

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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SAFAR 1, 1437 AH

No: 16697

Amir patronizes late Sheikh Abdullah's UNESCO honor

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Iraq Kurds 'liberate' Sinjar from IS

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Russia faces exile as IAAF decides doping fate

45



150 Fils

US AIR STRIKE TARGETS 'JIHADI JOHN' IN SYRIA

WASHINGTON 'REASONABLY CERTAIN' EMWAZI IS DEAD



Min 11°
Max 24°



LONDON: Journalists knock on doors in London yesterday at a residential address where Kuwaiti-born London computer programmer Mohammed Emwazi, (inset) identified by experts and the media as masked IS militant 'Jihadi John', is once believed to have lived. — AFP



LONDON: A US strike on Syria that targeted British militant "Jihadi John" was "an act of self-defense", Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron said yesterday, while acknowledging his death was "not yet certain". Cameron said the operation on Thursday against Mohammed Emwazi, who appeared in a string of graphic videos showing the execution of Western hostages, was a combined British-US effort. In a statement delivered outside his Downing Street office, Cameron said that, if confirmed, Emwazi's death would be "a strike at the heart" of the Islamic State militant (IS) group.

The US military is "reasonably certain" a US drone strike killed the Islamic State militant known as "Jihadi John", a British citizen who appeared in videos of militants beheading Western journalists and aid workers, a spokesman said yesterday.

Army Colonel Steve Warren, a spokesman for the US-led coalition fighting Islamic State, told a Pentagon briefing that Mohammed Emwazi was thought to have been killed in the Syrian town of Raqa by a US drone firing a Hellfire missile, but that the military still needed final verification.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking on a visit to Tunis, warned the group's "days are numbered", as Iraqi Kurdish officials declared that IS had been beaten back from the town of Sinjar in northern Iraq. Analysts said the impact of Emwazi's death would likely be symbolic rather than tactical for the jihadist group which controls swathes of Iraq and Syria and is known for widespread atrocities.

The Pentagon said Thursday's air strike hit Raqa, the group's de facto capital in war-torn Syria. US media reported that it was a drone strike. "Emwazi, a British citizen, participated in the videos showing the murders of US journalists Steven Sotloff and James Foley, US aid worker Abdul-Rahman Kassig, British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning, Japanese journalist Kenji Goto, and a number of other hostages," the Pentagon said in a statement. He was last seen in the video showing Goto's execution in January.

Emwazi, a London computer programmer, was born in Kuwait to a stateless family of Iraqi origin. His parents moved to Britain in 1993 after their hopes of obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship were quashed. Dubbed "Jihadi John" after hostages nicknamed a group of IS guards The Beatles, he first appeared in a video in August 2014 showing the beheading of Foley, a 40-year-old American freelance journalist captured in Syria in 2012. — Agencies

ASSAD 'HAS TO GO' AS PART OF TRANSITION: BRITISH FM

PRAGUE: President Bashar Al-Assad "has to go" as part of a transition in Syria, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said yesterday on the eve of the Syrian talks in Vienna.

"Bashar Al-Assad has to go as part of the transition in Syria, but we recognize that if there will be a transition he may play a part up to a point in that transition," Hammond said in Prague.

"We are very clear that we are not seeking to destroy the institutions of government in Syria, in fact we are very clear that we want to maintain these institutions." Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview released yesterday that Russia has no "right" to ask the Syrian president to leave power.

The weekend talks in Vienna will bring together around 20 countries and international bodies to hammer out a roadmap for peace to end Syria's more than four-year civil war. Western officials have already dismissed a Moscow-authored political reform plan touted for the meeting-the second in Vienna in less than a month-saying it does not clarify what will happen to Assad. Previous attempts to end the civil war, which has killed more than 250,000 people and forced millions from their homes, have stumbled over his fate.

The West insists he must go, while Russia and Iran support the regime. Diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict have gathered pace since Russia launched air strikes in Syria in late September. — AFP

NO TICKET, NO DRIVER: COP STOPS GOOGLE CAR

MOUNTAIN VIEW: A California police officer made a traffic stop, but wrote no ticket. There was no driver to give it to anyway. Mountain View police said in a statement that an officer pulled over a Google self-driving car that was being tested on local roads Thursday.

The officer noticed the car going a road-clogging 24 mph in a 35 mph zone and realized it was a Google Autonomous Vehicle. He stopped the car and contacted its operators to let them know it was impeding traffic, but no citation was given. A person is required to sit behind the wheel of self-driving cars. The Google project responded in a blog post, saying it's never received a ticket and adding, "Driving too slowly? Bet humans don't get pulled over for that too often." — AP



Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova tour a photo gallery held on the sidelines of the event. — Amiri Diwan photos

AMIR PATRONIZES LATE SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S UNESCO HONORING

PARIS: Under His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's patronage late Thursday in Paris, France, the United Nations Education, Science, and Culture Organization's (UNESCO) honored late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as an international educational and cultural figure for 2014-2015.

Delivering a speech on behalf of His Highness the Amir, Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said that the Kuwaiti leadership was grateful for the UNESCO honoring of late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber, affirming that it was reflective of the organization's mission to honor important education and cultural figures.

Sheikh Ali stressed the UN honoring of Kuwaiti figures was an important gesture of recognition from the international organization. Thursday's honoring of Sheikh Abdullah is another accolade for Kuwait, said Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah, adding that it followed the UN honoring of Kuwait as a humanitarian center and His Highness the Amir as a humanitarian leader.

Kuwait is very pleased to receive this honor due to the late Kuwaiti figure's relentless efforts to promote education in Kuwait since the mid-1930s, said the minister. Sheikh Abdullah was keen on Kuwait gaining the UNESCO membership in 1958, said Sheikh Ali who took the chance to thank the UN organization for this honoring.

Great man

Meanwhile, Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, said on the occasion of the celebration of the legacy of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah "I am deeply honored to be with you today for this event under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, to pay tribute to the legacy of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah." "It is an honor, indeed, to pay tribute to the legacy of a great man and to recall his achievements across the fields of education and culture. His vision and leadership left a profound impact on the development of Kuwait. In more ways than one, he was a pioneer of Kuwait as it stands today," said the Director.

"He was an educational reformer - as a Minister of Education, he succeeded in modernizing the education system. His focus fell on inclusion in education - opening the way for girls to go to school. He was a great believer in culture and education as forces for innovation and development, supporting heritage as a source of identity and belonging, as well as creativity and innovation. He was first also to encourage cultural exchanges, along with seminars and lectures, to deepen knowledge and mutual understanding, to strengthen bridges of dialogue across borders."

High principles

She went on saying that "All of this helped shape the country, its society, its young women and men, as well as its relationship with the world, on the basis of dignity, equality and mutual respect," adding that "These principles stand today at the heart of Kuwait's action on the global stage."

"The United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon has commended His Highness Sheikh Sabah for championing a global response to the crisis in Syria, hosting three conferences of donors - and you are on the frontline of the next conference for Syria to be held in London. I was privileged to participate in one of these conferences - I have seen how deeply culture and education matter for Kuwait, how much education and culture are placed at the heart of any sustainable response by the State of Kuwait."

"This resonates powerfully with UNESCO's mandate and action. I am deeply grateful for the contribution of 5.5 million US dollars by Kuwait in 2015 to UNESCO's emergency response to the Syria crisis - helping refugees and internally displaced persons inside Syria, providing quality education, psycho-social support and skills for a better life," said Bokova.

"I will always remember, when I spoke in 2014 of 'cultural cleansing' for the first time, and when I made an appeal to integrate the cultural dimension in security and humanitarian strategies-it was the State of Kuwait that stood up and funded the High Level International Conference on Cultural Heritage at risk in Iraq and Syria, held at UNESCO on December third, 2014. This was three months before the United Nations Security Council resolution. This paved the way for UNESCO's strategy today," she said.

"In all this, I believe we can see the spirit and the legacy of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and this is why it is so important that UNESCO is associated with the commemoration of his passing," said the Director. She indicated that "as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, together, we must renew our commitment to the values and objectives we share, to this 'soft power' - this has never been so urgent. In this spirit, I thank the Government of Kuwait for its leadership."

Honorable step

Speaking on part of the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamad Al-Essa, Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami

Mohammad Al-Suleiman said that UNESCO's celebration of Sheikh Abdullah's legacy was an honorable step of recognition.

Sheikh Abdullah was one of the pioneers of education in Kuwait and his efforts enabled all Kuwaitis to receive proper education, said the Ambassador, noting that the late Kuwaiti figure had embodied the principle of UNESCO during his career.

Through the establishment of modern public education in Kuwait, allowing women to pursue knowledge, encouraging culture in his country, Sheikh Abdullah had left a strong legacy that Kuwaitis will remember for generations, said the Kuwaiti diplomat who added that today's celebrations was in continuation of Kuwait's honoring of Sheikh Abdullah which was also held under the leadership's auspices last November at the Palace of the late Kuwaiti figure which was transformed into a national museum.

Representing the family of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikha Mona Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah thanked UNESCO for honoring her grandfather, saying that she is very proud to be linked to his legacy.

Sheikha Mona also took the chance to thank the Kuwaiti leadership and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah for patronizing the event, affirming that it was important to remember the efforts of figures contributing to the development of Kuwait.

After the opening ceremony, representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah opened a photo gallery featuring the cultural and educational achievements of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

'Outstanding'

Separately, Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah the 'success' of UNESCO's honoring of late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as an international educational and cultural figure for 2014-2015. Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah told KUNA, on Friday, that the honoring ceremony was "outstanding."

He gave a special thanks to head of the historic documentation at the Amiri Diwan Sheikha Mona Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for exerting tremendous effort, in a short time, to make all the material regarding the achievements of the late Sheikh available and ready for the celebration.

Meanwhile, Sheikha Mona said that the ceremony saw the attendance of an exceptional audience of highly diplomatic calibers, pointing out that Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova's presence at the late Sheikh documentary film added a greater value and appreciation to the late Sheikh's character. — KUNA



PARIS: Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah speaks during a ceremony by the UNESCO to honor the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Sheikha Mona Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah speaks at the event.



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OOREDOO RAISES DOWN SYNDROME KIDS WITH FUN-FILLED AND WONDER-PACKED WEEKEND

KUWAIT: Wonderland for a Cause will host its third fun-packed weekend of activities at the Discovery Mall between November 12-14 promising games, magic shows, and a market for local entrepreneurs, as well as entertainment for all the family. The event is held to raise money and awareness for children with Down Syndrome, a genetic anomaly that affects many families in Kuwait.



Mijbil Al-Ayoub

Ooredoo Kuwait, part of the international Ooredoo Group, is one of the main sponsors of the event.

Mijbil Al-Ayoub, Director of Corporate Communications for Ooredoo Kuwait said: "We are looking forward to this weekend's

activities and entertainment and sincerely hope that the children enjoy the festivities to the max. It is our pleasure to support those families who have been effected by Down Syndrome in this small way and look forward to sharing and identifying opportunities of potentially using technology to provide assistance in the future."

Wonderland for a Cause takes place in the garden and parking lot of Discovery Mall and all proceeds will be donated to Abeer 2 Center, a center specialized in helping families of children with Down Syndrome.

AHLI UNITED SPONSORS 'HUMAN MARATHON 2015'

KUWAIT: Out of its social responsibility and concern with all categories of the Kuwaiti society, Ahli United Bank announced its sponsorship to the Human Marathon 2015 event organized by the Volunteer Kuwaiti Youth Team. The Marathon will be held today at the 360 Complex. The event encourages the concept of "Positive integration" in the society between individuals of special needs and their healthy peers. It will be open for various societies, centers and clubs concerned with the disabled to participate in this event.

On this sponsorship, Moataz El-Rafie - Senior Deputy Chief Executive Officer Banking Group - at Ahli United Bank commented: "Ahli United Bank's sponsoring to this marathon comes out of its social responsibility being the first bank to operate in Kuwait. Our Bank caters to the needs of all society groups in the State of Kuwait and pays special attention to the disabled being an active component of the Kuwaiti society. Their positive integration in the society will help their society which will benefit from their capabilities and potentials.

Finally, he expressed the bank's appreciation to all who supported this marathon. He sent a special thanks to the Volunteer Kuwait Youth team for their enthusiasm to the initiative and efforts. They provided a great example for communal partnership. Ahli United Bank will spare no effort in supporting all social purposeful programs.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY HOSTS SYMPOSIUM ON AIDS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Women's Cultural and Social Society held a symposium on 'AIDS and Woman's Health' on Wednesday at its premises. It was presented by Dr Hind Al-Shomar, Head of the AIDS, Statistics, and Information Bureau and Repertoire of the National Committee for Eliminating AIDS.

"The first case of AIDS in the world was discovered in 1981, while the first in Kuwait was in 1984," Dr Shomar said. "Eliminating AIDS and improving health is one of the millennium goals of the United Nations. Kuwait is participating in the International Fund that aims to eliminate the AIDS cases to reach zero infected cases and zero deaths caused by AIDS. Speaking about this disease from the beginning was always related to sex, especially that first cases were from homosexuals. Most people are not aware of all the other causes for getting infected, so we have to raise awareness on that regard," she added.

Organ transplant

The first case of AIDS in Kuwait was caused by organ transplant. "This case was infected after an organ transplant operation carried out in a poor country, where they did not do tests for this virus. This is the reason why we advise patients not to do such surgeries in poor countries, as in these countries they do not do test for the organs," she added.

There are more activities that may cause AIDS. "Beauty salons are popular places for getting infected. We advise women not to do manicure and pedicure in cheap places, and the best would be to take their tools with them. Also, hair removal with laser can transfer this disease, as well as blades in men's salons. The acupuncture can also cause infection, and this happened in France, where a doctor infected 45 people with AIDS during this process. The toothbrush is another tool that may transfer the disease as it may contain micro drops of blood that we cannot see. Also, tattoo or piercing can cause infection," stressed Dr Shomar.

Pregnant mothers

An infected pregnant mother can infect her fetus during pregnancy or even during breastfeeding when it is natural. "For this reason, we advise the infected mothers to have cesarean delivery to avoid the baby getting in contact with the fluids as much as possible," she further said.

Shomar also spoke about the Kuwaiti legislation that are related to this issue. "There was law No 62/1992 on protecting others from infection, which also protects the AIDS patients and assures their rights of medical care, education, work, social care and other rights. Then law No 31/2008 about the compulsory medical tests before getting married, which is done for different diseases including AIDS. And finally law No 46/2015 on providing medical test for all pregnant women, and if they were found infected they will receive treatment during the pregnancy to protect the fetus. The Kuwaiti legislation also set penalty for any patient who

transfers AIDS deliberately to others. The wife has the right to get divorced if she found out that her husband is infected," she pointed out.

Myths

There are myths about some people getting infected through things that in fact do not transfer infection of AIDS. "Insects, sneezing, swimming pools, touching phone or other objects, using utilities, towels and sheets, kissing, hand shaking, and even wearing the underwear of a patient will not cause infection," she stated.

Prevention is very important. "If the pregnant woman received medical treatment she will protect her baby that will be born without infection. We have 38 babies born from such



KUWAIT: Dr Hind Al-Shomar, Head of the AIDS, Statistics, and Information Bureau and Repertoire of the National Committee for Eliminating AIDS speaks at the symposium. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

cases and they are not infected. If the nurse or doctor used a used needle on a patient's hand by mistake, he should immediately report the incident to get the preventive procedures," noted Dr Shomar.

Free tests

There is a project of doing tests anonymously by the Ministry of Health. "This service is provided for free, and if the person was found to be HIV positive, then he has to provide his name and other information in order to get the medical treatment, otherwise he can get private treatment outside, which costs about KD 600 per month. An AIDS patient has to continue in medical treatment till the end of his life, otherwise his condition will worsen. With regular continuous medication, the activity of the virus will stop and the patient's immunity will be strengthened. When the virus percentage in his blood reaches zero, then he will stop being infected, yet thus he would not be considered cured and has to continue to take his medication," she concluded.

KUWAIT, INDIA DISCUSS TIES

KUWAIT/NEW DELHI: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call yesterday from his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj where they discussed bilateral ties. The two officials also tackled the latest development seen in the regional and international arenas. Separately, Kuwait Ambassador to India Fahad Ahmad Al-Awadi presented his credentials to President of the Indian Republic Pranab Mukherjee yesterday. The ceremony was held in the Presidential Palace in the capital New Delhi, the Kuwaiti Embassy in New Delhi said in a statement.

Both the sides took stock of the current India-Kuwait relations and explored ways of

strengthening it in various sectors. The statement added that the ambassador conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President Mukherjee during the meeting and also conveyed His Highness' wishes for good health and happiness to the president and prosperity and development to the friendly people of India. The Ambassador also underlined the importance of strong economic, political and security relations between India and Kuwait while expressing the strong desire of the Kuwaiti leadership to deepen cooperation in all areas.

The statement also said that the Indian president, on his part, asked the Kuwaiti Ambassador to convey his greetings to HH the Amir Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and wished the Kuwaiti people progress and success. The Indian President also recalled the visit of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to India in 2006 and the visit of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah saying that those visits helped to further cement the ties between Kuwait and India.

He also pointed out to the robust trade ties between the two sides which touched USD 14 billion last year while expressing his hope that Ambassador Fahad Al-Awadi would help to further strengthen cooperation with the Indian government to achieve goals which will serve the interests of the peoples in both the friendly countries. —KUNA



NEW DELHI: Kuwait Ambassador to India Fahad Al-Awadi presents his credentials to President of the Indian Republic Pranab Mukherjee. —KUNA

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KUWAIT TO POST KD 25 BILLION DEFICIT NEXT 5 YEARS AT \$65 A BARREL

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The government has projected that Kuwait will post a total budget deficit of KD 25 billion over the next five fiscal years with oil revenues calculated at \$65 a barrel, head of the national assembly financial and economic affairs committee said.

MP Faisal Al-Shaye made the comments after an expanded meeting to discuss ways of funding the budget deficit. The meeting brought together the assembly's financial and budgets committees and was attended by the Finance Minister, central bank governor and top financial and economic officials.

Shaye said the government is projecting a deficit of KD 8.2 billion in the current fiscal year after calculating the price of oil at \$45 a barrel.

He said the government officials explained that there was no need for any fresh legislation to allow the government to borrow to finance the budget

deficit, adding that existing laws are enough and allow the government to issue bonds or sukuk or seek loans.

Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh told reporters after the meeting that the ministry has submitted proposed measures to diversify sources of income and is cooperating with MPs in this direction.

He said that the government plans several measures in this respect but provided no details.

But Saleh said that the fiscal position of Kuwait is "excellent and strong" but added that the state budget will post a deficit over the next five fiscal years unless oil prices rise and the situation is not faced with prudent measures. The minister said that government officials briefed MPs about measures to fund the deficit with the central bank governor explaining the need to resort to the state reserves and issuing bonds and sukuk.

Saleh said the government heard remarks by MPs

and will take them seriously, adding that a meeting will be held in the future to discuss the issue.

The minister has repeatedly said that the government will not delay or scrap any mega development project due to the drop in oil prices.

Kuwait has amassed fiscal reserves estimated at \$600 billion during the past 16 fiscal years in which the budget posted a windfall due to high oil prices. Oil income contributes by 95 percent of public revenues.

In another development, the court of appeals yesterday set December 13 the date to issue the verdict against 29 defendants accused of assisting the Saudi bomber who blew himself up in a Shiite mosque in June, killing 26 people and wounding hundreds. The criminal court sentenced seven men, including five in absentia, to death, handed eight others, including five women, prison terms from two to 15 years and acquitted the remaining 14 people.

KUWAIT MEDICAL TEAM CHECKS 100 SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

HATAY: Kuwait's 'Shifa' Humanitarian Team has conducted medical check-up to around 100 Syrian refugees at Al-Amal Hospital in Hatay Province, south of Turkey. Most cases



HATAY: Kuwait's 'Shifa' Humanitarian Team member Dr Ahmed Al-Abdulmughni conducts a medical check on a Syrian child. —KUNA

included women and children who lost significant portions of their body parts such as hands and legs, in addition to nose, ear, and mouth due to explosions resulted by roadside bombs and rockets from the ongoing conflict in Syria, Dr Ahmed Al-Abdulmughni, team's member, stated to KUNA yesterday.

Around 26 cases have been transferred to surgical operations, with over 70 surgical interventions, Al-Abdulmughni said, adding that these surgeries resolves several problems and burdens for the injured, enabling them to return to their daily life activities.

It is Shifa's 10th trip, conducted under the slogan "Wound Healing", which is organized in cooperation with Interplast-Germany and LEAP Global Missions, and sponsored by Kuwait's Zakat House, he indicated. Since its formation in 2013, Shifa Humanitarian Team has performed around 200 surgeries and 1,500 medical checkups, in addition to providing medicine and treatment for patients in refugees' camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Bolivia, Kenya, and India. The team consists of several skilled Kuwaiti surgeons, in addition to other surgeons from Germany, Greece, and Turkey. —KUNA

KUWAIT REITERATES SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS

NEW YORK: Kuwait yesterday reiterated its firm stand and support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to gain full and



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Vice Delegate to the 70th session of the UN General Assembly Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah. —KUNA

legitimate political rights of establishing its own state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Kuwait's Vice Delegate to the 70th session of the UN General Assembly Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah said, during discussions of the report of UN Special Committee on decolonization on the matter, that the report "loud and clear" pins down Israel's "preposterous" actions that go against international laws, which led to the deterioration of human rights status of the Palestinians and added to their suffering, as they live in difficult economic conditions. He also denounced the continuation of illegal and inhumane siege over the Gaza Strip, which is a violation of UN Security Council resolution 1860 and Geneva Convention of 1949. —KUNA



KUWAIT: A young man was killed in a hit-and-run accident reported yesterday in Jahra. The driver reportedly left the scene immediately after the accident happened on a street located between the Oyoun and Taima districts of the governorate. Police were later able to identify, locate and arrest the driver. A case was filed for investigations. —By Hanan Al-Saadoun

TRIO CAUGHT WITH DRUGS

KUWAIT: Southern roads patrol officers arrested three people with possession of 26 illicit tablets. The three, two Kuwaitis and one Saudi, were sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DGCD). Patrol officers had stopped the suspect's vehicle, only to discover that they were in an abnormal condition. The drugs were found when the men were searched.

KD 3,000 watch stolen

A man lost his KD 3,000 watch after going to visit a school in Fahad Al-Ahmad. A security source said that the citizen told local police that his watch was stolen from his car when he stopped by to visit the school. A thief reportedly broke the car's window and stole the watch. Detectives are investigating. Separately, a Kuwaiti man told police in Taima that a thief broke into his vehicle and stole belongings he had left inside. Meanwhile, a man told officers in Farwaniya that an unknown person stole his car which was parked near the area's police station.

Sponsor robbed

A police Colonel told officers at Farwaniya police station that his domestic helper stole KD 1,000 before disappearing. The African maid stole the money from the safe at her

employer's house before escaping, according to the man's statements. A case was filed for investigations.

Unlicensed restaurant

Khaitan police raided a house in the area which was turned into an unlicensed restaurant. A security source said that patrol officers noticed two persons unloading vegetables into a house. Then when the men were asked to stop, they ran away instead. Police chased them into the house, which was discovered to be run as a restaurant without a license or security and safety conditions. Seven people were arrested in total.

Illegal calls

Farwaniya police sent a man to prison for deportation processing as he was arrested for offering international calling services at an office in the area illegally. Police found out about the place after chasing a person who ran away from patrol officers as soon as he spotted them in the area, a security source said. They arrested the Sri Lankan woman along with devices used to make international phone calls in violation of Ministry of Commerce regulations. She was sent to the concerned authorities for further action.

—Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

International

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

Gulf focuses on short-term military procurement needs

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Britain, India sign big deals despite protests

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Suu Kyi party wins Myanmar elections

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SINJAR, Iraq: Iraqi Kurdish militias battling to take back Sinjar from Islamic State militants raise a Kurdish flag and fire off celebratory gunfire in the center of town yesterday. — AP

KURDISH FORCES SEIZE SINJAR FROM IS

MAJOR SUPPLY ROUTE DISRUPTED

SINJAR, Iraq: Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani announced the “liberation” of the town of Sinjar from the Islamic State group yesterday, the latest in a series of setbacks for the jihadists. The operation was led by the autonomous Kurdish region’s peshmerga forces but also involved fighters from the Yazidi minority, which IS targeted in a brutal campaign of massacres, enslavement and rape. It cut a key supply line linking jihadist-held areas in Iraq with those in Syria.

Across the border, the Syrian Democratic Forces coalition said it also delivered a blow to IS logistics, announcing that it had driven the jihadists out of Al-Hol, an important village on their Iraq-Syria supply route. The gains against IS are the latest sign that the jihadist group, which won a series of victories in a stunningly rapid offensive in Iraq last year, is now on the defensive.

In remarks yesterday, US President Barack Obama expressed satisfaction with efforts against IS, saying the group’s expansion has been curbed. “From the start, our goal has been first to contain, and we have contained them,” Obama said. Barzani, the president of Iraqi Kurdistan, told a news conference near the northern town: “I am here to announce the liberation of Sinjar.” His remarks also made clear that political conflict over Sinjar would likely follow the military battle for the town. “Sinjar was liberated by the blood of the peshmerga and became part of Kurdistan,” Barzani said. Baghdad, which has long opposed Kurdistan’s desire to incorporate a swathe of disputed northern territory, is unlikely to welcome that idea.

Flags, Celebratory Gunfire

Earlier in the day, hundreds of Kurdish fighters, dressed in camouflage uniforms and armed with assault rifles and machineguns, moved into the town on foot, an AFP journalist reported. Carrying the Kurdish region’s flag, they fired into the air and shouted “Long live the peshmerga!” and “Long live Kurdistan!” Inside Sinjar, many houses and shops, a petrol garage and the local government headquarters

had been destroyed. Burned out cars sat in the streets, while barrels apparently containing explosives had been left behind. The huge task of clearing Sinjar of bombs planted by IS remains, and there is also the possibility of holdout jihadists, who have kept up attacks even after other areas in Iraq were said to have been retaken. Sinjar has been pounded by US-led air strikes and Kurdish artillery fire targeting IS positions, which sent massive columns of smoke drifting up from the town on Thursday.

The coalition carried out 36 strikes against jihadists in the Sinjar area on Wednesday and Thursday, and 15 more across the border in Al-Hol, which the Syrian Democratic Forces announced on Friday they had taken the day before. And Syrian forces broke a year-long IS siege of a military air base in the country’s north Tuesday with backing from Russian air strikes.

In a rare admission Thursday, the Pentagon said US ground forces advising the Kurds on their offensive were close enough to the front to identify IS targets and call in strikes. Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook told reporters most of the US-led coalition troops were behind the front lines working with Kurdish commanders. But “there are some advisers who are on Sinjar mountain, assisting in the selection of air strike targets.”

On Thursday, Kurdish forces cut the key highway that links IS-held areas in Iraq and Syria. “Sinjar sits astride Highway 47, which is a key and critical resupply route” for IS, said Colonel Steve Warren, spokesman for the international operation against IS. “By seizing Sinjar, we’ll be able to cut that line of communication, which we believe will constrict (IS’s) ability to resupply themselves, and is a critical first step in the eventual liberation of Mosul,” said Warren, referring to the jihadists’ main hub in Iraq. IS overran Sinjar in August last year, forcing thousands of Yazidis to flee to the mountains overlooking the town, where they were trapped by the jihadists. The United Nations has described the attack on the Yazidis as a possible genocide. —AFP

BODIES OF EIGHT BABIES FOUND IN GERMAN FLAT

MUNICH: German police said yesterday they had found the bodies of eight babies in an apartment in the southern state of Bavaria, in what could be one of the country’s worst post-war infanticide case. Police said they were alerted on Thursday afternoon by a resident from the small town of Wallenfels, who found a body of an infant in the apartment. When officers arrived at the site, they uncovered several other bodies, wrapped up in hand towels and put in plastic bags.

Police are looking for a 45-year-old woman who previously lived in the apartment. “She is sought at least as the possible mother of the children,” said a police spokeswoman, who would not say if the woman is considered a suspect. Forensic investigators are currently examining the corpses, police said, adding that the process could take some time “due to the poor condition” of some of the bodies. “A result is not to be expected before the beginning of the coming week,” said police.

Investigators had first revealed the grisly find late Thursday, with the local press reporting that two babies’ bodies were uncovered. Yesterday morning, investigators announced that possibly seven bodies had been found, before saying in the late afternoon that an eighth had been discovered in the house where children’s decorations could be seen taped to the windows on the first floor. Newspaper Bild reported that the female former resident of the apartment lived there with her husband for 18 years, and that the couple had three children. But the woman also had four other children from other relationships, it said, adding that she had sought to hide her frequent pregnancies. It also quoted an unnamed source saying that the woman had four miscarriages. —AFP

IS IN LIBYA BIDS TO EMULATE IRAQ, SYRIA SUCCESS

MISRATA, Libya: The attack bore all the traits of Islamic State in Iraq. A small unit of militants, armed with Kalashnikov rifles and suicide belts, hit the Tripoli prison just before sunrise. Blasting through a wall, four fighters worked their way through the heavily guarded compound before firing a rocket-propelled grenade to breach the cells inside. Their target, security sources say, was a jailed Libyan Islamic State militant. Clashes erupted. Two of the attackers, a Moroccan and a Sudanese, detonated suicide belts and shortly afterwards all four, and the militant, were dead.

The prison break failed. But it was another illustration of the tactics employed by an Islamic State front determined to emulate the success of the group's founders in Iraq and Syria. "When we see them fighting, they are well trained. There were only four, but they destabilised the whole base," said Muad Khalil, a spokesman for forces at the Maitiga base. "Who would have thought to attack this base, but they did."

Four years after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is locked in a conflict between two rival governments - an official one in the east, and a self-declared one controlling Tripoli - and the many armed factions that back them. Far from the battlefields of Iraq and Syria, Islamic State has steadily grown in Libya's chaos, controlling the city of Sirte, and worrying Western governments who fear it can only become stronger in the post-revolution mess.

They have left their mark on the North African state. They have massacred Christian Egyptians on a Libyan beach, publicly flogged criminals in Sirte, stormed oilfields, and attacked a five-star Tripoli hotel. But while Libya's turmoil and history of jihadism offered fertile ground, Islamic State has run up against the heavily armed factions and rival Islamists already in place. Even as they lay claim to Sirte, Libya's Islamic State followers have been ousted from Derna city by local fighters, and have shown they cannot hold ground or muster the finances and

oil resources they benefit from in Iraq. "They clearly want to expand from Sirte," one Western diplomat said. "They continue to maintain the ability to carry out one-offs outside their main area, but they are still small."

Jihadist History

Libya has a long history of jihadism. Men from the Libya Islamic Fighting Group fought in Afghanistan. Later, Libyan al Qaeda militants were accused in the US embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998. After the fall of Gaddafi, and with the steady fracturing of Libya between rival brigades of former rebels, the Islamist militants among them found room to grow. One group, Ansar al Sharia in Benghazi, was blamed for the 2012 attack that killed the US ambassador there.

As in Iraq and Syria, Islamic State draws recruits from local groups, security sources and local residents say. But Derna also showed their limits. Even after Islamic State leaders arrived to recruit in July,

fighting erupted as Derna Islamists and citizens fed up with foreign jihadists drove Islamic State out. But in Sirte, security sources and residents say, they found a more suitable base by tapping into frustrations in Gaddafi's home town, where many felt sidelined after the revolution. "Daesh saw Sirte as the perfect place. Some Gaddafi followers are now Daesh members," said local military commander Ismail Al-Mjaree, using an Arabic name for the group. "In Derna, they didn't have that environment."

Targeted assassinations of rivals and security officials began last year, and Islamic State forces moved in force on Sirte in February and March, taking a radio station and other important buildings. Forces from Misrata - a port city that is home to one of the country's more powerful military factions - arrived to take back Sirte. But fearing large-scale casualties and blaming a lack of support from Tripoli, they retreated, although hostilities may be resumed at some point. — Reuters

GULF FOCUSES ON SHORT-TERM MILITARY PROCUREMENT NEEDS

AMMUNITION, REPAIRS ARE THE IMMEDIATE FOCUS

DUBAI: Having rushed to war in Yemen just as oil prices sank, Gulf Arab militaries are in a thrifty mood. They are focusing on immediate wartime needs like ammunition supplies. Such caution does not mean the rich dynasties have lost the taste - or as they see it, the need - for advanced warplanes and regional missile defence, Arab and Western officers and industry executives at the biennial Dubai Airshow said. Saudi Arabia for example is proceeding with a modernization of its navy, and Kuwait is still poised to buy \$3 billion of fighter jets from Boeing on top of \$7 billion in Eurofighters.

Such projects are partly a response by the US-allied Sunni Muslim monarchies to the perceived threat from Shi'ite Iran. In Riyadh, Iran is viewed as an expansionist power bent on exporting its 1979 Islamic revolution. But while these pricey ventures are seen as vital and work proceeds, short-term concerns about logistics have become more urgent for the oil-exporting countries as they try out a newly assertive approach to the Middle East's growing conflicts.

Major General Abdullah Al-Hashimi, executive director of strategic analysis at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ministry of defence, said lower oil prices had brought "some kind of quietness in the market". "The whole world is living in some kind of a crisis, because the oil prices affected everybody," he said. This week's show recorded \$40 billion in combined military and civilian sales, way down on \$150 billion in 2009 and \$200 billion in 2013, although on par with \$30-40 billion in 2011.

As interest in big ticket weapons purchases has eased, so short-term concerns about ammunition supplies and the need to maintain existing equipment have grown. The Gulf states and Arab allies intervened militarily in Yemen in March in support of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour

Hadi, a Saudi ally, and beat back Iran's influence in the region. The first collective Gulf Arab effort at flexing military 'hard power', the war has dragged on for seven months, cost almost 6,000 lives and set off a revival of Islamist militancy.

Industrial Base

Suppliers used to a more measured pace of weapons delivery are rushing to fill orders for ammunition and spares from the Saudi-led coalition, a pressure made more acute by demand from the Western-led air campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. UAE Air Force Commander Major-General Ibrahim Nasser Al-Alawi told Reuters forecasting ammunition flows, spare parts and logistics was one of the main processes involved in sustaining an operation "which has a non-defined end".

US Air Force officials at the air show echoed that. They said more planning was required on arms supplies to the region. "None of us predicted there would be operations in Iraq, Syria and Yemen all at the same time," said General Charles Brown, commander of the US Air Forces Central Command. "That's one of the areas we will work with our partners - at how we forecast, particularly munitions."

US Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said US officials were working to speed up foreign arms sales, adding: "It does take a certain amount of time to ramp up the industrial base to meet these needs." The Yemen war, insurgencies in Libya and Egypt and Islamic State bombings in the Gulf states have concentrated minds on another sector: Gulf Arab ground and counter-insurgency troops.

Improving Gulf Arab armies' ground forces is a priority also for Washington, which is pressing Arab states to take on more responsibility for their own defence. The Yemen war suggests there is still much

work to do there. While the air campaign in Yemen has dealt blows to the Houthis, the coalition ground campaign appears deadlocked. "The Yemen adventure is a wake-up call for the requirements of the future of warfare in the Middle East and North Africa region," said Theodore Karasik of Gulf State Analytics, referring to guerrilla warfare and militant bombings.

Doug Raaberg, Northrop Grumman's chief executive in United Arab Emirates, told Reuters the fight against militants and insurgents had dramatically changed the needs of his company's Gulf customers, putting a greater focus on affordability and the need to maintain existing equipment. "What they need is assurance that the equipment that they're using is sustained both today and tomorrow. We need to provide them good affordable solutions," he said.

Insurgencies

Analysts said the unknown length and cost of the Yemen war had piled fresh uncertainty on top of economic strains caused by the recent halving of oil prices. "There is a triangle of pressures from oil prices, the cost of the war and social costs," said one senior air show delegate, referring to the effect of troop deaths on social cohesion. The cost of the aerial and ground campaign in Yemen is unknown but is estimated to run easily into billions of dollars.

"It covers ground and air and there are multiple people involved, and it is difficult to know who is doing what let alone the cost of the campaign," said Douglas Barrie, senior fellow at the International Institute of Strategic Studies. "It is hardly surprising that the near term focus of the countries at the vanguard of the campaign has switched from long-term equipment to replenishing ammunition stocks and looking at lessons of the air campaign," he said. — Reuters



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi man stands in front of a door covered with shrapnel and bloodstains after a suicide bomber reportedly blew himself up in the midst of a Shiite funeral ceremony yesterday. — AFP

BAGHDAD BOMBS TARGETING SHIITES LEAVE 26 DEAD

BAGHDAD: The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a suicide blast and a roadside bombing that targeted Shiites in Baghdad yesterday, killing a total of 26 people and wounding dozens. The attacks came as Iraqi Kurdish militias, backed by US airstrikes, seized the town of Sinjar from the Islamic State group in a major blow to the extremists. Following its blitz last year, the IS - which splintered off from Iraq's Al-Qaeda branch - now holds about a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared caliphate.

The suicide bomber struck a memorial service held for a Shiite militia fighter killed in battle against IS in the Iraqi capital's southwestern suburb of Hay Al-Amal, a police official told AP. That explosion killed 21 people and wounded at least 46, he said. The militia fighter was killed in battle against the militant group in Iraq's western Anbar province, the official added. Also yesterday in Baghdad, a roadside bomb detonated at a Shiite shrine in Sadr City, killing at least five people and wounding 15, police officials said. Hospital officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to reporters. Since the emergence of IS extremists, Baghdad has seen near-daily attacks, with roadside bombs, suicide blasts and assassinations targeting Iraqi forces and government officials, with significant casualties among the civilian population. The violence has killed hundreds and displaced tens of thousands of Iraqis. — AP

REVITALIZED ERDOGAN SEEKS TO BASK IN G20 GLORY

ANTALYA, Turkey: Boosted by an election victory, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants to use the G20 summit to remind the world of his status as a global leader and consolidate his domestic popularity. Commentators began writing Erdogan's political obituary when his Islamic-rooted ruling party lost its outright majority in June elections for the first time since it swept to power over a decade ago. But the combative Erdogan's gamble on calling snap elections for Nov 1 paid off handsomely, with the Justice and Development Party (AKP) that he co-founded regaining its majority.

Just two weeks after that triumph, Erdogan will roll out the red carpet in the Mediterranean resort of Antalya on Sunday for leaders of the world's top 20 economies including US President Barack Obama, Xi Jinping of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia. The timing of the summit just after the elections is the perfect chance for Erdogan to show he is a key global player, in particular in

dealing with the conflict in neighbouring Syria and the ensuing influx of 2.2 million refugees onto Turkish territory. It also allows him to play the role of genial host and dampen criticism that his rule is creeping towards authoritarianism after raids on critical media and arrests of opponents. "This G20 summit gives Erdogan the opportunity to reaffirm Turkey as an essential partner on the global scene," said Sinan Ulgen, chairman of the Istanbul-based Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) and a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe in Brussels. "He will for sure also take advantage of it personally to present himself as a world leader, despite all the criticism of his more and more authoritarian rule," he told AFP.

'Overlook Rights Record'

Turkey has in recent years felt aggrieved and even betrayed by the West over Syria, complaining it has received no help in hosting the refugees or in its aim to topple



ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands before a meeting yesterday. — AP

President Bashar Al-Assad. Erdogan, notoriously hot-tempered in private, has taken such disappointments as a personal slight and will be expecting Turkey's position to be

taken fully into account at its G20. Erdogan will look for promises that the West is still committed to ousting Assad, despite Russia's air campaign to bolster his regime. — AFP



TALLUSSA, Lebanon: Mourners chant slogans as they carry the body of Adel Termos during his funeral in this village in Nabatiyeh governorate yesterday. — AP

LEBANON PM HOLDS EMERGENCY MEETING

NATION MOURNS 44 KILLED IN BEIRUT BOMBING

BEIRUT: Lebanese Prime Minister Tamam Salam held an emergency meeting with his security cabinet and military chiefs yesterday as the nation mourned 44 people killed in a double suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State. The blasts late on Thursday hit a residential and commercial area in a southern suburb of Beirut, a stronghold of Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah, in the latest spillover of violence from the war in neighbouring Syria.

The first attacks in more than a year on a Hezbollah bastion inside Lebanon came at time when the group is stepping up its involvement in Syria's civil war, now in its fifth year. Iran-backed Hezbollah has sent troops over the border to support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad against Sunni Muslim insurgent groups including Islamic State.

Lebanon is also suffering from its own political crisis in which disputes between par-

ties, factions and sects have stopped the government taking basic decisions and left the country without a president for 17 months. The army established a heavy security presence around the scene of the blast, which on Friday was still littered with debris, damaged cars and motorbikes and shattered glass. Medical sources raised the death toll on Friday from 43 to 44, with more than 200 people wounded. Funerals were held in Beirut for several of the victims later in the day, with coffins draped in the flags of Hezbollah and Amal, another Shiite movement. Defence Minister Samir Moqbel said the armed forces were on high alert across the country, and trying their best to keep a fragile calm. "To tell you the security forces can control things like that 100 percent of the time, I'd be lying," he said. "We're doing our best in coordination with all the parties on the ground."

Political Paralysis

Ministers have urged politicians to put all rivalries aside and work towards electing a president and bolstering the government and parliament. State institutions are paralysed by political deadlock. Beirut residents expressed concern after the violence, saying it raised the spectre of civil strife. "It's been a year... with no explosions. We thought we were done with this, but were proved wrong yesterday," said central Beirut resident Rajaa, who gave only her first name. "This explosion targeted Lebanon as whole, not only Beirut's southern suburbs," she said. Hezbollah warned on Thursday of a "long war" against its enemies. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged Lebanon's security services and state institutions "not to allow this despicable act to destroy the relative calm that has prevailed in the country over the past year". — Reuters

ONE PALESTINIAN, 2 ISRAELIS KILLED IN WEST BANK

HEBRON: An Israeli father and son were shot dead in an apparent ambush near Hebron yesterday on a day that also saw three Palestinians die after being shot by Israeli soldiers. An unknown assailant killed the two Israelis when he opened fire on a car near the Jewish settlement of Otniel, south of Hebron in the occupied West Bank, the army said. Another two Israelis were wounded, hospital sources said. "Two Israelis were murdered... when shots were fired at their vehicle near Hebron" in a "terrorist" attack, an army statement said, adding that the gunman fled the area.

It was the most serious attack on Israelis in nearly a month and sparked a manhunt, with soldiers backed by air units deploying en masse in the neighbouring Palestinian communities of Yatta and As Samou, an AFP journalist said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to bring the attackers to justice. "We will get to these heinous murderers and we will bring them to justice as we have done in the past," he said in a statement. Israeli forces took less than a week to arrest the alleged perpetrators of an attack that killed two settlers on 1 October and sparked the latest wave of violence. Israel says they belonged to a Hamas cell, the Islamist movement that is a staunch enemy of the Jewish state.

Toll Now Nearly 100

In an unrelated incident, a Palestinian was shot dead during clashes yesterday with the army in Hebron, Palestinian medics said. Hassan al-Bo, 21, died after being hit in the heart by live ammunition, an official at Al-Ahli Hospital said. Soldiers also shot dead a man near the West Bank city of Ramallah on Friday, the Palestinian health ministry said. A statement announced "the death of a young man, Lafi Yusuf Awad, 22 years old, from the village of Budrus in the district of Ramallah, (killed) by a bullet from Israeli forces".

Earlier, a Palestinian teenager in Hebron succumbed to his wounds after being shot by troops a day earlier. More than 200 Palestinians were treated during clashes on Friday, the Palestinian Red Crescent said, the majority after inhaling tear gas. Violence since the start of October, including a wave of Palestinian knife, gun and car-ramming attacks, has killed 81 people on the Palestinian side -including one Israeli Arab - and 12 Israelis.

Many of the Palestinians killed were alleged attackers shot at the scene, while others died in clashes. The violence was originally focused in and around Jerusalem but has recently shifted to Hebron and its surrounding areas. The city is a frontline of the conflict, with 500 Jewish settlers living under military protection in the centre of a city of 200,000 Palestinians. — AFP

RISING STAR STRUGGLES WITH FRENCH INEQUALITY

PARIS: She is a rising political star and a striking immigrant success story from France's ghetto-like suburbs, but Education Minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem faces huge obstacles in fighting the inequality she herself overcame. "The system in France is like we're all running the 100 metres, but some have a 30-metre head start and some start 30 metres behind," she tells AFP. The word "egalite" might be plastered over every school, but OECD studies show inequality is rising faster in France's classrooms than in any other developed country. Unlike much of France's closeted political elite, Vallaud-Belkacem has experienced that challenge first-hand, having grown up as a relatively poor Moroccan immigrant in the northern town of Amiens. The 38-year-old worked her way up through local government into Socialist presidential campaign teams in 2007 and 2012, before being named women's minister and becoming a hate figure for the right with her efforts to improve gender equality in schools. Last year she became the first-ever female education minister, and many say her star has much further to climb.

The back-story gives her concerns about inequality a ring of sincerity. "When I look back at where I came from, at the school I attended... my classmates for the most part haven't had successful paths - many have had a difficult, chaotic path," she says. This is not especially new, she warns, but it is getting worse. "We can't idealise some bygone time when school was necessarily a social ladder for people from modest backgrounds," she says. "(But) what worries me... there's always been inequalities, social determinism, but perhaps not this level of disenchantment that I feel when I go back to Amiens today, when I see families in the same socio-economic conditions I was in. People can't even imagine that it's possible to succeed anymore." The irony, say experts and teachers, is that France's very insistence on equality could be the root cause of the problem.

'A Big Shock'

"It was a beautiful idea in the beginning: everyone gets the same education," says a head teacher in Saint Denis just north of Paris, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "But unfortunately, not all pupils are the same." His school lies in a rough, working-class neigh-



PARIS: French Education Minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem leaves after a weekly cabinet meeting at the Elysee presidential palace yesterday. —AFP

bourhood of mostly first- and second-generation migrants, plagued by gang rivalries and high unemployment. But any hopes of tailoring the teaching to the specific challenges of the community run up against a system which strictly enforces a uniform curriculum. "Few of the teachers come from this area," says the principal. "It

can be a big shock, a real panic for them. They don't know how to speak to these pupils, they may never have met populations like this."

Young teachers have little control over where they are posted and the least experienced often end up in the worst schools. "They feel they're drowning in the problems these kids face: social problems, language problems, family problems. They aren't trained for that." The traditional view of the teacher dictating to rows of attentive pupils still dominates training despite its increasing distance from reality, leaving little room for more flexible teaching styles.

Without strong parental support, many children fall through the gaps. "The success of students is completely tied to what parents do and who they are," says the head teacher. "That's profoundly unchanged in France, and that's terrible."

