

FREE

Kuwait Times Friday Times

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 16696- Friday, November 13, 2015



Min 13°
Max 23°

Yarnbombing
at the Secret
Garden

6



Dubai police deny
links to Emirati
held in Libya

11



Five enter FIFA
presidency race;
Platini sidelined

44



EUROPE CRACKS DOWN ON JIHADIST NETWORKS

Page 10



TOULON: A picture shows the French military naval base in Toulon. A man suspected of having links to an Islamic State has been arrested for plotting to attack military personnel at a major naval base. (Inset) Najmuddin Ahmad Faraj also known as Mullah Krekar is seen at a court in Oslo. — AFP

MARINE NATIONALE
BASE NAVALE de TOULON

TERRAIN MILITAIRE
DEFENSE D'ENTRER

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY

Copy & Paste Syndrome with NUQAT



French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla speaking at the opening ceremony for Nuqat yesterday.

By Athoob A. Al-Shuaibi

Nuqat launched its sixth annual conference at the Amricani Cultural Centre of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah yesterday in the presence of the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla and a number of public figures. Aimed at celebrating and encouraging creativity in the Arab world, Nuqat offers three days of lec-

tures and workshops in Arabic on a variety of creative topics. In the opening speech on behalf of DAI, Ahmed Al-Najada talked about the shift taking place in the history of the Amricani Culture Center; how it began life as a hospital and has evolved today to become a place to address the creative thinkers and ideas embracing cultural activities. French Ambassador Nakhla said he was delighted to be part of the DAI family. He



KUWAIT: Ahmed Al-Najada, representing Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyya speaking at the opening ceremony for Nuqat conference.



Host of the Nuqat conference architect and artist Waleed Shalaan speaking during the opening ceremony yesterday.



Attendees at the Nuqat conference. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

also, explained the "Cut and Paste" phenomenon in music and how it doesn't necessarily mean impersonation and theft of ideas of others. In addition, he mentioned that cloning animals and human being are another kind of reproduction which raises doubts.

He also thanked Hessa Al-Humaidhi, one of Nuqat's founders for her leading role in developing creativity in Kuwait. Al-Humaidhi denoted in her speech the reasons why Nuqat is held this year to discuss the Copy and Paste Syndrome to answer many questions such as how it can contribute in development and on the other hand it destroys, does originality exist or is it always influenced by cultural backgrounds and self-reflection? She explained that the Copy and Paste syndrome is not limited to arts but extended to traditions and education.

All of these topics and more will be talked about by 35 guest speakers coming from around the world attempting to retrieve the value of creative thinking which promotes communities. After the opening, various creatives offered lectures on a variety of topics in the this year's conference theme 'Copy & Paste Syndrome'. Visual Artist Aseel Al-Yaqoob spoke in the first lecture about national nostalgia. "We are intrinsically

attached to objects and places that are valued through nostalgia and nationality. Yet the remembrance of things past is not necessarily the remembrance of things as they were. My work subversively challenges the misconception of Kuwait's recent past by symbolically destroying and vandalizing national artifacts and heritage sites."

Next, fashion designer Rayya Marcos spoke about her before-and-after career journey through creating her own fashion and accessories brand name, Bird On A Wire, designed in non-stereotyped way, defying the idea of imitation of others.

Nuqat is a non-profit organization founded in 2009, based in Kuwait City that is dedicated to the development of creativity in the Arab world. They produce training programs, lectures and cultural programs in both Arabic and English covering topics in visual, therapeutic, commercial and performing arts in addition to creative entrepreneurship."

This event will continue until November 18th. Lectures, workshops and exhibitions will be set up in several places. You can learn more details of the event schedule through their website <http://www.nuqat.me>

Local Spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

DON'T KILL 'THE WITCH!'

What would you do if you found out that your domestic helper is involved in witchcraft? Will you see her as a swindler that must be imprisoned or killed? I think it's a question worth answering because your choice will determine the fate of that human being.

A female maid was reportedly killed in Kuwait at the hand of her employer allegedly because he thinks she was a "witch"! The details of the traffic situation remain unclear. Most local newspapers covered the story but only with the briefest of details. In a small news item, it was reported that a 28 year old Kuwaiti man who killed the family's housekeeper, according to his words "because she was a witch"! At least one newspaper noted that the incident took place in Um Al Haiman area and that the maid, of Sri Lankan nationality, was strangled by her sponsor's son after he assaulted her using a stick.

There was nothing in that report about her being a 'witch' or discussion of other motives.

It has become customary for some sponsors to complain about their discovery of their maids practicing magic or at least they suspect this without any concrete evidence but only by angry reactions or after a quarrel.

Now, let's debate the validity of this accusation. It simply means we have to look at the reasons for its occurrence. Most of these servants often do not have a minimum of education, and the majority of them do not even speak another language than their native one. They have

grown up in extremely impoverished and many cases violent circumstances.

Only those with few other options would willingly choose to come to the Gulf to work as maids and household help. They arrive here with the hope of a better life.

But the fact of the matter to me is that in the case many thousands of them, the ugly alternative is to enslavement of body in the form and a function of a maid. It's a fact that must be recognized. I just also want to mention that governments that send their nationals to a region with documented problems without any training or preparation are also guilty. This woman could call for help and save her life if she was told how and what to do.

I think that it is perfectly reasonable that someone who is being abused, mistreated or overworked will get angry and act annoying. It is unfair and unjust that this kind of behavior is labeled as "madness or a practice of magic."

I think when these women are subjected to psychological pressure or problems such as delays in receiving salary, sexual harassment, torture or repeated insult it is natural to have arise quarrels between the family and the helper.

Even if it was proven that in this one incident the maid was practicing black magic, the police could be called or she could be sent home. The case is still open to investigation and despite all allegations, the right of the women, who are often wives, mothers and daughters must not be lost.



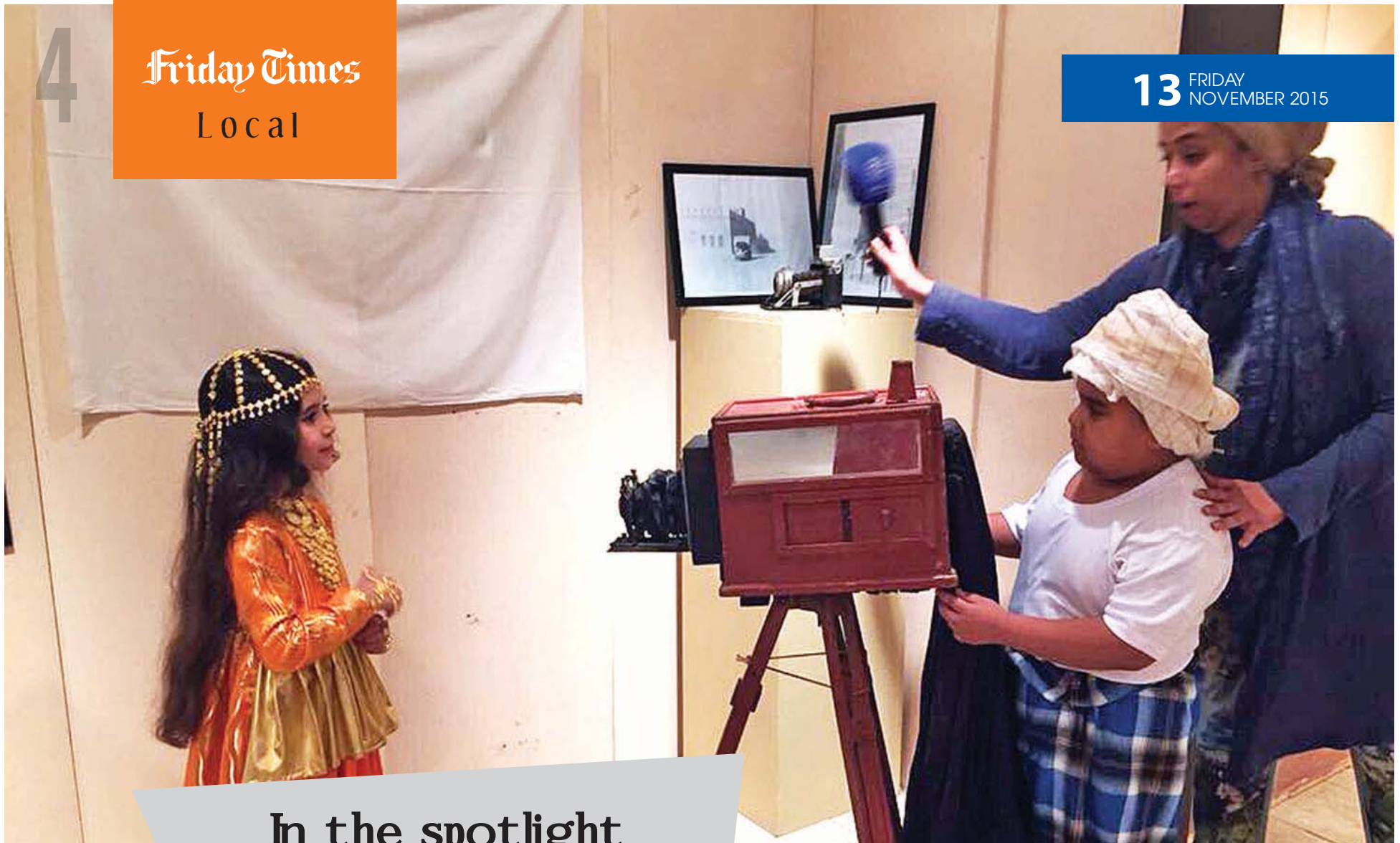
KUWAIT: Seasonal Plants in Kuwait's desert start to grow after the heavy rain in the Aleasam Season — KUNA

SHOP & WIN* BENTLEY

BUY GOLD JEWELLERY WORTH KWD 75 AND GET A RAFFLE COUPON THAT ENTITLES YOU TO WIN THE LAST WORD IN LUXURY - BENTLEY. ALTERNATIVELY, BUY DIAMOND JEWELLERY WORTH KWD 75 AND GET 2 RAFFLE COUPONS TO DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. ALSO, STAND A CHANCE TO WIN DIAMOND JEWELLERY WORTH KWD 65 THROUGH A SCRATCH & WIN COUPON. WHAT'S MORE, WIN JEWELLERY VOUCHERS WORTH KWD 1 & KWD 2.

OFFER VALID FROM 21ST SEP - 21ST NOV 2015 EXCLUSIVELY IN KUWAIT

BENTLEY RAFFLE DRAW DATE: 24TH NOV, TIME: 7.00 PM
& VENUE: KALYAN JEWELLERS, MALIYA, KUWAIT CITY



In the spotlight

Child actor Bader Al-Atwan during the filming for his show on KTV.

'Pros and cons of child acting in Kuwait'

By Faten Omar

There is a small but growing industry of child acting roles in Kuwait. From Ramadan commercials to short films to advertisements for print and television, children actors are increasingly in demand. Kuwait Times met with several children actors and their parents in Kuwait to hear firsthand about their experience in the acting industry here.

There are many benefits to allowing children to act. For instance, acting can help develop a child's self esteem and self confidence. It can also provide an expected source of revenue to help fund the child's education and expenses and help the child develop a talent and skills useful for future career options. There are a growing number of child acting and drama classes and workshops for kids in Kuwait as well as public speaking and speech

classes. For some parents, it's worth trying it to see if their children enjoy the experience.

A positive life experience

Emily Cunha and Tanya Killeen are the mothers of Neve and Lily Rose, cute little kids who participated in a short film for the Ministry of Education titled "Tolerance". Cunha and Killeen are friends and both found the experience positive.

"My daughter is a shy child, but when the camera rolls she becomes a completely different person, she will start smiling and posing," explains Killeen who also starred in the short film to remain close to her daughter and also encourage her.

Neve, on the other hand, didn't love acting though she showed remarkable composure and talent for one so young. Both moms, however, are aware of the darker side of child acting and were

careful to guard against it. "Sometimes people mistake their own ambitions for their children's," noted Cunha. "Sometimes children just say they want to do something to please us or because someone told them they ought to be in movies or even because they look up to a friend or sibling who is a child actor. And that is why I prefer to let Neve make her own choice in acting."

The many challenges

Other parents learn from experience the challenges their children may face when becoming child actors. Parents themselves are often the managers and there is a lot of work involved. They must schedule appointments and put together headshots and resumes. In Kuwait, since the industry is not well organized or regulated by the government, it's necessary also to know the reputations of producers and directors to be able to choose wisely among projects.

Child actors that participate in one or two films are less likely to be affected but those who adopt acting as a full time profession may see their studies suffer or be subject to bullying.

Eight year old Laila Al-Randi started modeling when she was 5 years old and soon got noticed by local agencies. "Her first work was in the soap opera 'Bent w Shaieb'," explained sister Munerah. "Then advertisements and more videos."

Bullying on set and at school

Laila sometimes skips school due to shooting schedules and she has also been the subject of bullying. Online she's faced criticism for her looks and wearing makeup; at school kids have been even more harsh. "Kids at my school make fun of my hair for being big and curly," Laila says. "And they said 'Do not be arrogant, because you are an actress now, you are nothing!'"

There are also few protections here for children actors and they may face unreasonable work hours, lack of insurance, unscrupulous producers that fail to pay acting fees and other health and work-related issues.

"Laila had an accident while working. After finishing a scene in a movie, Laila went through a glass door, which broke in her face and now she has a big scar above her right eye, she got 12 stitches



KUWAIT: Tanya Killeen and Emily Cunha with their daughters Lily-Rose and Neve. All four acted in the short film, *Tolerance* which was made in Kuwait. — Photos by Joseph Shagra and courtesy *Tolerance*.



Scenes from the short film, *Tolerance*, how child actresses Neve and Lily-Rose on screen.

in her head and three in her eyes, but she received no work injury compensation. Laila cried a lot, hated to see people and she hated even herself when she looked at the mirror but now she is better."

The role of the parent-manager

Watching out for the child's best interest is typically the role of the parent and in Kuwait, like most parts of the world, that too can require balancing one's own ambitions with the wants and needs of the child.

"We faced a lot of deception and sometimes Bader worked for directors who then never paid him," explains Amal Al-Rumaidhen, mother of well known child actor 6 year old Bader Al-Atwan. Fighting for reasonable pay and reasonable hours is a necessary part of being the parent of a child actor in Kuwait.

"The most difficult thing for him is to work late and for days at a time - sometimes for a fee of only KD 50. Sometimes he works till 5am. Directors should care that child actors are not like adult actors they should be on time, not making the kid come from 8am and his scene at 1pm!" Al-Rumaidhen said.

Alternatively, working with children - and their parent managers - has its challenges.

"Parents sometimes are late or don't show up at all, and that's why when we choose a child we consider not only that the child can act but also if his parents are free to bring him," noted Ema Shah, producer and a translator in the film *Tolerance*.

Tolerance Director Abdulaziz Mandani was himself a child actor and therefore has a good idea of how to get the best from his youngest stars.

"The secret behind dealing with child actors is to be a child, and that's how I speak with them," he explains. Mandani gets down to their eye-level and ask them to do whatever he wants.

In filming *Tolerance*, Mandani had a hard time getting young Neve to cry.

"So I asked the cameraman to keep rolling, and told the actor who will 'kidnap' her to grab her hand when her mother looked away, and that is how I got the perfect scene for the short-film," he said.



Child actor 8-year-old Laila Al-Randi during a modeling shoot.



شركة البترول الوطنية الكويتية

إحدى شركات مؤسسة البترول الكويتية
A Subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

KNPC



RFQ # 1008844

PROCUREMENT OF LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR ENTRY INTO REACTOR

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (SHU Refinery) invite bids thru KNPC Commercial Web Page (CWP)(<http://esourcing.knpc.com>) for the procurement of Life Support System For Entry into Reactor for Shuaiba Refinery.

The Request For Quotation (RFQ) Documents will be published in KNPC Commercial Web Page (CWP) starting from Thursday, 12/11/2015.

Note :-

1-This Tender is Public.

2- The last date of accepting the bids is not later than 12:00 Hrs on Tuesday, 17/11/2015. An Original Initial Bank Guarantee equivalent to KD. 650/- valid for 90 days is mandatory for subject Tender. A Scanned copy of the Bank Guarantee shall be uploaded as part of the on-line bidding process. Further, on or upto 2 days prior to Closing Date upto 12:00 Hrs (Noon) local time, the original Bid Bond shall be delivered to KNPC at Head Office, Dar Al Wataniya, Ahmadi, First Floor, ITC Room # 1A-046, in a sealed envelope and with a label as follows :-

BID BOND SUBMISSION

To : Chairman, Bid Opening Committee

Tender No. Title :

Closing Date : / / .

3- Bidding shall be only on-line i.e. through KNPC E-Tendering Web Page (CWP) for any assistance bidders can contact Help Desk (Tel: 23887792 / 2388 7794) or E-Mail cwphelp@knpc.com.



Creativity, crochet and community

Yarnbombing at The Secret Garden



By Jamie Etheridge

A local community garden in Salmiya got a set of new clothes this past weekend when dozens of volunteers came out to help 'yarnbomb' it. Yarnbombing is the act of installing crocheted or knitted items on public spaces and places like trees, streetlight posts, benches, and etc. It is a new phenomena in Kuwait and this is the first public event of its kind here. The Secret Garden is part of an effort by a group of local volunteers, led by Mariam Al-Nusif to develop community-based projects that enhance public spaces and activities in Kuwait.

Volunteers met in the afternoon to install crocheted and in some cases knitted squares, garlands, bunting and other items to trees, lamps posts, benches and other places in the garden. An array of food and drinks were available and children dug in the garden or helped distributed crocheted hearts to all attendees. A local crochet group, Khayt Group from Al Sadu House, also came out and taught crochet workshops for free.

Crocheters and crafters from across Kuwait contributed to the event with dozens of donations from various crochet and crafting groups. A crocheter in Sweden mailed in squares for the yarnbombing when she learned about the event on Instagram.

"Yarnbombing is a way of creatively reclaim-

ing and enhancing a public space," explained Tammy Assad, one of the organizers. "The Secret Garden is a public space meant to create community. Since there are a lot of talented crocheters in Kuwait, our yarnbombing event was the perfect collaboration of creativity, crochet and community. There was nothing but positive energy from everyone who attended which made it a truly rewarding experience."





Dr Ibrahim Hadi delivering his speech



Participants visit the Sebamed booth



Dr Zaidan Al-Mazidi (right) poses for a photo with Deputy Director of Sabah Hospital

'Holistic view to the Future II' conference kicks off

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The 'Holistic view to the Future II' conference kicked off yesterday under the patronage of the Health Minister Dr Ali S Al-Obaidi who was represented by Secretary General of Kuwait Institute for Medical specialties (KIMS) Dr Ibrahim Hadi. Dr Hadi welcomed the guests and wished them a good stay in Kuwait, and thanked them for sharing their research and experience.

He said that the Health Ministry places Pediatrics medicine on top of its priorities, within the national health strategy that aim to improve the level of health services - affirming the principle of caring for the health of the children, which means safeguarding the health of

the nation in the future. "MoH's hospitals do not spare any effort in holding conferences and training courses, workshops and practical studies which are aimed to enhancing the medical sector," he said.

Dr Hadi thanked the Pediatrics Department at Sabah Hospital for organizing the conference and its committee for their distinguished efforts. The department has achieved a lot since its establishment in 1963 and contributed to the creation of many specialized units. The conference will last for three days with lectures covering several topics concerning the health of children by several professors in the field. Also an exhibition was held by several medical companies - displaying the latest in children's medicines and treatment, including Sebamed and its unique and outstanding products.



APPEALS COURT LOOKS ANEW INTO AL-SADEQ MOSQUE BLAST CASE

SEVEN SUSPECTS FACE DEATH PENALTY • CLOSED-DOOR SESSION

KUWAIT: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Justice Hani Al-Hamdan, began proceedings yesterday in the case of the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque blast, allowing the suspects' lawyers to deliver their defense.

On November fifth, the court hearing focused on the civil claimants' pleadings. On October 29, the court heard the testimony of the case's officer in a closed-door-session. On October 25, the Court of Appeals heard the testimony of defendant Abdulrahman Aidan who was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court, where he and other defendants denied their previous confessions.

The Criminal Court had sentenced seven suspects to death, eight to two-15 years in prison, but acquitted another 15 suspects. The defendants are accused of spreading terror, committing murder, joining an internationally-banned group that promotes toppling the ruling system with illegitimate means, namely terrorism, thus

threatening the country's national unity.

The court had held its first session on the explosion on August fourth, to look into the cases presented against seven Kuwaiti defendants, five Saudis, three Pakistanis, 13 illegal residents and one fugitive with unidentified nationality.

The Public Prosecution had demanded tough sentences against the defendants, as the prosecution's representative had presented thorough details on the case. They also provided visual evidence on the role of the 29 defendants in the blast, including hiding vital evidence and helping the driver, Abdulrahman Eidan, to escape.

The terrorist attack took place on June 26 during the holy month of Ramadan, leaving 26 worshippers dead and 227 others wounded. The blast sparked wide-scale condemnations from Arab, Muslim and other countries which rejected all forms and manifestations of terrorism. —KUNA



KUWAIT'S NATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Arabian Horse Festival launches today under the auspices of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah featuring the beauty of the local hybrids, with the participation of 264 pure Arab horses. The two-day event, organized by the Arabian Horse Center, and headed by Sheikh Sarah Fahad Al-Duajj Al-Sabah will also include launching a second championship for Egyptian horses on November 20, with the participation of 162 pure Arabian horses, as this venue is restricted only to Kuwaiti horse stalls. Member of the organizing committee Khaled Al-Fahad said in press remarks today that the Arabian Horse Center has settled all the needed preparations for the upcoming event.

The Center will also organize other three festivals at national, Arab, and international levels, he said. The Center is keen to provide the festival with the best international juries, besides organizing the competitions during holidays to allow people to attend and enjoy this event, he said. Al-Fahad praised the support offered to this festival by 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, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

PARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT VIOLENCE

KUWAIT: Violence has recently spread at alarming rates, particularly among the youth, a phenomenon that warrants firm action on part, in particular, the parents, and the country's competent authorities. Studies and official statistics affirm that various forms of violence, particularly among the youngsters, has noticeably mounted in the country due to the youth robust and largely impulsive and emotional nature and tendencies, holding parents and educational authorities chiefly responsible for the phenomenon.

Violence can be both verbal, such as uttering injurious words, and physical like robbery, arson, squandering others' money, shooting, beating, murder and attempted murder. Studies affirm that the mounting violent tendencies increased after the 1991 liberation of the country.

Violence in and out of school

Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Bader Al-Essa said in an interview said that violence among students is a common phenomenon in all countries. It exists in and outside schools and facing its is part of the responsibilities of schools, institutions, families and

security authorities. Although the minister stated that such a responsibility should be shouldered by many authorities, he believes that the family is the prime party responsible for sound upbringing of children because a student spends most of the time at home and close to the parents.

The minister called for strict enforcement of the anti-violence laws, noting that punitive measures by schools, such as dismissal or banning the offender from taking part in exams, are not enough, stressing that the relevant law must be enforced firmly outside schools as well.

Minister Al-Essa said sociologists and psychologists at schools "play their role, however the education ministry needs cooperation on part of the families," noting cases where parents ignore calls by schools' administrations to come to the school for discussing problems concerning their children.

Educate values and responsibility

Mariam Al-Enezi, a supervisor of social and psychological affairs at the ministry, noted that the ministry had worked out a special program aimed at educating

children about positive values, such as shouldering responsibility, faithfulness and loyalty to the homeland. She confirmed that some of the cases involve disobedience, theft, smoking, damaging properties and verbal abuse targeting in particular teachers, noting that some of the teachers have been targeted with physical attacks too.

Dr. Fatma Ayyad, who teaches psychology at Kuwait University, said wrongful behaviors and violence among students exist all over the world, largely linking the phenomenon to parents' quarrels and disputes. In some cases, a student resorts to violence when his protest to the school administration about harm inflicted on him (her) by another is neglected. In such cases, some may conceal sharp objects and use them in fights with other students.

A special report prepared by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs calls for activating role of the social specialists at schools and boosting communications between parents and school administrations. It also calls for activating role of parents' boards at the schools, increasing social, cultural and technical activities. —KUNA

QARUH: KUWAIT'S SMALLEST ISLAND

KUWAIT: Despite being Kuwait's smallest Island, Qaruh holds a significant place in the hearts of Kuwaitis for being the first land to be liberated from the Iraqi aggressors in 1991. Located around 37 kilometers from the Kuwaiti mainland, the island's name "Qaruh" was derived from the presence of tar (Qar) residues on the Island.

Kuwaiti researcher on islands affairs Khaled Salem Al-Ansari said that Qaruh, similar to many other Kuwaiti Islands, was not inhabited by people, unlike the only inhabited Failaka Island. He added that the Island is part of the capital governorate in

the administrative categorization.

Al-Ansari said that Qaruh was roughly 275 meters long by 175 in width. Regarding the current status of the Island, the Kuwaiti researcher said that the Island had a 15-meter-long lighthouse to warn ships and vessels of the sharp rocks located near Qaruh, noting that in the past, Kuwaiti sailors used to stop at the Island and then sail to a nearby location for pearl diving. Al-Ansari also noted that Qaruh Island was host for different kinds of seabirds, adding that some plants grew on the Island. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The commemoration of liberation of Qaruh Island and the raising of the Kuwaiti flag. —KUNA





KUWAIT: Kuwait Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi handed the statement of his financial worth to the corruption fighting authority. Dr Al-Obaidi has also asked the undersecretaries and officials to go ahead and submit the required statement as stated by the law.

KUWAIT MAY ISSUE DOLLAR OR DINAR-DENOMINATED BONDS

DUBAI: Kuwait may issue US dollar- or dinar-denominated bonds to financial institutions to help cover a fiscal deficit caused by low oil prices, finance minister Anas Al-Saleh told Al-Arabiya television yesterday. "Issuance to institutions may be in dinars and may be denominated in dollars," he said. "For us, the picture is clear and the plans are drafted. We will announce any development in this regard in due course." Saleh did not specify when the issue might occur or whether it would feature conventional or Islamic bonds. In September, he had said Kuwait planned to issue local-currency sovereign debt by the end of this year. Kuwait's budget deficit in the April-August period stood at 1.094 billion dinars (\$3.62 billion), after a deduction for the Future Generations Fund, part of its sovereign wealth fund.

Door for more sukuk

Meanwhile, Kuwait's financial regulator has released rules covering issuance of Islamic bonds in a move that could facilitate sales of sukuk by both the government and corporations. Corporate issuance of sukuk in Kuwait has dropped off in recent years, and the vast bulk of issuance has been in US dollars rather than in Kuwaiti dinars. The government has not issued sukuk. Bankers blame the lack of a specialized legislative framework covering Islamic bonds; two defaults on Kuwaiti corporate sukuk during the global financial crisis in 2009-2010 made investors wary of new issuance without such a framework.

Rules issued by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) this week aim to provide a legal basis for issues. The rules outline conditions that sukuk must meet to be tradeable, and describe specific

formats such as instruments with perpetual tenors and those which can be converted into shares. Sukuk issues must be approved by both the CMA and the central bank, according to the rules, which set out the obligations and powers of custodians of the instruments.

The government could be an early user of the rules because low oil prices have strained its finances. Mazin Al-Nahedh, chief executive of Kuwait Finance House, one of the world's oldest and largest Islamic banks, told an Islamic finance conference in Kuwait on Wednesday that lack of regulation meant KFH previously had to issue sukuk in foreign jurisdictions. The new CMA rules will help to encourage corporate issuance of sukuk within Kuwait, allowing borrowers to tap ample investor demand inside the country, he said. —Agencies

'DANCING ATOP POLICE CAR'

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Director of Relations and Security Information at the Interior Ministry Brig Adel Al-Hashash said that the citizen that appeared in a video while standing atop of a patrol car has been arrested and sent to concerned authorities. Yesterday, a patrol team saw a man exchanging blows with a motorcycle rider, when they rushed to the scene, the man jumped on top of the patrol car and began to dance - abusing the policemen. He was arrested and sent to Daeya police station.

Hubara bustard birds

Northern Roads patrol team has arrested four suspects with 29 Hubara bustard birds. Environment police confiscated the birds and sent them to concerned authorities. One of the suspects confessed to trading in them for money.

Drug suspect nabbed

Customs detectives in Shuwaikh arrested an Egyptian who works at the port. The suspect had two grams of heroin, hashish in his possession. He has been sent to Drugs Control General Department. In another



development, DCGD men raided a warehouse in Sulaibiya after interrogating of a Syrian expat and a citizen who attempted to smuggle a large quantity of liquor three days earlier. The officers found 5000 additional bottles in the Sulaibiya store.

Dead body found

An unknown body was found in a Hawally building. Security sources said that foul smell prompted they neighbors to check the source. The eventually found the decomposing body inside the house.

Crime

Report

FASHIONISTA OR PROSTITUTE?

KUWAIT: Kuwait vice police arrested a fashionista, who has a criminal record. Security operatives received information about a fashionista who is active on social media - committing illicit acts. An undercover agent was sent to her and she agreed to have sex in exchange of money. Police arrested her and sent her to concerned authorities.

Kuwaiti arrested for thefts

Farwaniya detectives have arrested a young Kuwaiti for stealing. A security source said an Egyptian called police and told them that a young man had stopped him and stole his car with KD 1200 and phone recharge cards inside. Farwaniya detectives placed the suspect under surveillance until his arrest. 735 phone recharge cards and two K-net machines were found in his possession. He confessed to several thefts and crimes.

Wanted woman nabbed

A woman, who insulted police in a video clip, was arrested - and found to be an absconding 20-year-old citizen. A security source said the video clip was reviewed by criminal detectives after which they launched their investigations. The woman was identified and arrested.

KUWAIT CALLS FOR LIMITING HAZARDS OF WAR REMNANTS

GENEVA: Kuwait has stressed the importance of limiting the hazards of war remnants including unexploded ordnances, Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said yesterday. The official's remarks were made during the ninth meeting of the UN's Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional

Weapons) held in Geneva yesterday. Explosives left by war pose great danger on the ecological system around them, said Al-Ghunaim, calling on all countries to thoroughly study the effects on the environment to limit the hazards.

Kuwait, which has joined the convention on 24 May 2013, had started removing the remnants of the Iraqi invasion directly upon the war's end in 1991, said the ambassador, adding that the mines were planted along

Kuwait's coast and around its economic bodies and oil facilities. Meanwhile, he noted that the country faced many challenges in removing these explosives, including the high temperatures in summer that caused many mines to self-explode, the nature of the desert environment that led the explosives to sink deeper into the sands and the lack of thorough maps on the affected areas.

He also added that the cleaning process cost Kuwait between \$31,000

to \$67,000 per one square km. Al-Ghunaim went on to warn against the dangers these remnants pose on the lives and wellbeing of people, as mines had killed or dismembered civilians including children. Kuwait is providing special care to survivors of unexploded ordnance, including free medical services and physiotherapy, financial aid, social and residency services, education, transportation and specialized workshop for prostheses, said the ambassador. —KUNA

Friday Times International

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

Sweden imposes temporary border controls in migration crisis



Immigration divides White House hopefuls



Obama commends Myanmar, Suu Kyi for historic election



ROME: Italian anti-Mafia prosecutor Franco Roberti, left, and Rome public prosecutor Giuseppe Pignatone attend a press conference on a European anti-terrorism operation, in Rome, yesterday. European law enforcement authorities said yesterday they had broken up a Norway-based Iraqi Kurdish recruitment ring that radicalized fighters via the Internet and sent them to fight in Iraq and Syria alongside the Islamic State group. 17 arrest warrants were issued in a half-dozen European countries and the Mideast. —AP

EUROPE BUSTS TERROR-RECRUITING CELL

ROME: European law enforcement authorities announced yesterday they had broken up a Norway-based Iraqi Kurdish recruitment ring that radicalized prospects via the Internet and sent them to fight in Iraq and Syria alongside the Islamic State group. Thirteen people were arrested in Italy, Britain and Norway. Italian Carabinieri Gen. Giuseppe Governale called it "the most important police operation in Europe in 20 years." Italian authorities said the ideological leader of the ring was Najmuddin Faraj Ahmad, known as Mullah Krekar, who is in prison in Norway. He had been a founder of the now-defunct Ansar al-Islam insurgent group of Sunni Kurds, which aimed to install an Islamic caliphate in Iraqi Kurdistan and merged with the Islamic State group last year.

