pretty devastated after all the things I had seen. I didn't want to go (on deployment) any more, I didn't want to lose any more friends. I didn't want to be a casualty myself," he said. But he had no idea how hard it would be.

One in 10 are veterans

His military experience did not qualify him to work as a medical assistant in civilian life. He moved from Atlanta, Georgia, to New York, thinking it would be easier to get a job. He initially stayed with his grandmother but she couldn't deal with his issues, so she kicked him out. It was only after he moved into a studio in 2012 at the veterans-only building run by a non-profit that he started to recover. Now 38 and a psychology major, he plans to work helping inmates in prisons after graduating next summer. In 2009, the Obama administration drew up a plan to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. The White house says in January 2014, overall veteran homelessness was down 33 percent since 2010.

Figures for 2015 are scheduled to be released later this month. On a single night in January 2014, there were 49,933 homeless vets-24,837 fewer than in 2010, according to federal figures. They accounted for one in 10 homeless adults. The US government has since certified an end to veteran homelessness in cities such as New Orleans and Houston. "There's just been a lot of momentum," says Tori Lyon, executive director of the Jericho Project, which provides housing for those in need. Hinds lives in one of their units. The aim is to get veteran homelessness down to what Lyon calls a "functional zero"-not that no veteran ever sleeps on the street but that the resources are in place to house any vet that needs it.

Units so scarce

"The real bottom line is affordable housing units are so scarce," Lyon told AFP. Average, market-rate rent for a New York studio can range from \$1,500 to \$3,500 depending on neighborhood. After Vietnam, campaigners noticed a big wave of homeless veterans 10-12 years later. Today vets can become homeless within one-two years. Leaving a structured environment, suffering from mental or physical injuries, lack of qualifications, lack of a family support and substance abuse are often factors.

Disabled veteran Gloria Montes, who served from 1979 to 1984, feels for soldiers returning from recent combat. In 2013, she was evicted and forced to sleep in a car or on friends' floors until she found a place at a housing unit run by nonprofit Urban Pathways. "It was hard and I was only out for three-four months I can't imagine that veterans who are homeless are years," she said. Her studio apartment, where she lives with her beloved dog Cache is stuffed with family photographs, baseball memorabilia and books. "If I'm here, I have a bad day, a down day, whatever the case might be, flashbacks, got my neighbors and got the staff downstairs and my family for support," she said. "If it wasn't for these people," she said. "I don't know how I would have made it.







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LEFT-WING OPPOSITION TOPPLES PORTUGAL GOVERNMENT

LISBON: A left-wing opposition alliance in Portugal toppled the country's minority conservative government in a parliamentary vote on Tuesday, less than two weeks after it was sworn in. The newly-formed bloc comprising the Socialist Party, Communists and their allies voted for a motion rejecting the government's program, in a move likely to spook investors and markets as the country still recovers from an economic crisis. The text was passed by 123 votes in favor and 107 against. The move brings an automatic end to the government of Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho, whose centre-right coalition won the most votes in last month's elections but lost the absolute majority it had

enjoyed since 2011. His second government becomes the shortest-lived since Portugal returned to democracy in 1974. "It is possible to turn the page of austerity in the euro-zone," the head of the Socialist Party, Antonio Costa, 54, said after the vote. Together, the Socialists, the Communists and the Left Bloc-which is close to Greece's ruling Syriza party-hold a majority in parliament, 122 seats out of 230. Their alliance is the first of its kind since the birth of a democratic Portugal in 1974, and had seemed unimaginable just weeks ago due to differences between the various leftist groups. It is the first time that the three parties have put aside their differences and agreed to work together to form a government.

'A radical choice'

The parties want to reverse some cutbacks and reforms demanded by creditors following Portugal's 78-billion-euro (\$87-billion) bailout. The full details of the pact between the left-wing parties are not yet public, but their plans include giving back government workers pay that was cut and restoring four public holidays that were scrapped to boost productivity.

Passos Coelho, 51, accused the newlyformed bloc ahead of the vote of wanting to push through a "short-term and unrealistic program" which "would be viewed as a threat" to the country's economic recovery. "The Socialist Party has made a radical choice, preferring to team up with minorities which they have always fought," he added after the vote. President Anibal Cavaco Silva will now have to decide who will lead the country. Reluctant to hand the reins to a government backed by the far-left, he could decide to leave fellow conservative Passos Coelho, whom he will meet on Wednesday, at the helm until a new election is held-by June at the latest. However analyst Colin Bermingham of the France-based BNP Paribas multinational bank said that the Portuguese president might "need to give the left the opportunity to govern." Costa has been seeking to reassure investors and Portugal's euro-zone partners that a Socialistled government would not be headed for a Greece-style clash with creditors. He has repeatedly said that any Socialist-led government would respect Portugal's international commitments. Unlike in Greece, where the far-left Syriza party leads the government, Portugal's Communists and the Left Bloc would play a supporting role to the traditionally mainstream PS.

'Balancing act'

"A PS government will not seek confrontation with the European Union. It will try to convince Brussels to not adopt a hard line in case there is a budget slippage," political scientist Antonio Costa Pinto said. "A Socialist Party government will be obliged to respect commitments between Portugal and Brussels." But investors appeared nervous, with Lisbon's stock exchange closed down 0.30 percent on Tuesday before the result of the vote was known, after closing down 4.05 percent on Monday. Yields on the country's benchmark 10-year bond rose 15 basis points to 2.84 percent, compared to 2.29 percent before the

"Socialist leader Antonio Costa will have a difficult balancing act on his hands if he is appointed prime minister," BNP Paribas's Bermingham said, adding that there would likely be a continued "uncertainty" for at least two weeks before a new government is in office. The divisions inside parliament were reflected in the streets outside. About 5,000 left-wing supporters rallied outside of the assembly in favor of a new Socialist-led government while about 2,000 conservative voter protested against the move to topple the government. "We've been dreaming of a de Matos, a 59-year-old interpreter, said she union of the left since the April 25, 1974 revolution," said Fatima Carvalho, 66. Isabel Norton

hoped that "with Antonio Costa, Portugal does not become a new Greece."—AFP



LISBON: Portuguese Vice Prime Minister Paulo Portas (left) looks towards Leader of the Portuguese socialist party Antonio Costa (right) beside Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho (2nd left) and Portuguese Finance Minister Maria Luis Albuquerque at the end of the debate at the Portuguese Parliament in Lisbon. —AFP



ABUJA: Nigerian President Mohammadu Buhari (center) poses for a family photo with newly-appointed ministers after the swearing in ceremony in Abuja yesterday. —AFP

8 S AFRICAN POLICEMEN JAILED OVER MOZAMBICAN'S MÚRDER

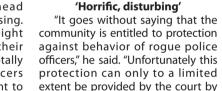
Taxi driver dragged behind a police van

JOHANNESBURG: Eight South African policemen were jailed yesterday for 15 years each for the murder of a Mozambican taxi driver who was dragged behind a police van in an incident caught on a mobile phone camera. The death of Mido Macia provoked widespread outrage, throwing the spotlight on South Africa's police force, which has been repeatedly accused of brutality. Macia, 27, died in police custody in February 2013 after being arrested for parking his car on the wrong side of the road in Daveyton, east of Johannesburg. Video footage showed Macia being manhandled, handcuffed to the back of a police van and dragged hundreds of meters along a road in front of a

crowd of bystanders. Just over two hours later, he was found dead in his cell in a pool of blood. "Each of you are sentenced to 15 years imprisonment," High Court judge Bert Bam said in the capital Pretoria. "The arrest of the deceased and then dragging behind the vehicle was totally unnecessary, uncalled for and not justified at all." "What made their conduct more reprehensible was the cowardly attack in the cell on a defenseless and already seriously injured man."

A post-mortem report found

Macia suffered extensive head injuries, lacerations and bruising. The judge, who found the eight men guilty in August, said their behavior was "barbaric and totally unacceptable" and the officers had "clearly abused" their right to use necessary force to carry out



imposing severe sentences in an

attempt to prevent and deter oth-



DAVEYTON: Photo shows Mido Macia, a Mozambican taxi driver, who was dragged to death by South African Police in Daveyton east of Johannesburg, and his sister Melida Macia. —AFP

ers." The driver of the police van had claimed that he drove away to escape the angry mob, and did not know Macia was being dragged behind. But during the trial, the judge agreed with the state's case that the police were "trying to teach the deceased a lesson" for swearing at the arresting officer. At the time of the death, South Africa's President Jacob Zuma described the video as "horrific, disturbing and unacceptable". The country's police force is frequently caught up in allegations of misconduct, but successful convictions have been rare in recent

Four police officers were this week arrested on murder charges after a video emerged of an execution-style killing of a suspected robber on a suburban street. Footage from closed circuit television showed police firing at the man from close range as he lay on the ground in Krugersdorp, a town west of Johannesburg. In the worst police violence since the end of apartheid, officers gunned down 34 striking miners in August 2012 at the Marikana platinum mine north of Johannesburg. A judiciary inquiry into the killings laid much of the blame on the police force for its conduct in trying to disperse the strikers, but no officers have yet been charged over those killings. —AFP

NIGERIA FINALLY GETS CABINET MINISTERS AFTER A LONG WAIT

ABUJA: Nigeria yesterday finally got a new government after more than five months of waiting, as 36 ministers and junior ministers swore the oath of allegiance and were assigned formal roles. The ceremony at President Muhammadu Buhari's official residence in the capital, Abuja, brought to an end 166 days in which he has effectively been in sole charge of Africa's leading economy. Buhari described the appointments as a "milestone" and indicated it had taken so long to decide because of the need to put "round pegs in round holes" with the right people for the job.

"I have been conscious of the need not to repeat the mistakes of the past," he said, adding the ministers had been chosen on the basis of their abilities and performance. As expected, Buhari, who has been seeking to streamline government and cut endemic corruption, slashed the number of ministries from 36 to 24, making some nominees only junior ministers. He confirmed he would take charge of the oil portfolio. The head of the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Ibe Kachikwu, will be his deputy and responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of the sector.

Kemi Adeosun, a former investment banker and accountant who recently served as finance commissioner in the southwestern state of Ogun, was appointed finance minister. She faces a battle to get Nigeria's crude-dependent economy back on track, with government revenues hit hard since last year by the global slump in oil prices. GDP growth is currently running at just 2.35 percent, while inflation is creeping towards 10 percent and the naira currency weak. Buhari is keen to diversify the economy of Africa's number one oil producer, boosting investment in agriculture, manufacturing and mining.

Since taking office on May 29, he has given priority to the fight against Boko Haram, whose Islamist insurgency has left at least 17,000 dead and made more than 2.5 homeless since 2009. The defense portfolio was handed to retired Brigadier-General Muhammad Mansur Dan-Ali, who was preferred to former army chief

Abdulrahman Dambazau, who was appointed interior minister. Intellectual property lawyer Geoffrey Onyeama was appointed foreign minister. Former Lagos state governor Babatunde Fashola was handed power, works and housing while the former Rivers state governor Rotimi Amaechi got transport. Fashola and Amaechi are both political heavyweights in Buhari's governing All Progressives Congress (APC) party. The latter served as Buhari's campaign manager during elections in March.

Clearer direction

The lack of ministers since May left Nigeria in political limbo and created uncertainty in the business world. "Political stasis has bred economic stasis, through cargoes stranded at ports, an uncertain investment climate and delayed spending decisions," Michael Famoroti, editorin-chief of Nigeria business, economy and finance analysts Stears, told AFP. "Too many parts of the economy have stalled as economic agents await government clarity," he said in an email. But with the new ministerial line-up announced, it is hoped a clearer picture should emerge of the government's direction. "The APC made a lot of promises and it needs to deliver on some of the more concrete elements," said Dawn Dimowo, of political consultancy the Africa Practice. "So it is high time the ministers come on board; they are the ones to translate most of those promises into tangible policies and lead on their implementation."

Buhari had been running Nigeria with just permanent secretaries (senior civil servants) at government ministries, opening the former military ruler up to opposition charges of autocracy. The new cabinet, containing just seven women, is made up of technocrats and political appointees from each of Nigeria's 36 states. Last weekend, lawyer Aisha Alhassan, who was appointed minister for women, won a challenge at an election tribunal to her defeat at governorship polls in April. She has indicated she will take up the post in eastern Taraba state, becoming Nigeria's first female state governor in the country's 55-year independent history. —AFP

EX-WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT DIES AT 96

BERLIN: Former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt died on Tuesday aged 96 and leaders from Europe and the United States praised him as an architect of international cooperation and post-war European integration. Schmidt was then-West Germany's second centre-left government leader from 1974 to 1982, taking office at the height of the Cold War when fellow Social Democrat (SPD) Willy Brandt was forced to resign after a close aide was exposed as a spy for Communist East Germany. At the same time, Schmidt dealt with the consequences of the 1973-74 energy crisis caused by the OPEC oil embargo, and later faced down a serious threat to West German democracy from a spree of attacks by Red Army Faction urban

"We are mourning Schmidt and are proud that he was one of us. We will miss his powerful judgment and advice," tweeted current German SPD leader and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel. German Chancellor Angela Merkel praised Schmidt as a mastermind of international cooperation whose decisions continued to have an effect today. French President Francois Hollande called Schmidt a "great German statesman. "He led his country at a very difficult time and he led it towards economic stability and towards the choice of growth," said Hollande, who added that Europe owed the existence of the euro common currency to Schmidt.

The White House said in a statement that Schmidt was "a firm, sure voice in a time of uncertainty and was widely admired for his principled approach to advancing dÈtente while also standing firmly against aggression and violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights." German media said Schmidt caught an infection after having surgery to remove a blood clot from his leg about two months ago. He died in the northern port of Hamburg, his hometown. Schmidt, a chain smoker who was in the public eye well into his 90s, became a frequent talk-show guest touching on world affairs. He seemed to garner more respect among Germans as an elder statesman than he had

when he led the country. In his later years, he was also publisher of Die Zeit, Germany's biggest and most respected liberal weekly. As chancellor, Schmidt tried to balance a conciliatory tone towards the Soviet Union and East Germany - building on Brandt's Nobel Peace Prize-winning "Ostpolitik" - with a strengthening of West Germany's standing within NATO and the European Union. Schmidt, who



KIEL: File photo shows the former German chancellor Helmut Schmidt onboard the sailing ship 'Atalanta' in Kiel, northern Germany. —AFP

was also finance minister from 1972 to 1974, was in office at the time of West Germany's post-World War Two "economic miracle," although recognizing a downturn in the 1970s, he tried to make some cuts to its costly welfare state.

His most formidable challenge was the ultraleftist Red Army Faction (RAF), whose escalating attacks on the political and business establishment included a campaign of assassinations and kidnappings that peaked in the "German Autumn" of 1977. —Reuters

FEARS OF NEW FLAREUP IN UKRAINE AS VIOLENCE GROWS ON FRONTLINE

PISKY: It's been only two months since Yelena Krivonos has stopped sleeping in her cellar to hide from shelling, but now that violence has ticked up in eastern Ukraine she is headed back underground. "Combat has begun again," the 31-year-old mother of two said after taking warm clothing for herself and her children to the basement. "At night they are launching mortars and something heavier, the house is shaking again." "I guess the end of this war is still a long way off."

Yelena's house stands close to the frontline near Donetsk, the largest city held by pro-Russian separatists in the country's east who have battled with Ukraine's forces since April 2014. In September, the latest in a string of Western-brokered ceasefire agreements went

into force, pushing fighting to its lowest level since close to the start of the conflict. Officially the warring sides insist they have been withdrawing weapons, with Ukraine's military on Saturday saying it has pulled their 82-mm mortars back from the frontline, following similar declarations by pro-Moscow rebels.

On the ground however, each side is accusing the other of firing at soldiers and civilians, underlining the fragility of the truce that some fear could disintegrate like previous ceasefires. In the village of Pisky, the closest Ukrainian position to the ravaged rebel-controlled Donetsk airport, soldiers report combat injuries every day. On the other side of the frontline in rebel-held territory, Yelena's village of Staromikhailivka and outlying neighbourhoods

of the insurgent capital Donetsk complain of Ukrainian attacks

"Even after pulling back heavy weapons, we are seeing the enemy take tanks almost into Pisky," said Dmitry Dvoichenkov, artillery operator and press officer for Ukraine's 93rd brigade based in the village. "They are shooting every day from firearms, mortar launchers and grenade launchers," he said. "Lately we even had people die... constantly we have people hit, our guys are injured on a daily basis." If there is a full-blown assault on Ukrainian positions, "we'll defend with what we have," Dvoichenkov said, adding that the rest of weaponry could reach the frontline "within an hour". On Tuesday, Kiev said four Ukrainian soldiers were

injured in eastern Ukraine. —AFP

SUU KYI REACHES OUT TO MILITARY WITH BIG LANDSLIDE IN SIGHT

pion Aung San Suu Kyi, moving closer to an absolute majority in parliament yesterday requested a meeting with the president and the powerful military chief to discuss national reconciliation.

Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) has won over 90 percent of the seats declared so far in the lower house and is well ahead in the upper house and regional assemblies.

If the final results confirm the trend, Suu Kyi's triumph will sweep out an old guard of former generals that has run Myanmar since the junta handed over power to President Thein Sein's semicivilian government in 2011.

The armed forces continue to wield considerable power in Myanmar's political institutions, enshrined in a constitution drafted before the end of nearly 50 years of rule. It is unclear how Suu Kyi and the generals will work together.

In letters to the commander-in-chief and the president dated Nov. 10 which the NLD released to media on Wednesday, Suu Kyi requested meetings within a week to discuss the basis of "national reconciliation."

"It is very important for the dignity of the country and to bring peace of mind to the people," Suu Kyi said in the letter. Information Minister and Presidential Spokesman Ye Htut said on his Facebook page: "In response to the letter from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the president this morning replied to her that the meeting would be coordinated when

YANGON: Myanmar's democracy chamthe UEC (Union Election Commission) election-related task is finished." Relations between Suu Kyi and armed forces chief Min Aung Hlaing are said to be strained. One of the biggest sources of tension between Suu Kyi and the military is a clause in the constitution barring her from the presidency because her children are foreign nationals. Few doubt the military inserted the clause to rule her out.

'MAKING ALL DECISIONS'

While her letters seek conciliation, Suu Kyi has become increasingly defiant on the presidential clause as the scale of her victory has become apparent. She has made it clear she will run the country regardless of who the NLD elects as president and described the constitution as "very silly".

"We'll find one," she told the BBC in an interview on Tuesday, referring to her choice of president. "But that won't stop me from making all the decisions as the leader of the winning party."

Results so far gave Suu Kyi's party 134 of 149 seats declared out of the 330 seats not allocated to the military in the lower house. Under the junta-crafted constitution, a quarter of the seats in both chambers are unelected and reserved for the armed forces.

To form Myanmar's first democratically elected government since the early 1960s, the NLD needs to win more than two-thirds of seats that were contested in parliament.

The NLD has said it is on course for over 250 seats in the lower house, well above the 221 needed to control the chamber. Reuters was not able to independently verify the party's estimates of its own performance. The ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), created by the junta and led by retired soldiers, has conceded defeat in a poll that was a major milestone on Myanmar's rocky path from dictatorship

Suu Kyi also requested a meeting with former USDP chairman Shwe Mann, the lower house speaker. He lost his seat, but before the election had been seen as a presidential contender.

He antagonised the military while in parliament and built close ties to Suu Kyi, arousing the suspicion of many in

CONTROL OF BUREAUCRACY

In addition to his bloc of parliament seats, the commander-in-chief nominates the heads of three powerful and big-budget ministries - interior, defense and border security.

The interior ministry gives him control of the pervasive bureaucracy, which could pose a significant obstacle to the NLD's ability to execute policy. Among other formidable challenges for Suu Kyi is trying to put an end to decades of conflict with armed ethnic groups. Thein Sein failed to do that despite protracted talks that led to a ceasefire with some groups. The government's chief



YANGON: Myanmar men read a newspaper showing a picture of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, seen at right with Tin Oo, the National League for Democracy (NLD) party chairman, outside the NLD headquarters in Yangon vesterday.—AFP

ceasefire negotiator, Aung Min, was among the heavyweight politicians that lost in the elections.

Sunday's vote was Myanmar's first freely contested general election since Thein Sein ushered in a period of reforms that prompted a partial lifting of international sanctions.

Money from abroad flowed in quickly afterward. Foreign direct investment stood at \$8 billion in fiscal 2014/15, more than five times the flows recorded just two years earlier.

Washington welcomed the election as a victory for Myanmar's people, but said it would watch how the democratic process moved forward before lifting the remaining US sanctions. Final results are due no later than two weeks after Sunday's poll. — Reuters

AMRITSAR: An Indian Sikh Nihang (a traditional Sikh religious warrior) Baba 'Avtar' Singh wears an oversized giant traditional turban as he pay respects at the Golden temple in Amritsar on Tuesday on the eve of the Indian festival of Diwali, the festival of lights. There will be no spectacular show of light and fireworks this Diwali at the Golden Temple as the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has decided not to celebrate the festival in the wake of series of incidents of alleged desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh holy book).—AFP

BANGLADESH HANDS OVER TOP REBEL LEADER TO INDIA

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh handed over a top separatist leader to India yesterday, officials on both sides said, after the two countries spent almost two decades argu-

ing over his extradition. Anup Chetia, founder of the separatist United Liberation Front of Asom group, was arrested in 1997 and sentenced to seven years in jail in Bangladesh for illegally being in the country. But Chetia, whose group fought Indian rule of northeast Assam state bordering Bangladesh, spent 11 more years in custody while officials struggled to agree on terms to return him.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he spoke with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina about Chetia, thanking her "for the help in fighting terrorism".

Chetia is wanted in India for alleged killings, abductions and extortion during his group's struggle in remote Assam. According to Indian media reports, New Delhi had long sought his repatriation but successive governments in Dhaka refused. Bangladeshi Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told AFP that Chetia's extradition was long delayed as "he did not want to go at that time. He is released (now) according to

Dhaka spent years dealing with Chetia's

requests for political asylum in Bangladesh, according to the Press Trust of India news

Chetia's handover comes at a time of improved ties between India and Bangladesh as well as the signing of an extradition treaty between the two countries in 2013. Earlier this year, the neighbors sealed a decades-long border dispute following Modi's visit to Bangladesh.

Chetia was reported to be living in Bangladesh ever since he fled India in the early 1990s after he was released from an Indian jail in 1991. Chetia is the second fugitive brought to India this month after Indonesia handed over wanted gangster Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje on Friday.

ULFA, which started an armed independence struggle against Indian rule in 1979, declared a unilateral ceasefire in 2011, paving the way for a peace accord between the Indian government and the rebel group. One of the largest rebel groups, ULFA accused New Delhi of exploiting the region's natural resources. But following the deal the group scaled down its demands and is now seeking an autonomous ethnic region under Indian rule. More than 10,000 people, mostly civilians, have lost their lives to insurgency in Assam during the past two decades. — AFP

MODI VISITS BRITAIN, SEEKS TO RECOVER FROM ELECTION BLOW

India PM to address huge crowd at Wembley Stadium

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a mass rally on a visit to Britain this week that supporters hope will help him spring back from a humiliating election loss and reassert his authority on the global stage. India and Britain could announce deals worth 8-12 billion pounds (\$12-\$18 billion) during the visit, according to diplomats, with Modi keen to buy 20 more BAE Systems Hawk trainer aircraft to be made in Bengaluru.

Britain is home to an Indian diaspora of 1.5 million, and the two nations share the English language, historical ties and an obsession with cricket. Yet Modi has, in his first 18 months in power, made a priority of courting global powers like the United States and China.

"UK-India ties are economically strong, but strategically weak," said Shashank Joshi, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London. Seeking to regain the initiative after crashing to defeat in a big state election at the weekend, Modi eased foreign investment rules this week in 15 sectors, including mining, defense and civil aviation.

"By introducing these reforms the government is certainly spelling out why India is an attractive destination," said Nalin Kohli, a spokesman for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party

The centrepiece of the Nov 12-14 trip will be a mass rally and firework display at Wembley Stadium on Friday for an estimated 60,000 supporters - three times bigger than the crowd he drew to New York's Madison Square Garden last year. Yet Modi's popularity is being challenged at home, after the BJP lost an election badly in the eastern state of Bihar, home to 104 million people. Three party elders, including former deputy prime minister L K Advani, released a statement late on Tuesday questioning the direction of the BJP, which risks embarrassing Modi just ahead of his visit.

REVAMP SOUGHT

British Prime Minister David Cameron is seeking to revamp economic ties with fast-growing Asian nations, including India, as part of his push on business-focused diplomacy. Modi's trip marks a remarkable turnaround for a man who was banned from Britain for 10 years over his alleged role as chief minister of Gujarat in riots that killed about 1,000 people in 2002.

Britain ended a boycott of Modi three years ago after he emerged from being a provincial politician to the likely leader of the world's largest democracy. He has denied wrongdoing and was exonerated by an inquiry ordered by India's Supreme Court. His three-day visit is likely to be marked by protests over those riots and concerns over recent incidents in India where Muslims have been targeted by Hindu extrem-

Several groups were planning demonstrations outside Wembley Stadium during the rally and near Cameron's Downing Street office to coincide with Modi's visit there.

About 45 British lawmakers, including opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, recently signed a parliamentary motion to debate India's human rights record.

Modi has also attracted negative coverage in the British press, with the left-leaning Guardian newspaper branding him a "divisive manipulator who charmed the world". The Financial Times predicted his visit would be overshadowed by troubles at home including "a surge of sometimes violent Hindu chauvinism and a slowdown of economic reform".

However, many in Britain's Indian diaspora were eager to celebrate Modi, with a website called "UK welcomes Modi" promising to deliver the loudest, greatest and most vibrant welcome he has seen outside of India" at the Wembley rally. Modi's bilateral visit, the first by an Indian prime minister since 2006, follows a pomp-laden visit the British government gave China's President Xi Jinping last month that yielded \$62 billion of deals.

Britain has gradually lost ground to other nations in an effort to increase trade with its former colony. In 2000, it was India's thirdlargest trading partner. Since then Britain has slipped to 18th, behind Belgium and Kuwait. 'There is a sense of things being jaded between the two countries," said Neelam Deo, a former diplomat and director of Gateway House. "For India, Britain is a middle-ranking power - it doesn't seem to have an independent foreign policy." —Reuters



KABUL: Afghan protesters carry a coffin containing a decapitated body of one of seven Shiite Muslim Hazaras, including four men, two women and one child, during a demonstration in Kabul yesterday. — AFP

MODI DRAWS FLAK FROM SENIOR PARTY FIGURES OVER POLL LOSS

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was hit Tuesday with the first open internal challenge to his leadership since taking power, with senior members of his party expressing anger at the loss of a key state election. Onetime Modi mentor LK Advani and three other veterans of his right-leaning Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) issued a statement that appeared to accuse the premier of failing to seek consensus, without naming him directly.

"The principal reason for the latest defeat is the way the party has been emasculated in the last year," the joint letter released to the media said.

"A thorough review must be done of the reasons for the defeat as well as the way the party is being forced to kowtow... and how its consensual character has been destroyed," the letter added.

The octogenarian figures have largely been sidelined by Modi since his landslide victory in May 2014, but have not spoken out in such a public forum until now. It came as the premier takes stock of a humiliating defeat last Sunday in one of India's most populous states,

Modi had addressed dozens of rallies, attracting thousands of people, in the key east Indian state and promised voters billions of dollars for social and economic projects, but to no avail.

Advani, a former deputy prime minister, was one of the nationalist BJP's founding members, and is widely credited for leading the party's expansion in its formative years.

He is also recognized as one of the few leaders who groomed Modi for power, until they reportedly fell out over competing political ambitions. Observers said that the revolt posed no direct challenge to Modi's authority unless it inspired other, younger leaders to speak out. "Logical to join BJP revolt against Modi if 2014-19 is your last realistic shot at power. Daft if you have a longer political time horizon," Sadanand Dhume, resident fellow at Washington-based American Enterprise Institute, said. —AFP

AFGHAN POLICE FIRE SHOTS AS HAZARA RALLY BOILS OVER

KABUL: Afghan police yesterday fired into the air to disperse protesters who tried to scale the walls of a building near the President's palace as anger boiled over at the murder of seven members of the Hazara ethnic minority by Islamist militants. Live television pictures from a protest march by thousands of Hazara showed members of the crowd scatter as police fired warning shots. The images showed one young woman being carried away, but it was unclear if she had been hit by gunfire.

In one of the biggest demonstrations in Kabul in years, thousands of protesters marched through the Afghan capital to demand government action after the killers dumped the partially beheaded bodies of their victims. The Hazara are a Persian-speaking, mainly Shia minority who have long faced persecution in Afghanistan, with thousands massacred by the Taleban and al Qaeda in the 1990s, but a series of murders and kidnappings this year has stoked a mood of growing despair.

"The only way to prevent such crimes in the future is to take over all government offices until they wake up and make a decision, said demonstrator Sayed Karim, 40, one of thousands who filled the whole of Mazari Square in western Kabul. Besides swelling the daily toll of killings, the deaths of the seven Hazara, who included three women and two children, have heightened the risk that sectarian hatred will further poison the climate in a country made up of a mix of different ethnicities. Bearing the greendraped coffins of the dead and carrying banners with slogans such as "The Taleban are committing crimes and the government is supporting them", the crowd marched more than 10 km (six miles) to the presidential palace.

"We have come here to ask the government to give us the perpetrators, so we can take revenge," said Taranom Sayedi, another protester. President Ashraf Ghani has condemned the killings and promised an investigation but they have fuelled a growing sense of insecurity since the Taliban briefly seized control of the key northern city of Kunduz in late September.

Ghani's national unity government has come under increasing pressure to address parliament on the worsening security situation. "This sends a very dangerous message to the people of Afghanistan, its government and its international allies," said Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi, speaker of the lower house of parliament. "This issue doesn't belong to a family, a tribe or an ethnic group, but it belongs to all Afghans."

The killings in the southern province of Zabul occurred amid fighting between rival Taleban factions and Islamic State militants that has underlined the risk of further fragmentation, complicating any reopening of the peace process and creating the risk of more generalized anarchy. Demonstrators said Hazara people were being killed every day on the roads between Ghazni, Bamyan and Wardak provinces to the west of Kabul, where the Taleban control much of the countryside after international forces stopped most combat operations last year. Besides the Taleban and Islamic State, many Hazara have directed their anger against the Pashtun, the largest ethnic group, from which the Islamist movements recruit most of their followers. "We're from this country," said a demonstrator who gave her name only as Sohaila. "We have to have the same rights as other citizens." — Reuters

JAPAN SAYS UN ENVOY RETRACTS REMARKS ON SCHOOLGIRL SEX

TOKYO: A UN human rights envoy has retracted her claim that 13 percent of schoolgirls in Japan are involved in forms of paid dating that can involve sex, the Japanese government said yesterday.

The step came shortly after Tokyo bitterly complained to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and demanded it show evidence to support the figure that was announced in Tokyo last month. Maud de Boer-Buguicchio, the UN's special envoy on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, wrote to the

International Organizations in Geneva to say she could not offer hard evidence to support her claim, according to a Japanese official.

"The letter said after further reviews that there was no official and recent data to support the 13-percent figure," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told

In her letter, de Boer-Buquicchio vowed not to use the figure in the future and said the number will not be part of a report to be submitted to the UN Human

Permanent Mission of Japan to the Rights Council, Suga said. "We regard this explanation as effectively a retraction of the comment over the 13-percent figure," he added.

"The Japanese government will continue to ask them to draft reports based on objective data."

Nekane Lavin, from the UN Office of the High Commissionner in Geneva, later issued a statement by email saying the special envoy will make no further comment until March when she submits her report. "Please note ... the Special Rapporteur will not make further comments on this issue until the presentation of her full and comprehensive report on her visit to Japan to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2016."

In a press conference last month, de Boer-Buquicchio spoke of the Japanese social phenomenon of "enjo kosai", often translated as "compensated dating", in which older men pay teenage girls for dates that may involve sex.

"Some 13 percent of the school girls in Japan are involved in that kind of activity, which perhaps starts with a relatively innocent activity," she said at the briefing.

The "innocent" behavior may include men going for a walk with high school girls, she added. When Japan subsequently demanded that she present evidence for the claim, de Boer-Buquicchio said this month she had "no official statistics" on compensated dating. She said she had seen the figure "in open sources". Concerns over the sexualisation of young girls have been frequently expressed by Japanese media, women's groups and some politicians, but the precise extent of abuses or illicit activities has proven difficult to measure. —AFP

CHINA SAYS PHILIPPINES MUST HEAL RIFT OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA

Indonesia says it could take Beijing to court

BEIJING/MANILA: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the Philippines' case against China at an arbitration tribunal over rival claims in the South China Sea had strained relations and that it was up to the Philippines to heal the rift.

Beijing's claim to almost the entire South China Sea is shown on Chinese maps with a nine-dash line that stretches deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia. Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei also claim parts of the waterway.

The arbitration case against China in the Hague "is a knot that has impeded the improvement and development of Sino-Philippine relations", a statement on the Foreign Ministry's website cited Wang as saying in Manila.

"We do not want this knot to become tighter and tighter, so that it even becomes a dead knot," Wang told reporters. "As for how to loosen or open the knot, (we'll) have to look at the Philippines."

The nine-dash line also includes parts of the Indonesian-held Natuna islands and Jakarta, which has kept a low profile in the dispute, could take China to the "International Criminal Court" if Beijing's claim was not resolved through dialogue, Indonesia's security chief, Luhut Panjaitan, told reporters on Wednesday.

Although he specified the International Criminal Court, which deals with war crimes, it would appear he meant an international tribunal such as the

handled bilaterally. In a legal setback for Beijing, the arbitration court ruled last month that it had jurisdiction to hear some territorial claims the Philippines had filed against China. The Philippines has welcomed

disputes with rival claimants be

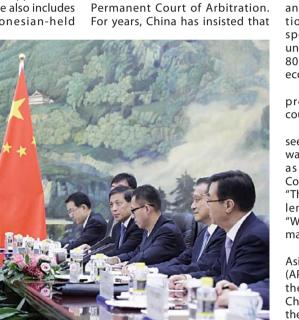
the decision and its Foreign Affairs Department said yesterday it would pursue the case "to its logical conclusion". "China's nine-dash line claim is expansive, excessive and has no basis under international law," said foreign affairs spokesman Charles Jose. "If left unchallenged, we could lose about 80 percent of our EEZ (exclusive economic zone)."

China has boycotted the legal proceedings and rejects the court's authority in the case.

Manila filed the case in 2013 to seek a ruling on its right to exploit waters in its 200-nautical mile EEZ as allowed under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. "The person who caused the problem should solve it," Wang said. "We hope that the Philippines can make a more sensible choice."

Next week, Manila hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, an event at which the United States says the South China Sea will likely come up on the sidelines.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China hoped "sensitive political topics" would not be discussed there. "We hope all sides can uphold the economic trade essence of the APEC forum," he told reporters in Beijing. —Reuters



BEIJING: Mongolia's President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj (left) speaks to China's Premier Li Keqiang (second right) during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. —AFP

during a weekly anti-Japanese demonstration near the Japanese embassy in Seoul yesterday. —AFP S KOREA, JAPAN HOLD TALKS ON 'COMFORT WOMEN'

SEOUL: Protestors sit next to a statue (C) of a South Korean teenage girl in

traditional costume called the "peace monument" for former "comfort

women" who served as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II,

SEOUL: South Korea and Japan yesterday discussed their long-running dispute over Korean women forced into wartime sexual slavery-the first such talks since their leaders vowed to push for a mutually acceptable settlement. The meeting between senior foreign ministry officials from both sides followed last week's summit in Seoul between South Korean President Park Geun-Hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"It's difficult to go into details, but it can be said that we're moving one step at a time towards our goal," the South's Yonhap news agency quoted a government official as saying after the talks.

"We have agreed to continue talks on areas where differences exist," the unnamed official said.

South Korea is demanding a formal apology and compensation for the Korean women forced to serve as sex slaves in Japanese military army brothels during World War II. Japan maintains that the dispute was settled in a 1965 normalization agreement, which saw Tokyo make a total payment of \$800 million in grants or loans to its former colony.

The two sides have now held 10 rounds of talks on the issue since April last year-with no tangible progress. Yesterday's meeting was in the same framework, but was closely monitored for any signs that the Park-Abe

summit had shifted the discussion lines.

In what was their first one-on-one meeting, the two leaders had vowed to speed up consultations to resolve the dispute, which Park called the "biggest stumbling block" to normalized ties. Park had previously rebuffed multiple proposals for a summit with Abe, arguing that Tokyo had yet to properly atone for its wartime past and 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean penin-

Presiding over a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Park had again stressed that the comfort women issue should be settled "as early as possible". Mainstream historians say up to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea but also from China, Indonesia and other Asian nations, were forced into sexual slavery during the war.

South Korea has only 47 surviving comfort women-all of them in advanced old age. "Our government's position is constant and firm. The comfort women issue should be resolved urgently," foreign ministry spokesman Cho June-Hyuck told a regular press briefing ahead of Wednesday's talks. The Japanese government should present a solution "that victims can accept", Cho said.

Japan's top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Tokyo had "yet to decide" on what measures might be put forward as a solution. —AFP

PM TURNBULL LOOKS TO HEAL WOUNDS ON INDONESIA VISIT



In this file photo taken on September 20, 2015, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull answers a question after announcing his new cabinet at a press conference in Canberra. —AFP

SYDNEY: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will be looking to reset a vital diplomatic and economic relationship badly strained under his predecessor when he visits Jakarta today to meet Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Australia and its giant neighbour have a history of diplomatic turbulence stretching back decades, but relations reached historic lows under Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who was ousted in a party coup in September.

Turnbull inherited ties strained by rows over spying, the execution of Australian citizens in Indonesia and Abbott's tough asylum seeker policies, all amid an atmosphere of growing Chinese assertiveness in the region. But with anxiety in Jakarta growing over Beijing's intentions and Turnbull looking to build bridges to Asia, the visit was key for both sides, said Adrian Vickers, director of the Asian Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.

"The big thing for Turnbull will actually just be getting enough attention from Indonesia, where there is a potential at this moment to really refocus the relationship given the problems between Indonesia and China," he told Reuters. "It might also be a good way to remind Indonesia of Australia and the potential benefits of the economic rela-

Indonesia is Australia's tenth largest overall trading partner and is the largest export market for Australian wheat worth A\$1.3 billion (\$917 million) in 2014, as well as a major destination for live cattle and sugar. They also cooperate closely on counter-terrorism, an area of growing concern as Islamic State militants seek footholds outside the Middle East, where Australia is bombing the group as part of a US-led military campaign.

But in recent years, perpetual crisis became the norm, said Vickers, with Abbott very much its public face in Indonesia. Just one month after he took office in September 2013, revelations that Canberra had spied on President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife sent relations plummeting. His policy of towing back to Indonesia vessels carrying asylum seekers, while popular at home, infuriated Jakarta, which sees it as an infringement on its sovereignty. Tensions reached their peak in May when Indonesia executed two Australian members of the socalled "Bali Nine" drug trafficking ring, despite intense lobbying from Canberra. Indonesia saw Turnbull's visit as a sign that both sides were looking to do the same in the economic and diplomatic spheres, said Armanatha Nasir, Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman.

"The fact that Australian ministers have been visiting us frequently and that there is a big delegation of business people coming here with the prime minister shows efforts on both sides to move on," he said. —Reuters



MANILA: Philippine policemen who will be securing venues and routes of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit receive the flu vaccine at a command centre in Manila yesterday ahead of the summit next week. About 18,000 police are being drafted in to guard the summit venues, hotels and routes. —AFP

HK DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST PLANS UN CASE OVER 'TORTURE'

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong activist allegedly next Tuesday. "Those seven policemen being na where Hong Kong is under international assaulted by police during last year's prodemocracy protests said yesterday he would present his case to a United Nations torture

hearing next week.

Footage of activist Ken Tsang being punched and kicked by police officers was beamed around the world at the height of the mass protests that brought parts of the southern Chinese city to a standstill last year. The video, aired by local television network TVB, showed a group of men hauling a handcuffed Tsang to a dark corner in a public park. One man stood over Tsang punching him while three others repeatedly kicked him.

Seven police officers were charged with assault over the incident, while Tsang himself was also charged with attacking 11 police officers.

Tsang, 40, said he would present his case at a UN Committee Against Torture hearing in Geneva accused should be charged with torture, not with common assault,"Tsang told AFP.

"We want to raise more pressure on the government on how they are handling the case," Tsang said, adding that the charges were only brought a year after the incident.

Tsang has previously slammed allegations against him as "unreasonable and ridiculous", while the justice department has justified the assault charge against, saying he "splashed liquid from a plastic container" onto police.

Democratic Party chairwoman Emily Lau, who will also attend the UN torture hearing, told AFP: "On a number of occasions the police used force to deal with the peaceful demonstrators, and that is very, very unacceptable. "They (Hong Kong government) don't want to be disgraced on an international stage... it is an important arescrutiny," said Lau. At the height of the 2014 protests, which last-

ed for 79 days, tens of thousands of people regularly gathered to demand political reform in a major challenge to China's communist rulers.

