

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

MUHARRAM 30, 1437 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

1 Qatari soldier killed in Yemen as battle rages



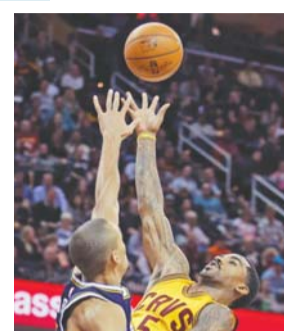
Japanese man 'hid in gutter to peep up skirts'



Gulf airline growth curbed by traffic jams in the sky



James muscles Cavaliers past Jazz 118-114



FINANCE MINISTER TO BRIEF PANEL ON BUDGET DEFICIT

INTERIOR, HUMAN RIGHTS PANELS TO DISCUSS BEDOON ISSUE



Min 15°
Max 23°
High Tide 12:55 & 23:53
Low Tide 06:35 & 18:25

150 FILLS
NO: 16895
40 PAGES



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 next year.

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

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Bader Al-Essa said yesterday that there was one confirmed case of Swine Flu (H1N1) of a six year old student in a private school. The student's

parents were the ones who reported the case, as their child was currently receiving treatment, the minister said during a tour to several schools yesterday. — KUNA

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 Faraj Salim, Tariq Abdulhameed Abdulkhakeem, 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 Kuwait 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

Authentic Italian Taste!

Don Mario's Italian Restaurant

For Reservation
224 17 958

@Donmarioskw

Gulf Road, Dhiafa Village near Kuwait Towers



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'

KUWAIT: The visiting Director General of 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 crises.

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

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

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 resources.

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 law 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

patients across Kuwait.

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-Refaia yesterday.

Maj Gen Refaia 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 nation's 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 peo-

ple 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 terrorism.

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



FREE
eeZee INTERNET
ON WEEKENDS

Subscribe to one of our new monthly eeZee Internet plans starting at KD 5 and enjoy eeZee Internet with FREE unlimited Internet on Fridays and Saturdays*.

To view all plans, send NET to 999

| Monthly | KD 5 | Monthly | KD 8 | Monthly | KD 20 |
|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|
| | 5 GB 4G LTE Internet | | 30 GB 4G LTE Internet | | 1 TB 4G LTE Internet |
| | FREE Unlimited Internet On weekends | | FREE Unlimited Internet On weekends | | FREE Unlimited Internet On weekends |
| | To subscribe Send M2 to 999 | | To subscribe Send M1 to 999 | | To subscribe Send M10 to 999 |

*Limited-time offer

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 said.

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 banking assets," he said. This is the third high-

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

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-1990s."

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.

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



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

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

TOYOTA

THE NEW AVANZA A SHOWCASE OF YOUR SUCCESS

Check out the new 2016 Avanza. An all new exterior that is stylish and trendy, it's also got a bigger interior, making it even more comfortable and practical. What's better still is the fact that it's as reliable and economical as ever. It's the perfect family vehicle to showcase your progression in life

- Dual VVT-i 1.5L engine – 4 cylinders – 103 hp
- Adjustable Electronic Power Steering With Audio Control Switch
- Sound System with CD player + AUX + USB + 6 Speakers
- Comfortable up to 7 passengers with foldable seats
- Multiple storage areas

LIVE EVERY MILE

IN COOPERATION WITH:

بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House

- 5 Years Warranty Unlimited Mileage
- 3rd Party Insurance
- 2 Years Service / 30,000km*
- Car Registration

* Service up to 30,000 KM is performed based on manufacturer's recommendation.

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES.

5 YEARS
Musadaa
MUSADA
Kawala Assistance

Tel: 1803803
toyota.com.kw
toyotakw

AL-RAI: 4th Ring Road - AL AHMADI: Eastern Ahmadi - AL JAHRA: Industrial Area - SHUWAIKH: Al Tilal Showroom FLEET SALES - AL-RAI: Ext. 2102/3/4/6/9

The image displayed is for advertising purposes only, some colors and/or features may not be available.

Binnu



Ian 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 Ian 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 environ-

ment 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 advantage.

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 entrepreneurship 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-Ahmed 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 experiences.

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.

Crime

Report

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

النبيه

Al-Anbaa

THE KUWAITI HURRICANE!

By Saad Al-Mo'tesh

Hurricanes are special weather conditions that may form in a certain spot and get much mightier in case they take place over huge water surfaces like 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 far 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 inconveniences.

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

القبرص

Al-Qabas

REWARD AND PUNISHMENT

By Qais Al-Usta

Recent 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 conscience, 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.

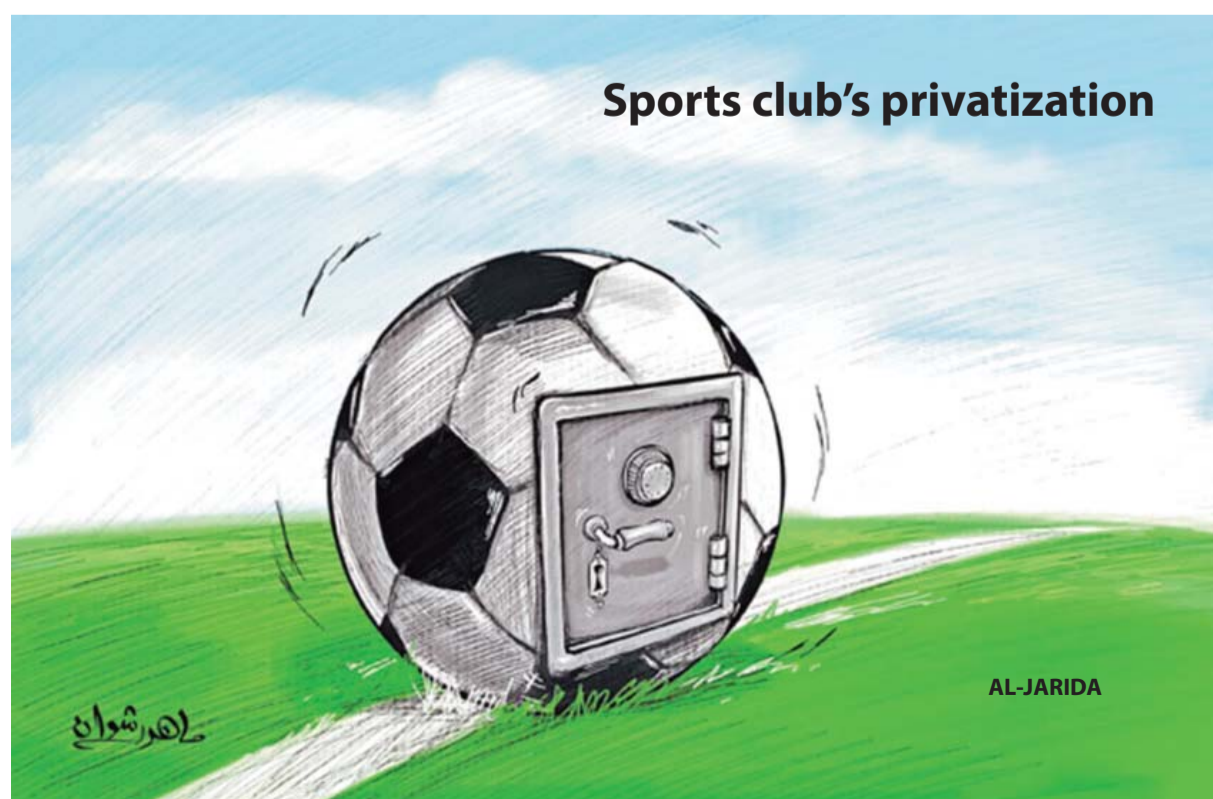
Yet, the country is not only the interior ministry. The country is also health, education, social affairs, planning, power and public works ministries. I am almost certain that things there are different.