Once living in exile in Norway, Ahmad formed another group, Rawti Shax, to educate a new generation of Iraqi Kurds in Europe to eventually return to violently overthrow the government in the Iraqi Kurdish region and replace it with a radical caliphate, Italian police said in a statement. He developed a network of followers across Europe who communicated by Internet chats, which Italian police monitored, leading to Thursday's arrests. Eurojust, the European Union judicial cooperation agency, said 13 people were arrested in Italy, Britain and Norway.

Arrests warrants

Italian authorities said arrest warrants were issued against 17 people, but at least

one of them was killed in Iraq in 2014. The discrepancy couldn't be immediately explained. The suspects are accused of international terrorism association. Ahmad's Norwegian lawyer, Brynjar Meling, told reporters in Norway "suspicions against Krekar have largely been based on false accusations." The emergence of the Islamic State group provided Rawti Shax with a training ground, and at least six people were recruited to fight in Iraq and Syria, Italian officials told a news conference. At least two died in the region.

Police said Rawti Shax created a virtual university online to radicalize potential recruits, and a secret committee discussed attacks against Norwegian diplomats and lawmakers to negotiate Ahmad's freedom. Norwegian officials, however, said there were no specific threats against Norwegians. Ahmad was sentenced last month to 18 months in jail in Norway for praising the slaying of cartoonists at the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which had lampooned Islam and other religions. He was also found guilty of urging others to kill a Kurdish immigrant in Norway.

Death threats

Earlier this year, Ahmad was freed after nearly three years' imprisonment for making death threats. The 59-year-old Kurd, who came to Norway as a refugee in 1991, was convicted in 2005 for a similar offense.

Norway and the United States have accused Ahmad of financing Ansar Al-Islam. "If this means that Krekar leaves Norway, that's fine," said Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, speaking from Valetta, Malta, where she was taking part in a European Union summit on the migrant crisis. The Norwegian suspects

face a court hearing today in Oslo pending a possible deportation to Italy, said a spokeswoman for Norway's security service PST, Siv Alsen. "We will facilitate so such an extradition is done as fast as possible," said Norwegian Justice Minister Anders Anundsen. —AP

23 DEAD, OVER 105 HURT IN TWIN BEIRUT SUICIDE BLASTS

BEIRUT: At least 23 people killed and more than 105 wounded after twin suicide bombings rocked a stronghold of Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah movement in south Beirut, officials said.

Police said two men on foot set off suicide vests in front of a shopping centre in Burj al-Barajneh, in the southern suburbs of the capital, where the movement is popular. "The toll has risen has risen to 23 dead, there are hundreds wounded and this will not be the final toll," a Red Cross official told AFP.

The explosions happened around 6:00 pm (1600 GMT), witnesses said. An AFP photographer saw extensive damage to buildings around the site of the blast and bodies inside some of the nearby shops.

There was blood on the streets, and security forces were trying to cordon off the scene and keep people from gathering. The blast is the first to target Beirut's southern suburbs since June 2014, when a suicide car bomb killed a security officer who had tried to stop the bomber.

But prior to that, a string of attacks targeted Hezbollah strongholds throughout the country. Between July 2013 and February 2014, there were nine attacks on Hezbollah bastions, most claimed by Sunni extremists. The groups claimed the attacks were in revenge for Hezbollah's decision to send thousands of fighters into neighbouring Syria to support President Bashar al-Assad's forces against a Sunni-dominated uprising. —AFP

KURDISH FORCES LAUNCH BATTLE TO RETAKE IRAQ'S SINJAR TOWN

7,500 KURDISH AND YAZIDI FIGHTERS BACKED BY COALITION

NEAR SINJAR TOWN: Kurdish peshmerga forces have started clearing parts of the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar and have established positions along an Islamic State supply route between its two main strongholds in Iraq and Syria, the coalition said yesterday. Backed by US-led coalition air strikes, the Kurds launched an offensive in the early morning designed to cordon off Sinjar, take control of strategic routes and establish a buffer zone to protect the town from artillery.

A victory in Sinjar could give the Kurds, government forces and Shi'ite militias momentum in efforts to defeat Islamic State, which controls large areas of Iraq and Syria and has affiliates in Libya and Egypt.

So far the Kurds have captured three villages and penetrated parts of Highway 47, a supply route between Raqqa in Syria and the Iraqi city of Mosul, both of them Islamic State bastions.

"The ground assault began in the early morning hours of Nov. 12, when peshmerga units successfully established blocking positions along Highway 47 and began clearing Sinjar," said the coalition in a statement. "The peshmerga will continue operations to re-establish government control over key portions of the areas." Islamic State, a hardline Sunni group suspected by Western intelligence officials of playing a role in the crash of a Russian passenger plane in Egypt two weeks ago, overran Sinjar more than a year ago.

Islamic State's killing and enslaving of thousands of the northern town's Yazidi residents focused international attention on the group's violent campaign to impose its radical ideology and prompted Washington to launch its air offensive. There were no indications of direct American involvement on the ground in "Operation Free Sinjar". Iran, which has military advisors in Iraq to support the government, did not appear to have a hand in combat.

Control facilities destroyed

Islamic State uses Highway 47 to transport weapons, fighters and illicit commodities to fund its operations, said the coalition, which conducted more than 250 air strikes in the past month across northern Iraq.

"Strikes destroyed Daesh fighting positions, command and control facilities, weapon storage facilities, improvised explosive device factories, and staging areas," said the coalition, referring to Islamic State.

Russia's recent interventions—air strikes against opponents of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria and intelligence sharing with Baghdad—have raised concerns in Washington that its former Cold War foe is gaining influence in the Middle East.

US-led coalition air strikes pounded Islamic State-held areas in the town overnight, as around 7,500 Kurdish special forces, peshmerga and Yazidi fighters descended from the Sinjar mountain towards the front line in a military convoy.

"This operation will degrade Daesh resupply efforts, disrupt funding to the terrorist group's operations, stem the flow of Daesh fighters into Iraq, and further isolate Mosul from Raqqa," said the coalition.

"Coalition air strikes will continue to target Daesh leaders, revenue sources, supply routes, command facilities, and weapons caches to dismantle their operations in Iraq and Syria."

The Kurdish security council said Kurdish forces had captured a village to the west of Sinjar and two others on the eastern outskirts. Reuters could not independently confirm this. Spirits were high among Kurdish commanders and local officials near the front line. "It is going according to plan. We are optimistic and we consider today like a celebration," said Sinjar district mayor Mahma Xelil. Kurdish forces and the US military said the number of Islamic State fighters in the town had increased to nearly 600 after reinforcements arrived in the run-up to the offensive, which has been expected for weeks but delayed by the weather and friction between various Kurdish and Yazidi forces in Sinjar.

The offensive is being personally overseen by



SINJAR: Iraqi Kurdish forces take part in an operation backed by US-led strikes in the northern Iraqi town of Sinjar yesterday, to retake the town from the Islamic State group and cut a key supply line to Syria. The autonomous Kurdish region's security council said up to 7,500 Kurdish fighters would take part in the operation, which aims to retake Sinjar "and establish a significant buffer zone to protect the (town) and its inhabitants from incoming artillery." — AFP

Kurdistan regional president Massoud Barzani, who is also head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which other groups in the area accuse of seeking to monopolise power. Many Yazidis lost faith in the KDP when its forces failed to protect them from Islamic State militants, who consider them devil worshippers, when the group attacked Sinjar in August 2014, systematically slaughtering, enslaving and raping thousands of Yazidis.

A Syrian affiliate of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) came to the rescue, evacuating thousands of Yazidis stranded on Sinjar mountain and establishing a permanent base there.

Near the front lines on Thursday, a Kurdish officer stood behind a wall of sandbags. Sinjar, about 300 metres (1,000 feet) away, could be seen through a gap in a rampart.

Kurdish officers said an Islamic State sniper had taken up position in the town. Coordinates were passed to a joint operations room and within five

minutes the position was bombed.

Islamic State militants could be heard communicating in Arabic and Turkmen in intercepted walkie-talkie chatter. "Where are you," asked one. "Praise be to God," said another. One fighter noted that a car used by his comrades had been destroyed. Loqman Ibrahim, head of the eight battalion, made up of Yazidis and under peshmerga command, said he heard militants urging each other to fight to the death and that an order was given not to withdraw.

Most Yazidis have been displaced to camps in the Kurdistan region; several thousand remain in Islamic State captivity.

Land and honour

The PKK has trained a Yazidi militia in Sinjar, while tribal groups operate independently. Several thousand Yazidis have also joined the peshmerga. For Yazidi forces taking part, the battle is very much about retribution. Hussein Derbo, the head of a pesh-

merga battalion made up of 440 Yazidis, said the men under his command could have migrated to Europe but chose to stay and fight.

"It is our land and our honour. They (Islamic State) stole our dignity. We want to get it back," he told Reuters in a village on the northern outskirts of Sinjar town. Derbo's brother, Farman, echoed the sentiment, saying he hoped the militants would not retreat so the Yazidis could kill them all.

The forces, many wearing the thick moustache typical of Yazidis and carrying light weapons, had gathered at a staging position overnight. They travelled in a peshmerga convoy comprised of Humvees on flatbed trucks, heavy artillery, and fighters waving Kurdish flags, flashing peace signs and brandishing their rifles. Hundreds of vehicles wound slowly downhill along the same road Yazidis had fled up last summer seeking safety from Islamic State. Abandoned cars and blood-stained clothing on the roadside were reminders of those chaotic scenes. — Reuters

DUBAI POLICE DENY LINKS TO UAE NATIONAL HELD IN LIBYA

DUBAI: An Emirati arrested in Tripoli on suspicion of spying on Libyan authorities in charge of the capital was an ex-sergeant dismissed by Dubai police five years ago, the force said on Twitter. The unnamed suspect was arrested on November 5 and is being questioned, Siddick al-Sour, the head of the prosecutor general's office in Tripoli told AFP.

He said the United Arab Emirates national is connected to the police in Dubai and was on his third visit to Libya since 2012. "He claims to be a businessman and to have no ties to the Dubai police but intelligence agents found pictures on his phone of sensitive locations in Tripoli, including a video of the Turkish embassy," said Sour.

Dubai police chief Khamis al-Muzainah said in a late Wednesday statement on his force's official Twitter account that the allegations were "false and far away from truth."

"The arrested suspect's relation with the police had ended five years ago (in 2010) when he was dismissed from military service for his involvement in a moral case," said Muzainah.

Libya has had two administrations since August 2014, when an Islamist-backed militia alliance overran Tripoli, forcing the internationally recognised government to take refuge in Tobruk, in the far east of the country. The oil-rich north African country descended into chaos after the fall of Moamer Kadhafi in its 2011 revolution.

Authorities in Tripoli accuse the UAE of supporting the internationally recognised government and have accused the UN's outgoing Libya envoy of a conflict of interest for accepting a high-paid job in Abu Dhabi while mediating peace talks. Bernardino Leon denied that his appointment at the government-funded Emirates Diplomatic Academy had compromised his neutrality, although he told journalists last week that "maybe I could have done things in a different way". UAE warplanes secretly bombed Islamist militia targets in Libya from bases in Egypt late last year, US officials say even though Abu Dhabi has not publicly acknowledged involvement. Egypt denied any "direct" role in the raids. — AFP

UNDERCOVER ISRAELI TROOPS RAID HOSPITAL, KILL PALESTINIAN

HEBRON: Israeli undercover forces raided a hospital in the West Bank yesterday, shooting dead a Palestinian during an attempt to detain another man suspected of carrying out a stabbing, the Palestinian health ministry and doctors said.

The Israeli army confirmed the raid and shooting but did not have details of the man's condition. It said the raid was carried out to detain Azzam al-Shalalda, 27, who was suspected of stabbing an Israeli settler two weeks ago in the West Bank.

The director of Hebron's al-Ahly hospital, Jihad Shawar, told Palestine radio 20-30 men arrived at the clinic in two mini vans at around three o'clock in the morning. They entered with someone in a wheelchair pretending to be pregnant.

CCTV footage from inside the hospital showed a large group of men armed with pistols and rifles, some with beards and others with keffiyeh scarves on their heads, walking through the corridors telling hospital workers to get out of the way. "They held the staff at gunpoint and stormed the room of Shalalda,"

Shawar said. Shalalda's brother Bilal, who was asleep in the room, said he was tied to the bed by the Israeli forces. A cousin, Abdallah, who was in the bathroom, was shot dead when he suddenly entered the room, Shawar said.

"As his cousin exited the bathroom, which was inside the room, they fired five bullets, one bullet in the head, one in the chest and three in his body," Shawar told the radio station. "They took Azzam and placed him in the wheelchair they brought the woman in and they exited the room preventing anyone from giving medical aid to the young man lying on the floor." Palestinian Health Minister Jawad Awad accused Israeli security forces of "executing" Abdallah al-Shalalda, who he said was escorting a relative inside the hospital. "The international community must intervene to protect our people from the Israeli killing machine," he said.

No refuge

Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency issued a statement afterwards saying it "will not permit terror operatives to hide in any



WEST BANK: Palestinians mourn for 27-year-old Abdallah Shalalbeh, in the West Bank village of Sa'ir, near Hebron, yesterday. —AP

places of refuge". Bilal al-Shalalda told Reuters TV: "As soon they entered the room they tied me to the bed. (My cousin) was inside the bathroom and wanted to wash for prayer. As he was exiting the bathroom, one of the undercover men shouted at him to stop and they opened fire.

"He remained on the ground bleeding and they hit my brother on his head and took him away." The army said Azzam Shalalda carried out a stabbing in Gush Etzion in the West Bank last month. After stabbing an Israeli settler, he was shot by his victim but managed to escape. —Reuters

SWEDEN IMPOSES TEMPORARY BORDER CONTROLS IN MIGRATION CRISIS

CONTROLS TO RUN FOR 10 DAYS, WITH POSSIBLE 20-DAY RENEWALS

STOCKHOLM: Sweden will impose temporary border controls from today in response to a record influx of refugees, a turnaround for a country known for its open-door policies that also threw down the gauntlet to other EU nations hit by a migration crisis.

The decision by a Nordic state that touts itself as a "humanitarian superpower" underscored how the flow of refugees into the European Union is straining its prized system of open internal borders close to breaking point. Germany warned it could start sending Syrian refugees back to other EU states from which they came, prompting Hungary to

record from the early 1990s. "Our signal to the rest of the EU is crystal clear - Sweden is the country that has shouldered the greatest responsibility for the refugee crisis," Interior Minister Anders Ygeman told a news conference hastily called by the centre-left government.

"If we are to cope with this mutual challenge, the other countries must take their responsibility."

Sweden's border controls will primarily extend to the bridge across the Oresund strait separating Sweden and Denmark and ferry ports in the region. They will be imposed from

After African delegations depart on Thursday, EU leaders will hold an emergency summit of their own to review slow progress in implementing steps meant to control the flow of refugees entering the EU via Greece, and negotiations with Turkey to get its help in slowing departures of Syrian refugees.

In Berlin, Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble described Germany's refugee crisis as being like an avalanche. Chancellor Angela Merkel has come under fierce pressure since offering shelter to close to a million asylum-seekers this year.

"Avalanches can be caused if a careless skier ... sets some snow on the move," Schaeuble told an event on European integration held in Berlin. "Whether we are at the stage where the avalanche has already reached the valley below, or whether we are at the stage at the top of the slope, I don't know."

Tents for refugees

Sweden's government had warned last week that it could no longer guarantee finding accommodation for newly-arrived refugees. The minority government has faced pressure also from the centre-right opposition and far-right, anti-immigrant Sweden Democrats - who are rising in polls - to tighten up on refugees.

The Swedish Migration Agency already plans to shelter thousands of refugees in heated tents due to a housing shortage, while some people may be accommodated in venues such as ski resorts and a theme park.

Some 10,000 refugees arrived last week, and 2,000 in one day both records for Sweden. Compounding concerns, there have been more than a dozen suspected arson attacks on buildings earmarked for refugees in the last few months.

"The fact the we can see that hundreds of people now can't be provided with a roof over their heads by the Migration Agency and are forced to sleep outdoors or in railway stations, that risks creating threats to order and security," Ygeman said. —Reuters



STOCKHOLM: Sweden's Interior Minister Anders Ygeman, right, and Mikael Hvinlund, Swedish Migration Board announcing Wednesday in Stockholm, that the government will impose temporary border controls as the Nordic country struggles to receive tens of thousands of refugees. —AP

insist it would take none, while Sweden's neighbour Denmark said it was tightening immigration rules and Slovenia began to emulate Budapest in erecting new border fences.

Sweden has welcomed more asylum-seeking refugees and migrants per capita than any other EU country and authorities forecast that up to 190,000 asylum seekers could arrive this year, double the previous

Thursday for a period of 10 days and could be extended by 20-day periods.

The government acted on the same day as EU leaders, at a summit in Malta with African counterparts, offered them aid and better access to Europe for African business and other travellers in return for help in curbing chaotic bouts of migration across the Mediterranean from Africa and promises to take back migrants expelled by EU states.

ROUHANI SAYS US-IRAN TIES COULD BE RESTORED

ROME: The nuclear deal reached between world powers and Iran could lead to better relations between Tehran and Washington if the United States apologised for past behaviour, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was quoted as saying yesterday.

The pragmatist president, who championed the July 14 deal, has pushed for closer engagement with the West since his 2013 landslide election win.

But Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has continued to rule out normalising ties with the "Great Satan", as he routinely calls the United States. In an interview with Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper, Rouhani suggested that the United States and Iran could open embassies in each other's capitals after decades of mutual hostility, but said Washington should apologise, without going into further detail.

"One day these embassies will re-open but what counts is behaviour and the Americans hold the key to this," Rouhani told the newspaper ahead of a trip to Italy this weekend, his first to a European capital.

"If they modify their policies, correct errors committed in these 37 years and apologise to the Iranian people, the situation will change and good things can happen." Iran and Washington severed ties shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution when radical students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans hostage for over a year. Relations came under further pressure in the last decade over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Under the nuclear deal reached in July, Iran will curb its nuclear programme in exchange for an easing of sanctions on its economy. Tehran denied Western suspicions it wanted to develop an atomic bomb.

Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, gave his conditional approval to the deal with six world powers including the United States, but has warned against allowing any U.S. political or economic influence on Iran. Rouhani said Washington would have to fulfil its part in the nuclear accord for relations to improve. The United States approved conditional sanctions waivers for Iran, though these will not take effect until Tehran has complied with the nuclear accord.

"The way this agreement is applied can have an impact on the future," Rouhani said in the interview. "If it is well applied it can lay the foundation for fewer tensions with the United States, creating the conditions to open a new era. But if the Americans don't respect their part of the nuclear accord, then surely our relationship will remain as it has been in the past," he said. —Reuters

EU LAUNCHES \$2BN FUND FOR AFRICA TO COMBAT MIGRATION

AFRICANS AGREE TO HELP, BUT SCEPTICAL OF DEPORTATION PLANS

VALLETTA: The European Union launched a fund for Africa yesterday with an initial \$2 billion to combat the poverty and conflict driving migration to Europe, but African leaders said more fundamental economic change was needed.

The trust fund, unveiled at a summit with African leaders in Malta, consists largely of 1.8 billion euros (\$1.93 billion) put up by the European Commission, the EU executive, from the bloc's central budget. The Commission wants member states to match that, but few have pledged much so far. The new money, which adds to some 20 billion euros annually donated to Africa by the EU and its 28 states, will finance projects ranging from training and small-business grants to schemes directly aimed at cutting emigration and tackling radicalisation and other violence. With Europeans' attention now gripped by over half a million Syrians and others whose arrival has plunged the EU into crisis, memories have faded of the drowned Africans whose deaths in April prompted the Malta summit. However, EU officials say that African migration presents the greater long-term concern. German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed the summit was only a start: "We have a great deal of work ahead of us," she said.

Among the biggest concerns in both Europe and Africa is the extent to which climate change, turning vast areas around the Sahara into desert, may set large sections of Africa's fast-growing billion-plus population on the move, both within the continent and north across the Mediterranean. Initial direct pledges from the member states, who also fund the EU budget, amount to just 78 million euros, but EU officials expect further money

soon. African leaders at the summit in Valletta stressed that its effect would be limited. "The trust fund is not enough, 1.8 billion euros is far from enough," said Mahamadou Issoufou, the president of Niger in the Sahel, which faces serious

problems with migration and drought. "What we want is not just official development assistance in this form but reform of global governance. World trade must be fair. There must be more investment in Africa. Official development assistance is

good but it's not sufficient." Senegalese President Macky Sall accused multinational firms of tax avoidance and conniving at corrupt transfers of Africa's resources costing countries many times what they receive in aid.

Europe expels.

A 17-page Action Plan sets out dozens of initiatives. Many build on decades of stuttering cooperation between the world's poorest continent and wealthy-but-ageing Europe. Some are newer, including a European pledge to reduce costs for sending money home from Europe to Africa—a nod to African governments' concerns that curbing migration could crimp remittances from expatriate citizens.

These are estimated to bring twice as much to Africa's economy as foreign aid donations, showing the limits of Europe's bargaining power in pressing African leaders to hold back emigrants.

EU officials also highlighted renewed offers to ease visas and other access for business travellers and students from countries that agree to take back citizens whom EU states want to expel as illegal aliens. African leaders and many experts question the feasibility of such "returns" programmes. Following the meeting with the Africans, EU leaders will meet among themselves on Thursday, and hear an update on the Commission's negotiations with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan to find ways to discourage Syrian refugees from leaving Turkey for the EU.

Officials and diplomats said that EU leaders were likely to agree to a request from Erdogan for an EU-Turkey summit, if such a deal can be concluded, possibly in the coming weeks.

Last week, the European Commission said it expected some 3 million asylum seekers to arrive in the EU by 2017 and that, if they were integrated into the workforce, they would boost the EU's economic output and even improve public finances in the longer term. —Reuters



LESBOS: A girl embraces her sibling as refugees and migrants reach the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey yesterday. EU leaders attending a summit with their African counterparts approved a 1.8-billion-euro trust fund for Africa aimed at tackling the root causes of mass migration to Europe. —AFP

Attention on Turkey

On Wednesday, EU leaders offered African countries aid and better access to Europe in return for help curbing chaotic migration and promises to take back more of those whom

Winter Offers

Panasonic
SC-CMAX5GS-K

Output Power
11000W

- 25cm Super Woofer
- Bluetooth
- Double USB
- DJ JukeBox
- Multi Color Illumination

107 Price
دك
KD .000

ORCA
RXA15P799UBRW
Trolley Speaker

Bluetooth

Output Power
220W (PMPO)

- 15" Professional Speaker
- FM Radio
- 2 x Wireless Mic.

69 Price
دك
KD .900

ORCA
BGA777
Trolley Speaker

Bluetooth

Output Power
50W (PMPO)

- 10" Woofer
- iPAD/iPOD Docking

45 Price
دك
KD .900

best
اليوسفى
AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

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

1809 809

MISSOURI POLICE ARREST MAN AFTER THREAT TO SHOOT STUDENTS

COLUMBIA: Police arrested a 19-year-old white man on Wednesday on suspicion of making threats on social media to shoot black people at the University of Missouri's main Columbia campus, two days after the school's president and chancellor stepped down amid protests over their handling of reports of racial abuse. Tension was still high on the campus, where there was a greater-than-usual police presence. Several students leaving the area said they felt unsafe.

Police arrested Hunter M. Park in Rolla, Missouri, which is about 95 miles (150 km) south of Columbia, at about 1:50 a.m. local time (0750 GMT). Park is a sophomore at Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T) in Rolla, which is part of the University of Missouri System, according to a spokeswoman at the Rolla campus. He is studying computer science.

Police said the suspect's threats had circulated on social media, including Yik Yak, where an anonymous post tagged 'Columbia' late on Tuesday read, "I'm going to stand my ground tomorrow and shoot every black person I see." "Some of you are alright. Don't go to campus tomorrow," another post read. "We're waiting for you at the parking lots," read a third post. "We will kill you." Yik Yak is an anonymous social media app that allows

users to create and view posts within a five-mile radius. Yik Yak spokeswoman Hilary McQuaide said the company worked with police to identify Park, saying it may do so when a post poses a risk of imminent harm.

"Threats of violence of any kind are not tolerated," said Cheryl Schrader, Chancellor of S&T, in a statement on Wednesday. "We will take every threat seriously and act on them appropriately to protect our campus community," Schrader added. The school had not taken any action against Park as of Wednesday afternoon. Park is from the St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis, Missouri, according to jail records. His parents could not be reached to comment. He was arrested at an S&T residence hall by university police under Missouri law which prohibits communication of a life-endangering threat to at least 10 people. He was transported to Columbia and is being held at the Boone County Jail on \$4,500 bond.

No jail record

Park's initial arraignment at the Boone County Courthouse is set for Thursday afternoon, according to a spokesman for the jail. No attorney was listed for Park in the jail records. On Twitter on Wednesday, the hashtags #PrayForMizzou and #BlackOnCampus

were trending in the United States, and many postings highlighted the anonymous threat on Yik Yak. 'Mizzou' is the colloquial name for the University of Missouri. Despite the police presence on campus, a few students decided to go home because they felt unsafe, students told Reuters. One described the campus as a "ghost town" with buildings closing early and normally crowded tables outside restaurants near campus being empty.

University authorities said classes were operating on schedule. However, some professors, acting individually, canceled classes. Other teachers gave students the option of not attending classes.

Bradley Smith, a graduate instructor of English, took to Facebook on Tuesday night to cancel his class. "By holding class at our regular time, I would be forcing my students who do and probably should feel threatened, to implicitly disobey me in order to protect their lives by not attending my class," he wrote.

Peaceful marches

Some students expressed frustration and anger at the school for not officially canceling classes on Wednesday and downplaying the threat, students told Reuters. On other US campuses, peaceful marches or walkouts

have taken place this week, over what some demonstrators see as soft handling of reports of racial abuse on campuses. Soon after Missouri president Tim Wolfe 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. A walkout organized by a student group called People of Color at Ithaca College, a private school in upstate New York, took place on Wednesday afternoon, attracting hundreds of demonstrators demanding the resignation of Ithaca president Tom Rochon. Rochon, like Missouri's Wolfe, has come under pressure for perceived soft handling of racial incidents on campus. Students responded to chants of the school president's name by yelling "No Confidence!" They then performed a brief "die-in," laying down on the rain-soaked ground before marching down the center of campus. — Reuters



NEW YORK: In this Friday, Sept 4, 2015, file photo, people walk past a homeless man asking for money on 14th Street in New York. One app dots a map with users' images of homelessness in New York City. The apps, sites and social media accounts have spiraled out of a season of anxiety and frustration about rising homelessness in the nation's biggest city. — AP

NY TRACK HOMELESSNESS ON SOCIAL MEDIA, SPUR DEBATE

NEW YORK: On an app, pins on a New York City map keep track of sightings of homelessness, accompanied by photos of people lying on sidewalks, slumped in doorways, sitting on curbs with shopping carts piled high with bags. Hashtags frame the scenes: "NeedsMedicalAid," "Encampment," "AggressiveBegging," "Violent."

On a similar Facebook page, residents of a Manhattan neighborhood share pictures and complaints about people living on the streets, some half-naked. A website created by a police union posts pictures of the homeless and vows, "We are watching you!" In the nation's biggest city, advocates for the homeless see such efforts as more harassment than help. Dave Giffen, the executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless, calls the initiatives "unethical and inhumane."

But organizers say they are illustrating a pressing social problem. "People thought I was picking on the homeless," says Ed Mullins, who heads the police sergeants' union that maintains Peek-a-booNYC. "My question is, 'Well, what can you do better?'"

New York has the biggest homeless population of any US city, according to federal statistics. As of Tuesday, there were over 57,700 homeless people in shelters, a 13 percent increase from the same night two years ago.

The city's street-homelessness census in February found nearly 3,200 people, down 5 percent in a year. But advocates question the count's accuracy. —AP

NEPHEWS OF VENEZUELAN FIRST LADY ARRAIGNED IN US COURT

MADURO MAY POSTPONE ELECTIONS

CARACAS: Two nephews of Venezuela's powerful first lady were arraigned in New York after being arrested in Haiti on charges of conspiring to smuggle 800 kilograms of cocaine into the US, people familiar with the case said.

The arrest of Efrain Campos and Francisco Flores is likely to exacerbate already tense relations between the US and Venezuela and cast a hard look at US accusations of drug trafficking at the highest levels of President Nicolas Maduro's socialist administration. The case also comes just three weeks before key legislative elections that opinion polls have suggested could hand the ruling party its worst defeat in 16 years as Venezuela's struggles with triple-digit inflation and widespread shortages of basic goods.

"The timing is hardly ideal," Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue think tank, said in an email after the arrests were revealed Wednesday. "The arrests could give Maduro the excuse he was hoping for to declare a state of emergency and postpone the elections. He will blame the arrests on US imperialism and see them as an attempt to undermine his government."

Top government officials did not directly respond to the arrests of first lady Cilia Flores' nephews, but Maduro did seem to obliquely refer to the case in a Twitter post late Wednesday night, in which he condemned attempts at imperialist meddling. "The homeland will continue its course. Neither attacks nor imperialist ambushes can harm the Liberator's people," he wrote, alluding to South American liberator Simon Bolivar, who is an icon of Maduro's movement.

Venezuela's Communications Ministry and Foreign Ministry declined to comment about the reported arrests, saying they had no information.



CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and first lady Cilia Flores walk during a ceremony within commemorations for Chavez's death first anniversary, at the Cuartel de la Montana in Caracas on March 5, 2014. Two nephews of Cilia Flores were arrested on Wednesday in Haiti and handed over to the US DEA as they allegedly attempted to introduce 800 kg of cocaine in the United States. — AFP

Diplomatic passports

Campos and Flores were arrested Tuesday, flown to the United States and arraigned yesterday in a federal court in New York, said a US law enforcement official who insisted on anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the case.

The men were arrested in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, after arriving from Venezuela aboard a private plane, said Michael Vigil, a former head of international operations at the Drug Enforcement Administration who was briefed by US authorities about the lengthy undercover operation. Both men were carrying diplo-

matic passports even though they don't have diplomatic immunity, he said.

Vigil also said Campos had claimed to law enforcement that he is the son of Flores and stepson of Maduro. Another person briefed on the incident, who agreed to talk about the case only if not quoted by name, said Campos is the son of a deceased sister of Flores and was partly raised by the first lady and Maduro. Flores, who Maduro calls the "First Combatant," is one of the most influential members of Venezuela's revolutionary government and a constant presence alongside her husband whenever he appears in public. —AP

BOY, 8, BEAT BABY TO DEATH TO STOP HER CRYING: US POLICE

MIAMI: An eight-year-old boy beat a baby girl to death to stop her crying while her mother was out partying at a nightclub, US police said Wednesday, charging him with murder. The boy was one of several children left alone for hours in a Birmingham, Alabama home last month, in what experts said was a rare case of a child so young being prosecuted.