Thousands more joined the crowds after police fired tear gas in the afternoon of September 28, a move that shocked the public and galvanised the Umbrella Movement-named after the umbrellas used to ward off sun, rain, tear gas and pepper spray. The democracy protests began after China's central government said it would allow a popular vote for Hong Kong's leader in 2017, but insisted that candidates be vetted. Hong Kong has been governed under a "one country, two systems" arrangement since it was handed back to China by Britain in

OUSTED THAI PM DEFENDS RICE SCHEME IN OPEN LETTER TO JUNTA LEADER

BANGKOK: Ousted Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra sent an open letter to junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha yesterday defending her position in a case involving rice subsidies that hemorrhaged billions of dollars and could see her jailed for up to 10 years. Thailand's first woman prime minister faces criminal charges in the Supreme Court over her management of the rice scheme, a flagship election policy that helped sweep her to office in a landslide in 2011. She was banned from politics for five years in January after a military-appointed legislature found her guilty of mismanaging the scheme. Yingluck, in a letter posted on Facebook, said that the attorney general was deliberately rushing the case against her and total losses caused

by the rice scheme were still unknown. The military government says the scheme was riddled with graft and incurred losses of \$16 billion dollars. It distorted global prices and saw Thailand lose its crown as the world's number one exporter of the grain to India. Yingluck, who has defended the scheme, said the case against her does not expire for another 15 years. "I insist that I am innocent and am ready to prove it," Yingluck said. "Rushing the legal process limits my chance to defend my position to the best of my abilities, which goes against basic human rights." The Supreme Court has said it will review evidence and witnesses in the Yingluck case until November 2016 and has not yet set a trial date. The rice subsidy scheme, which bought rice at above-market prices from farmers, left Thailand with around 13 million tonnes in stockpiles which the government is still struggling to shift.

Yingluck's government was toppled in a May 2014 coup which followed protracted political unrest in Bangkok. Rivalry between the royalistmilitary establishment and the Shinawatra family, in particular Yingluck's brother, ousted populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra, has been at the heart of a decade of political turmoil in Thailand.—Reuters





TARANAGAR: Cows gather at a cow shelter owned by Babulal Jangir, a rustic self-styled leader of cow raiders, and Gau Raksha Dal (Cow Protection Squad) in Taranagar in the desert state of Rajasthan. Cow slaughter and consumption of beef are banned in Rajasthan and many other states of officially secular India which has substantial Muslim and Christian populations, and almost every night a vigilante squad lie in wait for suspected cattle smugglers, in a bid to enforce the ban. — AFP

MOSCOW WIDENS ITS NET IN HUNT FOR 'FOREIGN AGENTS'

MOSCOW: Russian photographer Alexander Rumyantsev never thought he was meddling in politics when he staged an art festival with funding from the US government-but the authorities in his country decided differently. Late last month Russia's justice ministry included the photography club Rumyantsev runs in the Siberian city of Omsk on a black list of so-called "foreign agents"-making it one of the latest victims of a controversial law critics say is aimed at muzzling independent civil society.

'We organized a festival of photos, videos and sculpture with a grant from the American consulate," Rumyantsev said of the event in the regional city of Yekaterinburg. "The event was considered political activity. It doesn't make sense to oppose it so I'm closing the club down." Passed in 2012, the "foreign agent" legislation forces non-governmental groups that receive funding from abroad to use the charged tag-reminiscent of the Soviet crackdown on dissidents-if they are accused of being involved in politics. Now, some 100 groups-ranging from some of Russia's leading rights groups to small regional organizations-have been caught up in the clampdown.

Proponents claim the legislation - introduced after President Vladimir Putin was elected to a third term amid popular protests - is needed to stop Western plots to destabilize the country. But rights activists say the authorities under former KGB agent Putin are whipping up fear in a bid to crush any voices they do not control and further cement his grip on power. "Independent organizations across the for improvement of flawed governmental policies." — AFP

board have been targeted - rights groups, environmentalist groups, think tanks," Tanya Lokshina from Human Rights Watch said. "It is clear that the law's being used to demonize, marginalize, weaken, and eventually destroy independent critics of the government." Another organization that has faced official wrath is Friends of the Siberian Forests-an environmental group from Krasnoyarsk, in Russia's vast taiga.

The group-which has received financial aid from two US foundations-has been battling against illegal logging and devastating forest fires since 1999 — but now it could be shut down after being tagged a "foreign agent" last month. "We don't have the money to pay the heavy fines" that authorities hit the group with when it was added to the black list, activist Anna Laletina said. In a vague explanation of its actions the Russian justice ministry's list says that both the photography club and the environmentalists had "a political objective" that was aimed at influencing "decisionmaking institutions to change the policy of the state."

The ministry's press service suggested to AFP that the measure was preventive and that the groups "were planning to engage in political activity by shaping public opinion." "It seems that federal and local officials were given direct orders to go after independent groups with foreign funding," said Lokshina from Human Rights Watch. "Russian NGOs branded 'foreign agents'... are by no means ir 'politics'. But they're critical of the government and advocate

FINANCE MINISTER TO BRIEF PANEL ON BUDGET...

Continued from Page 1

Head of the Interior and Defense Committee M Sultan Al-Shemmari said the committee will discuss during this term the issue of stateless people, locally known as Bedoons, in addition to draft laws on election and prisons. The lawmaker said the committee will discuss a mechanism for naturalization and will invite Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to discuss the issue of Bedoons.

The committee will also discuss with the head of the Bedoons department Saleh Al-Fadhalah a proposal to solve the Bedoons issue he calls the roadmap to solving Bedoons problem. The committee will also discuss issues related to the election law besides several other issues. In a related development, the National Assembly human rights committee will study today a draft law proposing a set of social and civil rights for bedoons.

Meanwhile, the liberal Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF) said yesterday that the solution to the country's domestic problems is by activating and respecting the constitution and the activation of the role of institutions. In a statement on the anniversary of issuing the constitution in 1962, KDF said that those who wrote the constitution had the objective of seeing Kuwait become a modern civil state governed by the constitution and law but the result has been the opposite as the country has slipped into disputes and problems.

HINDU COW MOBS RULE AS RELIGIOUS DEBATE RAGES

TARANAGAR: As a truck screeches to a halt on an Indian highway in the middle of the night, devout young Hindus armed with sticks scramble inside, searching for cows they consider sacred. Almost every night, the vigilantes lie in wait for suspected cattle smugglers in the desert state of Rajasthan, ready to fight to protect the animals, a revered symbol of India's majority Hindu religion. "Smugglers often open fire or try to run us over. I even get death threats but nothing bothers me," said Babulal Jangir, a leader of the Gau Raksha Dal (Cow Protection Squad). "My heart beats only for my dear cow mother."

Cow slaughter and consumption of beef are banned in Rajasthan and many other states of officially secular India, which has substantial Muslim and Christian populations. But the recent killing of at least three Muslims suspected of eating beef or smuggling cows by Hindu mobs have heightened fears of rising violence against India's religious minorities. The deaths have also sparked a wider debate about growing religious intolerance since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government came to power at general elections last May.

Dozens of authors have returned India's highest literary award in protest over the rise in violence, which they fear includes the recent murder of a secular intellectual, while petitions demanding government action have attracted signature from scientists, actors and filmmakers. The government has been accused of failing to rein in Hindu hardliners, while its ministers have at times appeared to be inflaming the debate. Modi's Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) suffered a crushing blow in a weekend state election, in part, analysts say, because of its attempts to polarise voters along religious lines.

Beaten to death

In September, a Muslim family was attacked outside Delhi by a group of Hindus after false rumors they were keeping beef in their home. The father was beaten to death and his son was severely injured. Several other incidents were reported weeks later, including the killing of a truck driver in northern Himachal Pradesh state for attempting to smuggle cattle to a slaughter house. Critics say Hindu hardliners and their radical elements have become more emboldened since Modi's landslide victory last year. Jangir said his squad has grown to some 20,000 members, ranging from farmers to lawyers and teachers,

along with a fast growing network of informers prowling Rajasthan's major roads.

"It is extremely disturbing when ordinary people take the law into their hands," said Zafarul Islam Khan, president of the All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, a leading Muslim body. "They (right-wing groups) have their goons going around saying 'we will dispense justice, there is no need for courts'. What is really sad is that they seem to enjoy police and political patronage," he said. But Jangir, who runs a furniture business, has no sympathy for beef eaters and his team have no qualms about dispensing "rough justice", usually in the form of beatings. "Anyone who eats cow meat should be handed the death sentence," the 42-year-old said, adjusting buckles on his bullet-proof vest. On the night an AFP team joined one of their patrols, the mob became heated when cows were found inside a stopped truck. The anxious driver was finally allowed to proceed when he produced documents showing the cows were headed for a dairy, not an illegal slaughter house or across the border to Bangladesh where beef is in high demand. "Our Hindu scriptures say 330 million gods and goddesses reside in one cow," said Manoj Jangir, another squad member, who has a degree in politi-

'Our blood starts boiling'

cal administration.

The BJP has rejected the violence and denies local media reports the Modi government is moving to introduce a nationwide ban on cow slaughter. "No one can indulge in any kind of violence. We don't support these groups," GVL Narsimha Rao, a BJP spokesman said. In southern Kerala and the remote northeast-areas with large Christian populations-beef is legally and widely consumed. But in Rajasthan and other states, eating, killing or selling cows is a non-bailable offence, though the consumption of buffalos is allowed as they are less revered. In western Maharashtra, offenders can be jailed for up to five

Still, an illegal trade thrives in trucking cows across the country into Muslim-majority Bangladesh. "It is a kind of do or die thing for us. When we see how cows are stuffed inside trucks our blood starts boiling," said Maniram Babu, 31, a mechanic and squad member. "We get very emotional and then we can't stop ourselves from teaching them (the smugglers) a lesson or two." — AFP





. Kuwait 1 (the New str.) . Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) . Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) . Hawalli 2 (Bin Khaldon str.) . Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) . Al-Rai (4th Ring road) Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.)
 Farwaniya (Behind police Station)
 Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking)
 Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.)
 Airport (Departure Hall)

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TIDE TURNS AGAINST US RESTRICTIONS ON THE SEX OFFENDERS

By Barbara Goldberg

early two decades have passed since Josh Gravens, then 12 years old, was playing with his 8-year-old sister and touched her body in an inappropriate way, landing himself on a sex offender registry. His sister forgave him long ago but Gravens still worries that the incident could force him out of his Dallas home. Concerns about sexual predators have led communities in 30 US states to adopt laws limiting where registered sex offenders can live, typically keeping them away from schools, parks or other places where children congregate.

Gravens, now 29 and an advocate for prisoner rights, spends a lot of his time courting Dallas City Council members, including volunteering on election campaigns, in hopes of preventing them from imposing rigid limits on where sex offenders may live. "It would be absolutely disruptive and possibly push me out of a town where I finally feel like I've found my way," said Gravens, who lives near a park. "Dallas is the first city I felt I had a chance. A lot of places I was terrified of my own name."

Increasingly tough laws adopted in the United States over the past 20 years have had the unintended consequence of forcing many of the nation's 800,000 registered sex offenders into homelessness. That in turn makes them harder to track, according to law enforcement, and strips them of the stable homes advocates say are key to getting a job and rehabilitation. Recently there has been something of a backlash against such residency restrictions - with courts striking them down in 2015 in New York, Massachusetts and California.

Last week in Rhode Island, a federal judge granted a restraining order that allowed high-risk offenders who live with-in 1,000 feet of a school to stay in their homes at least until January. This week in Texas, civil rights advocates demanded that 46 small communities immediately rescind their residency restrictions or be sued. At the same time, Wisconsin legislators are considering a bill for a statewide standard, which would upend local ordinances.

In Dallas, where Gravens lives, the City Council set aside a proposal for residency restrictions due to lack of evidence that bans work. Gravens, part of the effort to get city leaders to mothball the plan, spoke out about how his mother's call to a Christian center seeking advice about her son's adolescent curiosity had triggered a police report that landed him in jail the next day. His sister helped get his name off the public registry but Gravens, now a divorced father of three, remains on a separate list available to law enforcement until he turns 31.

'not effective'

A Department of Justice report in July on dealing with sex offenders found "the evidence is fairly clear that residence restrictions are not effective" and may even expose communities to greater danger. Residency bans have arisen from public sex offender registries, which require people who have served their sentence to continually update for decades - often for life their photograph, physical description, address and place of employment. Failure to do so means felony arrest.

Today, thousands of registrants are people like Gravens who committed offenses as minors, said Elizabeth Letourneau, a professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Supporters say residency restrictions are meant to thwart adult strangers lurking nearby to snatch child victims. "I don't want those people living near children," said Ron Book, a Florida lobbyist and nationally recognized proponent of residency restrictions. "If you put young children in the faces of people prone to commit sexually deviant behaviors on children, there is a greater chance than not that they'll act out. They'll do their thing," Book said.

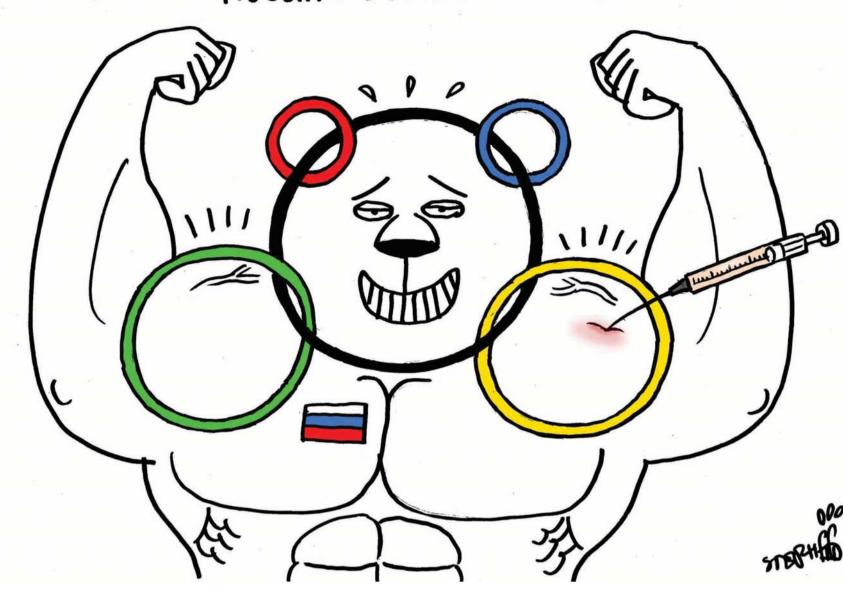
But more than 90 percent of offenders who target children are known to the children and their families, and more than 30 percent of those offenders are minors themselves, said Jill Levenson, a professor at Barry University in Florida who has studied offenders. In some municipalities, enormous buffer zones surrounding places where children gather have effectively placed every possible residence off-limits to sex offenders, often regardless of whether the victim of their offense was a child.

Homeless in california

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said in a 2010 report that after a 2,000 foot (610-meter) barrier was enacted statewide in 2006, homelessness among paroled sex offenders "increased by approximately 24 times. Presently, more than one-third of all sex offenders on parole have become transient." Parole officers said it was harder to supervise homeless parolees, and the department announced in March it would no longer impose the restrictions. "There are some hopeful signs that evidence may triumph over emotion and hysteria," said Emily Horowitz, a professor at St. Francis College in New York who has studied the restrictions.—Reuters

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RUSSIAN DOPING SCANDAL



'SICK MAN OF EUROPE' FINLAND AGONIZES OVER AUSTERITY

By Jussi Rosendahl and Anna Ercanbrack

inland was one of the toughest European critics of Greece during its debt crisis, chastising it for failing to push through reforms to revive its economy. Now the Nordic nation is struggling to overhaul its own finances as it seeks to claw its way out of a three-year-old recession that has prompted its finance minister to label the country the "sick man of Europe".

Efforts by new Prime Minister Juha Sipila to cut holidays and wages have been met with huge strikes and protests, while a big healthcare reform exposed ideological divisions in his coalition government that pushed it to the brink of collapse last week. There have even been calls from one of Sipila's veteran lawmakers for a parliamentary debate over whether Finland should leave the euro zone to allow it to devalue its own currency to boost exports - a sign of the frustration gripping the country.

In the latest manifestation of the difficulties of cutting spending in euro zone states, Sipila is walking a political tightrope. He must push through major reforms to boost competitiveness and encourage growth, while placating labor unions to avoid further strikes and costly wage deals next year - and carrying his three-party coalition with him. Unemployment and public debt are both climbing in a country hit by high labor costs, the decline of flagship company Nokia's phone business and a recession in Russia, one of its biggest export markets.

And with a rapidly-ageing population, economists say the outlook is bleak for Finland, which has lost its triple-A credit rating and is experiencing its longest economic slump since World War II. Sipila who has warned Finland could be the next Greece - is pushing for 10 billion euros (\$10.8 billion) of annual savings by 2030, including 4 billion euros by 2019. As part of this the government, in power for five months, plans to overhaul healthcare, local government and labor markets to boost employment and export competitiveness.

Protests, strikes

But the premier's call for a "common spirit of reform" was met with uproar when he proposed cutting holidays in the public sector and reducing the amount of extra pay given to employees working on Sunday to lower unit labor costs by 5 percent. About 30,000 protesters rallied in Helsinki in September in the county's biggest demonstration since 1991, and strikes halted railroads, harbors and paper

reached. "The recent course of events makes the outlook even more negative, and supports the arguments for Finnish bond yields to approach French levels going forward," Nordea said in a note.

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Finnish benchmark 10-year bond yields are at 0.89 percent, compared with French yields at 0.97 percent. The squabble exposed the fault lines in Sipila's three-party coalition representing conservative rural voters, urban technocrats and anti-immi-



HELSINKI: Crowds throng the public information stands and displays at Slush 2015 in Helsinki, Finland. —AP

mills. The government soon backtracked, saying it would find savings from other

The average Finn works fewer hours a week than any other EU citizens, according to the Finnish Business and Policy Forum think-tank. The government estimates Finland has fallen 15 percent behind Germany and Sweden in labor cost competitiveness, resulting in a loss of global export market share. Disagreements over cost cuts in the healthcare system last week threatened to break up the coalition government, before an agreement was

grant populists. Sipila may be keen on reform but faces opposition from conservative members of his own Centre Party. The National Coalition party, led by Finance Minister Alexander Stubb, is reformist, but the Finns party leans to the left in fiscal policy and is having tough time agreeing with austerity. Stubb's frustration was evident when he said in September: "Basically, we are the sick man of Europe."

Diminishing workforce

One alternative to austerity - increased spending to stimulate growth - is not on the

table as government debt already breaches the EU's 60 percent limit. It is still low compared with many other states but given Finland's fast-ageing population, the government says debt growth must be halted. Finland is expected to have the highest old age-dependency ratio among all EU countries by 2020, 35.8 persons aged 65 or more per 100 people of working age, according to Eurostat data. As the unemployment rate climbs towards 10 percent, many Finns yearn for the pre-1990s times when it could devaluate the markka time and again to improve export competitiveness. Neighboring Sweden benefited from a sharp fall in its crown currency in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

Without an independent currency, the government is asking for a "moderate wage deal" as collective agreements expire in many sectors next year. Before wage talks begin, the government has asked unions to present alternatives to its proposed benefit cuts, such as on the number of public-sector holidays. "There is a risk that if no collective solution can be found, the labor side will seek compensation (to the cuts) from the wage deals next year," a government source said. "As we have now squeezed out a very difficult deal on healthcare, it is fair to expect the labor market parties to be able to agree on difficult issues too."

A majority of Finns still support the euro. The European Commission's Eurobarometer poll last week showed 64 percent of Finns backed the single currency, though that was down from 69 percent a year earlier.

But in a sign of mounting frustration, Paavo Vayrynen, a veteran of Sipila's party and a European Parliament member, launched an initiative to demand a referendum over euro membership. With more than 49,000 signatures, the matter is likely to be debated in parliament next year. "Finland has an expensive workforce and high taxes," said Janne Rantanen, CEO of Merta Logistic Oy, a Finnish food start-up looking to start gourmet fish exports next year. "To export, it would be very useful to get the advantage of devaluation." —Reuters

DIVIDED AND DEFEATED, TURKEY OPPOSITION FACES DECADE IN WILDERNESS

By Jonny Hogg

n the space of just five months the Turkish opposition's dreams of coalition government have vanished, swept away by a resounding election defeat that could consign them to another decade in the wilderness. When the ruling AK Party lost its majority in June's parliamentary elections, opponents of President Tayyip Erdogan scented blood. But it rebounded back into single-party rule with a surprise landslide in a Nov. 1 snap election.

Opposition parties were unable to press home their advantage after June - when they collectively won 60 percent of the vote - because they failed to form an anti-AKP coalition, with the nationalist MHP refusing to negotiate with the pro-Kurdish HDP. Instead their divisions were exploited by Erdogan. He presented the snap polls as a chance to restore stability to the country at a time of tension over Kurdish insurrection and after two bombings attributed to Islamic State, and as the economy faltered. "The opposition had a chance and they blew it," said Aykan Erdemir, a former MP for the leading opposition People's Republican Party (CHP) and non-resident fellow at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

'Mr No'

Now, with a resurgent Erdogan seeking constitutional change to consolidate power in the hands of the presidency, the opposition could remain divided and sidelined for many years to come, according to political experts. "They didn't just lose the election, they may have lost the system that allows them to win elections," said Erdemir. The Islamist-rooted AKP took 50 percent of the vote and around 317 seats in the election, tantalizingly close to the 330 needed to force a referendum on giving Erdogan the executive presidency he seeks.

On paper, the biggest losers were the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), both of which saw their share of the vote drop. However, it was the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) that suffered the most. Although it increased its seats, the CHP lost the chance at a grand coalition with the AKP, which has faced little credible competition for Turkey's large right-wing vote since its rise to power in 2002.

Although Erdogan appeared from the start to oppose a coalition, in the run-up to polls ruling party officials signaled they were open to the idea if there was another inconclusive result. The AKP's resurgence left opposition hopes in tatters, with one CHP insider describing the outcome as "simply a disaster". Anti-AKP coalition hopes foundered on the MHP's refusal to countenance any negotiations with the pro-Kurdish HDP; MHP leader Devlet Bahceli's refusal to do business saw his party's vote plummet, and led to some analysts dubbing him 'Mr No'.

In the end, Erdogan was able to pick the opposition off. CHP, which has struggled to extend its reach beyond its traditional base of secular voters who make up around 30 percent of the electorate, ran its election campaign on economic issues, promising wage rises for low-paid workers. In the run-up to November's poll, however, AKP abandoned talk of Erdogan's presidential system, instead returning to one of its core strength of economic management and largely outbidding CHP in terms of election promises.

Following the collapse of a government ceasefire with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in July and the surge in violence that followed left hundreds dead, AKP characterized HDP as terrorist stooges - and in the process won back nationalist votes and conservative Kurds who oppose the left-wing PKK. "Erdogan cleverly opted for a security focused campaign, appealing to conservative voters' desire for security," said Fadi Hakura, a Turkey expert at

London-based think-tank Chatham House. "MHP's Bahceli - or 'Mr No' - simply showed his was a party of protest."

'Inept as a collective'

Following the election, it looked briefly as if Bahceli whose party shed more than 4 percent of its votes - would step down. Not now. A senior MHP official said a postmortem on the party's performance was underway. "If that analysis shows we made mistakes, then we will take the necessary measures, but don't expect a change in the party's leadership," he said. CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu has seen support for his party stagnate at 25 percent since he became leader in 2010. One senior party official has already said he will stand against him at the CHP congress due in February, with others privately saying they will follow.

"CHP's direction should be towards the future, its method should gain the hearts of people, and a new management should be introduced," CHP parliamentarian Mustafa Balbay said. Nonetheless, Kilicdaroglu and Bahceli will likely survive, for now at least, said Chatham House's Hakura. "There's no culture of accountability in Turkish politics," he added. The HDP, meanwhile, will continue to be a major force in the mainly Kurdish southeast, although it has the task of differentiating itself from the PKK in voters' minds. In an interview with Reuters, its leader accused Erdogan of fostering a climate of fear to win the election, and of trying to create a "constitutional dictatorship".

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All will not be plain sailing for the AKP - economic woes, the war in Syria, the problem of sheltering 2.3 million refugees and a crippled Kurdish peace process make it a difficult time to govern Turkey. But the opposition's weakness means it will struggle to exploit any mis-steps by the government, according to Soli Ozel, a politics professor at Istanbul University. "They were so inept as a collective after June 7," he said. "This opposition will not be able to pull itself together for a long time."—Reuters

DIACK RESIGNS AS HONORARY IOC MEMBER

BERLIN: Former world athletics (IAAF) president Lamine Diack has resigned as honorary member of the International Olympic Committee following the launch of a formal investigation against the Senegalese for suspected corruption and money-laundering, the IOC said on Wednesday. Diack, who was provisionally suspended by the IOC on Tuesday and has also resigned as president of the International Athletics Foundation, is alleged to have received more than one million euros (\$1.07 million) in bribes in 2011 to cover up positive doping tests of Russian athletes. The 82-year-old, an IOC member from 1999 to 2013 before

> becoming an honorary member a year later, was placed under formal investigation in France this week and questioned by authorities before being released on a bail bond of 500,000 euros and banned from leaving the country.

> His resignation from the Olympic body comes two days after the publication of a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) independent commission report on allegations of widespread corruption and collusion by Russian officials, including state security services, to cover up results of drug tests, destroy samples and intimidate laboratory staff.—Reuters

RENARD SACKED AS COACH OF LILLE

LILLE: Africa Cup of Nations-winning coach Herve Renard has been sacked as manager of French Ligue 1 club Lille, less than six months after being appointed.

"LOSC announce the decision to amicably end its collaboration with Herve Renard. Herve Renard is therefore no longer the coach of LOSC," read a statement on the club's website on Wednesday. The 47-year-old Frenchman, who led the Ivory Coast to Cup of Nations glory in February, was only appointed in May following the departure of Rene Girard but leaves with 2011 double winners Lille in 16th place in Lique 1 after 13 games.

They have won just twice, and scored a paltry seven goals, in the league this season and sit only one point clear of the relegation zone. His last game at the helm was a 1-1 draw with Bastia last weekend. Renard rose to prominence as coach of the Zambia team that won the 2012 Cup of Nations in Gabon and repeated the feat with the Ivory Coast in Equatorial Guinea after failing to save Sochaux from relegation in 2014 in a first stint in Ligue 1. His assistant Patrick Collot will take charge of the team while Lille search for a permanent replacement. — AFP

HAMILTON UNWELL BUT WILL RACE IN BRAZIL

LONDON: Triple Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton is unwell and has delayed his flight to Brazil on medical advice but will compete in this weekend's penultimate race of the season, Mercedes said yesterday. A team spokesman said the 30-year-old Briton had a fever but would be flying to Sao Paulo later yesterday, a day later than planned.

Hamilton had earlier pulled out of a sponsor event in Sao Paulo, triggering speculation locally that he could miss the race. The Briton clinched his third title in Texas last month, with three races to spare, and Mercedes have also retained their constructors' crown.

'No, he's not going to miss the race," the spokesman said. "He's going to be a day late... the doctor advised him to cancel the earlier flight so he missed a press conference today." Hamilton has never won the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos, the home race of his late boyhood idol and fellow triple champion Ayrton Senna. The Briton's German team mate Nico Rosberg won the race last season. — Reuters

SENIOR SPORTS OFFICIAL QUASHES IOC'S ALLEGATIONS

Public Authority for Sports

(PAS) Deputy Director

General Humoud Fulaiteh.

KUWAIT: Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Deputy Director General Humoud Fulaiteh rejected charges by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) deputy director general, Pere Miro, against Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah.

Statements by Miro, also Director of IOC's National Olympic Committees (NOC) relations, are "far from being true and discard documented facts," Fulaiteh said in a press statement on Tuesday. He said that the IOC work is supposed to enjoy transparency, credibility and neutrality, wondering how it has allowed one of its officials to put it in a biased position, far from credibility.

Fulaiteh was quashing Miro's recent statements to Inside The Game magazine in which he defended sport officials from Kuwait. Miro refused charges against the officials, that they had filed a complaint at the IOC against the Olympic Kuwait Committee (KOC) which led to suspension of

Kuwaiti Olympic activities. Slanderously, Miro claims that Sheikh Salman briefed the IOC on the details of the new sports

law in a message, Fulaiteh said. He said that Miro is "either ignorant of facts or was under pressure to utter such statements."

Olympic Charter

The message alleged by Miro for his argument, was sent by Sheikh Salman to the IOC President Thomas Bach bearing the date of 8 October 2015 explaining that the provisions of the decree law No 117/2014 and Law 25/2015 did not contravene with the Olympic Charter, PAS Deputy Director General said.

Sheikh Salman's message came in response to three letters form the IOC. The first of these bears the date of 22 June 2015, and was signed by IOC's Patrick Hickey. In his message, Hickey referred to a letter from the KOC to IOC, bearing the date of 9 May 2015. It acquainted the IOC with the resolutions made by the KOC General Assembly held on 23 March 2015, comprising translated documents of the amendments to sports legislations in Kuwait, sent to the IOC on 5th and 7th June 2015. Hickey noted that the amendments would interfere with independence of sports institutions in Kuwait. The IOC demanded the KOC to inform it of any developments before 30 July 2015.

As for the second message, Fulaiteh said it was sent from the IOC to the KOC, bearing the date of 5 August 2015 and signed by Hickey. Hickey requested that the KOC notify the IOC of the outcome of discussions with the Kuwaiti government before 15 October 2015.

The IOC's third letter to the KOC, bearing the date of 28 September, said that the amendments recently introduced to the sports legislations would affect the independence of sports institutions in Kuwait and would interfere with administration.

That last letter, Fulaiteh noted, pointed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the World Anti-Doping Agency, calling for reaching an understanding before 15 October 2015, otherwise Kuwait's participation in international activities would be affected. Fulaiteh considered it strange that Miro said all news are published through the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) "which means he follows up news agen-

cies and gets his information from them. "Does it mean that the IOC resolutions mainly rely on news agencies and not on notifications by the national Olympic committees?" Fulaiteh wondered.

Further evidence

It seems that Miro did not read the IOC's letter to Sheikh Salman bearing the date of 22 October 2015, with the signature of Patrick Hickey, he said. In this last letter, Hickey explained that the IOC is

getting involved in that issue of sports laws due to a dispute between the KOC and the Kuwaiti government, Fulaiteh said. He considered this further evidence that the complaint was filed by the KOC.

Fulaiteh referred to Miro's allegation in the interview that Kuwait had failed to meet an IOC deadline of 27 October 2015 for changes to be made to the law which supposedly interferes with the independence of sporting institutions. The reply was that the law implies no interference in the affairs of the sports institutions, neither does it contravene with "any article" of the Olympic Charter, PAS Deputy Director General stressed. It also noted that the Kuwaiti sports institutions enjoy "full inde-

Furthermore, Fulaiteh called the IOC official to point out the points where the Kuwaiti sports legislations contravene with Olympic Charter, instead of accusing Kuwait of failing to meet IOC requirements. Miro also claims that Kuwait is asking representatives from other governments to put pressure on the IOC and other sports bodies to revoke the suspension, which, if true, is a violation of the Olympic Charter's principles of autonomy and independence. This is a sovereign right for Kuwait and Miro has no right to interfere, Fulaiteh stressed. The IOC official also alleged that all other international federations are expected to follow suit of IOC soon. This is striking evidence that Miro works in line with "certain agendas and orientations," Fulaiteh said. — KUNA



SHANGHAI: Martin Kaymer of Germany tees off during the pro am event ahead of the BMW Shanghai Masters golf tournament at the Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

KAYMER: LACK OF PRACTICE LED TO WINLESS 2015 SEASON

SHANGHAI: Double major champion Martin the end of the day, we all play for wins," Kaymer momentum going into the off-season. "I have Kaymer admitted yesterday that his winless told a news conference at Lake Malaren, venue another two tournaments left this year that 2015 season was down to lack of practice. for this week's penultimate tournament in the count for the Race to Dubai, and then two that Kaymer won the US Open and the Players Championship in a stellar 2014 as well as helping Europe to win the Ryder Cup for a third time in succession. But he tees off in the BMW Masters in Shanghai on Thursday still searching for his first victory this campaign with a third in Abu Dhabi way back in January and a play-off loss to Rikard Karlberg in Italy in September the closest he has come.

When asked why he had endured the barren run, his answer was simple and honest. "I practised less," said the German world number 26. "The season so far, I wouldn't rate great because I haven't won a tournament.

"I've had a few top-10s here and there but in

European Tour season. He also hinted that he possibly celebrated the wins too hard, but was focused on putting things right ahead of a potentially huge 2016 which will feature golf's return to the Olympic Games and the Ryder Cup. "Everything is leading up to those sort of big games next year," said Kaymer.

"Last year was a very special year and for me it's very important that if you have big wins that you enjoy the wins, so they have a meaning to you. "Some say it's right, some say it's wrong. For me, it's the best way to enjoy the wins and to motivate myself for new goals." He has few opportunities left this year to get back in the winning habit, and it's clear he would like some I'm going to play after that (the Nedbank Championship in South Africa and the Thailand Golf Championship), so hopefully I can pick up another win.

"Usually I don't have a season without a win and I don't want that this year." Kaymer is currently 20th in the Race to Dubai and could force his way into the top 15 who qualify for a share of the \$7.5 million bonus pool if he can win the BMW Masters this week.

"Well, the bonus is nice, but it's just a financial thing," said Kaymer. "You know, in the end of the day, my goal is to really finish as high as possible. Somewhere in the top 10 (in the Race to Dubai), that would be good." — AFP

MCILROY IN FIRING LINE AS ROSE HEADS SHANGHAI BIG GUNS

SHANGHAI: Rory McIlroy has skipped the BMW Masters starting today but will still be keeping one eye firmly on the scores from Shanghai knowing that his status as Europe's

number one is hanging by a thread. World number six Justin Rose is one of five players who could topple McIlroy from the top spot in the Race to Dubai standings at Lake Malaren, the final stop before the season-ending DP World Tour Championship next week. Second-placed Danny Willett, after his fourth-round 62 and third place in the \$8.5 million WGC-HSBC Champions across the city last weekend, is just 74,213 points adrift and needs only to finish 28th or higher to overtake McIlroy at the top of the Race to Dubai standings. Shane Lowry, Louis Oosthuizen, Rose and Branden Grace also have the chance to knock four-time major champion McIlroy off his perch, with the first three players each needing to finish second or better to move into the number one spot, while only victory would be good enough for sixth-placed Grace. Mcllroy won the Race to Dubai last year and in 2012 but may find by Sunday night he needs nothing less than a win in Dubai to win his third Harry Vardon

The world number three is determined to give himself every chance by arriving early in the Middle East after skipping the second Shanghai event this week.

"I'll get to Dubai next weekend, so I'll be there a few days early," McIlroy told AFP after his final round 66 at Sheshan International Golf Club on Sunday left him in a tie for 11th place in the World Golf Championships event. "I'm just with the mindset that I need to go to Dubai and win and whatever happens from there hope it will be enough, that's all I can do," said McIlroy.

Double happiness

Rose is gunning for double glory on Chinese soil following his win last month in the Hong Kong Open. He knows victory this week on a course which he plays well-he missed out on a three-man playoff by one stroke here a year ago-and the 1,333,330 points that go with it will put his destiny into his own hands. "I'm about 800,000 points behind Rory and Danny, so I'm going to have to win one of these last two tournaments," Rose said before playing in Tuesday's pro-

"I think if I win one of them and play solid in the other then I'm hard to beat. "If I go win-win then I'm unbeatable, so it's in my hands, which is the good thing." Further down the rankings there is an equally intense scrap going on to get into the top 60 and qualify for the riches on offer in Dubai \$8 million in prize money and a bonus pool of \$7.5 million to be split among the

top 15 in the final Race to Dubai standings. Trevor Fisher Jnr, in his first full campaign on the European Tour, is 65th at the moment and needs to finish at least 45th or better in the 78-man field to secure his spot in the season finale.—AFP

ASIAN PLAYERS UNCONVINCED OVER EUROPEAN TOUR MERGER

SHANGHAI: Asian Tour members are yet to give the green light to the proposed merger with the European Tour and will hold further meetings, senior players told AFP yesterday.

Asian Tour CEO Mike Kerr told AFP last week that the players' fears had been addressed and concerns largely allayed. "We are going to partner together. We are merging the membership.

We are merging the businesses," Kerr said. But two of Asia's leading players, though broadly in favour, said it wasn't a done deal yet and players needed more details before they could vote. Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee said the players had held a meeting at the Macau Open last month after the proposed creation of a mega-tour straddling Europe and Asia.

"The main thing for me is that Asian players have a chance to improve in the future," the Thai world number 32 told AFP during practice for Thursday's BMW Masters at Lake Malaren in Shanghai.

"For me it's fine. Yes there was a meeting at the Macau Open of the players where we had a lot of talking. A lot people are thinking different things that's why we have to take more time and get more information. "The players haven't voted on it yet."

50-50 split

World number 40 Kiradech Aphibarnrat said the players had been split at the Macau meeting, but were now slowly coming round to accepting the deal. "In Macau the players didn't know the information about (the merger) so I can say 50 percent of the Asian players on the tour were a little bit against," Kiradech said, while confirming that Kerr did address some of the issues. "Finally when we were told what (the Asian Tour) were going to do we believed it."

However Thongchai said that players would still need more convincing. "We are waiting still for our concerns to be addressed," said the 45year-old, one of the elder statesmen of the Asian and European Tours. "We are still waiting for the next meeting to confirm or not. There will be one more meeting, maybe in Thailand (next month) before we make our decision." Kiradech said so long as opportunities existed for young Asian players, he would be in favour.

"I've been thinking over and over to the kid that's starting out, like where I was when I started," said the burly world number 40. "I started from the Asian Tour, from small events I played full field, then I won co-sanctioned events and

got to where I am. "If (the merger) happens and all the kids can continue to play on the tour then I think it's the right way to make young stars." Some players have been reported as being unhappy with the way that Kerr has negotiated with the European Tour. Kiradech is not one of them. "Some players are not happy with Mike Kerr. Some players are happy with Mike Kerr," said Kiradech. "For me he is the business man. He gets things done. He is a good guy." — AFP



INCHEON: Picture taken on October 15, 2015 shows Park In-Bee of South Korea teeing off at the third hole during the first round of the LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship golf event at the Sky72 Golf Club in Incheon, west of Seoul. Other golfers beware. With an ultra-competitive domestic tour and a seemingly limitless supply of young, talented players willing to sacrifice everything for success, South Korea's dominance of world women's golf is not going away and if anything, it could get even stronger. — AFP





13TH ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP CONCLUDES WITH EYES ON RIO 2016

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Fierce competition marked the final stages of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship until the very last day, yesterday which ended with South Korea's Dae Kyu Jang winning the gold medal of the 25m center fire pistol men, individual event, followed by Thailand's Pongpol Kulchairattana in second place and India's Vijay Kumar third.

While in the team's competition Korea was first followed by India and Vietnam. The rest of the results of competitions of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship are as follows:

25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men - Team

- 1. China
- 2. Korea 3. India
- 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men
- 1. Yuehong Li China 2. Fusheng Zhang - China
- 3. Jun Hong Korea
- 25m Rapid Fire Pistoal Men Junior Team 1. Korea
- 2. India3. Thailand

50m Rifle 3 Positions Men Junior - Team

- 1. China 2. India 3. Korea
- **25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Junior** 1. Jungwoo Park - Korea
- 2. Ji Won Jang DPRK3. Jinwon Youn Korea
- 50m Rifle 3 Positions Men Junior
- Swapnil Kusale India
 Ce Wang China
- 3. Mohammad Karimi Iran
 In his closing ceremony speech President of Arab

and Kuwait Shooting Federation Eng. Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi said, I am pleased at the end of the thirteen Asian Championship to extend our thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prince Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak



port of Kuwaiti shooters, which contributed to the development of the sport of shooting in Kuwait in all

We are proud that the State of Kuwait hosted the 13th Asian Shooting Championship and keep contacts with brothers and friends and strengthen links and cooperation with Kuwait Shooting Federation, and give the opportunity for shooters to compete fairly, which keeps development of the technical level of the Asian Shooting Sport.

He added, "I thank all Asian countries who participated in the 13th Asian Shooting Championship that was held between 1-12/11/2015 despite the unfair and illegal decisions by the International Olympic Committee and the International Shooting Sport Federation. Those brotherly and friendly countries are:

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, S. Korea, Thailand, UAE, Uzbekistan, DPR Korea, China, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Taipei, Vietnam in addition to

Al-Otaibi also thanked the Asian Shooting Federation General Assembly for its decisions and support of Kuwait Shooting Federation Stand in this championship to get its right and the right of Asia and its shooters in distributing the quota places qualifying to Rio de Janeiro 2016, and we confirm that we will continue in taking the IOC and ISSF to court to get those quota places and get compensations for the damages and losses Kuwait Shooting Federation incurred. Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, the Former President of the Asian Shooting Federation for his courageous and responsible stand by handing over the presidency of the ASC stop Sheikh Ali bin Abdallah al Khalifa in order to maintain the strength of Asia as well as Asian Shooting and the right of Asian Shooters in getting their quota places, and they have the right to take the IOC and ISSF for that purpose.

Al-Otaibi congratulated His Excellency Sheikh Ali Bin Abdallah Al Khalifa for becoming president of ASC and wish him all success in his new mission and confirm the continued support of KSF to him and to ASC. Special thanks to the Public Authority for Sports and its Chairman and Director General His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his deputies for their support of Kuwait Shooting Federation and providing all facilities they presented to ensure the success of 13th Asian Shooting Championship. Thanks to ministries and authorities that supported this championship as well as the media. Thanks to the organizing committee which executed all work given to it.



Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Lebanon Taipei	1 1	1 1	1 0
South Korea	19	16	16	Tajikistan	1	0	
China	16	14	11	Mongolia	0	5	2
India	15	14	13	Qatar	0	1	3
Iran	5	4	6	Malaysia	0	1	1
Kuwait	4	3	3	UAE	0	1	1
Thailand	3	3	6	Philippines	0	1	0
	ikhstan 3 0	2	DPR Korea	0	1	0	
Nazakristari		0	3	Vietnam	0	0	3

















JOHNSON SPELLS TROUBLE FOR KIWIS ON LIVELY WACA

PERTH: Mitchell Johnson's fearsome reputation on what has been termed the fastest pitch on the planet looms as a big threat to New Zealand chasing a series-levelling win in Friday's second Test in Perth. Johnson ranks second only to Glenn McGrath (52) for most wickets taken at the pacey WACA ground and along with fellow left-arm guick Mitchell Starc represents a hostile new-ball attack for the Australians.