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

Sports club's privatization



AL-JARIDA

NA COMMITTEES MEET TODAY

By Saleh

KUWAIT: The youth and sports committee plans to discuss two proposed laws on organizing some activities in the Kuwait Olympic Committee, sports federations and

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 the semiannual report on the annual plan 2015/2016 for the period

(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 overcome the deficit.

POSITIVE TALKS ON SCHENGEN VISA

BRUSSELS: Kuwait's ambassador to Belgium, the EU and Luxembourg, Dharar Abdul Razzak Razzoqi, 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 Razzoqi 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

the situation has stabilized," the ambassador indicated. The two sides also discussed the issue of the Syrian refugee crisis and Ambassador Razzoqi 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 Razzoqi 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 concerned will get the license after making sure that he will not rent it to others.




2 days left



GULFBANK 642 MARATHON

Be an inspiration to others! REGISTER NOW!

5KM 10KM 21KM 42KM

SOUQ SHARQ
14TH NOVEMBER 2015

www.gulfbank642marathon.com

Supporting:



Organized by:



Sponsored by:





OUR TEAM IS NOW @ KUWAIT
FOR PROJECT DETAILS
PLEASE CONTACT: + 965 94925770
www.noelprojects.com

Villas & Apartments @ Kochi, Kottayam & Thiruvalla

Priced less for a priceless experience.



Get a wide range of products at a very special price of kd 1/2, kd 1 & kd 2. One more reason for you to shop till you drop at LuLu

Offer valid from 11.11.2015 to 21.11.2015 or until stocks last

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  <p>1 KD. Mazola Corn Oil 1.8 Ltr</p> |  <p>2 KD. From 12 to 14.11.2015 Noor Sunflower Oil 1.8Ltr 2's</p> |  <p>2 KD. Lipton Tea Powder 400gm 2's</p> |  <p>1 KD. From 12 to 14.11.2015 Kdcow UHT milk 1 Ltr 4's</p> |
|  <p>1 KD. From 12 to 14.11.2015 Mcvitie's Digestive Biscuit 400gm 2's</p> |  <p>1 KD. Kellogg's Frosties 500gm</p> |  <p>1 KD. Lay's Assorted box 14gm 20's + Lays 14gm 10's Free</p> |  <p>1 KD. Nestle KitKat 2Finger 20.5gm 20 + 4 Free</p> |
|  <p>1 KD. From 12 to 14.11.2015 Tide Washing Powder Jasmine 7/L 1.5kg</p> |  <p>1 KD. From 12 to 14.11.2015 Harpic Toilet Cleaner 500ml 2+1 free</p> |  <p>1 KD. From 12 to 14.11.2015 Fairy Dishwash .750 ml 2's</p> |  <p>1 KD. From 12 to 14.11.2015 Huggies Diaper 16,18,19 & 21's</p> |
|  <p>1/2 KD. Coca Cola 1.25 Ltr 4's (Assorted)</p> |  <p>1 KD. From 11 to 15.11.2015 Potato Net Bag</p> | | |
|  <p>0.595 KD. From 11 to 15.11.2015 0.445 KD. Apple Royal Gala (France) per kg</p> |  <p>1.195 KD. From 11 to 15.11.2015 0.895 KD. Tomato(Kuwait) Box</p> |  <p>2.400 KD. From 11 to 15.11.2015 1.595 KD. Al Watania Chicken Thighs 900gm x 2</p> |  <p>0.790 KD. Saudia Feta Cheese /kg</p> |
|  <p>3.990 KD. From 11 to 13.11.2015 Prawns Large (Kuwait) /kg</p> |  <p>2.790 KD. From 11 to 14.11.2015 New Zealand Chilled Whole Lamb /kg (Vacuum Chilled)</p> | | |

www.luluwebstore.com

Shop Online



PAYMENT BY DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED





Where the world comes to shop.

SALMIYA • DAJEEJ • AL QURAIN • AL RAI • FAHAHEEL



(From left) 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.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah greeting.

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-Sabah, Head of Amiri Protocol and Chamber Lains at the Amiri Diwan. 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, ruling family members, ministers, parliament members and ambassadors attended the event.



(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.



14 migrants down as boat sinks off Turkey

REPUBLICAN WHITE HOUSE HOPEFULS STRUGGLE TO BREAK 2016 DEADLOCK

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 arch-rival 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 Taz 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

INSTALLMENTS

On all Samsung Products

WITH 0% INTEREST

for 12 months

Credit Price Equals Cash Price

Free Service Free Delivery

Salmiya showroom: 22253412 **Al Rai Showroom: 24715644**

Nugra showroom: 22612121 **Farwaniya showroom: 24760431**

Hawalli showroom: 22622904 **Jeeb showroom: 24319396**

Mubarakiya showroom: 22410396 **Fahsheel showroom: 23928016**

Kuwait City showroom 22463932

Hotline
99002014

Head Office KIPCO tower
22920321

*Credit terms apply. Offer valid from the 12th of November till 30th of November, 2015.

NOVEMBER SUPER SALE

BOOK BY: 12 NOV 2015
TRAVEL: 9 NOV – 10 DEC 2015

| | ECONOMY CLASS | BUSINESS CLASS |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| | FROM (KWT)* | FROM (KWT)* |
| Bangkok | 141 | 359 |
| Kuala Lumpur | 148 | 408 |
| London | 177 | 668 |
| Munich | 185 | 903 |
| Frankfurt | 190 | 773 |
| Dublin | 219 | 867 |
| New York | 280 | 1,004 |
| Los Angeles | 400 | 1,964 |

BOOK NOW!

etihad.com ☎ 22 05 7700

Visit the Etihad office or your travel agent

*Terms and conditions apply. The fares mentioned above include taxes and surcharges and exclude service fees. These fares are "Starting from" fares and are subject to availability. Flight and day restrictions apply. Weekend surcharges apply. For full list of destinations and detailed terms & conditions, visit etihad.com

الإتihad

ETIHAD

AIRWAYS

ABU DHABI

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 had downed the Russian aircraft. All 224 people on board the Airbus A321, mostly Russians, were killed when the Saint Petersburg-bound 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 in sales.