'The Rich Have Left'

Vallaud-Belkacem knows the problems, and promises that reforms are underway: more teachers and money for schools in tough areas, a more flexible curriculum and better training. Most controversially, she announced a pilot scheme last week by which parents in a few areas will have a choice of schools for the first time, and local councils tasked with ensuring a mix of social groups in each one. "I'm not preparing a revolution," vowed the minister, but she knows any changes to school districts will be explosive.

As many governments round the world have found, such plans run aground as soon as wealthier parents are told to send their children to rougher schools. "She's going to fail," says Rodrigo Munoz, president of a parent-teacher association in Saint-Denis. "The rich have left and they aren't coming back." —AFP

NIGERIA'S OPPOSITION IN SOUL-SEARCHING AFTER LOSS

PDP CLAIMS TO BE ONLY 'CREDIBLE' INSTITUTION

ABUJA: Its former national chairman once boasted that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) would rule Nigeria for 60 years. In the end it managed only 16. Muhammadu Buhari's All Progressives Congress (APC) dumped the PDP out of power in presidential elections in March, in what was the first win for an opposition party in the country's history. As attention shifted to Buhari and his plans to tackle endemic corruption and defeat Boko Haram Islamists, the PDP and its former president Goodluck Jonathan went quiet. On Twitter - the main tool for the party's message in the election campaign - there were no more posts from the party from May 18, but on Oct 29 it announced: "We are Back!!!" The PDP has been

finding its voice again since then and on Thursday the party held a national conference in the capital Abuja to set out its plans to regain power. Its language was typically bullish, describing the government as "the fascist APC regime" and accusing it of human rights and constitutional violations as well as abuse of power.

Buhari's crackdown on corruption has seen several former and serving state governors arrested on suspicion of corruption while he has accused the PDP of leaving the country virtually bankrupt. But the PDP declared: "Participants noted that the PDP remains the only credible national political institution committed to national interest and the deepening of democratic tenets and ideals."

Strong Opposition

Tub-thumping rhetoric and personal criticism has long characterised Nigerian politics, which relies heavily on patronage, elite connections and, very often, hard cash. The PDP personally attacked Buhari during the election, accusing the former military ruler of being an Islamic extremist, an unreformed dictator and unqualified to hold office. In the run-up to the vote, though, dozens of PDP lawmakers switched sides to the APC, complaining that Jonathan had reneged on a promise not to stand for a second term. There have been more defections since then, in part due to PDP perceptions of an APC "witch-hunt" against its members over corruption.

Analysts attributed the PDP's election defeat to its failure to secure a consensus in a religiously and ethnically divided country - and also that after 16 years, people were ready for a change. Political commentator Chris Ngwodo said to build on the democratic development of the APC's historic win, what the country needed now was not rhetoric. "Trickle-down politics of the worst kind", where powerful elites bestowed patronage on their supporters, was in the past, he said.

To become relevant again, the PDP "has to think more deeply" and come up with policies that address the lack of social and economic opportunities for Nigeria's young population across the country. Simple criticism was "not moving anybody" he told AFP. "There's no real sense of having an opposition party. This is a party shell-shocked from defeat, still grappling in the dark. It needs to define itself," he added. —AFP



ABUJA: A picture taken on May 29, 2015 shows former President Goodluck Jonathan waving to the crowd as he leaves the office during the inauguration of President Muhammadu Buhari at the Eagles Square. —AFP

AUSTRIA PLANS FENCE TO MANAGE MIGRANT FLOW

VIENNA: Austria will build a 3.7-km fence either side of its busiest border crossing with Slovenia to help manage the flow of thousands of migrants a day onto its territory, senior officials said yesterday. It was the latest move by a country on Europe's main migratory corridor, stretching from Greece to Germany, to manage or curb the influx since hundreds of thousands started streaming into Austria and Germany two months ago, putting severe strain on the European Union's prized system of open borders.

Slovenia began erecting its own razor-wire fence along parts of its frontier with Croatia on Wednesday, saying it aimed to assert better control over the migrant flow onto its soil that began shortly after Hungary built fences on its southern border to keep the marching crowds out. Austria, the last stop on the way to Germany for migrants crossing the continent in numbers not seen since World War Two, has worried for weeks that its larger neighbour's frontier restrictions will create a backlog it cannot manage.

At a news conference with other cabinet members and senior officials, Austrian Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner announced a series of measures that would be put in place near the Spielfeld border crossing in coordination with Slovenia. Those included a fenced "security corridor" on Slovenian territory and enhanced patrols outside that area by the Slovenian security forces, she said. Austria will also make preparations that will enable it to build a fence along a 25-km stretch of the border at 48 hours' notice if needed, she said. A senior official said this would involve containers with razor wire ready to be deployed.

"This Phase 2 will come into force if the Slovenian measures do not work and it comes to illegal border crossings," she said, adding that Austria would immediately strengthen its own patrols along the same 25-km stretch of frontier. —Reuters

NY MOBSTER ACQUITTED OVER 'GOODFELLAS' HEIST

NEW YORK: An 80-year-old reputed mobster accused of a spectacular 1978 New York airport heist immortalized in Martin Scorsese's hit movie "Goodfellas" was acquitted Thursday in federal court in Brooklyn. Vincent Asaro, allegedly a member of the notorious Bonanno crime



NEW YORK: In this Jan 23, 2014 file photo, FBI agents flank Vincent Asaro as they escort the reputed mobster from FBI offices. —AP

family, was accused of murder, violence and extortion that supposedly spanned 45 years from the late 1960s until 2013. He was found not guilty on all counts, said a spokeswoman for the US attorney's office in Brooklyn. Asaro, all smiles as he left the courtroom, said he wanted to "have a good meal" with his family. In the biggest heist on US soil, armed mobsters stole \$5 million in cash and nearly \$1 million in jewels from a Lufthansa Airlines vault at John F Kennedy airport on Dec 11, 1978. The value of the booty today is estimated at around \$20 million. Asaro was the first, and probably last, alleged member of the mafia to be prosecuted over the heist. The trial, which began on Oct 19, spotlighted the secretive workings of the Italian mafia, including revenge murders, racketeering, robbery and illegal gambling.

Jurors began deliberations on Monday night and took a break for the Veterans Day holiday on Wednesday. The acquittal of Asaro, who had been facing life in prison if convicted, is a stunning blow for federal prosecutors in Brooklyn.

Scorsese Treatment

Apparently pointed out to authorities by a cousin, Asaro was arrested by the FBI in Jan 2014 in a series of raids that also netted his middle-aged son Jerome and three other suspects. Prosecutors also accused him of ordering the murder of a cousin in the 1980s who man-

aged to escape to Florida on a tip-off. Asaro and his son were also charged with participating in additional armed robberies, including around \$1 million in gold salts. The Lufthansa heist became legendary after its alleged mastermind James Burke - also known as Jimmy the Gent - killed off members of the crew to avoid being shopped to the police. The judge in Asaro's trial barred those murders from being discussed in court.

Scorsese immortalized the criminal feat in his Oscar-winning 1990 movie "Goodfellas", long considered one of the best crime films of all time. Burke, who died of cancer in prison in 1996, was the inspiration for Robert De Niro's character Jimmy Conway in the film. Asaro was not depicted in the movie, which earned six Oscar nominations including for best picture and best director. Joe Pesci took home the film's only golden statuette for best supporting actor.

Asaro also stood accused, with Burke, of strangling Paul Katz with a dog chain in 1969 because they suspected he was cooperating with investigators, burying his body under the cement basement floor of an empty home. In the mid-1980s, Asaro allegedly ordered his son Jerome and another individual to dig up the body and move it to avoid detection. In 2013, the FBI recovered a right hand and wrist, hair, teeth, clothing and human tissue identified by DNA as belonging to Katz from the Burke family home in Queens. —AFP

TRUMP QUESTIONS CARSON'S 'PATHOLOGICAL TEMPER', FAITH REAL ESTATE MOGUL SLAMS GOP COMPETITORS

FORT DODGE, Iowa: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, brushing aside any recent claims of civility, has equated Ben Carson's childhood "pathological temper" to the illness of a child molester, questioned his religious awakening and berated voters who support him. "How stupid are the people of Iowa?" declared Trump during a rally at Iowa Central

deserve his attention because his campaign is doing so poorly. Trump accused Democratic frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is campaigning to be the first female president, of "playing the woman's card, big league".

But his strongest words, by far, were aimed at Carson, whose powerful life story and soft-spoken demeanor have captured the attention of

very serious disease."

In his book "Gifted Hands," Carson described the uncontrollable anger he felt at times while growing up in inner-city Detroit. He wrote that on one occasion he nearly punched his mother and on another he attempted to stab a friend with a knife. "I had what I only can label a pathological temper - a disease - and this sickness controlled me, making me totally irrational," Carson said, in describing the incident with his mother. He referred to "pathological anger" again in telling about lunging at his friend, a knife blade breaking off when it hit the boy's belt buckle.

Carson's ability to overcome his anger as well as an impoverished childhood to become a world-renowned neurosurgeon has been a central chapter in his personal story. A spokesman for Carson declined to comment on Trump's remarks. During the rally Thursday night in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Trump said that Carson is "an enigma to me". He went on to repeat the molestation analogy with his comments about pathological temper, and he questioned aspects of Carson's biography. At one point, Trump acted out the scene of Carson trying to stab his friend, lunging forward dramatically. "He lunged that knife into the stomach of his friend, but, lo and behold, it hit the belt!" Trump declared. "Give me a break."

In "Gifted Hands," Carson describes racing to the bathroom in his house after the near-stabbing incident - and in time beginning to pray for God's help in dealing with his temper. "During those hours alone in the bathroom, something happened to me," he wrote. "God heard my deep cries of anguish. A feeling of lightness flowed over me, and I knew a change of heart had taken place. I felt different. I was different."

In questioning Carson's religious awakening, Trump said in Fort Dodge that Carson went into the bathroom and came out, "and now he's religious". "And the people of Iowa believe him. Give me a break. Give me a break. It doesn't happen that way," Trump said. "Don't be fools." —AP



FORT DODGE, Iowa: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to guests during a campaign stop at Iowa Central Community College on Thursday. —AFP

Community College. "How stupid are the people of the country to believe this crap?" For more than an hour and a half Thursday night, the billionaire real estate mogul harshly criticized not only Carson, but many of his other competitors in the race for the GOP presidential nomination.

In his free-wheeling appearance, Trump also said Florida Sen Marco Rubio, who is rising in the polls, was "weak like a baby, like a baby" and "not a good poker player because every time he's under pressure he starts to just profusely sweat". And he said former Florida Gov Jeb Bush didn't

many voters. Trump, once the undisputed poll leader, is now running neck-and-neck with Carson in many opinion surveys. Trump previewed his attack line in an interview with CNN Thursday in which the businessman pointed to Carson's own descriptions of his "pathological temper" as a young man. "That's a big problem because you don't cure that," Trump said. "That's like, you know, I could say, they say you don't cure - as an example, child molester. You don't cure these people. You don't cure the child molester." Trump also said that "pathological is a

PENTAGON CHIEF FIRES ASSISTANT OVER MISCONDUCT

WASHINGTON: US Defense Secretary Ash Carter removed his senior military assistant, Lieutenant General Ron Lewis, from his position on Thursday over allegations of misconduct that Carter learned of this week. Carter has referred the matter to the inspector general of the Defense Department, he said in a brief statement on Thursday. After the inspector general's investigation is complete, the Army may take action, a senior defense official said.

As senior military assistant, Lewis served as a top adviser to Carter on military matters. He accompanied Carter last week on his trip to Asia. Carter cited "allegations of misconduct" but he did not specify what the allegations referred to. A senior defense official also declined to specify the nature of the allegations. "I expect the highest possible standards of conduct from the men and women in this department, particularly from those serving in the most senior positions," Carter said in his statement. "There is no exception." The Washington Post, citing an unnamed person familiar with the case, said the decision "involved an alleged improper relationship". The senior defense official said Lewis would report to the Army Vice Chief of Staff while the allegations are investigated. "The secretary was very surprised to learn of these allegations," the official said. The inspector general's office confirmed it had received a referral from Carter's office regarding Lewis and said it would conduct an investigation. It gave no further details.

Carter first learned of the allegations on Tuesday evening and spoke to Lewis on Thursday morning, the senior defense official said. Lewis, an Army air cavalry officer, had served as Carter's trusted aide on and off for years, including as his military assistant when Carter was undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics. Lewis deployed to Afghanistan as deputy commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, returning in February 2014. —Reuters



JALALABAD, Afghanistan: Then-US Army Brig Gen Ron Lewis (right) greets then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter in this May 13, 2013 file photo. —AP

US CHARGES NEPHEWS OF VENEZUELA FIRST LADY

NEW YORK: Two nephews of Venezuela's first lady made a fleeting appearance in a US court charged with conspiring to smuggle cocaine into the United States and were remanded into custody Thursday. Their detention is likely to harm already fraught US-Venezuelan ties at a time when the South American oil giant is mired in economic crisis and faces legislative elections in less than a month. Efrain Antonio Campo Flores and Franqui Francisco Flores de Freitas appeared before Magistrate Judge James Cott at the federal court in Manhattan on Thursday evening in a brief, five-minute hearing.

US prosecutors said the pair were arrested in Haiti on Tuesday and flown the same day by US agents to New York. The two defendants sat in silence, listening to proceedings through a translation headset. They were both bearded with thick, cropped dark hair and wore casual-style button-down shirts. They were charged with conspiracy to smuggle at least five kilos of a controlled substance into the United States that the indictment said contained "a detectable amount of cocaine". The alleged conspiracy to manufacture and distribute the substance began last month, US prosecutors said. The duo also allegedly took part in meetings in Venezuela regarding a shipment of cocaine that was to be



NEW YORK: In this courtroom sketch, a US marshal stands guard in the background as defense attorney John Reilly (left) Francisco Flores (center) Efrain Campos (second from right) and defense attorney Rebekah Poston make an initial appearance in the Manhattan federal court on Thursday. — AP

sent to the United States via Honduras, the indictment said.

The next court hearing is scheduled for Nov 18 at 3:00 pm. Campo Flores, 29, was represented by private defense lawyers - Rebekah Poston, who is based in Miami, and New York-based John Reilly. Flores de

Freitas was attended to by a public defender. A Venezuelan political source said on condition of anonymity that both men are nephews of First Lady Cilia Flores, the influential wife of President Nicolas Maduro. The first lady is a former speaker of Venezuela's National Assembly and a defense lawyer for

the country's late leader, Hugo Chavez.

Elections Loom in Venezuela

The two men allegedly contacted a US Drug Enforcement Administration informant in Honduras in October and asked for help in trafficking 800 kilos of cocaine, the Wall Street Journal reported. In Venezuela, they later brought a kilo of the cocaine - allegedly to be sold in New York - to a confidential informant to show off its quality, the paper said. The meetings were filmed and taped by US agents, the Journal quoted a source familiar with the case as saying. The Journal first reported in May that US prosecutors were investigating several senior Venezuelan officials for alleged involvement in large-scale cocaine trafficking.

Venezuelan authorities have previously dismissed allegations of involvement in the drug trade as smears designed to undermine the leftist government in Caracas. President Nicolas Maduro's popularity is plummeting and his ruling socialists risk losing the Dec 6 legislative elections. In Geneva on Thursday, Maduro lashed out at those making "reckless accusations" against his country in an address at the UN Human Rights Council, a speech the US called "an affront" to the body. But he did not specifically refer to the drugs charges against his wife's relatives.—AFP

HONDURAN ARMY IN WAR AGAINST INVADING BUGS

SOLDIERS FACE TENACIOUS ADVERSARY

TEGUCIGALPA: For Honduran soldiers fanning out in the pine forest, their chainsaws roaring, the enemy is like no other: Numbering in the thousands, invading a sizeable chunk of their country and causing incalculable environmental damage. Their tenacious adversary? A tree-munching bug called *Dentroctonus frontalis*, more commonly known in North and Central America as the southern pine beetle. It has always been present in Honduras, in smaller numbers. But this year has seen a sudden explosion that some experts blame on global warming.

As world leaders prepare to gather in Paris at the end of this month for a United Nations summit aimed at forging a pact to curb climate change, the Honduran soldiers from the First

Artillery Battalion in Zambrano province just north of the capital are locked in a battle they know they are losing. The southern pine beetle has already destroyed 400,000 hectares of pine forest - nearly a quarter of the country's primary forest cover. And its appetite shows no sign of abating. The devastation in such a biodiverse country, a third of which is covered with trees, is being called an unprecedented "ecological catastrophe" by experts.

Insect 'Plague'

"This plague will leave us with just half the pine trees in Honduras - if we're lucky," said a military adviser, Lucky Medina, supervising the soldiers as they cut down trees. Commanders of the battalion of 350 men admit they feel impo-

tent against the beetle, and have called in reinforcements from the country's Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) and the military's Forest Commando unit. The commandos are paired up into a tree-cutter and assistant, and are taking down pines in different parts of Honduras, even some healthy ones, in a bid to clear buffer containment lines around infected zones. "It's a shame to see this," one commando officer, Colonel Bernardo Avila, told AFP.

Angela Sevilla, an ICF expert watching the operation, adds sadly that it took "40 to 50 years to have a forest like this". "But we need to cut the tree to save the forest," responded Medina. He noted that, last year, the beetles destroyed a relatively limited 15,000 hectares. But a prolonged drought caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean this year boosted insect numbers six-fold. From September to November, it is estimated that the area they had spread to tripled.

'Climate Change' Blamed

"The increased insect population is the product of climate change, due to the elevation in temperatures," Medina asserted. El Nino wreaks havoc on world weather patterns every two to seven years, causing floods and droughts. Although there is no global scientific consensus that El Nino is itself a sign of climate change, researchers have noted it is occurring with greater frequency. The US Department of Agriculture calls the bug "one of the most destructive pests of pines". It says sudden outbreaks have been recorded in the US every few years for "unknown" reasons. The southern pine beetle is active across parts of Central America, Mexico and the United States. —AFP



TALANGA, Honduras: A soldier cuts in pieces logs from trees affected by the southern pine beetle (*Dentroctonus frontalis*) plague in a forested area 90 km north of Tegucigalpa on Nov 8, 2015. — AFP

TEENS CHARGED WITH MAKING TERRORIST THREATS

COLUMBIA, Missouri: Three 19-year-old Missouri men have been charged with making terrorist threats on social media about shooting people at college campuses in the state, and two of them talked about targeting black people. One of the three, Hunter M Park, of Lake St Louis, who allegedly made threats against the University of Missouri, was denied bond on Thursday, and court documents said he expressed a "deep interest" in a recent Oregon school massacre.

The others are Tyler Bradenberg, of St Louis, and Connor Stottlemire, a student at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, who police said were both charged on Thursday. Park and Stottlemire are white, while Bradenberg's race was not immediately known. The threats were all made on social media, including on the messaging application Yik Yak, over the last three days, police said.

Park appeared in Boone County Circuit Court on Thursday days after two of the school's top administrators resigned after protests over their handling of racial incidents at the main Columbia campus. Police said Park's threats had circulated on social media, including on 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."

Park was arrested on Wednesday at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T) in Rolla, where he is a sophomore studying computer science. S&T is part of the University of Missouri System and Rolla is about 153 km south of Columbia. Stottlemire was charged on Thursday in Nodaway County Circuit Court with making terrorist threats, a felony. —Reuters

THREE HELD OVER JAPANESE FARMER'S MURDER IN B'DESH

DHAKA: Bangladesh security forces yesterday arrested three suspects wanted over the murder of a Japanese farmer who was shot dead last month in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) said the three youths had been detained early yesterday in a hideout 210 km from Rangpur, where 66-year-old Hoshi Kunio was gunned down in a ickshaw last month. After arresting them for an unrelated firearms offence, officers became suspicious and interrogated the men over Kunio's murder, leading them to admit to their "involvement" in the killing, a spokesman for the elite unit told AFP.

"We have confirmed these men are wanted as fugitive criminals from Rangpur," said senior RAB commander Mobasshwer Rahim. "Their appearances also match the description of the unknown assailants who shot Hoshi Kunio dead." The suspects, named as Rajib Hossain, Kala Rubel and Kajal Chandra Barman, were found in the hideout armed with machetes and handguns, the force said.

The officers were initially acting on a tip-off about known criminals carrying illegal weapons. "During primary questioning they've admitted they were involved with the killing and since then they became fugitives," Rahim said. The police detective leading the investigation into Kunio's murder confirmed the arrests and said he expected the suspects to be handed over for questioning. "We've heard of the arrests made in Chapai Nawabganj. Once they are transferred to Rangpur we will be able to provide more details on them," Jahidul Islam told AFP. The arrests take the total number in custody to five, after police last month detained an opposition party activist and a businessman in connection with the murder on a dirt track on the outskirts of the north-eastern city. — AFP

BRITAIN, INDIA SIGN BIG DEALS DESPITE PROTESTS

MODI SEEKING TO REBUILD AFTER BIHAR LOSS

LONDON: Britain and India welcomed more than £9 billion (\$13.7 billion) in commercial deals during a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but his arrival was overshadowed by protests over a perceived rise in intolerance back home. Modi got a warm welcome by British Prime Minister David Cameron, who has tried to cultivate closer ties with India to secure business opportunities in a fast-growing economy at a time when Modi has been prioritising other relationships.

For his part, Modi is seeking to restore his authority on the world stage after a defeat for his Hindu nationalist party in populous Bihar state on Sunday. He appealed to business to invest in a more transparent India in a speech at the Guildhall, a historic building in the heart of London's financial district. While Cameron said he wanted to support Modi in his efforts to transform India with improved infrastructure, the Indian leader signalled he wanted Britain to stay in the European Union, saying the country was India's gateway to Europe.

"We want to become your number one partner for supporting the finance needed for this ambitious plan, making London the world's centre for offshore rupee trading," Cameron told him during a news conference, adding that plans were in place to issue more than £1 billion in bonds. He later said in a statement: "During this visit, British and Indian companies are announcing new collaborations, together worth more than £9 billion pounds."



LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II meets India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Buckingham Palace yesterday. — AFP

The British government listed more than 20 deals and collaborations, including a £1.3 billion investment by Vodafone. The two prime ministers also welcomed a package to promote clean energy worth £3.2 billion of commercial agreements, joint research programs and initiatives to share technical, scientific, and financial and policy expertise. Before the visit, diplomats said the Indian leader was keen to buy 20 more BAE Systems Hawk train-

er aircraft to be made in Bengaluru. Cameron has visited India three times since taking office in 2010 to try to climb up the diplomatic pecking order, but Modi is the first Indian head of government to pay an official visit to Britain, the country's former colonial ruler, 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. — Reuters

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HOPE NOT REVENGE GUIDES MYANMAR EX-PRISONERS

YANGON: Blogger Nay Phone Latt spent years in prison under Myanmar's former junta, but preparing to enter parliament as a newly minted MP for Aung San Suu Kyi's democracy party, he refuses to let the darkness of the past dull optimism for the country's future. Generations of artists, activists and journalists carry the physical and emotional scars of languishing behind bars under decades of military rule. But as Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) thunders to a landslide victory, many former political prisoners are eager to take part in what the Nobel laureate has described as the long-blighted nation's "great leap" to democracy.