YOUNIS KHAN RETIRES

ABU DHABI: Pakistan batsman Younis Khan has announced his retirement from one-day cricket, saying the first daynight international against England in Abu Dhabi yesterday will be his last

The 37-year-old had wanted to leave the format on a high after he was selected in the 16-man squad for the fourmatch series against England despite patchy recent form. Yesterday's game was Younis's 265th one-day international, nearly 16 years after making his debut against Sri Lanka in Karachi in February

Going into his last match, Younis has scored 7,240 runs with seven hundreds and 48 half-centuries in one dayers. "He will retire from one-day cricket after Wednesday's game and he has conveyed this to us," team manager Intikhab Alam

Younis had retired from Twenty20 cricket after leading Pakistan to the World Twenty20 title in England in 2009. He was subsequently out of the one-day squad for most of 2013 before being selected for the tour of Sri Lanka in June last year. He managed to score just three in the only match before he had to return home following the death of his nephew.— AFP

Steve Smith's team are coming off a resounding 208-run first Test win at Brisbane's Gabba, which also ranks among world cricket's fastest pitches.

WACA groundskeeper Matt Page is promising a pitch conducive for the speedsters and given New Zealand's indifferent bowling performance in Brisbane, where they leaked 820 runs for just eight wickets, it spells trouble for the Kiwis. "There will be some pace and bounce for the quick guys, absolutely. We'll see a result," Page told reporters this week. Johnson has taken 42 wickets at an average of 20.19 in his six Test matches at the WACA, with his finest moment coming in 2008 when he snared a career-best eight for 61 against South Africa.

Smith, who is fast putting his stamp on the Australian team he inherited this year from Michael Clarke, is demanding more from his quick despite the Brisbane mauling, which was spearheaded by twin centuries from man of the match David Warner.

"I thought our new ball bowling needs a bit of improvement. I thought we bowled a little bit too short," Smith said.

"I think that is going to be important for us leading into Perth, which are probably going to be similar conditions." The WACA pitch still has to be assessed but both sides may be tempted to go with four pacemen, although off-spinner Nathan Lyon is a key member of the Australian attack. The Kiwis will have to make a decision on the availability of pace spearhead Tim Southee, who bowled only in the first innings in Brisbane because of back problems.

"I thought Tim started to come right pretty quickly which is a good sign," Kiwi skipper Brendon McCullum said. "We'll give him every chance. He's one of our leaders, an outstanding bowler and he showed in the first innings he will pose a lot of questions for them.

Neil Wagner, who was called up as cover for Southee, is confident the tourists can do some intimidating of their own.—AFP



DHAKA: Bangladesh cricketers pose for a photograph following the presentation ceremony after the third one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

FIVE-STAR MUSTAFIZUR THRASH ZIMBABWEANS

DHAKA: Paceman Mustafizur Rahman grabbed 5-34 as Bangladesh thrashed Zimbabwe by 61 runs in the third and final one-day international to complete a whitewash in Dhaka yesterday. Mustafizur jolted Zimbabwe with two early strikes and then returned in his final spell to polish off the tail to grab his third five-wicket haul in just nine ODIs.

His heroics left the visitors all out for 215 in 43.3 overs, in reply to Bangladesh's decent 276-9. Bangladesh had won the first two matches by 145 runs and 58 runs to seal their fifth successive ODI series win.

Imrul Kayes and Tamim Igbal both scored 73 to set up Bangladesh's score after skipper Mashrafe Mortaza opted to bat first at the Shere-Bangla National Stadium.

Sean Williams scored 64 runs and Elton Chigumbura added 45 to give Zimbabwe some hope but Bangladesh did not look back after occasional spinner Sabbir Rahman broke their 80-run fourth wicket stand.

Mortaza then removed Williams, who faced 84 balls, before 20-year old Mustafizur took out Sikandar Raza and Luke Jongwe off successive balls. Mortaza heaped praise on Mustafizur, who made his ODI debut against India earlier this

"He has many variations. For instance, he has two kinds of cutters," Mortaza said about Mustafizur after the match. "If a batsman plays two balls he may think that he (Mustafizur) bowl this way but then he opts other way. So the batsman gets confused." Tamim and Kayes earlier put on 147 runs in their opening partnership to lay the foundation for Bangladesh's total.

Zimbabwe hit back after removing the duo in quick succession but Mahmudullah smashed a rapid-fire 52 off 40 balls to help the hosts recover for a decent total. Kayes, who scored 76 in the previous match, led the charge knocking six fours and four sixes off 95 balls before he was stumped by Chakabva off Raza. Tamim soon followed, dismissed in the same fashion as

Chakabva completed his second stumping, this time off Graeme Cremer. Left-hander Tamim faced 98 balls, his innings featuring seven fours and a six. Mahmudullah, who hit five fours and a six, got a reprieve when he was on 32 as he walked assuming he was run out. But a TV replay confirmed Zimbabwe wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva had dislodged the bails before receiving the ball, prompting the umpires to call Mahmudullah back.

The right-hander was finally run out in the last over. Malcolm Waller removed Mushfiqur Rahim for 28 to become Chakabva's third stump-

Cremer then dismissed Liton Das for 17 and took two catches at point off Luke Jongwe in the same over to send Sabbir Rahman (one) and Nasir Hossain (nought). Zimbabwe captain Chigumbura lamented his team's poor batting throughout the series.

"It is obviously disappointing, especially the way we have batted in the last three games," he said. "We started to get better but obviously it is too late when you consider that it is a threematch series," he said. Cremer claimed 2-53 while Jongwe finished with 2-50. The two teams will play two Twenty20 internationals on November 13 and 15 at the same venue. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

DHAKA: Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka vesterday.

rational station in Briana yesteraay.	
Bangladesh	
Tamim Iqbal st Chakabva b Cremer	73
Imrul Kayes st Chakabva b Raza	73
Mushfiqur Rahim st Chakabva b Waller	28
Liton Das c Sub b Cremer	17
Mahmudullah run out	52
Sabbir Rahman c Cremer b Jongwe	1
Nasir Hossain c Cremer b Jongwe	0
Mashrafe Mortaza b Panyangara	16
Arafat Sunny not out	3
Mustafizur Rahman run out	1
Extras (lb2, w8, nb2)	12
Total (nine wickets; 50 overs)	276
Did not bat: Al-Amin Hossain	
Eall of wickets, 1 147 (Kayes) 2 172 (Tamim) 2 10

Fall of wickets: 1-147 (Kayes), 2-173 (Tamim), 3-190 (Rahim), 4-222 (Liton), 5-226 (Sabbir), 6-226 (Nasir), 7-263 (Mortaza), 8-275 (Mahmudullah), 9-276 (Mustafizur) Bowling: Panyangara 10-1-49-1 (nb2), Muzarabani 4-1-21-0, Jongwe 9-0-50-2 (w3), Chigumbura 6-0-29-0, Raza 8-1-48-1(w4), Cremer 10-0-53-2 (w1), Waller 3-0-24-1.

C. Chibhabha b Mustafizur

R. Chakabva c Nasir b Mustafizur C. Ervine Ibw b Nasir S. Williams c Sabbir b Mortaza E. Chigumbura b Sabbir M. Waller c Nasir b Al Amin S. Raza c Sabbir b Mustafizur L. Jongwe c Sabbir b Mustafizur G. Cremer not out T. Panyangara c & b Mustafizur T. Muzarabani c & b Sunny Extras (lb2, w2) Total (all out; 43.3 overs) 215

Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Chibhabha), 2-43 (Chakabva), 3-47 (Ervine), 4-127 (Chigumbura), 5-186 (Waller), 6-188 (Williams), 7-207 (Raza), 8-207 (Jongwe), 9-214 (Panyangara), 10-215 (Muzarabani)

Bowling: Mustafizur 8-0-34-5(w1), Mortaza 9-0-40-1(w1), Nasir 7-0-36-1, Al-Amin 8-0-44-1, Sunny 9.3-0-47-1, Sabbir 2-0-12-1.

Result: Bangladesh win by 61 runs

Series result: Bangladesh win the series by 3-0

SCOREBOARD

ABU DHABI: Scoreboard at close of play in the first One Day International between Pakistan and England yesterday in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

England Innings

J. Roy b Irfan	0
A. Hales c Y. Khan b An. Ali	10
J. Root Ibw b An. Ali	0
E. Morgan c S. Ahmed b Malik	76
J. Taylor c Az. Ali b Malik	60
J. Buttler run out (Az. Ali, S. Ahmed)	1
M. Ali c B. Azam b Shah	7
C. Woakes run out (S. Ahmed)	33
A. Rashid c sub b Irfan	7
D. Willey b Irfan	13
R. Topley not out	0
Extras (lb-5 w-4)	9
Total (all out, 49.4 overs)	216
T-II -f; -lt 1 0 D 2 7 Dt 2 14 4 II-	1 4 1

Fall of wickets: 1-0 J. Roy, 2-7 J. Root, 3-14 A. Hales, 4-147 E. Morgan, 5-148 J. Buttler, 6-157 J. Taylor, 7-161 M. Ali, 8-180 A. Rashid, 9-213 D. Willey, 10-216 C. Woakes

Bowling: M. Irfan 10-2-35-3(w-3); An. Ali 6-0-32-2; S. Malik 10-0-45-2; Y. Shah 10-0-38-1; W. Riaz 9.4-1-29-0(w-1); B. Asif 4-0-32-0.

102

26

COLOMBO: Full scoreboard of the second Twenty20 international between Sri Lanka and the West Indies in Colombo yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan cricketer Tillakaratne Dilshan (R) plays a shot as West Indies wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin looks on during the second and final T20 International

cricket match between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the R. Premadasa Stadium in

W Indies beat S Lanka

TO TIE T20 SERIES

West Indies:	
A. Fletcher Ibw b Siriwardana	23
J. Charles Ibw b Siriwardana	34
M. Samuels run out	1
D. Bravo c Mathews b Malinga	31
A. Russell c Chandimal b Chameera	9
D. Ramdin not out	34
K. Pollard b Malinga	5
D. Sammy not out	12
Extras: (lb6, w7)	13
Total: (6 wickets; 20 overs)	162
Fall of wickets: 1-62 (Fletcher), 2-65 (Sam	uels),
75 (Charles), 4-97 (Russell), 5-138 (Bravo), 6-14
(Pollard)	

Colombo vesterday. — AFP

yesterday.

and Test series.

amassed a decent total.

COLOMBO: Dwayne Bravo grabbed four

wickets as the West Indies defeated Sri

Lanka by 23 runs to draw their two-match

Twenty20 international series in Colombo

The visitors' victory at the R. Premadasa

Stadium ensured the West Indies finished

their tour of Sri Lanka on a positive note

after losing both the one-day international

bat, scoring 162-6. Johnson Charles and

Denesh Ramdin top-scored with 34 runs

each while Bravo notched 31 as the tourists

and captain Lasith Malinga were the star

bowlers for Sri Lanka, taking two wickets

each for only 17 and 16 runs respectively.

But the West Indies' bowling display was

West Indies won the toss and opted to

Left-arm spinner Milinda Siriwardana

Bowling: Malinga 4-0-16-2 (w1), Kulasekara 4-0-22-0 (w1), Senanayake 3-0-38-0, Chameera 3-0-36-1 (w2), Siriwardana 3-0-17-2 (w2), Jayasuriya 3-0-

Sri Lanka: K. Perera c Bravo b Taylor

T. Dilshan c Holder (sub) b Rampaul	52
S. Jayasuriya c Russell b Bravo	30
D. Chandimal c Carter (sub) b Rampaul	1
A. Mathews c Carter (sub) b Bravo	5
M. Siriwardana st Ramdin b Narine	15
C. Kapugedera c Charles b Pollard	2
S. Senanayake c Pollard b Bravo	3
N. Kulasekara c Narine b Bravo	4
S. Malinga b Rampaul	2
D. Chameera not out	3
Extras: (b1, lb4, w3, nb2)	10
Total: (10 wickets; 20 overs)	139
Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Perera), 2-93 (Jaya	suriya), 3-
94 (Chandimal), 4-102 (Dilshan), 5-117 (Mathews),
6-126 (Kapugedera), 7-129 (Siriwarda	na), 8-133
(Senanayake), 9-135 (Kulasekara)	, 10-139

Bowling: Narine 4-0-24-1 (w1), Rampaul 4-0-20-3,

Taylor 2-0-22-1 (w1), Pollard 4-0-23-1 (w1), Sammy

2-0-17-0, Bravo 4-0-28-4 (nb1)

West Indies won by 23 runs

even more impressive with right-arm medi-

um pacer Bravo putting in a man of the

match performance that saw him take 4-28.

changes to the West Indies side following

their defeat to Sri Lanka in the first T20 on

Monday, also impressed with three wickets.

Sri Lanka's Tillakaratne Dilshan notched his

second half century of the week, recording

52, but a collapse of the host's middle and

lower batting order meant the West Indies

avoided a tour whitewash. "We were des-

perate to get this win," said West Indies'

day international series 3-0 and also won

the preceding Test series without loss, tak-

ing it 2-0. They then won the first T20 in

Pallekele by 30 runs before yesterday's

defeat resulted in 1-1 draw. — AFP

Sri Lanka swept the three-match one-

captain Darren Sammy.

Ravi Rampaul, who was one of two

Pakistan Innings Az. Ali Ibw b Topley B. Asif Ibw b Topley M. Hafeez not out Y. Khan c Rashid b Topley S. Malik c Roy b Ali B. Azam not out Extras (b-2 lb-2 w-4) Total (for 4 wickets, 43.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-12 Az. Ali, 2-15 B. Asif, 3-41 Y. Khan, 4-111 S. Malik

Did not bat: S. Ahmed, A. Ali, W. Riaz, Y. Shah, M. Irfan Bowling: D. Willey 7-0-43-0; R. Topley 9-1-26-3(w-3); C. Woakes 8.4-0-40-0; A. Rashid 9-0-60-0; M. Ali 7-0-32-1(w-1); J. Root 3-0-

Result: Pakistan won by 6 wickets

HAFEEZ LEADS PAKISTAN TO EASY WIN OVER ENGLAND

ABU DHABI: Mohammad Hafeez made a fluent unbeaten 102 to lead Pakistan to a comfortable six-wicket victory over England in the first one-day international in Abu Dhabi yesterday. England spluttered to 216 all out after winning the toss and the hosts, who won the recent test series 2-0, overcame the loss of two early wickets to coast to their target with more than six overs to spare.

Hafeez struck a six and 10 fours in his 11th one-day international century, sharing an unbeaten fifth-wicket partnership of 106 with Babar Azam to guide his side to victory.

Azam finished on 62 not out off 62 balls, reaching his fifty with a huge six off Chris Woakes shortly before the end of the match. England lost Jason Roy, Joe Root and Alex Hales with just 14 runs on the board before a fine partnership of 133 between captain Eoin Morgan and James Taylor dragged them back into the game.

Morgan hit 11 fours in his 76 and Taylor made 60 but the dismissal of the skipper prompted another collapse as Jos Buttler, Taylor, Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid followed him back to the pavilion for the addition of 33 runs. Woakes hit 33 before being run out to end England's innings with two balls of their 50 overs remaining. The second game in the four-match series is in Abu Dhabi tomorrow. — Reuters



ABU DHABI: Pakistan's Muhammad Hafeez celebrates after scoring a century (100 runs) during the first One Day International (ODI) cricket match between Pakistan and England at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in the Gulf Emirate of Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP



GIANTS PITCHERS SUSPENDED IN JAPAN BETTING SCANDAL

TOKYO: Japan's pro baseball organisation yesterday said it had suspended three pitchers indefinitely and fined its biggest team, the Yomiuri Giants, \$800,000 over a betting scandal which has shocked the sport.

Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) suspended Giants pitchers Satoshi Fukuda, Shoki Kasahara and Ryuya Matsumoto for betting on games, which is illegal. They are reportedly the first such sanctions in 56 years.

"They can't play in the professional league for an indefinite period of time but it's possible that they can be reinstated later if there is a call for leniency," an NPB spokesman told AFP.

The NPB imposed 10 million yen (\$800,000) in fines on the Giants-Japan's most valuable team and the equivalent of the New York Yankees in terms of popularity-for failing to properly supervise the players.

The ultimate impact on the Giants remains to be seen, but the scandal was seen as damaging to the sport which is one of five proposed for inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

At a press conference Tuesday, NPB commissioner Katsuhiko Kumazaki said it had "degraded professional baseball and destroyed the trust of many fans".

Hiroshi Kubo, president of the Giants, apologised at a separate press conference late Tuesday, saying: "We regard this as an extremely grave situation, and express our sincere apology to

An in-house NPB report submitted on Tuesday found that the players bet money with known gamblers in about 10 professional baseball games, but did not find any evidence of game-fixing.

One of them bet on a Yomiuri Giants game but did not play in the game, it said. The bans were front-page news in mass-circulation newspapers on Metropolitan Police Department said Wednesday in Japan, where the sport is wildly popular and the level of play world-class.

Many of Japan's top players have migrated to Major League baseball in the United States over the past two decades. Among top Japanese players currently in the US Major League are outfielder and ace batter Ichiro Suzuki of the Miami Marlins, and Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish.

'An embarrassment'

Gambling in Japan is generally illegal, including most sports betting. The bans were the first since 1969, when a game-fixing scandal linked to gambling and organised crime rocked the sport, according to local media.

It was not clear if the players will face criminal charges, but spokesman Satoru Matsunaga of the Tokyo police "have questioned the three pitchers on a voluntary basis".

"We can't disclose the contents of the interviews," he told AFP, when asked about local reports that investigators were checking if the players had violated the criminal law against gambling.

Top sports officials expressed concern over the impact. "It is an embarrassment for the world of sports," Daichi Suzuki, former Olympic swimming champion and chief of Japan's new government sports agency, said according to the Asahi newspaper.

"I will do my best through (administrative) guidance to protect the nobility of Japanese sports." Japan Olympic Committee's president Tsunekazu Takeda expressed similar sentiments. "We have to do our best in supervising each sports organisation," he told the Asahi. Tokyo 2020 Olympic officials are

keen to see baseball reinstated after losing its status in the quadrennial summer event in 2008, and has said the scandal threatened the integrity of the sport. Observers said the punishment was appropriate but a key is to prevent a repeat. "It is a serious concern that this kind of problem occurred in the Giants, the leader in the world of baseball," Munehiko Harada, professor of sports science at Waseda University, told the Yomiuri newspaper.

"The baseball league as a whole is required to think about preventive measures," he said. Shinya Miyamoto, formerly of the Yakult Swallows, a Central League rival to the Giants, and who was a member of the NPB probe team, told the Asahi: "It's undeniable that there are various temptations (in professional baseball). "It's important to promote players' awareness (that gambling is illegal)." — AFP



ST PAUL: Winnipeg Jets right wing Blake Wheeler (26) controls the puck in front of Minnesota Wild defenseman Nate Prosser (39) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in St Paul, Minn., Tuesday. The Wild won 5-3. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

St. Louis 2, New Jersey 0; NY Rangers 3, Carolina 0; Colorado 4, Philadelphia 0; Vancouver 5, Columbus 3; Detroit 1, Washington 0; Buffalo 4, Tampa Bay 1; Florida 4, Calgary 3; Nashville 7, Ottawa 5; Minnesota 5, Winnipeg 3; Toronto 3, Dallas 2; Arizona 3, Los

Angeles 2; NY Islanders 4, San Jose 2. **Western Conference Central Division** GA PTS L **Dallas** 56 42 24 St. Louis 31 23 Minnesota 43 38 20 Nashville 42 36 Winnipeg 38 17 Chicago 39 Colorado 40 42 11 **Pacific Division** Vancouver 48 39 19 Los Angeles 37 32 18 Arizona 42 43 17 San Jose 40

aheim	5	7	3	25	37	13									
gary	5	10	1	40	63	11									
monton	5	10	0	39	47	10									
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	Section														
ntreal	13	2	1	59	29	27									
troit	8	6	1	34	36	17									
awa	7	5	3	47	49	17									
npa Bay	7	8	2	39	42	16									
ston	7	6	1	47	45	15									
rida	6	6	3	41	38	15									
falo	7	8	0	36	42	14									
onto	3	8	4	32	47	10									
	Met	ropolitan	Division	1											
Rangers	11	2	2	45	25	24									
shington	10	4	0	43	32	20									
Islanders	8	5	3	44	39	19									

Columbus 12 0 38 59 Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

37

28

30

3

0

achieve success on the field when it mat-

tered and we all have to take responsibility for that but me especially as head coach."

Lancaster, 46, led England to four succes-

sive second-place finishes in the Six

Nations Championship without winning

38 17

43 12

43

NY RANGERS SHOUTOUT CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEW YORK: Two goals 11 seconds apart from Jesper Fast and Rick Nash along with 33 saves from goaltender Henrik Lundqvist helped give the New York Rangers a 3-0 victory against the Carolina Hurricanes at Madison Square Garden. The Rangers have won six straight and sit three points behind the Montreal Canadiens for the league's best record.

Rangers defenseman Ryan McDonagh scored his first goal of the season 13 seconds into third period.

Blues 2, Devils 0

Jake Allen made 24 saves to record his second consecutive shutout as the St. Louis Blues defeated the New Jersey Devils 2-0 at the Prudential Center. Allen, who made a career-high 45 saves in a 4-0 win over Nashville Saturday, registered back-to-back shutouts for the second time in his career. He also blanked the Devils last November after shutting out Anaheim.

Avalanche 4, Flyers 0

The Colorado Avalanche kicked off a vital stretch of games with a 4-0 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers at Wells Fargo Center.

The Avalanche (5-9-1), who opened a sevengame road trip, were led by a pair of goals from Matt Duchene and a shutout from backup goaltender Reto Berra. Jarome Iginla and Cody McLeod also scored for Colorado, who starting on Tuesday play 14 of their next 18 games away from home.

Red Wings 1, Capitals 0

Goaltender Petr Mrazek made 38 saves for his sixth career shutout in the Detroit Red Wings 1-0 win over the Washington Capitals at Joe Louis Arena Tuesday. Center Andreas Athanasiou scored the winner for Detroit.

Canucks 5, Blue Jackets 3

Vancouver's Jannik Hansen and Daniel Sedin led an offensive outburst with one goal and three assists each, guiding the Canucks to a come-frombehind 5-3 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets at Nationwide Arena. Henrik Sedin added two goals and an assist, and Brandon Sutter also scored, as the Canucks snapped a three-game losing streak. The Canucks came back from deficits of 1-0 and 3-2 to win, scoring the final three goals of the game in the

Sabres 4, Lightning 1

After losing to the Tampa Bay Lightning three times in the first month of the season, the Buffalo Sabres got their revenge Tuesday with a 4-1 road win sparked by rookie center Jack Eichel at Amalie Arena. Buffalo (7-8-0) picked up just their third road win of the season, while the Lightning (7-8-2) have not been below .500 this late in the year since the

2012-13 season.

Panthers 4, Flames 3

Jaromir Jagr scored the winning goal with 11:49 left in the third period, helping the Florida Panthers snap a five-game losing streak by beating the Calgary Flames 4-3 at the BB&T Center. Jagr's teamleading seventh goal of the season came off an assist from Nick Bjugstad. Jagr had an assist earlier in the game.

Wild 5, Jets 3

Thomas Vanek scored twice in the second period as the Minnesota Wild jumped out to a four-goal lead and sailed past the Winnipeg Jets 5-3.

Nino Niederreiter, Erik Haula and Chris Porter also scored for the Wild, who won their second game in a row and improved to 7-1-0 at home. Goaltender Devan Dubnyk had 25 saves for Minnesota (9-3-2).

Predators 7, Senators 5

Blanked despite pouring 45 shots at St. Louis goalie Jake Allen on Saturday night, the Nashville Predators more than made up for that on Tuesday. Nashville got goals from seven skaters and rallied for a 7-5 win over the Ottawa Senators in Bridgestone Arena.

Maple Leafs 3, Stars 2

Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Jake Gardiner had a goal and an assist and goaltender James Reimer stopped 36 of 38 shots in a 3-2 victory over the Dallas Stars at American Airlines Center. Gardiner scored the game-winning goal with 3:28 remaining with a slap shot from the right point that deflected in off the stick of Stars center Colton Sceviour.

Islanders 4, Sharks 2

Ex-Sharks goalie Thomas Greiss became the latest backup to take two points from San Jose as the New York Islanders handed the hosts a 4-2 loss at SAP Center. Greiss stopped 34 of 36 shots as the Sharks (7-8-0) dropped under .500 for the first time this season. San Jose capped a poor homestand with three losses in four tries.

Coyotes 3, Kings 2

Brad Richardson scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, lifting the Arizona Coyotes to a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings at Staples Center. Richardson scored with 8:13 remaining, delivering his second goal of the season after receiving an excellent pass from Jordan Martinook just outside the crease. —Reuters

LANCASTER STEPS DOWN AS ENGLAND COACH: RFU

Cald Edn

Мо Det Ott Tan Bos Flor Buf Tord NY Wa NY Pittsburah **New Jersey**

Philadelphia

Carolina

LONDON: Stuart Lancaster has stepped down as England head coach by "mutual consent", England's Rugby Football Union announced yesterday Lancaster's departure, three-and-a-half years after his appointment, was expected in the light of England's disastrous World Cup campaign, which saw the team become the first host nation to be eliminated in the group phase. "I am obviously extremely saddened to finish the way we did in this World Cup and to step down from the role," Lancaster said in a statement released by the RFU.

"As I have always said, I ultimately accept and take responsibility for the team's performance and we have not delivered the results we all hoped for during this tournament." England's early exit prompted a still ongoing RFU review and Lancaster said: "I did, however, want to take part in the review to ensure I understood the views of others before making a decision.

"The reality is that, while many aspects of the review were very positive, we didn't

the title, although this year's World Cup was always his primary objective. It proved a spectacular failure, with England crashing out following defeats by Wales and Australia, while Lancaster faced strong criticism for unsuccessful selection gambles such as his decision to place his faith in rugby league convert Sam Burgess. But Lancaster, initially appointed on a caretaker basis after Martin Johnson quit following England's quarter-final exit at the 2011 World Cup before taking the job on full time in April 2012, said the future was

bright for a largely youthful England side. "I took on the role in difficult circumstances and it has been a huge challenge to transition the team with many hurdles along the way," explained Lancaster, who won 28 of his 46 Tests in charge.

Genuine contenders

"However, I am immensely proud of the development of this team and I know that there is an incredibly strong foundation for them to progress to great things in the future. "We have played some excellent rugby and it was always going to be tough to get the right level of experience into them in time for 2015. "It is a young group of players with the huge majority available for the Rugby World Cup in Japan in 2019, where I believe their recent experience will make them genuine contenders."

Right from the outset of his time as England coach there were questions as to whether he was the right man for the job, given the former Leeds rugby director and England Saxons (the national A side) boss's lack of experience with a top-flight club or international side.

"The Rugby World Cup was hugely disappointing for everyone associated with the England team and the subsequent review into the team's performance was always intended to be extremely comprehensive, which it has been," said RFU chief executive Ian Ritchie.

"Stuart has been fully involved and has given feedback as well as the other coaches, players, management and a wide variety of people from around the game. "Following the review, Stuart and I met, where we agreed that he should step down

as head coach." — AFP



WORSLEY: A picture taken on October 11, 2015 shows England's head coach Stuart Lancaster leaving the England Rugby team's hotel following a press conference in Worsley, northern England on the morning after England's final match of the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup. —AFP

KYRGIOS, TOMIC IGNORED FOR NEWCOMBE MEDAL **SYDNEY:** Controversial stars Nick Kyrgios Davis Cup tie. But the 23-year-old remains

and Bernard Tomic have been ignored as nominees for the Newcombe Medal-which rewards Australia's "most outstanding elite tennis player and ambassador". Showman Kyrgios, 20, has made headlines for all the wrong reasons with his sex slur at Stan Wawrinka in August sparking stinging criticism from fellow players.

Despite reaching his best form, Kyrgios earned a suspended ban for the comment to Wawrinka and went on to pick up three code violations in other matches.

Tomic also endured a turbulent year in which he was arrested in Miami for failing to follow police orders over a raucous penthouse party and clashed with Tennis Australia, leading to his suspension from a the highest-ranking Australian in the world at number 18.

The six nominees for the Newcombe Medal are Sam Groth, Thanasi Kokkinakis, Sam Stosur, doubles stars John Peers and Casey Dellacqua and wheelchair champion Dylan Alcott.

"It is not just about honouring Australia's most outstanding tennis player, the awards are about recognising and celebrating the exceptional accomplishments and contributions of tennis communities, coaches, clubs and schools around the country," said Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley.

The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in Melbourne on 23 November. —AFP



Ireland braced for Bosnia as Sweden renew Denmark rivalry

PARIS: A diminished Republic of Ireland hope to emerge from the first leg of their Euro 2016 qualifying playoff away to Bosnia-Herzegovina tomorrow with their chances of reaching the finals still intact.

Martin O'Neill's side go to Zenica before hosting the Bosnians in Dublin on Monday with a place in France next summer up for grabs, but with suspensions and injuries giving the Irish manager plenty to think about.

"Make no mistake about it, the games will be difficult, but you wouldn't be expecting any sort of walkover in play-off games," said O'Neill, who must do without the suspended Jonathan Walters and John O'Shea and injured goalkeeper Shay Given.

Newcastle United goalkeeper Rob Elliot and Southampton striker Shane Long scorer of the goal that secured a

month-are also fitness concerns. 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012. However, O'Neill added: "The momentum swinging towards them doesn't bother me, it genuinely doesn't bother me. We have got ourselves into this position and we don't want to throw it away lightly.

"We have earned the right to be there, particularly with our results against the world champions, and we have accumulated the points. We are pleased to be here." While Ireland finished third behind Germany and Poland in qualifying Group D, Bosnia came in behind Wales and Belgium in Group B.

Mehmed Bazdarevic's squad features the likes of Chelsea goalkeeper Asmir Begovic and Roma duo Miralem Pianic and Edin Dzeko.

And along with that quality comes experience of these occasions, albeit the memories are not happy-Bosnia famous 1-0 win over Germany last lost to Portugal in play-offs for the

Scandinavian derby

Meanwhile, Scandinavian rivals Sweden and Denmark meet in the first leg of their tie in Solna, just outside Stockholm, on Saturday.

The two nations, linked by the Oresund Bridge spanning the water from Copenhagen to Malmo, have plenty of previous in the European Championship. Denmark won Euro '92 in Sweden, but only after losing to the hosts in the group stage, while a 2-2 draw between the sides at Euro 2004 in Portugal took them through to the quarter-finals at Italy's expense.

Then there was the Euro 2008 qualifier in Copenhagen in 2007 that was abandoned after a Danish supporter ran on to the pitch and attacked the German referee who had just awarded Sweden a penalty and sent off Denmark's Christian Poulsen for a

punch on Markus Rosenberg. With Zlatan Ibrahimovic fresh from winning Sweden's Golden Ball award and having scored nine goals in six league games for Paris Saint-Germain, Erik Hamren's side will be hopeful of taking a lead into the return. Denmark, meanwhile, will be without Hannover midfielder Leon Andreasen after he cut his hand with a knife opening a parcel and needed an operation. "It pleases me that we get the opportunity to decide it all at home," said Danish coach Morten Olsen after the draw was made.

Hungary had been poised to qualify automatically as the best third-placed team until a late Turkey goal in the 89th minute of their final match took them through instead. That was agonising for a country with a rich footballing history but which hasn't been to a major tournament since the 1986 World Cup.

However, Hungary, coached by

German Bernd Storck, have another chance to progress as they face Norway over two legs, with the first game in Oslo on Thursday.

"We feel we know Hungary well, and know what to expect," said confident Norway coach Per-Mathias Hogmo after naming his squad. The other tie sees Ukraine host Slovenia in Lviv on Saturday before the return in Maribor next Tuesday.

Ukraine have been described as a 'technically sophisticated and robust team" by Slovenia coach Srecko Katanec, but they do not retain happy memories of qualifying play-offs. Beaten by Slovenia in a play-off for Euro 2000, Ukraine also suffered an agonising defeat to France in a twolegged tie for a place at the 2014 World Cup. The four play-off winners will join the 19 other qualified nations and the hosts France in the finals draw in Paris on December 12.— AFP



SINGAPORE: Japan's football head coach Vahid Halilhodzic attends a pre-match press conference for the 2018 FIFA Group E World Cup qualifier between Singapore and Japan, in Singapore yesterday. Japan will play against Singapore at the national stadium today. — AFP

REVENGE MISSION FOR JAPAN IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE: Japan coach Vahid Halihodzic said his players will be on a mission for revenge when they face Singapore in a World Cup qualifier today.

The Lions spoiled Halihodzic's first competitive match as the Blue Samurai coach five months ago when they repelled everything that came their way to earn a surprise 0-0 draw at Saitama Stadium.

Japan have since found their feet in Group E, reeling off three consecutive wins in which they have scored 12 goals without conceding. However, Halihodzic is determined to see his side banish the memories of their first meeting when they face the Southeast Asian side at Singapore's National Stadium. "We have a bad memory of the result of our first game against Singapore so we want revenge. Of course, Singapore have a team that will be playing for their people but we have determination and quality to look for the victory," said the Bosnian.

"I said to the players that we have to show more determination because this game is more difficult than the first one because our opponents are playing at home, but we have the quality to get the

"I want us to attack and score, but to score a goal is the most difficult thing in

With 11 of Japan's 23 players arriving in Singapore after playing for clubs in Europe last weekend, travel fatigue and acclimatisation to the tropical conditions could be a factor in selection.

"Some players have just arrived from Europe and they are still getting used to the differences in the temperature and the heat so I don't know who will start the game yet," said Halihodzic, who will be taking his team on to Phnom Penh for their next qualifier against Cambodia on Tuesday. While Japan and Singapore are tied on 10 points in the group, two points behind leaders Syria, Singapore coach Bernd Stange is insisted that qualifying for Russia 2018 is not a target for his side.

"World Cup qualification is more of a matter for Japan but we are aiming to go all the way to the Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates in 2019," said the German.

"We are very proud with what we have achieved so far. Ten points is a good result for us and we now want to go all the way to the United Arab Emirates. That is our goal and the players are very convinced they can do that." The region's 2018 World Cup qualifying process doubles as a means of entry to the 2019 Asian Cup, which is expanding to 24 teams for the first time. However, Stange does not intend to make things easy for Japan as they seek another memorable result against the four-time Asian Cup winners.

"I think that all of us are rather curious to find out whether the 0-0 draw in Japan was an accident or if we can deliver another surprise," he said. —AFP

SUSPENDED FIFA CHIEF BLATTER IN HOSPITAL, TO LEAVE MONDAY

GENEVA: Suspended FIFA president Sepp Blatter is in hospital after being placed under medical observation for stress, but he is expecting to leave the facility early next week, his spokesman said yesterday. "He is now, at this moment, in hospital," Blatter's spokesman Klaus Stoehlker told AFP by phone, adding that Blatter was admitted several days ago.

"He is preparing to leave on Monday and will be back on the job on Tuesday," Stoehlker said. The spokesman added that 79-year-old Blatter had "regained his good humour" and has vowed to persist with "his fight against the (FIFA) ethics committee" which suspended him for 90 days over corruption allegations. "He said to me, 'I was elected FIFA president by 209 congress members and no (ethics) commission can force me out," Stoehlker quoted Blatter as saying. Blatter, long the most powerful man in football, suffered a medical incident last weekend and had been placed under medical observation from his home.

Stoehlker previously said the stress-related ailment had been brought on by the pressure the embattled Swiss national has faced in recent weeks. Blatter has been at the centre of the worst scandal to ever hit world football, which kicked off in May when 14 ex-FIFA official and sports marketing executives were charged by the US justice department over decades of graft and bribery.

Blatter was elected to a fifth term as FIFA's president days later, but he has since been engulfed by the scandal. In September, Swiss prosecutors opened a criminal case against him over mismanagement and a suspicious \$2 million payment made in 2011 to European football chief Michel Platini.

Before he was suspended, Blatter, who has peen in charge of FIFA since 1998, said he would step down on February 26, next year, when a FIFA congress elects a new president.

Platini had been favoured to win the vote, but his suspension by FIFA's ethics committee is thought to have hurt his candidacy. Seven can-



ZURICH: A picture taken on July 20, 2015 shows FIFA president Sepp Blatter gesturing during a press conference at the football's world body headquarters in Zurich. Blatter has been hospitalised after being placed under medical observation for stress, but he is expecting to leave the facility early next week, his spokesman said yesterday. — AFP

didates are in the running to succeed Blatter, and Uruguay. including Platini.

Figueredo agrees to extradition

Separately, former FIFA vice president Eugenio Figueredo, who served under Blatter, agreed to be extradited from Switzerland to his home country of Uruguay, where he faces corruption charges.

the United States justice department, which charged Figueredo as part of its sweeping indictments in May.

The Swiss justice ministry (FOJ) has approved Figueredo's extradition to both the United States

"It will be for the US authorities to state whether or not they agree to Uruguay being given priority. If the US authorities do not agree, the issue will be decided by the FOJ," a statement from FOJ spokesman Folco Galli said. Figueredo, 83 and a former vice-president of the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL), was charged by the US with using his influence to solicit millions of dollars worth of bribes

While Figueredo was detained in Switzerland, Uruguayan authorities launched a separate investigation and have since charged him with abusing his office. Figueredo continues to fight against extradition to the United States. —AFP

HUNCH THAT PUT NEPALESE FOOTBALL IN THE DOCK

KATHMANDU: Like most Nepali football fans, Sarbendra Khanal was bitterly disappointed when the country crashed out of World Cup qualifying in 2011. But the veteran investigator was also suspicious. The Himalayan nation was never expected to reach the World Cup in Brazil, or even come particularly close. But after results like the thumping 9-0 defeat to Jordan, something seemed amiss.

"Every time I watched a match, it always seemed to end in a zero for Nepal," Khanal, chief of the Metropolitan Police Crime Division in Kathmandu, told AFP. "I just couldn't understand why we kept losing." His hunch was confirmed by suspicious betting patterns reported by the Sportradar monitoring service, which has a partnership with the Asian Football Confederation.

And it led to a money trail that has now left six people, including Nepal's former captain, goalkeeper and a coach, facing matchfixing claims that could earn them life sentences for treason.

Five of the accused, who all deny involvement in match-fixing, were released on bail at a court hearing on Tuesday. The sixth, a physiotherapist, has been charged in absentia.

With Nepal's soccer chief Ganesh Thapa also being probed by FIFA for alleged embezzlement and bribery, and the world body itself convulsed by corruption claims, the six are not the most high-profile football figures currently facing accusations.

But they could be the most heavily punished after prosecutors opted for treason charges rather than other options which carry lighter sentences. "Stealing doesn't really cover it... this case is about people who played on behalf of millions of Nepalis and

agreed to lose matches again and again," Khanal said.

Betting syndicates

Khanal, 49, began his investigation after he was promoted to head the crime division this year. He started with former defender Anjan KC, who became a coach after injury cut short his career.

The 28-year-old's lifestyle and close ties to Dinesh 'Chari' Adhikari, a local gangster who died in a police shoot-out last year, immediately raised suspicions. "He frequented casinos, spent huge amounts on imported cars and big houses... he was living beyond his means and we were wondering where the money came from," Khanal said.

A scan of KC's bank account revealed transactions between the coach and suspected match-fixers based in Singapore and Malaysia. According to the charge-sheet seen by AFP, sums ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000 were deposited in accounts belonging to the coach, four players, their relatives and the team physiotherapist-all courtesy of the alleged overseas betting syndicates.

The discovery was followed by a coordinated series of arrests last month. In addition to KC, skipper Sagar Thapa and goalkeeper Ritesh Thapa, defender Sandip Rai and former team-mate Bikash Singh Chhetri were also taken into custody on allegations of matchfixing over a period of eight years. "We believe that KC was the ringleader, he knew which players needed money and he targeted the ones who would agree to lose matches," Khanal said. The case covers the World Cup qualifiers in 2011 as well as games with Bangladesh and Afghanistan played at a regional competition.—AFP



SAN JOSE: Costa Rica's national team footballers Celso Borges (L) Joel Campbell (C) and Bryan Ruiz (R) train at the Proyecto Gol in Ribera de Belen, 30 km west of San Jose, yesterday. Costa Rica will face Haiti tomorrow in a qualifying match for the Russia 2018 FIFA World Cup. — AFP

Warner denies involvement in 2006 WC scandal

BERLIN: Disgraced football official Jack Warner yesterday denied any wrongdoing in the awarding of the 2006 World Cup to Germany over a document appearing to link him to the ongoing scandal. "I have never, ever had any agreement of any kind with anyone on Germany's hosting of the 2006 World Cup," wrote Warner in an email to broadcaster Sport 1. "I have said a thousand times that I have no intention of talking or writing to anyone about my 30 years sojourn in the FIFA. "Nor do I have no intention (sic) of joining the international media circus whose only objective seems to be demean and denigrate." On Tuesday, the German Football Association (DFB) confirmed reports of a draft agreement, signed in part by Franz Beckenbauer, who was chairman of the 2006

World Cup's organising committee, which German daily Bild claims was aimed at buying "votes for the German bid".

The draft contract, which reportedly offered a lucrative friendly against Germany, but no cash, is with Warner, the ex-president of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) who is banned for life by FIFA.

But it remains unclear whether the document was ever used. German football has lurched into a crisis over Spiegel magazine's report last month alleging that the votes of four members of FIFA's executive committee were bought in 2000, when Germany narrowly won the vote to host the 2006 finals.

At the centre of the scandal is a 6.7 million-

euro (\$7.2-million) payment, which is alleged to have been used to purchase the support of FIFA's executive committee.

The scandal took a dramatic twist last week when police carried out raids at the Frankfurt headquarters of the German Football Association (DFB) and led to Wolfgang Niersbach resigning as DFB president on Monday. Beckenbauer, who is being investigated by FIFA's ethics committee, is staying tightlipped on the matter publically, despite growing calls to explain his part in the scandal, and will only speak as part of an official investigation.