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 glass-

es, 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

peak tourist season, said Jacques Peter, general manager of the Savoy group of hotels, which operates Soho Square. "Christmas will

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

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 board.

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 long-stalled 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 people died. —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. —Reuters

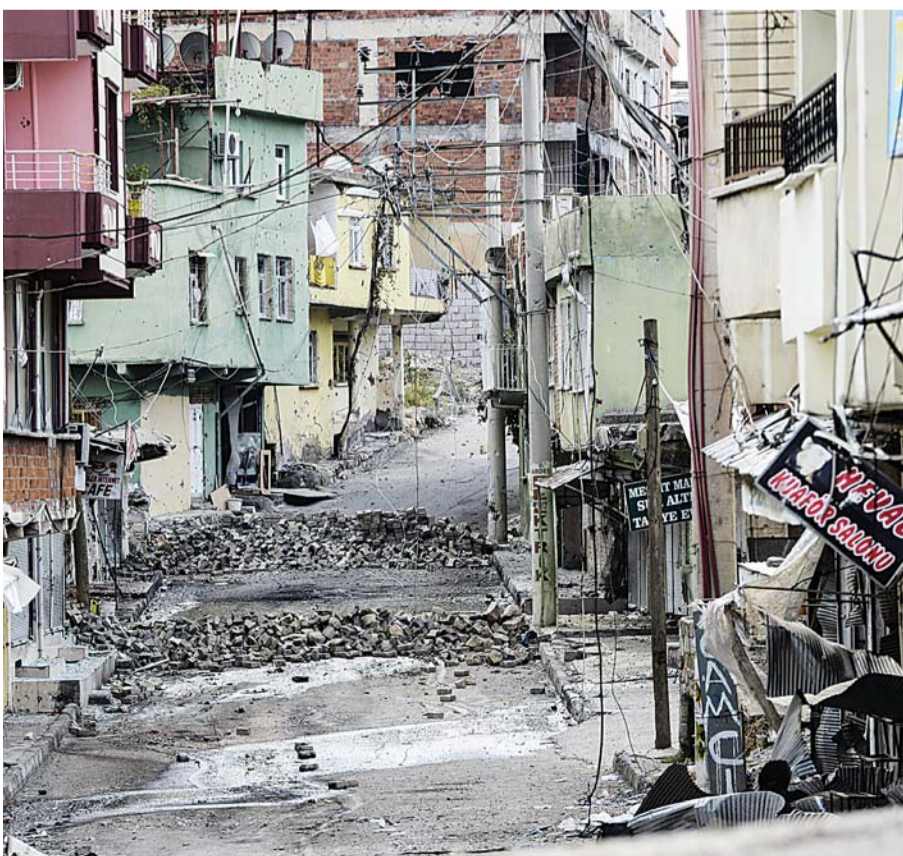
MAN 'HID IN GUTTER TO PEEP UP SKIRTS'

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 Turkey's 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

RIVALRY 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 can do."

'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-

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

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

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



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 gov-

Marco 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," said Rubio.

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

Recruitment Open day
Saturday 14th November 2015 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

- Continental Chef** Code 01
experience more than 3 years.
- Commis** Code 02
experience more than 2 years.
- Buyer** Code 03
have deriving license & car.

Interested candidates are welcome to attend with their UPDATE CV. Along with copies of passport, valid transferable visa, work permit, civil ID and recent photo.
- Walk-in interview -
Address: Sharq, Al Shouhada'a street, Block 5, (Kuwait Re Tower), 1st floor. Email: career@LFCkuwait.com (mention the position applied for in your email)



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 home.

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 veterans.

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 non-profit 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. Really." —AFP

LENOVO A7000
UNLEASH THE POWER OF VIDEO

- 5.5" HD (720x1280) IPS Display
- 1.5GHz Octa-core Processor
- 2GB RAM
- 8GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 8MP Autofocus Rear Camera
- 5MP Front Camera
- Android v5.0 Lollipop

52.9KD | Monthly 3 KD

LENOVO A6000
LISTEN TO MUSIC AT ITS VERY BEST.

- 5.0" HD IPS display
- 1.2GHz 64-bit Quad Core Processor
- 1GB RAM
- 8GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 8MP Autofocus Rear Camera
- 2MP Front Camera
- Android v4.4 Kitkat

43KD | Monthly 2 KD

LENOVO A5000
BEST-IN-CLASS BIG BATTERY SMARTPHONE

- 5.0" HD (1280x720) IPS Display
- 1.3GHz Quad Core Processor
- 1GB RAM
- 8GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 8MP Autofocus Rear Camera
- 2MP Front Camera
- Android v4.4 Kitkat
- BIG 4000mAh battery capacity
- Quick Charge, Embedded Battery

34KD | Monthly 2 KD

LENOVO A2010
A SMART NEW WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- 4.5" Display
- 1GHz Quadcore Processor
- 1GB RAM
- 8GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 5MP Rear Camera
- 2MP Front Camera
- Android™ OS, 5.1 Lollipop

29.9KD

Pay your installments online through easycrredit.xcite.com

1803535 | Buy Now Online | www.xcite.com

Locations: Al Rai (24h) - Fahahel (24h) - Hawally Al Fadalah Tower (24h) - Farwaniya - Salmiya - Avenues Mall - Marina Mall - Sahari Mall Jahra - Beitak Tower Kuwait City - Jleeb Al Shuyoukh - Jahra - Qurrain COOP - Jabriya COOP - Khaldiya COOP - Souk Al Salmiya - Livan Mall Al Egaila - Salmiya The Cube - Shuwaiikh Safat Home

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 cut-backs 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 newly-formed 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 Socialist-led government would not be headed for a Greece-style clash with creditors. He has repeatedly said that any Socialist-led govern-

ment 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 elections.

"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 union of the left since the April 25, 1974 revolution," said Fatima Carvalho, 66. Isabel Norton

de Matos, a 59-year-old interpreter, said she 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 Muhammadu Buhari (center) poses for a family photo with newly-appointed ministers after the swearing in ceremony in Abuja yesterday. —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 million 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 Onyema 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, editor-in-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

8 S AFRICAN POLICEMEN JAILED OVER MOZAMBICAN'S MURDER

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 an arrest.



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

'Horrific, disturbing'

"It goes without saying that the community is entitled to protection against behavior of rogue police officers," he said. "Unfortunately this protection can only to a limited extent be provided by the court by imposing severe sentences in an attempt to prevent and deter oth-

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 years.

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

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 guerrillas.