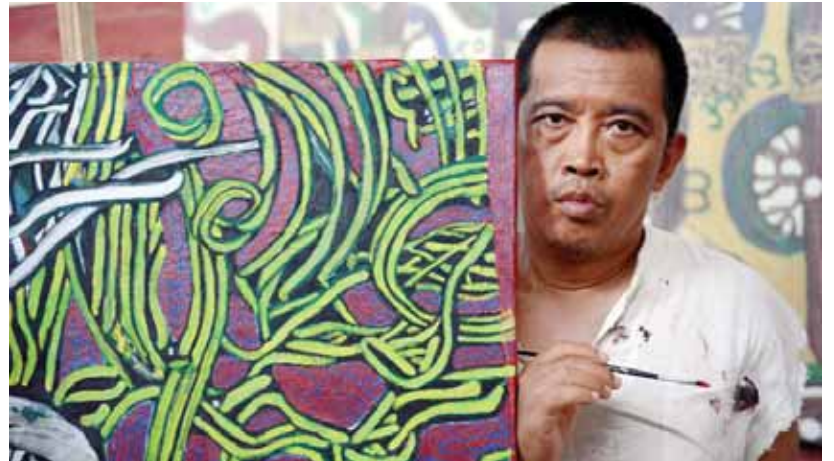
"We do not want the next generation to face what we faced. I never think about the past. I would like to focus on the current situation and the future," Nay Phone Latt told AFP. He would rather be a writer than an MP, but has turned his hand to politics as part of a wave of untested new lawmakers to help Suu Kyi and her party negotiate the dicey months and years ahead. The 36-year-old was sentenced to two decades in prison in

2008 for his links to the "Saffron Revolution" monk-led protests against the junta, released in 2012 as part of an amnesty under the quasi-civilian government that replaced military rule.

Key to the challenges facing the NLD, he says, is its relationship with the still powerful army, which retains control over pivotal security ministries and a quarter of parliamentary seats. Suu Kyi has already reached out to arrange talks with former general President Thein Sein as well as army chief Min Aung Hlaing. Far from taking a combative approach to the generals that for years tried to crush their movement, Nay Phone Latt said civilian MPs would "build a relationship" with their military counterparts.

Richard Horsey, an independent expert on Myanmar, said there was no indication of the NLD "clamouring for retributive justice". "The biggest desire that everyone has is just for the country to get back on their feet, to re-engage with the world," he told AFP.

Dark Past
Myanmar's paranoid former rulers



YANGON: Myanmar artist Htein Lin, a former political prisoner, poses besides his latest painting in his studio on Thursday. — AFP

earned the country its pariah reputation with a brutal approach to dissent, locking up thousands for perceived slights and muzzling free speech with draconian legislation. In a surprise move after mass protests in

1988 against their economically disastrous regime, the military called multi-party general elections. But it refused to accept the results when the NLD stormed to a landslide two years later. — AFP



YANGON: T-shirts with images of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi are displayed at a printing house yesterday. — AFP

SUU KYI PARTY WINS MYANMAR ELECTIONS

WORLD LEADERS LAUD HISTORIC POLLS

YANGON: Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition yesterday secured a parliamentary majority from last weekend's polls that will allow it to elect a president and form a government in a historic shift in power from the army. Confirmation of the landslide win comes five years to the day since Suu Kyi, the magnetic force behind the country's democracy movement, was released from house arrest by the military. The election, the first Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party has contested since 1990, saw a huge turnout that has yielded more than 80 percent of seats for the NLD.

After a drip-feed of results from the Union Election Commission, the NLD on Friday sailed through the two-thirds majority it needs to rule, claiming 348 parliamentary seats with a

number of results yet to be declared. Government now beckons for the NLD in a seismic change of the political landscape in a country controlled for five decades by the military. A comfortable majority gives Suu Kyi's party control of the lower and upper houses, allowing it to elect the president and form the government.

The big majority affords Suu Kyi, 70, leverage in the political wrangling ahead with a military establishment that has been chastened at the polls but retains sweeping powers. Suu Kyi is barred from the presidency by a junta-scripted constitution, which also guarantees the army a 25 percent bloc of seats. She has already vowed to govern from "above the president" saying she will circumnavigate the

charter ban by appointing a proxy for the top office. The win represents a huge stride in Suu Kyi's decades-long journey from political prisoner, held under house arrest by the former junta, to the heart of power.

Bigger Than Expected

Hailing a "remarkable result" for the opposition, independent Myanmar analyst Richard Horsey said it "exceeds what anyone was expecting before this election" and repeats the landslide of 1990. The majority will allow the NLD to cut through parliamentary business. "The NLD will be able to pass whatever law they want, they won't need to form coalitions, they won't need to reach out across the aisle," he added. — AFP

US BOMBERS FLEW NEAR CHINA ISLES IN S CHINA SEA

WASHINGTON: Two US B-52 strategic bombers flew near artificial Chinese-built islands in the South China Sea this week and were contacted by Chinese ground controllers but continued their mission undeterred, the Pentagon said on Thursday. The latest US patrol in the disputed South China Sea occurred in advance of President Barack Obama's visit to the region next week to attend Asia-Pacific summits where he is expected to reassert Washington's commitment to freedom of navigation and overflight in the area.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year, and the United States has said it will continue conducting patrols to assure unimpeded passage. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims in the region. In the latest mission, on the night of Nov 8 and 9, the bombers flew "in the area" of the Spratly Islands but did not come within the 12-nautical-mile zones that China claims as territory around islands it has built in the chain, said Commander Bill Urban, a Pentagon spokesman. "The B-52s were on a routine mission in the SCS (South China Sea)," taking off from and returning to Guam, Urban said.

Chinese ground controllers contacted the bombers but the aircraft continued their mission unabated, Urban said. "We conduct B-52 flights in international air space in that part of the world all the time," Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook told a news briefing on Thursday. In Beijing, asked about the case, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China respected all countries exercising freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea in line with international law. "We resolutely oppose any country, in the name of freedom of navigation and overflight, harming and violating international law, harming China's sovereignty and security interests," he added. — Reuters



BEIJING: US House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California shakes hands with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang as she arrives for a bilateral meeting at the Zhongnanhai leadership compound yesterday. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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Cameron pressured on steel job cuts ahead of G20

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US retail sales crawl upward in October

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015



ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani vendor ties up a plastic bag for a customer at a vegetable and fruit market in Islamabad on Thursday. — AP

UNSOLD OIL STUCK ON TANKERS ADDS TO GLUT IEA SAYS GLOBAL OIL STOCKPILES AT RECORD 3 BILLION BARRELS

LONDON: As land storage sites worldwide reach brimming point due to a supply glut, tens of millions of barrels of oil are sitting on tankers looking for homes - threatening logistical paralysis.

The International Energy Agency yesterday said stored oil has hit 3 billion barrels. Traders say the excess of crude is leaving tankers queuing at major ports worldwide, lengthening waiting times to days, weeks and even months. The lack of space to unload oil is tying up the tankers needed to keep oil moving, and wells running. The bottlenecks could force oil suppliers into quick, cut-priced sales just to free space, adding more pressure to oil prices already close to six-year lows.

The cost to hire a supertanker - each capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil - recently hit its highest level since 2008 at over \$100,000 a day last month and currently remains at over \$70,000 a day. "We're alarmed," said Eugene Lindell, senior crude market analyst with JBC Energy. "There are growing indicators that it's getting harder to digest this crude."

FROM TEXAS TO CHINA

In the US Gulf, more than 50 commercial vessels were anchored outside ports near Houston at the end of last week, of which 41 were tankers. Trade sources said there were seven Aframax tankers - each capable of carrying up to 700,000 barrels of oil - sitting outside Rotterdam waiting to unload. There was also nearly 15 million barrels of unsold West African crude oil either loaded on tankers or waiting to be loaded in the next two weeks.

Shipping and port sources, pointing to full onshore storage, said up to 20 supertankers were held up in Iraq's Basrah terminal, with vessels experiencing loading delays of up to 12 days.

One port source said at China's Qingdao port, one supertanker was stuck at anchorage since August and another since last month. "There are delays across the board as a lot of cargo is being put through the system. Port delays in Basrah and China in particular but also in many other areas. This is tying

up capacity," said one tanker source. Shipping consultants MSI said the near-term outlook for crude tankers was positive. "Storage space in China and Europe is dwindling, leading to extended discharge times. Couple this with ongoing high load waiting times in Iraq and Turkish Straits delays and (tanker) availability is tight," MSI said.

A problem for oil players is that tankers have not been booked on long-term charters. This is in contrast to the floating storage play seen earlier this year, when ships were parked at sea until prices recovered and were then sold by oil traders for a profit.

Sources said the current build up was parked on vessels hired for shorter journeys, meaning oil suppliers will have to unload soon or face more freight expenses.

"Those holding stocks will either have to dump their cargoes at cheaper prices or pay those higher freight costs," a trade source said. Another added: "Each minute the clock is ticking, they're losing money." — Reuters

AL-DAHRA AIMS TO OPEN UAE'S FUJAIRAH GRAIN SILOS BY JANUARY

GENEVA: Private agribusiness group Al Dahra plans to start operating grain silos in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates by January, after taking over a site built by the authorities for strategic food supplies, a senior manager said. The UAE chose to develop the silos in Fujairah as it has a coastline that lies beyond the Strait of Hormuz, a scene of tension between Iran and other countries, but the storage site

has been empty while the authorities have sought a partner to take it on.

"Etihad Mills, a subsidiary of Al-Dahra Holding, has taken over the management of the grain silos located in Fujairah," Houssam Mahmoud, head of Al-Dahra's food division, told Reuters.

"Our intention is to develop the silos operations into a grains trading hub for the UAE and the ... Middle

East and Africa regions, ensuring the availability and accessibility of key grain commodities," he said on the sidelines of this week's Global Grain conference in Geneva.

He declined to disclose the terms of the agreement with the authorities to run the silos. The UAE which imports over 90 percent of its food needs sees Fujairah's strategic location outside the strait as vital for ensuring the security of its food

supplies.

In 2013, Abu Dhabi's Food Security Centre said it had picked a private firm to manage the silos, which have capacity of about 300,000 tons, but did not subsequently announce any deal.

Al-Dahra is a privately held Abu Dhabi firm that trades and processes grains, and has also invested in farmland in a number of countries. — Reuters

BLUE-CHIPS PUSH KSE IN POSITIVE TERRITORY: KFH BANKING SECTOR HELPS INDICES EDGE HIGHER

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) Indices remained diverse with the Price Index closing in negative; down 4.41 points to close at 5,766.37, while the KSX-15 which constitutes the market blue-chips closed at 954.64 up 24.87 points, the Kuwait Finance House (KFH) said yesterday.

Further; the MUDX closed at 579.76 up 12.30 points during the week. According to the KFH Capital Market weekly report, the banking sector has been the primary reason for the MUDX and the KSX-15 indices moving upwards. Notable banks with gains include, National Bank of Kuwait, which closed at KD 0.860 up by 30 fils, while the region's leading Islamic lender, Kuwait Finance House, closed at KD 0.600 also up by 30 fils.

The weekly volumes stood at 727.84 million shares compared to 755.08 million shares in previous week a decline of 3.6 percent. Among the major contributors like Real Estate Sector (contributing 39.6 percent) reported 288.62 million shares of trading compared to 225.00 million shares in the previous week, while Financial Services Sector (con-

tributing 27.8 percent) witnessed 202.21 million shares of trading compared to 238.59 million shares in the previous week.

The overall Market Cap was up by 1.8 percent as it stood at KD 27.14 billion. National Bank of Kuwait - NBK (Mcap - KD 4.33 billion) saw its market cap increase 3.61 percent, while Mobile Telecommunications Co - Zain (Mcap - KD 1.59 billion) also saw its market cap increase by 1.36 percent during the week. Further, the report noted, other midcaps like Gulf Bank (Mcap - KD 883.95 million) saw its market cap surge by 9.43 percent as the bank reported healthy earnings of KD 29.6 million for 9 month period up by a healthy 11.7 percent.

On the total market breadth, Of the 57 Islamic Companies, 18 advanced while 20 declined during the week. The Islamic universe market cap was up by 2.54 percent as it closed at KD 7.12 billion, as the universe top stocks reported exceptional gains. The universe heavyweight Kuwait Finance House - KFH (Mcap - KD 2.86 billion) saw its market cap go up by a remarkable 5.26 percent. — KUNA

OIL PRICES BOUNCE, BUT ON TRACK FOR STEEP LOSS

LONDON: Brent crude edged higher after a sharp decline yesterday but was on track for the biggest weekly loss in more than two months as swelling stocks weighed on the market.

The International Energy Agency said there was a record 3 billion barrels of crude and oil products in tanks worldwide. "The underlying sentiment is bearish," PVM analyst Tamas Varga said. "I don't see anything that could support prices rising in the long term."

Brent crude was trading 40 cents higher at \$44.46 per barrel at 1249 GMT and was on track for a more than 5 percent weekly loss. US crude was 5 cents higher at \$42.80 a barrel. The benchmark closed almost 3 percent down on Thursday on a 4.2 million barrel rise in US crude inventories.

Some of the weakness could be down to technical factors, among them the expiry of the December Brent futures contract today, which can reduce liquidity and exaggerate price movements.

But there was a string of bearish indications on physical oil. The IEA, in its Monthly Oil Market Report, said that ballooning global stockpiles of crude and oil products could increase the overhang into next year.

"The current forecast is for a mild winter in Europe and the US. If it turns out to be true, bulging stock levels will add further pressure and oil market bears may choose not to hibernate," the IEA said.

Tens of millions of barrels of oil are also sitting on tankers looking for homes, threatening logistical paralysis. Oil was caught in a commodities market drop on Thursday, with base metals also hit hard. The Thomson Reuters/Core Commodity CRB Index, a global benchmark for commodities, was near its lowest since 2002.

Crude markets have been dogged by oversupply, estimated between 0.7 million bpd and 2.5 million bpd being produced above demand, which has resulted in prices falling by almost two thirds since June 2014.

The glut is a result of high production by most major producers, including OPEC, Russia and North America. On the demand side, an economic slowdown in Asia, led by the region's two biggest economies-China and Japan-has led to concerns about slowing consumption, though it has held up so far. There were also signs that traders expect more price falls, with a soaring number of options taken to sell crude if prices fall to \$40 or even \$25 per barrel. — Reuters



SEOUL: A currency trader rubs his eyes at the foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul yesterday. Asian stocks slid yesterday following sharp losses on Wall Street as a slump in commodities markets deterred investors from riskier assets and expectations grew that the US would soon move to raise interest rates. — AP

STOCKS SLIDE ON WEAK EURO-ZONE GROWTH, FED RATE HIKE FEARS

HONG KONG: World stocks slipped yesterday after the euro-zone posted weaker economic growth and investors worried about a slump in commodities markets and an expected US interest rate increase.

KEEPING SCORE: In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100 dropped 0.9 percent to 6,121.43, while France's CAC 40 lost 1.1 percent 4,803.71. Germany's DAX shed 0.8 percent to 10,693.69. US stocks were poised to slip on the open, with Dow and S&P 500 futures each down 0.2 percent.

EUROZONE SLOWDOWN: Official figures showed the economy of the 19-country euro-zone grew only 0.3 percent in the third quarter, a slowdown from 0.4 percent in the previous three-month period. Most countries slowed down, including powerhouse Germany. The figures are a disappointment, though they cement expectations that the European Central Bank will expand its stimulus program. **ANALYST TAKE:** "The figures add further support to the already very strong case for additional policy stimulus from the ECB at its next meeting in December," said Jonathan Loynes of Capital Economics.

FED FOCUS: A number of Federal Reserve officials, including Chair Janet

Yellen and Vice Chair Stanley Fischer, gave speeches Thursday but offered little clarity on timing of an interest rate hike, a move that would end an era of stimulus policies that have boosted stocks. However, a growing number of investors are pricing in an increase at the U.S. central bank's December meeting. William Dudley, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said "it is quite possible" that conditions set by the Fed's policymakers under which it would begin to "normalize monetary policy could soon be satisfied."

ASIAN SCORECARD: The region's markets ended in the red. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 0.5 percent to 19,596.91, while South Korea's Kospi shed 1 percent to 1,973.29. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slumped 2.2 percent to 22,396.14, while the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China retreated 1.4 percent to 3,580.84. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined 1.5 percent to 5,051.30. Benchmarks in Taiwan, Singapore, the Philippines and New Zealand also fell.

CURRENCIES: The euro slipped to \$1.0767 from \$1.0776 in the previous day's trading. The yen slipped to \$122.68 from 122.89. —AP

TURKEY LOOKS TO EASE BURDEN OF \$9.2BN MINIMUM WAGE HIKE

ISTANBUL/ANKARA: Turkey is looking to help smaller companies shoulder a planned 30 percent increase in the minimum wage, the economy minister and officials said, after the textile industry warned the hike could force clothing companies to move abroad. In the run-up to the Nov. 1 election, the ruling AK Party made the pledge to lift the net minimum wage to 1,300 lira (\$454) a month, from 1,000 lira now, aiming to win over the roughly 5 million minimum wage earners struggling to make ends meet.

The planned hike is due to go into effect next year and could impact about a fifth of the labour force, costing the private sector an estimated \$9.2 billion. Critics, including business owners and economists, say it will stoke inflation, hurt competitiveness and ultimately lead to job cuts. The AK Party, which regained single-party rule in the election, is trying to retain its populist appeal while convincing investors it is serious about fiscal discipline.

"We think that small companies with 10-300 employees will be affected much more by this," Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci told reporters yesterday. "There will be a sharing to lessen the burden. Our government is working on this."

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has tasked officials to look into ways to lessen the impact on smaller companies, including tax cuts and lowering what companies pay in social security premiums for workers, two government officials told Reuters this week. Earlier in the week Davutoglu met with business leaders, who had called for structural reforms to improve the investment climate, one of the officials said. "Concern was expressed about the problems which the minimum wage hike might create for SMEs," the official said. "Work will be conducted on what kind of burden the public sector might be able to take." Despite the criticism, Davutoglu will not consider stepping back from the wage hike, the second official said.

CLOTHING INDUSTRY

The starkest warning so far has come from the head of Turkey's clothing exporters association, who told Reuters in an interview this week that production of textiles and ready-to-wear clothing could move abroad if the industry is forced to foot the bill alone. "If the burden of the minimum wage increase falls on the industry, that it will take us backwards and I think many of our firms will flee abroad," said Hikmet Tanriverdi, chairman of the Istanbul Readywear and Garments' Exporters Union (IHKIB), whose members account for 75 percent of Turkey's clothing exports. — Reuters

RUSSIA, GREECE SEEN DRAGGING DOWN CHRISTMAS SPEND IN EUROPE

PARIS: Families across Europe look set to spend slightly less on average this Christmas, with austerity-hit Greece and Russia showing the steepest declines, a survey showed yesterday.

French, British, German and Spanish consumers are among those expected to spend more, it said. The overall decline will also be at a much slower pace than last year, signalling some improvement in sentiment. The survey by market research group Deloitte showed that the average Christmas budget across Europe would ease 0.28 percent this year to about 513 euros (\$549.63) per family.

This would be a limited decline when compared with a 3 percent fall last year, as consumers' perceptions about the European economy were generally improving.

This year's decline in Europe was led by Greece, where spending will drop 8.63 percent to an average 402 euros, Russia where families will spend 6.96 percent less to 217 euros, and Portugal where spending will fall 5.55 percent to 315 euros.

All three countries have seen their economies battered in recent years. Greece is in its third international bailout, Russia has been hit by sanctions over its dealings with Ukraine, and Portugal is beset by weak growth and austerity.

Christmas spending will also decline in Italy - down 3.08 percent - but is set to rise 0.2 percent in economically recovering Spain, Deloitte said. Among Europe's biggest Christmas shoppers, families will spend 884 euros on average in Britain, up 0.68 percent from last year, 617 euros in Denmark, up 5.21 percent, 577 euros in France, up 0.23 percent, and 423 euros, up 0.87 percent in Germany, the poll showed. — Reuters



COLOGNE: A file photo of containers are stacked at the harbor in Cologne, Germany. The eurozone economic recovery lost momentum in the third quarter of the year, official figures showed yesterday, a development that's set to pile further pressure on the European Central Bank to expand its monetary stimulus. — AP

EURO-ZONE ECONOMY COOLS IN THIRD QUARTER

QUARTERLY GROWTH BELOW FORECAST

BRUSSELS: Growth in the 19-nation euro-zone slowed to 0.3 percent in the third quarter, official data showed yesterday, with the economy in powerhouse Germany cooling as France returned to expansion. The quarterly growth was below the analyst estimate of 0.4 percent for the period and will fuel speculation the European Central Bank will expand its vast stimulus program next month.

The Eurostat agency said the euro-zone economy expanded more slowly than the 0.4 percent seen in the previous quarter and is in line to grow by 1.6 percent over the next 12 months. "Bottom line: the Euro-zone recovery is continuing, but it seems like driving with the handbrake on," said Peter Vanden Houte, analyst at Dutch lender ING.

"With the emerging countries still in the doldrums, little acceleration is to be expected in the coming quarters," he said, adding that the figures were too weak "to deter the ECB from going ahead" with more stimulus.

The slight slowdown was accentuated by a stalling Germany economy which also grew by a slower 0.3 percent, caught by falling demand from China and the Volkswagen pollution scandal.

Export-dependent Germany has seen weakened investment and a spike in uncertainty after a huge emissions scandal engulfed auto giant Volkswagen, Germany's landmark company.

France rebounds

As questions arose over the health of the German economy, neighboring France posted a return to growth in the third quarter with an expansion of 0.3 percent after having earlier stalled.

Finance Minister Michel Sapin said the latest figures meant France had "exited the period of extremely weak growth that had lasted too long". Of the big euro-zone countries, Spain grew the fastest with a 0.8 percent rate in the third quarter, though this

was a slowdown from 1.0 percent in the previous three-month period.

Analysts agreed that the slowdown in emerging economies led by China undermined any benefit of a weaker euro that has fallen by about 20 percent in the past year against the dollar.

"Softer external demand appears to have muted any beneficial impact on exports from the lower euro," Jonathan Loynes, Chief European Economist at Capital Economics.

"We have long warned that growth could slow further ahead as the temporary boosts from lower oil prices and the weaker euro start to fade," he said. Predictably, bailed-out

Greece contracted sharply by 0.5 percent in the third quarter as the debt crisis and capital controls this summer threw the economy into disarray. Although Greece had a record tourism year, gains were lost to the chaos stemming from the six months battle between the leftist government of Alexis Tsipras and international creditors.

More worryingly, the economy in recovery standout Portugal slowed unexpectedly to a standstill as domestic demand fell sharply. Across the whole 28-nation EU, the economy expanded by 0.4 percent in the quarter, on course for 1.9 percent growth over 12 months. — AFP

ECONOMY GROWING DESPITE GLOBAL WEAKNESS: FED OFFICIAL

WASHINGTON: The No 2 official at the Federal Reserve said Thursday that the strong dollar and global economic weakness have been a drag on growth, but the US economy has been weathering the shocks reasonably well.

Fed Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer said that the decision by the central bank to keep its ultra-low interest rate policies in place has been a key factor in shielding the economy. But he noted some sectors heavily exposed to international trade have been affected. The Fed raised the possibility at its last meeting that when it meets again in December, it could begin raising interest rates, something it has not done in nearly a decade. Fischer said a Fed rate hike will depend on how the economy is performing when officials meet on Dec 15-16.