"Since becoming a police officer over 22 years ago, this is by far one of the saddest cases I have witnessed in my career," Birmingham police spokesman Lieutenant Sean Edwards told AFP. The incident happened at the home of a friend of the baby's mother, whom police have identified as 26-year-old Kattera Lewis. She has been charged with manslaughter over what Edwards called "reckless" actions.

Police said Lewis left her one-year-old, Kelci, together with several children aged

two to eight, while she and her friend went out clubbing. The children-six in total, according to local media-were left unsupervised while Lewis and the friend were gone from roughly 11:00 pm until 2:00 am.

"It is believed that while the mother and friend were at the club, the eight-year-old viciously attacked the one-year-old because the one-year-old would not stop crying," police said in a statement. "The one-year-old suffered from severe head trauma as well as major internal organ damage which ultimately led to her death." The mother told police on the morning of October 11, a Sunday, that she found the baby unresponsive in her crib.

The girl was treated at the scene by first responders and was later pronounced dead at a children's hospital. "This type of behavior, this type of irresponsibility on behalf of a parent is totally unacceptable," Edwards

said of Lewis. "No education, no school, no degree, no training can really prepare you for an eight-year-old committing a heinous crime like this." The mother was released on \$15,000 bail. The Department of Human Resources said it had no prior complaints concerning Lewis or her daughter. The DHR is holding the boy and won't release his name.

'Very, very unusual'

The age at which minors can be held criminally accountable varies from state to state in the US, but Alabama has no set minimum age for prosecution in juvenile court.

"It is very, very unusual for somebody as young as eight to be prosecuted," Tobie Smith, a lawyer who specializes in the defense of minors in Alabama, told AFP.

The boy will be tried in juvenile court

and risks being sentenced to juvenile prison until up to age 21 if found guilty, Smith said. However, prosecutors must demonstrate that the boy is competent to stand trial and participate in his own defense, Smith said. "That requires a level of intellectual development and coordinative functioning that is less and less common the younger you go." Prosecutors could also technically file for the boy to be tried as an adult under Alabama law, although it is extremely unlikely that they would do so. "I would be stunned and shocked and appalled if they did and I also cannot imagine that the judge would transfer him to an adult court if they asked," said Smith.

Last month, an 11-year-old boy from Tennessee was charged with first degree murder after he shot and killed his eight-year-old neighbor following an argument over a puppy. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Servers wait to start bringing in breakfast at Politics and Eggs in Manchester, NH, Wednesday. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke at the event which was hosted by New England Council and NH Institute of Politics. — AP

IMMIGRATION DIVIDES WHITE HOUSE HOPEFULS

'WE NEED BORDERS, WE WILL HAVE A WALL'

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump wants to expel undocumented US residents, Jeb Bush is for legalizing them. Immigration is dividing Republican White House hopefuls and embarrassing a party eager to appear strong-yet welcoming to Hispanic voters. Since 2012, the issue has dogged the Republican Party, which is staunchly opposed to President Barack Obama's executive orders shielding millions of immigrants from deportation.

The party's conservative wing torpedoed an ambitious reform plan in Congress the following year, and the divide between moderate and conservative currents of the Grand Old Party has simmered on the back burner. Until Tuesday, when the issue of immigration reared up in the fourth Republican primary debate.

On one side, billionaire Trump hammered home his plan to build a wall along the US border with Mexico-a pledge repeated like a slogan on the campaign trail. "We need borders. We will have a wall," he said. Not everyone on stage was on board.

"Think about the families, think about the children," said Ohio Governor John Kasich, who with former Florida governor Jeb Bush represent the opposing camp within the party.

"We all know you can't pick them up and ship them across, back across the border. It's a silly argument." "It would send a signal that we're not the kind of country that I know America is," added Bush, who backs allowing undocumented residents "to earn legal status" over time. His positioning reflects his values and personal history-he is married to a woman from Mexico and speaks Spanish-but it has as much to do with electoral politics.

"They're doing high-fives in the Clinton campaign right now when they hear this" insistence on deporting millions, he warned. "We have to win the presidency. And the way you win the presidency is to have practical plans." Senator Ted Cruz of Texas painted a different picture of the excitement within Hillary Clinton's campaign. "The Democrats are laughing, because if Republicans join Democrats as the party of amnesty, we will

lose," said Cruz, a hero of the conservative Tea Party movement.

Cruz's argument plays well in the primary race, in which core conservatives have an outsized role in the voting process. He believes Republicans lost the 2012 election because their candidate, Mitt Romney, was too moderate, and that only an uncompromising conservative opposed to legalizing the undocumented can win in 2016.

The Trump effect

Party leaders reached the opposite conclusion after the Republican defeat three years ago, when Romney's assurance that the 11 million people living in the shadows could "self-deport" was widely ridiculed. "We need to campaign among Hispanic, black, Asian, and gay Americans and demonstrate we care about them, too," the party concluded in a self-critical post-mortem. Obama won 80 percent of black, Hispanic and Asian votes, groups that combined will represent over half the population by 2050. — AFP

PENTAGON TO UNVEIL GUANTANAMO CLOSURE PLAN

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon is poised to release a much-anticipated report on shutting down Guantanamo Bay, even as Congress battles to block the transfer of the military prison inmates from Cuba to US soil.

Officials have said the report on US prison sites that could house the last Guantanamo detainees-enabling President Barack Obama to fulfil a key election pledge-would be published in the coming days. Its findings are sure to fuel debate on the fate of dozens of longtime captives from America's "War on Terror" who may well spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

Obama has been pushing since taking office in 2009 for the closure of the facility on a US Naval base in Cuba, but lawmakers have repeatedly thwarted him. On Tuesday, Congress extended a ban on the transfer of detainees to the United States. The ban was inserted into a defense spending bill. Obama indicated he won't veto the bill, as he has with previous versions, raising the prospect he may issue an executive order to get the job done. Currently, 112 inmates remain at Guantanamo Bay, which has housed about 780 detainees since the start of 2002.

The Pentagon this year sent a team of experts to review US sites that could house dozens of the most dangerous detainees following the closure of the prison. US sites considered include the Consolidated Naval Brig in Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, and a federal prison complex in Colorado that is already home to Egypt's Ramzi Yousef, who bombed the World Trade Center in 1993, and "Unabomber" serial murderer Ted Kaczynski. The Colorado prison comprises medium, maximum and supermax facilities. The Pentagon also considered a state prison in Colorado's Canon City.



WASHINGTON: in this Nov. 5, 2015, photo, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., speaks about the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Political fears

Lawmakers from areas that could host the so-called "Guantanamo North" are incensed. "I will not sit idly by while the president uses political promises as a means to imperil the people of Colorado," Republican Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado wrote on Facebook. "Despite the president's campaign promise to close the prison facility at Guantanamo Bay, the American people continue to roundly oppose such a plan." "The United States opened Guantanamo to hold terror suspects following the September 11, 2001 attacks, and photos of shackled men in orange jumpsuits became a defining image of US foreign policy in the early 2000s. Inmates were called "enemy combatants" and denied standard US legal rights, meaning many were held for years without charge or trial. The Guantanamo population has dwindled, and prisoners no longer deemed a risk have either been repatriated or sent to a host country. Of the remaining 112 inmates, 53 have been cleared for transfer to other countries, though Defense Secretary Ashton Carter must give final approval for their release. — AFP

'SEXIST' SANDWICH SHOP SERVED HUMBLE PIE IN PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: With a tagline suggesting "if she won't make you a sandwich we will" and menu items named after unsavory celebrities, one cafe in Pakistan's capital Islamabad thought it had the perfect ingredients for clientele with an appetite for sexist humor. Instead, Table No 5 restaurant was forced to eat its words yesterday after a roasting on social media and a visit by city officials—a small victory for feminism in this conservative Muslim country where women's rights activists are becoming increasingly vocal. The brouhaha began when the cafe, which opened last month, began uploading images to its Facebook account that were deemed "misogynist" by critics. Their tagline was followed up by a menu of sandwiches named after the likes of US singer Chris Brown, who was convicted of beating his former girlfriend Rihanna, and convicted rapist Mike Tyson. Other celebrities featured on the menu included Bill Cosby, who has been accused by dozens of women of committing sexual abuse.

One picture "defined" the word sandwich as "an edible form of happiness, usual-

ly served by women to men as a holy offering", and described it as being synonymous to "Men rights". But the jokes left a bad taste in some people's mouths. "Poor you, this reeks of insurmountable insecurity. I hope you boys find some love in your life and manage to grow up a little bit," said commenter Rabayl M Mirza on the restaurant's Facebook page. Some male users hit back. "Feminazis!" declared user Sajjad Ali. The fierce debate spilled over offline, with one female lawyer who asked to remain anonymous telling AFP that a heated discussion in her office had divided workers along gender lines.

The furor has also roiled city officials, who are investigating if the campaign was offensive. A visit to the venue in the city's outlying F-11 neighborhood revealed a chic establishment styled along the lines of a Parisian cafe with a price range that caters to city's well-off middle and upper classes. The owner, a woman named Nadia Ali, was out of Islamabad on business though her husband said she may comment on the issue later. The cafe issued an apology in its



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani customers prepare to leave the Table No 5 restaurant in Islamabad yesterday. With a tagline suggesting "if she won't make you a sandwich we will" and menu items named after unsavory celebrities, one cafe in Pakistan's capital Islamabad thought it had the perfect ingredients for clientele with an appetite for sexist humor. — AFP

latest Facebook post, adding: "So you've undoubtedly won this round and we've decided to change the names of all our sandwiches on an emergency basis!" — AFP



KUNDUZ, Afghanistan: In this Oct 16, 2015 file photo, the charred remains of the Doctors Without Borders hospital is seen after being hit by a US airstrike in Kunduz. — AP

US TROOPS COULDN'T SEE AFGHAN HOSPITAL DURING ATTACK

WASHINGTON: The US Special Forces soldiers who called in a devastating air strike on a hospital in northern Afghanistan could not see the target and ordered the attack at the request of their Afghan partners, The Associated Press has learned. Those details add to mounting indications that the US military struck a medical facility and killed at least 30 noncombatants without properly vetting information provided by its Afghan allies. Afghan military elements had long resented the Doctors without Borders hospital, which treated Afghan security forces and Taliban alike but says it refused to admit armed men.

Immediately after the strike, Afghanistan's national security adviser told a European diplomat that his country would take responsibility because "we are without doubt, 100 percent convinced the place was occupied by Taliban," according to notes of the meeting reviewed by The AP. More than a month later, no evidence has emerged to support that assertion. Eyewitnesses tell the AP they saw no gunman

at the hospital. The hour-long attack by an AC-130 gunship came after days of heavy fighting in Kunduz. About 35 members of the 3rd Special Forces Group had been helping about 100 Afghan special forces soldiers retake the city from the Taliban, a former US intelligence official said. From their position in the governor's compound, they came under heavy assault by waves of Taliban fighters, and sought to use air power to destroy the Taliban's remaining command centers around the city.

Medical facility

The Afghans insisted that the hospital had become one of those command centers, and urged it to be destroyed, the former official said. The US commander could not see the medical facility. Afghan officials say their forces were also a half mile away, so they were not in a position to know, either. Members of the special forces unit have told Rep. Duncan Hunter, a Republican who serves on the

Armed Services committee, that they were unaware their target was a functioning hospital until the attack was over, said Joe Kasper, Hunter's spokesman.

The strike raises questions about whether the US military can rely on intelligence from Afghan allies in a war in which a small contingent of Americans will increasingly fight with larger units of local forces. Also at issue is how American commanders allowed the strike to go forward despite reports in their databases that the hospital was functioning. Even if armed Taliban fighters had been hiding inside, the US acknowledges it would not have been justified in destroying a working hospital filled with wounded patients. President Barack Obama has apologized for the attack, one of the worst incidents of civilian casualties in the 14-year history of the US war effort. The Pentagon has said it was a mistake that resulted from both human and technical errors, and it is investigating, along with NATO and the Afghan government. — AP

MAOIST CULT FOLLOWERS 'BRAINWASHED, RAPED'

LONDON: A charismatic Maoist cult leader brainwashed and raped followers in his commune, and kept his own daughter imprisoned for 30 years, a London court heard yesterday. Aravindan Balakrishnan, 75, known as Comrade Bala, terrorized women in the commune over decades, Southwark Crown Court was told as his trial began. "This case concerns the brutal and calculated manipulation by one man to subjugate women under his control," prosecutor Rosina Cottage said. "In order to bend them to his will, he used mental and physical dominance and violence, sexual degradation."

"In relation to one... he controlled every sphere of her life to the extent that she was unable either emotionally or physically to leave his influence until she was 30 years old and ill with diabetes." Balakrishnan was at the heart of a south London communist group in the 1970s, jurors heard. The commune became the "cult of Bala" as his influence waned and his group dwindled to six women. "One was his wife Chandra, but she and the others had all been so dominated and brainwashed to the extent that they believed that he was all powerful and all-seeing," Cottage said. "Each woman lived a life of violence, fear, isolation and confinement."

Balakrishnan denies seven counts of indecent assault and four counts of rape against two women during the 1970s and 1980s. He also denies three counts of actual bodily harm, cruelty to a child under the age of 16 and false imprisonment. His alleged victims cannot be named for legal reasons. His daughter was beaten, bullied, banned from going to school or playing with friends. She barely left the house, jurors heard. Brought up as "collective property", she was terrified into subjugation, Cottage said. She had to "worship the defendant as God," the prosecutor said.

Balakrishnan convinced followers he controlled the Sun, Moon, wind and fires. They thought he had a mind control machine monitoring their thoughts. One woman was so paranoid she thought the Americans were controlling her because she bought a pair of Levi's trousers, "a marque so identified with American imperialism", jurors heard. The two women he sexually abused were "cowed into submission" and forced into "deliberately degrading and humiliating" sex acts, said Cottage. After raping one woman, he told her he was "purifying her", the prosecutor said. — AFP

ALARM OVER DELHI POLLUTION DOESN'T STOP DIWALI FIREWORKS

NEW DELHI: The fireworks have fizzled. The festival lights are coming down. What's left of the Hindu holiday of Diwali in the Indian capital - already considered the world's most polluted - is a toxic haze that has residents gagging for oxygen and hiding indoors. Air pollution levels across New Delhi yesterday, a day after the ancient festival of lights, were described as severe-to-critical, up to eight times higher than what India deems acceptable and 20 times what's recommended by the World Health Organization. Such pollution happens every year, as offices and businesses shut down for India's biggest gift-giving holiday and many gather outdoors to set off powerful rockets at all hours of the night.

A government health advisory this week warned people to avoid all outdoor physical activity, citing a serious risk of respiratory effects following prolonged expo-

sure to smoke-filled air. Indian tourist Basil Antonius, visiting from the northern city of Chandigarh, said he had trouble breathing Wednesday night as fireworks exploded overhead. "Diwali is a lovely festival of lights," Antonius said. "But the fireworks cause a little bit of pollution, which is adding to the pollution already in Delhi."

Restaurant worker Naresh Maggo, 29, said he still looked forward to bursting small fireworks with his children, but that the noise and air pollution made him think "we shouldn't overdo it." Public alarm over rising pollution has seized the capital in recent years, with newspapers carrying regular stories on levels of particulate matter called PM2.5 - small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and cause disease. Last year, WHO named the Indian capital as the world's most polluted, with 12 other Indian cities ranking



NEW DELHI, India: This picture shows a smoggy skyline after the festival yesterday. — AP photos



NEW DELHI, India: A family burns fire crackers outside their house in New Delhi.

among the world's most polluted 20. Another study in February estimated 660 million Indians, about half of the country's 1.25 billion population, were losing three years of their lives due to exposure to air pollution across the country.

Public Health Foundation

New Delhi is the only Indian city with a network of air quality monitors, and public health experts said pollution levels yesterday were alarming. "The intensity was no less, and the pollution level appeared to be quite high," said K Srinath Reddy, president of the Public Health Foundation of India. He said Delhi dwellers, even if concerned about pollution from fireworks, may still be motivated by a desire to show off to their neighbors. The sale of fireworks is unregulated in India, and there

are no reliable statistics showing how many were sold before the holiday.

The Center for Science and Environment, a Delhi-based research and advocacy group, said its exposure monitoring on Diwali night found pollution levels were slightly lower than in previous years, but still unacceptably high. Between 8 pm and midnight, PM2.5 levels were at 399-608 micrograms per cubic meter in some places - well above the Indian limit of 60 and the WHO recommendation of 25. At some points, spikes in pollution were "frightening," hitting more than 2,500, it said. "Delhiites will have to do a lot more to control crackers to reduce such dangerous levels of exposure and protect public health," the center's executive director, Anumita Roy Chowdhry, said in a statement. — AP

POMP AND PROTESTS AS MODI BEGINS UK'S VISIT

PROTESTERS CALL FOR END TO RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

LONDON: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a visit to Britain yesterday - expected to yield trade deals worth billions of dollars, but his arrival was overshadowed by protests over a perceived rise in intolerance back home. Bruised by his Hindu nationalist party's election defeat in populous Bihar state on Sunday, Modi is seeking to restore his authority and regain momentum in the drive to foster investment and growth for his country.

Diplomats say deals worth 8-12 billion pounds (\$12-18 billion) could be signed during his visit to London, with the Indian leader keen to buy 20 more BAE Systems Hawk trainer aircraft to be made in Bengaluru. From the British perspective, Modi's visit is a chance to press for business opportunities in a fast-growing economy and to climb up the diplomatic pecking order, since Modi has prioritized other relationships since becoming prime minister.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has visited India three times since taking office in 2010 in an effort to forge a closer partnership, but Modi

is the first Indian head of government to pay an official visit to London in almost a decade. His visit comes at a time when a debate is raging in India over accusations that Modi is failing to rein in Hindu zealots trying to impose their values on all Indians. As Modi and British Prime Minister David Cameron shook hands for the cameras outside Number 10 Downing Street, a crowd of about 200 protesters could be heard shouting anti-Modi slogans nearby. "Our main concern is that minorities are not safe in India," said Sikh protester Kuldip Singh.

Mass rally

The demonstrators held up banners with messages such as "Modi you are killing Indian democracy" and "Stop religious persecution in India". Ahead of his arrival, more than 200 writers including Salman Rushdie and Ian McEwan signed an open letter to Cameron urging him to raise concerns about freedom of expression in India during his talks with Modi. About 45 British members of parliament, including opposition Labor party leader Jeremy Corbyn, signed a

motion to debate India's human rights record.

The British government, however, rolled out the red carpet for Modi, who was greeted in the grand courtyard of the Treasury by a guard of honor wearing ceremonial bearskin headgear. He was due to have lunch with Queen Elizabeth and witness a fly-past by Royal Air Force aircraft. After meeting and holding a joint news conference with Cameron, Modi will then address the British parliament, before heading to the Guildhall, a historic building in the heart of the City of London financial district, where he will give a speech to a business audience.

Cameron's office said Britain would seek to promote London as a centre for offshore rupee bonds and Indian companies were expected to announce plans to issue debt denominated in their own currency. The emotional high point of the visit is likely to be a mass rally at Wembley Stadium on Friday where Modi will address about 60,000 supporters from India's 1.5 million-strong diaspora in Britain. — Reuters

US RAISING PRESSURE ON INDIA OVER HUMAN TRAFFICKING VISAS

WASHINGTON: The US government is stepping up pressure on India to end a controversial policy of placing restrictions on passports of Indian nationals rescued from forced labor or human trafficking in the United States, a US State Department official said. In the next few months, the issue will be raised with Indian authorities during a number of high-level meetings, said the official, who declined to be identified. This has already started to happen. The official said at a consular-level meeting on Nov 3, US officials asked Indian officials to scrap the policy. It was also raised at meetings on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

Since March, Indians who have received US T visas have faced new restrictions. T-visa holders face long delays in renewing passports at Indian consulates in the United States. Reuters reported exclusively last week that they must also provide confidential information to the Indian government that they had previously submitted to the US authorities, including details about who had trafficked them, according to the documents, legal advocates and interviews with T visa holders. Human rights advocates say the restrictions undermine US government efforts to help Indians rescued

from forced labor in the United States, including hundreds recruited to work in US Gulf Coast shipyards after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

Consular services

"There is still a misunderstanding on the part of the Indians of what a T visa is and what the legal standard is for a T visa to be issued here in the United States," said the US official in an interview. "We have a number of high level visits that are going to be happening over the next quarter and some before that, at which we'll raise the issue again." The Indian embassy in Washington said on Nov 2 "many individuals seek to misuse the trafficking visa route to emigrate to the US" and that "appropriate measures are taken in such cases." India, however, is mindful of hardships "faced by genuinely affected persons" who receive T visas and provides them with consular services, it added.

Between July 2014 and March 2015, the crackdown by the Indian authorities was harsher. At least 20 passports of Indians stamped with US T visas were confiscated by authorities at Indian airports, preventing trafficking victims who returned home to collect their families from flying back to the United States. — Reuters

AUSTRALIA PM HAILS 'GREAT FUTURE' ON INDONESIA VISIT TO FIX STRAINED TIES

JAKARTA: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull hailed a "great future" for relations between his country and Indonesia during his first trip to the key ally since taking power, seeking to turn the page after a series of crises. Ties between the neighbors sank to their lowest level in years under his conservative predecessor Tony Abbott, over rows about Jakarta's execution of Australian drug smugglers, Canberra's hardline policy of turning migrant boats back to Indonesia and espionage allegations.

Hopes are high that relations will improve under Turnbull, who took power in a Liberal Party coup in September. His views are more socially liberal than Abbott, whose tough approach often

riled Jakarta. Despite signs of warming relations, Turnbull's government has shown no signal of easing its tough immigration stance and the controversial policy of turning back boats from its shores remains a source of tension. Turnbull tried to keep the focus firmly on economic ties during the one-day visit to Jakarta, repeatedly stressing that both he and President Joko Widodo were businessmen who had later entered politics.

Following talks at the presidential palace, Turnbull said he and Widodo had "enjoyed very frank and exciting discussions about the great future for our two countries". "We have common, very common interests, and common objectives and it is about growth, it's about jobs, it's

about stronger economies," he said. The premier said the major trade partners talked about infrastructure and investment-key focuses for Widodo as he seeks to boost Indonesia's slowing economy-as well as the cattle industry, which has traditionally been a flashpoint between the neighbors.

Indonesia is the biggest market for exports of Australian cattle, but caused alarm earlier this year when it dramatically slashed its import quotas from Australia. Jakarta insisted the decision was aimed at achieving self-sufficiency, though some said the move stemmed from bad blood between the countries. The leaders avoided publicly referring to recent tensions yesterday, although at

the start of their meeting, Widodo acknowledged the "potential for friction" between Jakarta and Canberra due to the "proximity of our two countries".

'It's a little warm'

After the talks, the leaders visited a large textile market in downtown Jakarta, where they were greeted by cheering crowds. The tropical heat seemed to get the better of Turnbull, who had sweat running down his face as he talked to reporters. "It's a little bit warmer than I expected... The temperature is warm but the warmth of the people towards the president is much warmer still," he said to laughter from the crowd before taking off his jacket. —AFP

POLICE TORTURE RIFE IN CHINA DESPITE REFORMS: AMNESTY

BEIJING: Torture of suspects in police detention is widespread in China, Amnesty International said yesterday, citing interviews with nearly 40 lawyers, some of whom said they themselves had been beaten while attempting to protect their clients. Suspects received electric shocks, were punched, kicked, hit with shoes or bottles filled with water, denied sleep and locked in iron chairs forcing them into painful postures for hours on end, the rights group said.

The report, echoing findings by journalists and other rights groups, comes a week before China's record is set to be scrutinized by the United Nations' anti-torture committee. It cited official data as saying that China's top prosecutorial body received at least 1,321 reports of "extracting confession through torture" from 2008 to the first half of 2015. But just 279 individuals were convicted of the offence over the same period, the British-based group added.

"For the police, obtaining a confession is still the easiest way to secure a conviction," said Amnesty researcher Patrick Poon. "The government seems more concerned about the potential embarrassment wrongful convictions can cause than about curbing torture in detention," he added. Fewer than 20 percent of criminal suspects in China have access to lawyers, the group said, making abuses harder to prevent. Some lawyers representing activists or members of banned religious groups have themselves ended up being tortured, it added.

Beijing lawyer Yu Wensheng said his wrists were shackled behind his back with painfully tight handcuffs during a near 100-day detention in 2014. "My hands were swollen and I felt so much pain that I didn't want to live. The police officers repeatedly yanked the handcuffs and I would scream," Amnesty cited him as saying. The group mostly spoke to attorneys who specialize in sensitive rights cases, and who the ruling Communist Party see as political opponents. Of the 37 lawyers the group interviewed, 10 experienced torture or other ill-treatment themselves in incidents dating back to 2010. Courts regularly admit evidence which has allegedly been extracted by torture, the group said, citing a sample of 590 cases in which allegations of torture were made-with the "confessions" excluded in just 16 of them.

'Fairness and justice'

Chinese officials often say that Amnesty is "biased" against them. China says it is taking measures to reduce the prevalence of forced confessions, including installing cameras in interrogation rooms and adopting laws banning the practice. "Chinese law clearly prohibits the practice of forced confession in interrogation", foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a regular briefing yesterday. "We will continue to improve our system of human rights and judicial protection so that everyone will be treated with fairness and justice." —AFP



YANGON: Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (seated) speaks with a group of singers, film and television stars after hosting a thanksgiving breakfast at her residence in Yangon for the celebrities who campaigned for her in the recent election. —AFP

OBAMA COMMENDS MYANMAR, SUU KYI FOR HISTORIC ELECTION
PARTIAL RESULTS GIVE NLD OVER 80% OF HOUSE SEATS

YANGON: US President Barack Obama called Myanmar President Thein Sein yesterday to congratulate him on successfully staging a historic general election in which democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi trounced the ruling camp. Obama also called Suu Kyi and her opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), which has won more than 80 percent of the seats declared so far in the lower house, to commend them for their success, which puts her on course to form the new cabinet. NLD is also well ahead in the upper house and regional assemblies.

If the full results confirm the trend, Suu Kyi's triumph will sweep out an old guard of former generals that has run Myanmar, also known as Burma, since Thein Sein ushered in sweeping democratic and economic reforms four years ago. "The two leaders discussed the importance for all parties to respect the official results once announced and to work together with a spirit of unity to form an inclusive, representative government that reflects the will

of the people," the White House said in a statement following Obama's call with .

Thein Sein's presidential spokesman and Information Minister Ye Htut said on his Facebook page: "He said America would continue cooperating with the Myanmar government." Obama has visited Myanmar twice over the past three years, hoping to make its transition to democracy a foreign policy legacy of his presidency. In his call with Suu Kyi, Obama "commended her for her tireless efforts and sacrifice over so many years to promote a more inclusive, peaceful, and democratic Burma." Thein Sein and the powerful army chief Min Aung Hlaing have already endorsed Suu Kyi's victory, congratulating her Wednesday on winning a majority of the seats in the first free election in 25 years.

The two reiterated their commitment to respect the result and agreed to Suu Kyi's request to hold reconciliation talks soon, although the parties are still to agree on the details. Such unambiguous endorsements of Suu Kyi's victory could

smooth the lengthy post-election transition, ahead of the first session of parliament, which reconvenes on Monday. It also sets the stage for cooperation between democratic activists and the army, which had fought them during half a century of iron-fisted rule before a handover to a semi-civilian government in 2011.

People's choice

"The government will respect and follow the people's choice and decision, and work on transferring power peacefully according to the timetable," read a statement on the Facebook page of Thein Sein's spokesman, adding the president would work with "all other people" to ensure stability in the post-election period. The armed forces also congratulated Suu Kyi. The military continues to wield considerable power in Myanmar's political institutions, under a constitution drafted before the end of nearly 50 years of junta rule. —Reuters

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

Friday Times

Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net



**Hong Kong tycoon buys
daughter \$48million diamond**

What a gem: Hong Kong tycoon buys daughter \$48million diamond



Head of Sotheby's international jewellery division David Bennett (center) gestures next to a model wearing the 'Blue Moon' diamond (right) during a "Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels" sales of the Sotheby's auction house on in Geneva. (Right) A picture shows a model holding a 12.03-carat blue diamond. — AFP photos

A Hong Kong billionaire spent a record \$48.4 million buying a 12.03-carat diamond dubbed "Blue Moon" for his daughter in an auction in Geneva, his spokeswoman confirmed to AFP yesterday. Property tycoon Joseph Lau, who last year was found guilty of bribery in neighboring Macau, bought the rock at a Sotheby's auction on Wednesday and immediately renamed it "The Blue Moon of Josephine" after his seven-year-old daughter. The sale comes the day after he spent \$28.5 million buying a rare 16.08-carat pink diamond—the largest of its kind to ever go under the hammer—from rival auction house Christie's, which he rebaptised "Sweet Josephine".