"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 détente 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 ultra-leftist 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

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-Buquicchio, the UN's special envoy on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, wrote to the

Permanent Mission of Japan 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 reporters.

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

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 Commissioner 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 com-

ments 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 Permanent Court of Arbitration. For years, China has insisted that

disputes with rival claimants be 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.

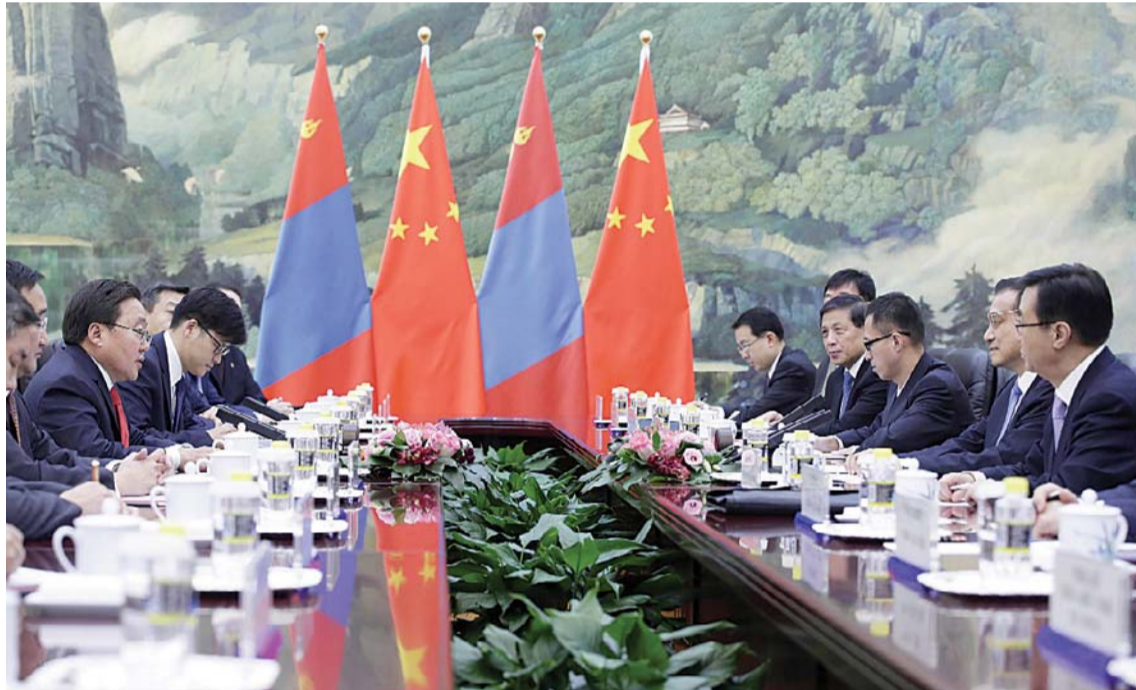
The Philippines has welcomed the decision and its Foreign Affairs Department said yesterday it would pursue the case "to its logical conclusion". "China's nine-dash line claim is expansive, excessive and has no basis under international law," said foreign affairs spokesman Charles Jose. "If left unchallenged, 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

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 relationship."

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 so-called "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

HK DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST PLANS UN CASE OVER 'TORTURE'

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong activist allegedly assaulted by police during last year's democracy 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

next Tuesday. "Those seven policemen being 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 are-

na where Hong Kong is under international scrutiny," said Lau.

At the height of the 2014 protests, which lasted 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 1997. —AFP



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, during a weekly anti-Japanese demonstration near the Japanese embassy in Seoul yesterday. —AFP

S KOREA, JAPAN HOLD TALKS ON 'COMFORT WOMEN'

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 peninsula.

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



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

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 royalist-military 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 Romyantsev 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 Romyantsev 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," Romyantsev 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

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 "decision-making 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 involved in 'politics'. But they're critical of the government and advocate for improvement of flawed governmental policies." — AFP

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 Bharatiya 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 political administration.

'Our blood starts boiling'

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 buffaloes is allowed as they are less revered. In western Maharashtra, offenders can be jailed for up to five years.

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

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-Fadhlah 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.

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Winter Offers

SAMSUNG
Ultra-Wide Curved Screen Monitor

LS34E790CNS/UE

34 **325** KD Price

- Resolution 3440 X 1440
- 2 Hdmi
- Audio in
- Integrate 7 Watts 2 Speakers
- Usb

SAMSUNG

LU28D590DS/UE

Wide LED Monitor

UHD monitor with Premium Metallic stand

4K **28** **189** KD Price

- Resolution 3840 X 2160 4K
- 2 HDMI-Ultra High Definition
- 1 Ms Fast Response Time
- 1 Billion Color
- 1 Display Port

• 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) • Fahsheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

1809 809

Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Focus

TIDE TURNS AGAINST
US RESTRICTIONS ON
THE SEX OFFENDERS

By Barbara Goldberg

Nearly 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 within 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

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.

RUSSIAN DOPING SCANDAL



'SICK MAN OF EUROPE' FINLAND AGONIZES OVER AUSTERITY

By Jussi Rosendahl
and Anna Ercanbrack

Protests, strikes

Finland 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 Sipilä 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 Sipilä'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, Sipilä 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. Sipilä - 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.

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 country'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.

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 Sipilä's three-party coalition representing conservative rural voters, urban technocrats and anti-immi-

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 devalue 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 Sipilä'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



HELSINKI: Crowds through 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 benefits.

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. Sipilä 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

DIVIDED AND DEFEATED, TURKEY OPPOSITION FACES DECADE IN WILDERNESS

By Jonny Hogg

In 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 founded on the MHP's refusal to countenance any negotiations with the pro-Kurdish HDP; MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli'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 strengths 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 Bahçeli - or 'Mr No' - simply showed his was a party of protest."

'Inept as a collective'

Following the election, it looked briefly as if Bahçeli - whose party shed more than 4 percent of its votes - would step down. Not now. A senior MHP official said a post-mortem 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.

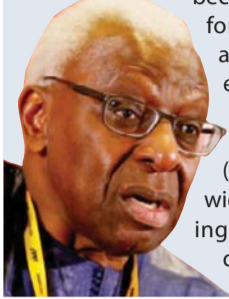
"CHP's direction should be towards the future, its method should gain the hearts of people, and a new management should be introduced," CHP parliamentarian Mustafa Balbay said. Nonetheless, Kilicdaroglu and Bahçeli will likely survive, for now at least, said Chatham House's Hakura. "There's no culture 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".

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 Söli 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 Ligue 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

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 Kuwait Olympic 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."



Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Deputy Director General Humoud Fulaiteh.

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 agencies 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 independence."

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

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 from 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.

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. McIlroy 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 trophy.

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-am.