"As policymakers, we must always be vigilant to events unfolding differently than we expect and we must be ready to act accordingly," Fischer said in comments delivered to a Fed research conference

where Fed Chair Janet Yellen also spoke. Neither Yellen nor Fischer revealed what the Fed will do at the December meeting, although private economists are moving to the view that the central bank will act to boost its benchmark short-term rate, which has been at a record low near zero for the past seven years. In his speech, Fischer said that the dollar has risen in value by about 15 percent since July 2014 compared to the currencies of America's major trading partners. That increase has cut into US export sales by making American-made goods more expensive on overseas markets. But the higher value of the dollar had also lowered inflation by making imports less expensive for US consumers, acting to keep prices rising well below the Fed's target of 2 percent. Fischer, however, said he expects the impact of the stronger dollar and lower energy prices would begin to fade next year with overall inflation rising back to around 2.5 percent by the Fed's preferred measure. — AP

CHINESE GENERAL VOWS SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN ECONOMIC ZONE

\$46BN PROJECT TO GIVE BEIJING GREATER ACCESS TO MIDEAST, AFRICA

ISLAMABAD: Beijing will back Pakistan to ensure the security of a new special economic corridor providing access to the port of Gwadar that aims to create direct links between China and the Arabian Sea, a top Chinese general has pledged. Fan Changlong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, told Pakistan army head Raheel Sharif on Thursday that Beijing looked forward to close cooperation "to ensure proper management and security of CPEC," according to a Pakistan military statement.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is an ambitious \$46 billion project giving Beijing greater access to the Middle East, Africa and Europe through Pakistan, via a new highway to Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea.

Fan's visit, the first by a Chinese general of his seniority in 11 years, came two days after Pakistan handed hundreds of hectares of land over to China for development of a free trade zone in Gwadar as part of the project. The development is

part of China's ambition to expand its trade and transport footprint across Central and South Asia while countering US and Indian influence.

India has expressed wariness about the project in the past, though analysts told AFP recently that concerns would only arise if there are "defense related matters".

Fan, who headed a high level Chinese military delegation, on Thursday met Sharif at Pakistan army headquarters in Rawalpindi to discuss "matters of mutual interest, regional security, steps for regional stability and enhanced bilateral defense collaboration", the statement said.

Fan said China "deeply appreciates" Pakistan's efforts to eliminate militancy, particularly by the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which Beijing says is active in China's Xinjiang region, on the border with Pakistan. Xinjiang-the homeland of China's 10 million Uighurs, a mostly Muslim minority-is sporadically hit

by deadly violence. Beijing has claimed that ETIM militants are hiding in Pakistan, a claim that has been supported by local security sources.

"China values the efforts of Pakistan Army in fighting ETIM," Fan said, adding that China and Pakistan are "best iron brothers, good friends and strategic partners".

Fan also met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad Thursday, with Sharif lauding Islamabad's friendship with Beijing as a "cornerstone" of its foreign policy.

The government of Baluchistan province-Pakistan's poorest-handed over about 280 hectares of a 923-hectare (2,300-acre) swathe of tax-exempt land in Gwadar on Wednesday that Beijing will develop under a 43-year lease.

The rest of the land will be handed over under the agreement with the public China Overseas Port Holding Company "soon", senior Pakistani government officials said. — AFP

CASH MACHINES 'SNUB' NEW CHINESE NOTES

MAO MONEY, MAO PROBLEMS

BEIJING: China's new 100-yuan banknote, acclaimed by authorities as bearing high-tech features that make it harder to forge, is being rejected by cash machines, a report said yesterday. The red note, emblazoned with a portrait of Communist China's founder Mao Zedong, is worth just under \$16 and remains the highest denomination available in the country.

It went into circulation Thursday and has been dubbed the "high-roller gold" for the color of its main "100". It has more security features than previous notes, the government said, to make it "easier for machines to read" and "more convenient for the public to distinguish authentic notes from fake ones".

But some banks' automatic teller machines (ATMs) would not accept the new money when people tried to deposit it, reported the East Asia Economic and Trade News in the northeastern city of Changchun. A bank executive said it will take several days for all ATMs to be "upgraded" to recognize the new note, it said. Residents also complained that supermarkets rejected the bills as counterfeit detection machines consistently sounded alarms when presented with the note, the paper said.

"Come back another day if you want to spend it—we dare not to take the note before the verifier gives the nod," the report cited a supermarket employee as saying.

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. Money counting machines are ubiquitous in Chinese shops, where customers making large purchases in cash need to use wads of notes to pay. The government has intentionally kept the denomination of Chinese legal tender low to "curb both counterfeiting and corruption", the official Xinhua news agency said Thursday. — AFP



NEW YORK: Shoppers visit a JC Penney store in New York. The Texas-based retailer reported quarterly financial results yesterday. — AP

JC PENNEY REPORTS LOSS BUT TOPS EXPECTATIONS

PLANO, Texas: JC Penney Co said yesterday sales that rose 6.4 percent at established locations in the third quarter and expressed confidence about its ability to compete in the upcoming holiday shopping season. The department store operator's better-than-expected sales follow disappointing results by Macy's and Nordstrom, which are seen as having more higher-income customers.

JC Penney also said its gross margin improved in the quarter, driven by supply

chain productivity and improvements in margins for its sale items. For the full year, the company expects sales to be up between 4 to 5 percent at established locations from the previous year.

But the company, based in Plano, Texas, is still trying to regain its footing and nevertheless reported a loss for the period. For the quarter ended Oct. 31, the company said its loss narrowed to \$137 million, or 45 cents per share. Losses, adjusted for one-time gains and costs,

came to 47 cents per share. Analysts had forecast a steeper loss of 58 cents per share, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue rose to \$2.9 billion, also exceeding Street forecasts of revenue of \$2.86 billion. Penney shares have risen 36 percent since the beginning of the year. The stock has risen 13 percent in the last 12 months. Its shares were down 3 percent at \$8.53 in premarket trading yesterday. — AP

LUFTHANSA CABIN CREW UNION THREATENS FURTHER STRIKES

FRANKFURT: Lufthansa's main cabin crew union threatened further industrial action yesterday as workers protested at Frankfurt airport at the end of a week-long strike which grounded nearly all of the main airline's flights. "This strike will end tonight, but if management doesn't change, then strikes will be possible again at any time," Nicoley Baublies, head of the union, told staff. Relations between the two sides have become increasingly bitter in the negotiations over early retirement benefits and pensions, which have dragged on for two years.

A big sticking point in the negotiations is that Lufthansa wants to introduce a cheaper early retirement and pension scheme for new employees, while the union wants the same deal for both current and future staff. Since they started strike action last Friday the union has forced the cancellation of about 4,700 Lufthansa flights, disrupting the travel plans of 550,000 passengers. Other group airlines such as Swiss, Austrian and Germanwings were not affected.

"What we've seen is that no matter what you do, you just can't reach a resolution with this management," Baublies said. His comments were echoed by Ilja Schulz, head of the pilots' union that has staged over a dozen strikes in 18 months. Lufthansa's chief financial officer and head of personnel visited the demonstration in front of the airline's headquarters at the airport, joining Baublies on a small stage to speak to the several hundred workers waving banners, blowing whistles and chanting "We are Lufthansa". Lufthansa says structural cost cuts are necessary for it to compete in the long term with fast-growing budget carriers in Europe and leaner Gulf rivals in its all-important long-haul markets.

"For us it is clear, the enemy is without, not within. We want to find solutions, and we will find them, but we should make Lufthansa strong together," personnel head Bettina Volkens said.

However, Chief Financial Officer Simone Menne gave no indication that there was room for compromise. "What we have offered is what we can afford," she told the gathering. She also said that the strikes would not lead to the airline changing its profit forecast for this year. Last month Lufthansa said it expected to report record profits in 2015, boosted by lower fuel costs and strong demand, but Chief Executive Carsten Spohr has said its costs are continuing to rise and need to be cut now as competition intensifies.

The company said Spohr could not address the protestors on Friday, as he was away in France at an event to thank volunteers who had helped in the aftermath of the Germanwings crash in March. — Reuters

WATCH THE SPREADS: OIL PRICES TUMBLE BEFORE YEAR-END

LONDON: Crude oil prices sold off heavily on Wednesday and Thursday, with front-month Brent futures falling more than 7 percent to the lowest level more two and half months.

Prices slumped amid growing concerns about continued oversupply in the market, the build-up of inventories and the possibility of storage space running on land and forcing more oil to be stored expensively at sea. The American Petroleum Institute reported on Tuesday that crude oil stocks in the United States rose by an unusually large 6.3 million barrels last week.

The Energy Information Administration confirmed on Thursday a build of 4.2 million barrels with inventories now 109 million barrels above the prior-year level.

There was plenty of other bearish fundamental news around, with OPEC predicting the oil market would remain

oversupplied in 2016.

But prices have also been influenced by more technical factors, among them the expiry of the December Brent futures contract today which tends to reduce liquidity and exaggerate price movements.

WATCH THE SPREADS

The most interesting price moves were not in spot prices but in the differences or spreads between futures contracts expiring on different dates (<http://tmsnr.rs/1N1eOd1>).

The entire strip of futures prices for the next six months has been weakening over the past four weeks as the market focus swings back from strong oil demand towards continued oversupply.

Softness in the spreads for both WTI and Brent futures contracts has been especially pronounced over the last 10

days. But much of the weakness has been concentrated in the contracts nearest to expiry in December rather than further forward in 2016.

For both Brent and WTI, the spread between contracts expiring in December and January weakened much more than the spread between contracts expiring in January and February.

The main move in WTI occurred late last week, with Brent catching up on Thursday.

The sudden weakness in the December Brent and WTI contracts likely has more to do with technical factors than fundamentals. Front-month futures contracts often exhibit strange behaviour in the run up to expiry as positions are rolled forward and liquidity shifts to the next-nearest contract.

The spread between December and January contracts is particularly unusual

because it covers the period over year-end. Many businesses minimise physical inventories they own over the year-end for accounting purposes by agreeing to sell them before December 31 and buy them back in January.

There is an active market for year-end sale and repurchase transactions and plenty of intermediaries in the market will arrange them, with associated need to juggle hedges and futures positions. The sudden shift in the December-January spread for both WTI and Brent therefore comes as no surprise and probably has more to do with the shifting of futures positions and hedges rather than fundamental news. In turn, the sudden drop in spot prices over the last couple of days probably reflects technical changes in the spreads at the front of the curve rather than a big shift in supply and demand fundamentals. — Reuters



TOKYO: Logos of Japan's banks (from top to bottom L), Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG), and Mizuho Financial Group are displayed on a signboard in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

CAMERON PRESSURED ON STEEL JOB CUTS AHEAD OF G20

3,000 CUTS ANNOUNCED, 1,000 UNDER THREAT

LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron came under pressure from trade unions and the Labor opposition this week over thousands of job cuts in the steel sector, ahead of the G20 leaders' summit in Turkey.

Around 3,000 job cuts have been announced in the British steel industry since September and 1,000 more are under serious threat, with manufacturers blaming high energy costs and cheap Chinese imports.

"The official opposition has had to drag the government kicking and screaming... time after time to get them to stand up for British steelmaking" in parliament, said Angela Eagle,

Labour's business spokeswoman.

"When is the business secretary going to get a grip, stop hiding behind the EU and do more to tackle the root causes of this crisis?" The British steel industry employs some 30,000 people.

The trade unions have also voiced anger following a European Union ministers' meeting in Brussels tomorrow to tackle the challenges faced by European steelmakers. "Council ministers and the (European) Commission have clearly failed to grasp the urgency of the current situation faced by the steel industry," said Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of Britain's Community union.

"The summit also failed to give a proper view on the impact of China gaining market economy status, which will pose an existential threat to the European steel industry," he said.

The ministers agreed only that they would intensify discussions with major foreign steel producers including Belarus, China, India, Russia and Turkey. The European Union as a whole is the second biggest steel producer in the world after China, with more than 177 million tons produced per year or 11 percent of global production, EU data shows. Some 40,000 jobs have been cut across Europe in the steel sector in recent years. — AFP

HK POSTS MODEST Q3 GROWTH, BRACES FOR CHINA SLOWDOWN

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's economy proved more resilient than expected in the third quarter, despite China's slowdown and weaker retail sales as fewer tourists streamed across the border on shopping sprees. As an open economy on China's doorstep, Hong Kong is vulnerable to headwinds that now include a slowdown in the world's second-largest economy and broader uncertainty over US monetary policy, due to the city's currency peg to the dollar.

The financial hub's economy grew a seasonally adjusted 0.9 percent quarter-on-quarter in the three months to September, government data showed yesterday, picking up from a 0.4 percent pace in the second quarter and 0.7 percent in the first quarter. From a year earlier, the economy expanded 2.3 percent in the third quarter. Four economists surveyed by Reuters estimated the economy would grow 0.4 percent in the third quarter from the second, and 1.8 percent from a year earlier.

The government said the outlook for merchandise exports was "bleak", while inbound tourist number would remain weak, putting pressure on retailers with possible job losses.

"I can't be overly optimistic," said Helen Chan, a government economist, when asked about economic growth next year. "Going forward, there are many uncertain factors."

Despite these pressures, Chan said robust domestic demand for goods and services, had helped buttress the economy, with the government seeing economic growth of 2.4 percent for the full year, still within its previous 2-3 percent range.

TOURISM UNDER PRESSURE

Going forward, Beijing's anti-corruption campaign and a weaker yuan has curbed Chinese spending while a volatile stock market has hurt retailers. Hong Kong's comparatively high rents and wages have also hurt companies as fewer Chinese tourists, who make up about three quarters of overall visitors, come to snap up handbags, watches and designer clothing.

"Given the slowdown in inbound tourism, the possible spillover on the job market remains a source of concern," Chan said. Earlier this week, China's top jewellery retailer by market value, Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group, said it expected first-half net profit to drop by up to 50 percent due to subdued spending in Hong Kong and Macau.

An interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve could trigger capital outflows, but the local currency's dollar peg means that Hong Kong authorities tend to follow US rate moves. That could pile more pressure on the strong Hong Kong dollar.

"A (potential) rate hike in the US will further impact Hong Kong," said Thomson Cheng, head of the Hong Kong Retail Management Association. "With the strength of the local currency, neighboring countries will appear to be more attractive to tourists than Hong Kong. It will be painful." — Reuters

US PRODUCER PRICES DROP

WASHINGTON: The prices charged by farmers, manufacturers and other producers fell in October for the second straight month, fresh evidence that there is little sign of inflation in the US economy.

The Labor Department said yesterday the producer price index, which measures price changes before they reach the consumer, fell 0.4 percent last month. That follows a 0.5 percent drop in September. In the past year, wholesale prices have dropped 1.6 percent. That's the steepest drop since the

government began tracking the data in 2010. Tepid wage increases have limited retailers' ability to raise prices, keeping a lid on inflation. Weak price gains pose a challenge for the Federal Reserve, which targets a 2 percent inflation rate as a cushion against falling prices, or deflation.

While consumers may like lower prices, deflation can drag down wages, make debts harder to repay and is difficult for the Fed to reverse. Fed officials are widely expected to raise the short-term interest rate they control for the

first time in nine years at their next meeting in December. Fed chair Janet Yellen has said they will do so when they are "reasonably confident" that inflation is returning to their 2 percent target. So far, most inflation gauges remain below that level. The Fed's preferred inflation measure rose just 0.2 percent in September, and is up only 1.3 percent in the past year.

Still, there are signs that the deflationary impact of lower gas prices may be starting to fade. Wholesale gas prices rose 3.8 percent in October, the

government said. And earlier this week, Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, struck an upbeat note on the economy and said he is "reasonably confident" inflation will soon reach 2 percent.

In October, wholesale prices were pulled lower by a sharp drop in the profit margins reported by gas stations and by falling prices for food. Prices for pickup trucks also dropped sharply. Such declines typically occur in October, when new models of cars and trucks are introduced. — AP



SPRINGDALE: Shoppers check out at a Wal-Mart Supercenter store in Springdale. Economists forecast that retail sales rose 0.3 percent last month, according to a survey by FactSet yesterday. — AP

US RETAIL SALES CRAWL UPWARD IN OCTOBER

INFLATION KEEPS OVERALL RETAIL SALES GROWTH MUTED

WASHINGTON: Americans ramped up their online shopping and restaurant spending in October, but barely-there inflation kept overall retail sales growth muted.

The Commerce Department said Friday that retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 0.1 percent last month, after being unchanged in September and August. Over the past 12 months, sales have risen 1.7 percent. Lower gasoline costs and meager inflation have downplayed the extent of consumer spending, as the retail sales report is not adjusted for price changes.

The US economy has increasingly relied on consumers to propel growth. Consumer spending has been crucial for offsetting the drags caused by a global economic slowdown and cheaper oil prices and a stronger dollar hurting US manufacturers. The October report suggests that some retailers had been expecting a busy holiday season, as one of the most critical drivers of retail sales growth - auto dealers - saw sales slip last month.

But retail earnings that arrived this week have been far from robust. Nordstrom cut its guidance for the year due to soft sales across all merchandise categories. That followed a

warning from Macy's on Wednesday, which said it was sitting on excessive inventories.

Online purchases climbed 1.4 percent in October. Spending at restaurants and bars improved 0.5 percent. Furnishers, building material sellers, sporting goods outlets and department stores also notched gains.

But gas station store sales tumbled 0.9 percent in October and have dropped 20.1 percent over the past 12 months. Spending at auto dealers fell 0.5 percent last month, although sales have climbed 6.7 percent from a year ago.

Costs for companies dropped in October, a downward pull on prices for consumers, the Labor Department said in a separate report Friday. Producer prices fell 0.4 percent last month alone. Core prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs, have risen a mere 0.1 percent over the past year.

Despite the minimal inflation, holiday spending is projected to jump 3.7 percent this year to \$630.5 billion, a gain that would be above the 10-year average in holiday sales growth of 2.5 percent, according to the National Retail Federation. Clothiers hired 19,500 workers in October ahead of the shop-

ping rush, the government said last week.

But not all of the retail-related hiring will appear at stores and showrooms. Online retail giant Amazon announced plans last month to hire 100,000 seasonal workers, a massive 20 percent jump from last year that reflects how internet shopping is also changing the transportation and warehousing sector.

The auto sector appears to remain solid even with the decline in sales documented by the government last month.

Private industry reports show that car and truck purchases totaled 1.5 million in October, a 14 percent increase from a year ago, according to Autodata Corp. Ford projects overall auto sales of 17.4 million for the entire year, besting the record of 17.35 million achieved in 2001.

Economists watch the retail sales report closely because it provides the first indication each month of the willingness of Americans to spend. Consumer spending drives 70 percent of the economy. Yet retail sales account for only about one-third of spending, with services such as haircuts and Internet access making up the other two-thirds. — AP

WARBA BANK A GOLDEN SPONSOR OF AL-MASAR REAL-ESTATE EXHIBITION

KUWAIT: Warba Bank participated in Al-Masar Real-Estate Exhibition as an official sponsor. The event took place in Jumeriah Messilah Beach Hotel from 2nd to 4th November 2015 showcasing the most prominent residential, commercial real-estate projects and the investment opportunities in this industry in Kuwait, the Middle East and most of the world markets.

At its pavilion at the exhibition, The Bank offered products and services tailored for customers interested in buying and developing real estates. Warba representatives gave full presentation about these Islamic Sharia compliant products and services.

Warba Bank's participation as a golden sponsor of the exhibition is to enhance the Bank's leading role in the real estate financing market reflecting the Bank's expertise in this industry through meeting customer needs and providing advice on the most lucrative and attractive investment destinations. Participation at the exhibition posed an ideal opportunity for Warba Bank to consider appropriate and significant deals for supporting economic activities and most importantly the real estate industry due to its paramount volume and role that push forward economic development. The exhibition was also a chance for Warba Bank to communicate with its current and potential customers, learn more about their needs and try to meet their expectations by developing and innovating unique integrated banking products, services and solutions. The personal financing is a key service marked by big value and repayment period of up to 15 years.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank has recently launched an exclusive partnership with a Kuwaiti youth project to provide "Ajar Online" Service specifically developed for the real estate market in Kuwait. This project provides a fast and efficient method for paying and collecting rent online, via reminder SMS and email. Ajar Online will make it easy for real estate owners to collect their funds safely, fast and automatically.



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Precarious future: The battle to save Taiwan's Queen's Head

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A fireworks display held near the Neasden Temple in Gibbons Park, north west London, to mark Diwali, Wednesday. Diwali or the 'Festival of Lights' is an ancient festival celebrated in the Autumn in the northern hemisphere or in Spring in the southern hemisphere every year and honors the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, and the legend of Rama and Sita. — AP





In this file picture taken on May 17, 2015, English-Irish pop band One Direction attend the 2015 Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AP photos

Bieber, One Direction try to grow up on new albums

Once squeaky clean and baby-faced teen stars, Justin Bieber and One Direction have quickly discovered the harsh realities of living in the public eye. The young artists each released albums Friday that while partly staying true to pop formulas that have made them rich - also lay bare their struggles at discovering adulthood at the height of their fame. "My life is a movie and everyone's watching," the 21-year-old Bieber intones near the beginning of his new album, "Purpose."

"Life's not easy / I'm not made out of steel / Don't forget that I'm human / Don't forget that I'm real," he sings. The Canadian singer demonstrates his quest for maturity not just lyrically but musically on "Purpose," his first album of original work in three and a half years. Bieber on several tracks - including the album's early hits "What Do You Mean?" and "Sorry" - plays with a mellow, down-tempo tropical house beat, moving away from his typical pop-R&B sound that had done little to distinguish him from other mainstream pop stars.

Beset by personal woes

Bieber, who owes his new sound to LA-based electronic producers Skrillex and Diplo, has banked on "Purpose" to rehabilitate his star power after becoming better known for his off-stage antics than his music since he put out his last album, "Believe," in 2012. Among his most infamous non-musical moments, Bieber was caught racing a Lamborghini in Miami Beach while under the influence and without a license. A judge ordered him to undergo anger management courses for throwing eggs at his neighbor's home in a glitzy section of Los Angeles, while in Argentina another judge dropped a bid to arrest Bieber for allegedly assaulting a photographer.

On "Sorry," Bieber offers an apology of sorts. But his regrets appear directed not so much to the



world at large but many fans presume to ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, a fellow former teen star and singer. Bieber teams up with yet another teen sensation turned adult, Ariana Grande, on an acoustic version of "What Do You Mean?" Other collaborators on "Purpose" include rappers Big Sean and Nas as well as Halsey, the 21-year-old electropop singer whose career has seen a meteoric rise.

"Purpose" is not entirely absorbed by introspection. Bieber's breathy track "Children" consists of unlikely, if unspecified, social activism as he sings, "What about the children? Look at all the children we can change." And Bieber's reflective tone does not necessarily mean he has changed his ways. He recently ended a concert in Norway after one song, apparently upset over fans throwing water, and walked out of a live interview in Spain. But in an interview with Britain's *New Musical Express*, Bieber argued that he had been held to a different standard than other teen stars and said of his life now, "I'm struggling just to get through the days."

One Direction rocks out before hiatus

Bieber will follow his album with an extensive tour of North American arenas starting in March in Seattle. While Bieber is marking a return, albums have become a ritual for One Direction each holiday shopping season. The English boy band has released an album without fail every November since 2011 after they became famous through talent show "The X Factor." Yet One Direction's new album, "Made in the A.M.," marks the band's first without founding member Zayn Malik, whose departure in March prompted surprisingly bitter exchanges among the lads reputed for affability.