"Franz Beckenbauer is still available to talk to the appropriate bodies and will not therefore be commenting publicly," his management group said yesterday.—AFP

13th Asian shooting concludes with eyes on Rio 2016



Five-star Mustafizur thrash Zimbabweans



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Suspended FIFA chief Blatter in Hospital, to leave Monday

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CLEVELAND: Utah Jazz forward Trevor Booker, right, shoots against Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, in Cleveland. — AP

VILO IVIOSCLES CITVS

Westbrook triple-double lifts Thunder as Durant Hurt

UTAH: Cleveland forward LeBron James reminded the NBA of his raw power on Tuesday, scoring 31 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, as the Cavaliers muscled their way to a 118-114 victory over the Utah Jazz on Tuesday. The Cavaliers trailed by as many as nine in the fourth, but James stole a pass and dribbled the length of the floor for an impressive three-point play. Jazz guard Rodney Hood did his best to wrap up James and prevent the shot, but the Cavs forward powered through for the basket and foul. He looked at Hood and slapped his biceps as the sellout crowd roared.

"Bron is the greatest player in the game. I don't think there's anyone with a higher basketball IQ or a better understanding of the moment," Cavs coach David Blatt said. "I think he just understood the moment. He took over the game and lifted the rest of the guys with him. He did the things that a great player like him, only him, can do." James' three-point play pulled the Cavs within 95-94 but gave them all the momenremained unbeaten at home (5-0) with their seventh consecutive victory.

However, Cleveland (7-1) had to work for it on a night when they were sloppy with the ball (17 turnovers) and off rhythm. "The win is the only thing that's important to me," James said. "We had some good points, we had some bad points, but we stuck with it." James added eight assists and seven rebounds, while Mo Williams had 29 points, six rebounds and six assists. He made his first eight shots and did not miss until 1:37 remained. Kevin Love had 22 points and eight rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Alec Burks scored 24 points off the bench for the Jazz (4-3), while forwards Gordon Hayward and Derrick Favors each scored 17 points. Rudy Gobert had 15 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and Hood fouled out with 16 points. "They're a veteran team that knows how to close out games and how to win basketball games," Hayward said. "That's something that we can learn from." The Jazz trailed most of the night until late in the third quarter. They tum. It revived a slumbering team that extended their lead to 95-86 on a dunk by

Gobert with 7:22 left before James and the Cavs began to roll.

Hood responded to James' power play by stroking a three-pointer at the other end, but it was the only basket the Jazz scored for nearly five minutes in the fourth quarter. The drought allowed the Cavaliers to regain the lead. "You can see why they're as good as they are," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "I was happy with the way we hung in there ... we didn't get rattled. "Our guys need to feel good about how hard we played, and we need to figure out how to win some of these, too."

Heat 101, Lakers 88

Kobe Bryant did not make a final game appearance at the American Airlines Arena on Tuesday, but the Miami Heat were just fine with having the 17-time All-Star guard in street clothes. With Bryant a late scratch to give him a rest, the Heat handled the Los Angeles Lakers 101-88. Chris Bosh led the Heat with 30 points on nine-of-16 shooting from the field and 10-of-12 from the free-

Thunder 125, Wizards 101

Kevin Durant did not play the second half after suffering a hamstring injury, but Russell Westbrook picked up the slack with a tripledouble as the Oklahoma City Thunder trounced the Washington Wizards 125-101. Westbrook finished with 22 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for the Thunder (5-3), who led 68-50 at halftime and by as many as 29 points in the second half.

Knicks 111, Raptors 109

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and the New York Knicks held on in the fourth quarter to defeat the Toronto Raptors 111-109. It was the second win in a row for the Knicks (4-4) and the third straight loss for the Raptors (5-3). Lance Thomas scored 15 points off the bench for the Knicks and Langston Galloway scored 15, also as a reserve. Robin Lopez had 12 points and eight rebounds before fouling out.

Celtics 99, Bucks 83

A 16-0 third-quarter run propelled the Boston Celtics to an easy 99-83 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks at the BMO Harris Bradley Center. Isiah Thomas scored 20 points to lead the Celtics, who also got 12 from Jae Crowder and 11 from Jered

Hornets 104, Timberwolves 95

Charlotte guards Jeremy Lin and Jeremy Lamb helped key the Hornets' 104-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves at the Target Center, Lin scored a game-high 19 points, while Lamb added 18 points and four rebounds to give the Hornets their second road victory of the year.

Pelicans 120, Mavericks 105

Ryan Anderson scored 25 points as the New Orleans Pelicans snapped a seasonopening, six-game losing streak with a 120-105 victory over the Dallas Mavericks at Smoothie King Arena. However, the win may have been costly as forward Anthony Davis sustained a calf injury early in the third quarter and did not return. Davis scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds in 19 minutes. — Reuters

MUTKO PLEDGES NEW ANTI-DOPING ACTION

SOCHI: Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko yesterday pledged his country would adopt new measures to clamp down on doping including devising new testing methods and possibly opening criminal cases against athletes suspected of cheating.

Mutko was speaking after an independent commission established by the World Anti-Doping Commission (WADA) accused Russian athletes, aided by officials, of engaging in systematic and widespread doping.

A Moscow laboratory tasked with catching drugs cheats in Russian athletics shared a building complex with the doctor accused of masterminding the cheating scheme. A report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) exposed a state-sponsored drugs culture in Russian athletics, a scandal which could cost Russia its place at next year's Rio Olympics.

WADA identified Doctor Sergei Portugalov, former deputy director of the Russian Federal Research Centre of Physical Culture and Sports (VNIIFK), as the mastermind of the scheme, advising athletes on doping, administering injections and helping cover up positive drugs

"Despite his ostensibly legitimate status, Dr. Portugalov's activities indicate that he played a much more sinister role in the preparation of athletes," it said.

One of the people whose job was to detect

and stop Portugalov's activities was Grigory Rodchenkov, the director of Russia's leading anti-doping centre which was accredited by WADA to test blood and urine samples for banned substances. But in fact the two men and the agencies where they worked had a closely intertwined relationship.

At number 10 Elizavetinsky lane in eastern Moscow, Rodchenkov's laboratory stands next to the VNIIFK head office. Both buildings list the same address on their websites and are connected by an overhead walkway spanning the short space between them.

The anti-doping centre was opened in the run-up to Russia's 2014 Sochi Olympic Games, equipped with state of the art equipment and able to process around 20,000 tests a year.

Its entrance is flanked by tarpaulin fence covers showing silhouetted athletes competing at sports associated with Russian sporting achievements: ice hockey, figure skating and biathlon.

A review of publicly available Moscow city records shows the VNIIFK acted as a developer to build the new laboratory and a sports ministry statement announcing the anti-doping centre's opening suggests the government viewed the two organisations as the same entity.

Portugalov and Rodchenkov appeared at multiple conferences together, sitting on discussion panels and once attended a meeting of leading athletics trainers and specialists hosted by the VNIIFK.

A photograph from 2007 shows both men viewing a piece of testing equipment at an International Association of Athletics Federations seminar attended by former Russian athletics chief Valentin Balakhnichev, who denies WADA allegations of conspiring to blackmail athletes ahead of the 2012 London Olympics.

A person answering the phone at the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{VNIIFK}}$ told Reuters on Tuesday that Portugalov no longer works at the centre but declined to comment on why or when he left.

However, a statement on the VNIIFK website detailing the editorial board of its Journal of Sports Science publication lists Portugalov as the centre's deputy director as recently as August this year as.

Portugalov declined to be interviewed and the VNIIFK did not respond to written questions submitted by Reuters. Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said on Tuesday Rodchenkov had resigned and his laboratory was closed following the WADA allegations that he had taken payments and destroyed samples to conceal positive test results.

A security guard at the centre yesterday said it was still open and Rodchenkov was at meetings at the sports ministry. Rodchenkov and the anti-doping centre could not be reached for comment. — Agencies



MOSCOW: A picture taken on September 23, 2009 in Moscow shows a technician checking test tubes at the Moscow anti-doping laboratory. The head of Russia's anti-doping laboratory resigned late Tuesday, hours after his laboratory was suspended over accusations it was part of state-sponsored doping programme that experts fear could snowball into an international crisis for the sport. — AFP

Munait Times TINESS

Iran to face bumpy re-entry into global oil tanker market

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Infiniti introduces four new models

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Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Lexus unveil all-new LX and RX

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OOREDOO KUWAIT LAUNCHES INTERNET OF THE FUTURE WITH NEW PACKAGES

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DUBAI: Emiratis visit the US Pavilion during the third day of the Dubai Airshow in Dubai on Tuesday. — AP

GULF AIRLINE GROWTH CURBED BY TRAFFIC JAMS IN THE SKY

Jeddah, Dubai Airports Struggling to Handle an Influx of Newly Ordered Jets

DUBAl: Gulf airlines' once unstoppable expansion is being tested by the peninsula's congested airspace and airports, according to industry leaders. Carriers such as Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) and Dubai's Emirates are having to keep a close eye on fleet expansion plans because their hub airports of Jeddah and Dubai are struggling to handle an influx of newly ordered jets.

"The capacity constraint curve has hit us a little bit sooner (than expected)," Emirates president Tim Clark said at the Dubai Airshow, adding his company would have ordered

another 100 Airbus A380 superjumbos if there was room at Dubai International Airport. After record orders in previous years, Gulf carriers took a pause in buying jets at this week's industry showcase, although Airbus said the Middle East would continue to expand with 2,400 jets worth \$590 billion to be delivered over the next 20 years. Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi and Jeddah all have fast-growing airlines that feed increasing traffic into airspace already suffering congestion and delays.

Adding to the crunch is the wide use of airspace on the Arabian side of the Gulf by the military for air strikes over Iraq, Syria and Yemen - leaving narrow corridors for commercial traffic. Airlines have diverted to fly over Iran and Saudi Arabia instead of Iraq, swathes of which are run by Islamic State.

BOTTLENECKS

Such moves add flight time and fuel costs as aircraft queue up to enter corridors, but it also means a surge in overflight fees for countries whose airspace is able to absorb the flow. "It is manageable at the moment, but nobody would have believed ... this amount of conges-

tion," Clark said. With military needs competing for space, more severe bottlenecks could arise if the problem is not addressed, said Thomas Pellegrin, director at PwC's management consultancy arm.

The UAE's civil aviation regulator last month said the country would soon start restructuring its airspace. It expects air traffic to double in 20 years, growth which it says it is unable to handle with the current airspace structure. NATS, a UK-based air traffic management service, says the wider Middle East region could reap \$16.3 billion in economic benefit in 10

years from enhancing air traffic control systems. Emirates' Clark said the region recognized it needed an equivalent to Eurocontrol, which coordinates airspace in Europe on behalf of 41 countries, though analysts say the system is still far less efficient than European officials would like. Problems in the Gulf vary by geography and perceived security risk.

Re-routing flights due to the war in Yemen has in some cases added an hour and half of flying time, while the diversion of other routes over Iran has added 7-8 minutes, Clark said. — Reuters

NEW IMF ECONOMIST SEES MAJOR CHALLENGES TO GLOBAL ECONOMY

WASHINGTON: Just a few months into the job, the challenges are already piled high for the International Monetary Fund's new chief economist Maurice Obstfeld. There's the Federal Reserve's plan to raise interest rates-which poses a deep test to economies worldwide. There's Europe's migration crisis. And not to be forgotten is Britain's threat to leave the eurozone when the region's economy is already frail.

That's all on top of slow global economic growth and climate change. In an interview with AFP, Obstfeld, an economic advisor to US President Barack Obama before being named to the IMF, spoke of a "nightmare scenario" in which various pressures conspire to weaken the economic bonds of Europe.

"I worry a lot about the strong trend in Europe

"I worry a lot about the strong trend in Europe to pull back from market integration," he said. "One factor is the refugee crisis, where there's a lot of pressure on open borders and workers' mobility," he added. "There is a lot of political pressure coming from the extremes, which could undo a lot of the economic integration that has occurred."

Speaking in his IMF office just a few blocks from the White House, Obstfeld, 63, said other pressures were also stressing the 28-country EU bloc. "Another obvious one is Britain wanting to possibly leave the European Union," he said, raising the "Brexit" issue that is increasingly making headlines in Europe. Obstfeld arrived at the Fund in September to replace French economist Olivier Blanchard, who held the chief economist job throughout the unprecedented financial crises in the United States and Europe. Obstfeld, whose position entails advising the management and member countries of the global crisis lender on economic conditions, faces some different challenges from Blanchard, particularly the impact of the sharp slowdown in the world's second largest economy, China.

Climate change threat An international economics specialist who

An international economics specialist who studied at Cambridge and MIT and taught at Harvard and the University of California, Berkeley,

Obstfeld has to keep watch on multiple hot issues and broader long-term trends. "Climate change is a major economic threat. Warming reduces productive efficiency, climate disasters can be deeply disruptive to economic activity," he said.

The Fund looks at how climate change will hit the economies and budgets of countries impacted the most, and tries to help them prepare. With an upcoming global summit in Paris on action against warming, Obstfeld said countries need to understand it is a collective action problem. If it isn't solved, he said, warming "can threaten their population and impose macroeconomic risks."

The focus of the COP21 summit is obtaining pledges for carbon emissions. Obstfeld said limits can have adverse effects for some industries. But, for one, many industries essentially get a subsidy by being able to pollute without paying for it, he added. In addition, he said, implementing carbon dioxide limits "stimulates a lot of innovation and a lot of investment."

He said incentives need to be changed to favor emissions reduction, including essentially putting a tax on carbon. That "would be the most efficient way to reduce emissions at the lowest cost," he said. "Unfortunately, many countries, especially the United States, don't want to put in taxes. But that's really the efficient way to do it."

Federal Reserve risks

At the same time, Obstfeld has his eye on US plans to tighten monetary policy even while elsewhere, including Japan and the EU, central banks need to loosen theirs, he said. He said the US Federal Reserve, expected to raise interest rates in December for the first time in nine years, might be better holding off a little longer. The risks of the Fed acting sooner "are certainly higher," he said adding:

said, adding:
"I don't see huge risks at all to waiting." "If for any reasons the Fed had to reverse that first interest rate increase, markets would interpret it as a big deal." As for the Fed's counterpart in the eurozone, he said the European Central Bank "should be following the strategy of expanding asset purchases and lowering the interest rate." — AFP

LUFTHANSA STRIKE GROUNDS ANOTHER 100,000 PASSENGERS

BERLIN: Lufthansa scrapped 930 more flights yesterday, grounding 100,000 passengers after a court allowed cabin staff to press on with a strike that is shaping up to be the worst in the German airline's history. The new flight cancellations in and out of Germany's biggest airport, Frankfurt, as well as hubs in Munich and Duesseldorf, come after four days of stoppages that had already forced the airline to cancel 2,800 flights, leaving 300,000 passengers stranded.

The industrial action over a dispute with the UFO flight attendants union regarding cost cuts began on Friday with a pause on Sunday, and is set to go on until Friday.

Lufthansa had sought to challenge the legality of the industrial action through court injunctions but lost a key bid after the labour court of Darmstadt, which has jurisdiction for Frankfurt and Munich airports, approved the strike.

The court dismissed the airline's argument that the union's reasons for striking were "too vague" and unjustified under German labour law. The UFO union welcomed the ruling on its website, calling for the strike to continue from 0300 GMT yesterday until 2300 GMT on Friday across all flights at Frankfurt, Munich and Duesseldorf airports.

Lufthansa in a statement said it stood by its position that "the reasons for the strike were not defined clearly enough" and said it will decide its "next steps" yesterday.

The setback came after an earlier symbolic victory for the airline dealt by another court which ruled that the strike affecting Duesseldorf airport was illegal-but that judgement was effectively useless as it was limited to Tuesday only and came hours after flights had been cancelled.

The same court was due to issue later yesterday a ruling for the remaining period of the

strike. The airline has been locked in a battle that erupted nearly two years ago with cabin crew over early retirement provisions which the union wants unchanged. But Lufthansa argues that the system is too expensive in the face of cut-throat competition from low-cost

operators such as Ryanair and Easylet.

Late Monday, the airline presented a new offer to the union, with improved bonuses and retirement provisions, but UFO called it unacceptable. This is the first time that cabin staff have staged walkouts in the long-running dispute, which does not affect Lufthansa's subsidiaries Germanwings, Eurowings, Lufthansa CityLine, SWISS, Austrian Airlines, Air Dolomiti and Brussels Airlines.

It is also separate from another tussle between management and pilots over the company's plans to change the early retirement arrangements for pilots. Lufthansa wants to scrap an arrangement under which pilots can retire at 55 and receive up to 60 percent of their pay until they reach the statutory retirement age of 65. The pilots, who are concerned about Lufthansa's aim to further develop its low-cost activities, have staged repeated walkouts since 2014, costing the airline 350 million euros (\$375 million). Despite the competitive airline environment, Lufthansa said last week it was raising its full-year forecasts after low oil prices and positive passenger numbers lifted profits in the third quarter. — AFP



FRANKFURT: A board displaying cancelled Lufthansa flights can be seen behind the logo of German airline Lufthansa yesterday at the airport in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP



UAE PAYMENTS FIRM SEES TRANSACTION GROWTH EASING

spending dragged down card transaction expansion rates in the Middle East and North Africa in 2015, according to the largest payments processor in the Middle East and Africa. Bhairav Trivedi, CEO of Network International, said growth in transactions would likely finish the year 10 to 12 percent higher from last year, lower than the levels reached in recent years of up to close to 30 percent.

This growth would likely rise to around the mid-teens next year, he said in an interview.

Still, the business is supported by a shift in the

DUBAI: Economic weakness hitting tourism and UAE, its largest market, and across the Middle East and Africa from using cash for payment to using cards. "This year is tracking a little worse in terms of throughput," said Trivedi. "But this region is relatively insulated because 62 percent of transactions within the UAE are in cash. If you compare the US or Europe they're running at roughly 35 percent of transactions in cash." The opportunity for expansion has prompted interest from private equity companies Warburg Pincus and General Atlantic. The pair were expected to announce a joint investment in the company this week, buying out the 49 percent share held by

Abraaj Capital, Reuters reported on Monday, citing sources.

A source said yesterday an announcement on the deal could be delayed until next week at the earliest. Emirates NBD, Dubai's largest bank, holds the remaining 51 percent stake in Network International, which has a presence in more than 40 countries. In 2014 it processed more than 85 billion dirhams (\$23.14 billion) in acquiring volume transactions in the Middle East and North Africa, said Trivedi. The UAE accounts for about 80 percent of the company's revenue, a level it expects to drop to around two-thirds of revenues in the next three to five years as it deepens its geographic diversity, said Trivedi. Card transactions in the UAE by Russian and Chinese visitors sank by 57 percent and 20 percent respectively in the third quarter from the year earlier period, according to Network International data. Weakness in the rouble and a struggling domestic economy have discouraged some Russian visitors, while Chinese tourist numbers have been hit by stumbling economic growth in China. That has been somewhat offset by strong spending from tourists from the US., the UK, Saudi Arabia and south Asia, said Trivedi. — Reuters

News

in brief

Tamdeen earns more than KD 10 million

KUWAIT: Tamdeen Investment Company earned some KD 10.6 million, 37.6 fils per share, in first nine months of 2015 compared to KD 8.5 million, 29.5 fils per share, same period of the past year. It said in a statement yesterday that shareholders' equity amounted to some KD 134.9 million in contrast to KD 138.2 million-also making the contrast in the above-mentioned two periods. Assets reached some KD 237.3 million, liabilities KD 82.2 million compared to KD 93.7 million. The company, founded in 1997, was enlisted at Kuwait Stock Exchange in 2006 with a paid-up capital of some KD 31 million. It deals in financial investments and

Al-Kout company announces net profits of KD 3.2m

KUWAIT: Al-Kout Industrial Projects Company announced posting net profits of KD 3.2 million in the first nine months of 2015 with 33. 5 fils per share, compared to KD 4.6 million with 47.52 fils per share in 2014. The equity of shareholders was KD 27.3 million in 2015 compared to KD 26.9 million in 2014, the company said in a statement published on Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) website yesterday. Meanwhile, the company's assets reached KD 31.3 million, while liabilities were KD 4.05 million by the end of Q3 2015, compared to KD 6.9 million of liabilities for the same time period in 2014. Al-Kout company was established in 1993 and was enlisted in KSE with a capital of KD 8.82 million. The company is specialized in producing chlorine, sodium hydroxide and compressed hydrogen.

USD stable against at KD 0.303

KUWAIT: The US dollar was stable vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti dinar exchanging at KD 0.303 yesterday and the euro was also form trading at KD 0.326 as compared to Tuesday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait said. The sterling pound rose to KD 0.460 and the Swiss franc remained unchanged at KD 0.302 while the Japanese yen remained at KD 0.002.

Dubai's Emaar Malls Q3 net profit rises

DUBAI: Dubai's Emaar Malls, a unit of Emaar Properties, reported a 17.2 percent rise in thirdquarter net profit yesterday. Emaar Malls made a net profit of 376.4 million dirhams (\$102.5 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, the company said in a statement. That compares with a profit of 321.2 million dirhams in the same period a year earlier. Quarterly revenue was 728.1 million dirhams, up from 649.9 million dirhams. EFG Hermes had forecast the company would make a quarterly net profit of 387.7 million dirhams.

International Bank of Qatar to start USD bond roadshow

DUBAI: International Bank of Oatar mandated Citi, ONB Capital and Standard Chartered Bank as joint lead managers to arrange investor meetings from today for a possible US dollar bond issue, a document from arrangers showed yesterday. The debut benchmark Regulation S Senior offer would come under IBQ's \$2 billion euro medium-term note program. Benchmark size means at least \$500 million. The investor meetings will start in Singapore today and move to Hong Kong on Friday, the United Arab Emirates on Sunday and London on Monday.

IRAN TO FACE BUMPY RE-ENTRY INTO GLOBAL OIL TANKER MARKET

TEHRAN SEEKS TO RECLAIM SPOT AS NO 2 OPEC PRODUCER

LONDON: Even after Western sanctions are lifted, Iran's oil tanker fleet is expected to face more hurdles before many of the vessels can start trading again due to insurance hiccups and tougher requirements over sea worthiness by potential foreign clients.

Iran's main tanker operator NITC remains blacklisted by the United States and European Union since 2012, meaning it's unable to secure foreign insurance or international classification services, which certify ships have met safety and environmental standards necessary to get access to most ports. Iranian media has quoted NITC officials as saying the group was readying its return to international markets and was in talks with Western insurers while also looking to expand its fleet. NITC officials could not be reached

"It is fair to say that commercially they will probably be more difficult to fix than a ship of ... an independent owner or certainly a non-Iranian owner," said Hugo de Stoop, chief financial officer with leading Belgium-based tanker owner Euronav. "It will take some time." Since a July nuclear deal

with world powers, Iran has repeatedly announced plans to boost oil production and exports once sanctions are lifted to reclaim its position as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' second-largest producer.

The United States last month approved conditional sanctions waivers, although it cautioned these would not take effect until Tehran had curbed its nuclear program. Leading tanker broker EA Gibson said a number of NITC's tankers would need "to meet international standards in terms of class and insurance".

"Furthermore, many units are likely to require dry docking (repairs). On this basis, the process of 're-entry' will be gradual," Gibson said in a report. Iran's fleet includes 37 to 40 NITC supertankers, known as VLCCs, each capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil. Tanker tracking sources estimated that Iran was currently storing oil - both crude and its derivative condensate - on around 24 VLCCs versus 29 vessels in July. Euronav's de Stoop said eight of Iran's supertankers, currently used as floating storage, were over 15 years old and were unlikely to rejoin the global fleet as it

would involve millions of dollars in extra costs. Lawyers say EU companies are likely to face fewer limitations in dealing with NITC than US firms, which would complicate early deals given the importance of the US financial system.

"Financing and insurance of NITC or its vessels or voyages will present challenges," said Matthew Oresman, counsel with law firm Pillsbury. "US financial institutions will not be able to play a role and initially few European financial institutions may be willing to insure and finance these transactions initially, especially if they have had sanctions compliance issues in the past."

Shipping and legal sources say the risk of a possible "snap-back" in sanctions, if Iran does not meet its commitments, is also likely to add to caution when dealing with

"If you put yourself in the shoes of a client before he would accept to charter an NITC vessel, he would have to think probably twice whether there is a risk attached to the fact that sanctions could be re-imposed," Euronav's de Stoop said. — Reuters



in Peshawar yesterday. A pakol is a traditional Pashtun woollen hat which is a rolled, flat hat made from a mix of sheep's wool and goat hair. Initially it comes from Pakistan's remote Chitral district and also from Afghanistan's Nuristan province. — AFP

OPEC NEEDS OUTPUT CUT TO **BALANCE MARKET: ECUADOR**

RIYADH: OPEC member Ecuador's oil minister said yesterday that the only way to balance the market was to cut production and that it aimed to reach an agreement on that at the group's December meeting. "The only way to balance the market is to cut production," Pedro Merizalde told Reuters on the sidelines of a summit of Latin American and Arab countries in Riyadh.

The oil price has slumped to around \$47 per barrel from above \$115 last June, putting huge pressure on the finances of many exporters.

Saudi Arabia, the cartel's largest exporter, has resisted calls from other members to agree to a cut in production, but as low prices tighten the screws on government budgets, many

expect more calls from smaller producers like Ecuador to cut output. Asked about the outcome of OPEC's December meeting, Merizalde said: "Let's see if we can have agreement...in order to balance (the market).

He added that Ecuador would need allies at the meeting as any decision requires agreement of all members, but said a higher oil prices would benefit Saudi Arabia as well as other members. "What is more convenient, if you sell 10 million barrels at \$40 per barrel, or if you produce 8 million barrels at \$60?" Asked if he had yet met Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi at the summit, Merizalde said he had not, but it was possible that he could do. — Reuters

EGYPT STRENGTHENS POUNDS AGAINST DOLLAR

CAIRO: Egypt's central bank strengthened its currency by 0.20 pounds to reach 7.7301 to the dollar yesterday a move that surprised bankers who had been expecting a depreciation. Egypt, which is heavily dependent on imports for food and energy, has been under pressure to devalue the currency it maintains in a narrow band through regular dollar auctions.

It has allowed the currency to weaken gradually this year. It last let the pound weaken to 7.9301 pounds against the dollar in October, but that remains far from about 8.7 pounds on the black market.

In February, the central bank introduced strict capital controls to crush a thriving black market in dollars. The move partly succeeded on that front but has created a dollar shortage and made it difficult for companies to open letters of credit and pay for imports which have been building up at ports.

But last week Egypt's top two state banks Banque Misr and the National Bank of Egypt (NBE), said they would provide dollars to cover import demands for businesses. Many private bankers saw this as a central bank-inspired move to reduce pressure on the pound.

One broker, who deals closely with exchange rooms at Egyptian banks, said that Wednesday's dollar offer followed a \$1.8 billion infusion to banks last week to help them clear backlogs in demand for dollars from importers.

However, bankers and economists were surprised by yesterday's move and struggled to explain where the additional dollars were coming from given the meager dollar reserves at hand. Egypt's foreign exchange reserves are currently at about \$16.4 billion - enough to cover just three months of imports.

"I am not sure why this is taking place now. It is very confusing for us and the market," said one Cairo-based economist. "This is something I didn't expect would happen in 2016 let alone 2015. Where is this money coming from?" — Reuters

0.301050

0.305050

US Dollars Mint

Qatar Riyal

Saudi Riyal

Syrian Pound

Turkish Lira

UAE Dirhams

Yemeni Rival

Tunisian Dinar

EXCHANGE RATES

2.479

4.606

2.886

2.156

2.874

215.300

39.305

3.884

6.468

8.515

81.283

83.730

791.710

809.490

104.830

216.910

303.450

304.950

US Dollar

Egyptian Pound

Jordanian Dinar

Omani Riyal

Qatari Riya

Saudi Riyal

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO. **ASIAN COUNTRIES** Japanese Yen **Indian Rupees** Pakistani Rupees Srilankan Rupees Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollar Hongkong Dollar Bangladesh Taka Philippine Peso Thai Baht **GCC COUNTRIES** Saudi Riyal Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Bahraini Dinar Egyptian Pound - Cash Egyptian Pound - Transfer Yemen Riyal/for 1000 Tunisian Dinai Jordanian Dinar

Turkish lira

Swiss France

Australian dollar US Dollar Buying

ARAB COUNTRIES 38.950 37.986 1.422 151.157 429.300 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.031 2.172 Syrian Lira Morocco Dirham **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES** US Dollar Transfer 329.020 Sterling Pound 463.370 230.800 Canadian dollar

GOLD 20 gram 10 gram 114.28 5 gram **UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL**

CURRENCIES TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000 Australian Dollar 203.63 Canadian Dollar **Swiss Franc** 330.39 304.95 Sterling Pound 463.23 Japanese Yen 2.51 Bangladesh Taka 3.902 Indian Rupee 4.599 Sri Lankan Rupee 2.160 Nepali Rupee 2.873 Pakistani Rupee 2.887 **UAE Dirhams** 0.08298 Bahraini Dinar 0.8104

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

0.03789

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Rate for Transfer Selling Rate **US** Dollar 304.900 Canadian Dollar 232.105 Sterling Pound 463.020 329.150 Euro Swiss Frank 307.005 Bahrain Dinar 809.245 **UAE Dirhams** 83.310 Qatari Riyals

Saudi Riyals 82.030 Jordanian Dinai 429.635 **Egyptian Pound** 37.861 Sri Lankan Rupees 2.153 Indian Rupees 4.601 2.890 Pakistani Rupees 3.883 Bangladesh Taka Philippines Pesso 6.450 Cyprus pound 580.745 3.475 Japanese Yen Syrian Pound 2.610 Nepalese Rupees 3.860 70.705 Malaysian Ringgit 48.285 Chinese Yuan Renminbi Thai Bhat 9.485 Turkish Lira

RAHDAIN EVCHANCE COMPANY

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY												
COUNTRY	SELL CASH	SELLDRAFT										
	Europe											
British Pound	0.455001	0.464001										
Czech Korune	0.004092	0.016092										
Danish Krone	0.039829	0.044829										
Euro	0.322050	0.330050										
Norwegian Krone	0.031324	0.036524										
Romanian Leu	0.073555	0.073555										
Slovakia	0.009111	0.019111										
Swedish Krona	0.031059	0.036059										
Swiss Franc	0.296769	0.306969										
Turkish Lira	0.100849	0.111149										
	Australasia											
Australian Dollar	0.206862	0.218362										
New Zealand Dollar	0.194060	0.203560										
	America											
Canadian Dollar	0.224414	0.232914										
US Dollars	0.300550	0.305050										

Asia Bangladesh Taka 0.003512 0.004112 0.046517 0.050017 Chinese Yuan Hong Kong Dollar 0.039962 0.037212 0.004411 0.004801 Indian upee Indonesian Rupiah 0.000018 0.000024 0.002393 0.002573 Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling 0.002970 0.002970 0.000254 0.000269 Korean Won Malaysian Ringgit 0.066359 0.072359 Nepalese Rupee 0.002919 0.003089 0.002756 0.003036 Pakistan Rupee 0.006434 0.006714 Philippine Peso 0.000065 0.000071 Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar 0.211095 0.217095 South African Rand 0.015378 0.023878 0.001803 0.002383 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.009204 0.009384 Taiwan Thai Baht 0.008187 0.008737 Arab Bahraini Dinar 0.800879 0.808879 0.037467 0.040297 **Egyptian Pound** 0.000086 Iranian Riya 0.000084 Iraqi Dinar 0.000205 0.000265 Jordanian Dinar 0.425697 0.433197 1.000000 1.000000 Kuwaiti Dinar 0.000152 0.000252 Lebanese Pound 0.020683 0.044683 Moroccan Dirhams 0.001260 0.001895 Nigerian Naira Omani Riyal 0.784878 0.790558

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Infiniti 050

nfiniti Q70

Infiniti introduces four new models

Dubai International Motor Show 2015

DUBAI: Infiniti, one of the fastest growing premium automotive brands in the Middle East wrapped up a successful first day of Dubai International Motor Show following the regional debut of four new models.

Infiniti's focus during the Motor Show was firmly on design and innovation. Infiniti unveiled the Q60 concept - Infiniti's vision for a future sports coupe and Infiniti Q80 Inspiration, the halo model for Infiniti's design language. The first day of the event also saw the premium marque showcase the all-new Infiniti Q30, the brand's first premium compact and welcome the Infiniti QX50 LWB to the line-up.

"Our success in the region is due to our diverse portfolio which appeals to sophisticated and discerning audiences. We are constantly raising the bar and looking at new ways to innovate and inspire. The models we have on display during the show are testament to Infiniti's pioneering design influ-

ence and vision.

"The Dubai International Motor Show is the key exhibition of its kind in the region, which matches our status as a leading premium automotive brand. The show is the ideal platform for us to make the regional debut of these four new models. The first day has been hugely successful for us, having welcomed our industry partners to the show and received fantastic feedback on the new models." said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East.

Schmitz added: "The first ten months of 2015 have been excellent for Infiniti and we continue to build on our exceptional performance to date. We are focused on building on the momentum we have experienced so far this year, into and beyond 2016, we are confident that these new models will play an important role in supporting our plans in the region."



Taisuke Nakamura, Juergen Schmitz poses near Q60



Infiniti QX70



Infiniti QX80

CHINA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY SHOWS DOWNWARD PRESSURES PERSIST

OCT FACTORY OUTPUT GROWTH FALLS TO 7-MONTH LOW

BEIJING: China's factory output growth hit a 7-month low in October while investment expansion slipped to its weakest pace since 2000, signs that further government policy support may be needed to shore up slowing demand in the world's second biggest

The one bright spot in tepid October data released yesterday was an improvement in retail sales, which appear to be keeping the growth rate of the world's sec-

ond-largest economy from sliding.

Chinese leaders have embarked on the most aggressive policy easing since the 2008/09 global financial crisis, but the October numbers highlight persistent headwinds from weak global demand, a cooling domestic property sector and excess factory capacity. "Fiscal policy is likely to become more expansionary next year," said Lin Hu, an economist at Guosen Securities in Beijing. "There will be more interest rate and RRR (reserve requirement ratio) cuts and we cannot rule out the pos-

sibility of such cuts within the year."
Factory output grew slower-thanexpected at an annual 5.6 percent in
October, the weakest in seven months,
National Bureau of Statistics data showed.
That was below a Reuters forecast of 5.8
percent and down on September's 5.7 percent. Fixed asset investment rose 10.2 percent in the first 10 months, in line with
expectations but the weakest pace since
2000 and easing from a 10.3 percent gain in
the January-September period.

The cooling real estate sector remained a drag on investment, with property investment growth slowing to 2.0 percent in January-October from 2.6 percent in the first nine months.

Retail sales growth continued to pick up, expanding at an annual 11.0 percent in October, compared with 10.9 percent in September. Analysts had forecast 10.9 per-

cent growth in October.

Helping lift retail sales were buoyant vehicle purchases, which rose 11.8 percent from a year earlier in October, the biggest on-year gain since December, according to the China Association of Automobile

Manufacturers. Last week, General Motors Co said China vehicle sales rose 15 percent to a record high in October.

And on Wednesday, e-commerce giant Alibaba reported sales from the Singles' Day online shopping extravaganza had already surpassed last year's total of \$9.3 billion, a sign consumer sentiment remains firm in the fourth quarter.

Most analysts put more weight on indicators showing persistent problems than on green-shoots. Zhou Hao, senior emerging markets economist at Commerzbank in Singapore, said the data is not encouraging, despite some stabilisation, with manu-

facturing slowing and demand sluggish.

"Property investment remained low, which has failed to turn around the momentum of overall investment," Zhou said. "While consumption outperformed somewhat, the overall growth profile still remains weak."

POLICY SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

Yesterday's patchy activity data came on the heels of muted inflation and disappointing trade figures. On Oct. 23, China's central bank cut interest rates for the sixth time in less than a year, alongside a cut in bank reserve requirements, after third quarter annual economic growth slowed to 6.9 percent - the weakest since the global

financial crisis.

Premier Li Keqiang's pledged on Tuesday that the government will maintain policy support for the economy as it faces headwinds caused by a sluggish world economy and domestic structural adjustments. President Xi Jinping has said that China must keep annual average growth of no less than 6.5 percent over the next five years to hit the country's goal of doubling 2010 gross domestic product and per capi-

ta income by 2020.

"With policymakers keen to meet their growth targets and having policy space to do so, we think the probability of a hard landing remains low, notwithstanding the need for structural reforms," said Louis Kuijs, head of Asia economics at Oxford Economics.— Reuters

UniCredit, feeling squeeze from low rates, cuts 18,200 jobs

MILAN: Italy's top bank UniCredit announced plans yesterday to shed over 18,000 jobs in an effort to stay profitable as low interest rates and the weak economy weigh on earnings. The cuts are to save the bank 1.6 billion euros (\$1.71 billion), the bank said in a statement. A third of the 18,200 jobs are to go as UniCredit sells off a bank in Ukraine and a joint venture between its Pioneer unit and Santander.

The rest is to be achieved through cuts in Italy, Germany and Austria, leaving the bank with 111,000 employees in 2018. The bank hopes to achieve a net profit of 5.3 billion euros by then-a figure revised down from its earlier

estimate of 6.6 billion euros.

UniCredit's chief executive Federico Ghizzoni described the plan as "rigorous and at the same time ambitious... in a persistently tough macroeconomic environment, marked by historically low interest rates and decelerating worldwide economic growth".

He said the bank would focus on "significant cost containment measures and further disconti-

nuity actions" as well as "exiting or restructuring poorly performing businesses". The cuts involve further reducing the number of bank branches in Italy, Germany and Austria, closing 800 by 2018. The bank anticipates exiting or restructuring its Austrian retail activities and Italian leasing business by the end of 2016.

'Investments for the future'

There would, however, be "considerable investments for the future", including 1.2 billion euros in digital developments. The bank expects over 90 percent of transactions to be carried out remotely by 2018, affecting 1,500 branches. The plan was well received by the Milan stock market, where UniCredit shares were up 1.52 percent in a market up 0.42 percent in afternoon trading. Italy's biggest bank by assets returned to profit last year after hemorrhaging 14 billion euros in 2013 as it wrote down assets ahead of "stress tests" carried out by the European Central Bank on the heels of the euro-zone financial crisis. Ratings agency Moody's said Tuesday it was

revising up from "negative" to "stable" its outlook for the Italian banking sector as bad loans which hit the lenders hard are gradually dealt with. UniCredit is just the latest major European bank to radically revise its operations as low interest rates increase pressure.

In a bid to bolster the EU's fragile economy, the ECB has brought its key interest rate down close to zero. It now stands at 0.05 percent, and while the low rate is good news for spenders, for European savers it often no longer pays to park cash in a savings account and banks lose out on a large chunk of profits.

Milan-based UniCredit is also vulnerable to weakness in the Italian economy, which is struggling to recover from a deep recession. Inflation accelerated slightly in October while consumer confidence rose from 113.0 in September to 116.9, the highest reading since February 2002, according to the National Statistics Institute (ISTAT). But the country still carries the second highest debt in the euro-zone after Greece, estimated at 133 percent of GDP. — AFP

FLOW OF IRAQI OIL TO US REACHES 3-YEAR PEAK

LONDON: Oil tankers are set to deliver the biggest volume of Iraqi crude to US shores in more than three years, as OPEC's secondlargest producer vies for market share as pressure mounts on US shale production. According to Reuters shipping data, tankers carrying nearly 20 million barrels of Iraqi oil are due to sail to the United States in November, almost 40 percent above the amount booked to arrive in October. At an average rate of more than 660,000 barrels per day (bpd), it would be the largest monthly import since mid-2012, according to US data.

The supply surge is emerging at a time when low oil prices are muscling US shale producers out of the market, heightening competition among some OPEC members to secure market share.

In Europe, Saudi Arabia is targeting traditional buyers of Atlantic Basin and Russian crudes. In the United States, where Saudi Arabia has long been the biggest OPEC supplier, favorable prices are helping Iraq regain share among US refiners that run heavier, high sulfur or sour grades. "There's been a pull from

the Gulf Coast for heavier and medium sour barrels and Basra Heavy been a part of that picture," Energy Aspects analyst Richard Mallinson said. "If the pricing has got good when refiners are looking to (switch), then it comes on to the shopping list."

shopping list." The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is all but certain to stick to its policy of pumping oil at record rates to retain market share, as the price of a barrel of oil struggles to break above \$50 a barrel. Traders may have also spied a window of opportunity to move Iraqi crude to the United States, as the spread between US benchmark crude WTI and its Middle East equivalent Dubai one-month swaps have fallen to a discount of around 30 cents, from a premium of \$4 a barrel just a few weeks ago. Total US shale production is set to decline 118,000 barrels per day (bpd) in December, the biggest monthly decline on record, to 4.95 million bpd, the least since Sept. 2014, according to data from the Energy

Information Agency.
Iraq cut its official selling price of Basra
Heavy to the United States to a discount of

\$5.85 a barrel versus the US sour crude benchmark for November, the lowest since it began selling the grade earlier this year, while cutting Basra Light by 50 cents for October.

Mars Sour crude is commanding a discount of around \$3.00 to \$2.00 a barrel to WTI futures.

"We have definitely seen a pickup ... in October in PADD 3, which is the Gulf Coast in (imports of) medium and heavy grades. It's not just Basra Heavy, we saw Maya and we saw Kuwait export blend," Mallinson said.