"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 Jr, 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



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 Kaymer admitted yesterday that his winless 2015 season was down to lack of practice. 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

the end of the day, we all play for wins," Kaymer told a news conference at Lake Malaren, venue for this week's penultimate tournament in the 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

momentum going into the off-season. "I have another two tournaments left this year that count for the Race to Dubai, and then two that 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

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 of 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 45-year-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 Kulchairatana 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 Pistol Men Junior - Team

1. Korea
2. India
3. 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 - DPRK
3. Jinwon Youn - Korea

50m Rifle 3 Positions Men - Junior

1. Swapnil Kusale - India
2. Ce Wang - China
3. Mohammad Karimi - Iran

In his closing ceremony speech President of Arab

and Kuwait Shooting Federation Eng. Duajif 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 Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the government for their sup-



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

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 Kuwait."

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.

Final Medal Tally of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship held in Kuwait at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

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



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...

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.

"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...

"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."

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



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.

YOUNIS KHAN RETIRES

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

The 37-year-old had wanted to leave the format on a high after he was selected in the 16-man squad for the four-match series against England despite patchy recent form.

Going into his last match, Younis has scored 7,240 runs with seven hundreds and 48 half-centuries in one dayers.

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.

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.

Chakabva completed his second stumping, this time off Graeme Cremer. Left-hander Tamim faced 98 balls, his innings featuring seven fours and a six.

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).

"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 three-match series."



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 Colombo yesterday.

WEST INDIES BEAT S LANKA TO TIE T20 SERIES

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 yesterday.

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 and Test series.

West Indies won the toss and opted to bat, scoring 162-6. Johnson Charles and Denesh Ramdin top-scored with 34 runs each while Bravo notched 31 as the tourists amassed a decent total.

Left-arm spinner Milinda Siriwardana and captain Lasith Malinga were the star bowlers for Sri Lanka, taking two wickets each for only 17 and 16 runs respectively.

even more impressive with right-arm medium pacer Bravo putting in a man of the match performance that saw him take 4-28.

Ravi Rampaul, who was one of two 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 swept the three-match one-day international series 3-0 and also won the preceding Test series without loss, taking it 2-0.

SCOREBOARD

Table containing the full scoreboard of the second Twenty20 international between Sri Lanka and the West Indies in Colombo yesterday, listing runs and wickets for both teams.

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.

Table showing the England Innings and Pakistan Innings with player names and scores.

Table showing the Pakistan Innings with player names and scores.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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 play-off 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 famous 1-0 win over Germany last

month-are also fitness concerns. 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 Pjanic and Edin Dzeko.

And along with that quality comes experience of these occasions, albeit the memories are not happy-Bosnia lost to Portugal in play-offs for the

2010 World Cup and Euro 2012.

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 Srečko 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 two-legged 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 Halilhodzic said his players will be on a mission for revenge when they face Singapore in a World Cup qualifier today.

The Lions spoiled Halilhodzic'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, Halilhodzic 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 win.

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

With 11 of Japan's 23 players arriving in Singapore after playing for clubs in Europe last weekend, travel fatigue and acclimat-

sation 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 Halilhodzic, 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 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

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 match-fixing 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 match-fixing 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

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 Stoeckli 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," Stoeckli 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,'" Stoeckli 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.

Stoeckli 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 been 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 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, 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.

But the extradition could be challenged by 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

and Uruguay.

"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



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 tight-lipped on the matter publicly, 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

Sports

13th Asian shooting
concludes with eyes
on Rio 2016



Five-star
Mustafizur
thrash
Zimbabweans



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

SUSPENDED FIFA CHIEF BLATTER IN HOSPITAL, TO LEAVE MONDAY Page 19



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

JAMES MUSCLES CAVS PAST JAZZ

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 momentum. It revived a slumbering team that

remained 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 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-throw line.

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 triple-double 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 Sullinger.

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 season-opening, 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 tests.

"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 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.

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

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

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

Page 22

Infiniti introduces
four new models

Page 23



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

Pages 24-25

OOREDOO KUWAIT LAUNCHES INTERNET OF THE FUTURE WITH NEW PACKAGES

Page 26



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 INFUX OF NEWLY ORDERED JETS

DUBAI: 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 congestion," 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 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 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:

"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 Easyjet.

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



Infiniti Q50



Infiniti 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 economy.

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 second-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 possibility of such cuts within the year."

Factory output grew slower-than-expected 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 percent 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 manufacturing 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 capita 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 macro-economic 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-

nuitly 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 second-largest 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."

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 grille 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.

Mohamed 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 technological advancements
- 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

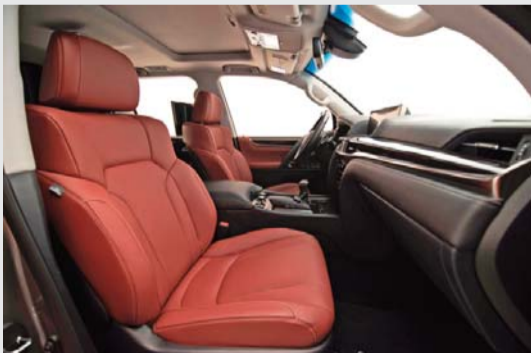
The Lexus LX 570's formidable 5.7-liter V8 engine produces 362 horsepower and 54.0 kg-m of torque at 3,200 RPM. It also delivers 90 percent of its peak torque at just 2,000 rpm to confidently tackle the challenges of demanding terrain with a smoothness that takes driving freeways and city streets in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

- 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.



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 Quartz 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 rich-looking 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.

RX - Once the pioneer, always the pioneer

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.

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 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 environments.

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.





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 sixth-generation 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 independ-

ently, 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 track-focused 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-degree 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 cylinder-head 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-of-the-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.

NBK OFFERS THE BEST, MOST CONVENIENT CAR FINANCING SOLUTIONS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) provides customers the best, most convenient car financing solutions in Kuwait.



Mohammed Al Othman

NBK's car financing is available for NBK and non-NBK customers. NBK has the largest network coverage at car dealers in Kuwait. NBK representatives are available at more than 30 Auto Dealers and used car offices throughout Kuwait to serve customers. "NBK is always

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".

NBK is renowned for its unique and unrivalled banking solutions. For more details customers can call 1801801, visit www.nbk.com, visit any NBK branch or meet with NBK representatives at car dealerships.

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.

This marks the completion of the transaction, which was announced by ABK and Piraeus Bank in May 2015. The total consideration is equivalent to 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 subsidiary in Egypt will be rebranded



Michel Accad

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 on the long standing business relationship

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 well-regulated 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.

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 yesterday.

"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 Kuwait.

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 Ekinici, Chairman of the Turkish Exporters' Association, board members of the Association as well as officials from the

Ministry of Economy of the Republic of 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 Ekinici, 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

Coordinator / samet.damar@immib.org.tr / +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.

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 hemorrhaging, 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 Gimble in the Oromo region, some 450 kilometers (280 miles) west of the capital Addis Ababa.