A Hong Kong-based spokeswoman for Lau confirmed the two purchases to AFP. "The first was the pink one 'Sweet Josephine' and the second one was the 'Blue Moon of Josephine'," she said. David Bennett, head of Sotheby's international jewelry division, said the "Blue Moon" sale broke several records, making the gemstone "the most expensive diamond, regardless of color, and the most expensive jewel ever sold at auction". The jewel, set in a ring, was sold for 48.6 million Swiss francs (\$48.4 million, 40 million euros), including fees, with a starting bid of 43.2 million Swiss francs. It also fetched the highest-ever price per carat, he said, with the buyer shelling out 4.02 million Swiss francs per

carat. The previous world record for a jewel sold at auction was held by the 24.78-carat "Graff Pink" diamond, which was sold by Sotheby's for \$46.2 million in November 2010. This is not the first time Lau has bought rare jewels for his daughter. In 2009, he reportedly spent \$9.5 million on another blue diamond, which he renamed the "Star of Josephine". Josephine is his daughter with girlfriend and former aid Chan Hoi-wan, according to local media. The 64-year-old also has two children with long-time partner Yvonne Lui. In March last year, he was found guilty of bribing a former minister in the gambling enclave of Macau in an attempt to purchase a prime

development site. Lau, who was not in Macau for the sentencing, is unlikely serve time as the two semi-autonomous Chinese cities do not have an extradition agreement. He was locked in a telephone bidding war for eight minutes for "Blue Moon" before the hammer went down, with the precious jewel staying within its pre-sale estimate of \$35-55 million. The diamond was discovered in South Africa in January last year and was the largest cushion-shaped blue stone in the fancy vivid category to ever appear at auction. Experts say the market for coloured diamonds has grown increasingly robust and both the blue and pink diamonds garnered a lot of attention in the run up to this week's jewel sales in Geneva.— AFP

17th century letters reveal refugees' 'sense of loss'

A treasure trove of 17th century letters in the Netherlands is giving researchers a rare glimpse into the lives of ordinary people, many of them French refugees fleeing turmoil and persecution. Today's wave of migrants escaping conflict to reach European shores are able to keep in touch with loved ones back home by mobile phone. But in the mid-1600s the only means of long-distance communication was through the written word. A former postmaster's trunk stuffed with 2,600 undelivered letters is now helping shed light on what was a turbulent period in European history, when the continent was beset by a series of wars. "You get a sense of loss, of abandonment," said David van der Linden, one of the experts involved in an international project to transcribe, digitize and translate all the letters. The leather trunk lined with linen belonged to The Hague's postmaster, Simon de Brienne and his wife Maria Germain. And it was where he kept all the letters he was unable to deliver. Many of the missives are from Protestant French Huguenot families fleeing persecution under the Catholic monarch Louis XIV. They are mostly in written in French, although some are also in Dutch, Swedish and

Danish and a few in English. Down through the centuries, the trunk and its contents was eventually passed to the Dutch finance ministry, which bequeathed it to the Museum of Communication in The Hague in 1926. Although it was brought out for occasional exhibitions, until now no team of researchers has been able to devote time to the painstaking work of examining the contents in depth. X-ray scans Touchingly, many of the missives are badly written, peppered with spelling errors and grammatical mistakes, indicating "that these were people who were barely literate" but took up a pen they were so still desperate for news from home, Van der Linden told AFP. "Usually when you go through archives you find elite correspondence by diplomats, merchants, those kinds of people. But this collection really contains letters written by very simple men and women." De Brienne took over the privileged position as postmaster in The Hague in 1676 after himself fleeing from France. Back then, there were no stamps and both the sender and the recipient had to pay for their mail. But the cost was steep—in some cases amounting to half a week's wages—so the recipient



Undated picture released by the Museum voor Communicatie in the Hague shows a folded 17th century letter, one of the 2,600 undelivered letters from the late 1600s found in a former postmaster's trunk. — AFP photos ent might refuse to accept the letter. Or they may have died, or moved away. Many of the letters have "niet hebben" (refused) or "naar Engels" (gone to England) written on the back. Stuck with unwanted mail, many postmasters just destroyed it. But de Brienne kept the letters in his trunk—dubbed a "piggy bank"—in the hope that one day he would be paid. Six hundred of the letters have never been opened and will be scanned with X-ray tomography—a technology used on the Dead Sea Scrolls—to try to reveal their secrets without risking damage by opening them. The project is being led by researchers from the Dutch universities of Leiden and Groningen,



Undated picture released by the Museum voor Communicatie in the Hague shows a 17th century letter bearing the French inscription "don de pieté" ("gift of piety"), symbolizing the Holy Spirit. as well as MIT and Yale in the United States and Lincoln College, Oxford University. It has been awarded a 15,000 euro (\$16,000) grant, but the team believes they will need about a million euros to complete the work over the next four to five years. — AFP



A bright yellow monumental sculpture by artist Deborah Kass dominates a hill in Brooklyn Bridge Park, Wednesday in New York. — AP photos



Huge YO/OY sculpture in Brooklyn references urban slang

A bright yellow monumental sculpture installed near the East River spells "YO" when viewed from Manhattan and "OY" from Brooklyn. Reminiscent of Robert Indiana's LOVE sculpture, the playful aluminum work is the creation of artist Deborah Kass. It went up this week in Brooklyn Bridge Park's Main Street Lawn.

Kass also finds inspiration in Andy Warhol, Frank

Stella and other artists. She first created "OY" as a spoof on Ed Ruscha's word painting "OOF". Depending on where you stand, the sculpture references the popular Yiddish expression "OY" and the colloquial greeting "YO." The sculpture was commissioned by Brooklyn developer Two Trees Management Company. It will remain in the park through August 2016. — AP



Beatles 'Love Me Do' drummer dies at 85

Andy White, the Scottish drummer who famously replaced the newly hired Ringo Starr on the Beatles' song "Love Me Do" has died at age 85, the BBC reported on Wednesday, citing his family. White, a session musician who had played swing, jazz and Scottish pipe and drum music before turning to rock and roll, died Monday after suffering a stroke, the news agency said. The musician later said he was paid 5 British pounds for three hours of work in 1962 with the Beatles, then a relatively new band, the BBC said.

His work was featured on the US version of the single for "Love Me Do" and also on "PS I Love You." He is one of several musicians dubbed "Fifth Beatles," meaning they were involved in the band but were not the four famous members who defined the group: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison or Starr. On "Love Me Do," White played drums and Starr played the tambourine. White later played drums on Tom Jones' 1965 hit "It's Not Unusual," and toured with Marlene Dietrich, Burt Bacharach and Rod Stewart, the BBC said. In New Jersey, he taught drumming and worked with pipe and drum bands, which feature bagpipes and a corps of drummers, the BBC said. He was married to the voiceover actress Thea Ruth, the BBC said. — Reuters

Cirque du Soleil turns its attention to cracking New York

After years of treating New York somewhat warily, like a dangerous high-wire act, Cirque du Soleil is ready to flip over the Big Apple. The Montreal-based circus company is planning for two traveling shows to land in the city next fall, as well as a new one this spring, "Paramour," which Cirque has specifically designed for a Broadway theater. "For us, New York is an underdeveloped market and it's surprising because it's still the world capital of entertainment," said Daniel Lamarre, president and chief executive officer of Cirque.

"We are a strong player worldwide with a worldwide brand and we have spent a lot of time developing the Las Vegas market and not enough focus on developing the New York market," he said. Lamarre promised three completely different shows: In addition to "Paramour," there will be the eccentric and dreamy big top show "Kurios" and the new arena show "Toruk," inspired by James Cameron's movie "Avatar," which he described as "a live, multimedia spectacle."

"Our challenge is always to be on the edge and always come with distinctive types of shows that will always surprise our fans," he said. "I think we've been good lately in pushing the boundaries of creativity and also of technology." "Paramour" at the Lyric Theatre marks the first time Cirque has gone directly after the Broadway market, with show creators hoping to give the production more story than traditional Cirque offerings.

Spotty program

Cirque du Soleil hasn't always had roaring success in the city. The female-centric "Amaluna" - the Diane Palus-led melding of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" with jaw-dropping circus tricks - was well-attended in 2014 at Citi Field. But "Banana Shpeel" - a disappointingly spotty program of acrobatics, juggling, dance and mostly tiresome slapstick - flopped at the

Beacon Theatre in 2010. Annaleigh Ashford, a Tony Award winner currently onstage in the play "Sylvia," was in the cast of "Banana Shpeel" and sensed quickly that it wasn't a great match for the city.

"The genre of circus is traditionally not one of storytelling. It's more abstract. And New York City is a city that has built a theater community - a world of theater - on very specific, very clear storytelling," she said. "Storytelling is not their first concern. And it's our first concern here." Other Cirque shows that have come through the city in recent years include "Totem" at Citi Field, "Zarkana" for two summers at Radio City Music Hall from 2012-13, the winter show "Wintuk" at Madison Square Garden from 2007 to 2010 and "OVO" on Randall's Island in 2010.

But unlike Las Vegas - where eight Cirque shows are running - the company has never really had a permanent foothold in New York, even though its shows are tourist-friendly spectacles not depending on dialogue, star or story.

The first step Cirque took for a new New York strategy was to open an office in the city about 18 months ago led by Scott Zeiger, a co-founder of BASE Entertainment. He quickly understood that New York was special and so he built "Paramour" to be different. In Vegas, shows compete with gambling, shopping and food. "You're there for the spectacle, you're there for the excitement, you're there to see something you can't see anywhere else," he said. — AP



This undated image released by The Publicity Office shows a scene from Cirque du Soleil's 'Toruk,' inspired by James Cameron's movie 'Avatar.'



Elle King poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. — AP

Unapologetic Elle King turns heartbreak into hit single

Though breakthrough singer Elle King has a huge hit with “Ex’s and Oh’s,” the feel-good, carefree 26-year-old remembers performing tirelessly anywhere she could - without a cellphone. “I played in a lot of empty bars and I played on a lot of couches and a lot of big offices and I didn’t have a cellphone when my manager tried to get a hold of me,” said King, who met her manager, Alan Bezosi, in 2010. “I would talk to him on pay-phones.”

The hard times are turning into good times: “Ex’s and Oh’s” is No. 12 on Billboard’s Hot 100 chart and it reached the No. 1 spot on Billboard’s Hot rock songs and alternative songs charts, respectively. And being without a phone still didn’t stop King from falling in love and breaking up with boys - the subject of her hit single and most of her debut album. Despite singing about leaving an international wake of brokenhearted exes, King insisted she’s no man-eater.

“It’s so beautiful to love a person, but it’s like, it sucks. It just sucks when it doesn’t work out and so I’d rather just have fun while I’m young and maybe I’ll get married when I’m 70, to a few people,” the raspy-voiced singer said. “Ex’s & Oh’s,” a sultry laundry list of real-life breakups, details four of King’s past relationships. The song has sold 957,179 tracks so far, and King is not too concerned about how her exes feel about the track. “I’m sorry,” she said to her exes before quickly rethinking the apology. “I’m not. Thank you. Boom! Look what happened!”

Future boyfriends

Heartache flows throughout her debut album, “Love Stuff,” which was released earlier this year. It’s named after a sex shop King drove past in Florida. She sings about a toxic relationship in “Under the Influence” and offers a stern warning to future boyfriends in “I Told You I Was Mean.” The album takes a dark, soulful turn with the eerie “Ain’t Gonna Drown” and a then a surprising optimistic swing with “Make You Smile,” an upbeat track about how far she’d go to make that special someone happy.

And her bluegrass influences shine through while she plays the banjo on the haunting “Kocaine Karolina.” Inspired by Aretha Franklin, Dolly Parton - her dream collaborator - and rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson, King intertwines blues, country and rock ‘n’ roll. She begrudgingly admits that she makes pop music, too. “I used to be afraid of those three letters, but I’m not anymore. Now I understand that it’s just mainstream, it’s popular and I’m learning and I don’t care,” said King, who is currently on a US tour and will launch another tour with Vance Joy next year.

King was bitten by the showbiz bug at an early age. Her father is actor-comedian Rob Schneider and she had a small role in his 1999 comedy, “Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo.” “I just grew up around performers,” she recalled. “I just loved it and I’ve always wanted to be onstage and I never wanted to get a real job.” The singer was primarily raised by her mother and step-father in Ohio and decided to change her last name when she turned 18.

Early supporters

She calls her mother “my everything and my idol.” “I took her last name,” she said. “I wanted to do it on my own so that when it did happen, right now, this moment, I could say, ‘Yeah, I did it myself. And I did it with my name.’” VH1 was one of King’s early supporters, using her music in the 2012 reality series “Hollywood Exes” and as the theme song for “Mob Wives Chicago.” She will perform at Thursday’s “VH1 Big Music in 2015: You Oughta Know” concert in New York, alongside fellow breakthrough acts like Hozier, George Ezra, Tori Kelly and James Bay, whom King toured with in the United Kingdom.—AP

Queen add Classic Rock Roll’s living legends award to honors

Forty years after their smash hit “Bohemian Rhapsody” was released, British rock band Queen have been honored as “Living Legends” at the Classic Rock Roll of Honor awards. Formed in 1971, the band, originally consisting of lead singer Freddie Mercury, guitarist Brian May, drummer Roger Taylor and bass guitarist John Deacon, went on to become one of the best-selling musical acts of all time.

Known for hugely popular songs such as “We Are The Champions,” “Another One Bites The Dust” and “We Will Rock You,” Queen released “Bohemian Rhapsody” in November 1975 and it became one of the most recognizable songs in the world. “It makes you wonder, well, we’re still here for some reason,” May told Reuters at the red carpet for the awards, held by the British Classic Rock magazine, on Wednesday night.

“It’s amazing where the time went ... Everybody’s talking about ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’, which is nice. I think Freddie would be very proud and we are too.” May collected the Living Legends award on behalf of the band, which still perform together 24 years after Mercury’s death. The group announced this week they will headline next year’s Isle of Wight Festival with singer Adam Lambert.

“I think Freddie would be very happy because it’s something we used to talk about in the old days, but we never did festivals in the old days so it’s going to be nice,” May said. Other honorees at Wednesday’s awards included American shock rocker Alice Cooper, who took the Classic Album award for “Welcome To My Nightmare” from 1975, and heavy metal veterans AC/DC, who won Band Of The Year. — Reuters



Queen



In this July 4, 2015 file photo, Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones performs at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Ind. — AP

Jagger, Robertson pay tribute to Toussaint

Mick Jagger and Robbie Robertson are paying tribute to the late Allen Toussaint, the New Orleans musician who wrote “Southern Nights,” “Mother-in-Law” and many other hits. “He was such an influential songwriter and performer,” Jagger tweeted Wednesday. Early in their career, the Rolling Stones covered Toussaint’s “Pain in My Heart” and “Fortune Teller,” both written under the pseudonym “Naomi Neville.”

Meanwhile, Robertson wrote on his Facebook page that Toussaint’s horn arrangements were vital parts of the Band’s live shows and noted that he had the “honor of inducting Allen into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame” in 1998. Toussaint died of a heart attack Tuesday at age 77. He also worked with Paul McCartney, Lee Dorsey and the Meters among others. — AP

Review: Squeeze returns with inventive ‘Cradle to the Grave’

Squeeze, a band closely associated with the New Wave of the 1980s, is making new waves after a long layoff. Anybody tempted should check it out. The nucleus of Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook has returned with others for a finely crafted collection of pop songs that approaches and at times rivals their best output, including the classic “Tempted.” Many songs look back, lyrically and sonically, so it’s no surprise that retro sounds are abundant. Still, it’s no mere retread: There are flashes of psychedelia, baroque pop, jazz, disco, soul and full-tilt gospel - sometimes several in the same song.

“Cradle to the Grave” delights in its diversity and discrepancies: “Nirvana” is about a couple growing old and apart; “Open” reveals the inner human drama during a beautiful celebration; and “Sunny” - a string-drenched McCartney-esque charmer and album high point - tells a poignant tale of growing up that isn’t always so sunny, even when Tilbrook sings that it is. Squeeze has mastered the art of pop song craft, and only a few moments don’t reach the high bar set by the collection. The jangly, languid “Everything” is decent but a better gift to someone like Oasis, should the Gallagher brothers ever bury the hatchet. The pop music universe somehow seems back in orbit as Difford and Tilbrook, locked in their trademark octaves, make the first new Squeeze music since the late 1990s that nimbly harkens back and blazes new trails. — Reuters





This image released by Columbia Pictures shows, from left, Will Smith, Dr Bennet Omalu and director Peter Landesman on the set of the film, "Concussion."

Hard-hitting Smith drama sounds alarm on US football

Will Smith hopes his new film "Concussion" will jolt parents into realizing their kids' health could be at serious risk when they sign them up to play American football. The hard-hitting sport drama, which premiered late Tuesday, tells the story of Nigerian-born forensic pathologist Bennet Omalu, one of the first to diagnose degenerative brain disease in former players of the National Football League.

"For me more than anything, I'm a football dad," the 47-year-old Smith said as he attended the screening of the movie, which opens on Christmas Day. "I love football. For me, this is about informing parents and delivering the truth and people will decide what they want to do with that," said the actor-who has been tipped for an Oscar for his role as the crusading Omalu. The much-anticipated film has revived an ongoing debate on brain injuries in the most popular and most watched sport in America. A recent study of deceased NFL players found 96 percent of those tested suffered from the degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

"I did not know when I watched my son play football in high school for those four years, I did not know there was a potential long-term neurological issue," said Smith, a father of three. "I've talked to professional football players and people who have been in the game a long time that don't know the information that is in this film."

'I did not know'

Omalu himself attended the premiere, along with family members of deceased football players who had suffered from CTE. The pathologist, who received a standing ovation after the screening, said he hoped Hollywood's decision to take on his story would help raise awareness of the condition. The degenerative disease, resulting from repeated blows to the head, can lead to nausea, memory loss and dementia. "I thought Hollywood would be the most potent medium to portray the truth," said Omalu, who knew nothing about football when he performed his first autopsy on a retired player in 2002 while working in Pittsburgh.

Omalu's work was first widely publi-

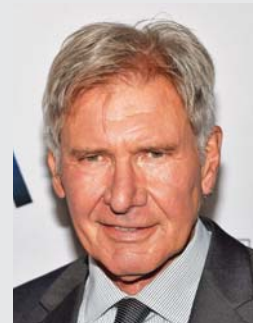
cized in the 2013 Frontline documentary "League of Denial." Concussions have become a major injury concern for the National Football League, which in April agreed to pay \$765 million to about 5,000 former players over health claims. Beyond the NFL, a wider sample of players from all levels of American football, who played either in high school, college, semi-professionally or professionally, found CTE in the brain tissue of 131 out of 165, or 79 percent. More recently, safety standards in high school football have faced renewed scrutiny after the deaths of eight young players in separate incidents since early September.

The wildly popular sport is played by 1.1 million high school students in America and, according to some reports, two-thirds of US adults are glued to their TV on Sunday to watch football. Professional American football is one of the most lucrative sports worldwide, generating some \$10 billion in annual revenues. The country's 32 teams are worth some \$45 billion. — AFP

'Star Wars': Harrison Ford says 'There's a Lot of the Rogue' left in Han Solo

A lot appears to have changed in a galaxy far, far away in the 32 years since we last saw Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and Leia Organa (Carrie Fisher) in "Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi," but when "Episode VII - The Force Awakens" debuts, Harrison Ford promises that a certain half-witted, scruffy-looking nerf-herder will still be the roguish character we came to love in George Lucas' original trilogy.

In a new interview with EW, Ford reveals that the daring pilot still has plenty of familiar foibles in the next installment of the franchise. "We spend a lot more time [in the movie] on his failure to master basic skills, like accounting," Ford admits. "And accounting for his own behavior. There's a lot of the rogue still left in Solo. Some things don't change." According to Ford, the iconic character has never really left him, despite the passage of time-where has Han Solo been? "Well, he's been living with me-out back, in the shack," Ford says, pointing out that 32 years "is going to put some rings on the tree, some experience in the bank. You might make an elaborate conjecture [about who Solo is now], but I think we answer that question in the film. It's best left answered there."



Harrison Ford

While the recent theatrical trailer sees Han imparting some wisdom to newcomers Rey (Daisy Ridley) and Finn (John Boyega) about the existence of The Force, Ford insists that his formerly cynical character hasn't become the new wise, old sage of the saga. "There's not an abandoning of the character," he says. "He does not aspire to the position of Obi-Ben' Kenobi, nor do I aspire to be some New Age Alec Guinness. His development is consistent with the character, and there are emotional elements which have occasioned his growth." Director J.J. Abrams agrees, telling EW, "I can't imagine that Han Solo would ever not be a smartass. On the other hand, I'd like to think that he is very different at 30 than he is at around 70 ... When you live a life, you've had loss, you've experienced love and family and epiphanies and tragedies and disappointments and surprises. Those things accumulate." After years of insisting that he wished Lucas had killed Han off in "Return of the Jedi," and seeming fairly dismissive of the franchise that made him famous in general, Ford has changed his tune of late-as evidenced by his emotional appearances at San Diego Comic-Con and D23 Expo. —Reuters

Review: 'Love the Coopers' is a moving, starry holiday pic

"Love the Coopers" is pretty formulaic as far as Christmas dramedies go, but there are always going to be those movies that just get to you - despite, perhaps, your best judgment. Modern holiday movies, with their aggressively unhappy families and sanitized Hallmark sentimentality, occupy an interesting space in entertainment. Big, starry ensemble casts assemble to fight and laugh and cry and realize something profound about life, love and the season of giving with a backdrop of magazine perfect interiors, idyllic snowfall and a soundtrack of perfectly curated carols. They're not high art and they're not trying to be, either. Their predictability can be comforting and grating at the same time, especially when most of these stories spend so much time indulging in the discontentedness of its well-off characters.

In "Love the Coopers," from director Jessie Nelson ("I Am Sam"), four generations of an upper middle class family go about their day separately before gathering for their annual Christmas Eve dinner at the home of Sam (John Goodman) and Charlotte (Diane Keaton). Most are dreading it. Sam and Charlotte are putting on one last show before deciding to announce their separation. Their daughter, Eleanor (Olivia Wilde), is drinking the hours away in the airport with a stranger (Jake Lacy) to minimize her time at home. Their son, Hank (Ed

Helms), is trying to hide the fact that he doesn't have a job. And Charlotte's jealous sister Emma (Marisa Tomei) has resorted to shoplifting to avoid having to actually spend money on her sister and subconsciously to avoid the evening altogether.

Mt Lebanon

It goes on: There's the bow-tie sporting, unsolicited advice-giving Grandpa Bucky (Alan Arkin) and his lonely, depressive cafe waitress (Amanda Seyfried). June Squibb is there to be sassy. The film



This photo provided by CBS Films and Lionsgate shows, Amanda Seyfried, from left, as Ruby, Jake Lacy, as Joe, Olivia Wilde, as Eleanor, Maxwell Simkins, as Bo, Blake Baumgartner, as Madison, John Goodman, as Sam, Ed Helms, as Hank, Alan Arkin, as Bucky, Diane Keaton as Charlotte, and Alex Borstein (back to camera), in 'Love the Coopers,' released by CBS Films and Lionsgate. — AP

jumps around aimlessly until they all finally make it to dinner. It would be disingenuous not to mention the fact that going into the movie, I didn't realize it was set in my hometown of Mt Lebanon, a mid-size suburb just south of Pittsburgh. Snow and highly specific nostalgia only have so much emotional currency, though. Nelson finds beauty in the small moments and the power of a throwback soundtrack peppered with Bob Dylan, Nina Simone and Otis Redding that helps carry the story along.

Not everything works, to be sure. Helms is out-of-place annoying as the affectless, underemployed dad, and the movie seems unnecessarily cruel to his ex-wife (Alex Borstein). A Tomei bit falls flat. She's trapped in a cop car trying to psychoanalyze an underused Anthony Mackie and realizing important things about her own life in the process. If only the script had forgone a few of these plot lines and focused more on Wilde - the true stand-out of the star-studded cast. Eleanor is, in some ways, given the oddest subplot. She's a playwright, she's dating a married guy, and she's convinced her parents will be disappointed that she's still single - so she asks her airport buddy Joe (Lacy) to come back and pretend he's her boyfriend. —AP



Cooking on deadline: Fun with butternut squash

By Katie Workman

Need to know what to do with all that leftover butternut squash from Thanksgiving? I've got you covered. Because this pasta dish - a fantastic weeknight-friendly dinner - is a great recipe for when you just can't look at another leftover in its original form one more time. I mean, how many times can you have pie for breakfast (don't answer that, that was a trick question)? OK, maybe we can handle the pie. But how many times can you have straight up reheated roasted squash? That's exactly my point.

In this recipe, we give butternut squash a new life with pasta and a trio of cheeses - Parmesan, soft goat and Monterey Jack. The squash contributes color and some bona fide nutritional value, while diced caramelized onions provide

texture and a nice flavor. This can be served as a main course with a salad and a vinegary dressing to balance out the creamy richness of the dish. It also makes a luxurious side dish to a roasted chicken or some grilled or pan-seared chops.

Using the cooking water from the pasta does a couple of things in this recipe. The water contains some of the starch from the pasta, so it helps thicken the sauce and bind it to the cooked pasta and vegetables. It also eliminates the need for an excessive amount of half-and-half or cream. And, no, I'm not saying that this pasta isn't indulgent... I'm just saying it could be even more indulgent. In the unlikely event you don't have any leftover roasted squash - or would like to make this other times of the year - I've written the recipe to start with uncooked squash. But if you do have leftovers, just skip that step of the recipe and substitute 3 to 4 cups of cooked squash.



CHEESY PASTA SHELLS WITH BUTTERNUT SQUASH

Ingredients

Start to finish: 45 minutes

Servings: 6

1 medium butternut squash (about 2 pounds), peeled, seeded and cut into 1-inch chunks (about 4 cups of chunks)

2 medium yellow onions, diced

1 teaspoon dried sage

3 tablespoons olive oil

Kosher salt and ground black pepper

1 pound pasta shells

1 1/2 cups half-and-half

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 cup crumbled soft goat cheese

1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Preparation

Heat the oven to 400 F. On a rimmed baking sheet, mound the butternut squash, onions and sage, then drizzle the oil over everything. Toss to coat, then spread into a single layer. Season with salt and pepper. Roast for about 35 minutes, or until the squash is tender and everything is nicely browned. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta according to package directions. Reserve 1 1/2 cups of the cooking water, then drain the pasta.

Return the empty pasta pot to medium-high heat and add the reserved cooking water and the half-and-half. Heat just until little bubbles appear around the edges of the pot. Whisk in the Parmesan, goat cheese and Monterey Jack until the cheeses are melted. Return the pasta to the pan and stir until coated with the sauce. Add the cooked squash and onions and toss to combine. Adjust the seasonings and serve hot.

Nutrition information per serving: 650 calories; 250 calories from fat (38 per cent of total calories); 28 g fat (14 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 55 mg cholesterol; 500 mg sodium; 78 g carbohydrate; 6 g fiber; 9 g sugar; 24 g protein. — AP

SAUSAGE AND BUTTERNUT SQUASH PERSONAL LASAGNAS

By JM Hirsch

The notion that a great romantic dinner should be fancy or somehow over-the-top is way overrated. I'll take delicious comfort food over a fussy meal any day, regardless of the romance quotient. And when I want real comfort - deep down, rich, winter night snuggling comfort - I want noodles and cheese. Now that is a romantic combination. How to pare them for this special dinner, however, requires some thought. A basic mac and cheese could be a little too pedestrian (particularly if your partner is hoping for at least a little pizzazz). And most red sauce pasta dishes rely on that great killer of romance - garlic.

I liked the idea of lasagna, but a giant baking dish of lasagna tends to radiate "potluck" more than "intimate dinner." So I decided to downsize this meal, using individual springform pans to create personal lasagnas. They are easy to assemble, cook faster than a whole lasagna and look great on the plate. For dessert, keep it simple. In a small saucepan, stir together a few tablespoons of strawberry jam with a splash of balsamic vinegar and a bit of black pepper. Heat until just warm, then drizzle over vanilla or chocolate ice cream. Crumble almond biscotti over the top and call it a night.



13 FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 2015

Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 1/2 hours (30 minutes active)

Servings: 2

2 cups cubed butternut squash
Kosher salt and ground black pepper
6 ounces loose Italian sausage
1 medium yellow onion, diced
3/4 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
1 egg
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 teaspoon dried basil
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
1/2 cup heavy cream
6 ounces fresh pasta sheets (three 6-by-8 1/2-inch sheets)
1/2 cup grated mozzarella cheese

Preparation

Heat the oven to 375 F. Line a baking sheet with foil, then mist it with cooking spray. Also mist the bottoms and sides of two 4-inch round springform pans. Arrange the squash on the prepared baking sheet in a single layer. Mist with cooking spray, then season with salt and pepper. Roast the squash until lightly browned and tender, about 25 minutes. Set aside to cool for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high heat, combine the sausage and onion. Sauté until the sausage is cooked and the onion is tender and lightly browned, about 8 minutes. Set aside. In a medium bowl, mix together the ricotta, egg, Parmesan, basil and oregano. Set aside. Transfer the cooled squash to a blender, then add the cream.

Puree until smooth, then taste and adjust seasonings. Set aside.

Use a round biscuit cutter that fits just inside the springform pans to cut 8 rounds from the sheets of pasta. Spoon about 2 teaspoons of the pureed squash evenly over the bottom of each springform pan. Set 1 pasta round over the squash in each pan. Spread 2 tablespoons of the ricotta mixture over the pasta, then spoon 3 tablespoons of the sausage mixture over it. Sprinkle with mozzarella cheese, then top with another round of pasta.

Repeat the layering process until both pans are full. Finish each lasagna with a final round of pasta, a generous amount of squash puree and a liberal sprinkle of mozzarella. Set the pans on a rimmed baking sheet, then bake on the oven's middle shelf for 40 minutes, or until lightly browned and bubbling. Cool for 10 minutes before setting each lasagna on a serving plate and removing the sides of the pans.

Nutrition information per serving: 1,010 calories; 620 calories from fat (61 per cent of total calories); 68 g fat (35 g saturated; 0.5 g trans fats); 340 mg cholesterol; 54 g carbohydrate; 6 g fiber; 8 g sugar; 46 g protein; 1,250 mg sodium. — AP

Friday Times Books

An oft-elusive yet gifty treat: Coffee table books

As self-purchases, coffee table books may seem like pricey indulgences, but as gifts they're an easy way to please a connoisseur, hobbyist or wannabe. Usually image-driven, often encyclopedic, consider one of these:

Fashion

"Joe Eula: Master of Twentieth-Century Fashion Illustration," introduction by Cathy Horyn, image curation by Melisa Gosnell and Dagon James: An odyssey in sketches by the legendary fashion illustrator Joe Eula. He was there for Yves Saint Laurent's first Dior show in 1958 and, over five decades, also worked as a costume designer, stage director and creative director at Halston. Quotes culled from interviews included.

"Study of Pose," by Steven Sebring and Coco Rocha: Rocha, a dancer-turned-supermodel, is known as the "Queen of Pose" in fashion. Here she strikes 1,000 of them for the photographer, filmmaker and digital innovator Sebring. Each page is one numbered black-and-white photo showing Rocha in a simple dancer's leotard and tights. And she did it inside Sebring's famous "Rig," an igloo-like contraption fitted with 100 cameras that shot her from numerous perspectives, all of which will be included in a companion app.

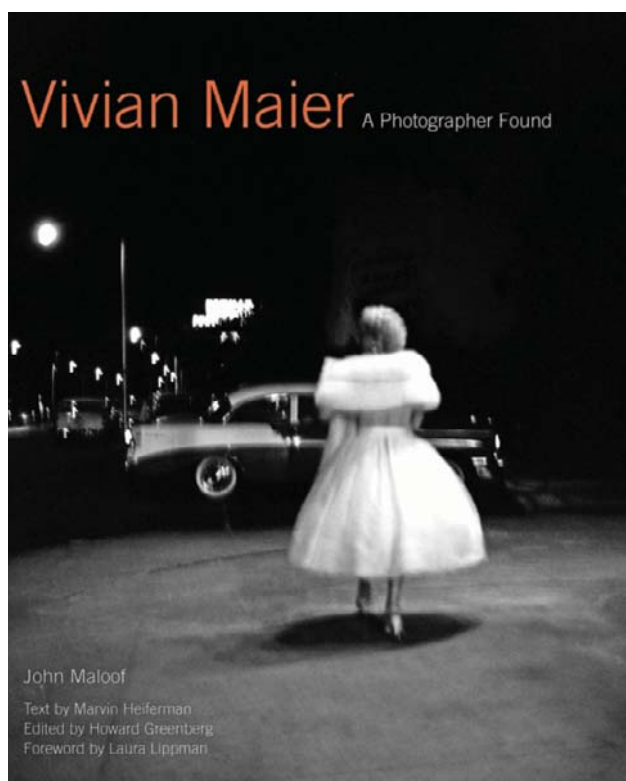
"Cartier in the 20th Century," by Margaret Young-Sanchez, Pierre Rainero, Stefano Papi, Janet Zapata, Martin Chapman and Michael Hall: Glamorous and droolworthy 272-page history organized by theme in text and photos, with archival shots of Elizabeth Taylor and various royalty.



This book cover image released by Harper Design shows 'Joe Eula: Master of Twentieth-Century Fashion Illustration,' edited by Cathy Horyn. — AP photos



Image released by Taschen shows 'The Rolling Stones,' a 13-inch-by-13-inch tome with 522 pages of images by photographers, including, David Bailey, Peter Beard, Cecil Beaton, Bob Bonis, Anton Corbijn, Annie Leibovitz and Helmut Newton.



This book cover image released by Harper Design shows 'Vivian Maier: A photographer found,' by John Maloof and Marvin Heiferman.