It is not just non-OPEC barrels that Iraq must compete with. Saudi Arabia, along with some other OPEC members, have delivered cuts to their official selling prices to buyers in Europe and the United States in their quest to for market share, particularly as consumption in Asian hot spots such as China appears to be moderating. "In spite of strategic stock-building by China and India, Asia has become a congested market," BNP Paribas analysts said in a recent report. "Consequently, Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members like Iraq, have recently stepped-up marketing efforts elsewhere to diversify their exports destinations." — Reuters







Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Lexus unveil all new 2016 LX and RX

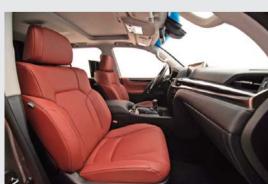












LX - New paradigm of perfection

The iconic luxury SUV now comes in a new muscular look. Dynamic exterior styling includes a new rendition of the signature Lexus Spindle grill and a refined interior that has more features than ever before. With its renowned powerful V8 engine, the new LX570 incorporates an all-new 8 speed automatic gear box and the Lexus Safety System+ - meaning this sophisticated 4WD remains the only SUV that combines sumptuous luxury with true off-road capability. The LX leading the way.

ohamed Naser Al-Sayer and Sons (MNSS), one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies and the exclusive distributor of Lexus unveiled luxury SUV's 2016 LX and RX. Faisal Bader Al-Sayer Vice Chairman Al-Sayer Group Holding, Simon Frith Business Director Lexus Kuwait, Bader Musaed Al-Sayer Deputy Business Director Lexus Kuwait unveiled the iconic Lexus models along with Sadayoshi Koyari Chief Engineer for the LX, Jun Takahashi Assistant Chief Engineer for the RX, Takayuki Yoshitsugu Chief Representative of Toyota Motor Corporation MENARO Dubai in front of delegates from the press and media.

According to Faisal Bader Al-Sayer, Vice Chairman Al-Sayer Group Holding said "Overall 2015 has been a spectacular year for Lexus Lexus has been named the top brand in the annual Consumer Reports Reliability Survey. All seven vehicle lines offered by Lexus received top reliability marks. and in Kuwait Lexus won first of its kind, prestigious award for excellence in public relations and customer service under the patronage of His Highness The Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah."

Simon Frith Business Director MNSS Lexus said "Since inception some 25 years ago Lexus has dared to be different... has been dedicated to craftsmanship, has consistently looked forward, had a focus on sustainable-technologies and has been about a different kind of luxury.... progressive luxury.....supported by outstanding customer service."

Lexus Debuts 2016 LX 570 to offer unparalleled off-road performance and luxurious daily driving

- Powerfully elegant design transcends traditional 4WD styling
 Plush interior delivers ample comfort, luxury and technologi-
- Outstanding performance and versatility is a hallmark of the
- new LX
 Advanced safety technologies protects passengers with additional safeguards through Lexus Safety System+

The all-new 2016 LX 570, unveiling a premium, full-capability three-row luxury utility vehicle that combines the brute strength of a massive V8 with the grace of an eight-speed automatic transmission. A full-size, SUV designed to take luxury to places it has never been before, the new LX packs in the comfort, luxury and

infotainment technology expected from a Lexus flagship model.

According to Chief Engineer Sadayoshi Koyari, "The Lexus LX represents a new paradigm of automotive perfection and reflects the evolution of this iconic vehicle to offer next generation luxury, technology and elegance. Through its sophisticated exterior design, progressive luxury interior and advanced technologies, customers now have the opportunity to drive the ultimate premium SUV in its class in the region."

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, TOYOTA Motor Corporation, said, "The new Lexus LX is forged for those seeking that special combination of unparalleled off-road performance and luxurious daily driving. With a powerful V8 engine, sophisticated 4WD chassis and seating for eight, the LX 570 remains one of the few luxury utility vehicles that combines sumptuous luxury with brute performance, providing a silken-smooth ride along with the capability to venture where few others can - all while surrounded in unsurpassed interior comfort and refinement. The result, unsurprisingly, is a driving experience taken to new heights. We appreciate the support of our customers who have made the LX an integral part of their lives over the years and we look forward to delighting them once again with this latest model."

Lexus left barely any surface of the LX 570 untouched in a sweeping upgrade for 2016. The restyled front end wears an even bolder rendition of the Lexus signature spindle grille, framed by elegant satin chrome trim and complemented by distinctive new standard LED headlights, turn signals and fog lights.

The upgrades for 2016 however go beyond skin-deep. An eight-speed automatic transmission replaces the former six-speed for enhanced performance and efficiency. Additionally, a new driving mode called Customize Mode helps the LX achieve extremely stable and adaptive performance both on and off the road. To further increase safety and peace of mind, the LX is available with the Lexus Safety System+.



Powerfully elegant design

The exterior of the 2016 Lexus LX combines the power of an SUV with the inherent luxury befitting a Lexus flagship. The front profile provides a sense of stability with its daringly muscular lower portion, while the side profile emphasizes a refined yet bold and dynamic underbody and the rear cuts a sturdy yet graceful outline.

The spindle grille projects a sense of strength and elegance, and symbolizes the ever-evolving nature of Lexus. The lower portion of the grille takes on a protective shape while the inner grille bar juts out energetically from the hood and merges with the grille frame to form a single hard surface. Sequential LED turn signal lamps are utilized in a Lexus vehicle for the first time. These innovative lamps light up in a flowing sequence, increasing visibility when turning right or left.

Premium, tech-loaded interior

The LX's highly functional interior exudes a luxurious feel through the juxtaposition of such contrasting materials as metal, leather and wood grain. The horizontally positioned instrument panel enables the driver to easily assess the position and stance of the vehicle, a core requirement for any true SUV.

A new interior atmosphere has been created by separating the display zone from the operation zone and incorporating remote operation devices such as the Remote Touch Interface. The new, larger 12.3-inch navigation screen can show several view combinations to help aid the driver, while a larger, 4.2-inch TFT multi-information display screen has been installed on the new, high-visibility Optitron meter. The LX 570 puts more information directly into the driver's line of sight with the newly available Heads-up Display (HUD), which shows information such as vehicle speed, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, warnings, information icons, and more.



Faisal Bader Al-Sayer Vice Chairman Al-Sayer Group Holding

The 2016 LX 570 is designed to please passengers. The Rear Seat Entertainment System uses dual 11.6-inch screens in place of the former 7.0-inch screens. The luxury touches continue with the Lexus-exclusive Mark Levinson Reference Surround Sound Audio System. The system is equipped with 16-channel output DSP amplifiers with sound output from 2-channel sources to create a realistic sound space. This premium sound system combines high performance, high output amplifiers with an exclusively developed 9-speaker system configured with two channels. The LX also has a navigation system that can now display a 1280x480 sized image which enables switching between a full-screen or an 8-inch display of the map.

The LX is also available with Lexus' advanced climate concierge concept. In addition to the 4-zone independent automatic temperature control, Lexus Climate Concierge meticulously controls the seat and steering wheel heaters, to which the occupants come in direct contact, in order to achieve comfort that can be felt with the whole body in each seat. There is also a Front Seat High Air Flow Control which increases the air flow volume for the front seats when the rear seats are not occupied. An ECO air conditioning mode has also been added which when activated suppresses cooler and heater operation to contribute towards power consumption reduction.

Outstanding performance and versatility

The Lexus LX 570's formidable 5.7-liter V8 engine produces 362 horsepower and 54.0 kg-m of torque at 3,200 RPM. It also delivers 90 percent of its peak torque at just 2,000 rpm to confidently tackle the challenges of demanding terrain with a smoothness that takes driving freeways and city streets in easy stride.

Combined with a super intelligent, electronically controlled eight-speed automatic transmission, the Lexus LX demonstrates easy acceleration on-road and ample power at low and medium speeds off-road. The outstanding performance of the LX 570 comes courtesy of the following features:

- Handling is improved by virtue of Variable Gear Ratio Steering (VGRS), which adjusts the steering gear ratio according to the speed of the vehicle to provide outstanding maneuverability and cruising stability.
- The newly available Drive Mode Select allows the LX 570 driver to tailor powertrain and suspension responses by selecting drive modes suitable for the situation, or to match their preferred driving style, thus heightening driving pleasure. Modes include ECO, which adjusts powertrain responses and air conditioning to prioritize fuel-efficient driving; COMFORT mode optimizes Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS) damping to help deliver the smoothest ride possible; SPORT S mode dials up powertrain response and dials down power steering assist to yield a sportier driving feel, whilst the SPORT S+ mode adds firmer damping control from AVS to prioritize handling agility. Moreover, the suspension of the LX comprises of a high mount, double wishbone suspension in the front which further enhances ride comfort and handling performance.
- A Customize Mode has been included for the first time among the drive mode settings on a Lexus. Upon selection of Customize Mode, the powertrain, chassis, and air conditioning controls can each be freely adjusted. This enables the driver to select a driving mode better suited to his or her preferences. The system also controls responses of the Adaptive Variable Suspension, which continually adjusts shock absorber damping rates while driving, helping to ensure optimal comfort even as the road surface changes.
- The Multi-Terrain Select switch increases AWD performance by optimizing traction and brake control. When driving with Crawl Control implemented, turn assist functions are engaged to enhance turning capabilities. This reduces the number of times the steering wheel has to be turned when executing tight turns, thus making the driver's job easier. For the Drive Train, a Torsen LSD (Limited Slip Differential) has been adopted for the center differential to help ensure steering stability and traction performance while achieving a compact, lightweight design. The LX also has a dual tank system which has been changed to an automatic fuel transfer system with a 93-liter main tank and a 45-liter sub tank for a total capacity of 138 liters. The fuel system is designed so that when refueling, fuel can be supplied to both tanks from one refueling port.

Advanced safety technologies offered along with Lexus Safety System+

The LX also scores highly when it comes to offering comprehensive protection for passengers. Ten standard airbags are among the comprehensive occupant protection measures in the LX 570, which comes loaded with a wide array of advanced safety technologies integrated in the Lexus Safety System+.









Lexus unveils all-new RX Luxury Crossover in Middle East

Bold and aggressive design with opulent interiors make the RX stand out from every angle ${\sf RX}$

- RX Hybrid redefines power and performance
- Superb driving experience offered by powerful 6-cylinder engine and advanced driving dynamics
- Lexus Safety System+ packs in an exhaustive suite of advanced safety technologies
- High performance F Sport model promises the ultimate driving experience

Lexus announces the arrival of the all-new Lexus RX in Kuwait to unveil a stylish, aggressively designed luxury crossover that breaks new ground in refinement, comfort and driving performance.

The new RX's mix of sharp creases and curves represents a bold evolution in the model's styling, sharing the same design DNA with other recently launched models in the Lexus line-up. Moreover, this perennial best-selling luxury crossover adds advanced new redesigned powertrains, sophisticated safety technologies, driver aids and welcomes new convenience and technology features to make this the best Lexus sport-utility vehicle offering to date.

According to Takayuki Katsuda, the Chief Engineer of the new Lexus RX, "The new RX is completely different from the current generation vehicle thanks to a new, more powerful and efficient powertrain, an improved platform with high rigidity body shell, and highly tuned suspensions. Our loyal customers will be pleasantly surprised with the enhanced capability, confident driving feeling and the sophisticated ride quality which creates a superb driving experience. From a visual standpoint, the bold and outstanding styling proportions stand out without sacrificing the elegant appeal of the RX lineage."

"This latest model of the RX continues the 'Progressive Luxury' vision of Lexus with sharp lines and contemporary styling in addition to significant improvements in performance combined with best in class safety technologies," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, TOYOTA Motor Corporation. "With this completely redesigned iteration of the RX, we dramatically raise the bar yet again in the mid-size luxury utility segment. As always, we have been guided by the aspirations of our customers and we sincerely appreciate their support and look forward to delighting them yet again with this automotive masterpiece."

The Lexus RX is available with two engine choices: the RX 350 model comes with a 3.5-liter, V-6 petrol engine mated to a new eight-speed automatic transmission, while the RX 450h is equipped with a 3.5-liter, V-6 petrol engine and revised hybrid powertrain components.



dles and convenient door handle illumination.

The new RX is offered in 10 exciting colours including six newly introduced colours: Graphite Black Glass Flake, Amber Crystal Shine, Sonic Titanium, Deep Blue Mica, Sonic Quarts and Red Mica Crystal Shine. All RX models feature a self-restoring coat in the body paint that helps improve scratch resistance, such as from car washes or fingernail marks around the door handles.

The RX also offers a choice of five different aluminium wheel packages including an 18-inch seven-spoke wheel and four distinct 20-inch wheel sets.

The driver is treated to a completely redesigned instrument panel section that has been shaped with a strong horizontal axis-a fundamental element of the Lexus interior-and the lowered dashboard position adds to the RX's interior's wide open and spacious feel. Additionally, with the dashboard/instrument panel's stepped cross-sections, the highly stylized centre console looks like a sleek and elegant piece of contemporary furniture created by a world-class designer. The thoroughly modern look of the centre console is further enhanced by the tasteful accent trim, along with richlooking textures, colours and materials that further add to the interior's upscale look and feel.



Bold and aggressive design with opulent interiors

The front view of the new RX is characterized by an emboldened version of the Lexus brand's signature spindle grille featuring a chrome-plated border and triple L-shape-LED headlamps. Together with the new front fog light/LED cornering light clusters, the RX's face exudes an elegant yet futuristic aura. The headlight designs feature a bold-looking slanted geometric shape. With the upgrade L-shaped LED headlight system, the 18 individual LEDs that surround the headlights not only act as turn signal indicators, but also illuminate sequentially from the inside section of the headlamp toward the outside when the driver activates the turn signal.

When seen from the side, the sharp character line that runs from the front fenders to the rear end, together with a flowing roofline, give the RX a dynamic profile. All of this helps make the vehicle surefooted at high speed and reduces wind noise. A truly distinctive styling cue is the blacked-out C-pillars which provide a floating-roof effect never before seen on a Lexus product.

The new RX's rear appearance has been sharpened, now exuding a sense of chiseled, rock-solid stability with the design highlighted by LED L-shaped taillights that wrap around the sides of the vehicle, creating a wider, more authoritative presence when illuminated. When lit, a brilliant glow spans laterally from the body to the back door, another Lexus-first. Other new exterior features include flush-fitting headlight washers, panoramic moon roof design, solid roof rails, redesigned Smart Entry System door han-

With an interior space optimized for five passengers, the new RX's lowered rear floor section helps provide seating position comparable to that of the rear-seat passengers in the flagship Lexus LS luxury sedan. The new RX features improved rear cargo space-larger than competing crossovers within the segment-with room enough to fit hefty items including up to four large suitcases or multiple golf bags. New for this model year is the available Touchless Power Back Door, a Lexus first, which allows users to open the rear hatch by placing a hand near the Lexus emblem.

Lexus designers and engineers have given a great deal of consideration to the layout of the redesigned centre console of the RX, which has led to improvements in the usability of switchgear and the accessibility of cup holders and storage areas. Based upon the concept of Lexus's Human Machine Interface (HMI) that allows the driver to concentrate on the road ahead with minimal distraction, a feature incorporated into the design of the new-look instrument panel is a large colour Heads-Up Display (HUD) system. The redesigned instrument cluster offers the driver instantaneous information with a quick glance at its large and easy-to-read gauge faces.

RX 450h model redefines hybrid power and performance

A paragon of efficiency with plentiful power when needed, the completely reengineered 3.5-liter direct-injected V6 hybrid engine (2GR-FXS) is an evolution of the base six-cylinder drivetrain and produces a combined system output of 308 hp at 6,300 rpm with 34.2kg-m of torque at 4,600 rpm.



The pioneering cross-over SUV now comes with a more sculpted contemporary body, and a completely new luxurious interior to match. The all-new 2016 RX also boasts exceptional on-road performance and technologies that include the innovative Lexus Safety System+, of course it goes without saying that it still holds true to its pioneering roads, leading edge technology combined with elegance, sophistication and luxury are still part of the car's DNA.

The RX 450h also features newly shaped intake ports and combustion chambers that generate a high degree of tumble inside the cylinders and improve combustion.

The hybrid-powered drivetrain in the all-new Lexus RX is the latest, most advanced iteration of the Lexus Hybrid Drive system. Its key components and control systems have been enhanced and reengineered to deliver impressive fuel economy, low emissions and excellent on-road performance that will satisfy the most demanding driving enthusiast. The transmission includes a hybrid front transaxle with new features including a transmission oil cooler for motor cooling as well as a pre-loaded differential for performance and enhanced control, in addition to many other upgrades which make the Lexus Hybrid Drive system achieves excellent driving performance, quietness and fuel economy.

Superb driving experience

Under the RX 350's hood is an upgraded and more powerful 3.5-liter V-6 engine that brings class-leading levels of performance, fuel efficiency and reduced emissions while delivering prodigious power when summoned by the driver, with smooth and highly refined operating characteristics in normal everyday operation. Power is rated at 296 hp at 6300 rpm with 37.7 kg-m of torque at 4600-4700 rpm. To enhance breathing and fuel efficiency, Lexus engineers rely on an all-new cylinder head design with reshaped intake ports and combustion chambers for added efficiency in the engine's combustion process, D-4S fuel injection system that enables direct injection to the cylinders with high fuel pressure, and a quick-shifting 8-speed automatic transmission, whose close gear ratios have been tuned to provide excellent punch off the line and robust passing power while maintaining excellent fuel economy.

To maximize torque throughout the rev range, Variable Valve Timing with intelligence Wide VVT-iW has been included on the RX's intake side, while the exhaust side features VVT-i. The inclusion of VVT-iW has enabled the adoption of the Atkinson cycle to further benefit fuel economy, without sacrificing engine start-up in severe weather conditions and during Wide Open Throttle (WOT) driving.

To further improve driving performance as well as feedback to the driver, a number of updates and improvements have been made throughout the structurally sound and highly refined platform of the new RX. Although it utilizes an updated version of the underbody platform of its predecessor, it has been given revamped front engine mounts to the sub-frame structure. The side engine mounts have been relocated to enhance the vehicle's lateral responsiveness, resulting in the engine sitting tighter in the compartment, which provides for sharper steering feel and better overall cornering reaction of the chassis. This newfound agility comes at no sacrifice to the RX's trademark smoothness and quietness.

The RX utilizes a front-strut and rear double-wishbone suspension system that has seen major improvements engineered to provide better steering response and ride comfort, which the RX has long been known for.

To match the changes made to the suspension and platform, the steering system was modified to make the car respond more precisely and responsively. The newest EPS management system was adopted for wider control range of initial steer, return-steer and cornering in accordance to variable speed ranges and reactive force. This enables the car to have a light and comfortable steering feel, but at the same time deliver stability, enhancing driver communication with the vehicle.

A premium equipment option, Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS) adjusts the damping force according to road conditions and irregularities. By adding a linear solenoid with an oil pressure valve to the AVS shock absorber, a shock-free variable suspension system was made possible. Actively changing the absorbance level allows the suspension to respond quickly, as it allows the RX to achieve a flat riding feel in a broad range of driving environ-

The innovative Active Stabilizer Suspension has been carried over from the previous model, and the new RX now features the world's first roll skyhook control that helps maintain the effectiveness of the stabilizing system in achieving a flat and smooth ride. It calculates the virtual damping force that might occur, and responds by simultaneously creating a counter force to the stabilizer, providing the sensation of the vehicle stabilized in mid-air or "hooked" in the sky. Because the electronic system is very responsive and has the ability to decrease the counter force from the stabilizer, the driver can concentrate on the driving without worrying about being affected by the angle of roll or the negative input from the road surface. As a result, the driver can fully enjoy the fun of taking the car around each corner.

The available Drive Mode Select system allows the driver to choose between distinct drive settings depending upon vehicle model and equipment. The ECO mode moderates engine power output, throttle response and the climate control system for increased fuel efficiency. "NORMAL" provides an even balance between engine performance and fuel economy. In "SPORT," the driver is treated to more performance through enhanced throttle response and improved acceleration while sharpening the feel of the Electric Power Steering (EPS) system. The "SPORT S" setting (available with vehicles equipped with the Adaptive Variable Suspension system) offers even a higher level of performance with aggressive throttle mapping and quicker drivetrain response.

Audio/Multimedia Systems

The new RX is available with 12-speaker Pioneer audio system offers crisp, clear sound broadcast throughout the cabin through speakers along the sides of the instrument panel in addition to 20-cm subwoofers and newly-developed 18-cm woofers in the front doors. Discerning audiophiles will enjoy the available 15-speaker Mark Levinson Premium Surround System, with its advanced Clari-Fi compressed music restoration technology, Green Edge high-efficiency conversion technology and Unity(tm), which brings the high-range and mid-range cone positions as close together as possible to realize a smooth connection between mid- and high-range sounds.

RX offers an optional eight-inch and 12.3-inch navigation system. The available eight-inch high-definition Thin Film Transistor (TFT) liquid crystal display features a high level of contrasting clarity as well as minimal colour variation when viewed at different angles from either the driver or the front passenger seat.























THE LEGEND SHELBY GT350 MUSTANG WOWS AUDIENCES

Dubai International Motor Show

DUBAI: One of the most iconic performance Mustang nameplates of all times returns as the all-new Shelby GT350 Mustang and makes its regional debut at the 2015 Dubai International Motor Show this week.

The original Shelby GT350 introduced in 1965 established the Mustang's performance credentials. The all-new Shelby GT350 Mustang, featuring the most powerful naturally aspirated Ford production engine ever, is a world-class performance vehicle, designed to tackle the planet's most challenging roads - an all-day track car that's also street legal.

The new GT350 builds on Carroll Shelby's original idea - transforming a great every-day car into a dominant road racer - by taking advantage of a dramatically improved sixthgeneration Mustang to create a truly special driving experience. Driving enthusiasts behind the wheel of a Shelby GT350 can expect to be treated to the most balanced, nimble and exhilarating production Mustang yet.

Ford engineers took an innovative approach with GT350. Rather than develop individual systems to perform well independently, every component and shape is optimized to work in concert; balance is the key. While paying rigorous attention to detail, the team pushed the envelope with cutting-edge materials and technologies.

"When we started working on this car, we wanted to build the best possible Mustang for the places we most love to drive - challenging back roads with a variety of corners and elevation changes, and the track on weekends," said Jim Benintende, President, Ford Middle East and Africa. "Every change we made to this car was driven by the functional requirements of a powerful, responsive power plant - nimble, precise handling, and massive stopping power.

Track-tuned driveline

Early in the development of the GT350, it was decided that a high-revving, naturally aspirated V8 engine would best suit a trackfocused Mustang. "The final product is essentially an all-new power plant unique to GT350 - "and one that takes true advantage of the new chassis dynamics of the Mustang platform," said Jamal Hameedi, chief engineer,

Ford Global Performance Vehicles.

The new 5.2-liter V8 engine is the first-ever production V8 from Ford with a flat-plane crankshaft, an architecture typically found only in racing applications or exotic European sports cars. Unlike a traditional V8, where the connecting rods are attached to the crankshaft at 90-degree intervals, this design evenly spaces all crank pins at 180-degrees intervals.

The 180-degree, flat-plane layout permits a cylinder firing order that alternates between cylinder banks, reducing the overlap of exhaust pressure pulses. When combined with cylinderhead and valve train advancements, this permits better cylinder breathing, further extending the performance envelope of the V8.

The result is the most powerful naturally aspirated production Ford engine ever, at 500 PS, with a torque peak of 542 Nm The track capability is enhanced by the output characteristics of the engine - the 5.2-liter V8 features an exceptionally broad torque curve. Combined with its high-revving ability, the flat-plane 5.2-liter V8 gives drivers an enormous amount of performance and flexibility within each gear of the lightweight six-speed manual transmission. A standard Ford-tuned Torsen limited-slip differential optimizes cornering grip and straight-line traction. "Make no mistake, this is an American interpretation of a flat-plane crankshaft V8, and the 5.2-liter produces a distinctive, throaty howl from its four exhaust tips," Hameedi said.

Balanced dynamics

The new Mustang platform is the strongest in the history of the brand, with torsional stiffness increased 28 percent over the previous model. That stiff structure ensures the suspension geometry remains consistent, even under hard driving on back roads and tracks. Front stiffness is further improved on GT350 with a cutting-edge injection-molded carbon fiber composite grille opening and optional lightweight tower-to-tower brace. The front track has been increased while spring rates and bushings have been recalibrated all around, with ride height reduced compared to Mustang GT.

For optimum handling, the wheels need to

respond quickly to the contours of the road and driver inputs. Reducing unsprung mass is key to improving that response, but a balance must be struck between taking mass out of a suspension and delivering truly capable braking performance. Due to the significant speeds the car can develop, the GT350 features the most track-credible brake system ever offered on a Ford vehicle in terms of absolute stopping power, fade resistance and brake pedal feel. The brakes are two-piece cross-drilled iron brake discs mounted to aluminum hats. At the front are massive 394-millimeter rotors clamped by Brembo six-piston fixed calipers with integrated caliper bridges while 380-millimeter rotors at the rear utilize four-piston calipers.

GT350 makes use of extra-stiff 19-inch aluminum alloy wheels - 10.5 inches wide in front, 11.0 inches in the rear - clad in state-ofthe-art Michelin Pilot Super Sport tires with GT350-specific sidewall construction, tread face and compound. The custom tires are designed to deliver maximum grip on the road or during weekend track days.

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Mohammed Al Othman

keen to provide customers with the easiest and most flexible services and products to meet their needs", said Mohammed Al Othman, NBK Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking Group.

Al Othman added: "NBK's Car financing solutions are marked with flexible repayments and competitive offers by car dealers exclusively for NBK customers. Those features assure NBK's leadership in the car financing market in Kuwait".

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OOREDOO KUWAIT LAUNCHES INTERNET OF THE FUTURE WITH NEW PACKAGES

HIGH-SPEED 4G+ INTERNET TO MEET CUSTOMERS' DIFFERENT NEEDS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, part of Ooredoo International Group, has launched new Internet packages offering unrivalled performance and flexibility. Ooredoo's revamped data packages not only allow its customers to access as much



Mijbil Alayoub

Internet content as they like, whenever they like, without the inconvenience of daily caps - but also allow unused data services to roll-over into the following month. Additionally, customers have the option of coupling their offers with new pocket or fixed routers, as well as choose from a selection of devices such as tablets in addition to the gaming console. The capacity of current customers' packs will be upgraded automatically without any changes in price, commitment or in terms and conditions.

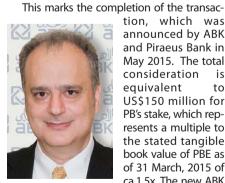
Customers will also have the option of opting in to the new Ooredoo packages free of charge Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "Ooredoo's revamped internet plans

are available without a fixed-term contract and offer a variety of other benefits. These include the ability to get two SIM cards, sharing the same internet subscription between two devices for customers subscribing to 500GB or 1TB data packages." Ooredoo offers 5 new internet packs, serving customers of different usage whether they are light surfers or heavy video gamers who need large internet capacity to download content, starting from KD 6 a month. Customers can track their usage in real time and buy extra packs to their convenience on the easy control panel page, which is intuitive and easily accessible.



ABK CONCLUDES DEAL WITH PIRAEUS BANK OF EGYPT

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait KSC ('ABK') announced yesterday that it has closed the deal with Piraeus Bank SA ('PB') to acquire 98.5 percent of Piraeus Bank Egypt (PBE) with the official share transfer taking place on November 10, 2015.



US\$150 million for PB's stake, which represents a multiple to the stated tangible book value of PBE as of 31 March, 2015 of ca.1.5x. The new ABK **Michel Accad** subsidiary in Egypt will be rebranded ABK Egypt subject to name change approval

by the official authorities, and the new identity will be rolled-out over the entire 39 branch network in the first half of 2016. Talal Mohammed Reda Behbehani, Chairman of ABK, said: "We are very proud to formally welcome PBE and its employees

and customers into the ABK family. ABK is

firmly committed to investing in its growth,

and Egypt is a core market for us, building

that already exists between our two countries. We look forward to developing and growing our business in the Egyptian market. I'd like to thank all the concerned authorities in Kuwait and Egypt who have helped us to complete the deal in a very good time frame. Michel Accad, Chief Executive of ABK said: "Today's closing announcement is a transformational milestone in ABK's development into a significant regional player in the Middle East. It helps us to diversify our business profile and extends our regional connectivity, providing many new opportunities for ABK and ABK (Egypt) to grow and flourish. I would like to extend my warm thanks to the regulators and to all our colleagues and associates at both banks for their hard work and generous spirit of cooperation."

ABK's acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt realizes ABK's regional vision, Egypt being considered a key focus market with a wellregulated yet underpenetrated banking market, further supported by the country's attractive macro-economic fundamentals and robust population dynamics, boasting a young population of 85 million with a vibrant middle class.

ABK has been advised by JP Morgan as its exclusive financial advisor on the acquisition of PBE, while Ernst & Young acted as transaction and tax advisors and Zulficar & Partners acted as legal advisors.

on the long standing business relationship CARNEY SAYS WILL MAKE OUTCOME OF EU REFERENDUM WORK

LONDON: Britain's relationship with the European Union is working but the Bank of England will do whatever is needed to adapt should Britons vote to leave the bloc in a referendum, BoE Governor Mark Carney said vesterday

"Our job is to make whatever the British people decide work," he told Sky News. "And there's a status quo, we're making that work and we think it is working, but if things change we will do what's necessary." Britain is due to vote before the end of 2017 on whether to stay in the EU, and Carney attracted criticism last month from anti-EU campaigners after he delivered an upbeat assessment of membership of the bloc.

Yesterday he said neither he nor the BoE had an institutional view on whether Britain should stay in the EU. The central bank has previously said it is making contingency plans in case of financial market turmoil in the run-up to or aftermath of the vote, which does not yet have a date. —Reuters

TURKISH AND KUWAITI RELATIONS REINFORCED WITH STEEL

Turkish steel industry concentrates on strengthening commercial and friendly relations with Kuwait spanning many years. Turkish Steel Exporters' Association is set to visit Kuwait on November 17-19 with the participation of 22 Turkish steel companies. The visit, which aims to bring representatives from steel industries and senior officials of both countries together, will create a discussion platform for new business opportunities to reinforce the steel industries of Turkey and

Turkey and Kuwait have maintained stable political and economic relations for decades. The countries are now preparing to create new commercial partnerships. Turkish Steel Exporters' Association organizes a friendship and trade visit to Kuwait with the participation of 27 representatives of 22 Turkish companies. The visit which will bring the representatives from steel industries and senior officials of both countries together aims to create new partnerships and investments.

The organization to be held on November 17-19 will start with the visit of the Chamber of Commerce and first round of bilateral business meetings in the Chamber of Commerce in the morning of November 18. Namuk Ekinci, Chairman of the Turkish Exporters' Association, board members of the Association as well as officials from the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Coordinator / samet.damar@immib.org.tr / Turkey will carry out official visits to relevant governmental agencies. In addition, leading company representatives from the Turkish steel industry will continue the bilateral business meetings with their Kuwaiti counterparts in the afternoon of November 18 at Sheraton Hotel. The program will come to an end with a dinner organized in honor of the companies taking part in bilateral meetings in Sheraton Hotel.

Namuk Ekinci, Chairman of the Turkish Exporters' Association said "Turkey and Kuwait enjoy a robust, long-standing friendship and commercial partnership in both trade and political relations. Numerous mutual investments have been made so far. Kuwait is a strong partner for the Turkish steel industry with its knowledge, experience in steel industry and its location. Our visit will help us seek new areas of cooperation with our colleagues in addition to existing ones and discuss new investments. We will thereby take a crucial step in strengthening the ties between Turkey and Kuwait."

Please visit http://www.turkishsteelcluster.com/Event.aspx to register B2B meetings or to register please email to samet.damar@immib.org.tr

Turkey Contact / Turkish Steel Exporters' Association / Samet DAMAR / Project +90 534 623 07 77

WHO WE ARE

The Turkish Steel Exporter's Association is a business association of nearly 600 companies representing the largest steel producers and exporters in the Turkish steel industry. Steel Exporters' Association carries on its operations with the aim of increasing the export potential of the Turkish steel industry and it supports Turkish steel producers/exporters, with its main objective to foster and attain sustainable global steel market based on free and fair trade. The Association also solves the problems of its member companies face at home and abroad, provides contact between members and foreign importers in order to ease the export processes, serves up-to-date domestic and global market news, reports and analyses.

Turkish Steel Cluster is an export promotion cluster consists of 71 Turkish Steel Exporters. Turkish Steel Cluster is composed by Turkish Steel Exporters' Association. TSC is also supported by Republic of Turkey Ministry of Economy. TSC goals are to supply wide range of steel products in high quality to world markets and to build up reliable long term trade relations.

CANON APPOINTS GM IN QATAR TO DRIVE STRATEGY AND REGIONAL EXPANSION

DUBAI: Canon Middle East appointed Wim Wynants to the position of General Manager for Canon in Qatar. Wynants will lead Canon Office Imaging Solutions (Doha), recently established to strengthen Canon's incountry presence in the region, demonstrate the company's commitment to operating closer to customers and accelerate Canon's growth in the rapidly evolving

Wynants will ensure that Canon Office Imaging Solutions (Doha) provides local customers with more opportunities to receive direct advice on products and services from Canon professionals.

Canon Middle East's Deputy Managing Director, Naoshi Yamada, said, "Wim'sbroad and diverse global experience is exactly what our organisation needs in Qatar to drive our business expansion. The Qatari market is growing at a rapid pace and we need a leader with the depth and breadth of Wim's experience to maximize our opportunities inthis evolving market. "This year Canon in Qatar aims to ensure that we have a strong and dynamic team. I am very excited to welcome Wim to the team as I know he will bring his brand of dynamism to our company." he said.

Yamada further added that Mr Wynants embodied the entrepreneurial spirit Canon Middle East sought to further its business. Wynants comes to Canon in Qatar with over 18 years of international management roles across Europe, the Middle East, the USA, South East Asia and Africa.In his new role, Wynants is expected to bring leadership and fresh insights that will drive the

company's growth in the near future and beyond.

The variety of solutions available to the market currently spans from imaging needs to office solutions and managed print services.

Canon Middle East established a new company in Qatar last year - Canon Office Imaging Solutions (Doha) - to strengthen Canon's in-country presence and demonstrate its commitment to meeting customers' demands through diversifying its business

CONTROLCASE RE-CERTIFIES **EQUINIX WITH PCI-DSS**

KUWAIT: ControlCase, a leading provider of compliance, information security and risk management solutions has announced that it has re-certified the Equinix Dubai data center with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) certification. Equinix had secured the certification last year for its data center in Dubai and having secured it again this year only fortifies the company's capability and commit-



Jeroen Schlosser, Managing Director, **Equinix MENA.**

ment to providing the most advance security to the data of its clients.

The PCI-DSS certification is a mandatory standard developed by the PCI Security Standards Council, a body founded by the world's major credit card providers, for any organisation that stores, processes or transmits cardholder data. It has been established to prevent criminals from being able to abuse the storage, transmission and processing of

confidential transaction data. Equinix's compliance with this standard will help its clients meet the stringent regulations, contributing to a more secure global ecommerce environment.

ControlCase awarded Equinix with the certification after it found its Dubai data center followed the stringent requirements governing the housing of credit card transactions, similar to its other counterparts around the world.

"PCI DSS is a global information security standard that ensures the safe handling of sensitive information and is intended to help organizations proactively protect customer account data. By achieving compliance with the standard, Equinix demonstrates its dedication to offer secure environment in line with international standards as set by the PCI Council," said Afy Merchant, Director, International Sales and Delivery at ControlCase.

Equinix Dubai IBX serves as an interconnection hub for the Middle East, extensively serving financial and banking sector. The facility houses the UAE Internet Exchange (UAE-IX), which is a neutral Internet traffic exchange platform that interconnects global networks, network operators and content

"As electronic payment traffic continues to grow rapidly, so too do risks such as credit card fraud, the most common form of identity theft, and the misuse of stolen credit card details. The security of business-critical information within an Equinix data center is absolutely essential to enable secure operations. With this compliance we enable our clients to easily meet the PCI-DSS requirements, allowing them to focus entirely on their core business," said Karim Rizki, Operations Manager, Equinix MENA.



BEIJING: People take photos of a large screen showing total gross merchandise volume, a measure of sales, exceeding 10 billion yuan at 00:12 am and 28 seconds during the 2015 Tmall 11:11 Global Shopping Festival gala in Beijing yesterday. Shoppers spent nearly 8 billion USD in the first 10 hours of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba's "Singles Day" event yesterday, the firm said, reinforcing its status as the world's biggest online retail promotion. — AFP

CHINA SPLURGES ON WORLD'S BIGGEST ONLINE SHOPPING SPREE

BEIJING: Chinese Internet users spent billions of dollars in the planet's biggest online shopping splurge yesterday, as "Singles Day" hit new heights, despite slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy.

The cumulative national bill for the day-long orgy of commerce dwarfed what Americans spent online over the five-day frenzy from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday last year.

Singles Day is not a traditional Chinese festival, but e-commerce giant Alibaba has been pushing November 11 — a date heavy on onessince 2009 as it looks to tap the country's huge, and expanding, army of Internet shoppers. At first it was marketed as an "anti-Valentine's Day", featuring hefty discounts to lure singletons and price-sensitive buyers. But with sales hitting new highs year after year, it has become a massive — and highly lucrative-business opportunity embraced by the nation's digital retailers.

Competition for a slice of China's online population of 668 million is turning increasingly fierce. Alibaba kicked off this year's mammoth event with a television spectacular at Beijing's Water Cube Olympic swimming venue. James Bond actor Daniel Craig, and Hollywood star Kevin Spacey-in his role as President Frank Underwood from the Netflix series "House of Cards"-were just two of the galaxy of foreign and domestic stars involved. And the company's efforts were paying off in spades, with shoppers splashing out more than \$10 billion in the first 14 hours of the sale. This year's tally had already outstripped last year's gangbusters effort, with the 2014 US dollar total of \$9.3 billion matched a little more than 12 hours after the promotion's midnight start.

In comparison, desktop sales for the five days from Thanksgiving through Cyber Monday in the United States last year stood at \$6.56 billion, according to Internet analytics firm comScore.

"The 2015 sale has eclipsed last year's final results in a little over half the time," the company said. In an earlier release Alibaba's chief executive officer Daniel Zhang said: "The whole world will witness the power of Chinese consumption this November 11." Another one of China's main online retailers, JD.com, said it had completed more than 10 million transactions by 10 am. That was almost twice as many as last year's total.

Milking it

The task of putting customers' purchases into their hands is huge. Alibaba said its logistical arm and its partners would use more than 1.7 million personnel, 400,000 vehicles, 5,000 warehouses and 200 airplanes to handle deliveries.

But the scale of the buying also has repercussions. Australian company Bellamy's had to apologise to customers Down Under after supermarket shelves there were stripped bare. In a Facebook post it blamed Chinese demand for milk powder for shortages at Australian stores. The event has received vocal support from

the government at a time when China's economic expansion is slowing and Beijing is trying to transform its growth model into a more sustainable one driven by consumption. Highlighting the need for the transition, the mega-spending spree came as the government announced industrial output growth had fallen to a sixmonth low in October.

The 5.6 percent rise is the latest indicator that China's expansion is slowing after years of breakneck growth. Chinese Premier Li Kegiang's office phoned Alibaba chairman Jack Ma hours ahead of the promotion, "congratulating and encouraging the creation and achievement of the 11.11 event", said a posting on a social media account of Tmall, the group's business-to-consumer arm.

'Eat dirt'

Chinese Internet users revelled in their acquisitions Wednesday-although many lamented that they had spent far too much money. "I can only afford to eat dirt for the next half year," said a user on Sina Weibo, with an attached screengrab of a Taobao app showing she had bought 42 items. Some consumers also expressed concerns about China's notorious fakes. "Good luck. Hope you guys will not get phoney products or things that turn out to be useless," said a Weibo user. — AFP

ONLINE BANK ACCOUNTS TARGETED OVER FIVE MILLION TIMES

DUBAI: In its Q3 IT Threat Evolution report, Kaspersky Lab has published the details of the key security incidents of the quarter. Using statistics from the Kaspersky Security Network (KSN), which obtains information from millions of Kaspersky Lab product users in 213 countries, the report sheds light on the increase in mobile threats, the attempted theft of money from online bank accounts and targeted cyberattacks in the evolving threat landscape.

Web-based financial attacks

* In Q3 2015, Kaspersky Lab's solutions blocked almost 626,000attempts to launch malware capable of stealing money via access to users' online banking. This number is 17.2% lower than in the second quarter of the year, although it is a 5.7% increase since Q3 2014.

* During the quarter, there were 5.68 million notifications about attempted malware infections to steal money from users via online access to bank accounts.

* Amongst surveyed countries, UAEstood in the 9th placewith 2.54% of its users attacked by banking Trojans.

Most of the countries in the top 10 (including UAE) have significant numbers of online banking users, attracting cybercriminals. Of the malware used to target online banking users, Trojan-Downloader.Win32.Upatre was the most prevalent, being used in 63.1% of attacks in an attempt to steal users' payment details.

Mobile threats

* 323,374 new malicious mobile programs were detected by Kaspersky Lab mobile security products in Q3. This is a 10.8% increase on Q2 2015 and a 3.1-fold increase since Q1 2015.

* There were more than 1.5 million malicious packages installed on mobiles during the quarter, 1.5 times more than in the previous quarter.

Displaying adverts to users has remained the main method of making money from mobile threats. During the quarter, Kaspersky Lab observed a growing number of programs that used advertising in this way. They often root the device of a victim and use superuser privileges, making it very difficult to combat them. In Q3 2015, these Trojans accounted for more than half the most popular mobile malware.

Targeted cyberattacks

In Q3, the Kaspersky Lab Global Research and Analysis Team (GReAT) researched a number of sophisticated

cyberespionage campaigns. Amongst others, these included investigating the Turla group, whichmakes use of satellite communications to manage its command-and-control servers' traffic for subsequent operations, the Darkhotel APT, which infiltrates hotel Wi-Fi networks to place backdoors on target computers, and theBlue Termite APT, which focuses on stealing information from organisations in Japan. Kaspersky Lab also worked on a joint investigation with the **Dutch National High Tech Crime Unit** (NHTCU) and Panda Security, resulting in the arrest of two suspects, who are believed to be involved in the Coin Vault ransomware attacks.