The band insists that it is not splitting up, but says it will go on an undetermined hiatus after "Made in the A.M.," which followed marathon touring that ended October 31 in Sheffield. For their perhaps final album, the young men who had become so synonymous with light pop decided to rock out. The song "Temporary Fix" is driven by guitars with a touch of the verve of alternative rockers such as The Killers. "Olivia" offers a Beatlesque melody, while One Direction on several tracks sounds more like Coldplay or mid-career U2 than a boy band. One Direction mostly sticks to goey love songs but at times the lyricism also seems wistful about the band's stint of glory. On "Love You Goodbye," Liam Payne sings, "It's inevitable that everything that's good comes to an end." — AFP

In this file picture taken on November 7, 2015, Canadian singer Justin Bieber poses on the red carpet upon his arrival at the Palais des Festivals to attend the 17th Annual NRJ Music Awards in Cannes, south-eastern France.

Wainwright Sisters keep it in the family

There can be something magical about the voices of siblings singing together, as a listen to the Beach Boys or the Everly Brothers shows. More proof comes in this subtly haunting album by Martha Wainwright and Lucy Wainwright Roche, for whom music has always been a family affair. The half-sisters are daughters of singer-songwriter Loudon Wainwright III and separate musical mothers. Martha's mother, the late Kate McGarrigle, wrote and performed with her sister Anna, while Lucy is the daughter of Suzzu Roche of sister act The Roches.

Themes of family and childhood run through their collaboration "Songs in the Dark," which Martha Wainwright has described as an album of "creepy, morbid lullabies." Recorded at a family cabin in the Quebec woods, the album is a mix of traditional folk tunes and new takes on songs by the likes of Cindy Walker, Townes Van Zandt and Paul Simon - the sisters make "El Condor Pasa," popularized by Simon & Garfunkel, both languid and fierce. There are several compositions by members of the sisters' own family, including Kate McGarrigle's wistful "Lullaby for a Doll," written about Martha, and "Runs in the Family" by Roche's aunt, Terre Roche.

The sisters' complementary voices - Roche's a little sweeter, Wainwright's a little wilder - soar over spare arrangements to create a mood that's by turns soothing, sinister and spooky. Special mention should go to Eloi Painchaud, whose haunting harmonica ripples through sev-



This CD cover image released by PIAS shows "Songs in the Dark," a release by The Wainwright Sisters. — AP

eral tracks. Many of the songs are about children, but they are anything but cozy. Family life is a journey into the deep, dark woods on songs like Loudon Wainwright's sardonic "Lullaby" - in which an exhausted parent implores, "Shut up and go to bed" - and Richard Thompson's "End of the Rainbow," which advises, "There's nothing at the end of the rainbow, there's nothing to grow up for anymore." Sweet dreams. — AP

On 5th album, One Direction satisfies

"It's inevitable that everything that's good comes to an end," sings One Direction on "Love You Goodbye," a wistful song from the British band's fifth studio album, "Made in the A.M." The tune is about a romance's demise, but the quartet - this is their first album since Zayn Malik's departure - could just as well be addressing their upcoming hiatus. Since their first album, 2012's "Up All Night," One Direction's skyward trajectory has seen the band seamlessly segue from chart-topping albums, reliably delivered every November, to sold-out stadium tours with little downtime in between.

One Direction has always been musical magpies - closely referencing The Who on "Best Song Ever" or Def Leppard on "Midnight Memories" - and that habit doesn't stop here. With its echoes and big drum beat, album opener "Hey Angel" conjures up Robbie Williams; the breakdown of the hit single, "Drag Me Down," mines "I Knew You Were Trouble" by Harry Styles' ex, Taylor Swift; and don't even get me started on the similarity between acoustic crooner "I Want to Write You a Song" and the Beatles' "Blackbird."

Despite the imitation game, One Direction's strength has always been the vocal arrangements and the satisfying pop

hooks the lads bring. On "Made in the AM," they add in a playful experimentation, perhaps emboldened by their pending break, on doo-wop and horn-flavored "Never Enough," which is, oddly enough, punctuated by caveman-like grunts, and the exuberantly retro "Olivia." Should this be their swan song, they leave on a high note. — AP





Actor Daniel Radcliffe is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Actor Daniel Radcliffe (center) receives a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame with Hollywood Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Leron Gubler (right), November 12, 2015 in Hollywood, California. — AFP photos

Radcliffe of 'Harry Potter' fame gets Hollywood star

British actor Daniel Radcliffe, who rocketed to fame in the "Harry Potter" films, said Thursday he was "in awe" as he got his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. "A few months ago, I was walking along here with a couple of friends and just becoming sort of in awe and slightly overwhelmed by the names I was going to be joining," said the 26-year-old, who was presented with the 2,565th star. "Growing up in England, you hear the word Hollywood and right after, you picture the sign on the hill, you picture these stars."

Radcliffe, who played the boy wizard in the wildly popular eight-film blockbuster "Potter" franchise before moving on to more adult roles, was in Los Angeles to promote his new movie "Victor Frankenstein." In the film, which opens in the United States later this month, he plays assistant Igor to the mad scientist obsessed with creating life, portrayed by James McAvoy. Radcliffe is one of the rare child stars to have successfully maintained his career as he moved into adulthood.

He has starred in a number of films since finishing up as Potter,

including "The Woman in Black" and "Kill Your Darlings." He also had a cameo in this year's comedy hit "Trainwreck." Radcliffe has appeared on Broadway, notably in the musical comedy "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and the psycho-drama "Equus," in which he stunned fans by disrobing on stage. — AFP



Yoda, the popular Jedi Master from the Star Wars film universe, is seen on board an All Nippon Airways (ANA) Boeing 787 aircraft, painted in special livery of Star Wars character R2-D2, during its stopover to the Changi International airport in Singapore. — AFP photos



Rebel pilots and Imperial Stormtroopers from the Star Wars film franchise are seen next to a life-sized model of an X-Wing Fighter during a promotional event at the Changi International airport.

'Star Wars': A game-changer in special effects

When "Star Wars" audiences were blown away four decades ago by its thrilling battles in space, they were also witnessing a big bang in special effects that is still felt today, as fans await the next installment in the blockbuster saga. The original 1977 movie—which introduced the world to Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader and a mysterious power known as The Force—changed the way science-fiction films were made, paving the way for innovations in the field. "It woke up the visual effects industry," Mike Fink, a Hollywood effects heavyweight who won an Oscar in 2008 for his work on "The Golden Compass," said of the first film.

"One of the things that's always been true in films is that the story drives the technology. It took a film like 'Star Wars' to show that, Fink told AFP. The script for the first film set "in a galaxy far, far away" confronted creator George Lucas with seemingly insurmountable technical challenges. "With 'Star Wars', I want to do an action picture. I want to do something where I can pan the space

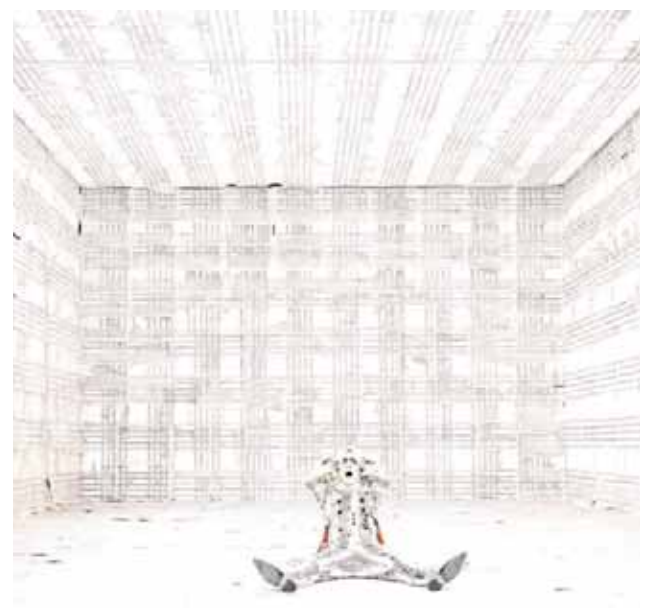
ship. I want to do quick cuts. There's a lot of rhythm, a lot of pace," Lucas recalled in a documentary several years ago. "There's a lot of movement on the screen. I want it to be very cinematic, and at that point in time, that was impossible," he added.

Industrial Light and Magic

The creative impasse led him in 1975 to found Industrial Light and Magic (ILM), devoted to modernizing the special effects industry's techniques. The company is now the standard-bearer in the sector. A group of young engineers and students worked day and night in a warehouse north of Los Angeles, letting their imaginations run wild. Engineers worked with mock-ups and miniatures to bring to life the space epic that Lucas had envisioned. They experimented and came up with new animation, photography and graphics techniques that resulted in cutting-edge effects. Among the most revolutionary breakthroughs was the computer-controlled robotic "Dykstraflex" camera system.

Named for its lead developer, John Dykstra, it allowed for seven axes of motion and the creation of flawlessly synchronized composite images—fantastic for those memorable space battle scenes. Dykstra and his team landed an Oscar for best visual effects. For Fink, the first "Star Wars" film "really revolutionized things by (having) machines operate other machines and using that to control cameras that make pictures." The adventures of Skywalker and Han Solo opened the door to a golden age in science-fiction filmmaking, a decade that included "Alien," "Blade Runner," "The Terminator," "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" and "Back to the Future." Later on, "Jurassic Park," "Titanic," "Independence Day" and "Avatar" from directors such as Steven Spielberg and James Cameron pushed the boundaries of what could be achieved.—AFP

'Le Nozze di Figaro' (The Marriage of Figaro)



Singers of the Hamburg State Opera perform during a dress rehearsal of the opera 'Le Nozze di Figaro' (The Marriage of Figaro) by composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at the State Opera in Hamburg, northern Germany. The opera buffa, that was composed in 1786, will premiere tomorrow produced by Stefan Herheim and musically directed by Ottavio Dantone. — AFP photos



Singer Christina Aguilera blows a kiss to photographers at an event supporting Hopeline From Verizon, a new campaign supporting domestic violence prevention and awareness, at The London Hotel. — AP

Christina Aguilera offers well wishes to Shelton, Stefani

Christina Aguilera wishes nothing but the best for fellow "The Voice" mentors Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani. A representative for Shelton recently confirmed that the two are dating. "They're both great people and divorce is rough. Let them have their happiness," said Aguilera in an interview Thursday. Stefani filed for divorce from fellow musician Gavin Rossdale in August. Shelton and singer Miranda Lambert announced their divorce in July. "One thing I will say is I've been through divorce. Divorce is hard enough and then to be under a microscope and scrutinized and rumors. It's just a bunch of crap," said Aguilera, who divorced music executive Jordan Bratman in 2010.

She also offered this advice to Shelton and Stefani on dealing with rumors and tabloid fodder: "Don't read it! ...You don't need to fill your mind or give your energy to any of it. Keep it positive. Do what makes you happy. Do what makes your soul feel good," she said at an event for Verizon's Hopeline Program. The 34-year-old singer partnered with the campaign

to raise awareness about domestic violence. "I grew up with domestic violence in my home as a child and witnessed a lot," she explained. "The older you get the more you realize the effects that it does take on in your life ... It can just start to deteriorate who you are and your spirit quicker than anything else."

The mother of two says it's definitely a topic she will discuss with her children one day. "I'm a mom to a daughter now and I guess it directly correlates for me on a personal level," she said. "There's a time and a place and inappropriateness to when things should be said and how they should be said and that time will come. But I always want to provide them the tools necessary to keep themselves safe." Aguilera is now taping season 10 of the NBC sing-off, which will air next year. — AP



Visitors pass by the work "The last judgment" by British sculptor Anthony Caro.



A visitor looks at sculpture Cantante Negra by Mexican artist Adolfo Riestra (bottom right), "Details of Renaissance painting" by US artist Andy Warhol (up right) and other untitled works by Warhol (left) during a press preview of the exhibition "From Hockney to Holbein, The Wuerth Collection in Berlin".

Germany's 'screws king' presents art treasure trove

He made his fortune with industrial hardware and used it to collect priceless art, from medieval treasures to modern masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore and Andy Warhol. German billionaire Reinhold Wuerth, 80, known as the "screws king" for his global business empire, has since the 1960s built up one of Europe's largest and most glittering private art collections. A 400 of his works go on show in Berlin's Martin Gropius Bau gallery under the title "From Hockney to Holbein"—a crowning achievement for Wuerth, who built up the family business from humble beginnings in the post-war years.

Among the highlights of the show, set to run until January 10, will be David Hockney's season cycle, sculptures by Henry Moore, modernist masterpieces by Picasso and Edvard Munch, and a 16th century Madonna painting by Hans Holbein the Younger. Wuerth, who retired from running the group in the 1990s, has focused on the almost 17,000-piece collection as his enduring passion, telling AFP, his eyes lighting up, that "that's the only thing I'm still keeping for myself".

Were it not for his expensive passion, Wuerth would be the archetypal corporate patriarch of the German 'Mittelstand', the often rural based and family run businesses that make up the backbone of Europe's biggest economy. Born in 1935, he started as an apprentice in the small hardware business, selling screws and bolts, which his father Adolf had started in 1945, as Germany lay in ruins after its World War II defeat.

When his father suddenly died in 1954, Wuerth was just 19 years old. He took over the family business, which at the time had just one other employee. Germany's post-war "economic miracle" saw sales explode, with growth of 60 to 70 percent a year, as the business started to deliver its goods directly to mechanics, workshops and building sites. "Everyone needed screws and bolts," recounted Wuerth matter-of-factly.

'No boring industrialist'

Last year, the Wuerth Group—which makes assembly and fastening materials for the auto, construction and engineering sectors—employed 68,000 people and operated in some 80 countries, with an annual turnover of over 10 billion euros (\$11 billion). "I would never have believed that we would one day be that size," confessed one of

Germany's richest men. Wuerth started his hobby in the 1960s, and has built up an art collection that spans many epochs and styles, with cubists, expressionists and contemporary artworks abundantly represented.

"Wuerth's talent lies in finding works—often directly from the artists—and in establishing connections," said the host venue in advertising the show, calling the businessman "a collector of collections". In 2011 he laid down over 50 million euros for the Madonna painting by Hans Holbein the Younger, in post-WWII Germany's most expensive art purchase. Since the 1990s, works owned by Wuerth have been shown in some 15 European galleries and museums, including in France and Switzerland, as well as in company sites. "Mr Wuerth wants everyone to enjoy his art," said the director of the collection, Sylvia Weber. Ever the entrepreneur, Wuerth said that over the years his passion for art had "contributed greatly to the development of the group. "People see that we're not just boring industrialists obsessed with growth," he said. — AFP



A visitor passes by the painting Trio by US artist Alex Katz.



German billionaire industrialist and art collector Reinhold Wuerth poses in front of the painting Felled Trees on Woldgate by British artist David Hockney. — AFP photos



Gowns and dresses are pictured during an exhibition of the wardrobe of Countess Henri Greffulhe (born Marie Anatole Louise Elisabeth de Riquet de Caraman-Chimay, 1860-1952), a late 19th Century renowned French beauty, at the Palais Galliera in Paris. — AFP photos

France marvels at class of woman who made Proust swoon

She was France's great high society beauty, who so drove Marcel Proust to distraction that he went to his grave begging for a photograph of her. The crowned heads of Europe were equally in awe of her, with many dropping in on her Parisian salon before visiting the president at the Elysee Palace. Now a new exhibition opens the wardrobe door on the 20th century's first great fashion trendsetter, Elisabeth, Countess Greffulhe, the woman Proust immortalized as the beautiful Duchess of Guermantes in his literary masterpiece "A la recherche du temps perdu" ("Remembrance of Things Past").

"All the mystery of her beauty was in her brightness, in her enigma and most of all in her eyes," Proust wrote in 1893 to the poet and dandy Robert de Montesquiou, who despite being her uncle was just as smitten. And you can see what he was talking about as she peers coquettishly over the top of a Mongolian sheepskin cape in a photograph taken in 1886 in a new show dedicated to her style at Paris' Palais Galliera museum of fashion. The countess also knew how to make a grand entrance—and also how to leave her public wanting more, never staying very long at any of the balls and grand soirees of belle époque Paris, where she of course arrived fashionably late. Every detail of her appearance was noted, said Olivier Saillard, the curator of the show. "I don't know of any wardrobe that was more written of that hers," he said.

Obsessed

Proust was particularly obsessed with one photograph of her taken by Paul Nadar in 1896. It shows her from behind in front of a mirror in a sumptuous dress in black velvet with fleur de lys motifs by Worth, the fashion house that invented haute couture. Her vast wardrobe was given to the museum by her aristocratic family and more than 40 of her finest dresses and ball gowns by designers such as Lanvin, Fortuny and Babani are on display in the show, which runs until March 20. They include the rich ceremonial cloak given to her by the last of the Russian tsars, Nicholas II, which she had Jean-Philippe Worth transform into the spectacular cape.

Even if she was fond of the work of certain designers, she would never dream of fraternising with them, never mind become a fan. "At the time even the great couturiers were seen

as no more than suppliers, they were not the superstars that they are today," Saillard said. "In those days there was no such thing as ready to wear, there was only haute couture, and designers were at the service of (very rich) women" like her. "She didn't follow fashion, she was made to create it," said Alexandra Bosc, another expert on turn-of-the-century fashion at the museum.

Timeless style

Already dying, Proust wrote to the Countess Greffulhe one last time in 1920 to plead for a photo. "To refuse me once you gave a poor excuse, that a photograph freezes and stops the beauty of women. But isn't it beautiful to catch and make eternal a shining moment?" She refused, denying him the mystery of her haughty allure to the end. She had her reasons. The countess never forgave Proust for using her as a model for the frivolous socialite in his great novel.

While the fictional Duchess of Guermantes was against the Jewish army officer Alfred Dreyfus, wrongly accused of being a Germany spy, the real-time countess took up his cause, and also used her formidable social connections to support the scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel prize. Such was the hurt, that to the end of her long life, the countess pretended to have barely known Proust. While there is no doubting her style and charisma, some today wonder if the countess was quite as beautiful as she was made out to be.

Exhibition-goer Maria Fortes was far from convinced. "Her clothes and her shoes and gloves are exquisite, but I think she was rather plain. I thought she would have been a bit more sexy. She is not that amazing. But she must have had something," the Spanish teacher said. But Parisian Marie-Therese Cardini disagreed, claiming that although ideas about beauty have changed, style was timeless. "Look at her, she was magnificent. She had real mystique, she knew how to make the very best of herself. That is an art which is very French. It is not about beauty as such, it is about making people desire you, and clearly she knew how to do that." — AFP



Heeled shoes are pictured during the exhibition.



Tourists walk behind Taiwan's ancient "Queen's Head" rock in Yehliou, New Taipei City, in northern Taiwan. — AFP photos



Tourists line up for photos behind Taiwan's ancient "Queen's Head" rock (back center).

Precarious future: The battle to save Taiwan's Queen's Head

Scientists are battling to save Taiwan's ancient "Queen's Head" rock from erosion-but the island is split over whether technology should be used to preserve the precarious natural masterpiece. More than three million people visit the coastal landmark in northern Yehliu each year, named for its supposed likeness to England's Queen Elizabeth I. The tilting "head" is an imposing sweep of sandstone which mushrooms out of a slender stem.

Honed by sea water and strong winds the head tapers up to a point, likened to the piled-up curls of the eponymous royal. But at 4,000 years old, exposure to the elements means it may soon topple. "The neck may become too thin to support the head and might break off within the next five to 10 years, if nothing is done," warns Hsieh Kuo-huang, a professor at the Institute of Polymer Science and Engineering at National Taiwan University. "Any strong earthquakes or severe typhoons may bring down the rock formation," said Hsieh, who is one of the scientists studying how to preserve the rock.

Researchers say the circumference of the neck is shrinking by 1.5cm-1.6cm (0.6 inches) each year, making it harder to support the 1.3-tonne head. "The shape of 'Queen's Head' today looks most elegant," says Helena Tang of Neo-Space International Inc which manages the geopark where the rock stands. "But sadly, there's not much time left." Hsieh's team have been experimenting with ways to save the formation, which stands eight meters tall from its base.

Using nanotechnology-which manipulates tiny matter on an atomic and molecular scale - Hsieh and his team developed paints to protect the rock.

"Our analysis shows that the strength of the rock's neck could be intensified by up to three times, while the surface resistance to erosion could be enhanced markedly," Hsieh said. So far the paint has been applied to surrounding rocks, rather than to the Queen's Head itself, but initial tests in August were unsuccessful as the paint peeled off. Since then the ingredients have been tweaked and applied to other rocks in the geopark, Hsieh said.

Natural progression?

But while scientists wrack their brains for a solution, others feel nature should be left to take its course. "As the coastal landscape was made by erosion, the lifespan of the 'Queen's Head' is limited," said Pan Han-sheng, an activist from the pro-environment Tree Party. "I don't understand why we would want to freeze its lifespan." The geopark conducted a survey of 1,200 people randomly picked across the island before going ahead with the paint tests. Only 63 percent backed the scientific experiments and the survey sparked alternative less invasive suggestions, including encasing the formation in a glass cabinet.

"I would prefer a glass cabinet so that the rock can be sheltered from erosion," said Kin Kuo-yen, a tourist from China's eastern

Hangzhou city. Kin was concerned that paints might damage the rock, while a glass case would preserve it. "It's a marvelous spectacle-once gone, it will be gone forever," he said. Neo-Space International has used 3-D technology to record the measurements of the rock twice each year so that it can be reproduced. One replica already stands at the entrance to the park and has become a tourist attraction in itself.

Park administrator Kuo Chen-ling played down fears over the rock breaking down. "Even in the worst scenario, a toppled 'Queen's Head' could be placed in a museum and attract tourists," he said, adding that there were other rocks in the park which drew visitors, including some in the shape of an elephant, a shoe and a peanut. But with tourists to the geopark bringing in an estimated Tw\$700 million (\$21.54 million) of business each year to the 2,000 residents of Yehliu, some say losing the natural icon would be both an emotional and financial blow. "It has been there since I was a kid," says 73-year-old Liu Pi-lan. "Lots of people in Yehliu depend on tourism for their livelihoods. I'm afraid tourists would show less interest if the 'Queen's Head' fell down," he added. "I would be heartbroken if it breaks off, we cannot do without it." — AFP



Two local tourists admire a model of Taiwan's ancient "Queen's Head" rock at a souvenir store.



A handout combo picture released by Taiwan Tourism Bureau on October 12, 2015 shows photo of Taiwan's ancient "Queen's Head" rock taken in (from left to right) 1969, 1980, 1990 and 2010 in Yehliou.



Sturgeons swim, at the Ghareh Boron Caviar Fish Farm in the coastal town of Goldasht. —AP photos



Caviar is seen in a dish in a lab at the Ghareh Boron Caviar Fish Farm.

Iran seeks revival of caviar industry in post-sanctions era

On the shores of the Caspian Sea, an ambitious project is underway to produce a pricey delicacy that could boost Iran's economy as sanctions ease: caviar. Iran, once the world's biggest exporter of the luxury food, sold over 40 tons of sturgeon eggs in 2000. Exports plunged to just 1 ton last year due to dwindling fish stocks and economic sanctions imposed by world powers in response to Iran's nuclear program.

After Tehran struck a landmark deal this summer to curb its nuclear ambitions in exchange for lifting sanctions - including those on caviar - some in Iran are now counting on a revival in exports of the exclusive eggs. "We hope that as a result of the Iranian government's interaction with the world, the path will be opened for us to export our products abroad and bring in foreign currency earnings. It does not make a difference where we export to, the United States or Europe," said Ishaq Islami, manager of the private Ghareh Boron Caviar Fish Farm in the coastal village of Goldasht. The farm and two nearby facilities are breeding half a million sturgeon fingerlings a year, filling its pools with water pumped in from the Caspian Sea.