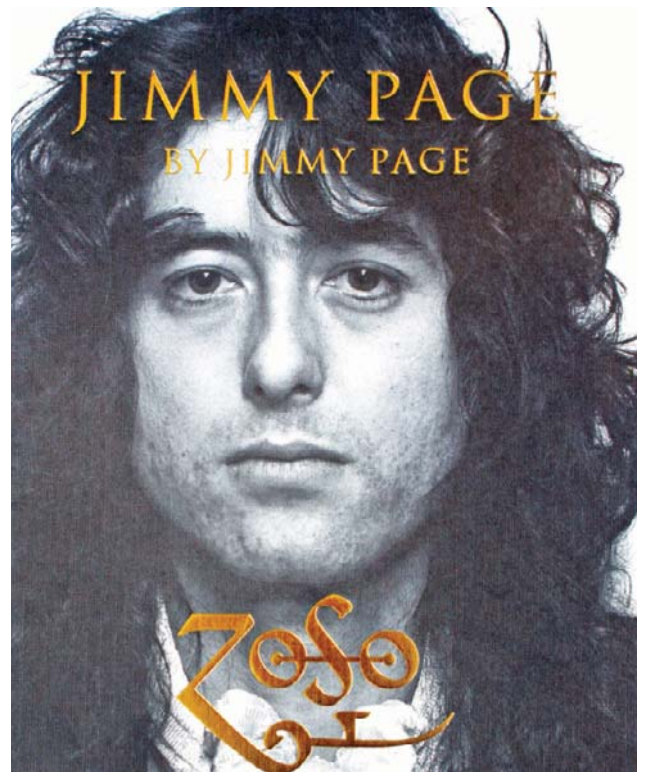


Image released by Genesis Publications shows 'Jimmy Page,' a visual autobiography by the Led Zeppelin guitarist, including the work of rock photographers, and personal and tour memorabilia in 512 pages.

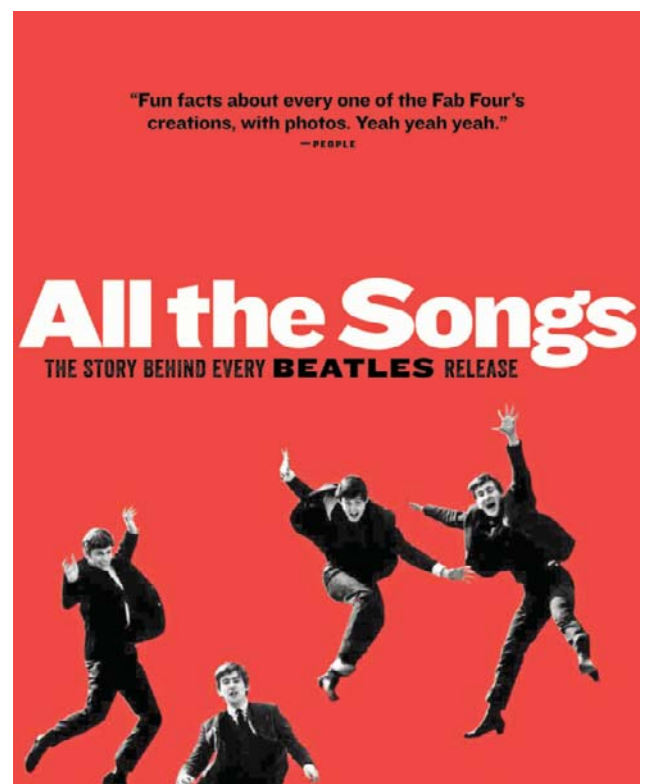
Race

"Bill Duke's Dark Girls," interviews by Shelia P. Moses, photographs by Barron Claiborne: Based on an OWN Network documentary of the same name, the book includes more than 80 portraits of accomplished dark-skinned women with their first-person accounts of how they feel about their beauty and how they feel the world sees them. From Lupita Nyong'o to Toni Gaskins, a school guidance counselor in the Bronx.

"Who We Be: The colorization of America," by Jeff Chang: A close examination, mostly in text, of the place of artists in culturally desegregating America and how views on race have changed over the last five decades. The book stretches from the 1963 March on Washington through President Obama's election and the aftermath of the George Zimmerman trial.

Music

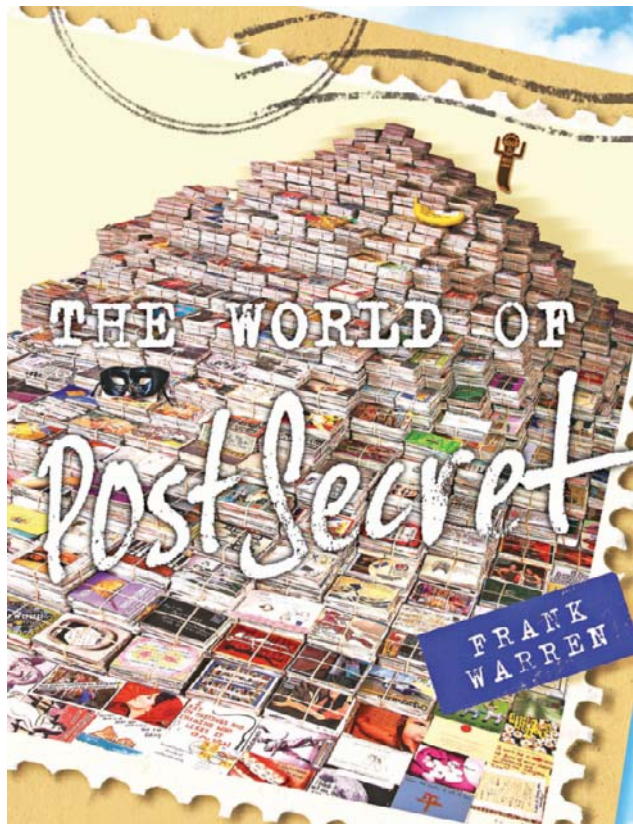
"The Rolling Stones," edited by Reuel Golden, brief foreword by former President Bill Clinton: If it's large-scale satisfaction you crave for your superfan, this 13-inch-by-13-inch tome will do the trick at 522 pages of images, with limited text. Photographers David Bailey, Peter Beard, Cecil Beaton, Bob Bonis, Anton Corbijn, Annie Leibovitz and Helmut Newton are among the contributors, with a few Linda McCartney-shot images thrown in.



This book cover image released by Black Dog & Leventhal shows 'All The Songs: The Story Behind Every Beatles Release.'



This image released by Abrams shows 'Rainforest,' with text by Lewis Blackwell and photos by leading nature photographers.



This book cover image released by William Morrow shows 'The World of PostSecret,' by Frank Warren.

"Jimmy Page," by Jimmy Page: Visual autobiography by the Led Zeppelin guitarist, from his days as a choir boy to this promise at the end: "It might get louder." Includes the work of rock photographers, and personal and tour memorabilia in 512 pages. Genesis Publications, \$60.

"All the Songs: The story behind every Beatles release," by Jean-Michel Guesdon and Philippe Margotin, consulting editor Scott Freiman: As if there's anything more for the truly obsessed, this 672 pager drills down to the genesis and production of 213 Beatles songs released in less than a decade, with photos and breakout factoids for fanatics.

Pop culture

"The Art of Discovery," by Jeff Vespa, edited by Robin Bronk: More than 100 celebrity portraits (Jessica Chastain, Shailene Woodley, Jared Leto, Seth Rogan) and quotes in 216 pages describing important moments in their lives. A portion of proceeds will go to support the arts advocacy programs of The Creative Coalition.

"The World of PostSecret," by Frank Warren: It's been 10 years since Warren first asked people to anonymously send him handmade postcards with their deepest secrets. Since, he's received more than 1 million, traveling the world to talk about his project and lending them to museums. This is his sixth book of postcards (288 pages) and might be his last as he contemplates turning over the project to someone new.

"Don Martin: Three Decades of His Greatest Works," foreword by Nick Meglin: More than 200 cartoons by Mad magazine's "maddest artist." There's an abundance of color work, along with a selection of his posters and portraits.

Outdoors

"Rainforest," text by Lewis Blackwell: From aerial to macro, leading nature photographers - new work by Tim Flack included - bring the rainforest alive from Peru to Borneo. With attitude. "Destroying rainforest for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to cook a meal," the book opens.

"The Gardener's Garden," introduction by garden designer Madison Cox: In 480 pages, more than 250 private and public gardens around the world are covered. Each is shown in full color from several angles with detailed text covering their history and plantings. Organized geographically for gardens on five continents and 45 countries, from a 15th-century specimen in Japan to Versailles.

Photography

"Vivian Maier: A photographer found," by John Maloof and Marvin Heiferman: More than 235 full-color and black-and-white images shot by the mysterious nanny photographer who is also the subject of a documentary film, "Finding Vivian Maier." Maier's street and travel photography was discovered and her life reconstructed through interviews and the 150,000 images she had saved.

"Camera Crazy," by Christopher D Salyers and Buzz Poole: The cutesy history and specs of toy and novelty cameras, a term that generally spans simple plastic box cameras with fixed focus, limited aperture settings and a single shutter speed. — AP

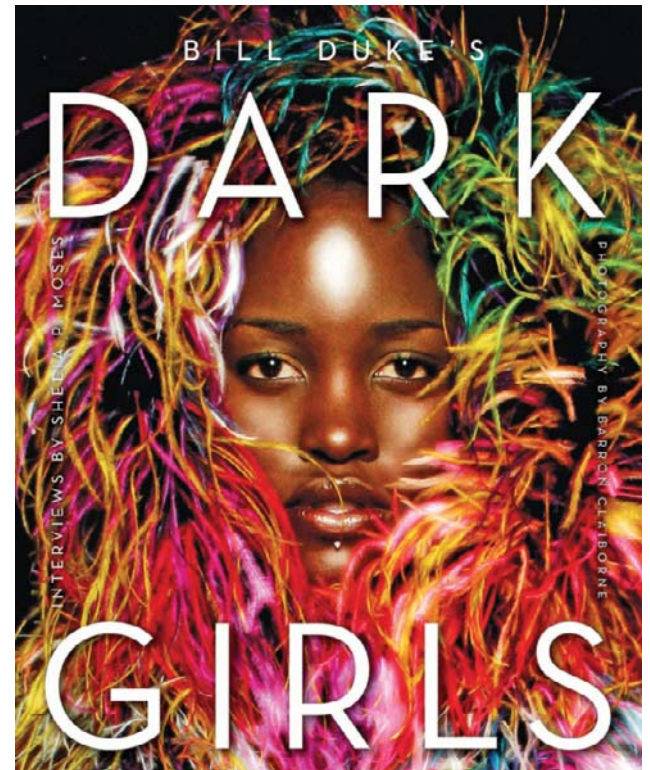
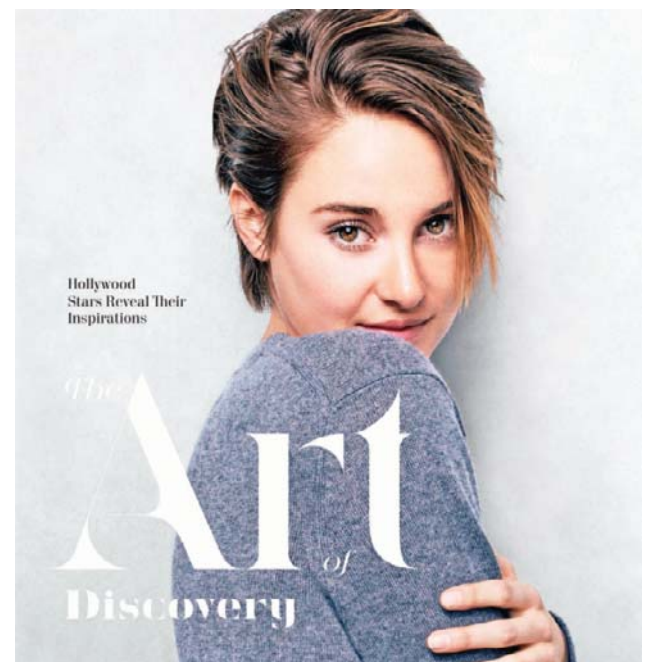
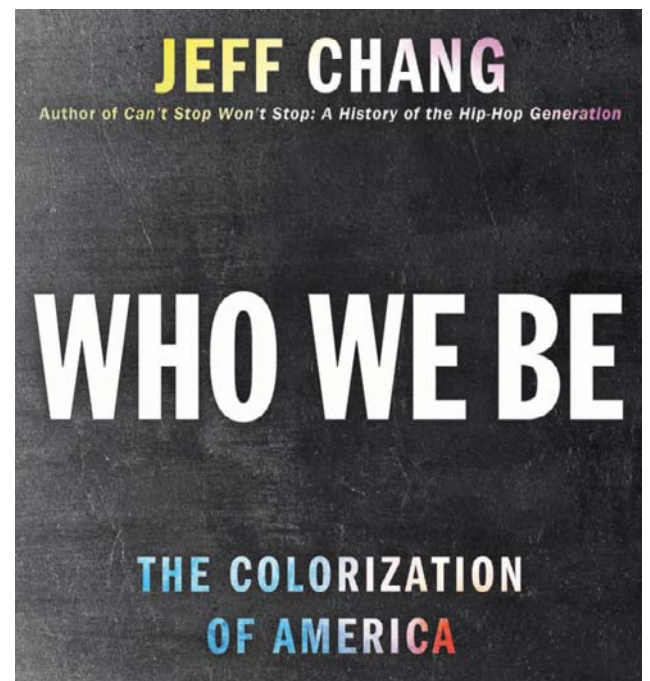


Image released by Amistad shows 'Bill Duke's Dark Girls,' a book based on an OWN Network documentary of the same name.



This book cover image released by Rizzoli shows 'The Art of Discovery: Hollywood Stars Reveal Their Inspirations,' by Robin Bronk.



This book cover image released by St Martin's Press shows 'Who We Be: The Colorization of America,' by Jeff Chang.

Friday Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

Travel

The world's

best places

to get a 'yes'

Antarctica

Bagan,
Myanmar (Burma)



Trolltunga,
Skjeggedal, Norway

Once you've chosen to spend the rest of your life with that special someone, you're faced with what can feel like an even greater decision. Where do I pop the question?

1. Bagan, Myanmar (Burma)

Sunrises are inherently romantic, but those in Bagan are truly surreal. The capital of the Kingdom of Pagan between the 9th and 13th centuries, Bagan was once blessed with 10,000 Buddhist monasteries, temples and pagodas. Today, the plain around Bagan is still dotted with more than 2000 of them. Climb to the top of one together (Lawkaoushaung is a great choice) and watch the rising sun turn the dark landscape into a vivid golden canvas eloquently brushed with silhouettes. It's an incredible sight to witness, and it's a perfect time to pop the question.

The best time to visit Bagan, located 118 miles south of Mandalay, is between November and February.

2. Trolltunga, Skjeggedal, Norway

If she loves the great outdoors, isn't scared of heights and is willing to walk to the edge of the

world with you, she'll certainly overlook the fact you dropped to one knee on something called 'The Troll's Tongue'. The most epic of natural settings, Trolltunga is a dramatic sliver of rock that extends precipitously over a 700m abyss and overlooks the lake of Ringedalsvatnet far below. Come well prepared as this is a remote mountain environment: the return hike from the trail-head takes eight to 10 hours.

Trolltunga is typically accessible from mid-June (after the snow melts) to mid-September. Bergen is the nearest major city.

3. New York City, USA

Full of romantic locations, New York City is a justifiable favorite for proposals. Some sites even help you to go the extra mile: the Rockefeller Center's outdoor skating rink offers you exclusive ice time and will play a CD of your choice, and the Empire State Building's famous 86th-floor observation deck has a saxo-

phonist who takes requests. Another lofty location with iconic city views, but none of the hype, is the footpath on the Brooklyn Bridge. In summer, Central Park's Loeb Boathouse is an inspired choice - rent a paddle boat for two, hire a gondola or propose while dining on the lakeside terrace.

Empire State Building tickets cost US\$29, while exclusive access to Rockefeller Rink is US\$350. Details about Loeb Boathouse are found at thecentralparkboathouse.com.

4. NamibRand Nature Reserve, Namibia

In the Namib Desert you don't need moonlight to strike the mood, the stars are bright enough on their own. The NamibRand Nature Reserve is one of only three gold-rated International Dark Sky Reserves in the world. After spending a wonderful day enjoying the area's dunes, mountains and abundant wildlife, you'll be tempted to propose at sunset (it is breathtak-

ingly beautiful), but hold off until the celestial fireworks are in full flow.

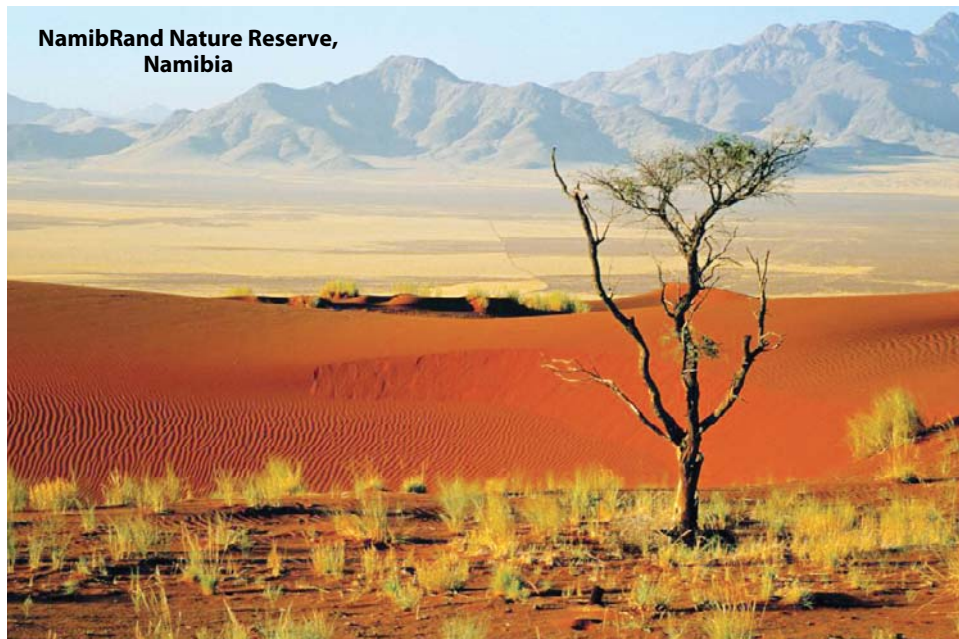
The NamibRand Nature Reserve is found in Namibia's southwest and can be accessed by road or by chartered light aircraft; for more details visit namibrand.com.

5. Amalfi Coast, Italy

Yes, Venice, Rome and Florence are all great choices, but the Amalfi Coast south of Naples is meant for couples in love. There are some rather remarkable spots to ask the all-important question, such as the Lofty Terrace of Infinity at Villa Cimbrone in Ravello or the Sentieri degli Dei (Path of Gods) high above Positano. But the Amalfi Coast is the kind of place where you'll likely find the perfect spot of your very own.

Villa Cimbrone's garden and Terrace of Infinity is open daily from 9am to sunset; entry €7. For more details visit villacimbrone.com.

NamibRand Nature Reserve,
Namibia



Amalfi Coast, Italy



Arches
National Park,
Utah, USA

30
Travel

Friday Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015



6. Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

The Rajasthani city of Udaipur was dubbed 'the most romantic spot on the continent of India' in 1829 by Lieutenant-Colonel James Tod, the first political agent in the region for the East India Company. Its ornate palaces, temples and havelis straddle the shore of Lake Pichola and the white-marble Lake Palace seemingly floats on the lake's gentle waters. Now a luxury hotel, it is a storybook setting for an engagement.

Rooms at the Taj Lake Palace start from US\$377 per night; for more details visit tajhotels.com.

7. Arches National Park, Utah, USA

Displaying the power, fragility and beauty of both nature and time, the red rock formations of this national park are an inspirational engagement setting for couples who love exploring the outdoors together. Delicate Arch, with the La Sal Mountains as a backdrop, is one of the most captivating outcrops. Double O Arch and the Double Arch are rather intimate spots too. If you are both into rock climbing or mountain biking, this area of eastern Utah will give you even more to celebrate.

Arches National Park, 6km north of Moab, is open year-round; entrance is US\$5, campsites are US\$20. Visit nps.gov/arch for more information.

8. Paris, France

Paris, the City of Light, is mesmerizingly beautiful and remains one of the world's most romantic cities. The Pont des Arts pedestrian bridge that spans the Seine near the Louvre is an atmospheric option for a marriage proposal (in spite of recent moves to curb the avalanche of 'lovelocks' affixed to the railings). A more understated, but incredibly charming idea is to propose on one of the picturesque iron footbridges over the tree-lined Canal Saint-Martin in the 10th arrondissement.

Spring and summer are gorgeous, but more expensive and crowded. Autumn and winter in Paris have their bright spots too, with lovely decorations and far fewer visitors.

9. Principe Island, Sao Tome and Principe

Where? Exactly. Finding a paradisiacal island in a

country that few people have ever heard of will score you points for creativity, and Principe's deserted beaches and gorgeous tropical backdrop make for a truly intimate and special engagement. Located off the west coast of Africa in the Gulf of Guinea, this petite nation has a very casual and peaceful vibe, something you'll quickly (and happily) sink into.

The best time to visit is June to September. Bom Bom Island Resort is the ideal place to stay; for more information visit bombomprincipe.com.



Empire
State
Building

10. Antarctica

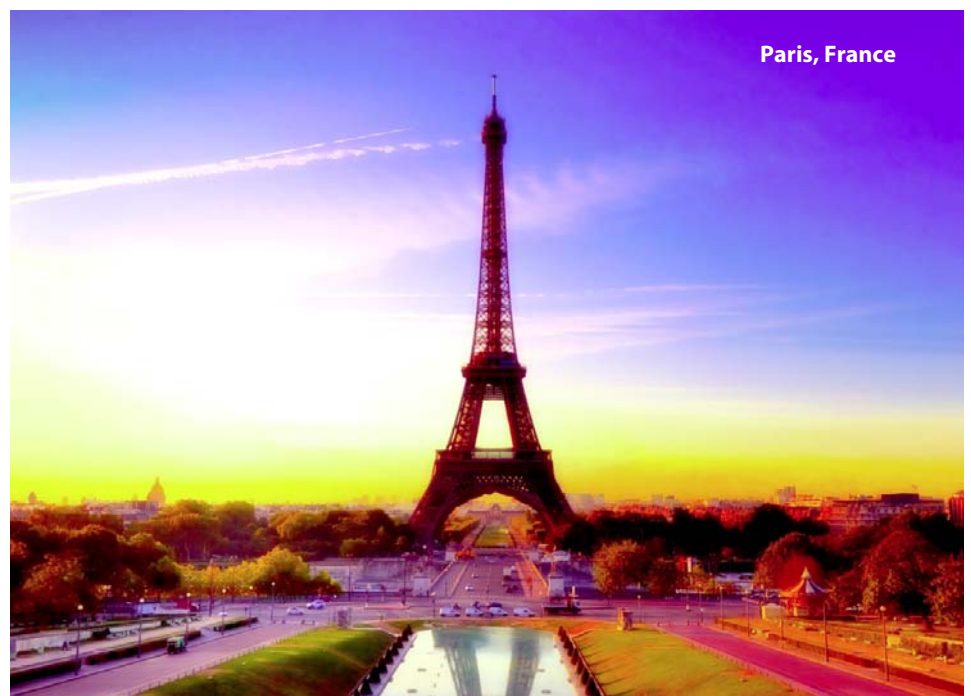
A destination of majestic proportions, Antarctica has the power to overwhelm. During the long voyage across the vast empty Southern Ocean, you'll truly understand that Antarctica is not just a remote part of the world, but the end of it. In the days that follow, you'll also discover that this cold and hostile environment is hauntingly beautiful. Add a little warmth with your love (and a diamond doesn't hurt!) and you have makings for an almighty 'YES!'

The best time to visit is November to March; at the height of summer, there is up to 20 hours of sunlight a day. — www.lonelyplanet.com

Udaipur,
Rajasthan, India



Paris, France



WORD SEARCH

GRAND OLE OPRY WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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

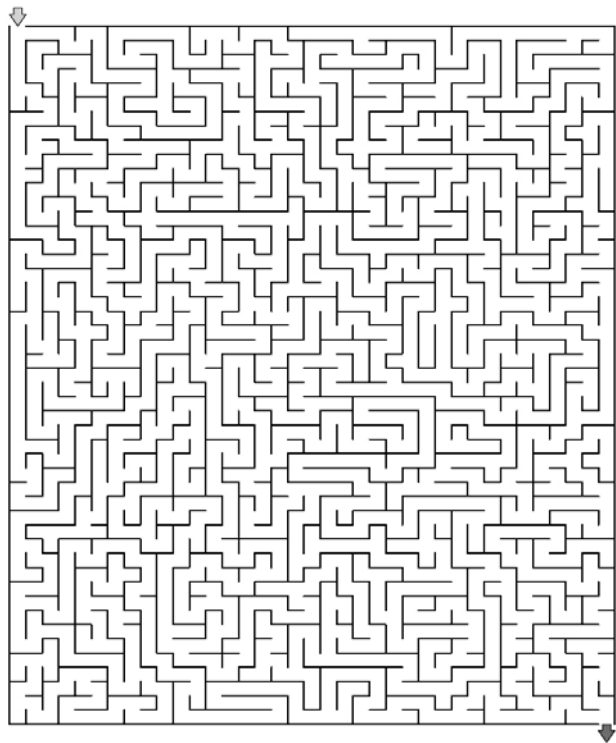
ALAN JACKSON	GARTH BROOKS	LORETTA LYNN	RASCAL FLATTS
CHARLIE DANIELS BAND	GEORGE JONES	LORRIE MORGAN	RICKY SKAGGS
CONNIE SMITH	HANK WILLIAMS	MARTINA MCBRIDE	ROY ACUFF
DIERKS BENTLEY	JOHNNY CASH	PATTY LOVELESS	TAMMY WYNETTE
DOLLY PARTON	LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS	PORTER WAGONER	VINCE GILL

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO IN THE GARDEN PUZZLE

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

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1078

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

ACROSS

- The compass point midway between south and southeast.
- (Greek mythology) An Athenian inventor who built the Labyrinth of Minos.
- Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
- A boy or man.
- The value of a coordinate on the vertical axis.
- Perennial herb of East India to Polynesia and Australia cultivated for its large edible root yielding Otaheite arrowroot starch.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- A three-legged metal stand for supporting a cooking vessel in a hearth.
- A landlocked desert republic in north-central Africa.
- Cannon of plate armor protecting the forearm.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- A naturally occurring weak estrogenic hormone secreted by the mammalian ovary.
- Of or relating to a seizure or convulsion.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- The provision of money temporarily (usually at interest).
- Fill beyond capacity.
- English writer remembered particularly for his novel about Robinson Crusoe (1660-1731).
- An ester of adenosine that is converted to ATP for energy storage.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- Of or in or belonging to the cavity of the abdomen.
- Relating to or caused by wind.
- (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- United States publisher of magazines (1898-1967).
- Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
- A flexible container with a single opening.
- The Mongol people living the the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
- National capital of Kiribati.
- Feed excessively.
- Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cymose panicles of small white flowers and one-winged seeds.
- A master's degree in business.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- A graphic character used in ideography.
- An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
- The universal time coordinated when an event is received on Earth.
- Type genus of the Gentianaceae.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- Speaking a Slavic language.
- An narrative telling the adventures of a hero or a family.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.