"The developments in Q3 demonstrate that the global threat landscape is continuing to evolve at a fast pace. With 5.6 million cases of attempted theft from online bank accounts, and cybercriminals continually developing sophisticated attacks, the use of high quality cybersecurity products has never been more important. It's vital that all those using the Internet - both individuals and organizations - protect themselves from these growing threats," says David Emm, Principal Senior Security Researcher at Kaspersky Lab's Global Research and Analysis team.

Q3 in figures

* According to KSN data, Kaspersky Lab solutions detected and repelled a total of 235.4 million malicious attacks from online resources located all over the world. This is 38% lower than in Q2.

* 75.4 millionunique URLs were recognized as malicious by web antivirus components. This is 16% higher than in Q2. * Kaspersky Lab's web antivirus

detected 38.2 million unique malicious objects: scripts, exploits, executable files, etc. This is 46.9% higher than in Q2.

* There were 5.68 million registered notifications about attempted malware infections that aim to steal money via online access to bank accounts.

* Kaspersky Lab's file antivirus detected a total of 145 million unique malicious and potentially unwanted objects.

* Kaspersky Lab mobile security products detected: o 1.6 million malicious installation

packages;

o 323,374 new malicious mobile pro-

grams; o 2516 mobile banker Trojans.

The overall trend so far for 2015 has continued in Q3: exploits for Adobe Flash Player and Internet Explorer are most popular with cybercriminals.

MICROSOFT LAUNCHES ARABIC OFFICE 2016 FOR ANDROID

KUWAIT: Microsoft has announced the availability of the Arabic version of office 2016 for Android to cater for its Arabic speaking customers in the region. All new features of the software as well as its apps have been customised to help Arabic users especially in the Middle East have a more personalised experience, which will enable them to do more and achieve more.

Android users in Kuwait, UAE, Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen will benefit from the unique features that come with Office 2016 Arabic for Android.

Microsoft Office for Android apps have the familiar look, feel and quality of Office with an intuitive touch experience designed for Android phones and tablets. Made for work on-the-go, the Office apps enable users to read, review, create, make quick edits and share documents, presentations and spreadsheets with the touch of their fingers. Users can also work with confidence knowing that their documents always look good with Office since the formatting and content remains the same across devices. Users can access their documents in the cloud whenever they need them.

All Android devices can now run Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote with support for Arabic. Also new for Android phone and tablet are Google Drive support, portrait view, theme change in PPT, word count and proofing support in Word, Reflow

view in Word and Autozoom. The apps now have a user interface translated in Arabic, bi-directional, switchable text support inside documents, vertical text support - including text box creation and text entry in shapes and tables as well as justification support.

Productivity

Ihsan Anabtawi, Regional Manager - Applications and Services, Microsoft Gulf said "The importance of Microsoft Office in enabling productivity for organisations and individuals the world over is unmatched. We aim to make this experience felt across multiple devices to make working anywhere, anytime possible. Office 2016 Arabic for Android is created to replicate that authentic experience on the device that is right for you. Whether you are creating an Excel spreadsheet on your tablet, authoring a Word document in the browser or making edits to a PowerPoint on your android device, you will enjoy the same great Office experience you love, everywhere you are. We have deeply thought a lot about what people want to do when they're on their android devices and we have reimagined Office 2016 Arabic for Android while retaining what people love about it."

"The apps have the robust capabilities and familiar look and feel that is unmistakably Office, while offering a fantastic touch experience built from the ground up for the Android platform. You can read your Word documents, view your Excel data and present with PowerPoint and your documents will look as good as they would do on your PC and Mac." He added.

Cloud-connected

Commenting on Arabic Office 2016, Charles Nahas, Microsoft Kuwait General Manager said "We are very excited with the launch of Arabic Office 2016 for Android. Our Arabic speaking customers in Kuwait form a significant share of the Microsoft market and we always want to give them a more personalised experience by customizing our products in their local language. The Arabic version of Office 2016 broadens appeal to Office users in Kuwait and the rest of the region. Office 2016 Arabic for Android is cloud-connected, so users can quickly get to the documents they recently used on other devices and pick up where they left off. New, built-in document sharing tools make it easy to invite teammates to work on a document together. Office for Android offers unparalleled compatibility with Office on PCs, tablets, phones and online, allaying any worries about losing content or formatting.

Microsoft also announced general availability of Word, Excel and PowerPoint on Android phones that support the Arabic Language RTL in Arabic, and is now taking the final steps to complete the Office experience on Android devices.

While most of the apps are the same on Office 2016 Arabic for android, they are optimised differently



Charles Nahas

for the phone and tablet form factors. On an Android phone, the apps are designed for one-handed use, with controls at the bottom of the screen, and with no keyboard or mouse required. Additionally, the apps are designed to take advantage of the features users know and love on their Android Phones, for example Back button (for back navigation); Hamburger button (file menu options), so they can naturally interact with the apps

During the interim period post-launch, Microsoft shall run an in-App campaign in Office Mobile on devices with Android version 4.4 and above. The campaign will direct the users to install new Apps (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) via Google Play and other supported App Stores. Post the interim period, Microsoft shall restrict the App installation on new devices to Android version with 4.3 and below. This would ensure that Office Mobile Apps do not cannibalize the users from new Apps.

HOW MOBILE PHONES ARE MAKING CHILDBIRTH SAFER IN ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA: In Ethiopia where almost nine in every 10 women give birth at home after pregnancies with little or no medical support, a mobile phone app is coming to the rescue with lifesaving guidelines when things go wrong. The "Safe Delivery App", created by the Danish development organization the Maternity Foundation, provides simplified instructions and animated films to deal with emergency situations, be it haemorrhaging, birthing complications, resuscitating newborns or infections.

"Midwives may have skills and knowledge," said Mesfin Wondafrash, the Maternity Foundation's program manager in the Horn of Africa state. "But they may not apply the right procedures when complications arise-even simple complications." At the touch of a button, the app can give crucial guidelines to birth attendants, who are often traditionally educated and may lack training in up-to-date procedures that could save lives. The initiative is proving even more vital in rural areas, where the only help many mothers get is from family members or a local woman. Described as an "emergency training tool", the app is available in local

languages and in English. And a key asset: it can be pre-installed on a mobile telephone so it works even without a network connection or Internet access.

'Easy to understand, access, update'

Officially, 85 percent of Ethiopian babies are born at home. The hospital is often seen as an option only when major complications arise-often too late to save a life. "Pregnant women wait at home and if a complication occurs, like bleeding, it may be too late to access care," Mesfin told AFP. In a promising trial run, testing started last year in the small town of Gimbie in the Oromo region, some 450 kilometers (280 miles) west of the capital Addis

A total 78 mobile phones with the "Safe Delivery App" were given to midwives attending local women. "After a year, the capacity of the app users to manage bleeding rose from 20 to 60 percent, and for new born resuscitation, from 30 to 70 percent," Mesfin added. "If all health care providers could use this app, safe delivery would increase." The Maternity Foundation says the preliminary results "show a remarkable improvement in the skill and knowledge level of the health workers." "The advantage of the app over a medical book is that it is easy to understand, easy to access and easy to update," said foundation chief Anna Frellsen.

Every year, five million babies and 289,000 mothers die from complications related to childbirth worldwide, with the majority of the deaths in developing countries such as Ethiopia. The foundation-whose motto is "no women should die giving life" — aims to tap the sharp rise in mobile phone users in Africa, a technology, it said, that offers "abundant unexplored potential" to quickly reach otherwise hard to access areas.

"With the Safe Delivery App, we can overcome one of the biggest barriers to preventing maternal mortality: the lack of trained childbirth support. We can reach health workers that are otherwise difficult to reach," she said. The app is also being tested in Ghana and will soon be deployed in Tanzania, Guinea and elsewhere. The foundation's goal is to equip 10,000 health workers by 2017. "If we achieve that, we will have ensured a safer birth for approximately one million women," said Frellsen. —AFP



ADDIS ABABA: A picture taken on November 9, 2015 in Nairobi shows a mobile phone application offering a simplified guide to child-birth in Ethiopia, displayed on top of an Ethiopian flag. —AFP

DRUG MIGHT HELP BREAST CANCER PATIENTS AVOID HEART DAMAGE

ORLANDO, Florida: Many cancer take a heart drug as a preventive treatments have a dark side - they can damage the heart. New research suggests this risk might be lowered in women with breast tumors if they

measure during their cancer care. If confirmed in wider testing, this could improve care for thousands of breast cancer patients in the US

WHITMAN, Massachusetts: Cancer survivor Christine Ells poses in her classroom at Quincy High School.

alone each year, plus other women and some men who also get these treatments for other types of cancer. As it stands now, cancer patients are referred to cardiologists after certain cancer drugs or radiation treatments have already weakened their hearts. Special clinics are springing up in hospitals to take care of the growing number of cancer survivors with this problem.

Fights cancer

"If you wait until the disease has occurred, it may be too late" to do much good, said Dr Javid Moslehi, who heads one such specialty clinic at Vanderbilt University. "We in the cardiology community have to do a better job of preventing cardiac disease rather than jumping in" after damage has occurred. He had no role in the new study, which was done in Norway. Results were discussed yesterday at an American Heart Association conference in Orlando.

Radiation treatments can harm arteries, making them prone to harden and clog and cause a heart attack. It also can cause valve or rhythm troubles. Certain cancer drugs, such as Herceptin and doxorubicin sold as Adriamycin and other brands, can hurt the heart's ability to pump, and lead to heart failure. "We give poison with a purpose," because it fights cancer, but heart problems can be "one of the dark sides of that," said Dr Ann Partridge, a breast cancer specialist at the Dana-Farber Cancer

Institute in Boston.

One of her patients, Christine Ells, 36, a teacher in the Boston suburb of Quincy, developed a heart rhythm problem from several drugs she was given to treat the breast cancer she was diagnosed with at age 27. "The risks of these drugs are crazy," she said, but "it was more important to cure my cancer." The new study aimed to prevent cardiac side effects. Led by Dr Geeta Gulati of Akershus University Hospital in Lorenskog, Norway, it involved 120 women with early-stage breast cancer and tested two drugs long used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure candesartan and metoprolol. The drugs are available as generics and cost less than a dollar a day.

Women were given one or both drugs or dummy pills, and their hearts' pumping capacity was assessed at various time points with MRI scans. Heart damage worsened in the group on dummy pills. Metoprolol did not prevent heart decline but candesartan did, although the benefit was small - an improvement of 2 percent to 3 percent in pumping strength compared to the placebo group.

High risk

"The major issue is, the effect was very modest," so whether that prevents heart failure from developing down the road is not known, said Dr Bonnie Ky, a cardio-oncology specialist at the University of Pennsylvania. It's also not known whether things get better or worse over time, or whether a different drug in the same class would work better. Still, it's a first.

As cancer patients are living longer, the risk of dying from heart problems actually exceeds that of cancer, so it's important to prevent damage, Ky said. The University of South Florida has a federally funded study underway, testing drugs to prevent heart failure for women on Herceptin, that may help answer some questions. Meanwhile, some doctors already are considering this tactic, especially in women taking drugs known to harm the heart or who already have some risk factors for heart problems. "I get calls from the oncologists saying, 'she's at high risk, why don't we just start it?"' Dr David Slosky, a cardiologist at Vanderbilt, said of preventive treatment. "They're pretty benign," he said of the heart drugs the study tested. "The threshold, if somebody's got a high-risk cancer, will be pretty low" to use them preventively, he said. —AP



WHITMAN, Massachusetts: Cancer survivor Christine Ells embraces her twenty-month-old son Jameson after arriving home from work in Whitman. —AP photos

FDA APPROVES SALE OF EIGHT NEW SWEDISH MATCH SNUS PRODUCTS

NEW YORK: The US Food and Drug Administration has for the first time authorized the sale of a tobacco product that it says will not significantly harm the health of the population as a whole. Stockholm-based Swedish Match can sell eight new products of a smokeless tobacco known as "snus" under its "General" brand, the FDA said on Tuesday. Snus is a moist tobacco product placed under the upper lip that does not involve spitting or chewing. The FDA's ruling allows Swedish Match to sell the products. It does not allow the company to claim they are less dangerous than other tobacco products. To make that claim the company needs separate approval from the FDA.

Swedish Match has already been selling some of its products in the United States. Snus has become the most popular tobacco

product in Sweden. In granting the authorization, the FDA determined there is a low likelihood the products will lead to increased tobacco use in the population, prevent people from quitting or cause those who have quit to relapse. The products would likely provide a less toxic option for tobacco users who use them exclusively, the agency said in a statement. A 2009 law giving the FDA authority to regulate tobacco products provides several ways for companies to bring new products to the market. One is to show they are substantially equivalent to a product on the market as of Feb. 15, 2007, and do not raise new safety concerns. Another is to show they are appropriate for the protection of public health. The hurdle is higher here. A company must show the product will not, on balance, harm the population as a whole.

Swedish Match has already applied to the FDA to alter the warning label on its existing snus products to claim they present a "substantially" lower risk than cigarettes. The agency is reviewing the application but in April an advisory committee recommended it be rejected. In Sweden, the rate of smoking-related diseases - especially lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart disease - has plummeted. Most FDA advisory panelists agreed that snus appears less harmful than cigarettes when used by smokers who switch. But they said the company had not provided enough evidence to rule out an association between snus and tooth loss or gum disease or to prove Sweden's experience could be replicated in the United States. —Reuters

US FDA SENDS LETTER TO DNA4LIFE **OVER CONSUMER GENE TESTS**

NEW YORK: The US Food and Drug Administration sent a letter to privately held gene testing company DNA4Life over the company's sale of an unapproved direct-to-consumer gene test to predict drug response. In its letter, posted on Monday, the agency said it was unable to identify any FDA clearance for the company's test. The letter follows 23andMe's limited relaunch last month of a series of direct-to-consumer (DTC) tests after the agency ordered the tests off the market. DNA4Life told Reuters in an earlier interview that it did not believe it needed FDA approval to sell its test. DNA4Life, based in Mandeville, Louisiana did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In its letter, the FDA said the company's test appears to meet the definition of a medical device, which requires marketing approval. The agency said the company needs to provide evidence that the device has been approved or information regarding why it believes the test does not require FDA approval. In a statement sent to Reuters last week, FDA spokesman Eric Pahon said the FDA believes that "certain types of tests are being appropriately offered through the DTC model, but others may need to demonstrate that they are safe and effective and that appropriate controls are in place to mitigate risks."

The letter comes in the wake of 23andMe's two-year tussle with the FDA over its direct-to-consumer personal DNA testing service, which the FDA ordered off the market in 2013. Last month, 23andMe relaunched its service with a limited number of genetic tests for carrier screening - tests that show whether an individual carries genes associated with 36 different disorders that could be passed on to a child. 23andMe still does not have FDA approval to resume the sale of tests that predict drug response. Experts in pharmacogenetics believe those tests could be much riskier in the hands of consumers, who might use the information to make decisions about the drugs they are taking. —Reuters

FREQUENT WEIGHT CHECKS TIED TO LESS SELF-ESTEEM FOR YOUNG WOMEN

themselves may be more likely to have mental health problems, according to a new study. Girls who said they often weigh themselves were more likely to have depression, weight concerns and self-esteem issues, researchers found. "The findings from this study suggest that for some teens and young adults, self-weighing is associated with poor psychological health and it is important that we use caution when recommending self-weighing or any strategy for weight control that may not be beneficial for some individuals," said lead author Carly R Pacanowski, of the University of

Minnesota in Minneapolis. The 10-year study tracked almost 2,000 adolescents, most of whom were female. They were surveyed, weighed and measured in 1998, when they were in middle or high school and then again in 2003 and 2008 as they transitioned into young adulthood. Overall, few participants agreed that they weighed themselves "often," the researchers reported in the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior. But among women whose reports of self-weighing increased over time, so did their weight concern and symptoms of depression, which can be predictors of eating disorders, researchers found.

For men, as reported self-weighing increased, so did concern about weight,

NEW YORK: Teens who often weigh but other psychological variables did not change. Parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, and friends may want to ask about selfweighing to gather more information if a teen seems overly concerned with her weight, Pacanowski told Reuters Health by email. "Self-weighing may be easier to talk about initially than self-esteem or depressive symptoms," Pacanowski said. "From there, getting in touch with a healthcare provider would be the next step." Obesity-prevention programs should avoid worsening body dissatisfaction and weight concern by understanding how behaviors like self-weighing affect teens, she said. Pacanowski also cautioned that the new study can't say whether self-weighing causes low selfesteem, or low self-esteem causes teens or young adults to weigh themselves more frequently. The new study is also limited by the use of the subjective term "often" to gauge the frequency of selfweighing over time, said Jessica LaRose, a health behavior and policy researcher at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, who was not part of the new study. "Thus, in terms of clinical implications for pediatricians, we can't determine using these data whether there is a specific threshold or frequency of selfweighing in this age group that could serve as a signal to explore mental health symptoms and well-being," LaRose told Reuters Health by email. —Reuters

WORKERS IN STRESSFUL, DEMANDING JOBS MORE LIKELY TO SHOW UP WHEN SICK

WASHINGTON: Demanding, stressful or insecure jobs may motivate workers to show up even when they should stay home sick, a research review suggests.

Understanding what motivates workers to remain on the job when they're sick may help employers develop sick-day policies that may be more effective at preventing the spread of contagious diseases in the workplace, study co-author Gary Johns, a business and management researcher at Concordia University in Montreal, said by email.

"In the case of contagious illness, the spread of the illness to co-workers and customers or clients is an obvious concern," Johns said. "On the other hand, if illness is neither contagious nor debilitating, it might be self-affirming for people to go to work when not perfectly fit." Johns and co-author Mariella Miraglia of the Norwich Business School at the University of East Anglia in the UK analyzed data from 61 previous studies involving more than 175,000 people in more than 30 countries to assess what might motivate people to come to work when they were sick.

The two researchers refer to working while sick as "presenteeism." In the studies they analyzed, presenteeism was often linked to workplace policies to reduce absenteeism, such as disciplinary actions, limited paid sick leave, or medical certification required for sick time, the analysis found. Job demands also came into play, with heavy workloads, understaffing, overtime and looming deadlines all motivating people to work while sick. "Tight restrictions on paid sick leave, such as requiring a doctor's note to validate an employee's illness," can limit the effectiveness of giving people paid time off to prevent the spread of disease in the workplace, Dr. Eric Widera, a researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

One shortcoming of the analysis is that the researchers lacked data to properly assess the role of depression and mental health in presenteeism, the authors acknowledge in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology. It's possible that workers suffering from mental illness might not perceive themselves as working while sick. Many workers may believe their jobs are on the line if they stay home, or feel that they can't afford the lost income from an unpaid day off, noted Supriya Kumar, a public health researcher at the University of Pittsburgh who wasn't involved in the study. —Reuters

BRAZIL TESTS MAN FOR EBOLA, PUTS OTHERS UNDER OBSERVATION

coming from Guinea for Ebola after preventively shutting down a public health unit where he first got medical attention, the Health Ministry said yesterday. The man, whose name officials declined to provide, arrived in Brazil on Nov 6 and developed

SAO PAULO: Brazil was testing a 46-year-old man high fever with muscle pains and headaches two days later, the ministry said in a statement.

Guinea is one of three impoverished West African countries, along with Liberia and Sierra Leone, that have suffered with the most deadly outbreak of the Ebola virus in recent years. The man sought medical help at an emergency room in Belo Horizonte, the capital of Brazil's southeastern state of Minas Gerais, the ministry said. That unit is no longer taking patients, it added.

The man was then quarantined and will be flown in a military plane on yesterday to Rio de Janeiro, where the government has set up a lab to test blood samples for Ebola according to international security protocols. Medical workers and other patients who had contact with the man are being monitored by health officials, according to the ministry's statement. —Reuters

MEDICARE ANNOUNCES 'PART B' PREMIUMS FOR OUTPATIENT CARE

WASHINGTON: Most Medicare beneficiaries will keep paying the same monthly premium for outpatient care next year, the Obama administration said Tuesday. But new beneficiaries will pay a larger amount, and upper-income retirees are looking at considerably higher charges. Separately, all beneficiaries face a \$19 increase in the Part B deductible - the amount they pay for outpatient care each year before Medicare kicks

from their Social Security checks. But next year, premiums will vary for different groups of beneficiaries depending on their circumstances. Most current beneficiaries will continue to pay \$104.90, the same as this year.

They're avoiding an increase because of the interaction between their Social Security benefits and Medicare premiums. A federal law protects Social Security recipients from higher

Nearly 3 million new beneficiaries will pay \$121.80 a month. That's about \$38 less per month than was estimated before the budget

Upper-income retirees pay considerably more, ranging from \$170.50 a month for individuals making more than \$85,000 a year, to \$389.80 for those making more than \$214,000. President Barack Obama's tenure in office has seen historically low growth in the nation's health care spending. Government and independent forecasts are looking for medical inflation to pick up again - although not at the fast pace seen before the 2007-2009 economic

Low cost growth has meant stability for Medicare beneficiaries. The president's health care law also has been gradually closing a coverage gap in the Medicare prescription drug benefit, easing pressure on many retirees. Privately insured working families haven't had the same experience during the Obama years, because employers kept passing on to workers a bigger share of health care costs.

Medicare's announcement comes during the final weeks of open enrollment for prescription drug coverage and private insurance plans under Medicare Advantage. Both of those programs are important components of Medicare, and the administration is forecasting stable premiums. However, independent analysts say many Medicare drug plans are raising premiums significantly, and it's important for budget-conscious retirees to shop around this year. They have until Dec 7.

Medicare's Part B premium is set by law to cover 25 percent of the cost of outpatient care, with the government picking up the rest. Higher income beneficiaries pay more, since their premiums are set to cover a bigger percentage of costs. Hospital and nursing home care under Medicare is separately financed by a payroll tax equally divided between workers and employers. —AP

AFTER GREEN POLICY U-TURNS WEC SAYS UK NEEDS TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT

BRITAIN LOSES TOP ENERGY RATING

LONDON: Britain has lost its top-notch energy policy rating from the U.N.-accredited World Energy Council after the government prematurely cut some renewable energy subsidies, creating uncertainty about how it will address support in future. The World Energy Council has downgraded Britain to an AAB rating, from AAA, in its annual "energy trilemma index", which ranks countries' energy and climate policies based on the issues of energy security, equity and sustainability. The downgrade reflects the damage the subsidy cuts have caused to Britain's reputation as an attractive renewable energy market.

Earlier this year Britain scrapped subsidies for onshore wind farms, closed support for small-scale solar projects and changed the way other renewable energy projects qualify for payments, saying they were becoming too costly for taxpayers. "The UK government must give more predictability to investors in the way the electricity market reforms are progressed," said Joan MacNaughton, executive chair of the World Energy Trilemma study. Britain rewards low-carbon energy

projects, such as wind farms, through a contracts-for-difference mechanism that predetermines a minimum price for electricity generated. "More transparency is needed about the future approach to contracts for difference and the levy control framework," MacNaughton said. The levy control framework helps determine the government's budget to allocate subsidies to low-carbon energy projects. The changes in government support for renewable energy have already cost hundreds of jobs in Britain and the prospect of lower returns is expected to scare off renewable energy investors. —Reuters



WASHINGTON: A sign supporting Medicare is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington. —AP

in. That's rising to \$166 next year, from the current \$147 - the first such increase since 2013.

The so-called "Part B" monthly premium is a well-known Medicare yardstick because it's paid by most of the program's 55 million beneficiaries, who generally have the money deducted

Medicare premiums. Since there won't be a Social Security cost-of-living increase next year, their premiums will be unchanged. Others will pay more, but nowhere near as much as they would have before the recent budget deal between Congress and the administration.

DRUG INDUSTRY BEMOANS BRITAIN'S LACK OF SCIENCE SKILLS

LONDON: British pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies face a major skills shortage which threatens future investment and the long-term success of the life sciences sector, according to a new industry report. The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) said on Wednesday that firms could increasingly seek workers abroad due to low numbers of good quality candidates, particularly those with appropriate biology and maths skills.

The report follows a warning this week from lawmakers on the House of Commons science and technology committee that Britain's position as a "science superpower" would be jeopardized if government spending on science was not protected. Government spending on science has fallen about 6 percent in real terms since 2010, leaving Britain spending 1.7 percent of gross domestic product on science and research, below the 2.8 percent and 2.9 percent spent by the United States and Germany respectively, the parliamentary committee said. Despite a number of site closures in recent years, pharmaceuticals remains an important industrial sector in Britain, employing more than 70,000 people, and the country has traditionally punched above its weight in developing new drugs. —Reuters

MEXICO SENATOR INTRODUCES MEDICAL MARIJUANA MEASURE

MEXICO CITY: A senator from President Enrique Mexico's Supreme Court that cracked open a door to recreational marijuana use. The measure does not propose wholesale legalization of medical marijuana but rather seeks to permit the importation of cannabis and derivatives for medicinal purposes. Domestic pot production would still be prohibited.

"This measure is responding to the urgent need to allow availability of medicines through importation," said Sen. Cristina Diaz Salazar, a member of Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. Addressing about a dozen families of ill children during a news conference in the Senate building, Diaz Salazar said: "We know that this constitutes a hope for all of you to be able to mitigate the pain and suffering of your loved ones." The bill would have to be approved by both houses of Mexico's congress, and the PRI and allied lawmakers control both chambers.

According to an outline provided by the senator's Pena Nieto's governing party introduced a bill staff, the legislation would modify Mexico's health Tuesday that would allow patients easier access to code to remove THC, the active ingredient in marijuacannabis-based medicines, a week after a ruling by ana, and synthetic cannabinoids from a list of schedule-1 controlled substances and reclassify them as schedule-3. It would also allow the importation of medicinal marijuana products and establish a 10 percent duty. By doing so the bill would codify in law a recent court ruling that granted the parents of Graciela Elizalde, an 8-year-old Monterrey girl, permission to import THC oil to treat her severe epilepsy. The Elizaldes were on hand for Tuesday's introduction of the bill as were other parents who hope its passage will give them the same right. Since Graciela began the marijuana extract treatments, her condition improved to the point where she began sleeping through the nights for the first time in months.

Among the parents at the news conference was Manuel Villanueva, who cradled his mostly motionless 11-year-old son, Leo, in his arms as he explained that the boy has a difficult-to-treat form of epilepsy known

as Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. Leo suffers from severe mental retardation, spasms and muscular difficulties that hamper his ability to walk or even speak, and a recent operation did not bring relief, Villanueva said.

"We have tried all the anti-epileptics. Unfortunately the surgery didn't work," he said. "So through our friends and the Internet we found out about the (cannabis) oil, and now we intend to try it and see what results we get." Salazar's bill is separate from last week's Supreme Court decision favoring the growing, possession and smoking of marijuana for recreational purposes under the right to personal freedom. That ruling covers just a single group of four people seeking to form a cannabis club and has not overturned laws banning recreational pot. Salazar said her bill is just "a first step" and should not be linked to the debate over recreational use. Pena Nieto said Monday that he opposes legalizing marijuana, but welcomed a dialogue on the issue and invited doctors, sociologists and other academics to take part. —AP



MEXICO CITY: Children with special medical conditions wait outside the Mexican Senate floor before Senator Cristina Diaz Salazar introduced a bill that would allow patients like them easier access to cannabis-based medicines, in Mexico City. —AP



Kuwait Times 248 33 199







GULF OPERETTA DEPICTS UNITY OF GULF COUNTRIES: SHEIKH SALMAN



Gulf operetta, dubbed "Khaleej Al-Nour," depicts nation-Arabian Gulf countries, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah said. Sheikh Salman, representing His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the opening of the Operetta Tuesday evening, said Khaleej Al-Nour conveyed a message of love from the Kuwaiti people to the leaders of the Gulf countries "whose wisdom contributed to preserve security of our countries from threats."

Sheikh Salman expressed content that the operetta coincided with the 53th anniversary of Kuwait's Constitution, which was a roadmap for relations between the political leadership and people. The constitution, he said, prevented many crises. Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Sharar said the youth artifacts exhibition would be moved to Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Traditional Village. He said in a statement these cultural festivals would further boost relations among the Gulf peo-

Dr. Humoud Fulaiteh, Chairman of the operetta organizing committee, said Khaleej Al-Nour was depicting the past and present of the Gulf region, and how youth were contributing to social and economic development.

Fulaiteh, also Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Sport, said the youth should take the lead in development and innovation. — KUNA



GET READY TO WALK OR RUN 'GULF BANK 642 MARATHON' MARATHON STARTS 8AM AT SOUQ SHARQ SATURDAY

14 November at 8am with the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, starting from Souq Sharq.

Through a strategic three-year partnership between Gulf Bank and Pro-Vision Sport Management Company, a leader in sports management with unique specialist experience in the creation and organization of sporting events, a unique marathon sporting event will come to life and will be promoting a healthy lifestyle for people in Kuwait.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, Gulf Bank's General Manager for Human Resources said, "We are very pleased with the overall progress and participation level so far. This is the first marathon to be accredited in Kuwait and we are proud of our partnership with Pro-Vision Sport Management for this significant event. The Dasman Diabetes Institute will also be a part of the race where they will be on hand to raise awareness about ways to combat the alarmingly high rates of obesity and diabetes in Kuwait."

"We believe that this event is a step towards encouraging a healthier lifestyle in Kuwait. We encourage more people to take part in one of the five category races, including a run for those with special needs, we have planned this coming Saturday, and look forward to welcoming you all there.

Ahmad Al-Majed, Managing Partner of Pro Vision Sport Management said, "It is our honor to have Gulf Bank as our partner. To date we have registered over 1,700 participants from various ages across all five race categories, and we are ready to welcome them on Saturday. More than 70 nationalities will be

wait is set to witness its first full road race on Saturday, represented at the race, and we have people coming in from the US, Europe, the GCC and elsewhere for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. Our aim is to work together to improve the lifestyle of the population of Kuwait by encouraging them to include regular exercise and physical activity as essential components of good health."

International calendar

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon races now appears on the international calendar of races, because the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) sent a representative to Kuwait to measure and assess the race path with a special bicycle equipped with a device called a Jones Counter. the only means of measurement accepted by the IAAF for the accurate measurement of road race courses. Following this rigorous assessment, three categories (10 KM, 21 KM, and 42KM distances) of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon have been AIMS certi-

AIMS is a member based organization of more than 380 of the world's leading distance races from over 100 countries. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Athletics is the world governing body for the sport of track and field athletics. Once a course is AIMS certified, only then is IAAF able to recognize any world records which might take place on

This new marathon event will be held on Saturday, 14 November 2015, and will be the first full road race marathon in

Kuwait. The date of the event also coincides with World Diabetes Day (WDD) in order to raise awareness of the growing problem of diabetes in Kuwait, and how exercise and fitness play a role in combating this health issue.

In order to appeal to the broadest audience and different fitness levels, there are five race categories, for those who wish to walk or run:

- Family Fun Run for new beginners (5KM)
- Special Run for special needs (5KM) Souq Run for regular runners (10KM)
- Half Marathon for more advanced runners (21KM)
- Full Marathon (42KM)

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon path passes by many of Kuwait's landmarks. It starts at Souq Sharq and passes along Gulf Road, Seif Palace, the Kuwait Towers, the Gulf Bank head office, Souq Mubarakiya among other places. The course will be closed to traffic, as per coordination with the Ministry of Interior, to ensure the safety and security of the runners and walkers.

The Pro-Vision Sport Management Company held a successful '642 Marathon' last year in Kuwait and this new partnership with Gulf Bank builds on that success and increases the scope and size of the event. The number 642 represent the number of muscles in the human body.

To register or to find out more about the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, visit the dedicated website at: www.gulfbank642marathon.com or its Instagram account

COMMERCIAL BANK SPONSORS 360 MALL **MARATHON**

he Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced it sponsorship for the 'Human Marathon,' a sports, social activity organized by a team of young Kuwaiti volunteers in cooperation with a number nongovernmental organizations concerned with people of special needs. "We at Commercial Bank work to build bridges of cooperation between all social categories, and seek to provide all kinds of support to people with special needs," Amani Al-Wara'a, Assistant General Manager, Public Relations and Media Department said in a statement commenting on the announcement. The event takes place on November 14, 2015 starting from 9:00 am at the 360 mall.



CZECH EMBASSY OPENS VISA APPLICATION CENTER

he 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 Center. The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait reserves the right to invite the applicant for a personal interview.





NUQAT KICKS OFF ITS ACTIVITIES ON NOVEMBER 12 AT 'AL-AMRICANI'

2015 program on November 12. This year's conference is entitled 'Copy/Paste Syndrome.' The conference enjoys generous support from governmental and non-governmental institutions that enable Nuqat's contributions to creative education through diverse and unique ways.

Hussa Al-Humaidhi, a founding member of Nugat, has stated her heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to all the supporters of the Nuqat Conference program since their support undoubtedly contributes to building a solid creative economy.

Humaidhi also pointed out that the support given by the governmental and private sectors have a resounding impact on Nugat's ongoing achievement of its goals as a non-profit organization designed to promote and develop creativity.

The governmental sector, represented by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, has contributed by supporting Nugat in getting its message across to audiences through providing opportunities that allow Nuqat to promote their activities and

programs. It is also noteworthy to stress the efforts of the private secsuccesses over the years.

Humaidhi touched on some forms of this support from the private sector. She highlighted Alghanim Industries; one of the largest private companies in the region and a strategic partner of the conference this year and its sponsorship of Dr. Amar Behbehani's workshop as part of this year's conference activities as well as the ongoing support from Nuqat conference's host Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (DAI).

Humaidhi also commended LoYAC on its contribution this year, which enhances the conference activities indicating that LoYAC and Nuqat share a similar vision - its core aim being the progression of talented individual's creativity and innovation. The unified and collaborative efforts of both parties will undoubtedly contribute to supporting youth creativity from the early years of their practice to their path as professionals.

Furthermore, IKEA's and Tamdeen's boundless role in supporting young talent, which has been continual since Nugat Conference 2009 to this day, cannot be overlooked.

Innovative education

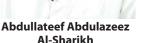
Abdullateef Abdulazeez Al-Sharikh, Head of Corporate Communications at Alghanim Industries, praised Nuqat's efforts in its advancement of innovative education. The Nugat vision is consistent with the company's goal to support and motivate creative talent, inspiring them to strive for the best. Sharikh noted that Alghanim Industries considers youth entrepreneurship as one of their key causes, and as such, spares no effort in supporting youth initiatives in Kuwait and the region.

Additionally, Abdullah Boushahri, director of the ADASA department at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, commented on the success of Nuqat's art and culture programs. He noted Nugat's consistency in contributing fresh and innovative content to our cultural and artistic landscape. He said that the programming of Nuqat was entirely in line with the vision of ADASA and the strategy of the MSYA at large, for "our youth are our partners in sustaining our development as a nation, weaving together our national values and keeping them in place."

The Nugat creative conference organizes and hosts various events including lectures, workshops as well as cultural activities.

Those who are interested in learning more about Nugat as well as registering for the various activities can do so by visiting the conference's website: www.nuqat.me







Abdullah Boushahri



GULF UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CELEBRATES GRADUATION OF THEIR LARGEST CLASS

ulf University for Science and Technology University for Science and Technology, and the par-(GUST) celebrated the commencement of the Tenth Undergraduate and Sixth Graduate Classes for the academic year 2014-2015 on Tuesday 10 November 2015 at their esteemed outdoor amphitheater on campus.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr Bader Al-Essa. Also in attendance was GUST Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Salem Al-Tuhaih, GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, along with GUST faculty, students and their families.

Quality education

Dr Bader Al-Essa, Minister of Education and Higher Education said, "The role of the private sector is completed by supporting the government's efforts and educational institutions efforts to support the markets needs and to ensure the quality of the education in Kuwait, Moreover, I would like to thank the Gulf

ents on all their efforts".

This ceremony marks the university's largest graduating class with 737 graduates, ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Professor Salem Al-Tuhaih, GUST Chairman of the Board of Trustees said, "Countries always rely on developing their educational institutions and research centers to solve any problems that might occur in the future, and developing solutions is the key factor for any progress, socially, technically and economically. Therefore, educational institutions must be given sufficient freedom in order to monitor their performance and quality control through local and international accreditations. Gulf University for Science and Technology is offering premium quality, and the University has accreditation and affiliations with elite universities around the world, and we are always eager to have graduates with the highest quality in

Knowledge and confidence

With distinctive, internationally accredited programs, GUST equips its graduates with knowledge and confidence to face any obstacles including a degree that is recognized worldwide.

Professor Donald Bates, GUST's President said, "Today you have reached a milestone in life's journey. I want to help you continue on this successful journey by encouraging you to have a vision of a better Kuwait, a better world, and know that as you travel to fulfill that vision, the journey is as important as the destination. Furthermore, I wish for you, a loving family, many friends and a journey that includes getting in the game of life, hard work, overcoming fear, learning from your failures, breaking the rules, and avoiding the naysayers because your mission is to change Kuwait.

The night ended with a grand display of fireworks, and customized photo booths were available for students to capture these joyous moments with their







LULU HYPERMARKET ANNOUNCES 'FORTUNE DRIVE' DRAW WINNERS

announced the winners of the highly anticipated and thrilling 'Fortune Drive' draw that ensued on 9

Shoppers, who entered the draw by spending KD5 at any of LuLu Hypermarket branches during the 2 September to 7 November promotional period, gathered at the four LuLu Hypermarket outlets in the country - Al Rai, Qurain, Dhajeej and Salmiya - to witness and participate in the excitement surrounding the event.

The draw was an upbeat event that patrons of LuLu Hypermarket enjoyed participating in. The winners of the four Nissan Pathfinder vehicles were: Rafiqul Islam Hazarat (Al Rai branch), Manal Mahmous Saleem (Qurain branch), Taya Batva (Dhajeej branch) and Haisam Jawad Abdhu (Salmiya branch). The prizes will be handed over to the lucky winners by next week. In addition, 60 winners were rewarded with gift vouchers worth KD100.

As part of their interaction with customers, LuLu Hypermarket has organized many successful promotions that rewarded lucky customers with valuable. The 'Fortune Drive' promotion is yet another instance where the retailer adds extra value to the entire shopping experience at LuLu Hypermarket.







MALABAR GOLD AND DIAMONDS COMES TO NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

alabar Gold and Diamonds, one among the world's leading jewelry retailers is widening its network in Andhra Pradesh, India with the inauguration of their new showroom worldwide and 10th showroom in Andhra Pradesh at Nellore. The trendy and artistically done showroom, strategically located near Aanam Venkat Reddy Statue, Mini Bypass Road, has been inaugurated by famous Tollywood star Tamannah Bhatia on 2nd November at 11:00

Apart from displaying jewelry specific to the culture and celebrations of Andhra Pradesh, the store displays the exclusive range of sub brands from Malabar Gold and Diamonds: Mine - Diamond jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Precia - Precious Gem Jewelry, Divine -

Indian Heritage Jewelry, Ethnix - Handcrafted designer Jewelry, Starlet Kids' Jewelry and Hi- casual jewelry. The showroom also has an impressive stock of platinum jewelry apart from gold, diamond and sil-

M P Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group says: "With the expansion plans we intend to introduce all over the world, the handcrafted jewelry and valuable gift articles, as an Indian brand that reflects the unmatched craftsmanship of Indian artisans". Apart from being a successful business entity, Malabar group has always been in the forefront of social responsibility initiatives and earmarks certain percentage of its annual profit for activities in the field of health, education, housing, environmental conservation and women empowerment.



00:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George 00:50 Gator Boys 01:45 Call Of The Wildman 02:40 Natural World 03:35 Tanked

04:25 Snake Crusader With Bruce George 05:15 Gator Boys 06:02 Treehouse Masters 06:49 Echo And The Elephants Of

07:36 Call Of The Wildman 08:25 Dogs 101: Specials 09:15 Snake Crusader With Bruce George

10:10 Treehouse Masters 11:05 Tanked 12:00 Dog Rescuers 12:55 Bondi Vet Natural World

14:45 Snake Crusader With Bruce George 15:40 Treehouse Masters 16:35 Tanked 17:30 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli

18:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster 19:20 Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 20:15 Tanked 21:10 Wild Things With Dominic

Monaghan 22:05 Treehouse Masters 23:00 Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 23:55 Austin Stevens:

Discoveru HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud 01:10 Troy 02:00 Superhuman Science Superhuman Science 02:50 The Pop Illusionist

Auction Hunters 04:05 Garage Gold 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 Garage Gold 09:20 Baggage Battles 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:10 How It's Made

10:35 Troy 11:25 Superhuman Science 11:50 What Happened Next? 12:15 The Pop Illusionist 13:05 Auction Hunters Garage Gold 13:55 Baggage Battles

14:20 Alaskan Bush People Classic Car Rescue 16:00 Fast N' Loud How It's Made: Dream Cars 17:15 How It's Made Treasure Quest: Snake

Island 18:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition 19:20 Dual Survival 20:10 Garage Gold 20:35 Baggage Battles

Treasure Quest: Snake DISCOVERY SC

00:40 Storm Chasers 01:30 You Have Been Warned 02:20 What Could Possibly Go

Wrong? 03:10 NASA's Greatest Missions 04:00 Mythbusters 04:48 NASA's Unexpl 05:36 What Could Possibly Go

Wrong?
06:24 NASA's Greatest Missions 07:12 You Have Been Warned 08:00 Storm Chasers 08:50 Food Factory

How It's Made 10:30 NASA's Unexplained Files 11:20 You Can't Lick Your Elbow 12:10 What Could Possibly Go

Wrong? 13:00 Mythbusters

18:00 How It's Made

13:50 How It's Made 14:40 Food Factory 15:30 You Can't Lick Your Elbow 16:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 17:10 You Have Been Warned

18:50 Food Factory 19:40 Race To Escape NASA's Greatest Missions 21:20 Mythbusters 22:10 NASA's Unexplained Files Race To Escape



00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:40 Wolfblood 02:05 Wolfblood

03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

02:30 Violetta

03:15 The Hive

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch

04:10 Wolfblood

04:35 Wolfblood

06:25 Hank Zinzer

06:50 Girl Meets World

07:15 H2O: Just Add Water

08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

10:35 H2O: Just Add Water

11:00 H2O: Just Add Water

08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place

05:00 Violetta 05:45 The Hive

05:50 Mouk 06:00 Lolirock

07:40 Jessie

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch

11:25 Jessie

11:50 Jessie

12:20 Hank Zipzer

12:45 Gravity Falls

13:35 | Didn't Do It

14:55 Lolirock

16:10 Violetta

15:20 Austin & Ally 15:45 Girl Meets World

17:00 The Next Step

17:25 Mako Mermaids

17:50 Girl Meets World

18:15 Dog With A Blog

19:05 H2O: Just Add Water

18:40 Gravity Falls

20:20 The Next Step

20:45 Good Luck Charlie

21:10 Good Luck Charlie

22:00 Binny And The Ghost

22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

00:00 Keeping Up With The

00:55 The Grace Helbig Show

01:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take

03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

04:10 E! Entertainment Special

05:05 E! Entertainment Special

11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

15:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take

The Hamptons 16:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take

17:00 Fashion Bloggers 17:30 Fashion Bloggers

19:00 House Of DVF 20:00 Keeping Up With The

tood

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

02:00 Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity

04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

06:00 Keeping Up With The

06:55 Keeping Up With The

21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place

19:30 Violetta

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch

23:10 Wolfblood

23:35 Wolfblood

Kardashians

The Hamptons

02:20 E! News

Kardashians

Kardashians 07:50 Style Star

08:20 E! News

12:05 E! News

14:05 New Money

14:30 New Money

The Hamptons

18:00 E! News

Kardashians

21:00 Dash Dolls 22:00 E! News

23:00 The Soup

01:00 Chopped

03:00 Man Fire Food

03:30 Man Fire Food

Chopped

09:00 Guy's Grocery Games

14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

The Pioneer Woman

18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen

Guy's Grocery Games

11:00 Barefoot Contessa

11:30 Barefoot Contessa

07:00 Man Fire Food

08:00 Chopped

10:00 The Kitchen

12:00 Chopped

13:00 Guy's Big Bite

13:30 Guy's Big Bite

16:00 Chopped 17:00 The Kitchen

Cook Off

13:05 WAGs

09:15 Giuliana & Bill

10:15 Giuliana & Bill

13:10 Good Luck Charlie

14:00 Dog With A Blog

14:30 H2O: Just Add Water

09:45 Austin & Ally

10:10 Austin & Ally

Riviera 22:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran 23:00 Reza's African Kitchen 23:30 Reza's African Kitchen

20:00 Guy's Grocery Games 21:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The

21:30 Jenny Morris Cooks The

19:00 Chopped



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials 01:05 Who's Doing The Dishes? 02:00 Emmerdale 02:25 Eggheads 02:55 Coronation Street 03:25 The Jonathan Ross Show 04:20 Lewis 05:15 Take On The Twisters 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes? 07:05 Coronation Street The Jonathan Ross Show 07:30 08:25 Lewis

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 Lewis 17:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In 18:20 Take On The Twisters 19:10 Coronation Street 19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes? 20:30 Lewis 21:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In

OM FIRST HD COMEDY

23:40 Eggheads

22:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night

04:00 Marry Me 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 08:00 Marry Me 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

12:30 Marry Me 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:30 Cristela 19:00 About A Boy 19:30 New Girl The Tonight Show Starring

OJN FIRST

Jimmy Fallon 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

00:00 Better Call Saul 01:00 Marvel's Agents Of SHIFLD 02:00 The Flash 06:00 Parenthood 12:00 Emmerdale 12:30 Coronation Street 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16:00 Emmerdale 16:30 Coronation Street 17:00 The Fllen DeGeneres Show 19:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D. 20:00 Covert Affairs



OIN FIRST MORE 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 07:00 Emmerdale 07:30 Coronation Street

08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 10:00 Emmerdale 10:30 Coronation Street 12:00 Graceland 23:00 Banshee

00:00 Enemies Closer 02:00 Psycho 04:00 The Outsider Jaws: The Revenge 08:00 Last Passenger 10:00 Rage 12:00 The Outsider 14:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow 16:00 Last Passenger

18:00 Falcon Rising

22:00 RoboCop

OM MOVIES HID **ACTION**

20:00 The Italian Job (2003)

00:00 Psycho-18

02:00 The Outsider-PG15 04:00 Jaws: The Revenge-PG15 06:00 Last Passenger-PG15 08:00 Rage-PG15 10:00 The Outsider-PG15 12:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow-PG 14:00 Last Passenger-PG15 16:00 Falcon Rising-PG15 18:00 The Italian Job (2003)-PG15

ON MOVIES HD COMEDY

20:00 RoboCop-PG15 22:00 Hit And Run-18

00:00 Stand Up Guys 02:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad 04:00 Problem Child 2 06:00 Simon Birch 08:00 For Better Or For Worse 10:00 Problem Child 2 12:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad 14:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day 16:00 For Better Or For Worse 18:00 Vamps 20:00 Life Of Crime

MOVIES

DRAMA

01:00 Penthouse North-PG15 03:00 God Help The Girl-PG15 05:00 Wrath-PG15 07:00 My Piece Of The Pie-PG15 09:00 One Chance-PG15 11:00 Wrath-PG15 13:00 Parkland-PG15 15:00 Still Mine-PG15 17:00 One Chance-PG15 19:00 Sunlight Jr.-PG15 21:00 A Long Way Down-PG15 23:00 The Mule-18

OM MOVIES

01:00 Rushmore 03:00 McCanick 05:00 Till Human Voices Wake Us 07:00 Mr. Pip 09:00 Playing For Keeps 11:00 Till Human Voices Wake Us 13:00 Jodorowsky's Dune 14:30 Far And Away 17:00 Playing For Keeps 19:00 White Bird In A Blizzard 21:00 Seeking A Friend For The End Of The World 23:00 End Of Watch

OM MOVIES HD 01:15 No Good Deed-PG15

03:00 St. Vincent-PG15 05:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend-PG 07:00 The Boxtrolls-PG 09:00 Big Hero 6-PG 11:00 Get On Up-PG15 13:15 Robot & Frank-PG15 15:00 At Middleton-PG15 17:00 Big Hero 6-PG 19:00 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb-PG 21:00 The Wedding Ringer-18

23:00 The Equalizer-18

MOVIES 02:30 Back To The Sea 04:15 Ghatothkach - Master Of 06:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You 08:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure

09:45 Columbus In The Last

Journey

11:15 Hatching 12:45 Back To The Sea 14:30 Mamma Moo And Crow 16:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible 18:00 Columbus In The Last Journey 20:00 Tom And Jerry: The Lost

22:00 Mamma Moo And Crow 23:30 Kikoriki: Team Invincible

OM MOVIES **PREMIERE**

00:00 Oculus-PG15

02:00 The Numbers Station-PG15 04:00 Hellboy: Sword Of Storms-06:00 Tactical Force-PG15

08:00 The Magic Of Belle Isle-PG15 10:00 Diana-PG15 12:00 Closed Circuit-PG15 14:00 Return To Nim's Island-PG

16:00 The Magic Of Belle Isle-PG15 18:00 Good Deeds-PG15 20:00 Winter's Tale-PG15 22:00 The Conjuring-18

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes...
even rectangles.

Packing Cinemas 2014

03:14 Grojband 03:35 Johnny Test 05:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island 05:27 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island 05:50 Regular Show 06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball

07:00 Uncle Grandpa 07:25 Adventure Time 07:50 Teen Titans Go! 08:35 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse 09:45 Regular Show

10:30 Clarence Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk 11:20 Total Drama World Tour 11:40 Total Drama World Tour 12:05 Johnny Test 12:50 New Steven Universe

Steven Universe

13:02

13:15 Uncle Grandpa 13:40 Regular Show 14:25 Adventure Time 15:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball 16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse

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 Steven Universe 20:27 20:40 Uncle Grandpa 21:00 Teen Titans Go!

ENEMIES CLOSER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION 21:50 Ben 10 Omniverse

AFTER DARK FILMS PRISHISM AFTER DARK FILMS MUSSICNATURE ENTERTAINMENT PROGROUGH ARMY PETER HYAMS "ENEMIES CLOSER" JEAN CLAUDE VAN DAMME TOM EVERETT SCOTT ... ORLANDO JONES

EBOBBY RANGHELDY STEPHANIE CALEB ###### MOSHE DIAMANT COURTNEY SOLUMON ORLANDO JONES ### EPIC BROMBERG # JAMES BROMBERG ###PETER HYAMS

HANA STANISHIYA **TONY MORALES 1885 IRINA KOTCHEVA **HEBB PHILLIP HARRISON JOHN HYAMS #1888 PETER H

VAN DAMME

YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE



01:40 Total Drama World Tour 02:03 Total Drama World Tour 02:26 Total Drama World Tour 02:51 Grojband

22:40 Adventure Time

00:10 Regular Show

03:10 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion 04:00 Blood Relatives 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? The Haunted

06:20 Forensic Detectives 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite 08:00 Nightmare Next Door

08:50 On The Case With Paula 09:40 Fatal Encounters 10:30 Murder Shift Forensic Detectives 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite

Jones The Will 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It 14:40 California Investigator 15:05 Nightmare Next Door 15:55 Fatal Encounters 16:45 On The Case With Paula

17:35 Murder Shift 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It Forensic Detectives 20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite

21:20 The Will 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:00 Unravelled 23:50 Waco: The Survivors' Story 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

01:30 The Haunted

02:20 Ghost Lab

03:05 Calimero

05:00 Art Attack

05:35 Calimero

07:00 Zou

20:55 California Investigator

Jones

DISNED &

03:20 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:20 Calimero 04:35 Zou 04:45 Loopdidoo

05:50 Zou 06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calimero

05:25 Henry Hugglemonster

07:20 Loopdidoo 07:35 Art Attack 08:00 Calimero 08:10 Zou 08:25 Limon And Oli 08:35 Jake And The Never Land

11:00 Sofia The First

09:05 Sofia The First 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow 10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 10:30 Doc McStuffins

11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 11:55 Miles From Tomorrow 12:25 Doc McStuffins 12:55 Loopdidoo

13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 14:00 Sofia The First

15:00 Doc McStuffins

14:30 Henry Hugglemonster 14:45 Calimero

15:30 Zou 15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 16:15 Sofia The First 16:45 Jake And The Never Land

Pirates 17:10 Aladdin Reborn 17:40 Adventures Of The Gummi

18:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers 18:40 Jake And The Never Land

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 20:10 Night Stalkers 21:00 Caught In The Act 22:00 Aladdin

22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears 23:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers 23:30 Lilo & Stitch 00:00 Nina Needs To Go

00:05 Henry Hugglemonster 00:20 Calimero 00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo 01:05 Art Attack

01:30 Henry Hugglemonster 01:45 Calimero 02:00 Zou 02:15 Loopdidoo

02:30 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster



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

17:25 K.Č Úndercover 17:55 Supa Strikas 18:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island 18:45 Mighty Med 19:10 Phineas And Ferb

17:00 Mighty Med

19:40 Kickin' It 20:05 K.C Undercover 20:30 Supa Strikas 20:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

21:25 Kirby Buckets 21:50 Kickin' It 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



03:45 Caught In The Act 04:40 World's Deadliest 05:35 Planet Carnivore 06:30 Ultimate Animals

07:25 Caught In The Act 08:20 Africa's Wild Kingdom 09:15 Caught In The Act 10:10 Monster Fish

ten at LIONSGATE

11:05 Animals Gone Wild 12:00 Sea Strikers 12:55 Lion Battle Zone 13:50 Ultimate Animals

14:45 Caught In The Act 15:40 Night Stalkers 16:35 Caught In The Act 17:30 Monster Fish 18:25 Animals Gone Wild 19:20 Caught In The Act

21:50 Monster Fish 22:40 Animals Gone Wild 23:30 Sea Strikers 00:20 Lion Battle Zone 01:10 Ultimate Animals 02:00 Secret Life Of Predators

02:50 The Croc Catchers



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 & Tiaras 08:05 Cake Boss

08:30 Cake Boss 08:55 Perfect Look 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8 10:10 Little People, Big World 10:35 Sister Wives 11:00 Sister Wives 11:25 Cake Boss

11:50 Oprah's Master Class 12:40 Bakery Boss 13:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best 13:55 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best 14:20 Cake Boss

14:45 Cake Boss 15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8 15:35 Little People, Big World 16:00 Toddlers & Tiaras 16:50 Sister Wives 17:15 Sister Wives 17:40 Cake Boss

18:05 Say Yes To The Dress 18:30 The Undateables 19:20 Oprah's Lifeclass 20:10 Bakery Boss 21:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best

21:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best 21:50 Say Yes To The Dress -Bridesmaids 22:15 Say Yes To The Dress -Bridesmaids 22:40 Psychic Matchmaker

23:05 Mob Wives 23:55 Oprah's Master Class 00:45 Love In The City 01:35 Psychic Matchmaker 02:00 Mob Wives

02:50 Sister Wives

THE BOXTROLLS ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015





KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/10/2015 TO 18/11/2015)

SHARQIA-1		PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	9:30 PM	AVENUES-4		BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	8:45 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	12:15 PM	PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE G	HOST DIMEN-	SPECTRE	1:15 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	10:45 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	2:15 PM	SION	12:45 AM	ATOMIC EDEN	2:00 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:45 AM
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	4:00 PM			SPECTRE	4:15 PM		
ATOMIC EDEN	6:00 PM	FANAR-4		SPECTRE	7:15 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:00 PM	SPECTRE	12:30 PM	NOTHU		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	11:30 AM
ATOMIC EDEN	10:00 PM	PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE G		SPECTRE	7:15 PM	STEVE JOBS	1:30 PM
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	12:05 AM	SION	1:30 PM	SPECTRE	10:15 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	4:00 PM
SHARQIA-2		SPECTRE SPECTRE	3:30 PM 6:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	1:15 AM	STEVE JOBS ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:00 PM 8:30 PM
SPECTRE	12:30 PM	SPECTRE	9:30 PM	AVENUES-5		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:30 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:30 PM	SPECTRE	12:30 AM	UNCONSCIOUS	12:00 PM	STEVE JOBS	12:30 AM
SPECTRE	3:30 PM	3. ECTILE	12.5071111	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	2:00 PM	312423003	12.507111
SPECTRE	6:30 PM	FANAR-5		PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	5:15 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
SPECTRE	9:30 PM	SPECTRE	11:30 AM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	8:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	12:00 PM
SPECTRE	12:30 AM	SPECTRE	2:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:45 PM	SPECTRE	2:00 PM
		SPECTRE	5:30 PM			ATOMIC EDEN	5:00 PM
SHARQIA-3		AKHIL	6:00 PM	AVENUES-6		ATOMIC EDEN	7:00 PM
GOOSEBUMPS	11:45 AM	SPECTRE	8:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	11:30 AM	ATOMIC EDEN	9:00 PM
SPECTRE	2:00 PM	EVERYDAY I LOVE YOU	8:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	1:30 PM	SPECTRE	11:00 PM
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	5:00 PM	SPECTRE	11:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	3:30 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	8:15 PM			ATOMIC EDEN	5:30 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
SPECTRE	11:30 PM	MARINA-1	12.20 DM	ATOMIC EDEN	7:30 PM	SPECTRE	12:30 PM
MALILLAL AD 1		UNCONSCIOUS	12:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	9:30 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:30 PM
MUHALAB-1	12.45 DM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA UNCONSCIOUS	2:30 PM 4:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	11:30 PM	SPECTRE SPECTRE	3:30 PM 6:30 PM
ATOMIC EDEN ARBA'A KOTCHINA	12:45 PM 2:45 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	6:30 PM	AVENUES-7		SPECTRE	9:30 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	4:45 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	1:30 PM	SPECTRE	12:30 AM
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:45 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	3:45 PM	3F ECTIVE	12.50 AW
ATOMIC EDEN	8:45 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	12:30 AM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	6:00 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:45 PM	3.103.130.33	12.507.111	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	8:15 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	12:15 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	12:45 AM	MARINA-2		EVERYDAY I LOVE YOU	8:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	2:00 PM
		SPECTRE	12:00 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	10:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	4:00 PM
MUHALAB-2		SPECTRE	3:00 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:45 AM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:00 PM
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	1:00 PM	SPECTRE	6:00 PM			ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:00 PM
SPECTRE	1:30 PM	SPECTRE	9:00 PM	360°- 1		ATOMIC EDEN	10:00 PM
AKHIL	4:15 PM	SPECTRE	12:05 AM	GOOSEBUMPS	11:30 AM	ATOMIC EDEN	12:05 AM
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	4:15 PM			PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	1:45 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	7:30 PM	MARINA-3		PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	5:00 PM	BAIRAQ-3	
SPECTRE	11:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	12:15 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	8:15 PM	GOOSEBUMPS	11:30 AM
MILLALAR 2		ATOMIC EDEN	2:00 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	1:30 PM 4:45 PM
MUHALAB-3 SPECTRE	12:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN ATOMIC EDEN	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	36°- 2		PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	8:00 PM
SPECTRE	3:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	8:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	11:30 AM	SPECTRE	11:15 PM
SPECTRE	6:00 PM	SPECTRE	10:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	1:30 PM	SI LETILE	11.1511
SPECTRE	9:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	1:00 AM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	3:30 PM	PLAZA	
SPECTRE	12:05 AM			ARBA'A KOTCHINA	5:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	3:30 PM
		AVENUES-1		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	7:30 PM	VEDHALAM	5:30 PM
FANAR-1		STEVE JOBS	12:15 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	9:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:30 PM
STEVE JOBS	12:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	2:45 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	11:30 PM	SPECTRE	10:30 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	1:30 PM	STEVE JOBS	5:15 PM				
STEVE JOBS	3:15 PM	STEVE JOBS	7:45 PM	360°- 3		LAILA	
ATOMIC EDEN	5:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	10:15 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	12:00 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	3:45 PM
STEVE JOBS	7:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	12:45 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM	SPECTRE	7:00 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	10:15 PM	A1/E111/E6 0		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:15 PM	SPECTRE	10:00 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	12:15 AM	AVENUES-2	1.00 DM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	7:15 PM	A HAL 4	
FANAR-2		PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	1:00 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	10:30 PM	AJIAL.1 VEDHALAM	3:30 PM
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:30 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 VEDHALAM	4:15 PM 6:15 PM	AL-KOUT.1		VEDHALAM	6:30 PM
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	2:30 PM	EYAL HAREEFA	9:15 PM	SPECTRE	12:15 PM	VEDHALAM	9:30 PM
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	4:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:30 PM	SPECTRE	3:15 PM		7.50 T W
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:30 PM			SPECTRE	6:15 PM	AJIAL.2	
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:30 PM	AVENUES-3		SPECTRE	9:15 PM	AKHIL	3:45 PM
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	12:30 PM	SPECTRE	12:15 AM	AKHIL	6:45 PM
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:30 AM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	2:30 PM			AKHIL	9:45 PM
		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	4:30 PM	AL-KOUT.2			
FANAR-3		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:00 PM	AJIAL.3	
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:45 AM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:30 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	2:45 PM	THOONGAVANAM	4:15 PM
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	3:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	4:45 PM	THOONGAVANAM	7:00 PM
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	6:15 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	12:30 AM	UNCONSCIOUS	6:45 PM	THOONGAVANAM	9:45 PM

REQUIRED

FOR A LEADING MAJOR CATERING COMPANY IN KUWAIT:

DRIVERS

(Having valid Kuwait Driving license, 18 visa and transferable residence. Food & accommodation shall be provided by the company)

Contact Mobile: 99731103
Or email CV: vacancy.hrdkw@gmail.com

FOR SALE

Furniture for Sale 3 split AC (General) bedroom sofa bed, 2 chairs (IKEA) dining table +5 chairs beufet 3 pcs 2 level bed. Call: 22629161 / 99642993. (C 5070) 10-11-2015

9-11-2015 Sheikh Khad

Sheikh Khader, Indian Passport No. M6101253, change my name to Pathan Khadar Khan. (C 5068) 8-11-2015

SITUATION VACANT

Required domestic cook (Indian preferred) excellent salary, well spoken English language, excellent experience and transferable visa (20). Contact: 99020008. (C 5067) 4-11-2015

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)

THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

EMERGENCY (112

Prayer timings

Fajr: 04:47
Shorook 06:09
Duhr: 11:32
Asr: 14:33
Maghrib: 16:55
Isha: 18:14





Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

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

11.0	U							•		,95eb				. 9	
		rival Flights on Thursday 12/11/2015		KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50			parture Flights on Thursday 12/11/2015	_	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	FDB QTR	057 1078	Dubai Doha	14:10 14:10	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
				AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:20	AIC JZR	976 528	Goa/Chennai	00:05 00:05	SVA MSR	2401 611	Jeddah Cairo	14:00 14:00
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	BBC	044	Asyut Dhaka	00:03	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	KAC	672	Dubai	14:45	PIA	216	KHI	00:40	THY	767	Istanbul	14:45
JZR	8241	Amman	00:25	KAC	538 788	Sohag	14:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	KNE	481	Taif	14:50
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
JZR FDB	539	Cairo	00:40	GFA OMA	221 645	Bahrain	15:00	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	15:00
RJA	069 642	Dubai Amman	00:55 01:05	KAC	562	Muscat	15:30 15:40	MSC	406	Sohag	01:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	ABY	127	Amman Sharjah	15:45	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	ÛĂĒ	857	Dubai	15:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30	JZR	188	Dubai	15:40
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	JŽR	779	Jeddah	16:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
GFA	211 555	Bahrain	02:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:30	PGT OMA	859 644	lstanbul Muscat	03:55 03:55	KAC KAC	741 773	Dammam Riyadh	15:50 15:50
JZR OMA	643	Alexandria Muscat	02:45 02:55	ETD KNE	303 476	Abu Dhabi Jeddah	16:40 16:40	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
FDB	043	Dubai	03:05	KAC	542	Cairo	16:55	MSR	613	Cairo	04:00	SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	KAC	502	Beirut	17:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	MSR	614	Cairo	17:35	JZR	560	Sohag	06:10	KNE	477	Jeddah	17:30
JZR DHX	503 170	Luxor Bahrain	05:15 05:40	JZR	125	Bahrain	17:50	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:55	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
THY	764	Istanbul	05:55	JZR KAC	777 118	Jeddah New York	17:55 17:55	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
QTR	8511	Doha	06:10	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	FDB	063	Dubai	18:05	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAL	982	IAD	18:15	FDB GFA	5062 212	Dubai Bahrain	07:10 07:15	RJA SVA	641 511	Amman Riyadh	17:55 18:15
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	JZR	240	Amman	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC QTR	412 1086	Manila/Bangkok Doha	07:20 07:40	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30	QTR	8512	Doha	07:40	MSR	615	Cairo	18:35
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45	KAC	537	Sohag	08:20	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	742	Dammam	18:55	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	JZR	238	Amman	18:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	QTR KAC	1080 614	Doha Bahrain	18:55 19:10	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40	JZR	554	Alexandria	19:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25	BAW	156	London	08:45	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
KAC KAC	352 206	Kochi	08:20	KAC	618	Doha	19:35	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	344	Islamabad Chennai	08:25 08:30	KAC	104	London	19:40	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25	UAL	982	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
ÜAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC UAE	541 856	Cairo	09:55 09:55	KAC KAC	283 353	Dhaka BLR	20:35 20:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	KAC MSR	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	19:55	KAC	101	Dubai London/New York	09.55	KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:00	KNE	618 480	Alexandria Taif	20:05 20:10	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JZR	189	Dubai	20:15	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:00	KAC	543	Cairo	20:55
KAC KAC	362 284	Colombo Dhaka	09:00 09:10	FDB	061	Dubai	20:20	KAC	561	Amman	10:00	KAC	351	Kochi	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:10	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:35	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	KAC	343	Chennai	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:30	KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05	DLH ETD	634 307	Frankfurt	20:55	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	ABY	122	Sharjah	21:15
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IRA KNE	673 470	Ahwaz Jeddah	10:10 10:30	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	KAC KAC	677 165	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50 11:00	DLH FDB	634	Doha	21:45
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	OTR	105	Rome/Paris Doha	11:00	DHX	5054 171	Dubai Bahrain	21:50 21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	OMA	642	Muscat	11:05	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
ÜAE	873	Dubai	11:05	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	IRA	672	Ahwaz	11:10	KAC	381	Delhi	22:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	KLM	417	Amsterdam	22:05	KNE	471	Jeddah	11:20	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	564	Amman	22:25	IRM	1181	Mashhad	11:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
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MEA NIA	404 151	Beirut Cairo	11:55	ETD FDB	309 059	Abu Dhabi Dubai	22:25 22:30	SYR	342	Damascus	11:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
FDB	151 075	Cairo Dubai	11:55 12:25	OMA	647	Muscat	23:00	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
SVA	9440	Jeddah	12:30	ÜAL	981	Bahrain	23:25	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
JZR UAE	561	Sohag	12:45	JAD	301	Amman	23:30	AGY	683	Alexandria	12:40	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
	871	Dubai	12:50	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	NIA	152	Cairo	12:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
JZR	241	Amman	12:50	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	MEA KAC	405	Beirut	12:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
MSR THY	610	Cairo	13:00 13:45	JAI MSC	574 403	Mumbai	23:55 23:55	FDB	785 076	Jeddah Dubai	13:00 13:10	FDB KAC	060 411	Dubai Bangkok/Manila	23:35 23:35
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CROSSWORD 1077

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ACROSS

- 1. An angular shape characterized by sharp turns in alternating directions.
- 4. One who estimates officially the worth or value or quality of things.
- 12. (British) The dessert course of a meal ('pud' is used informally).
- 15. Any of various systems of units for meas-
- uring electricity and magnetism.
- 16. Instrumentalities (tools or implements) made of metal.
- 17. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- 18. Beads threaded on a string.
- 20. Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cymose panicles of small white flowers and onewinged seeds.
- 22. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Remicade) consisting of an antibody directed against TNF.
- 25. The mountain peak that Noah's ark landed on as the waters of the great flood reced-
- 26. Become slow or slower.
- 29. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
- 30. Measuring instrument for indicating speed of rotation.
- 31. The basic unit of money in Iran.
- 34. Pertaining to forces or mental processes outside the possibilities defined by natural or scientific laws.
- 38. (Sumerian) Consort of Dumuzi (Tammuz). 40. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- 41. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 44. An inclined surface or roadway that moves traffic from one level to another.
- 46. The largest city and principal port of Zealand.
- 48. An intensely radioactive metallic element
- that occurs in minute amounts in uranium 49. Hinge joint in the human leg connecting
- the tibia and fibula with the femur and protected in front by the patella. 50. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the
- faces. 51. A bivalent and trivalent metallic element
- of the rare earth group. 53. Superclass of eel-shaped chordates lack-
- ing jaws and pelvic fins. 56. Electro-acoustic transducer for convert-
- ing electric signals into sounds. 59. European strong-scented perennial herb
- with gray-green bitter-tasting leaves.
- 60. A mountain peak in the Andes in
- Argentina (21,654 feet high). 61. Lac purified by heating and filtering.
- 66. The square of a body of any size of type.
- 69. Grass mowed and cured for use as fod-
- 70. Morning glory.
- 73. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peo-
- 75. Used of a single unit or thing.
- 76. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling). 77. An Eskimo hut.
- 78. A doctor's degree in education.
- 79. A benign epithelial tumor of glandular
- 80. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its

- 1. Any of several fleet black-and-white striped African equines.

- flowers. 4. Gregarious burrowing rodent larger than
- 5. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 7. A state of agitation or turbulent change or
- 9. Covered with paving material.
- 11. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element
- used in some alloys.
- 13. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir
- 14. Having relatively few calories. 19. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and
- 21. A quantity upon which a mathematical operation is performed.
- 27. A white soft metallic element that tar-
- monster with a lion's head and a goat's body and a serpent's tail.
- birth.
- and expressions that are not considered appropriate for formal occasions.

- 37. Any taillike structure.
- ful fruits. 43. A metric unit of volume equal to one
- 47. Being one more than one hundred.
- 52. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall
- 62. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior
- 63. Having an eye or eyes or eyelike feature especially as specified.
- cially written ones.
- 67. With no effort to conceal.
- 68. Having a color similar to that of a clear
- 71. A unit of time equal to 60 seconds or
- 72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made
- from aba cloth.
- ly in Turkey). mother and raised by hand.

- **DOWN**
- 2. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
- 3. Tropical tree of Central America and West Indies and Puerto Rico having spikes of white
- the chinchillas.
- 6. Weight to be borne or conveyed.
- development.
- 8. An overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration.
- 10. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
- that resembles manganese chemically and is
- 12. Italian violinist (1782-1840).
- known for his beauty and skill with bow and
- predicted the existence of antimatter and
- the positron (1902-1984).
- 23. King of the Huns. 24. A state in northwestern North America.
- nishes readily. 28. (Greek mythology) Fire-breathing she-
- 32. Of or relating to an inability to urinate. 33. Relating to the Lamaze method of child-
- 35. Informal language consisting of words
- 36. A republic on the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula on the Indian Ocean.
- 39. Having nine units or components. 42. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtrop-
- ical regions for its fragrant flowers and color-
- thousandth of a liter. 45. Relating to or resembling or made of or
- adorned with pearls or mother-of-pearl.
- 54. Eurasian perennial bulbous herbs.
- 55. Thrown together in a pile.
- 57. Bright with a steady but subdued shining. 58. (prosody) Of or consisting of iambs.
- 64. A set of rules or principles or laws espe-
- 65. Tall palm tree bearing coconuts as fruits.
- unclouded sky.
- 1/60th of an hour.
- 74. Title for a civil or military leader (especial-

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Yesterday's Solution

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Just as the bumps on the road of life seem to smooth out, another obstacle stops you in your tracks today. Maybe you miscalculated the amount of work on your plate or perhaps you missed a pertinent piece of information. No matter what, there's no reason to complain. You might be self-critical because you could have seen the potential trouble if you paid closer attention. But instead of wasting energy second-guessing things you can't change, take care of the most immediate concerns as quickly as possible. The good news is your l-can-do-it attitude is both constructive and contagious.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You might try to hide your actions today because you're afraid of others misjudging your behavior as frivolous. You may believe you don't have anything important to add to the conversation, but chances are you just need more time to decide how to express yourself clearly. Don't worry about how anyone else will react. Just tell the truth exactly as you see it now; it's unlikely that you will be faulted for speaking from your heart if your message is authentic.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your serious mood can have a negative impact on your coworkers today while unresolved issues sneak back into your awareness to haunt you. Oddly enough, you may experience a weird mix of excitement and concern as memories are triggered by someone close to you. Your attempts to avoid a meaningful discussion probably won't be successful now. Act proactively and start a conversation about what's on your mind instead of trying to ignore the truth. Wake up and take the initiative; it might as well be you who gets the ball rolling.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

People may think you're being overly critical today, though you might not see yourself in this light. Your current sobering perspective stems from an apparent weak link in someone's story, and you're not willing to support a plan based upon sloppy logic. Don't try to bury your feelings; instead, just change the tone of your words. You can be honest without blaming anyone else in

the process. Honoring your integrity is all that truly matters now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could reach a turning point today as you secretly obsess about your shortcomings. Naturally, everyone has a regret or two; there are always things you could have done better or, perhaps shouldn't have done at all. Instead of pursuing perfection now, it's wise to just accept your limitations and admit that you are a flawed human. There's no time to throw a pity party. Shift your trajectory by compiling a list of everything you do well. The power of positive thinking tips the scales in your favor.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your renowned analytical skills are operating on overdrive now that an exacting electric Mercury-Uranus alignment focuses your mind like a laser beam. Unfortunately, controlling the energy is out of the question today. There's no reason to undermine others with your sharp criticism; nothing is currently gained by nitpicking their work. Providing constructive feedback enables you to suggest potential improvements without resorting to negativity. Use your power of discernment wisely to bring out the best in everyone.

Wordsearch Puzzle IN THE GARDEN WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

В	R	U	Т	Α	В	Α	G	Α	Ε	R	Z	Ρ	С	Ε	Р	L	С	S
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BRUSSELSSPROUTSTEMM **BEETS BELL PEPPERS** BROCCOLI BRUSSELS SPROUTS

CARROTS

CELERY CILANTRO CUCUMBER **EGGPLANT** GREEN BEANS

LETTUCE ONION **PEAS RADISHES** RUTABAGA

SWEET CORN SWISS CHARD **TOMATOES** WATERMELON ZUCCHIN

Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may feel stuck in a rut of routine in spite of your current craving for excitement. In fact, you could grow rather disillusioned today about your future prospects. Although a recent disappointment might deepen your malaise, don't make despondency a regular habit because your life is about to change for the better. Instead of reminiscing about an event in the past, switch your focus now and imagine the best possible scenario that could be waiting for you just around the next corner.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Understanding where your life is leading these days is a real mystery; nevertheless, you believe you would be happier if you knew where to look for answers. Your pessimistic outlook weighs heavily on your heart and the burden of responsibilities you feel may not even be your own. Unfortunately, you can't invent an easy remedy to cure your current blues today. Believe it or not, simply accepting your current uncertainty could be enough to transform your despair into hope. Don't lose faith in your dreams; the clouds will dissipate and the Sun will come out sooner than you think.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

People seem to come out of the woodwork to tell you exactly what's wrong with your new plan today — even if you're not asking for any feedback. Unfortunately, others aren't necessarily tactful in their assessment of your ideas. Additionally, you could be so sensitive now that you might make matters worse by responding ungraciously. Don't dwell on the negative; you have too much to do and there's no point in entertaining unproductive thoughts. Things will quickly improve once you stop talking and start lis-



tening.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You're motivated to put extra time and effort on the job today or, perhaps, you're eager to add your expertise to a community project. Either way, your optimism is flagging now, leaving you with a sense of vulnerability about your future. Although you might wonder if all your hard work is actually worth it, it's not wise to retreat. Abandoning your plans won't help anyone; just be more realistic about your expectations so you can actually reach your goals on schedule. All is not lost if you keep a healthy perspective.



Thinking about having fun is nearly impossible today while the dynamics at work are so serious. You might give up your dream for an upcoming getaway because you don't have enough time. It's prudent to focus your energy on something more practical that contributes to your stability, rather than escaping on a whimsical adventure. Sticking close to home makes good sense now; so don't push beyond safe limits until you feel as if you're back on more stable ground. Taking care of unfinished business is your first step to regaining control of your life.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If someone delivers a harsh message today, you really don't have to blindly accept his or her interpretation of reality. Nevertheless, if you trust the source, you may be overly susceptible to what you hear. Listen carefully to what others say now, but don't take anything too personally. Luckily, you can put whatever you learn into motion to improve your game if you assimilate the facts without an emotional charge. Remember, those close to you might truly have your best interests at heart.

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO WILD WEST PUZZLE

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Daily SuDoku

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Yesterday's Solution



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

New Jahra

West Jahra

South Jahra

North Jahra

North Jleeb

Ardhiya

Firdous

Omariya

N Khaitan

Fintas

Bneid Al-Gar

Ayoun Al-Qibla

Maidan Hawally

Abdullah Salem

Industrial Shuwaikh

Kaifan

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

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24848913

24814507

22549134

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22515088

22532265

22531908

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24770319 24575755

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24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel 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

STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



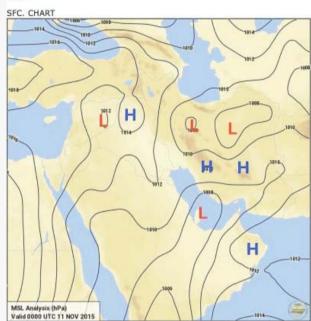
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 11/11/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 24 °C

By Day: Sunny with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h
By Night: Cool with light to moderate north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h



Four-Day	Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	1	1	Ske
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Expected Weather	sunny	sunny	sunny	Mostly sunny
Min Temp °C	14	12	13	14
Max Temp °C	22	22	23	24
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 35	12 - 35	15 - 40	10 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	20	23
KUWAIT AIRPORT	16	24
ABDALY	16	25
BUBYAN	18	24
JAHRA	17	25
FAILAKA ISLAND	18	23
SALMIYAH	21	25
AHMADI	20	26
JAL ALIYAH	15	23
QAROH ISLAND	24	25
UMM AL-MARADEM	23	26
NUWAISIB	18	25
WAFRA	16	26
MANAGISH	16	24
SALMY	13	25
MUTRIBA	15	25

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-4-	Sunrise	06:09	
	Sunset	16:55	
Prayer T	imes		
Fajr		04:47	

Prayer Times	
Fajr	04:47
Sunrise	06:09
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:34
Sunset	16:55
Isha	18:15

Liberia

Libya

Lithuania

00231

00218

00370

Zambia

Zimbabwe

00260

00263



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologi	sts
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988
	22620166
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22020100
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
•	25651426
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio	25651426 ners
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 256555528
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	25651426 ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955 di 22616660

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surge	eons
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doc	tor
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatris	its
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Ol	bstetricians
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surg	eons
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 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

info@soorcenter.com

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Paediatricia	ns
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatolog	у
Dr. Mohammed Salam	
Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologist	ts
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologis	ts
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

	Endocrinologist			
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330		
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	1		
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	ļ.		
	Physiotherapists & VD			
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291			
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288		
	Rheumatologists:			
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060)		
1	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290		
	Internist, Chest & Heart			
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210		
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology			
	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667		
	Consultant Cardiologist			
	Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555		
	Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123			

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

INTERNAT CALL		† C	1
Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra Angola	00376	Madagascar Majorca	00261 0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antiga	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia Australia	00374	Mali Malta	00223
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh Barbados	00880 001246	Mauritius Mayotte	00230 00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin Bermuda	00229	Monaco Mongolia	00377 00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma) Namibia	0095
Brazil Brunei	0055 00673	Namibia	00264 00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia Cameroon	00855 00237	New Zealand Nicaragua	0064 00505
Canada	00237	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African Chad	00236 00235	Norfolk Island N. Ireland (UK)	00672 0044
Chile	00235	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269 00242	Pakistan Palau	0092 00680
Congo Cook Islands	00242	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053 00357	Peru Philippines	0051 0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia Djibouti	00246 00253	Qatar Romania	00974 0040
Dominica	00253	Russian Federation	0040
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador England (UK)	00503 0044	Saint Lucia Saint Pierre	001758 00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia Ethiopia	00372 00251	Samoa West San Marino	00685 00378
Falkland Islands	00500	San Marino Sao Tone	00378
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221 00284
France French Guiana	0033 00594	Seychelles Sierra Leone	00284
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia Germany	00995 0049	Solomon Islands Somalia	00677 00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland Grenada	00299 001473	Sri Lanka Sudan	0094 00249
Guadeloupe	001473	Suriname	00249
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland Syria	0041 00963
Guyana Haiti	00592 00509	Syria Serbia	00963
Holland (Netherlands)		Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary Ibiza (Spain)	0036 0034	Toga Tonga	00228 00676
Iceland	0034	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098 00964	Tuvalu Uganda	00688 00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica Japan	001876 0081	Uruguay USA	00598 001
Japan Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	001
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kırıbati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait Kyrgyzstan	00965 00996	Virgin Islands UK Virgin Islands US	001284 001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	001340
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381

Music & Movies

New Zealand production turns to 'Avatar' sequels in post-'Hobbit' world



fter 16 years, Peter Jackson's sextet of Tolkien adaptations has come to an end. Yet the New Zealand film and TV business is thriving even without its signature franchise, turning the land that once served as Middle-Earth into a host of brave new worlds. Despite a dearth of hobbits on set, 2015 has been a record year for international productions. Feature films and TV series alike are lining up to shoot there. The biggest player in New Zealand's next phase is Lightstorm Entertainment's trio of "Avatar" sequels. The original "Avatar" had a local qualifying spend of NZ\$362.8 million (\$246 million) with incentives worth \$35.8 million, but producer Jon Landau says it is more than just the coin that prompted James Cameron and him to return to New Zealand.

"Jim is not going back because of the financial incentives," Landau says. "It's part of it, but he is going because of the labor pool and the creative talent that is down there. And I think that says something." Cameron and Landau are not alone in spearheading the post-Tolkien production surge, with DreamWorks' "The Light Between Oceans," Walt Disney's "Pete's Dragon," the Weinstein Co's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" sequel, MTV's "The Shannara Chronicles," Starz's "Ash vs Evil Dead" series and Saban Brands'

"Power Rangers" all lensing or confirmed. Most recently, it was announced that DreamWorks' manga adaptation "Ghost in the Shell" would head to NZ in 2016, with Scarlett Johansson starring and Rupert Sanders helming.

Fantastic experience

Legendary Pictures wrapped holiday horror pic "Krampus" earlier this year and producer Alex Garcia says the combination of incentives and skills made the decision a "no-brainer." He acknowledges the issue of distance from Legendary's Burbank HQ, but says once there the quality of life on the shoot-based in Wellington, the crew was 10 minutes from Stone Street Studios and even closer to Weta Digital and Weta Workshop-made up for it. "It was a fantastic experience overall," Garcia adds. "The craftspeople are at the top of their game and the facilities are world-class." Garcia also points to Weta as a major draw. For "Krampus," he wanted to integrate both vfx monsters and physical creatures, and the ability of the twin Weta facilities to do that delivered a key skill set.

Philippa Mossman, head of international screen attraction at Film New Zealand, says, "We do have a talent for creating other worlds." She points not only

to Tolkien and the current slate of fantasy films, but also to the legacy of "Chronicles of Narnia," "Bridge to Terabithia," and even the TV series "Xena: Warrior Princess" and "Spartacus." These fantasy films sometimes leads to questions about whether crew can handle other types of projects, she says. "But once people come to understand that, for example, we have also had 'Mr Pip,' 'Players,' the TV drama series 'Top of the Lake,' 'Walking With Dinosaurs, 'Bear Grylls,' as well as 13 local feature films and TV dramas, that tends to shift the perception."