Islami began the \$100 million project in 2005 but it takes at least 12 years for sturgeon to mature and produce caviar. About 110,000 are beluga species that produce prized silver-gray eggs, the world's most expensive caviar. The fish farm aims to export 30 tons of salt-cured caviar and 2,000 tons of sturgeon meat in three years. Islami expects to earn \$90 million a year based on an average price of \$3,000 a kilogram (about \$1,360 a pound) for caviar. The United States, Europe and Japan

have traditionally been Iran's biggest export markets.

Nuclear deal

"Our annual projected hard currency earnings in 2018 will be equal to the value of two days of Iran's crude oil exports," he said. OPEC member Iran is currently exporting about one million barrels of oil per day, with the price of US benchmark crude trading below \$42 a barrel. Caviar production fits with the Iranian government's plan to reduce reliance on crude oil revenues and build up a broader range of exports. As part of the nuclear deal, trade and banking sanctions imposed over Iran's nuclear program will be lifted, and the US will resume imports of certain Iranian products including carpets, pistachios and caviar that were halted in 2010. Other US sanctions unrelated to the nuclear program will remain in place.

Commercial fishing

"Lifting sanctions, specifically banking restrictions, will facilitate caviar exports and help the industry flourish in Iran," industry analyst Nasser Oktaei said. "The US is obviously one of the world's biggest caviar importers. Iran caviar exports to the US, if materialized, will inject a new blood into the industry and bring in the much-needed hard currency." The 80,000-square meter (860,000-sq foot) Ghareh Boron farm is one of three facilities run by Islami to raise sturgeon, which are threatened by overfishing, pollution and destruction of spawning sites. These factors contributed to the vast decline of sturgeon stocks in the Caspian Sea, the source of 90 percent of the world's caviar.

A temporary global ban on wild sturgeon was imposed in 2001 amid fears that the beluga species was facing extinction. Caviar exports are now subject to quotas while the five countries on the Caspian Sea have agreed to extend the ban on commercial fishing to allow wild stocks to replenish. The farm in Goldasht, one of several communities bearing the name in Iran, sits 310 kilometers (190 miles) north of Tehran. Sturgeon up to 2 meters long swim lazily in large concrete pools filled with murky sea water, eating food pellets that workers throw in by the handful.

Hasan Habibnejad, the provincial fisheries chief, says the facility has created some 200 jobs. "We hope this facility will turn into the capital of the world's caviar," said Hasan Habibnejad, the provincial fisheries chief. Islami has bigger plans for his fish farm. "In addition to exporting female eggs and sturgeon meat, we will also produce oil and cosmetics. Sturgeon skin can also make good leather. Its intestine can be turned into sutures. Nothing is wasted. We also plan to turn our facility into a tourism attraction where customers will be able to buy the prized caviar and other products," he said.

Several small-scale sturgeon farms have popped up across Iran in recent years, including one facility in a desert town in central Iran and another in Qom, Iran's religious capital, all hoping to grab a share of the expected caviar revival. "Banks didn't give me loans and even the authorities were opposed to breeding sturgeon in the desert," said Qom farmer Mohammad Taqi Barkhordari, who filled his pools with salt water pumped from wells. "It worked. Nothing is impossible if you have will and determination." —AP



A sturgeons swims under inspection in a laboratory.



Iranian caviar expert Somayeh Najafzadeh pours caviar in a dish in a research laboratory.



Iranian fishermen hold a sturgeon for inspection, at the Ghareh Boron Caviar Fish Farm in the coastal town of Goldasht.



File photo shows the room at the Lorraine Hotel which Dr Martin Luther King Jr occupied the night before his assassination at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn. —AP photos



In this May 27, 2015 file photo, memorial flowers appear outside the club of B.B. King on Beale Street in Memphis.

Memphis' travel essentials include history, music and drinks

This city loves its music. It protects its history. And it's really starting to like its drinks. Travelers to Memphis need to know the basics of this Tennessee city nestled along the Mississippi River. It is a capital of blues, rock and roll and soul music, a gritty city where influential musicians like B.B. King, Elvis Presley and Otis Redding lived and worked.

It is a city rich in history, where cotton trading was once the main economic engine, where Confederate and Union gunboats battled on the river during the Civil War, where Martin Luther King Jr. came to support striking city sanitation workers and was assassinated. And, it's a city that likes to have fun, whether it's on world-famous Beale Street or in the breweries that have started making craft beers in recent years. Here are some essentials for visiting Memphis.

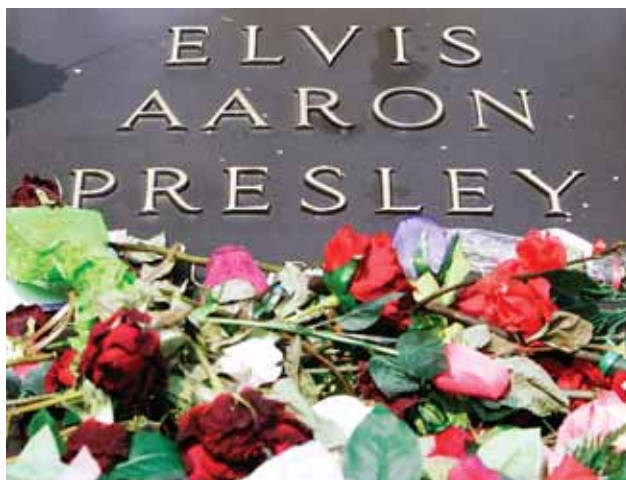
What's new

It took 34 years, but the Blues Hall of Fame finally opened in May on South Main Street, a neighborhood undergoing significant revitalization. Founded in 1980, the nonprofit Blues Foundation has inducted about 130 performers and dozens of others into the Hall of Fame, but only now does it have a brick-and-mortar location for where music-lovers can see memorabilia attached to their favorite blues musicians, from B.B. King to Robert Johnson to Pinetop Perkins.

The building sits across the street from the National Civil Rights Museum and near art galleries, restaurants and bars just south of the downtown area. Artifacts include clothing, paintings, bronze busts, records and magazines tied to the world's most influential blues masters. There's also an interactive database where visitors can access biographies, photos, videos, songs and album covers related to specific artists. The museum is open seven days a week. Admission prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and free for children.

Classic attractions

One of America's most popular attractions sits in Memphis: Graceland, the home-turned-museum celebrating all things Elvis. The house is open for tours, and the attraction across the street features Elvis-related exhibits, including a neat one displaying



In this Aug 16, 2007 file photo, the grave of Elvis Presley is covered with flowers on the grounds of Graceland in Memphis, Tenn., on the anniversary of his death.

vehicles owned and used by Elvis, from a Ferrari to a Harley Davidson. A new 450-room hotel, Guest House at Graceland, is under construction, scheduled to open October 2016. Other classic music spots include Sun Studio, where Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis,

Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Charlie Rich recorded music; and Stax Records, where Redding, Sam & Dave, the Staple Singers, Isaac Hayes and others cut songs in the raw, soulful "Memphis sound." A walk down Beale Street reveals well-worn, but fun, live music venues in Rum Boogie Cafe and WC Handy's Blues Hall. There are plenty of shops to get that shot glass or T-shirt for a friend or relative. A visit to Blues City Cafe will not disappoint, as it serves four of Memphis' main food groups: barbecue ribs, fried catfish, hot tamales and Jack Daniel's.

The National Civil Rights Museum tells the story of the history of the civil rights movement, and its important moments and figures. Built on the location of the old Lorraine Motel - where Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated in April 1968 - it features a view of the room where King stayed at the hotel. Finally, a visit to the Memphis Zoo, ranked as one of the nation's best zoos annually, is a must-do. Giant pandas, hungry hippos and playful penguins are among the living attractions. During the winter holidays, the zoo has a Christmas lights display and ice skating.

Tips

With a few exceptions, most of Memphis' main tourist attractions are near the downtown area or a short drive from there. Staying at a hotel in the downtown area, such as the opulent Peabody Hotel or the more modern Madison hotel, is key, especially if you don't want to rent a car. Memphis taxi service is OK. The city also has Lyft and Uber car services. Tour buses take people to several attractions in one day. Some hotels have airport shuttles. Those seeking to have fun in the electric Overton Square area, or the upscale-bohemian Cooper-Young neighborhood, can "Ride the Roo" to get from one stop to another. It's a bus with a sunglasses-wearing kangaroo on its roof. Riders can shuttle back and forth from the bars and restaurants of Overton Square and Cooper-Young for a \$5, all-night pass. —AP

Chicago judge lets nonprofit file response over Lucas Museum

A federal judge has told a nonprofit group trying to stop "Star Wars" filmmaker George Lucas from building a \$400 million museum in Chicago to respond to the city's request to dismiss its lawsuit. The Chicago Tribune reports US District Judge John Darrah set the next hearing for February.

Friends of the Parks argues the museum will violate the public trust because it'll be built on reclaimed land that was once Lake Michigan. The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art is set to be built near Soldier Field. The plan already was revised to shrink the building and allow more green space on the lakefront site. The museum could open as soon as 2019. Lucas' choice of Chicago as the site was considered a coup for Mayor Rahm Emanuel. —AP



This file artist rendering released Sept 17, 2015, by the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art shows the proposed museum in Chicago. —AP

DIGITIZATION UNLOCKS POTENTIAL FOR EMBRACING INTERNET OF THINGS IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Mike Weston, Vice President for Cisco Middle East discusses how by becoming fully digital Kuwait can increase GDP, reduce spending and create jobs.



Mike Weston, Vice President for Cisco Middle East

Today, the Kuwaiti Government is focused on diversifying the economy, boosting long-term economic growth as well as providing employment and support for its fast-growing, predominantly youthful urban populations. They are achieving these ambitious goals by grasping the enormous potential of the next wave of the Internet - the Internet of Things (IoT) where technology will connect everything from people, processes and data to things

Kuwait and other Middle East public sector organizations are well poised for the IoT because of the size of many government institutions, the number of people they serve, and the difficult problems they must solve. Because the Kuwaiti govern-

ment has a broad authority over large sectors of society and the economy, it is able to launch IoT initiatives with impressive scale and transformative potential - using the IoT to create value by lowering costs, improving employee productivity, generating new revenue, and enhancing citizen benefits.

Embracing the Digital Opportunity

As digitization accelerates, cutting edge infrastructure will increase Kuwait's GDP, reduce spending and create jobs. It will allow the government to extend the reach and impact of public services by converting insights into action. It will enable new and diverse groups of entrepreneurs to build businesses that will shape the world, whilst providing more accessibility and opportunities for education and technology-based careers. As a result, it will ensure that Kuwait become more competitive on the global stage.

Digitization has the potential to create sustainable and positive impact for every area of society. At its core, Country Digitization is the process of planning, and ultimately building, a sophisticated and forward-thinking IT network ecosystem that will allow for greater connectivity, productivity and security to drive this positive impact. Having the right digital ecosystem in place will be a necessity to achieve any of these things. It's our goal at Cisco to help the Kuwaiti government to accelerate their plans to develop this ecosystem and remain competitive as the world transitions into this new digital era. Our goal is to enable governments globally to serve their citizens more effectively, drive stronger economies and increase opportunities on the national and global stage through forward-thinking IT ecosystems.

Smart City Potential

Kuwait City and other Kuwaiti cities are well positioned to improve the quality of citizens' lives through the IoT as it starts to provide many of the services upon which citizens rely, including transportation, law enforcement, education, water, and in some cases even Internet connectivity.

- In the future, Kuwaiti cities will be able to capture much of this value for example by implementing:
- Smart parking to help citizens find open parking spaces via smartphone app.
- Smart waste sensors installed in waste containers signal when they become full or are emitting odors above a set threshold for optimized pickup routes.
- Smart street lighting sensors in smart light poles can detect moving objects, including people and animals, in the street and adjust light levels accordingly.
- City Wi-Fi to enable traffic congestion management and automated water metering resulting in greener and more efficient city infrastructure management.
- Public safety and security - City Wi-Fi solutions will improve situational awareness by accelerating incident detection and it can trigger a combination of automated response, real-time collaboration and escalated decision support for optimal city operations and planning.



BOSTON: In this June 19, 2015 file photo, Alex Culbertson, 26, shows transactions via the Venmo app on his smartphone in Boston. —AP

PAYING YOUR PALS WITH DIGITAL OPTIONS FROM VENMO TO FACEBOOK

NEW YORK: Cash is passe, say digital mavens. If you really want to pay your friends back for that pizza party, use an app to shoot money to their mobile-phone number - or their Facebook account.

Such technology-enabled peer-to-peer payments are growing quickly. Forrester Research predicts mobile peer-to-peer payments will hit \$17 billion by 2019, growing an average of 26 percent annually. That compares with expectations of total U.S. mobile payments of \$142 billion by that year.

PayPal and its Venmo service have carved out an early lead in the arena, particularly among millennials. Venmo has been growing by leaps and bounds: It processed \$2.4 billion in payments in 2014 and almost that much - \$2.1 billion - in the most recent third quarter alone.

The buzz has grown loud enough that even Apple may join the fray, perhaps as early as next year, according to recent reports. (Apple declined to comment.) Though it's not yet time to throw away your checkbook; peer-to-peer payments are still just a sliver of total online spending.

Here's a closer look at your current options for blasting digital dollars to your online acquaintances:

PAYPAL

How it works: PayPal lets you send money directly to other people via its website or app, much the same way you can use the service for online shopping. It also offers a dedicated site called PayPal.Me, which generates personal links you can send to your deadbeat friends so they can transfer money directly to your PayPal account.

Payment limit: No limit if you've linked your bank account to PayPal, but \$10,000 dollars if you're paying via a linked credit card.

Fees: None if you're sending funds from a link bank account, but there's a 3 percent charge if you use a credit card.

VENMO

How it works: Venmo's app adds a social component to payments. Users sign up via the app and connect to friends who have also signed up. You have to add a description for each payment you send, which - just like a Facebook post - you can then choose to make public, restrict to your Venmo network or keep private. Venmo is owned by PayPal.

Payment limit: New users face a rolling weekly limit of \$300. Once you confirm your identity by

linking your Facebook account or providing other personal information such as part of your social security number, the limit goes up to \$3000.

Fees: Free for transactions via bank accounts or debit cards; 3 percent charge per transactions via credit cards.

SQUARE CASH

How it works: Sign up for the Square Cash app or on the Cash.me website and you'll get a personal link called a "\$Cashtag" that people can click on it to send you money. Square has also worked with Snapchat and Twitter (whose CEO Jack Dorsey co-founded Square) so that you can send money on those networks via "\$Cashtags."

Payment limit: An initial \$250 spending limit per week. You can verify your identity via the last

four digits of your Social Security number or by linking to a Facebook account, which ups the limit to \$2,500.

Fees: Free for transactions via a bank account or debit card; 3 percent charge per transaction to link to a credit card.

FACEBOOK PAYMENTS

How it works: Facebook payments operates via Facebook's Messenger app. To send or receive money you must add a debit card (U.S. banks only) to your account. To send money, open a chat with a Facebook friend,

click on a dollar sign icon and enter the amount you want to send. To receive the money a person has to add their own debit card to their Facebook account.

Payment limit: None
Fees: None

GMAIL

How it works: First, you need a Google digital wallet; once you have that, you can send and receive money via Gmail by clicking on the dollar sign icon in the Gmail toolbar. You can either send or request payments; once you've established the amount, you "attach" it to an email message much the way you'd attach a document.

Payment limit: \$10,000 per transaction
Fees: None

POPMONEY

How it works: Citibank, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and many regional banks offer person-to-person payments via Popmoney. (You can also sign up for the service on your own if you like.) Like other services, it lets you send or request money by way of a person's email or phone number.

Payment limit: \$500 per day if you link a debit card, \$2,000 per day from a bank account.

Fees: 95 cents per completed transaction, either payment or request. It's free to pick up a payment.

THE BIG BANKS:

How it works: Most major national banks have offered online payment services for years under names such as Chase QuickPay or Bank of America Mobile Pay. The services run through bank websites and apps, and let you can send money from your bank account via your recipient's email address or phone number.

Payment limit: Varies; typically \$1,000 to \$3,000 per transaction.

Fees: None —AP

AFTER POKING FACEBOOK, LIFE ISN'T EASY FOR A SITE NAMED TSU

SAN FRANCISCO: Suppose every time you posted on Facebook, the social network tallied up the ad revenue it earned against your update and passed a percentage back to you. Of course, Facebook does nothing of the sort - but it is much smaller rival Tsu.co does.

Though now Tsu (pronounced "Sue") appears to be paying a different sort of price. In late September, Facebook started deleting millions of posts that included links to Tsu - more than 9.5 million of them, the smaller company claims. Facebook also blocks new posts that merely contain the text "tsu.co" but no links, warns users that links to Tsu are "unsafe" and fails to deliver Instagram posts and texts via Facebook Messenger that mention Tsu's Internet address or link to the site.

Facebook defends its Tsu ban as a way to prevent its service from turning into a hangout for scam artists and opportunists hoping to make a quick buck.

Tsu says Facebook just doesn't want its users to realize that their photos, videos and personal observations might actually be worth something.

Facebook, which has an understandable interest in protecting its 1.5 billion users from an onslaught of digital rubbish, is one of the Internet's largest gatekeepers. That gives it extraordinary sway in determining who can reach its vast membership - not to mention what those members can discuss using its apps and services.

That can be a big issue when the subject involves a challenge to a company's core business - in this case, selling advertising against the material Facebook users contribute for free. Facebook has earned \$2.1 billion on revenue of \$12 billion during the first nine months of this year alone. The company now has a market val-

ue of about \$300 billion, and no particular interest in generating traffic for a potential competitor.

Similar disputes

There's a long history of similar disputes among technology companies, who almost always claim to be acting in the interests of their users. Amazon, for instance, recently yanked Google and Apple streaming-TV devices from its virtual shelves, clearing the way for its own such gadgets. In just the past few days, several banks have blocked outside financial-planning apps from connecting to their systems, citing security concerns.

Tsu, which launched just over a year ago, has grown quickly; CEO Sebastian Sobczak says it has 4 million members. It has raised about \$11 million in venture capital. Facebook's Tsu purge came without warning and affected a swath of users that included rap artist 50 Cent, who shared a link to a video on Tsu with more than 38 million Facebook fans. The team that handles 50 Cent's social media accounts didn't respond to requests for comment.

Facebook says that Tsu pays its users to post links on other sites, an incentive that breaks its rules for connecting with its social network. In a statement, Facebook said it doesn't let outside publishers pay users to post links on its network "because it encourages spammy sharing." The Menlo Park, California, company declined to elaborate.

Sobczak denies that his service is paying people to post links on Facebook. Tsu users are paid based on how much advertising it sells alongside their posts. That revenue-sharing setup is similar to financial models used by major digital services such as Google's

YouTube; Facebook users widely share YouTube links with one another.

Deflect attention

"It feels like we are being singled out and they are trying to stop a competitor with a more efficient business model," Sobczak says. "What are they afraid of?" Sobczak, a former venture capitalist, says Facebook hasn't responded to his inquiries.

Claudia Everest, a frustrated Facebook user who embraced Tsu to find buyers for her \$30 drawings of dogs, says Facebook is trying to deflect attention from Tsu's revenue-sharing concept. "I don't think they are afraid of Tsu as much as they are of anything that lets people know their content has value," says Everest, who lives in Stoke on Trent in England. "That picture you posted of your dinner last night may not seem like it has value, but it does to the advertisers."

Facebook does, however, frequently rejigger its algorithms in ways that sometimes limit how many people see any given post. Such changes have alienated some longtime users such as Kevin Hinkle of Lake Mary, Florida. Hinkle had built a Facebook following of nearly 5,000 people, but felt as if his posts weren't reaching as many people over time.

For Hinkle, the reduced exposure meant fewer people to advise in his self-described role as a "joyologist." He's been pleased with the response on Tsu since he set up an account late last year. Hinkle says he has made about \$4,100 on Tsu while averaging 10 to 20 posts per day. "Now it looks like it could become a Facebook competitor," Hinkle says. "I think Facebook sees where things could be heading and knows it wouldn't be good for them at all." —AP

YIK YAK SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICE CAN REVEAL USER DATA TO POLICE

WASHINGTON: Internet users of the Yik Yak social media app popular among college students aren't nearly as anonymous as they believe: Missouri police within hours arrested a student accused of threatening violence, the latest in a string of such arrests at colleges in recent months involving threats of mass violence posted online using the service.

Yik Yak provides a feed of anonymized comments from people physically around them, such as on the same college campus. It's by far the most widely adopted, anonymous, location-based applications at schools. It's also been used by students at dozens of campuses to make offensive comments and threaten mass violence.

Yik Yak's fine print says the service can disclose to police each user's Internet protocol address and GPS coordinates, along with details about the phone or tablet, and date and time for each message. To help authenticate its customers, the service requires each user to provide a phone number to sign up.

Yik Yak spokeswoman Hilary McQuaide declined to discuss investigations or provide details about how often police ask for information. She said the company works with authorities. Yik Yak tells police they must generally provide a subpoena, court order or search warrant to obtain information about its users, but in an emergency the company may provide details without those legal instruments.

Terrorist threat

Missouri police on Wednesday quickly arrested Hunter Park, 19, a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, a sister campus to the main university in Columbia that

was the scene of protests since last week. Park was arrested on suspicion of making a terrorist threat toward black students and faculty at the University of Missouri. The incident follows weeks of protest over how the university handles student racial concerns and resulted in the departure of two senior university officials this week.

The Yik Yak message threatened to

"shoot every black person I see." Park, who hasn't been formally charged, did not respond Wednesday to an emailed request for comment from The Associated Press. A message left on his mother's cellphone was not returned. An AP reporter got no answer when he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis.

The case is the latest in a string of such arrests at colleges in recent months involving threats of mass violence posted online. On Monday, police arrested Charleston Southern University student JaShkira Dela Rosa, 23, on suspicion of threats to use a destructive device within roughly 12 hours of learning about her anonymous post allegedly threatening to "shoot up" a residence hall on Yik Yak, said John Strubel, a spokesman for the university. He said the university monitors content on the app, which usually includes mundane comments, such as students complaining about bad food.

Last week, police arrested 18-year-old Christian Pryor, a now-former Fresno State football player, on suspicion of making a terrorist threat within two hours of learning about his post on Yik Yak allegedly threatening to use a weapon to "release my frustrations." Pryor, who posted bond, could not be located for an interview.

In October, 21-year-old Emily Sakamoto, who attends Emory University's Oxford College, was arrested for allegedly posting a shooting threat. She was accused of threatening to open fire on campus and warned others to stay in their rooms. Sakamoto did not respond to an email sent to an account associated with her in public records.