- Rare plover of upland areas of Eurasia.
- A wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric with pictorial designs.
- A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge).
- Someone who works underwater.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- Of or relating to the ancient Latins or the Latin language.
- The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
- Stalk of a moss capsule.
- An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
- A woody climbing usually tropical plant.
- A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
- (Irish) Goddess.
- Dearly loved.
- (Roman mythology) Goddess of abundance and fertility.
- United States poet and critic (1899-1979).
- One of the dwelling units in a condominium.
- Having a dusky brownish gray color.
- Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
- A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
- An island northwest of Wales.
- Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
- A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
- The sixth day of the week.
- An alkalating agent (trade name Leukeran) used to treat some kinds of cancer.
- Of a pale purple color.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- 1 species.
- The main organ of photosynthesis and transpiration in higher plants.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
- Upright in position or posture.
- Italian histologist noted for work on the structure of the nervous system and for his discovery of Golgi bodies (1844-1926).
- A subsidiary proposition that is assumed to be true in order to prove another proposition.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- Urged social reform in 19th century England.
- An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
- A Spanish unit of length (about a yard) having different values in different localities.
- A sheath worn to protect a finger.
- Half the width of an em.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Call Of The Wildman
02:15 Call Of The Wildman
02:40 Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Dog Rescuers
09:15 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Dog Rescuers
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
14:45 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
15:40 Treehouse Masters
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan
18:25 In Search Of The King Cobra
19:20 River Monsters
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Roaring With Pride
22:05 Treehouse Masters
23:00 River Monsters
23:55 In Search Of The King Cobra



00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
02:50 Amish Mafia
03:40 Auction Hunters
04:05 Garage Gold
04:30 Baggage Battles
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
05:30 How It's Made
06:00 Mythbusters
06:50 Troy
07:40 Superhuman Science
08:05 What Happened Next?
08:30 The Pop Illusionist
09:20 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
10:10 Kings Of The Wild
11:00 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
11:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
12:40 Cuban Chrome
13:30 Fast N' Loud
14:20 Wheeler Dealers
15:10 Fast N' Loud
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 Fast N' Loud
17:40 Fast N' Loud
18:30 Fast N' Loud
19:20 Fast N' Loud
20:10 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
21:00 Misfit Garage
21:50 Wheeler Dealers
22:40 Cuban Chrome
23:30 Chris Ryan's Elite Police



00:40 Storm Chasers
01:30 You Have Been Warned
02:20 Race To Escape
03:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
04:00 Mythbusters
04:48 NASA's Unexplained Files
05:36 Race To Escape
06:24 NASA's Greatest Missions
07:12 You Have Been Warned
08:00 Storm Chasers
08:50 Food Factory
09:15 Food Factory
09:40 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made
11:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
11:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
12:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
13:00 Mythbusters
13:50 How It's Made
14:15 How It's Made
14:40 Food Factory
15:05 Food Factory
15:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
16:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
17:10 You Have Been Warned
18:00 How It's Made
18:25 How It's Made
18:50 Food Factory

19:15 Food Factory
19:40 Joe Rogan Questions
Everything
20:30 NASA's Greatest Missions
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
23:00 Joe Rogan Questions
Everything
23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions



00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Wolfblood
02:05 Wolfblood
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Wolfblood
04:35 Wolfblood
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:50 Girl Meets World
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:45 Austin & Ally
10:10 Austin & Ally
10:35 H2O: Just Add Water
11:00 H2O: Just Add Water
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:20 Hank Zipzer
12:45 Gravity Falls
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 I Didn't Do It
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
14:55 Lolirock
15:20 Austin & Ally
15:45 Girl Meets World
16:10 Violetta
17:00 I Love Violetta
17:10 Oliver & Company
18:25 Get Frozen
18:40 Gravity Falls
19:05 H2O: Just Add Water

19:30 Violetta
20:20 I Love Violetta
20:30 Mulan 2
21:47 Get Frozen
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood
23:35 Wolfblood



00:00 WAGs
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
02:20 E! News
03:15 Giuliana & Bill
04:10 E! Entertainment Special
05:05 E! Entertainment Special
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 The Grace Helbig Show
11:35 The Grace Helbig Show
12:05 E! News
13:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:00 Dash Dolls
17:00 Dash Dolls
18:00 E! News
19:00 Hollywood Cycle
20:00 WAGs
21:00 Fashion Bloggers
21:30 Fashion Bloggers
22:00 E! News
23:00 House Of DVF



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera
01:30 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera
02:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Guy's Grocery Games
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Barefoot Contessa
11:30 Barefoot Contessa
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Guy's Grocery Games
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 The Pioneer Woman
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
21:00 Siba's Table
21:30 Siba's Table
22:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
23:00 Girl Eat World



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
02:00 Emmerdale
02:25 Eggheads
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Lewis
04:20 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
05:15 Take On The Twisters
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Lewis
08:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
09:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
10:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
12:30 Take On The Twisters
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:30 The Queen's Sister
18:20 Take On The Twisters
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:30 The Queen's Sister
22:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
23:40 Eggheads



03:30 Cristela
04:00 Marry Me
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Marry Me
09:30 About A Boy
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
14:00 Cristela
14:30 About A Boy
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Manhattan Love Story
19:00 About A Boy
19:30 New Girl
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Big Time In Hollywood FI
22:30 Big Time In Hollywood FI
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Better Call Saul
01:00 Blindspot
02:00 Empire
06:00 Parenthood
12:00 Emmerdale
12:30 Coronation Street
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
16:00 Emmerdale
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
19:00 C.S.I. Cyber
20:00 Blindspot
21:00 Grey's Anatomy
22:00 Survivor: Cambodia
23:00 Devious Maids



00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
07:00 Emmerdale
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Emmerdale
12:00 Graceland
23:00 Banshee



00:00 Hit And Run
02:00 Seal Team 8: Behind Enemy Lines
04:00 Falcon Rising
06:00 Arachnophobia
08:00 Marvel's Next Avengers:

Heroes Of Tomorrow
10:00 The Italian Job (2003)
12:00 Falcon Rising
14:00 Arachnophobia
16:00 Destruction: Las Vegas
18:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
20:00 Escape Plan
22:00 Left Behind



00:00 Seal Team 8: Behind Enemy Lines-18
02:00 Falcon Rising-PG15
04:00 Arachnophobia-PG15
06:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow-PG
08:00 The Italian Job (2003)-PG15
10:00 Falcon Rising-PG15
12:00 Arachnophobia-PG15
14:00 Destruction: Las Vegas-PG15
16:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power-PG15
18:00 Escape Plan-PG15
20:00 Left Behind-PG15
22:00 Riddick-18



00:00 That Awkward Moment
02:00 Vamps
04:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day
06:00 For Better Or For Worse
08:00 The Comebacks
10:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day
12:00 Vamps
14:00 Moms' Night Out
16:00 The Comebacks
18:00 Zoölnder
20:00 Ride Along
22:00 Adult World



01:00 One Chance-PG15
03:00 Sunlight Jr.-PG15
05:00 Still Mine-PG15
07:00 Parkland-PG15
09:00 The Giver-PG15
11:00 Still Mine-PG15
13:00 Paranoia-PG15
15:00 A Promise-PG15
17:00 The Giver-PG15
19:00 Inside Llewyn Davis-PG15
21:00 Tar-PG15
23:00 By The Gun-18



01:00 Playing For Keeps
03:00 White Bird In A Blizzard
04:45 Far And Away
07:15 Jodorowsky's Dune
09:00 Against The Ropes
11:00 Far And Away
13:30 Sunshine On Leith
15:15 Next Goal Wins
17:00 Against The Ropes
19:00 August: Osage County
21:00 Begin Again
23:00 Killer Joe



01:15 Brick Mansions-PG15
03:00 Get On Up-PG15
05:15 Robot & Frank-PG15
07:00 At Middleton-PG15
09:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey-PG15
11:15 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb-PG
13:00 Free Birds-PG
14:45 Dinosaur Island-PG
16:30 The Hundred-Foot Journey-PG15
18:45 The Expendables 3-PG15
21:00 Into The Storm-PG15
23:00 Kill The Messenger-PG15



01:15 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure



HIT AND RUN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

03:00 Marvel's Doctor Strange
04:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
06:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
10:00 Curious George: Back To The Jungle
11:30 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
13:15 Tom And Jerry: The Lost Dragon
14:45 Bolts And Blip
16:15 Jungle Shuffle
18:00 Curious George: Back To The Jungle
20:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventures
22:00 Bolts And Blip
23:30 Jungle Shuffle

OSN MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

00:00 Men, Women & Children-18
02:00 The Magic Of Belle Isle-PG15
04:00 Diana-PG15
06:00 Return To Nim's Island-PG
08:00 When The Game Stands Tall-PG15
10:00 Planet 51-PG
12:00 Good Deeds-PG15
14:00 The Gabby Douglas Story-PG
15:45 When The Game Stands Tall-PG15
17:45 Into The Woods-PG
20:00 Mental-PG15
22:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For-18



03:14 Grojband
03:35 Johnny Test
05:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
05:27 Total Drama: All Stars
05:50 Regular Show
06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
07:00 Uncle Grandpa
07:25 Adventure Time
07:50 Teen Titans Go!
08:35 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
09:45 Regular Show
10:30 Clarence
10:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
11:20 Total Drama World Tour
11:40 Total Drama World Tour
12:05 Johnny Test
12:50 New Steven Universe
13:02 Steven Universe
13:15 Uncle Grandpa
13:40 Regular Show
14:25 Adventure Time
15:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:30 Teen Titans Go!
18:20 Regular Show
19:05 The Amazing World Of Gumball
19:51 Adventure Time
20:15 New Steven Universe
20:27 Steven Universe
20:40 Uncle Grandpa
21:00 Teen Titans Go!
21:50 Ben 10 Omniverse
22:40 Adventure Time
00:10 Regular Show
01:40 Total Drama World Tour
02:03 Total Drama World Tour
02:26 Total Drama World Tour
02:51 Grojband
Discovery ID
03:10 Unravalled
04:00 Waco: The Survivors' Story
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:30 The Haunted
06:20 Forensic Detectives
07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
08:00 Nightmare Next Door
08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
09:40 Fatal Encounters
10:30 Murder Shift
11:20 Forensic Detectives
12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
13:00 The Will
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 California Investigator
15:05 Nightmare Next Door
15:55 Fatal Encounters
16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
17:35 Murder Shift
18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Forensic Detectives



BRICK MANSIONS OSN MOVIES HD

20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
20:55 California Investigator
21:20 The Will
22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
23:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
23:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
23:50 Blood Relatives
00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:30 The Haunted
02:20 Ghost Lab



03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopdidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:55 Miles From Tomorrow
12:25 Doc McStuffins
12:55 Loopdidoo
13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:00 Sofia The First
14:30 Henry Hugglemonster
14:45 Calimero
15:00 Doc McStuffins
15:30 Zou
15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:15 Sofia The First

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



07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
07:25 Supa Strikas
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 K.C Undercover
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
09:35 Kirby Buckets
10:00 Kickin' It
10:30 Phineas And Ferb
10:55 Rocket Monkeys
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Super Matrak
12:10 Super Matrak
12:40 Mighty Med
13:05 Ultimate Spider-Man
13:30 Supa Strikas
14:00 Kickin' It
14:25 Pokemon: XY
14:50 Phineas And Ferb
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:35 Kirby Buckets

17:00 Mighty Med
17:25 K.C Undercover
17:55 Supa Strikas
18:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
18:45 Mighty Med
19:10 Phineas And Ferb
19:40 Kickin' It
20:05 K.C Undercover
20:30 Supa Strikas
20:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
21:25 Kirby Buckets
21:50 Kickin' It
22:15 Mighty Med
22:40 Phineas And Ferb
23:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
23:30 Phineas And Ferb
00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA



03:45 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
04:40 Animal Fight Club
05:35 Secret Life Of Predators
06:30 The Croc Catchers
07:25 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
08:20 Wild Russia
09:15 Hidden Worlds
09:40 Hidden Worlds
10:10 Wild Yellowstone
11:05 Ultimate Animals
12:00 Monster Fish
12:55 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
13:50 The Croc Catchers
14:45 The Incredible Dr. Pol
15:40 Amazonia
16:35 Hidden Worlds
17:30 Wild Yellowstone
18:25 Ultimate Animals
19:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol
20:10 Amazonia
21:00 Hidden Worlds
21:50 Wild Yellowstone
22:40 Ultimate Animals
23:30 Monster Fish
00:20 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
01:10 The Croc Catchers
02:00 Hunter Hunted
02:50 Predator Battleground



03:15 Sister Wives
03:40 The Undateables

04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
05:00 Little People, Big World
05:30 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
06:25 Cake Boss
06:50 Cake Boss
07:15 Cake Boss
07:40 Cake Boss
08:05 Bakery Boss
08:55 Bakery Boss
09:45 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:35 Toddlers & Tiaras
11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
11:50 Say Yes To The Dress
12:15 Say Yes To The Dress
12:40 Say Yes To The Dress
13:05 Say Yes To The Dress
13:30 Oprah's Master Class
14:20 Oprah's Lifeclass
15:10 Little People, Big World
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Little People, Big World

16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Little People, Big World
17:15 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
17:40 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
18:05 Cake Boss
18:30 Cake Boss
18:55 Cake Boss
19:20 Our Little Family
19:45 Our Little Family
20:10 Oprah's Lifeclass
21:00 My Five Wives
21:50 Our Little Family
22:15 Our Little Family
22:40 Psychic Matchmaker
23:05 Mob Wives
23:55 Mob Wives
00:45 Living Without Arms: Body Bizarre
01:35 Diagnose Me
02:25 Monsters Inside Me



THAT AWKWARD MOMENT
ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You might cling to a very practical notion about relationships today, along with an ambitious action plan to get what you want. Unfortunately, you may discover you need an entirely new strategy to manifest your dreams once you shift into gear. Admitting that you're wrong could prove to be a real challenge until you realize how much energy you're expending by trying to keep an old fantasy alive. Flexibility is your secret weapon now; don't be afraid to use it.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Knowing where you stand is essential because you like to have your feet on steady ground prior to building on it. However, your need for certainty could become a real showstopper, since nothing is as clear as it seems today. Your confusion creates obstacles as the day progresses, adding to your discomfort. It's wise to make an important decision as soon as possible so you can stop worrying and start relaxing, instead. Don't give up on your big idea when the going gets tough; your persistence will be rewarded if there's a solid foundation in place.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your schedule is as complicated as your thought process while the Moon trines ingenious Uranus today. Unfortunately, you're also quite likely to suffer from poor time management skills now, which can seriously mess with your schedule. Although you may be a touch forgetful, the real problem is that your energy is just spread too thin once again. Stop making unnecessary commitments. Master Wordsmith, E.E. Cummings wrote, "I'd rather learn from one bird how to sing than to teach ten thousand stars how not to dance."



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Gauging someone's reaction to your words is difficult now, no matter how confident you feel about your message. You may be anxious to take dramatic action on a lingering issue that has reached a tipping point. But as you make your move, you suddenly realize you can't tell if you're creating the impact you want. There's no need to worry if rave reviews don't come streaming in right away; it might take a while before you see the positive results of your efforts. In the meantime, believing in yourself sustains your momentum.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are quite pleased with your performance once others acknowledge your creative approach. However, your ability to express what's in your heart doesn't require anyone else's approval; your justification comes from within. Running through old scripts of what you wish you did or didn't do isn't very useful now. This intellectual chatter only clutters your mind with uncertainty or regret. Success is within your reach if you give your talent a chance to shine today and then move on without any attachment to the outcome.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are a master of logic, but you could make a poor decision today if you rely on your head and not your heart. Your thoughts are bent out of shape by your desires now, making it pointless to employ any form of rationalization. Instead, let your emotions take you on the scenic route; you might not arrive at your destination on time, but you will experience more joy on the ride. It may sound silly, but happy feelings will attract happy circumstances.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

A casual friendship may have the chance to be strengthened while your key planet Venus forms a supportive sextile with stabilizing Saturn. However, your desires can run into a wall if you try too hard to force something to happen. Luckily, there's really nothing you have to do but flirt gently with your limits and keep the possibilities alive. If you play your cards right, you will reap the benefits of your patience later in the day. When it comes to the art of persuasion, less is more.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are fascinated by your fantasies of fame and fortune, but you prefer to keep your dreams under wraps. Unfortunately, your motives may be apparent today, challenging you to hide what you do from those who might pass judgment on you. Fortunately, your associates are more understanding than you think; there's no reason to keep your world compartmentalized now. Instead of distancing yourself from coworkers, be proud of the strength of your convictions. Your passion for life sets a fire under those who need a little inspiration to follow their dreams.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Dreaming about an upcoming journey can be very distracting today. Nevertheless, it's not such a great idea to finalize your travel plans because you could be limited by real world constraints. Rather than trying to make sensible choices now, you're tempted to listen to larger-than-life Jupiter and go for the grand gesture. Of course, a trip across town isn't the same thrill as hiking through the high peaks of Tibet. Finding middle ground between fantasy and reality is your quickest route to happiness.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your career plans fall into place today as people rally to join in your cause. However, you're oddly overtaken by a strong impulse to attend to the most basic chores now, like paying bills or doing laundry. Unfortunately, you might not possess the sufficient concentration to follow through on a boring task. Instead of starting something that you're not going to finish, consider taking the entire day off and letting your imagination roam wild and free. Your solid reputation precedes you; others will understand if you need a day for creative inspiration.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Normally, you're determined to stick to your agenda, but someone can distract you from your destination today. You can't help but be inspired when a friend or colleague's endeavor catches your eye. Nevertheless, your ability to recognize what's most productive helps to motivate you to spread your wings. You must learn to trust your flashes of intuition and observe where your attractions pull you. Sometimes a short detour leads you to a better place.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You need to be clear about your priorities or your best intentions could be sidetracked by a simple twist of fate. Solid preparation and consistent execution of your plan is mandatory, but still may not be enough to avoid an unexpected surprise. Fortunately, being derailed off course can ultimately work to your advantage by creating anxiety, flooding your system with adrenaline and heightening your perceptions. You'll be operating at tip-top performance once reality has your undivided attention. Making progress is likely when you're firing on all cylinders in the present moment.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antiga	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Nigar	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976

APPLE APOLOGIZES AFTER AFRICAN STUDENTS KICKED OUT OF A STORE

SYDNEY: An Apple manager has apologized to six teenagers of African descent after staff kicked them out of an Australian store citing concerns they "might steal something", with a video of the incident going viral on Facebook. The video, recorded by one of the students from Maribyrnong College in the southern city

one of the high school students asked why they would steal something, the employee said, "end of discussion, I need to ask you to leave our store". Apple Australia confirmed to AFP Thursday that the store's manager had apologized to the students and their school principal Nick Scott when they returned to the shopping centre on

they asked to try out some self-propelled scooter and the guy told them, 'No, you can't, legally I can't let you try it out'. "They walked away and turned around and another kid was using it."

Scott told AFP some of the six boys were born in Australia, and had parents who were migrants or refugees. The school itself is located in one of the poorest and most multicultural suburbs in Melbourne, he added. Scott said he accompanied the students to the store as they were worried, as buyers of Apple products, that they would be banned from the store.

"All I hoped to do yesterday, and we were very successful in doing this, was to just ask the local Apple store there to just reassure the boys that they would always be welcome, which they did and they did with good grace," he said. The US technology giant has a message from chief executive Tim Cook about diversity on his website, where he writes: "We want every person who joins our team, every customer visiting our stores or calling for support to feel welcome."

"We believe in equality for everyone, regardless of race, age, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation." This is not the first time that videos capturing alleged racial abuse in Australia have gone viral online. In April, a Sydney train passenger was praised after defending a Muslim couple who were racially abused on a carriage, while in July 2014, a woman was punished with a good behavior bond after ranting at an Asian passenger on a Sydney train journey. A French-speaking woman singing on a Melbourne bus was told by a man to "speak English or die" in 2012 in another viral video, and two Chinese students were burned, beaten and racially abused on a Sydney train the same year. —AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: Attendees take photos and video of new iPad Pro models unveiled during an Apple media event in San Francisco, California. Apple said its iPad Pro goes on sale this week in 40 countries, its new computing device aimed at reviving a slumping tablet market. —AFP

of Melbourne, has been viewed almost 60,000 times after it was posted on Facebook on Tuesday with the caption "simply racism".

"These guys (security guards) are just a bit worried about your presence in our store," an Apple employee at the Highpoint Shopping Centre store is heard saying in the footage. "They are just worried you might steal something." When

Wednesday.

Scott said it was not the first time his students, who were at the mall dressed in school uniform, were treated in such a manner. "They were just six kids standing around a table looking at phones," Scott told Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper. "But if you speak to these kids they say they have experienced this before." At Highpoint (shopping mall) two weeks ago

MOTORBIKE TAXI APP BANS SMELLY DRIVERS

JAKARTA: Life is about to get a little easier for Indonesians who use motorbike taxis to weave through Jakarta's notorious traffic-choked streets—a new ride-hailing app is promising to ban smelly drivers. UberJEK, the latest in a series of smartphone-based motorbike taxi-booking services in the metropolis, has pledged to only hire drivers who pass a "body odor test" as it goes on a recruiting drive before starting operations next year.

The website of the company features a picture of a foreigner sniffing the armpit of an Indonesian man under the caption: "Sorry, if you have an armpit odor problem, you cannot be an UberJEK rider". Motorbike taxis, known locally as "ojeks", have been ubiquitous for years in the overcrowded city of 10 million known for its monster traffic jams, but it is all too easy for drivers to get sweaty and smelly working long hours in the tropical heat.

UberJEK founder Aris Wahyudi said he decided to include the test in the recruitment process after hearing many complaints from motorbike taxi customers. "This test will be conducted for customers' satisfaction as there have been many complaints about drivers' foul-smelling body odour," Wahyudi said, according to reports. UberJEK—which is not associated with the popular US-based ride-sharing service Uber—hopes its pledge to hire only fragrant drivers will give it an edge in a crowded market that has been flooded by motorbike taxi-hailing apps over the past year. Other services have also taken an innovative approach, such as Ladyjek and Sister Ojek, which offer female drivers for women travelers. —AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
هفد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/10/2015 TO 18/11/2015)

SHARQIA-1
 ATOMIC EDEN 12:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 2:15 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 4:00 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 6:00 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 8:00 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 10:00 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-2
 SPECTRE 12:30 PM
 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 1:30 PM
 SPECTRE 3:30 PM
 SPECTRE 6:30 PM
 SPECTRE 9:30 PM
 SPECTRE 12:30 AM

SHARQIA-3
 GOOSEBUMPS 11:45 AM
 SPECTRE 2:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 5:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 8:15 PM
 SPECTRE 11:30 PM

MUHALAB-1
 ATOMIC EDEN 12:45 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 2:45 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 4:45 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 6:45 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 8:45 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 10:45 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 12:45 AM

MUHALAB-2
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 1:00 PM
 SPECTRE 1:30 PM
 AKHIL 4:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 4:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 7:30 PM
 SPECTRE 11:00 PM

MUHALAB-3
 SPECTRE 12:00 PM
 SPECTRE 3:00 PM
 SPECTRE 6:00 PM
 SPECTRE 9:00 PM
 SPECTRE 12:05 AM

FANAR-1
 STEVE JOBS 12:45 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 1:30 PM
 STEVE JOBS 3:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 5:45 PM
 STEVE JOBS 7:45 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 10:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 12:15 AM

FANAR-2
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 12:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 2:30 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 4:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 6:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 8:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 10:30 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 12:30 AM

FANAR-3
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 11:45 AM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 3:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 6:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 9:30 PM
 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION 12:45 AM

FANAR-4
 SPECTRE 12:30 PM
 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION 1:30 PM
 SPECTRE 3:30 PM
 SPECTRE 6:30 PM
 SPECTRE 9:30 PM
 SPECTRE 12:30 AM

FANAR-5
 SPECTRE 11:30 AM
 SPECTRE 2:30 PM
 SPECTRE 5:30 PM
 AKHIL 6:00 PM
 SPECTRE 8:30 PM
 EVERYDAY I LOVE YOU 8:30 PM

SPECTRE 11:30 PM

MARINA-1
 UNCONSCIOUS 12:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 2:30 PM
 UNCONSCIOUS 4:30 PM
 UNCONSCIOUS 6:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 8:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 10:30 PM
 UNCONSCIOUS 12:30 AM

MARINA-2
 SPECTRE 12:00 PM
 SPECTRE 3:00 PM
 SPECTRE 6:00 PM
 SPECTRE 9:00 PM
 SPECTRE 12:05 AM

MARINA-3
 ATOMIC EDEN 12:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 2:00 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 4:00 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 6:00 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 8:00 PM
 SPECTRE 10:00 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 1:00 AM

AVENUES-1
 STEVE JOBS 12:15 PM
 STEVE JOBS 2:45 PM
 STEVE JOBS 5:15 PM
 STEVE JOBS 7:45 PM
 STEVE JOBS 10:15 PM
 STEVE JOBS 12:45 AM

AVENUES-2
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 1:00 PM
 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 4:15 PM
 VEDHALAM 6:15 PM
 EYAL HAREEFA 9:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 11:30 PM

AVENUES-3
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 12:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 2:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 4:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 6:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 8:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 10:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 12:30 AM

AVENUES-4
 SPECTRE 1:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 2:00 PM
 SPECTRE 4:15 PM
 SPECTRE 7:15 PM
 NO THU
 SPECTRE 7:15 PM
 SPECTRE 10:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 1:15 AM

AVENUES-5
 UNCONSCIOUS 12:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 2:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 5:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 8:30 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 11:45 PM

AVENUES-6
 ATOMIC EDEN 11:30 AM
 ATOMIC EDEN 1:30 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 3:30 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 5:30 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 7:30 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 9:30 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 11:30 PM

AVENUES-7
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 1:30 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 3:45 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 6:00 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 8:15 PM
 EVERYDAY I LOVE YOU 8:00 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 10:30 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 12:45 AM

360°- 1
 GOOSEBUMPS 11:30 AM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 1:45 PM

Kuwait Times
 ESTABLISHED 1961
 THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

FOR SALE

Furniture for Sale 3 split AC (General) bedroom sofa bed, 2 chairs (IKEA) dining table +5 chairs beufet 3 pcs 2 level bed. Call: 22629161 / 99642993. **(C 5070)**
10-11-2015

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rakesh holder of Indian Passport No. Z1172230, S/o Pravin Chandra Ratilal, R/o of Flat No. 501, P, Vardhaman Nagar Mulund, (W), Mumbai, have changed my name from Rakesh to Rakesh Pravin Chandra Ratilal. **(C 5069)**
9-11-2015

Sheikh Khader, Indian Passport No. M6101253, change my name to Pathan Khadar Khan. **(C 5068)**
8-11-2015

SITUATION VACANT

Required domestic cook (Indian preferred) excellent salary, well spoken English language, excellent experience and transferable visa (20). Contact: 99020008. **(C 5067)**
4-11-2015

Prayer timings

Fajr: 04:48
Shorook 06:10
Duhr: 11:32
Asr: 14:33
Maghrib: 16:54
Isha: 18:14



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

ECB'S DRAGHI READY TO ACT, DEFENDS BANKER MEETINGS

PAGE 39



China launches new 'harder to fake' 100 yuan note

Page 41



LONDON: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) and British Prime Minister David Cameron give a joint press conference at the Foreign Office in London yesterday. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and address a huge rally at London's Wembley Stadium during a three-day visit to Britain focused on trade and investment. — AFP

BRITAIN AND INDIA EYE TRADE DEALS

LONDON: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Queen Elizabeth II and address a huge rally at London's Wembley Stadium during a three-day visit to Britain focused on trade and investment starting today. The trip will be the first time an Indian prime minister visits Britain in nearly 10 years and is expected to yield billions of dollars (euros) worth of deals, including India buying more BAE Systems Hawk trainer jets for its armed forces.

The red carpet reception from Prime Minister David Cameron's government will be a stark reversal of fortunes for Modi, who had effectively been banned from Britain until three years ago over anti-Muslim riots which killed over 1,000 people in 2002, when he was chief minister of Gujarat. As well as having lunch with the queen at Buckingham Palace on Friday, Modi, who became India's prime minister with a landslide victory in 2014, will hold talks with Cameron at Downing Street yesterday and his country residence, Chequers. He will become the first Indian prime minister to address both Houses of Parliament.

The 65-year-old will also appear before around 60,000 of Britain's 1.5 million-strong Indian diaspora at Wembley Stadium, alongside a free concert and a huge Diwali fireworks display. "This isn't just a historic visit. It's a historic opportunity," Cameron said ahead of the visit. "It's an opportunity for two countries, tied by history, people and values, to work together to overcome the biggest challenges of our age." India is the world's ninth-largest economy and, at 7.4 percent, has the fastest growth rate in the G20. Former colonial power Britain is the fifth-largest world economy. The government is pushing hard to increase overseas trade as it tries to shrink its large deficit in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

Cameron promised in 2010 to double Britain's trade with India by this year. He has visited the country three times, but the trade figure has barely increased. Gareth Price of London-based foreign affairs think-tank Chatham House said Britain was lower down India's pecking order than other nations such as Japan or Germany. "A lot of countries are

wooing India with deeper pockets and without the historic baggage," he said. Price added that India's "number one" ask from Britain was usually more visas for Indian nationals. But he stressed this was "problematic" for Cameron, who has been struggling to reduce immigration since taking power five years ago.

Reforms at a 'standstill'

Downing Street said the visit would include announcements on "masala bonds" rupee-denominated bonds which would allow Indian companies to issue debt in London. Modi's government Tuesday announced plans to liberalize its foreign direct investment (FDI) regime ahead of the visit in areas including defense, banking and construction. Britain is the third-largest source of FDI in India.

That move is seen as a bid by Modi to counter accusations that his reform drive is stalling, highlighted by his Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) bruising defeat Sunday in elections in the state of Bihar. British think-tank

Oxford Economics said Modi's reform agenda had "come to a standstill". "The broad 'script' of the trip is likely to be in line with the established pattern, presenting the Indian government as committed to reforms," it said in a note. "To some extent, the improvement in India's position in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking to 130 from 134 last year supports this. "However, this is still a far cry from a position in the top 50 that Modi would like India to reach."

Modi, a Hindu nationalist, is likely to face a string of protests during his visit. A group calling itself "Modi Not Welcome" is organizing a demonstration outside Downing Street during talks with Cameron, accusing Modi of creating an "authoritarian culture" in India. Some 46 MPs, including the leader of the opposition Labor party Jeremy Corbyn, have signed a parliamentary motion urging Cameron to raise human rights issues with the Indian government. Cameron's spokeswoman said that "nothing is off the table" in the talks but stressed that a "strong and close relationship" with India was important. — AFP

KUWAIT FINANCIAL REGULATOR OPENS DOOR FOR MORE SUKUK ISSUES

KUWAIT: Kuwait's financial regulator has released rules covering issuance of Islamic bonds in a move that could facilitate sales of sukuk by both the government and corporations.

Corporate issuance of sukuk in Kuwait has dropped off in recent years, and the vast bulk of issuance has been in US dollars rather than in Kuwaiti dinars. The government has not issued sukuk.

Bankers blame the lack of a specialised

legislative framework covering Islamic bonds; two defaults on Kuwaiti corporate sukuk during the global financial crisis in 2009-2010 made investors wary of new issuance without such a framework.

Rules issued by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) this week aim to provide a legal basis for issues. The rules outline conditions that sukuk must meet to be tradeable, and describe specific formats such as instruments with perpetual tenors and

those which can be converted into shares.

Sukuk issues must be approved by both the CMA and the central bank, according to the rules, which set out the obligations and powers of custodians of the instruments.

The government could be an early user of the rules because low oil prices have strained its finances. Finance minister Anas al-Saleh said in September that Kuwait planned to issue local-currency sovereign debt by the end of this year to cover its

budget deficit. Mazin al-Nahedh, chief executive of Kuwait Finance House, one of the world's oldest and largest Islamic banks, told an Islamic finance conference in Kuwait on Wednesday that lack of regulation meant KFH previously had to issue sukuk in foreign jurisdictions. The new CMA rules will help to encourage corporate issuance of sukuk within Kuwait, allowing borrowers to tap ample investor demand inside the country, he said. —Reuters



JAKARTA: A file picture taken in Jakarta on July 15, 2009, shows a technician checking the Rolls Royce engine of Garuda Indonesia's Airbus A330-300 aircraft at the company hangar in Jakarta airport. British engine maker Rolls-Royce issued another gloomy profits warning yesterday. —AFP

ROLLS-ROYCE SHARES NOSEDIVE ON THE LATEST PROFIT WARNING

LONDON: A grim profits warning from Rolls-Royce sent the British engine maker's shares crashing by more than a fifth yesterday, as a raft of disappointing earnings rocked European equities. The company's share price slumped 22.6 percent to 516 pence around midday in London after Rolls delivered its fourth profits warning in a year. Rolls-Royce said 2016 profits would take a hit of £650 million (\$986 million/918 million euros) as a result of weak demand in its aerospace and marine markets.

That compared with a previous estimate of £300 million given in July. In addition, the group cautioned that 2015 pre-tax profit would be "at the lower end" of its forecast range of between £1.32 billion and £1.47 billion. "While 2015 remains broadly as expected, the outlook for 2016 is very challenging," chief executive Warren East declared.

Elsewhere in Europe, there were gloomy results in the energy sector. In Frankfurt, shares in German giant RWE tanked 8.19 percent to 11.44 euros after saying 2015 profits would "only just" meet the company's forecast range of between 1.1 billion euros and 1.3 billion euros. RWE added that profits slid in the nine months to

September, hit by an operating loss at its troubled British division Npower. The second biggest faller in Frankfurt was peer E.ON, whose stock sank 3.42 percent to 8.86 euros.

Euro under pressure

In Madrid, Repsol shares dived 4.91 percent to 11.52 euros after the Spanish oil giant revealed that it swung into the red in the third quarter. The company posted a net loss of 221 million euros (\$237 million) in the July-September period, and blamed lower oil prices and US asset writedowns. Investor sentiment was also subdued as traders awaited a speech from Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen hoping for clues about US interest rates. "A cavalcade of concerns left the European indices in a uniform shade of red this morning, including a truly nightmarish performance from Rolls-Royce," said analyst Connor Campbell at traders Spreadex.

"The doom and gloom from the continent's yesterday earnings releases comes ahead of afternoon comments from Janet Yellen, the Fed chair boosted by last week's knock-out non-farm report. "If Yellen appear

more hawkish in light of last Friday's figures then the day's sell-off may only intensify, dragging a so-far resilient Dow into the mix." The euro was meanwhile under pressure yesterday after European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said economic risks to the region were "clearly visible", stoking speculation over more stimulus measures. Nearing midday, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index fell 0.6 percent, Frankfurt's DAX 30 shed 0.5 percent and the CAC 40 in Paris lost 1.0 percent compared with Wednesday's close.

"There's little doubt that some tough earnings figures are currently weighing on European markets, but there's also an impression that investors are very much waiting on Janet Yellen's speech," added ETX Capital analyst Daniel Sugarman. "All it would take is a couple of sentences to dramatically change the market mood." Last Friday's forecast-beating US jobs report reinforced recent data showing the world's biggest economy is picking up, stoking speculation over a December rate hike. However, analysts said markets are uneven as the Fed mulls a lift-off, while other central banks-particularly in Europe, China and Japan-hint at further easing to kickstart growth at home. —AFP

STRIKING GREEKS TAKE TO TENSION FILLED STREETS

ATHENS: Striking Greeks took to the streets yesterday to protest austerity measures, setting Alexis Tsipras' government its biggest domestic challenge since he was re-elected in September promising to cushion the impact of economic hardship. Flights were grounded, hospitals ran on skeleton staff, ships were docked at port and public offices stayed shut across the country in the first nationwide walkout called by Greece's largest private and public sector unions in a year.