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 Frellesen.

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 Frellesen. —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 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

take a heart drug as a preventive measure during their cancer care. If confirmed in wider testing, this could improve care for thousands of breast cancer patients in the US

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 poses in her classroom at Quincy High School.



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 panels 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 relunched 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

NEW YORK: Teens who often weigh 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,

but other psychological variables did not change. Parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, and friends may want to ask about self-weighing 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 self-esteem, 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 self-weighing 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 self-weighing 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 work-

place 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, under-staffing, 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

SAO PAULO: Brazil was testing a 46-year-old man 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

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 deal.

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 recession.

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

BRITAIN LOSES TOP ENERGY RATING AFTER GREEN POLICY U-TURNS

WEC SAYS UK NEEDS TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT

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

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

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

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 Pena Nieto's governing party introduced a bill Tuesday that would allow patients easier access to cannabis-based medicines, a week after a ruling by 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 staff, the legislation would modify Mexico's health code to remove THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, 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

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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



GULF OPERETTA DEPICTS UNITY OF GULF COUNTRIES: SHEIKH SALMAN



A Gulf operetta, dubbed "Khaleej Al-Nour," depicts national unity and common destiny binding people of the 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 peoples.

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

Kuwait is set to witness its first full road race on 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

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 certified.

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 the course.

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 [gulfbank642](https://www.instagram.com/gulfbank642).

COMMERCIAL BANK SPONSORS 360 MALL MARATHON

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced its 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

The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait is pleased to announce the opening of the Visa Application Center in Kuwait City. Starting from November 15, 2015, the visa applications can be submitted at the Joint visa application Center in Kuwait.

The Address is: VFS Global, Czech Republic Visa Application Center, 1st floor Al-Banwan Building, Ali Al-Salem Street, Al-Qiblah Area, Kuwait City Submission of Applications: 9:00 - 16:00 (Sunday - Thursday) Passport collection time: 16:00 - 17:00 (Sunday - Thursday) Further instructions you can get from the website : www.vfsglobal.com/Czech/Kuwait or on call line: 00965 22971114. Note: Applicants need to come in person to submit the visa application at the Czech visa 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'

The annual Nuqat creative conference is to launch its 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 Nuqat, 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 Nuqat'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 Nuqat 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 sec-

tor and its effective support throughout Nuqat's journey and successes 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 Nuqat 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 Nuqat 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 Nuqat'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 Nuqat creative conference organizes and hosts various events including lectures, workshops as well as cultural activities.

Those who are interested in learning more about Nuqat as well as registering for the various activities can do so by visiting the conference's website: www.nuqat.me



Abdullateef Abdulazeez Al-Sharikh



Abdullah Boushahri



GULF UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CELEBRATES GRADUATION OF THEIR LARGEST CLASS

Gulf University for Science and Technology (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

University for Science and Technology, and the parents 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 academic education".

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 families and friends.



LULU HYPERMARKET ANNOUNCES 'FORTUNE DRIVE' DRAW WINNERS

LuLu Hypermarket, Kuwait's most preferred retailer announced the winners of the highly anticipated and thrilling 'Fortune Drive' draw that ensued on 9 November.

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 Mahmoud 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

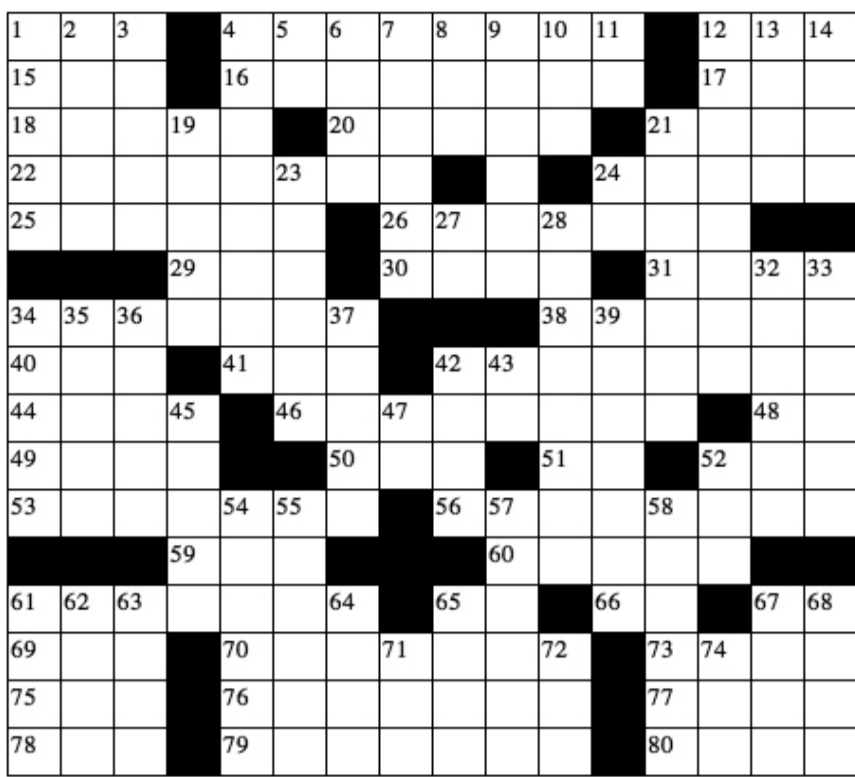
Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one among the world's leading jewelry retailers is widening its network in Andhra Pradesh, India with the inauguration of their new showroom worldwide and 10th showroom in Andhra Pradesh at Nellore. The trendy and artistically done showroom, strategically located near Aanam Venkat Reddy Statue, Mini Bypass Road, has been inaugurated by famous Tollywood star Tamannah Bhatia on 2nd November at 11:00 am.

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 silver jewelry.

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.

CROSSWORD 1077



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 ('pudd' is used informally).
15. Any of various systems of units for measuring 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 one-winged 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 receded.
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 New Zealand.
48. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
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 lacking jaws and pelvic fins.
56. Electro-acoustic transducer for converting 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 fodder.
70. Morning glory.
73. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
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 origin.
80. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.

DOWN

1. Any of several fleet black-and-white striped African equines.
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 flowers.
4. Gregarious burrowing rodent larger than the chinchillas.
5. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
6. Weight to be borne or conveyed.
7. A state of agitation or turbulent change or development.
8. An overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration.
9. Covered with paving material.
10. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
11. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
12. Italian violinist (1782-1840).
13. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
14. Having relatively few calories.
19. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
21. A quantity upon which a mathematical operation is performed.
23. King of the Huns.
24. A state in northwestern North America.
27. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
28. (Greek mythology) Fire-breathing she-monster with a lion's head and a goat's body and a serpent's tail.
32. Of or relating to an inability to urinate.
33. Relating to the Lamaze method of childbirth.
35. Informal language consisting of words and expressions that are not considered appropriate for formal occasions.
36. A republic on the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula on the Indian Ocean.
37. Any taillike structure.
39. Having nine units or components.
42. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
43. A metric unit of volume equal to one thousandth of a liter.
45. Relating to or resembling or made of or adorned with pearls or mother-of-pearl.
47. Being one more than one hundred.
52. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
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.
62. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
63. Having an eye or eyes or eyelike feature especially as specified.
64. A set of rules or principles or laws especially written ones.
65. Tall palm tree bearing coconuts as fruits.
67. With no effort to conceal.
68. Having a color similar to that of a clear unclouded sky.
71. A unit of time equal to 60 seconds or 1/60th of an hour.
72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).