Mossman says New Zealand is proud of its legacy of fantasy film, but is not just targeting genre fare. It also plans to shore up Asian productions and has its first official co-prod with India, "Beyond Nine Worlds," due for release in 2016, and there have been three producer delegations to China since 2014.But Hollywood isn't decamping from New Zealand anytime soon. As Landau puts it: "That combination of the cost effectiveness and the creative talent there is what keeps bringing us back." — Reuters

Johansson earned same pay as Evans, Hemsworth for 'Avengers' by Setoodeh

ans of Marvel's "Avengers" series have long griped about the franchises' ratio of male to female superheroes. Just earlier this year, while promoting "Avengers: Age of Ultron," Mark Ruffalo pointed out that he could still not find enough Black Widow merchandising in the likeness of Scarlett Johansson, the most prominent woman star of the series. But for this week's cover story about pay disparity in Hollywood, Variety learned that Johansson earns roughly the same compensation from "The Avengers" series as her male co-stars Chris Evans (who plays Captain America) and Chris Hemsworth (Thor). Previous reports suggested Johansson received more than twice the salary of Hemsworth and Evans for "Avengers: Age of Ultron." But those statistics were not accurate, sources added.

Robert Downey Jr, who negotiated a rich deal after 2008's "Iron Man," with estimated earnings of \$80 million this year from all his movie projects, still gets paid the most, according to sources familiar with the actors' contracts. But the news about Johansson's pay is at least a speck of hope for an industry that's come under fire recently, with claims of sexism and reoccurring pay disparity for actresses compared to male movie stars. Last month, Jennifer Lawrence set the blogosphere ablaze with her essay about receiving less money than her male co-stars from the Sony Pictures comedy "American Hustle."

"The Avengers," distributed by the Walt Disney Co, is from the rare studio that's been actively trying to balance the scales in recent years when it comes to women in film. "Audiences have proven that there's an appetite and a market for dynamic female leads and female-driven stories, and as an industry, we have a responsibility to create those roles for women and compensate them accordingly," Alan Horn, the chairman of Walt Disney Studios, tells Variety.

Scarlett Johansson, Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth

Biggest paychecks

Disney has not only backed a slew of girl-power animated films, such as the juggernaut "Frozen" (co-directed by Jennifer Lee to the tune of \$1.27 billion worldwide), "Brave" and "Inside Out," but its live-action unit is also leaning in. Sources say that Angelina Jolie received one of the biggest paychecks of her career for "Maleficent," which included a percentage of the film's \$758 million worldwide box office grosses. This year, Disney cast Cate Blanchett as the evil stepmother in "Cinderella" and Emma Watson will soon take on the role of Belle in the upcoming "Beauty and the Beast." Even the poorly received "Tomorrowland" gave the bulk of

its screen time not to George Clooney but to the spirited female newcomer Britt Robertson.

And it's not just on the big screen that Disney is trying to make sure women receive equal face time. Geena Davis, who runs an institute for gender in media, serves as a consultant to their theme parks. "The goal of the rides is to be current and last for 20 years at least," Davis says, adding that she encourages the engineers to expand female characters that may have smaller roles in films. "I'm always saying, 'Maybe in 20 years, we won't have a gender discrepancy." — Reuters



Vertu launches new signature touch performance Vertu launches new signature touch performance

ew Signature Touch is the latest, high-performance smartphone from Vertu, the English manufacturer of luxury mobile phones. New Signature Touch balances high performance technology, dedicated services and peerless build quality and materials and boasts Vertu's most vibrant display ever. This clarity of image is complemented by the extraordinary sound experience featuring Dolby Digital Plus virtual surround sound.

Encased in handcrafted, fine leather and grade 5 titanium, it is Vertu's highest ever technical performance smartphone. Android 5.1 Lollipop promises improved speed and clarity and Vertu's full portfolio of services, which comprise Dedicated Concierge as well as Vertu LIFE and Vertu CERTAINTY packages ensure a seamless user experience.

Design

New Signature Touch has a cleaner, crisper look, with very little interfering with its geometric design. Still recalling iconic Vertu elements, details are distilled and pared down to their simplest form. On the back plate, dramatic gull-wing doors open to house the nanoSIM and microSD cards. Inside there is space for personal engraving. New Signature Touch balances iconic, heritage design elements with a modern, clean look. The pillow has a confident form and is made from one large piece of ceramic for a cleaner aesthetic. The stereo sound bar has also evolved with a separate, floating polished V rail.

The strong material palette established by Signature Touch has evolved to include luxurious feeling semi - aniline calf leather. New Signature Touch will launch in a range of four colors, across eight product executions; Jet Calf, Garnet Calf, Grape Lizard, Pure Jet Lizard, Jet Alligator, Pure Navy Alligator, Clous de Paris Alligator and Pure Jet Red Gold, each of which can be personalized with engraving. A beautiful range of cases will be available in three different designs, in a range of complementary materials and colors.

Performance

New Signature Touch boasts Vertu's most vibrant display

ever thanks to phosphor powder used to create the LEDs. The remarkable display delivers extraordinary color saturation and its clarity is preserved and protected by a solid piece of scratchproof, 130 carat, 5th generation Sapphire Crystal. Its 5.2" Full-HD LCD display has 428 pixels per inch, which is over 100 ppi higher resolution than most other phones on the market phones, resulting in exceptional brightness.

and precision define handmade smartphone

Sound and imaging are essential to the smartphone experience and New Signature Touch acoustics feature Dolby Digital Plus virtual surround sound processing and front-facing stereo speakers, while call quality is assured via uplink and downlink noise cancelling. New Signature Touch also includes our most powerful camera ever, featuring Vertu's custom Image Signal Processor and camera application software by ArcSoft. Its twin LED flash means that the 21 megapixel rear camera operates to optimum levels regardless of light conditions. New Signature Touch is our most powerful phone ever and stunning speed is delivered via the new flagship Qualcomm Chipset, Qualcomm Snapdragon 810 Octa-core processor.

Like its predecessor, New Signature Touch was designed under the Vertu ethos of a 'one world phone', with the development team working to ensure that, no matter where you are in the world, your Signature Touch has the optimum set up for the region that you are in. This perfect world service is complemented by global Wi-Fi access supplied by iPass in

Alongside its powerful high-performance audio and imaging, New Signature Touch features wireless charging, NFC and the latest Google Android(tm) 5.1 Lollipop. A full technical specification is included at the end of this release.

what is their company's only global consumer partnership.

Services

New Signature Touch is Vertu's pinnacle smartphone and offers access to the full range of curated privileges and services. Vertu Concierge is available for all Signature Touch customers and features the highest level of Dedicated Service. Customers are provided with a single point of contact who

can facilitate most requests, from arranging travel, accommodation and dining experiences to gift sourcing and access to money-can't-buy events. The highly personalized nature of the Dedicated Concierge - now complimentary on device for 18 months - means that every interaction leads to an increasingly tailored service, nuanced for the specific customer.

Vertu LIFE offers customers a personalised selection of exclusive privileges and unrestricted access to elite events, available directly on device. Features include complimentary entry to the most exclusive Private Members' Clubs around the world, access to invitation-only events and closed-door shopping experiences. Vertu LIFE has been set up as a sophisticated system that can learn and adapt to individuals; as the customer uses the system more and more, it becomes more attuned and tailored to their needs. It is the ultimate expression of bespoke technology.

Vertu CERTAINTY enhances the customer, their Vertu phone and their data through best-in-class technology and expert partners. This includes encrypted communications, comprising voice calls, text and video, delivered in partnership with Silent Circle. In addition, the Vertu Lost Phone service enables you to lock, wipe, find and ring your Vertu at any time, providing absolute security should your phone ever be mislaid. Vertu Sync enables a smooth transition from iOS by connecting your Vertu to your iCloud contacts and calendar.

Vertu began working on a luxury mobile phone concept as early as 1998 and four years later the company shipped its first product, the Signature, from its headquarters in Hampshire, England. Today, Vertu still leads the market that it pioneered, with a range of phones available: Vertu Signature, Vertu Signature Touch and Vertu Aster. Each product in the range delivers an unrivalled synergy of hand craftsmanship and materials, unique design, latest technology and curated services.



Will Smith, star of "Concussion," poses at the world premiere gala screening of the film during the 2015 AFI Fest at the TCL Chinese Theatre on Tuesday in Los Angeles.—AP

Smith's 'Collateral Beauty' lands director Frankel

evil Wears Prada" helmer David Frankel is in early talks to direct New Line drama "Collateral Beauty" starring Will Smith, following the loss of director Alfonso Gomez- Rejon. Anonymous Content's Michael Sugar and Bard Dorros are producing along with screenwriter Allan Loeb, while PalmStar CEO Kevin Frakes and Anthony Bregman are exec producing. The story follows a New York advertising exec (Smith) who experiences a deep personal tragedy.

His colleagues devise an unconventional plan to break him out of his depression, which ends up backfiring. PalmStar and Likely Story acquired the rights to the script in June, with PalmStar fully financing. Production was expected to start next month: it is unknown if they will push that date while they fill out the remaining ensemble. Frankel made a name for himself on the TV front, especially at HBO, where he helmed episodes for such series as "Sex and the City" and "Band of Brothers" before making his big splash on the big screen with the hit comedy "The Devil Wears Prada." Frankel has since helmed comedies with strong characters like "Hope Springs" and most recently the James Corden pic "One Chance." John Carney and Jason Bateman were also in the mix to direct, but execs offered the gig to Frankel in the end. Frankel is repped by WME and Anonymous Content. — Reuters

Andy White, 'fifth Beatle' from first hit, dies at 85

ndy White, a session musician who played drums on the first Beatles hit but spent his life on the edges of fame, has died, colleagues said yesterday. He was 85. The Glasgow native, who had lived for years in the United States where he taught Scottish-style pipes and drums, died this week in his adopted home of New Jersey, the New York Metro Pipe Band said on Facebook. White performed on only one single of The Beatles-the American version of "Love Me Do"-but it was enough to make him a mythic "Fifth Beatles" in the lore of the Fab Four.

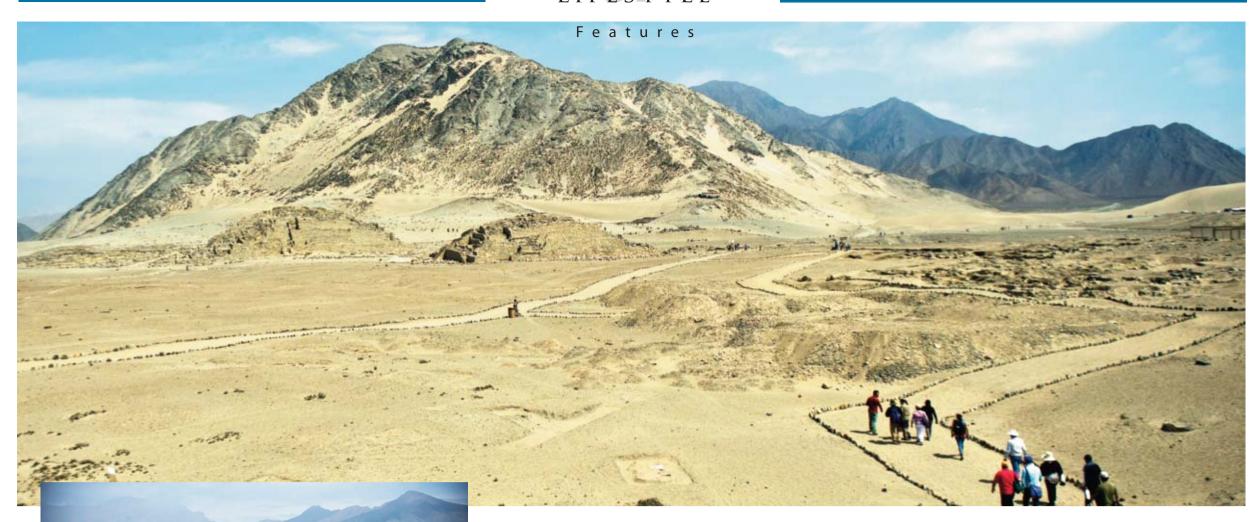
White in the early 1960s had been based in London but was familiar with the US scene, having crossed the Atlantic to back big names such as Chuck Berry and Bill Haley and the Comets. As White recalled later, producer Ron Richards called him in 1962 and simply offered a three-hour session job for label EMI. "That's all I knew about it. I had heard of The Beatles by then because my first wife Lynne was from Liverpool and had mentioned the name, but I didn't know much about them," he told Britain's Daily Record in a 2012 interview.

But White said he was impressed by The Beatles, calling them a rare British act at the time that was not just producing "a copy of music from the States." "You could tell it was something different and very special. But I didn't know just how special it would become," he said. White also played on the B-side to the single, "P.S. I Love You." But Starr quickly assumed full-time drumming duties and performed on the

British version of "Love Me Do." Starr-who played tambourine on the US single to accompany White on the drum set-later recalled a feeling of dread when he saw the session musician, fearing he would be sacked like Best. While White's career with the Beatles was short, he played drums as a session musician on a number of other artists' hits, including "It's Not Unusual" by Tom Jones in 1965. — AFP







Tourists visit the Caral archaeological complex.



Tourists visit the Caral archaeological complex.



The wall of one of the pyramids at the Caral archaeological complex.



A tourist watches an information panel at the Caral archaeological complex, in One of the amphitheatres of the Caral archaeological complex. Supe-Peru. — AFP photos

Peru's ancient city Caral inspires modern architects

rchitects seeking solutions for sustainable living in the 21st century are taking notes from the ancient city of Caral in Peru, an engineering marvel built some 5,000 years ago. Caral's builders created a city of pyramids, sunken amphitheaters, seismically resilient buildings and underground ducts that channeled the wind to keep their fires burning-all with basic tools. It was the site of the oldest known civilization in the Americas, the Caral or Norte Chico civilization, which developed from 3000 to 1800 BC-almost as old as Ancient Egypt. Today, architects from around the world have convened in Caral to seek inspiration in its sandy brown ruins and discuss the challenges facing humankind five millennia later.

The International Union of Architects met at the UNESCO World Heritage Site last weekend and signed a document called the Caral Letter, which hails the ancient city as an example of sustainable urban planning and living in harmony with nature. The letter from the 124-nation group will be presented next month at high-stakes UN climate talks in Paris, where countries will seek a comprehensive agreement on curbing the carbon emissions warming the planet.

The world's architects had previously met in Athens in 1933 to sign a landmark manifesto on urban planning and in Venice in 1964 to call for the preservation of the world's monuments. "We turn to the past to see how civilization was organized 5,000 years ago, mic vision," said Jose Arispe, one of Peru's leading architects and an adviser with the International Union of Architects. He marveled at engineering feats like the ducts Caral used to supply air to fires used in religious ceremonies and keep them burning. The system relies on what physicists now call the Venturi effect, the reduction in pressure when a fluid flows through a constricted space.

"We are rediscovering the work of architects and engineers at the time, when there were no instruments like the level or the plumb line. It's high engineering," he told AFP. Buildings in the city, which is in a seismically active area, also feature flexible foundations called "shicras" that resemble large baskets filled with stones-a technique to minimize earthquake damage. Caral's inhabitants apparently had no weapons and no city walls to keep out neighboring peoples. "It



The Huanca monolith in the Caral archaeological complex.

was a peaceful culture and serves as a reference for $\dot{\rm f}$ turre generations," said Arispe. They also built the city on arid land to preserve fertile ground for farming. "This society was very interested in developing in harmony with nature. They never occupied the valley, they didn't settle on productive land. Fertile fields were deities," said Peruvian archaeologist Ruth Shady, who conducted the first excavations at Caral in 1996 and brought the site to world attention.

'Message for the world'

Caral sits in the Supe Valley, in a semi-arid region about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Lima, just inland from the Pacific Ocean. The horizon is dominated by seven stone pyramids that appear to light up in the sun. The city is built around two sunken circular plazas, and excavations indicate there were regular markets that drew traders from across a wide region.

Fishermen and farmers would trade their goods for flutes made of condor bones, or for shells from as far away as modern-day Ecuador to make necklaces.

Digs to uncover more of the site's history are ongoing. The city may also have been the birthplace of Quechua, which became the language of the subsequent Inca empire and is still alive today. "This is a civilization that achieved splendor and prestige. That's the message for the world: We can live in harmony with nature to protect the planet and have respectful, peaceful relations with other cultures," said Shady. Caral was hit by a long drought around 1800 BC, forcing residents to abandon the area. After they left, the city was buried in sand. — AFP





One of the amphitheatres of the Caral archaeological complex.

A customer carries a coffee drink in a red paper cup. with a cardboard cover attached, outside a Starbucks coffee shop in the Pike Place Market.

Trump threatens Starbucks boycott' over holiday red cups

epublican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump has addressed the controversy brewing over Starbucks' decision to leave Christmas motifs off its red holiday cups, suggesting Americans should boycott the coffee giant. Starbucks recently unveiled its minimalist new cups, and the absence of snowflakes, reindeer and other holiday symbols used in past years has caused a minor uproar online, where critics blasted the company as a Scrooge waging a war on

Vice president of design and content Jeffrey Fields said in a statement that the streamlined, basic red design reflects how the company was "embracing the simplicity and the quietness" of the season. That seemed almost too good for Trump, who has built his campaign on brash bluster, to pass up. "I have one of the most successful Starbucks, in Trump Tower," he told a large crowd at his campaign rally Monday night in Springfield,

Illinois. "Maybe we should boycott Starbucks? I don't know. Seriously, I don't care," he added. "By the way, that's the end of that lease but who cares."

As he navigates the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump is courting evangelical Christians who play an outsized role in earlyvoting states, particularly lowa and South Carolina. Complaints, often from conservative quarters, that the United States is facing a war on Christmas are heard just about every year, as people lament what they describe as efforts to diminish the religious aspects of the holiday. "If I become president, we're all going to be saying 'Merry Christmas' again-that, I can tell you," Trump assured. Starbucks is still selling its brightly packaged "Christmas blend" coffee, "Merry Christmas" gift cards, and its holiday-themed peppermint mochas and chestnut praline lattes. — AP



Red paper cups are featured on a chalkboard menu behind the counter at a Starbucks coffee shop in the Pike Place Market in Seattle. — AP photos

Fashion



Model and New Victoria's Secret Angel Sara Sampaio from Portugal presents a creation during the 2015 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in New York. — AP/AFP photos



Model Leomie Anderson from Britain.



Singer Ellie Goulding performs.

Victoria's Secret lingerie show hits 20-year mark



A model presents a creation







A model presents a creation

ome lit up, others were pretty - and patriotic - in pink and still more burst forth like fireworks. Yes, Tuesday was Victoria's Secret sexpot angel time, though the masses will have to wait until 10 pm EST on Dec 8 to watch the 20th annual lingerie extravaganza on CBS. This was just the taping, including musical performances by The Weeknd, Ellie Goulding and Selena Gomez, after Rihanna abruptly canceled.

Veteran VS walkers like Lily Aldridge and Alessandra Ambrosio were joined by newbie angels, including Martha Hunt and Elsa Hosk. Kendall Jenner and Gigi Hadid were among the nonwinged supermodels new to the glitzy show that generates weeks of advance buzz and will be seen in 192 countries by more than 500 million people, according to company officials.

In all, 47 models blew air kisses, flirted on stage with the camera and flipped their varied wings around as they strutted on the runway in 75 looks at a Manhattan armory. But first, there was hair and makeup to be done and a "pink carpet" of celebrity guests to be walked. Questlove and Nick Cannon were on hand, along with a dapper member of the Mets, Matt Harvey, in a black Versace suit.

Caitlyn Jenner was among those who attended the runway show to cheer on daughter Kendall. Hadid said backstage that she has big respect for the veteran angels and hopes to earn her own wings one day. Brand new angel Rachel Hilbert, from Rochester, New York, was in the Pink USA squad on the runway, and was also in awe of the longtime ladies, including Brazilian beauty Adriana Lima, seated just inches away on a comfy white couch in rollers backstage.

Really nervous

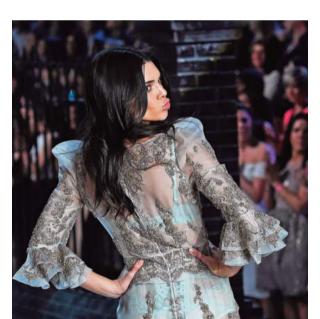
"Uh, yeah, Adriana Lima. She's sitting right there," Hilbert smiled as all wore pink-and-white striped robes, curlers in their hair, while manicures, pedicures, spray tanning and makeup commenced. "She's such a sweetheart. Her advice was just breathe and just take it in." So how were the nerves for the newcomers? "Actually, surprisingly, not bad," Hadid said before the show. "I was really nervous in rehearsal." She shared the stage later with Gomez

"I love both of them," said Hadid, who fell to the floor and gasped in a video of her audition, when she was told she was picked. As for her famous curves, she prepared with the help of boxing and ballet. "A lot of sweating and then just focusing on smaller parts because when everything's in high-def you have to not forget about the little things," Hadid said. "I've watched the show my entire life and this has been such a dream."The show featured sections of '60s boho angels flashing piece signs in teeny bras and panties, swinging fringe and showing off wings made of sculptured paper, leather and feathers, including Jenner. Her gal pal Hadid was among a group of exotic butterflies with wings and outfits sparkling with crystals. The patriotic pink group included an American-flagged theme outfit and wings.

Fireworks

This year's iteration of the annual Fantasy Bra was fashioned in bursts of fireworks, the theme for one of the liveliest sections of the show. The demi-bra and matching belt are worth \$2 million and were worn by Aldridge. They were created by the jewelry company Mouawad in 18-karat gold and encrusted with 6,500 diamonds, blue topaz, yellow sapphires and other precious stones. Hunt was the last firework, closing the show in another center piece, courtesy of Swarovski, one of the evening's sponsors. It was a corset sparkling with 90,000 gold, red, green and blue crystals. The look, along with her light-up wings, included 20,000 crystals and 1,200 battery-powered LED lights. The battery pack she lugged weighed in at 19 pounds. "I did practice ... with a trainer. I wore a weighted vest and walked back and forth in high heels," she said.

Hunt's last meal before hitting the makeup chair was eggs. She promised her first after the show would be: "Pizza. ... Pizza is one of my favorite foods. Pizza and pasta." Gomez, a buddy of previous Victoria's Secret show performers like Taylor Swift, along with some of the walkers, performed on the splashy stage with her dancers as models walked, as did The Weeknd and Goulding. "I don't know if I could be an angel, I'm not gonna lie," Gomez joked. "I look at how hard they work. I like fried food too much. I don't know if I could give that up." Lima, marking her 16th year as an angel, said her nerves leading up to each show never really go away. "It's a little bit tough after so many years because the girls are so beautiful and I have to keep up with them," laughed the 34year-old mother of two. "I work out as much as I can, and you know, I feel great ... I feel wonderful in my skin." — AP



Model Kendall Jenner.



Singer Selena Gomez performs on the runway during the 2015 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.



Model Cindy Bruna from France.

New Look autumn/winter 2015 rich collection

ashion for women & men this Autumn/Winter 2015 season is rich and luxe, with a color palette of deep copper, steel grey, indulgent navy and chocolate brown. The fabrics to stay warm with are suede, lurex and shearling coupled with metal details and paired with vibrant prints to make an autumnal style statement.

Bloomsbury is inspired by the dynamic gypsy set of West London in the 1970s. With chevron space dyed prints, caramel coloured fringe and faux suede skirts forming the core of the retro chic collection. Wide leg trousers and kimono jackets are awash in colours of rust, deep indigo and mustard.

The Heritage trend is focused on classic prints, with tweeds and plaids, reminiscent of a cold weather walk in the country. Smart dresses in monochrome and ditsy print, cozy sweaters, silky blouses and miniskirts in shades of berry, fawn and chocolate round out this timeless style.

Inspired by gothic looks, Savage Beauty is bold and feminine. The collection's tops and bottoms in a palette of deep and intense hues are poised to carry the Autumn/Winter wardrobe trends from day into night for the fearlessly stylish

Uniform is full of sleek monochromes in skinny denim, long line windowpane prints and utility blouses. With shades of black, white and deep olive, the collection is casual yet polished, perfect for bustling around the city landscape. After Party brings these looks into the festive winter months, with a collection of dresses and jumpsuits designed for celebrating. The line is body conscious and glamorous, perfect for making an elegant statement.

Bags and shoes

Footwear and accessories take on further indulgent vibes with fringe, tassels and suede. Burnished rings, drop earrings and long pendants add refinement to the season's most cutting-edge looks. Bags and shoes are embellished with studs and shimmer. Shearling or leather adornments punctuate boots and heels for the winter months.

The recently launched Pure Colour cosmetics line polishes off the look. Nail varnishes in shades of bold red, bright blue,

and punchy metallic decorate fingertips. Eye shadows run from glittering gold and silver to matte brown, green and blue. Cheeks take on punches of colour during the cooler months with shades of dusty pink and bronze to add a healthy glow. New Look's womenswear range also includes Petites, and Inspire, available in up to size 28, and maternity.

The New Look men's Autumn/Winter 2015 collection is characterized by a cosmopolitan, hipster vibe. Keeping warm in the cooler months is done in style, with shearling-trimmed layers, chunky textured knits and woolen scarves. Dark plaid prints appear throughout the capsule pieces, expressed in shirts, scarves and other accents.

The Hipster trend features slim line silhouettes enhanced by stovepipe trousers, skinny jeans and tailored parkas. A

series of bomber jackets, long-line sweaters and spray washed t-shirts drives the metropolitan theme. Neutral t-shirts are layered with plaid print button downs and topped off with jackets in shades of bordeaux, rich navy and plush camel.

Utility jackets

The modish looks of the 1960s enjoy a revival in the Watergate trend. Jeans come in washes from pale blue to dark indigo in ultra skinny styles. Burnt orange and jet black turtlenecks are paired with stone washed jean jackets and streamlined, lightweight coats in this nonchalant look.

Shearling trimmed khaki utility jackets and ribbed knits reinvent the Rebel trend. The style extends into stripe print sweaters and relaxed trousers designed for the modern man.

A colour palette of monochrome grey, olive and steel blue form the basis of the collection. The whole look is translated into easy wear, yet edgy pieces used to create a rogue look that can go from day to night.

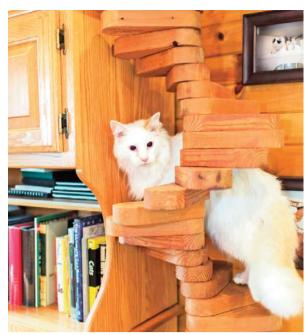
The season's focus is on tonal dressing and layering carries the classic men's wardrobe from the bright summer months into a deeper, richer autumnal and winter period. Accessories are no exception to the lavish look, with rust coloured canvas bags, woolen scarves and polished Chelsea boots to round out the New Look wardrobe. The Autumn Winter Collection is available at all New Look stores throughout Kuwait at The Avenues, Al-Bairaq Mall, Al-Salam Mall and Promenade Mall.







Features



This photo provided by Tarcher Perigee shows a cat stairway can provide on and off ramps for a cat superhighway in the book, "Catify to Satisfy: Simple Solutions for Creating a Cat-Friendly Home by Jackson Galaxy and Kate Benjamin. — AP photos



Photo shows a spiral catwalk complete with scratching



This photo shows a creative litter box solution.



This photo provided by Tarcher Perigee shows Dash the kitten who has a space to himself, away from the home's three dogs.



This photo provided by Tarcher Perigee shows custom-built boxes that provide both stor-

Catify to satisfy: Home enhancement tips for cat owners

Taking on a cat is one thing. Catifying your home to rise to true Cat Person status is another. Choosing just the right gear and tweaking your home can keep felines safe, sane and stimulated, said Kate Benjamin, a "cat style expert" who has appeared on Animal Planet's "My Cat From Hell." She has teamed with the show's host, cat behaviorist Jackson Galaxy, on a new DIY-focused book, "Catify to Satisfy." It's a follow-up to their 2014 best-seller, "Catification," with both offering tips from cat owners on what they've accomplished with home enhancements.

Most human-cat relationships can be improved by clearing up one basic misunderstanding, Galaxy said in a recent interview from Los Angeles: "Cats are not dogs. Cats care not at all about pleasing you. That's not why they're here. You have to get your ego out of the way when it comes to having a good relationship with a cat. You have to compromise to live successfully with them."

Benjamin writes a "Catification" column at JacksonGalaxy.com on cat design and sells a line of her own cat products at her site, Hauspanther.com. She and her fiancÈ live with 11 cats in a condo of about 1,100 square feet, plus a large enclosed "catio," in Phoenix. Two more cats live in her design studio. Some terms and ideas for a cat-friendly home:

Base camp; caving vs cocooning

Caving is the thing cats do when looking to hide deeply away out of fear. Cocooning is when they go to a moveable, semienclosed haven to help bring their stress level down. Benjamin and Galaxy advocate creating a "base camp" for a new cat, meaning a defined room or space where territory can be established. Potential caving areas, such as under a bed or at the top of a closet, should be blocked off. A cocoon can be anything from a paper bag to a cardboard box to a cat carrier. It should slowly be moved out of base camp as socialization progresses.

"Catification is a lot of DIY," Benjamin said. "You don't have to buy anything. You can look at what you already have and do a little rearranging." The time it takes to move beyond base camp varies. You should be able to tell when a cat is ready by body language and behavior.

Observe, observe, observe

Before you make changes to your home, understand basic behaviors. Start by simply watching your cat. "We really do anthropomorphize cats a lot more than we should," Benjamin said. "You really have to understand their true nature, their instincts and their needs." Some basic personality archetypes: the Mojito Cat, who is social, outgoing and confident of her territory; the Wallflower Cat, who lacks such confidence and slinks around on

the periphery to avoid confrontation; and the Napoleon Cat, who stantly yelling at them for doing those things on objects you don't sprays, bullies and otherwise postures aggressively. Many cats are a mix of the three.

Scent marking

Marking and claiming territory has everything to do with scent. Cats love to mix their scents with yours. "People wonder, 'Why does my cat always come and sit on my sweaters?' Because it has your scent on it. They ask, 'Why do they want to be in the bedroom? ...'They want to be in your bedroom because that's where the scent is strongest," Benjamin said.

Provide plentiful "scent soakers." They can be soft toys, beds, blankets, carpeted surfaces and scratchers placed in a cat's territory to be marked by him. If you're looking to keep kitty off your sweaters or keyboard, set up a scent-soaked station nearby, such as a no-slip shelf or table top as a perch. "You want to give them things that are acceptable to scratch and rub on rather than con-

Tried and True Strategies from Catification Nation

for Creating a Cat-Friendly Home Jackson Galaxy

and Kate Benjamin

want them on," Benjamin said. "I have a number of perches around my desk."

Scratchers

Cats like to scratch on different surfaces and at different slants. Try various materials - cardboard, carpet, thick sisal, tighter sisal, wood and cork, for instance - and see what they like. Benjamin discovered that yoga mats are great scratchers. Consider swatches. Some cats are horizontal, vertical or incline scratchers. "You have to get in there and really pay attention," Benjamin said. One reason your cat likes to scratch your sofa, for example, is to mix vour scent with hers.

But the sofa might also be made of a deliciously scratchable material. And it's sturdy as the cat exercises its upper body. That tells you what type of material, incline and environment to provide as an alternative. Location is everything when it comes to scratchers. If your cat constantly plays with the door jamb in your bedroom, you'd be a fool not to match that slant and place a scratcher nearby.

Superhighways & Catios

If you're now an extreme - or extremely handy - cat owner, you might build one of those mega-climbing routes along a wall. For extra stimulation, build more than one pathway and type of perch. Provide no-slip surfaces and materials that absorb scent. Incorporate boxy hidey-holes, baskets or beds. In general, cat owners should do more with vertical space, Galaxy said.

"We forget that when cat walks into a room, cat is taking the entire square footage, meaning not just the floor, not just couch level, but the ceiling as well," he said. "When you add shelving around a room, or when you create a cat superhighway ... you've just increased that territorial mojo in a way that nothing else can." Cat owners with outdoor space can connect an interior superhighway with a catio using tunnels or flaps. Catios can be enclosed with wire mesh and built into existing spaces, such as under an outdoor staircase. No space? How about Cat TV, meaning the placement of a bird feeder just outside a window. — AP

This photo provided by Tarcher Perigee shows the cover of the book, 'Catify to Satisfy: Simple Solutions for Creating a **Cat-Friendly Home by Jackson Galaxy** and Kate Benjamin.

Rhythm on the rails: Music train draws fans from all over



Jack Gaffey, of Kensington, Md, poses in front of the Green Mountain Express train in Rutland, Vt.

home in Los Angeles to Japan to learn more about taiko drums, or take a 50-mile train ride in Vermont. For Nakasone and about 50 other people this fall, Vermont it was. The destination was the East Coast's first visit by the "Roots on the Rails" series, which since 2003 has developed a cult-like following that combines rail trips with music, meanwhile bonding passengers to one another and to the

"You become addicted," said Nakasone, who has been making the trips since 2009 after reading a news story about a much-longer Western trip. Roots on the Rails grew out of a 2000 trip a group of musicians took from Toronto to a music conference in British Columbia. Along the way, the musicians just wanted to play, said founder Charlie Hunter, a former music promoter and a painter of aging American infrastructure who now lives in Bellows Falls.

He soon began to run trains in the US and Canada, most of which travel for about a week. Since the program began, he has run about 40 trips on what he calls "a carefully curated mini-music festival on board a train." "The rhythms of American music are inexorably tied in with the rhythms of the rails," said Hunter on the Nov 7 Vermont trip while the

tacey Nakasone had a choice to make. Fly from her train - seven cars including four passenger cars - rattled over the tracks along the 50-mile route between Bellows Falls and Rutland.

> He dubbed the chartered Vermont train "The Green Mountain Express." He hopes that next year the train can continue north from Rutland to Burlington and, perhaps after that, elsewhere on the state's rail network. The trips are marketed to fans of the specific musicians who play the broad genre of country-folk. Hunter called one of the musicians on this week's trip, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, one of the most distinctive voices in the genre over the last 40 years. The other acts are all well-known in their own way, he said.

> Jack and Claudia Gaffey, of Kensington, Maryland, members of the American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners, rode the Amtrak Vermonter to Vermont so they could ride the music train. Unlike many who made the trip, this was their first Roots on the Rails trip, but they've already signed up for a longer trip next summer out west. "It's very soothing to listen to music inside a train. It was a completely different experience I've never had before and I've ridden many trains," said Claudia Gaffey. "The rhythm of the train goes into the rhythm of the music and it combines in a really nice, sensory way."—AP



The Meadows Brothers, Dustin, left, and lan, entertain passengers on the Roots on the Rails music train.



Sound technician Dan Richardson rides aboard the Roots on the Rails music Travelers board the Roots on the Rails music train in Bellows Falls, Vt.





Charlie Hunter, lower left, founder of the Roots on the Rail series, watches the scenery while riding the music train during its first East Coast Trip. — AP photos



US singer Madonna performs on stage during her 'Rebel Heart' tour in Berlin, on November 10, 2015. — AFP



File photo shows four killer whales, including Kasatka and her calf, Kalia, leap out of the water while performing during SeaWorld's Shamu show in San Diego. — AP photos



People watch through glass as a killer whale swims by in a display tank at SeaWorld.

SeaWorld says it will end orca shows in San Diego by 2017

eaWorld will end its orca shows at its San Diego park by 2017, its top executive said Monday, saying customers at the location have made clear they prefer killer whales acting more naturally rather than doing tricks. CEO Joel Manby told investors that the park - where the iconic shows of killer whales doing flips and other stunts debuted decades ago - will offer a different kind of orca experience focusing on the animal's natural setting and its behaviors, starting in 2017. Animal rights activists called the move a marketing gimmick and want the company to phase out holding whales in captivity at

The Orlando, Florida-based company has seen revenue drop since the 2013 release of the documentary "Blackfish" that examined how orcas respond to captivity, particularly in the case of Tilikum, a killer whale that caused trainer Dawn Brancheau's 2010 death by pulling her into a pool at SeaWorld Orlando.

Attendance has dropped the most at its San Diego location, and the decision to end such shows would be limited for now to that park, the original home of Shamu. Shows at its other parks, including in San Antonio and Orlando, will continue. "The theatrical production of the show in that market is what they wanted to see less of," Manby said of San Diego's customers. "But it's not universal across our properties." Manby told investors that the new killer whale attraction will "have a strong conserva-

Giant pool

"They want the orca experience to be activities the whales do in the wild," Manby said of California customers. "Things they perceive as tricks, they don't like as well." The Shamu stadium that hosted its killer whale shows were the park's main draw in the 1970s and helped build SeaWorld as a top attraction. Trainers

would ride the whales in the giant pool before getting out and signaling for the orca to slap its tail in the water to splash spectators in a "splash zone."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said the move does not go far enough and urged investment in whale sanctuaries. "An end to SeaWorld's tawdry circusstyle shows is inevitable and necessary, but it's captivity that denies these far-ranging orcas everything that is natural and important to them," PETA's Jared Goodman



An unidentified trainer interacts with one of SeaWorld's seven killer whales during a show in San

said. "This move is like no longer whipping lions in a circus act but keeping them locked inside cages for life." The news came days after SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. reported that its third-quarter earnings missed Wall Street expectations.

Regulatory environment

SeaWorld earlier this year announced plans for a \$100 million expansion of the San Diego park's killer whale tanks to boost attendance, but Manby indicated to investors it may shelve that project now. The California Coastal Commission endorsed the plans last month on the condition SeaWorld agree to stop breeding orcas in captivity and not transfer or sell them. The company has said it plans to challenge that decision in court. Manby said Monday that the company had no other choice because the ruling set a "bad precedent" for not only SeaWorld but all zoos, aquariums and other animal

"We certainly know with the regulatory environment out there that happened with orcas, and some of what happened in California, with the reputation out there, I think we would be foolish if we didn't look at other options, in case that happens," Manby said. He added that SeaWorld may be able to achieve its objective, which he did not specify, without proceeding with the tank expansion project, called "Blue World." Manby also announced that the company is considering adding hotels at several of its locations to attract overnight visitors, starting with San Diego. SeaWorld has reached an agreement with a San Diego-based hotelier to look at building a theme resort on its park property, though they are just in the exploratory phase. — AP

Rare pink diamond sells for \$28.5 million at Geneva auction

spectacular pink diamond, the largest of its kind to ever appear at auction, sold for \$28.5 million (26.6 million euros) on Tuesday, narrowly beating auction house Christie's projection. An unidentified bidder snatched up the 16.08-carat rare gemstone, kicking off a week of auctions that could see another coloured diamond set a new world record. That stone, a 12.03-carat blue diamond described by experts as flawless, is being sold by rival auction house Sotheby's on Wednesday, and could fetch a record \$55

The pink diamond, owned by an American family for the past 15 years, is the largest cushion-shaped stone classified in the elite "fancy vivid" category to ever come to auction. Christie's had listed the projected sale price between \$23 and \$28 million. "This is an absolutely top price for a stone of this quality," the head of Christie's luxury division, Francois Coriel, told journalists after the final hammer of the night fell.

Rahul Kadakia, the International Head of Jewelry at Christie's, had previously told AFP that the stone had the potential to fetch more than \$30 million. Christie's said that only three pink stones classified by the Gemological Institute of America as "fancy" and weighing more than 10 carats have been up for sale in 250 years. Coloured diamonds have been the center of attention in the run up to the this week's magnificent jewel sales in Geneva, with experts insisting that the market for such rarities has grown increasingly robust.

"Coloured diamonds...have seen sustained growth during the last few years. Partly because of their great rarity, but equally because of their beauty," said David Bennett, head of Sotheby's international jewelry division. Another 7.07-carat fancy pink sold for 3.4 million Swiss francs, below Christie's estimate of 4.5 million francs, possibly suggesting this season's market for coloured stones is more tepid than expected. All eyes will turn to Sotheby's



A 16.08-carat pink diamond on display during a press preview by the auction house Christie's. — AFP photos

to shatter the record for a stone sold at auction. Discovered in South Africa in January last year, the Blue Moon is the largest cushion-shaped blue stone in the fancy vivid category to ever appear at auction. Sotheby's has put its estimated sale

on Wednesday, when its prized lot, dubbed "Blue Moon," will aim

price between \$35-\$55 million which, at the top end, would break the auction record. A pink diamond holds the current world



A 16.08-carat pink diamond on display during a press preview by the auction house Christie's.

record for sale at auction, set by Sotheby's in November 2010 in Geneva, when a 24.78-carat pink diamond sold for \$46 million. The current record for a blue diamond belongs to the Zoe Diamond, which in November 2014 fetched \$32.6 million in New York. Among the other highlights at Christie's sale, was a 50.48carat white diamond, which sold for \$6.8 million, excluding commission. In total, Christie's 409 lot auction brought in \$110 million.

Bond watch

Geneva's auction season, which began at the weekend, has already seen a number of high-profile lots snatched up, albeit at prices that seem ordinary compared to the enormous values attached to this week's coloured stones. A Rolex watch worn by Roger Moore in the James Bond film "Live and Let Die" sold at a Philipps auction on Sunday for 365,000 Swiss francs (\$363,000). The estimated price for the stainless steel watch, made in 1972, was between 150,00-250,00 Swiss francs. In the film, the watch is used to create a magnetic field which deflects bullets.

At today's Sotheby's auction, two pieces owned by another ex-Bond star will go under the hammer. Scottish actor Sean Connery is selling a 15.4-carat pink and orange diamond, which could fetch above \$2 million and a ring boasting 5.18 carats of diamonds, with an estimated sale price of \$250,000. — AFP