As Greece's foreign lenders prepared to meet in central Athens to review compliance with its latest bailout, thousands marched in protest at the relentless round of tax hikes and pension cutbacks that the rescue packages have entailed. Tensions briefly boiled over in the city's main Syntagma Square, where a Reuters witness saw riot police fire tear gas at dozens of black-clad youths who broke off from the march to hurl petrol bombs and stones and smash shop windows near parliament. Some bombs struck the frontage of the Greek central bank. Police sources said three people were detained before order was restored. Five years of austerity since the first bailout was signed in 2010 have sapped economic activity and left about a quarter of the population out of work. "My salary is not enough to cover even my basic needs. My students are starving," said Dimitris Nomikos, 52, a protesting teacher said. "They are destroying the social security system ... I don't know if we will ever see our pensions."

Tsipras came to power in January promising to end the austerity. He then accepted the unpopular terms of Greece's third bailout when faced with the prospect of an exit from the euro-zone. Illustrating the political juggling act the prime minister is trying to pull off, his own Syriza party came out in support of yesterday's strike, saying industrial action strengthened the government's hand in talks with lenders. The bailout review talks with the EU and IMF inspectors resumed on Wednesday.

'We have turned into beggars'

Government spokeswoman Olga Gerovasilis denied suggestions that leftist Syriza, which fought against austerity when it was in opposition, was trying to play both sides in supporting the anti-austerity strike. The party has said it will implement its side of the bargain with lenders, but has long maintained that the bailout terms are excessively harsh.

"We are implementing an agreement which includes (bailout) measures which are unfair," Gerovasilis said. But Syriza's dilemma cut little ice with some of the thousands of protesters who converged on the city's main Syntagma Square. "It's a tactic of Syriza to disorientate the people from targeting the party," said Ilias Leggeris, 63, a retired bank worker. Some demonstrators held pink balloons with "The Promises of Alexis" written on them, suggesting his words were empty. Municipal workers in the crowd wore fluorescent vests with a "not for sale" sign stamped on their backs.

A group of musicians added a surreal touch with a rendition of the 50s classic "Rock Around the Clock" as they marched through the square. "I cannot take any more," said Irini Kasidokosta, 72, a retired teacher who has seen her pension cut by 50 percent over six years. She directed her anger against both Tsipras and the lenders. "I wish Tsipras had done what he promised (to overturn austerity) but they didn't let him," she said. "Now we have turned into beggars for a plate of food." Visiting tourists were disappointed to find monuments shut. "We didn't really know that there was going to be a strike, we just kind of arrived and we planned for this one day in Athens and we kind of wanted to see that thing (the Parthenon)," one tourist from Alaska said. —Reuters

AIRBNB PROMISES TO PLAY FAIR WITH CITIES

SAN FRANCISCO: Airbnb dialed down its battle rhetoric Wednesday, promising to pay taxes and not cut into long-term housing amid criticism it unfairly competes with hotels and has exacerbated a San Francisco housing crisis. The surging home-sharing startup released a so-called Community Compact in which it vowed to pay its “fair share” of hotel and tourist taxes. It also pledged to be transparent with information about home sharing activity, and to work to prevent short-term rentals from biting into the availability of long-term housing.

The more cooperative tone was struck just a week after San Francisco voters rejected a measure that would have limited short-term housing rentals in what was seen as a

referendum on Airbnb, which allows property dwellers and owners to rent out a room or an entire home for short periods. “This Compact is just one step we are taking to help the cities that our hosts and guests call home,” Airbnb co-founder and chief executive Brian Chesky wrote in an online post. People who offer rentals will be required to agree to a policy that homes being made available are permanent residences, according to Airbnb.

Hometown politics

Airbnb critics claim the San Francisco-based “sharing economy” service unfairly competes with hotels, which face stricter regulations and taxes. Some also claim the

startup provides an incentive for property owners to toss out long-term residents and convert lodgings to short-term rentals, creating an upheaval in the traditional market for rentals. Last week, voters in San Francisco rejected “Proposition F” by 55 percent to 45 percent. The measure would have placed a 75-day limit per year for rentals under 30 days, regardless of whether the property is “hosted” or not—a significant change to the current law that allows for 90 days if the resident is absent, and places no limits on renting a “hosted” spare room.

Airbnb would have been heavily affected had the law passed. It was a major contributor to the “no” campaign, which raised \$8 million compared with just \$800,000 by the

measure’s backers, according to figures released by the San Francisco Ethics Commission. Proponents argued that Airbnb has aggravated an affordable housing crisis in San Francisco, claiming that an increasing number of existing apartments were being illegally offered and advertised as short-term rentals on the service. That, they said, was eliminating rent-controlled and affordable housing, driving up rents and causing evictions. Housing prices have been surging in recent years in the region around San Francisco and nearby Silicon Valley due to investment in tech startups. With the arrival of highly paid tech workers, some former low-income San Francisco neighborhoods have been transformed. — AFP

BANKS, AT ODDS WITH PERSONAL FINANCE SITES, DISRUPT SERVICE

NEW YORK: The uneasy relationship between banks and companies that use their data to provide personal finance services has shown signs of fraying in recent months, causing some frustrating disruptions in service to people trying to track their spending. Who knew keeping tabs on your monthly coffee budget could be so contentious? Personal finance web sites and apps that can provide a way for users to monitor their finances across all of their banks and credit cards have become popular because they give users an almost real-time view of their financial lives in a way that was impossible a few years ago.

Mint, a personal finance service is owned by Intuit, has 2.5 million daily users. BillGuard, which monitors for fraudulent transactions, has 1.3 million users and was bought by the lending company Prosper earlier this year. But these sites and apps depend on data from all of each user’s financial institutions, data that is extremely sensitive and extremely valuable for marketing financial products. JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America said they temporarily cut or slowed down the amount of data they are providing to sites like Mint.com on a few occasions recently. While Capital One still allows customers to access their data on these services, the bank offers a stern warning that it is not “liable for any resulting damages or losses” if a customer’s data is breached at one on one of those services.

The banks say the reason for the disruptions is technical. The personal finance sites strain the banks’ computer systems, the banks say, because the millions of Mint users ping Chase or BofA constantly for recent transactions, deposits and other data. That leaves them a choice between providing services to these aggregators and keeping their own websites up and running. The banks are uncomfortable with the personal finance services for other reasons, however.

A few banks have admitted that they have failed to deliver comprehensive financial management tools to their customers, allowing these sites to flourish. And they say they are worried that these third-party sites could expose customer log-in data and financial information to cyber-criminals. “Aggregators potentially sit on a treasure-trove of financial information on customers. Oftentimes they will have credentials that would give access to every one of the customers’ financial relationships,” said Doug Johnson, a payments and cybersecurity expert at the American Bankers Association.

Banks and other companies have long struggled to keep third-party service providers from exposing their customers’ financial information. Just this week, federal authorities brought charges against three people from an outside provider who stole consumer data from JPMorgan Chase & Co. Cyber-criminals tapped into third-party systems to pull off high-profile thefts of customer data from Target and Home Depot in recent years. This isn’t the first time an industry has tried to deny data aggregators access to customer information. Some airlines have cut off services like AwardWallet, which aimed to allow users to track all of their frequent flier programs in one place. — AP



LONDON: Mark Carney, Governor of The Bank of England, right, sits with Mario Draghi President of the European Bank during The Bank of England’s Open Forum Conference in London, Wednesday. Carney is holding an “open forum” with policymakers, academics, senior bankers and with public input to discuss wide ranging topics including the future of banking regulation. — AP

ECB’S DRAGHI READY TO ACT, DEFENDS BANKER MEETINGS

ECB CHIEF SAYS MONEY PRINTING SCHEME ‘FLEXIBLE’

BRUSSELS: The head of the European Central Bank underlined yesterday the bank’s readiness to extend money printing, warning that a key measure of economic health—price inflation—was flagging. In remarks to European Union lawmakers, Mario Draghi also defended private meetings between policy setters and banks and hedge funds, such as executive board member Benoît Coeuré’s meeting with a French bank hours before the ECB cut rates.

“Signs of a sustained turnaround in core inflation have somewhat weakened,” Draghi told the European Parliament’s economics committee, addressing a barometer of economic health that could influence the ECB’s massive money printing scheme. His comments, pointing to the risks of a spillover to Europe from a slowdown in China or other emerging markets, amplify a chorus of similar warnings indicating further possible action as soon as Dec. 3, when ECB policymakers next

gather. “We have always said that our purchases would run beyond end-September 2016 in case we do not see a sustained adjustment in the path of inflation,” Draghi added, calling its quantitative easing scheme “powerful and flexible”. “Other instruments”, he said, “could also be activated”. People familiar with the matter said this week that the ECB is examining whether to buy municipal bonds of cities such as Paris or regions like Bavaria. The bank launched the program, under which it buys 60 billion euros a month of mostly government bonds, in March. By next September, when purchases are due to end, the ECB will have spent more than 1 trillion euros to lift inflation and growth.

The scheme also allows the bank to buy asset-backed securities and covered bonds, but as with European muni bonds, those markets are relatively small. Facing an unusually high number of critical questions from law-

makers compared to similar earlier hearings, including from one parliamentarian who accused the ECB of being an ‘arsonist’ during Ireland’s financial crisis, Draghi defended the transparency of the central bank.

He indicated the ECB may change its involvement with the International Monetary Fund and European Commission that oversaw the bailout programs of countries such as Greece or Ireland. Draghi also said the ECB would publish the diaries of members of the ECB’s executive board, which forms the nucleus of policy, after a recent request for that information revealed hedge funds and banks had regular contact with policy setters. “We have had and still have a clear rule—we do not discuss market-sensitive information in non-public meetings,” he said. “For our monetary policy to be effective, however, it is important to meet market participants and to also hear their views.” — Reuters



TOKYO: Employees monitor the market dealings at Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo. Asian shares moved slightly Wednesday as attention focused on key economic indicators from China that showed little change. —AP

HK REBOUNDS FROM SELL-OFF, EYES ON FED'S YELLEN

AUSTRALIAN INVESTORS GIVEN SURPRISE BOOST

HONG KONG: Hong Kong was the stand-out stock market yesterday after five days of losses while Asian traders await a speech from Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen hoping for clues about US interest rates. Australia's dollar put on more than one percent against the greenback thanks to a surprise drop in the country's jobless rate but a recent rally in some other emerging currencies petered out. The Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong surged more than two percent, having given up three percent in the past five outings. Internet giant and market heavyweight Tencent led the charge after posting record profit for July-September, while IT firm Lenovo surged more than four percent on better-than-forecast earnings.

Most Chinese firms listed in the city were also up, with the index that tracks such firms climbing for the first time in four days on hopes Beijing will introduce new measures to boost the mainland economy. Traders will be keeping a close watch on Yellen's comments later as bets on a December rate hike increase following Friday's forecast-beating US jobs report that reinforced recent data

showing the world's biggest economy is picking up.

However, analysts said markets are uneven as the Fed mulls a lift-off, while other central banks—particularly in Europe, China and Japan—hint at further easing to kickstart growth at home. "Divergence in monetary policy is creating an even chopier investment environment," Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist in Sydney at CMC Markets, said. "The futures market is indicating that it's more likely than not that we'll see the Fed raise rates in December. Expectations of further easing in China are high because there's been a demonstrated responsiveness among policy makers to the weakening economy."

Aussie rallies

While crude edged up, it was unable to recover Wednesday's losses that came in response to figures showing a surge in US stockpiles. A weekly report by the American Petroleum Institute late Tuesday showed US commercial inventories jumped more than six million barrels. The US Department of Energy's closely

watched reserves data is due later in the day and expectations are for a further increase in supplies there, too. In yesterday's trade US benchmark West Texas Intermediate rose 56 US cents after losing \$1.28 the day before, while Brent added 44 cents after diving \$1.63. Both contracts are around two-month lows. The softening prices weighed on energy firms from Santos and Origin in Sydney, to Shanghai-listed PetroChina and Sinopec.

Australian investors were given a surprise boost by news that unemployment had fallen to 5.9 percent in October, easing pressure on the country's central bank to cut interest rates as the economy struggles. Forecasts had been for the rate to remain steady at 6.2 percent. The news put a light under the Australian dollar, which jumped 1.1 percent against its US counterpart. For other emerging market currencies, Indonesia's rupiah and the Singapore dollar advanced after being hammered soon after the US jobs figures. But South Korean won and Malaysia's ringgit edged slightly lower after tacking up healthy gains in the previous two days. —AFP

OPEC SEES OIL SUPPLY HOLE NEXT YEAR AS LOW PRICES CURB OUTPUT

LONDON: OPEC said its oil output fell in October and forecast supply from rival producers next year would decline for the first time since 2007 as low prices prompt investment cuts, reducing a global supply glut. In a monthly report, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said it pumped 31.38 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, down 256,000 bpd from September. If realised, the forecast of a decline in supply outside OPEC would be a further indication the group's strategy is working. OPEC last year abandoned a longstanding policy of propping up prices and instead raised output, seeking to recover market share taken by higher-cost rival production.

Oil is trading at just under \$46 a barrel, more than 50 percent below its price in June 2014. "The recent decline in oil prices has encouraged additional oil demand," OPEC said in the report. "It has also provided a challenging market environment for some higher-cost crude oil production, which has already shown a slowdown." The group expects non-OPEC supply next year to fall by about 130,000 bpd, following growth of 720,000 bpd this year, "as nearly \$200 billion of capex cutbacks this year and next create a gaping supply hole".

OPEC production, which has surged since the policy shift of November 2014 led by record Saudi Arabian and Iraqi output, fell in October on export delays in Iraq and lower supply from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, said the report, citing secondary sources. OPEC's report points to a 560,000-bpd supply surplus in the market next year if the group keeps pumping at October's rate, down from 750,000 bpd indicated in last month's report. In the third quarter of 2016, demand for OPEC crude will rise to an average of 31.51 million bpd, OPEC predicted—above current output for the first time in months. OPEC in the report left its 2016 oil demand forecasts unchanged, predicting the world would need 30.82 million bpd of OPEC crude and that global demand would grow by 1.25 million bpd. —Reuters



SEOUL: A currency trader looks at the computer monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea. Asian stock markets were mostly lower Tuesday as investors fretted over the fragile outlook for global growth and the Federal Reserve's plan to raise US interest rates soon. —AP

RAYTHEON PARTNERS WITH SAUDI ELECTRONICS AEC

DUBAI: Raytheon Company plans to partner with a Saudi electronics firm to grow its presence in the Gulf, part of a push to expand global commercial sales, its international chief executive said this week. Raytheon, one of the largest US arms makers, announced an agreement at the Dubai Airshow with Riyadh-based Advanced Electronics Co (AEC) to explore collaboration on weapon systems, integrated sensors, civil aviation and cybersecurity.

"We see significant growth in the international marketplace, and the GCC figures

prominently in that growth plan," John Harris, the chief executive of Raytheon International, told Reuters at the air show on Wednesday, referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council group of countries. The Gulf region is the largest market driver in the arms industry, buying billions of dollars of military equipment each year. Saudi Arabia spent \$7.7 billion in 2014, more than double any of its neighbors, according to research firm IHS.

Saudi Arabia uses the Raytheon Patriot missile and air defense system, and was

recently cleared to receive \$5.4 billion in new PAC-3 missiles built by Lockheed. Raytheon and AEC already work together on manufacturing of components for the kingdom's program to buy F-15 fighter jets from Boeing Co. The agreement reflects Raytheon's new focus on building partnerships with local firms in targeted markets, and expanding into related commercial fields, instead of focusing on single weapons programs as it has in the past.

"Our play (in Saudi Arabia) is not only in the defense sector, but also in the commercial

marketplace," said Harris, citing cybersecurity and air traffic control as prospective growth areas for international sales. Harris said Raytheon had nine customers in Saudi Arabia, but gave no details on its sales in the kingdom. He said the GCC figured prominently in Raytheon's plan to keep expanding foreign sales, which already account for 30 percent of total sales. Raytheon has also invested heavily in building its cyber capacity in recent years, making several acquisitions in the cyber market over the past decade, said Harris. —Reuters

CHINA'S LENOVO REPORTS Q2 LOSS FOLLOWING CUTS

HONG KONG: Chinese technology giant Lenovo said yesterday it saw a loss for the second quarter following a restructuring plan, despite stronger sales in its mobile business. However, the loss reported by the world's biggest personal computer maker was narrower than analysts' forecasts. "With strong execution, Lenovo acted swiftly and decisively to address challenges, while still delivering better-than-previous-quarter results," Lenovo chairman Yang Yuanqing said in statement yesterday.

Lenovo had said that it would seek to slash costs by \$1.35 billion annually and cut 3,200 staff from its non-manufactur-

ing workforce-around five percent of its worldwide headcount, when it announced its first quarter results in August. "Going forward these actions are intended to drive meaningful run-rate cost savings of about \$650 million in the second half of this year and about \$1.35 billion on an annual basis," the firm said. Its shares on the Hong Kong stock exchange closed 5.8 percent up at HK\$7.7 (\$0.99) after the quarterly results were announced, while the benchmark Hang Seng Index finished the day 2.4 percent higher.

Lenovo posted a net loss of \$714 million for the second quarter ending

September 30, compared to a profit of \$262 million in the same period last year. Analysts had expected the firm to report a \$803 million loss, according to Bloomberg News. Revenue increased 16 percent to \$12.15 billion, while the company also saw a pre-tax loss of \$842 million. Lenovo has suffered from a decline in global demand for PCs, which account for around a third of its revenue despite its efforts to diversify into other sectors, including the smart-phone market.

Sales in its PC business were down 17 percent year-on-year at \$8.1 billion, after shipping 15 million PCs during the

second quarter. Its quarterly mobile business sales, which includes Motorola, was up 104 percent year-on-year at \$2.7 billion. "In mobile, our strategy to shift our growth focus to outside of China continued to pay off, and we gained share and improved margin," Yang said. The technology firm said 18.8 million mobile units were sold, up 11 percent compared to the same period last year led by growth outside China. Lenovo bought Motorola from Google for \$2.9 billion last October, soon after its purchase of IBM's low-end server business as part of its strategy of broadening beyond PCs. —AFP

CHINA LAUNCHES NEW 'HARDER TO FAKE' 100 YUAN NOTE

BEIJING: China yesterday put into circulation a new version of its 100-yuan banknote-the highest denomination available in the world's second-largest economy-with added golden touches that the government said was harder to forge.

The note, worth just under \$16, retains its overall red colour, with Communist founder Mao Zedong on one side and Beijing's Great Hall of the People on the other.

But the main "100" becomes gold, rather than red and blue, prompting some Chinese media to dub it the "tuhao jin" note, or "high-roller gold".

More security features were added, including widening the security strip, to make it "easier for machines to read" and "more convenient for the public to distinguish the authentic notes from the fakery", the central People's Bank of China (PBOC) said previously.

Counterfeiting is rampant in China with the country's own currency no exception, despite numerous crackdowns by authorities.

Police in the southern province of Guangdong announced in September that they seized piles of forged 100-yuan banknotes with a face value of 210 million yuan in a raid, according to reports.

"Some law breakers kept adopting new technologies to counterfeit the renminbi," the PBOC said in an August statement, using the official name for the currency.

"We must... constantly improve the anti-counterfeiting technologies and the printing quality of the legal tender," it said.

China's Communists issued the first generation of renminbi-literally "people's money"-in December 1948, before completing their takeover of the country.

The newest version was distributed to banks in the capital by 43 armoured cars, escorted by security guards, reported the Mirror, a local newspaper. —AFP



HONG KONG: A staff member displays the new version of the 100-yuan RMB bank notes (US 15.7 dollars) to photographers at the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong, yesterday. China released a new version of the 100-yuan bill, which bears a golden "100" and adopts advanced anti-counterfeit technology. The "100" on the new bill appears golden from certain angles. —AP

CHINA E-TRADING COULD SINK STOCK CONNECT

DRAFT CHINESE RULES AIMED AT CURBING PROGRAM TRADING

HONG KONG: Draft rules to curb high-speed trading blamed for China's summer stock market crash could kill off billions of dollars of investment into China, global banks and investors have told Chinese regulators in a letter. Industry participants who signed off on the letter said it warned Chinese regulators that the proposals would inadvertently sabotage major investment channels worth around \$160 billion, including the Stock Connect scheme, one year old next week, which links the Hong Kong and Shanghai bourses.

The lobbying efforts reflect growing fears that Beijing is responding to the summer rout by halting or even reversing reforms to allow greater access to its capital markets. Plans to expand the Stock Connect scheme to the Shenzhen exchange and to include new listed products stalled after mainland bourses tumbled 45 percent between June and August and Beijing intervened through a range of measures to stop the plunge.

In a letter sent on Sunday by the Asia Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association (ASIFMA) to the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), foreign investors and brokers said the rules to stop "program trading" domestically would mean foreign firms could not send electronic trades from Hong Kong to brokers onshore. "The proposed restriction on investors using algorithmic trading to connect to Chinese brokers onshore is huge - if you can't use automated systems, you can't trade on Stock Connect," said one person involved in drafting the letter.

A spokeswoman for ASIFMA, which represents the world's biggest financial institutions including Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse, declined to comment. The CSRC last month launched a consultation on program trading rules as part of a broader crackdown on a range of automated trading practices blamed for the summer rout. The consultation closed on Sunday. Program trading involves electronically buying or selling baskets of stocks on exchanges. However, the CSRC proposal is phrased so broadly it appears to cover all types of electronic trades including orders originating offshore, said Yang Tiecheng, a partner at

law firm Clifford Chance in Beijing, also a member of ASIFMA.

Code call

The rules propose banning onshore brokers from receiving electronic trades from offshore computers, the current model for foreigners trading via the cross-border investment schemes. It also requires foreign firms to surrender the computer code that runs their trading programs. "As a member of the electronic trading community for a long time, I can assure you that most global brokers

thought the proposal was clumsily drafted and not intended to damage Stock Connect and other schemes for foreign investors, and hoped the regulator would be able to amend the proposals.

The CSRC did not respond to request for comment, but has said the rules aim to reduce risks in the market. A spokesman for Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing, which has spent more than two years building Stock Connect, said it was "relaying market participant comments to the mainland authorities for consideration". The Hong Kong



HONG KONG: Two women walk past an electronic screen showing the Dow Jones industrial index and Nasdaq index at a bank in Hong Kong, Tuesday. Asian stock markets extended losses Tuesday as investors fretted over the fragile outlook for global growth and the Federal Reserve's plan to raise US interest rates soon. —AP

will not be comfortable providing their source code to anyone," said Joel Hurewitz, managing director at international brokerage Instinet in Hong Kong.

Compared with the United States and Europe, automated trading is in its infancy in China, and the CSRC, which has suffered a flight of talent over the past two years, has relatively little experience supervising such systems. Market participants and lawyers said they

Investment Funds Association (HKIFA), which represents global asset managers, also wrote to the CSRC over the weekend urging the body to provide further clarity on the scope of the rules, said Sally Wong, the group's CEO. "More importantly, what we are proposing is to have closer dialogue with the regulator regarding how automated trading is being deployed, as well as the what and why." —Reuters

SCANDAL THREATENS RUSSIA'S STORIED SPORTS LEGACY

MOSCOW: The day after the 2014 Sochi Olympics ended with Russia atop the medals table, a beaming President Vladimir Putin presented his athletes with state awards for "defending the honor" of their country by showing that its "great and glorious" sports traditions were still strong. From its decades of dominance in the 1960s to the 1980s when the Soviet Union was known as the "Big Red Machine," international sports has held outsized importance for Russians as a way to measure their country's standing in the world.

That's why accusations of cheating - widespread, state-sponsored doping - drew such a harsh reaction Tuesday in Moscow. It would be a huge embarrassment for Russia if its track and field athletes were kept out of next summer's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Russian officials have sought to discredit the report by a

commission from the World Anti-Doping Agency, saying it failed to prove its main points and suggested the existence of an anti-Russian conspiracy. "As long as there is no evidence, it is difficult to consider the accusations, which appear rather unfounded," said Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

The acting head of the Russian athletics federation, Vadim Zelichenok, said the report's conclusions appeared to have been "made to order." Putin has called a meeting Wednesday with the heads of Russia's sports federations to discuss preparations for the 2016 Olympics. Zelichenok told The Associated Press the doping allegations could be discussed. Monday's report alleged Russia engaged in systematic doping and cover-ups affecting its track and field athletes, including Olympic medalists. It said that agents from the FSB intelligence

service interfered with the work of a doping lab at the Sochi Games.

The WADA commission recommended that track and field's governing body, the IAAF, suspend the Russian federation from competition. IAAF President Sebastian Coe gave the federation until the end of the week to respond to the doping allegations. The International Olympic Committee said it would be ready to strip medals from any Russian athletes found guilty of doping violations. Russia also has been threatened with suspension from track and field competitions, including the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Zelichenok appealed to the IAAF to show "prudence" and allow Russians to compete.

Russian track and field head coach Yuri Borzakovsky, a former Olympic 800-meter champion, will be among those meeting with

Putin. In the first move to implement a recommendation from the report, WADA revoked the accreditation of Russia's anti-doping lab in Moscow. Hours later, lab director Grigory Rodchenkov resigned, according to the state news agency Tass. Russia has been a track and field power for decades, but in recent years its main strengths have been in race walking, women's middle-distance running and the field events, including world-record holder Yelena Isinbayeva in the pole vault.

At the 2013 world track and field championships in Moscow, Russia won seven gold medals - the most of any nation - and 17 total. This year in Beijing, Russia won only two gold medals and four in all. Until 1991, the Soviet Union enjoyed enormous international success, especially in sports such as hockey, figure skating and gymnastics. —AP



PRAGUE: Maria Sharapova from Russia returns a ball during a training session prior to the Fed Cup Final tennis tournament against Czech Republic in Prague, Czech Republic on Wednesday, Nov 11, 2015. —AP

RUSSIA LOOK TO 'MARUSHKA' SHARAPOVA IN FED CUP FINAL

PRAGUE: Maria Sharapova has played only four Fed Cup ties, but her presence on the court could make all the difference as Russia take on holders the Czech Republic in the 2015 final at the weekend. The 28-year-old world number four will likely face sixth-ranked Petra Kvitová and ninth-ranked Lucie Šafářová, the left-handed duo who have led the Czechs to three Fed Cup titles from the last four editions. "It's a great way to finish off the year playing with two of the best players," said Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam winner, who was sidelined with leg and arm problems from July to October. "It's definitely a very new experience, I've been part of the team on different occasions but never in the final."

Sharapova returned to action at the WTA Tour Finals last month, where she lost to Kvitová in the semi-finals after losing to Šafářová at the French Open in June. "I know how difficult an opponent they are and it will

be a great challenge for me," said Sharapova, called up alongside 23rd-ranked Ekaterina Makarova, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (28) and Elena Vesnina (111). "We are coming into these finals as the underdogs," she added. Russian captain Anastasia Myskina said she was pleased to have Sharapova on the team, waving aside a decade-old rift between them over Sharapova's father. "Definitely it's very important to have Maria on the team and I want to say thank you," said Myskina as her team giggled their way through a press conference.

Equally high-spirited, the Czech team denied being the odds-on favorite. "They have the highest-ranking player and a permanent doubles pair" of Vesnina and Makarova, said Czech captain Petr Pala. "The chances are perfectly even," added Pala, who has also nominated 11th-ranked Karolína Plíšková and world number 41 Barbora Strýcová. Dubbing Sharapova "Marushka",

the Czech for "little Maria", Kvitová and Šafářová said they would bet on left-handed rotation against her. "With Marushka, it's always a matter of the few chances she gives you," said Kvitová, the 2011 and 2014 Wimbledon champion, who is 4-6 head-to-head with Sharapova.

"Left-handed rotation will help, and of course you have to fight until the end, Marushka doesn't give up until the last point." The two nations have met five times in the Fed Cup before but three of those meetings were between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. The Czech team lead their head-to-head record with Russia 3-2, including a victory in the most recent encounter in the 2011 final in Moscow. The Czechs have won the trophy eight times, including five victories as Czechoslovakia which went on to split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. Four-time champions Russia will be playing in their 11th Fed Cup final. —AFP

AUSTRALIA UNCHANGED FOR SECOND NEW ZEALAND TEST

PERTH: Australia will be unchanged for the second test against New Zealand starting today at the WACA with seamer Peter Siddle again left out of the side, captain Steve Smith said yesterday. Siddle was dropped from the pace attack in favour of Josh Hazlewood for the opening match of the three-test series, which the hosts won by 208 runs in Brisbane on Monday. "The conditions are going to be pretty similar to the Gabba," Smith told reporters. "It looks a very good wicket out there, so we've gone in with the same team."

Although Smith was critical of the new-ball attack at the Gabba, the selectors have retained Hazlewood along with left-armers Mitchell Johnson and Mitchell Starc to bowl on what is traditionally a quick, bouncy wicket at the WACA. Siddle, who bowled Australia to victory in the final match of the Ashes series earlier this year with figures of 4-35 in the second innings at the Oval, said last week he was "shocked" to have been omitted from the team for the first test. "(Siddle) was talked about," Smith added. "He's bowling really well at the moment but we've won the last test with this line-up." Smith suggested that Hazlewood might have been left out if only to give him a break. "Josh's loads are quite high at the moment—he's bowled quite a lot over the past month or two," Smith said. "So it was definitely spoken about. But we think he's going to do a great job."

Starc reminder

Starc also attracted Smith's ire for throwing the ball at New Zealand tail ender Mark Craig when Australia were trying to wrap up the victory on Monday, a petulant act that cost the bowler half of his match fee. "As I said last week, I was pretty disappointed with Starc's actions out on the field," Smith said. "I had a chat to him and he responded really well, so hopefully he doesn't do that again." There have been times in recent years when Australia might have considered including Siddle and played four quicks at the WACA. Off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who had match figures of 4-109 at the Gabba, now appears to be a fixture in the side, however, and Smith said the 27-year-old might have a busy few days as he looked to reduce the workload of the quicks in the Perth heat.

"It's nice to have a spinner that bowls really well on bouncy tracks," Smith said. "I think it suits him really well so there's a good chance he'll bowl quite a few overs." Ahead of only his second match in charge after succeeding Michael Clarke on a permanent basis, Smith was also asked whether he was a "Captain Grumpy" after visibly displaying his own frustration at the tail end of the first test. "I don't think I am that grumpy," he said. "I think everyone has responded really well to me taking over this side. "It has been a nice smooth transition ..." —Reuters

TRAJECTORIES CROSS AS WALES FACE HURTING DUTCH

LONDON: A rising power in European football meets a fading force this today as Wales begin their Euro 2016 preparations against a Netherlands team still reeling from their failure to qualify. While Wales are looking forward to their first major tournament since the 1958 World Cup, the Netherlands will spend next summer kicking their heels after missing out on a place in France just 15 months on from a stunning third-place finish at last year's World Cup in Brazil. When the teams last met, Holland winning 2-0 in Amsterdam in June 2014, it was the Dutch who were using the match to tune up for a major tournament, and Wales defender Ben Davies is thrilled that the boot is now on the other foot.

"We were a preparation game for them last time and now it's their turn," the Tottenham Hotspur left-back said this week. "But it's still a good test for us, even though

they didn't qualify. They've got some very good players we have to be aware of and they'll be out to prove a point that they're not the team everybody is saying they are." Wales have lost just one of the 10 games they have played since that encounter in Amsterdam, but the one defeat, away to Bosnia-Herzegovina last month, fell on the night that their qualification was confirmed.