Yesterday's Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | R | S | A | L | S | A | T | I | A | C | P | A |
| A | P | I | A | S | A | L | V | A | G | E | A | A | R |
| R | A | M | P | I | D | I | O | M | C | A | B | L | E |
| C | L | U | P | E | A | D | G | F | I | X | L | A | |
| | O | | F | E | A | R | A | I | D | | | | |
| V | E | E | R | C | L | D | A | F | L | A | S | B | |
| E | N | T | O | H | O | A | R | I | L | I | A | R | |
| A | D | H | C | A | R | G | O | N | A | O | N | O | |
| D | U | N | G | A | R | E | E | R | A | M | A | D | A |
| A | R | I | L | L | A | T | E | E | L | E | G | I | A |
| R | E | C | A | P | | | | E | N | N | A | N | |
| | | B | A | S | S | | | A | E | C | M | K | B |
| C | A | L | E | C | H | E | | G | A | L | A | T | E |
| R | I | A | L | | A | R | I | C | A | R | A | A | B |
| A | R | I | L | | M | A | C | A | D | A | M | L | A |
| B | E | D | A | | E | X | C | R | E | T | A | A | B |

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 I-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.



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 listening.



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.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

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.



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.

Wordsearch Puzzle

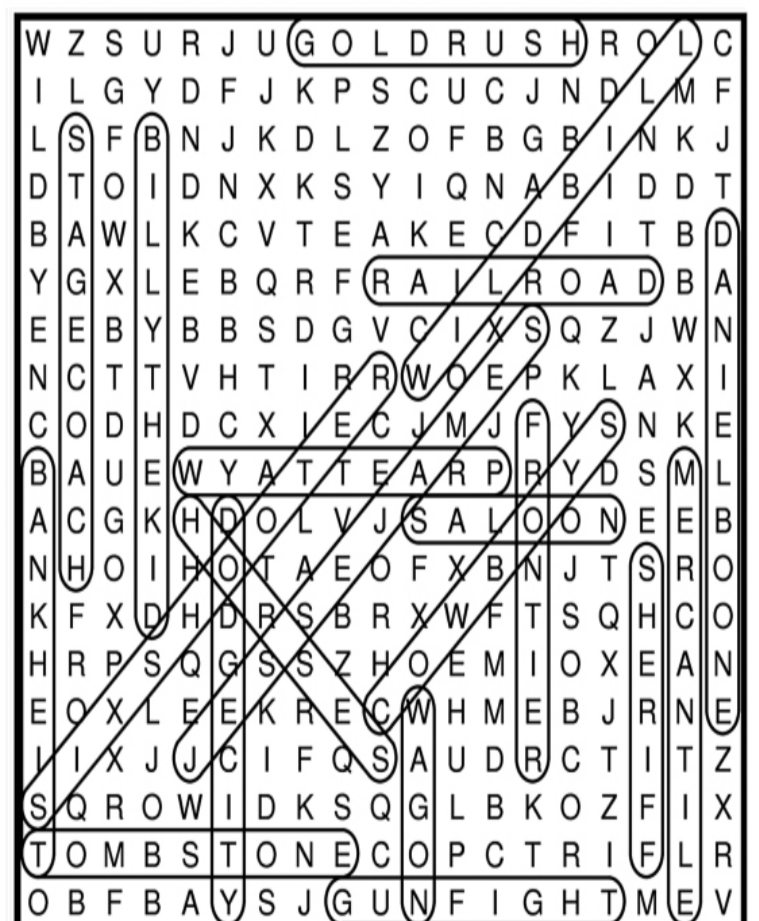
IN THE GARDEN WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| BEETS | CELERY | LETTUCE | SWEET CORN |
| BELL PEPPERS | CILANTRO | ONION | SWISS CHARD |
| BROCCOLI | CUCUMBER | PEAS | TOMATOES |
| BRUSSELS SPROUTS | EGGPLANT | RADISHES | WATERMELON |
| CARROTS | GREEN BEANS | RUTABAGA | ZUCCHINI |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO WILD WEST PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

New Zealand production turns to 'Avatar' sequels in post-'Hobbit' world



After 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

Fans of Marvel's "Avengers" series have long griped about the franchise's 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.

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



Scarlett Johansson, Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth



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

"Devil 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 colleague devised 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

Vertu launches new signature touch performance and precision define handmade smartphone

New 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.

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 what is their company's only global consumer partnership.

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.

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.



Andy White, 'fifth Beatle' from first hit, dies at 85

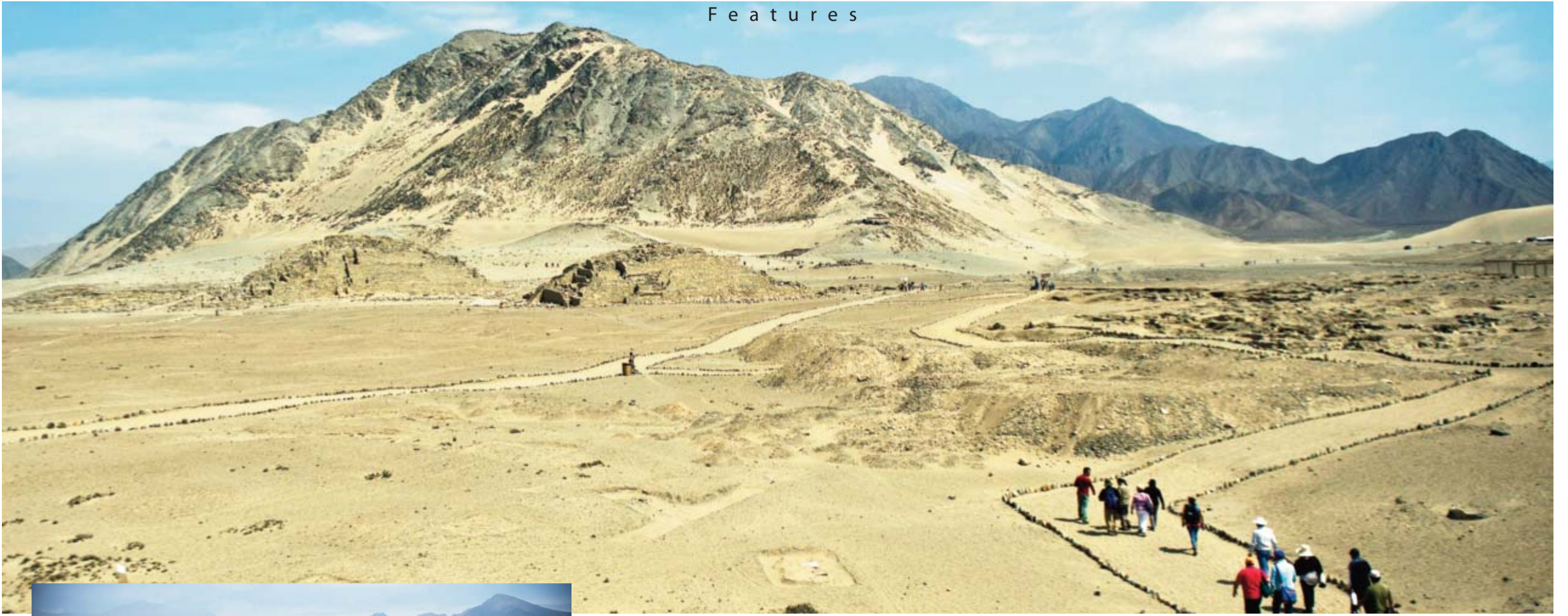
Andy White, a session musician who played drums on the first Beatles hit but spent his life on the edges of fame, has died, colleagues said yesterday. He was 85. The Glasgow native, who had lived for years in the United States where he taught Scottish-style pipes and drums, died this week in his adopted 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 Beatle" 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

Features



Peru's ancient city Caral inspires modern architects

Architects 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 amphitheatres, 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, thinking about their commitment to nature, their cosmic 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 future 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



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 Supe-Peru. — AFP photos



One of the amphitheatres of the Caral archaeological complex.



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

Republican 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 Christmas.

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 brush 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 early-voting states, particularly Iowa 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



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



Model and New Victoria's Secret Angel Kate Grigorieva from Russia.



A model presents a creation

Some 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 non-winged 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 and Goulding.

"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

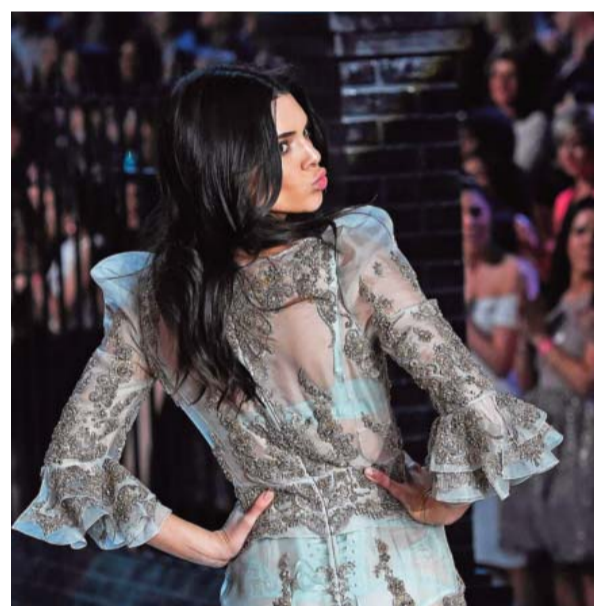
This year's iteration of the annual Fantasy Bra was fashioned in bursts of fireworks, the theme for one of the liveliest sections of

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 34-year-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



Singer Selena Gomez performs on the runway during the 2015 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.



Model Kendall Jenner.



Model Cindy Bruna from France.

New Look autumn/winter 2015 rich collection

Fashion 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 shearing 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 woman.

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 shearing-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 turtle-necks 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.





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



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 storage and vertical space for a cat.

Catify to satisfy: Home enhancement tips for cat owners



Photo shows a spiral catwalk complete with scratching pole.



This photo shows a creative litter box solution.

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 fiancé 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, semi-enclosed 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 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-

stantly yelling at them for doing those things on objects you don't want them on," Benjamin said. "I have a number of perches around my desk."

Scratchers

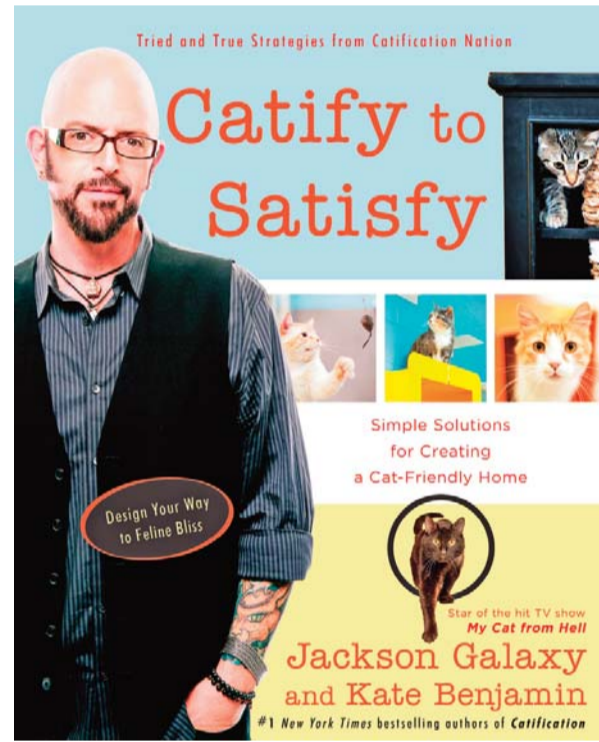
Cats like to scratch on different surfaces and at different slants. Try various materials - cardboard, carpet, thick sisal, tighter sisal, wood and cork, for instance - and see what they like. Benjamin discovered that yoga mats are great scratchers. Consider swatch- es. Some cats are horizontal, vertical 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 your 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 & Catio

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. Catio 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.

Stacey Nakasone had a choice to make. Fly from her 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 musicians.

"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

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 Ian, entertain passengers on the Roots on the Rails music train.



Sound technician Dan Richardson rides aboard the Roots on the Rails music train.



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

SeaWorld 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 all.

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 conservation message."

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 circus-style 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

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 parks.

"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



An unidentified trainer interacts with one of SeaWorld's seven killer whales during a show in San Diego.

Rare pink diamond sells for \$28.5 million at Geneva auction

A 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 million.

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 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

on Wednesday, when its prized lot, dubbed "Blue Moon," will aim 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 price between \$35-\$55 million which, at the top end, would break the auction record. A pink diamond holds the current world

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 50.48-carat 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 150,000-250,000 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



A 16.08-carat pink diamond on display during a press preview by the auction house Christie's. — AFP photos



A 16.08-carat pink diamond on display during a press preview by the auction house Christie's.