June's 1-0 win over Belgium demonstrated their ability to compete with the sport's heavyweights and Chris Coleman's side finished their qualifying campaign having conceded only four goals. But they will take on the Dutch in today's friendly at the Cardiff City Stadium bereft of their two star players, as Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale and Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who between them scored nine of their 11 goals in qualifying, have both been ruled out by injury. With Reading forward Hal Robson-

Kanu also sidelined, Burnley's Sam Vokes is in line to start up front if he can overcome a groin complaint.

Depay U-turn

Coleman's opposite number Danny Blind marked a break from the past when he named his squad by omitting 32-year-old Fenerbahce striker Robin van Persie, whose own goal against the Czech Republic condemned the Netherlands to a miserable 3-2 defeat in their final qualifying match.

Blind also omitted Memphis Depay from his provisional squad in light of the winger's slow start to life at Manchester United following his transfer from PSV Eindhoven, only to perform a U-turn and bring the 21-year-old back into the fold. Blind, whose side also face Germany in Hannover on Tuesday, had accused Depay of playing selfishly, but the winger said matters had been

resolved during a "positive chat" between the pair. Having failed to qualify for the European Championship for the first time since 1984, Holland face 10 months without a competitive fixture before qualifying for the 2018 World Cup begins next September. But for Wesley Sneijder, the meeting with Wales brings with it an opportunity for renewal. "It's time to make a new start," the Galatasaray playmaker told public broadcaster NOS. "We're not going to beat Wales 10-0, but we have to ensure that we get a good result."

"It doesn't help thinking 'We're the Dutch 11' of old. That time has passed. Quality-wise, we're not among the top teams in the world anymore, I would say for a few years now. "That's why we have to fight from the moment we walk onto the field and realise that achievement doesn't come naturally." — AFP

CAHILL SCORES; AUSTRALIA CANTER PAST KYRGYZSTAN

CANBERRA: Tim Cahill scored his 42nd international goal as Australia turned on the sparkle to fuel their World Cup qualifying hopes with a 3-0 win over Kyrgyzstan in Canberra yesterday. The Shanghai Shenhua-based Cahill scored the second goal for Australia just after half-time following a 40th-minute penalty by skipper Mile Jedinak and finished off by a 69th-minute own goal from defender Ildar Amirov. The Australians moved to within one point of inactive leaders Jordan in Group B and face Bangladesh in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The Socceroos turned on the razzle-dazzle with their midfield of Aaron Mooy, Massimo Luongo and substitute Tom Rogic dictating the play and setting up many scoring chances. "We had a game plan and the boys stuck to it and maybe it could have been a little bit more at the end, but we take the victory and the three points most importantly," Jedinak said. "Our plan was to keep them under pressure, stay on them, don't sit back, stay on the front foot and we did that really, almost suffocated them." Talisman Cahill went close early and struck the woodwork with a volley in the 15th minute.

Kyrgyzstan's Viktor Maier appealed to the referee for a penalty when Preston North End defender Bailey Wright put his arm across his chest in a tussle for the ball, but it was turned down in their only major scoring chance of the first half. Mark Milligan missed an open goal after goalkeeper Pavel Matiash beat out Nathan Burns fierce shot. But Burns, who came off the bench for injured Tomi Juric (groin) in the 29th minute, was brought down on the edge of the Kyrgyz area moments later. Crystal Palace's Jedinak fired home the penalty to put Australia a goal up after 40 minutes and they had the Kyrgyzs under pressure for the remaining minutes to halftime.

The Socceroos jumped out of the blocks in the second half when Mooy putting Cahill clear and the former English Premier League star finished clinically across goalkeeper Matiash into the far corner. The contest was over for Kyrgyzstan when defender Ildar headed into his own net off a Mooy corner to put the home side three up with 20 minutes left. The Socceroos could have scored more, Cahill was twice denied in the final minutes and goalkeeper Matiash made a couple of instinctive saves. — AFP



CANBERRA: Tim Cahill (right) of Australia fights for the ball with Valerii Kichin of Kyrgyzstan during the Asia FIFA world cup qualifier football match between Australia and Kyrgyzstan in Canberra yesterday. — AFP

JUDGE FREEZES ASSETS OF MARADONA FORMER WIFE

BUENOS AIRES: An Argentine judge has frozen the assets of Diego Maradona's ex-wife, whom the football legend blames for the disappearance of millions of dollars from his fortune. Following a request by Maradona, Judge Gladys Carminati on Wednesday ordered a freeze on the assets of ex-wife Claudia Villafane as a precautionary measure until the case is resolved.

Maradona, 54, says the funds were taken from several of his Argentine and foreign bank accounts. Local media estimate the amount in question is \$8 million. Villafane,

53, insists on her innocence. "I think what they want to do is instill fear, but I'm not afraid because I did nothing wrong, and have no regrets," Villafane told the TV show Intrusos. Maradona and Villafane, childhood sweethearts, divorced in 2003. Both however agreed that Villafane would handle their joint accounts to benefit daughters Dalma (28) and Gianinna (26), who support their mother in the dispute.

The former Argentina football captain receives funds tied to his activities as honorary sports ambassador of Dubai, and has

invested some of the money in the United States. Villafane acknowledges holding the football jerseys from Maradona's glory days playing in Europe, as well as newspaper clippings dating to 1977, when they started dating. She says she was the one who collected the memorabilia. "I feel that it belongs to me and also to Benjamin," she said, in reference to their grandson, the son of Gianinna and Manchester City player Sergio 'Kun' Aguero. Maradona has two sons and another daughter with three other women. — AFP

BENZEMA AFFAIR OVERSHADOWS FRANCE-GERMANY CLASH

PARIS: The sex tape blackmail affair involving Mathieu Valbuena and which has led to star striker Karim Benzema being charged completely overshadows the build-up to France's friendly with Germany today. The sides meet at the Stade de France just under a month before the final draw takes place in Paris for Euro 2016, a tournament in which both nations will be among the favorites. But Les Bleus' prospects are already being called into question, and their current good form rendered practically irrelevant, by recent events. Benzema was last week charged with complicity to blackmail and conspiring to commit a criminal act, charges that carry a prison sentence of at least five years, in relation to a sex tape featuring Valbuena.

He was also banned from meeting Valbuena, and potentially incriminating transcripts of telephone conversations involving the Real Madrid striker have been widely reported in French media. France coach Didier Deschamps has overseen four successive friendly wins

this season and must try to keep the focus on the football for the games against the Germans and England at Wembley next Tuesday. Both Benzema and Valbuena were left out of his squad, with Deschamps saying the latter's absence was due to his "psychological condition" while Benzema's was fitness related.

In the meantime, he will hope others can stake a claim for a place in the side. Benzema is France's outstanding centre-forward while little Lyon playmaker Valbuena recently won his 50th cap but, as his squad got together this week, Deschamps said: "I have selected 23 players. I have confidence in them. 'The most important thing is the group and their strength as a collective. On the German side there are also players missing and important ones too. 'Everyone has to make themselves indispensable but nobody is irreplaceable.' Among those looking to impress will be Hatem Ben Arfa, who returns to the fold after an outstanding start to this season at Nice.

The former Newcastle United forward

won the last of his 13 caps at Euro 2012 and he is having to get used to the surroundings at France's Clairefontaine base near Paris once again. "Yesterday I wanted to go to the toilets but I got lost," he said this week. "A lot of things can happen between now and then but it is an objective to play a Euro at home. It would be nuts." Bayern Munich's Kingsley Coman, 19, may make his debut and Andre-Pierre Gignac has been recalled to the surprise of many after leaving Marseille in the summer for Mexican club Tigres of Monterrey. "It is proof that it wasn't such a bad choice to exile myself. Some people thought I was going there to live a golden retirement, for the money. My performances show that I wasn't there on holiday, but to work," said Gignac.

Gomez returns

The game will be the first meeting of the nations since a 1-0 Germany win in the World Cup quarter-final in the heat of the Maracana in July last year on their way to winning the trophy. German

football has its own off-field issues just now with national federation chief Wolfgang Niersbach stepping down amid claims of vote-buying in order to secure the hosting of the 2006 World Cup. But at least that scandal should not directly impact on coach Joachim Loew and a squad deprived of the injured Mario Goetze and Marco Reus.

Real Madrid's Toni Kroos and Arsenal's Mesut Ozil have both been left out but Loew will select the strongest team available to him for Germany's first match at the Stade de France since a 2-1 friendly win in February 2013. That means Bayern's Manuel Neuer should start in goal, while striker Mario Gomez could start in attack after earning a recall. "It can't hurt to have a player like me when things aren't going our way," said Gomez, who is currently on loan at Besiktas in Turkey from Fiorentina and hopes to remain in contention when the Germans return to France for the European Championship next year. "To still be there next year, I will have to put in a few good months." — AFP

FIVE ENTER FIFA'S PRESIDENCY RACE

BILITY, PLATINI SIDELINED

ZURICH: FIFA has approved five candidates for its February presidential election amid the worst crisis in its history, after barring Liberia's Musa Bility on integrity grounds and leaving out UEFA chief Michel Platini while he remains under suspension. Platini, the original favorite to succeed Sepp Blatter as head of global soccer's governing body, was not admitted because he has been suspended for 90 days pending a full Ethics Committee investigation.

FIFA had already announced that it would not process former French international football star while he was suspended, but could review its position if he wins an appeal against the ban. Buffeted by a series of scandals over the last few years, FIFA was thrown into turmoil in May by the US indictments of 14 football officials, including two FIFA vice-presidents, and sports marketing executives for alleged corruption.

Blatter, also suspended for 90 days, is facing criminal investigation in Switzerland over a 2 million Swiss franc (\$2.1 million) payment from FIFA to Platini. Both men have denied wrongdoing. FIFA's electoral committee said on Thursday the five approved presidential candidates were Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, Asian Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain, former FIFA official Jerome Champagne of France, UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino of Switzerland and South Africa businessman Tokyo Sexwale.

"The integrity check included a review of corporate records, litigation cases, bankruptcy proceedings, potential regulatory actions taken against the candidate and a review of media reports concerning potential red flags (fraudulent behavior, match manipulation, human rights violations, etc.)," the committee said in a statement. Bility was not admitted "in view of the content of the integrity check report relating to him", it said. "For reasons of protection of personality rights, the Ad-hoc Electoral Committee - while it has explained its considerations in detail to Musa Hassan Bility - will not comment publicly on the specifics of its decision."

Salman has dismissed as "false, nasty lies" allegations that he was involved in human rights abuses against pro-democracy activists during a



The combo of file photo shows (from left) Jordan's Prince Ali bin Al-Hussein, UEFA Secretary General Gianni Infantino, Tokyo Sexwale, Jerome Champagne and Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa. They are the five declared candidates that FIFA announced yesterday for the Feb 26 election, with Michel Platini a potential sixth man. — AP

2011 uprising in Bahrain when he was head of the Gulf Arab country's football association. The electoral committee said it had "assessed any allegations against the candidates carefully, including those against Sheikh Salman concerning his alleged involvement into the events in Bahrain in 2011". It said no evidence of "any personal and direct involvement" by Salman in rights abuses had been found, so the committee had upheld his candidacy.

There are no clear favorites to win the election, in which each of the 209 national associa-

tions (FAs) who are affiliated with FIFA hold one vote. Critics say they are heavily influenced by the continental confederations, such as Europe's UEFA or Africa's CAF, which sometimes ask their members to vote as a bloc for one candidate. But as voting is secret, FAs can easily disobey their confederations without being detected, which makes voting unpredictable. Infantino announced his intention to stand only one day before the registration deadline in October, and is expected to withdraw if Platini is allowed back into the race. Last month, Sheikh Ahmad Al-

Fahad Al-Sabah, one of the top powerbrokers in global sport and a member of FIFA's executive committee, said he hoped there would be "coordination" between Infantino and Sheikh Salman if Platini was unable to run.

Champagne has alleged that already in this election "there is a pre-campaign of arrangements in five-star hotels behind closed doors". He was alluding to alleged back-room deals in which certain candidates do not run against each other and one then drops out to clear the way for the other to win. — Reuters

CHELSEA 'WON'T' SACK MOURINHO

LONDON: Former Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti has declared that he would have "no problem" returning to Stamford Bridge, but he does not believe that the club will sack Jose Mourinho. Mourinho is under pressure after a catastrophic start to the season and Ancelotti has been linked with a return to the club he led to a Premier League and FA Cup double in 2010 before being dismissed a year later.

The Italian is currently out of work follow-

ing his departure from Real Madrid at the end of last season, but although he is open to the idea of a return to Chelsea, he does not believe there will be a vacancy any time soon. "I would have no problem with Chelsea," he told Thursday's edition of the Daily Mail. "But Jose won't be sacked. They already chose to keep him, and I think they made a good choice."

Ancelotti dismissed reports that he had been approached by Liverpool prior to their

appointment of Jurgen Klopp, but said that he would like to work in England again if the right opportunity arises. "I would like to come back to work in England," he said. "I love the football here, I still have a house in London and I would like to be with a team that is competitive in England and in Europe. 'I think Liverpool are a good team ... I think they can be really competitive. But I did not speak with them. If I spoke with them I can say 'Yes', but no, I did not." — AFP

Basketball

AMPUTEE KOVACEVIC DEFIES ODDS TO MAKE A STUNNING RETURN

BELGRADE: No one would want to be in Natasa Kovacevic's shoes and very few would even be prepared to contemplate what the promising basketball player has accomplished in the last two years. Despite needing to have her left leg amputated below the knee after a fatal road accident in September 2013, the 21-year-old from Belgrade made a full comeback in a Serbian league game on Wednesday. Family, friends and fans packed into a cramped facility on the city's outskirts as Kovacevic made her "second debut", amassing five points, three steals and as many rebounds in Red Star's 78-47 win over Student Nis. "It is fantastic to be back on the court and I am overjoyed to have returned to the game I love and cherish," a beaming Kovacevic told reporters. "At times, I feel like the two-year absence never happened. I came out to enjoy myself and I have to thank my team for making it possible."

"This means the world to me and I hope it will show other people they can achieve anything in life if they set their minds to it." One of Serbia's brightest youth prospects, Kovacevic's hopes of Olympic stardom came to a juddering halt when she needed to be rescued from the mangled wreckage of her team bus three months after joining Hungarian side UNI Gyor from Red Star.

Having learned that coach Akos Fuzy and general manager Peter Tapodi perished in the crash, Kovacevic's first reaction in hospital after losing her leg was that she was fortunate to still be alive.

Painful recovery

In February 2014, FIBA Europe, the continent's basketball governing body, declared her a youth ambassador and a month later, she established a foundation aimed at assisting young athletes. Those developments came in the midst of her painful recovery process, when Kovacevic was coming to terms with the extent of her situation and before the idea of playing basketball again had even crossed her mind.

"Ever since the accident, I decided to take it slow and steady during my rehabilitation but I never imagined I would get this far," she said after receiving a match ball signed by her opponents in the comeback game. The red carpet function, which included gifts of bouquets from her team mates, soon made way for a physical contest in which she was marked as tightly as anyone. "Of course, they didn't cut me any slack. I knew that the moment I stepped out there and scored my first points, they would be on to me. That's the way it should be." A rousing reception from the



BELGRADE: Serbian international basketball player Natasa Kovacevic runs with the ball during a match between Red Star and Student in Belgrade. — AFP

crowd was just reward for Kovacevic after she battled through countless sessions of hard work just to be able to perform on an even keel with her peers. Wearing a pad covered by a long black stocking to protect the prosthesis, her condition was barely noticeable as she entered the game midway through the first quarter. With fans

cheering her every move, Kovacevic grew in confidence and received a standing ovation when she put her first points on the board. "It was a great feeling to see the ball go through the hoop for my first basket of the game. I think there's lots of room for improvement because I still lack a bit of match fitness but I'll get there." — Reuters

IRISH BREAK INTO TOP 4 IN COLLEGE PLAYOFF RANKINGS

NEW YORK: Notre Dame moved into the top four in the second College Football Playoff selection committee rankings of the season Tuesday night. Clemson remained No 1, with Alabama moving up two spots to No 2, Ohio State staying at No 3 and the Fighting Irish up a spot to No. 4. Notre Dame and Alabama each has one loss. Unbeaten Iowa received an eye-catching promotion, rising four spots to No 5. Baylor is the highest-ranked Big 12 team at No 6. Two previously unbeaten teams tumbled. LSU, No 2 last week, dropped to No 9 after losing at Alabama, and Michigan State, which was No 7, dropped to No 13. Takeaways from the second playoff rankings:

Eye on Hawkeyes

One of the biggest surprises was Iowa's rise to No. 5 after winning 35-27 on the road against an Indiana team that is 0-5 in Big Ten play. Committee chairman Jeff Long pointed out the Hawkeyes have beaten two top 25 teams on the road (Wisconsin and Northwestern), and Iowa's strength of schedule is No 2 behind Clemson among the six remaining unbeaten teams. "It's a recognition by the committee that they were increasingly impressed by Iowa and their body of work," Long said. "Three teams lost ahead of them, so we felt they needed to move up." Last week Long said the committee had concerns about Iowa's offense. "We recognize they are consistent on both sides of the ball," he said Tuesday. "They aren't flashy, but they are consistent."

Big 12 Blues

Barring upsets, Notre Dame's promo-

tion to No. 4 would cause the Big 12 to root for the Pac-12's Stanford to knock off the Irish on Nov. 28. That could create room in the top four for the Big 12 champion, whoever it is. Baylor is the highest-ranked Big 12 team at No. 6 for the second straight week, with Oklahoma State No 8 after being No 14 in the first rankings. Some analysts thought Oklahoma State would overtake Baylor, and maybe even move into the top four, after an impressive 49-29 win at home over previously unbeaten TCU. The committee still likes Baylor more, even though the Bears are yet to beat a team with a winning record. "Oklahoma State had a good win," Long said. "That's the first piece of real strength we've seen from them, with that win over TCU." The Cowboys' fate is in their own hands. They host Baylor on Nov. 21. The Bears play their next three games against teams with a combined 25-2 record.

The Navy what-if

CFP executive director Bill Hancock said the committee would delay announcing one of the New Year's Six bowls if Navy - the highest-ranked Group of Five member at No 20 - is still in contention to be the G5 representative on Selection Day Dec 6. That's because the Midshipmen's regular season doesn't end until the Army game on Dec 12. If Navy is in the mix, the committee would announce the pairing for one of the New Year's Six bowls - either the Fiesta or Peach - and one participant in the other New Year's Six bowl, holding the other spot in that game for the Group of Five rep. — AP

ROSE LEADS MCILROY-CHASERS, GARCIA LEADS BMW MASTERS

SHANGHAI: Justin Rose is the leader of the pack trying to chase down Rory McIlroy at the top of the Race to Dubai standings after an opening five-under par 67 in the BMW Masters yesterday. Spain's Sergio Garcia leads the \$7 million event in Shanghai after an eight-under first round of 64 but Danny Willett, just 74,213 points behind McIlroy at the penultimate event of the European Tour season, had a disappointing even-par 72.

"I played OK today," said Rose, who is seeking a double on Chinese soil having won in his last outing at the Hong Kong Open last month. "I was only one-under through 11, though. I could see a lot of the other guys were going low today and I tried to urge myself to sort of get it to three- or four-under for the round, and actually beat my own expectations and finished five-under. Very happy with how I played the last seven or eight holes, and it was a good day's work in the end."

McIlroy is sitting out the BMW Masters, leaving him in a precarious position atop the Race to Dubai standings as challengers close in behind him. The world number three will return for next week's season finale, the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, as he bids to be crowned Europe's number one for the second year running. Willett carded a best-of-the-week 62 on Sunday to finish third in the WGC-HSBC Champions across Shanghai at Sheshan International Golf Club, but he couldn't reproduce that form yesterday.



SHANGHAI: Justin Rose of England plays a shot during the BMW Shanghai Masters golf tournament at the Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

Low scores

"It was a strange one last week, the game's not felt great," said the English world number 22 who needs to finish 28th or better this week to overtake McIlroy but lies tied 48th after the first round. "Just couldn't quite get things going today. Drove it well. Didn't hit it close enough to make anything. Just a very stale day." World number 11 Garcia carded nine birdies and a single bogey on his debut at Lake Malaren to lead by one stroke from South Korea's An Byeong-Hun and France's Victor Dubuisson, who is in fine form after

winning the Turkish Airlines Open a fortnight ago. "Conditions were quite good, not much wind," said Garcia. "A little bit of a drizzle but other than that it was good. I drove the ball very well and that gave me a lot of opportunities to hit some good iron shots." Apart from Rose and Willett, none of the other three players who can knock McIlroy off his perch with a win this week made a significant move on a windless day with greens softened by rain that made for good scoring conditions, with 38 of the 78-man field breaking par. — AFP

GOLDEN STATE MARCH ON; CURRY SHINES

LOS ANGELES: Stephen Curry scored 28 points as the unbeaten Golden State Warriors defeat the Memphis Grizzlies 100-84, equaling a 55-year-old franchise record for the best start to a season in history. The Warriors victory took the reigning NBA Champions to 9-0, emulating the feat of the 1960-1961 side featuring the legendary Wilt Chamberlain when the franchise was based in Philadelphia. It was another chastening night for the Grizzlies, who were run ragged by the Warriors last week during a 119-69 defeat.

Curry, who had been averaging more than 32 points per game prior to Wednesday's clash, added to his season haul with another sparkling contribution, taking the game away from Memphis with a 17-point blitz in the third quarter. The 27-year-old talisman said afterwards that the Warriors increasing maturity had allowed them to negate spoiling tactics used by Memphis throughout. "I think we've grown up a lot in that area-it doesn't matter if it's an ugly game, an up-tempo game, high-scoring game or low-scoring," Curry said. "We always find a way to compose ourselves. We knew they were going to try and dirty up the game and make it a pain game and be physical. But we were able to overcome that."

The Warriors now stand alone as the only unbeaten team in the NBA this year. However they remain several wins away from the all-time record for the best start of 15-0, shared by the 1948-49 Washington Capitols and the 1993-94 Houston Rockets. Interim head coach Luke Walton meanwhile played down talk of the Warriors possibly matching the all-time record for season victories of 72, set by Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls in the 1995-1996 campaign. "The season's too long to be talking about 72 wins," Walton said. Andre Iguodala, the hero of last season's NBA Finals victory, finished with 20 points off the bench for Golden State, while forward Harrison Barnes con-

tributed 19 points. Curry meanwhile had five rebounds, five assists and five steals in addition to his 28-point haul.

Nets 106, Rockets 98

Reserves Bojan Bogdanovic and Shane Larkin combined for 37 points as the Brooklyn Nets recorded their first victory of the season, shocking the Houston Rockets 106-98 at Toyota Center on Wednesday. Brooklyn (1-7) turned a dominant performance on the offensive glass and some clutch shooting down the stretch into their first road win against Houston (4-4) in nine games. Bogdanovic finished with a team-high 22 points, including a dagger three-pointer with 70 seconds left that lifted the Nets to a 104-98 lead. Larkin added 15 points on 6-for-10 shooting. Bogdanovic and Larkin also combined for 17 rebounds in snapping the Rockets' four-game winning streak.

Hawks 106, Pelicans 98

With Anthony Davis sidelined, New Orleans did not have a frontcourt answer for either Al Horford or Paul Millsap against Atlanta. Horford scored 26 points and Millsap had 16 rebounds to go with 19 points as the Hawks pulled away in the fourth quarter to defeat the shorthanded Pelicans.

Hornets 95, Knicks 93

Cody Zeller hit a layup off an inbounds pass with 0.4 seconds remaining and Charlotte then held on in a bizarre finish for a victory over New York. New York rookie Kristaps Porzingis hit a three-pointer at the buzzer that initially was ruled good but the basket was disallowed after officials determined that the clock already expired. The win moved the Hornets (4-4) to the .500 mark for the first time this year. They have won four of their past five after an 0-3 start.

Magic 101, Lakers 99

Nikola Vucevic hit a shot at the buzzer to lift Orlando to a victory over slumping Los Angeles. Vucevic, who entered the game as a reserve after missing the previous three games with a knee injury, finished with 18 points and five rebounds. Reserve Shabazz Napier scored a career-high 22 points to lead all scorers. The Lakers were without veteran Kobe Bryant for the second consecutive game because of a sore back.

Raptors 119, 76ers 103

Kyle Lowry scored 23 points and Luis Scola added 17 of his season-high 21 in the pivotal third quarter as Toronto beat short-handed Philadelphia. Cory Joseph notched 15 points, DeMar DeRozan had 14 and Jonas Valanciunas contributed 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Pacers 102, Celtics 91

For the second time in eight nights, Paul George was just a bit too much for Boston to handle. The Indiana forward scored 17 of his 26 points in the second half, grabbed 10 rebounds and dished out three assists to lead the Pacers to a victory over the Celtics.

Mavericks 118, Clippers 108

Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 31 points to lead Dallas to a win over Los Angeles at American Airlines Center. Nowitzki confounded the Clippers with a shooting display for the ages. The power forward drilled 11-of-14 shots, his last being a banked three-pointer 1:05 to play to give the Mavericks a 113-108 lead. — Agencies



MEMPHIS: Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) chases the ball after knocking it loose from Memphis Grizzlies guard Courtney Lee in the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Nov 11, 2015. — AP

Formula One

HAMILTON SHAKES OFF ILLNESS TO REALIZE CHILDHOOD DREAM

SAO PAULO: Lewis Hamilton intends to climb off his sick bed to realize a childhood dream with a first victory on the native soil of his hero Ayrton Senna in Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix. The three-time drivers world champion delayed his arrival in Brazil by 24 hours on Wednesday on doctors' orders after falling ill, but his Mercedes team made clear he has every intention of racing for his first win in Brazil at the ninth attempt. "It was a dream of mine to race in Sao Paulo when I was younger," he said. "I always feel his (Senna) presence when I am there - it is a very special race for me. "It's amazing to think that it took Ayrton eight attempts to win this race and it's one of the few that I haven't won yet myself so, if I can change that this weekend, it would be a salute to him and another highlight to add to this amazing year. "I will be going all out to make it happen."

Hamilton was due to take part in a news conference on Wednesday, but had to cancel due to illness after being advised not to fly by doctors. "He's arriving a day later than scheduled, as he was unwell," said a Mercedes spokesman, who quashed local reports that the champion was not fit to race. "But he will be here tomorrow (Thursday)." Hamilton knows he faces a tough fight to end his winless run on the undulating Interlagos track where, in eight attempts, he has secured only two podium finishes, but where, in 2008, he claimed his maiden title with a dramatic last corner overtaking move that secured fifth place.

His Mercedes team-mate German Nico Rosberg, who won last year, wants to add to his victory in Mexico with another win and a fifth straight pole position. "I want to win again," said Rosberg. "Last year was a good battle with Lewis, when I came out on top. "I enjoyed standing on the top step after a hard-earned win, following in the footsteps of so many great drivers who have won there and with the passionate Brazilian crowd cheering on-that was a great feeling," he said. Rosberg also wants to ensure he finishes second behind Hamilton in the drivers' title race by resisting the challenge of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari, a two-time winner in Brazil. Ferrari's strong season suffered a setback in Mexico where both cars failed to finish for the first time in 184 races just as Mercedes boss Niki Lauda heaped praise on the Italian team for their much improved competitiveness. "This year to do better than Ferrari, we had to make a lot of progress," he said. — AFP



DHAKA: Young Bangladeshi girls from Kolsindur high school football team stretch before a match in Dhaka. More than a dozen of Kolsindur's players have already played on the national girls' team, among them 12-year-old Tahura Khatun, a diminutive striker nicknamed the "Kolsindur Messi" after Barcelona player Lionel Messi. — AFP

BANGLADESHI VILLAGE GIRLS BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

KOLSINDUR: Bangladeshi village football coach Mofiz Uddin only decided to form a girls' team in 2011 out of frustration at the local boys' failure to bring home any trophies. Less than five years on, his young female players have won every national tournament going, becoming minor celebrities in the conservative, Muslim-majority nation. To do so, they have had to overcome parental opposition and deep-seated social prejudices in a country where child marriage is rife and most girls have little or no access to sport.

"These girls are our heroes," 70-year-old villager Akbar Ali said as he watched the girls practice in Kolsindur village, near the border with India. "They've brought many laurels to us. Kolsindur is now a famous village, and it is well known around the country because of them," said Ali, who was among a small crowd of villagers gathered around the pitch. More than a dozen of Kolsindur's players have already played on the national girls' team, among them 12-year-old Tahura Khatun, a diminutive striker nicknamed the "Kolsindur Messi" after Barcelona player Lionel Messi.

She lives in a mud house with her five siblings, parents, two uncles and grandfather, and says she would have quit without the support of her coach and teachers. Tahura's family does not want her to play now she has reached what they see as an "adult age". Many girls in Bangladesh are married

by the time they are 13, and Tahura's grandfather worries that her playing will make it impossible to find a good husband. One of her team mates, midfielder Ruma Akhter, hung up her boots aged 13 after her father told her she was disgracing the family. But Tahura remains defiant. "I want people to recognize me for my talent, my work," she said. "I don't want to become a housewife like my mother and have to depend on my husband's kindness."

'A game meant for boys'

The girls first started playing on a field grazed by cattle and littered with dung. They had to play barefoot because proper football boots would cost almost the entire monthly income of most farming families. The long kurtas or tunics and baggy trousers traditionally worn by Bangladeshi girls were less than ideal for running after a ball, but initially the players had little choice. "Their parents did not like seeing their daughters wearing shorts and kicking football around in front of male villagers," team coach Uddin said. "Some wondered why the girls had to play a game meant for boys."

Now they play in football shorts and jerseys, and many of the villagers who mocked the idea of girls wearing "half-pants" have been won over. The villagers raise funds for the team before every big tournament and some, including 70-year-old Ali, even travel with the team to watch them play. Last

month, deputy sports minister Arif Khan earmarked \$12,500 to build a proper soccer pitch. "They are simply doing great despite poverty," said Khan, a former captain of the national football team.

'I'll never stop playing'

Women's soccer is relatively new in Bangladesh, a mostly Muslim country that has experienced a recent upsurge in Islamist militancy. When the country decided to put together a national women's side in 2009, officials worried they might not even be able to find 11 female players. Today, the women's team is placed 128th in the world, well ahead of the men in 178th place.

In 2011 the national soccer federation decided to launch an inter-school competition for girls, and Uddin saw his chance. Backed by school authorities, he trained a group of girls and took them to a couple of local tournaments where they tasted their first success. Now he coaches a 50-strong squad aged between seven and 16 and his team has represented Bangladesh in Nepal and Sri Lanka as well as winning the national championships. Their success has not made the girls' lives any easier.

The team's 13-year-old captain Maria Manda says she has to work part-time on her uncle's farm to be able to afford the food she needs to stay healthy and strong enough to play. "Kolsindur is a



DHAKA: Kolsindur high school football coach Mofiz Uddin gestures to his players during a match in Dhaka. — AFP

poor village," says the head teacher of the local primary school Minoti Rani. "I wonder how long the support for the girls' soccer team will last." For Tahura, dreaming of becoming her country's top player, none of that matters. "I'll never stop playing. I've become used to regular scolding from my family," she said, adding she hopes one day to meet her namesake Messi. "I'd beg him to teach me some of his tricks," she says of the Argentinean star. — AFP



KOLSINDUR: Bangladeshi primary school footballers practice during a training session in Kolsindur. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladesh's Kolsindur high school football team captain Maria Manda (center) controls the ball during a match in Dhaka. — AFP

Friday Times

Sports

www.kuwaittimes.net

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

**Bangladeshi
village girls
bend it like
Beckham**

KOLSINDUR: Kolsindur high school football team players stretch during a training session in Kolsindur some 200kms north of Dhaka. — AFP

Page 47