The timing of the arrests - frequently within hours of the initial report - indicates swift responses by Yik Yak to requests by police. Deputy Tony Moore, who works the Los Angeles County Sheriff's electronic communications triage unit, said his group has dealt with Yik Yak on only one occasion but "it was an exigent circumstance and they responded accordingly." —AP



WASHINGTON: The Yik Yak app, lower, left, is seen on an iPhone in Washington, Wednesday, November 11, 2015. —AP



00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Call Of The Wildman
02:15 Call Of The Wildman
02:40 River Monsters
03:35 Tanked
04:25 In Search Of The King Cobra
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Roaring With Pride
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Tanked
09:15 Tanked
10:10 Tanked
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Tanked
12:55 Snake Sheila
13:20 Snake Sheila
13:50 Gangland Killers
14:45 Shamwari: A Wild Life
15:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
15:40 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
16:05 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
16:35 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan
17:30 Roaring With Pride
18:25 Gangland Killers
19:20 Shamwari: A Wild Life
19:45 Shamwari: A Wild Life
20:15 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
20:40 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
21:10 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan
22:05 Roaring With Pride
23:00 Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet



00:20 Ultimate Cops
01:10 Misfit Garage
02:00 Wheeler Dealers
02:50 Cuban Chrome
03:40 How It's Made
04:05 How It's Made
04:30 How It's Made
05:00 How It's Made
05:30 How It's Made
06:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
06:50 Kings Of The Wild
07:40 Deadliest Catch
08:30 Outback Truckers
09:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
10:10 Misfit Garage
11:00 Wheeler Dealers
11:50 Cuban Chrome
12:40 Garage Gold
13:05 Garage Gold
13:30 Garage Gold
13:55 Garage Gold
14:20 Garage Gold
14:45 Baggage Battles
15:10 Baggage Battles
15:35 Baggage Battles
16:00 Baggage Battles
16:25 Baggage Battles
16:50 Yukon Men
17:40 Alaska: The Last Frontier
18:30 Troy
19:20 Superhuman Science
19:45 What Happened Next?
20:10 The Pop Illusionist
21:00 Yukon Men
21:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
22:40 Flying Wild Alaska
23:30 Bear Grylls: Extreme...
23:55 Bear Grylls: Extreme...



00:40 Storm Chasers
01:30 You Have Been Warned
02:20 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
03:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
04:00 Mythbusters
04:48 NASA's Unexplained Files
05:36 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
06:24 NASA's Greatest Missions
07:12 You Have Been Warned
08:00 How It's Made
08:25 How It's Made
08:50 How It's Made
09:15 How It's Made
09:40 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made

10:30 How It's Made
10:55 How It's Made
11:20 How It's Made
11:45 How It's Made
12:10 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
12:35 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
13:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
13:50 Race To Escape
14:40 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
15:30 Deadly Dilemmas
15:54 Deadly Dilemmas
16:20 Strangest Weather On Earth
16:45 Strangest Weather On Earth
17:10 Strangest Weather On Earth
17:35 Strangest Weather On Earth
18:00 Storm Chasers
18:50 Storm Chasers
19:40 Storm Chasers
20:30 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
20:55 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
21:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
22:10 Race To Escape
23:00 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
23:50 Deadly Dilemmas



00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Wolfblood
02:05 Wolfblood
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Wolfblood
04:35 Wolfblood
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:50 Girl Meets World
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
07:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place

08:55 Wizards Of Waverly Place
09:20 Wizards Of Waverly Place
09:45 I Love Violetta
09:55 Violetta Recipes
10:10 Good Luck Charlie
10:35 Oliver & Company
11:50 Jessie
12:20 Jessie
12:45 Girl Meets World
13:10 Mako Mermaids
13:35 Dog With A Blog
14:00 Gravity Falls
14:30 I Love Violetta
14:40 Violetta Recipes
14:55 Lolirock
15:20 Austin & Ally
15:45 Girl Meets World
16:10 I Didn't Do It
16:35 Austin & Ally
17:00 Gravity Falls
17:25 Girl Meets World
17:50 I Love Violetta
18:00 Mulan 2
19:20 Phineas And Ferb
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Dog With A Blog
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood
23:35 Wolfblood



00:00 House Of DVF
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Hollywood Cycle
02:20 E! News
03:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
04:10 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 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
10:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:10 New Money
11:35 New Money
12:05 E! News

13:05 Stewarts And Hamiltons
14:05 Hollywood Cycle
15:00 Hollywood Cycle
16:00 WAGs
17:00 WAGs
18:00 E! News
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 Dash Dolls
21:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
22:00 E! News
23:00 The Soup



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Siba's Table
01:30 Siba's Table
02:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
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 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Kitchen
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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
16:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
16:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Siba's Table
18:30 Siba's Table
19:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man Finds Food
22:30 Man Finds Food
23:00 Food Court Wars



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?

02:00 Shetland
02:55 Emmerdale
03:20 Emmerdale
03:45 Emmerdale
04:10 Emmerdale
04:35 Emmerdale
04:50 Eggheads
05:15 Coronation Street
05:40 Coronation Street
06:05 Coronation Street
06:30 Coronation Street
07:00 Coronation Street
07:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
08:25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
09:25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
10:25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
11:50 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
12:45 Lewis
13:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
14:40 Kate Middleton: Heir We Go Again!
15:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
16:30 Lewis
17:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
18:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
19:00 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
19:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
20:45 Lewis
21:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
22:30 Eggheads
23:00 Coronation Street
23:25 Coronation Street



03:00 Manhattan Love Story
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
09:00 Manhattan Love Story
09:30 About A Boy
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
14:30 About A Boy
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Manhattan Love Story
19:00 Benched
19:30 New Girl
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Better Call Saul
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 Survivor: Cambodia
06:00 Parenthood
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
19:00 Grey's Anatomy
20:00 The Whispers
21:00 Heroes Reborn
22:00 The Blacklist
23:00 The Player



00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:00 Castle
23:00 Banshee



00:00 Riddick
02:00 Predator 2
04:00 Escape Plan
06:00 Destruction: Las Vegas
08:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
10:00 47 Ronin
12:00 Escape Plan
14:00 The Aggression Scale
15:30 Left Behind
17:30 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra
19:30 47 Ronin
21:45 The Perfect Storm



00:00 Predator 2-18
02:00 Escape Plan-PG15
04:00 Destruction: Las Vegas-PG15
06:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power-PG15
08:00 47 Ronin-PG15
10:00 Escape Plan-PG15
12:00 The Aggression Scale-PG15
13:30 Left Behind-PG15
15:30 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra-PG15
17:30 47 Ronin-PG15



47 RONIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

19:45 The Perfect Storm-PG15
22:00 One In The Chamber-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Duets
02:00 Moms' Night Out
04:00 Mr. Wonderful
06:00 Zoolander
08:00 Muppets Most Wanted
10:00 Moms' Night Out
12:00 Zoolander
14:00 The Love Guide
16:00 Muppets Most Wanted
18:00 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
20:00 Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues
22:00 We'll Never Have Paris

OSN MOVIES DRAMA

01:00 The Giver-PG15
03:00 Inside Lewyn Davis-PG15
05:00 A Promise-PG15
07:00 Paranoia-PG15
09:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike-PG15
11:00 A Promise-PG15
13:00 Second Coming-PG15
15:00 Philomena-PG15
17:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike-PG15
19:00 Step Up All In-PG15
21:00 The Double-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:00 Against The Ropes
03:00 August: Osage County
05:00 Next Goal Wins
07:00 Sunshine On Leith
09:00 Heaven's Door
11:00 Next Goal Wins
13:00 August: Osage County
15:00 Won't Back Down
17:00 Heaven's Door
19:00 Nebraska
21:00 71
23:00 Das Boot: Director's Cut

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 13 Sins-PG15
02:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey-PG15
05:00 Free Birds-PG
07:00 Dinosaur Island-PG
09:00 Dracula Untold-PG15
11:00 Into The Storm-PG15
13:00 Khumba-PG
15:00 Cas & Dylan-PG15
17:00 Dracula Untold-PG15
18:45 Fury-PG15
21:00 Selma-PG15
23:15 Maps To The Stars-18

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

02:45 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventures
04:30 Bolts And Blip
06:00 Curious George: Back To The Jungle
08:00 Scooby-Doo! WrestleMania Mystery
09:45 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
11:30 Jungle Shuffle
13:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventures
14:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
16:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
18:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
20:00 Zarafa
22:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
23:30 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 Neighbors-18
02:00 When The Game Stands Tall-PG15
04:00 Planet 51-PG



PREDATOR 2 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

06:00 The Gabby Douglas Story-PG
08:00 Dawn Rider-PG15
10:00 Quartet-PG15
11:45 Into The Woods-PG
14:00 Rio 2-FAM
16:00 Dawn Rider-PG15
18:00 Veronica Mars-PG15
20:00 Let's Be Cops-PG15
22:00 A Million Ways To Die In The West-18

21:50 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
22:15 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
22:40 Johnny Test
00:10 Adventure Time
01:40 Total Drama World Tour
02:03 Total Drama World Tour
02:26 Total Drama World Tour
02:51 Grojband

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

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 Annedroids
10:30 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
10:55 Mighty Med
11:20 K.C Undercover
11:45 Lab Rats vs Mighty Med
12:25 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts
12:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
13:00 Johnny Tsunami
14:25 Phineas And Ferb
14:50 Supa Strikas
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
16:35 Star Wars Rebels
17:00 Mighty Med
17:25 Den Brother
18:49 Phineas And Ferb
19:10 Phineas And Ferb
19:40 Annedroids
20:05 K.C Undercover
20:30 Supa Strikas
20:55 Lab Rats vs Mighty Med
21:35 Phineas And Ferb
21:50 Star Wars Rebels
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

15:40 Expedition Wild
16:35 Wild Mississippi
17:30 Predator CSI
18:25 The Croc Catchers
19:20 Wild Yellowstone
20:10 Expedition Wild
21:00 Wild Mississippi
21:50 Predator CSI
22:40 The Croc Catchers
23:30 I, Predator
00:20 The Monster Project
01:10 Original Fight Club
02:00 Monster Fish
02:50 Built For The Kill



03:15 Living Without Arms: Body Bizarre
04:05 The Undateables
05:00 The Undateables
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Bakery Boss
08:55 Bakery Boss
09:45 Cake Boss
10:10 Cake Boss
10:35 Oprah's LifeClass
11:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8
11:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8
12:15 Jon & Kate Plus 8
12:40 Jon & Kate Plus 8
13:05 Jon & Kate Plus 8
13:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
13:55 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
14:20 Oprah's Master Class
15:10 Cake Boss
15:35 Cake Boss
16:00 Cake Boss
16:25 Cake Boss
16:50 Cake Boss
17:15 Perfect Look
18:05 Oprah's Master Class
18:55 Say Yes To The Dress
19:20 Say Yes To The Dress
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress
21:00 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
21:50 Nida'a
22:40 Psychic Matchmaker
23:05 Mob Wives
23:55 Mob Wives
00:45 Love In The City
01:35 Outrageous 911
02:00 Outrageous 911



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



03:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
03:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
04:00 Blood Relatives
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:30 The Haunted
06:20 Forensic Detectives
07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
08:00 Fatal Encounters
08:50 Disappeared
09:40 Disappeared
10:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
11:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn
12:10 The Will
13:00 The Will
13:50 California Investigator
14:15 California Investigator
14:40 Nightmare Next Door
15:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
16:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn
17:10 Disappeared
18:00 Disappeared
18:50 California Investigator
19:15 California Investigator
19:40 Forensic Detectives
20:30 Forensic Detectives
21:20 Forensic Detectives
22:10 Forensic Detectives
23:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
23:50 Deadly Women
00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:30 Deadly Affairs
02:20 Blood Relatives



03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopdidoo

PALESTINIAN CULTURE EXHIBITION AT BAYT LOTHAN, NOVEMBER 23-26, 2015

OPEN INVITATION: FOR JERUSALEM

The Palestinian Culture Center holds the second of its two annual exhibitions for 2015 at Bayt Lothan. The show includes a large collection of textile-based traditional handmade cross-stitch as well as pottery from Hebron, posters and books about Palestine in English and Arabic. It aspires to reaffirm the Palestinian national identity by its handicrafts and support education and families.

The Palestinian Culture Center is a non-profit organization that was established in Jordan in 1993. It aims to (1) preserve the rich heritage and culture of Palestine, (2) help empower women and their families in the refugee camps become economically independent, and (3) sustain needy Palestinians in their homeland and in the Diaspora.

This year was an active year for the Center due to the effects of the global financial crisis which placed a further strain on the poor. Furthermore, the violent and aggressive Israeli military onslaught on Gaza, Jerusalem and the rest of occupied Palestine, have made the situation in Palestine dire, and the need for aid more urgent. As a result, the Center has worked to increase the salaries of the 550 or so women who

do the embroidery work as well as pay for their transportation (from the camps). We motivate the ladies by granting bonuses for excellent quality work. We also provide support to Palestinians in the homeland by providing financial aid to needy families, health care, and university scholarships.

Some of the Center's accomplishments included support of some of the vital institutes such as Almaqased hospital in Jerusalem which was established in 1968 with substantial financial support from The State of Kuwait. The Center is also working on providing the necessary financing of the Water Desalination Project in Gaza for producing potable water and assisting Gaza area hospitals that were bombarded by Israel, such as Alshefa Hospital, to produce and store oxygen for medical purposes.

Exhibition Highlights

Traditional cross-stitch embroidery of dresses, linens, shawls, cushions, table runners, cards, frames, coasters, belts, purses, bookmarks and more

- Handmade ceramics from Hebron

- Books, posters, key chains, kafiya's and DVDs as well as posters from Palestine
- Food sale of traditional Palestinian food such as thyme, sumaq, baked goods and other traditional plates.
- Palestinian folklore "Dabkah" will be performed on and Thursday at 6:30 PM

Palestinian embroidery using needle and silk thread is a manifestation of the Palestinian identity as it has evolved over the ages. An age old art, all Palestinian ladies, young and old, would spend hours embroidering their trousseau, dresses, shawls and cushions. Using geometric shapes at first, and then evolving to depicting images from nature surrounding them, the dresses are famous for their flowery designs and bold natural colors of indigo and red. Symbols of the ubiquitous cypress trees surrounding the orange groves, roses, jasmine and the famous olive tree are typical motifs in these dresses.

The exhibition will be held at Bayt Lothan, Salmia, It will be held for 4 days starting Monday the November 23rd through Thursday 26th. It is open to the public from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm and 4:30 to 8:30 pm.



THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF TULU KOOTA KUWAIT CELEBRATED WITH GRANDEUR

Tulu Koota Kuwait celebrated its 15th Anniversary with grandeur at Tulu Parba 2015 held at the American International School on 30th October 2015. The chief guests to the event were HE the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Sunil Jain, Khaled Al-Saif, Managing Director of NAPECO and Valerian D'sa the Managing Partner of Khalil Bahman and Partners Co. The guest artists who came all over from India were Sujayendra Hande, who hails from a very illustrious family of Yakshgana, Sumangala Rathnakar a gifted Natya vidushi in both Yakshgana and Bharthnatyam form, Umesh Mijar a renowned name in Tulu Drama, Laksmesh Gangimatta a versatile actor and Shreenath Anchan the well-known musician.

The event was inaugurated with the Lighting of the Lamp by the Managing and Advisory Committee members along with the event sponsor Vinod and releasing the souvenir. It followed by the grand procession which displayed the unique

feel of Tulunadu. The audience was then welcomed by the Vice President of Tulu Koota Kuwait, Harish Bhandary.

The cultural activities began with a welcome dance from Heart Beatz, followed by the spectacular semi classical fusion of Ras Leela by Upasana dance studio. Tulu Nadu folk festival, directed by guest artist Sumangala Rathnakar by Tulu Sir Kids displayed an impressive amalgamation. It was very interesting to see the kids dance on Chinnara Yakshgana Natya Vaibhav and Yakshgana Vaibha by Sujayendra Hande and the Tulu Siri Kids. It followed by the extravagance of the Contemporary fusion dance drama of Jesus and the Muslim Traditional Folk Dance and the Yakshgana Natya Jualbandi by Sujayendra Hande and Sumangala Rathnakar directed by Sujayendra Hande.

The chief guests then honored the guest artists, committee members namely Swarna Shetty, Ramesh Kidiyoor, Mohd Iqbal, Yadunath Alva and Ramesh Bhandary. The scholarship

was given to the deserving student and the sponsors were also honored. The audience were left spell bound with the glamour of the South Indian Classical Jugalbandi, and the patriotic dance by Heart Beats and Upasana dance group.

The audience was in splits as the Tulu comedy drama "Network Tikkuji". The drama was written by Dinakar Bhandary and directed by Umesh Mijar. The acting skills of the local artists were at par with those of the professional and it showed on their overall performances.

The event was ably compeered by Prajwal D'mello and Manoj Shetty, while the felicitation was conducted by Dr. Preeti Shetty. The lights and sound were given by Zain Events while the photography and videography done by Snipers Clickz. Program was well coordinated by cultural secretary Sathish Acharya. The program was concluded by giving small token of appreciation to the Drama artists and singing the National Anthem.



International Women's Group (IWG) members attend a cultural event organized by the spouse of the Nepalese Ambassador to Kuwait Rita Hamal. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

NEPALESE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE HOSTS IWG MEMBERS IN CULTURAL EVENT

By Nawara Fattahova

As part of the monthly activities of the International Women's Group (IWG), the spouse of the Nepalese Ambassador to Kuwait Rita Hamal, held a cultural, traditional and entertaining event at her house last Thursday, which was attended by IWG members. Hamal welcomed the guests and thanked the attendees for their support. The event included a dance performance by a 12-year-old girl, where she presented a traditional Nepalese dance wearing the Nepalese traditional costume. This was followed by other entertaining and artistic activities. The attendees were also able to taste traditional Nepalese dishes made at the house of Hamal.

Activities

The latest event was part of regular meetings, events and activities held by IWG members. "These activities include different celebrations and events such as visiting traditional places," Narjis Al-Shatti, IWG member told the Kuwait Times. "In addition, it includes other cultural activities such as those presented by the diplomat's spouses from their countries' cultures."

"This event aims to strengthen the relations with other members. Today, there are some new members, as new ambassadors were appointed to their posts in Kuwait. Their spouses do not know many people here, so this is a great chance for them to get to know the members of IWG, and they are also introduced to some women from the Kuwaiti society," Shatti further said.

The IWG Kuwait chapter is a branch of the International Women's Association residing in Denmark and has branches all over the world, where they organize similar programs and activities. Here in Kuwait, wives of new ambassadors meet with the other members to exchange information about their countries, tradition, food, culture and others.



WEED KILLER GLYPHOSATE UNLIKELY TO CAUSE CANCER: SCIENTISTS

BRUSSELS: Glyphosate is unlikely to cause cancer in humans, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) said on Thursday, and the agency proposed a higher limit on the daily amount of residue of the popular weed killer deemed safe if consumed. The EFSA advises EU policymakers and its conclusion could lead the 28-member European Union to renew approval for glyphosate, which was brought into use by Monsanto Co in the 1970s and is used in its top-selling product Roundup as well as in many other herbicides around the world.

Environmental groups have been calling for a ban after the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization, said in March that glyphosate was "probably carcinogenic to humans".

A campaign group said that 1.4 million people had signed a petition calling on the European Union to suspend glyphosate approval pending further assessment.

The EFSA said it carried out a thorough analysis and took account of the IARC's findings.

"This has been an exhaustive process - a full assessment that has taken into account a wealth of new studies and data," said Jose Tarazona, head of the pesticides unit at the EFSA, based in Parma, Italy. "Regarding carcinogenicity, it is unlikely that this substance is carcinogenic."

The EFSA is proposing a limit on the maximum safe daily dose over a period of time, of 0.5 milligrams per kilogram (kg) of body weight. It is also proposing a new acute limit, of the same level, for a single intake of glyphosate over a

short period, for instance in one meal.

The previous EU evaluation had set an acceptable daily intake (ADI) of 0.3 milligrams per kg of body weight per day. The scientists say an 80-kg (180-lb) person could eat food containing a residue of 40 milligrams of glyphosate per day for the rest of their life. Monsanto said that was the equivalent of eating 400 kg (900 lbs) of fruit or vegetables a day.

EFSA scientists, who worked with experts from EU countries, said their study differed from the IARC's in that it considered only glyphosate, whereas the IARC had assessed groups of related chemicals. They said the toxic effects could be related to reactions with other constituents.

US HEART GROUPS TO WEIGH NEW DATA FOR HYPERTENSION TREATMENT GUIDELINES

ORLANDO, Florida: US heart organizations drafting new treatment guidelines for hypertension will consider new research showing that aggressively lowering blood pressure can ward off death and other cardiac problems, but top cardiologists advised caution in how the information is applied to wide practice.

Once called the "silent killer," high blood pressure can be brought under control with a wide array of medications, many sold as relatively inexpensive generics. About 70 million people in the United States live with hypertension. The medical community has been divided over whether there is an optimal blood pressure level for such patients. A government-sponsored study of more than 9,300 hypertension patients ages 50 and older showed that death from heart-related causes fell 43 percent and heart failure rates dropped 38 percent when their systolic blood pressure was lowered below 120 versus those taken to a commonly used target of under 140.

The findings of the Sprint study, released on Monday at the American Heart Association annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, will figure into new hypertension guidelines being drafted by the AHA and the American College of Cardiology. Their work is expected to be completed next year.

"The writing panel will review and consider all available evidence, including the Sprint trial presented this week," AHA and ACC said in a joint statement to Reuters.

The Sprint study findings could prove to be a turning point in the medical community's approach to high blood pressure. The US government's National Institutes of Health stopped the planned five-year study in August, two years early, after independent monitors found such clear benefits that it felt a need to make them public. Dr. Mariell Jessup of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, who chairs a panel helping to draft the guidelines, said she was happy to have the new evidence because it can be difficult to convince patients to take more medicines to prevent future problems.

"It's really nice to be able to say, 'This trial showed that this is where you need to be, because you're going to live longer.' That's meaningful," Jessup said.

Other cardiologists said the risks of more aggressive treatment need to be explored more rigorously before applying it widely. Patients in the 120 systolic blood pressure group, for example, had a higher rate of kidney injury or failure, as well as fainting, although there was no increase in injuries from falls. Dr. Steven Nissen, the Cleveland Clinic's chief of cardiology, said he would want to know which patients were likely to suffer kidney failure before changing his practice.

"The thing that makes me pay attention is the one improvement that is the most important one, and that is death," Nissen said. "It's a big effect. The mortality advantage is compelling."

The two medical groups would not say whether they will recommend specific blood pressure targets for various patient populations. They spurred controversy among cardiologists two years ago with new cholesterol treatment guidelines that eliminated a target level for "bad" LDL cholesterol in favor of a more complicated method of assessing a patient's individual risk for heart disease. —Reuters



BALI: A medical staff explains a vasectomy operation to a Balinese man in Gianyar on Bali island yesterday. —AFP

THOUSANDS TO BE STERILIZED IN GLOBAL 'VASECTOMY-ATHON'

MISSION TO ENCOURAGE MEN TO TAKE A BIGGER ROLE IN FAMILY PLANNING

GIANYAR, Indonesia: Thousands of men around the world are to be sterilized yesterday in what organizers dubbed a global "vasectomy-athon", to encourage men to take a bigger role in family planning and combat resistance to the procedure.

Some 750 doctors in 25 countries are to perform the procedure on more than 3,000 volunteers to mark World Vasectomy Day, with many operations being provided for free or at discounted rates. "In helping to shoulder responsibility for family planning, men become heroes to their partners, to their families and to our future," said event co-founder Jonathan Stack.

The event is being held as a report from campaigners and donors warned efforts to get modern contraceptives to women in some of the world's poorest countries are not on track, with millions fewer reached than had been hoped. At a ceremony in a temple on the Indonesian island of Bali, the headquarters for World Vasectomy Day this year, the first six men to undergo the procedure were presented to an audience before being taken outside to mobile health clinics to be sterilized.

The men lay on an operating table in the clinics-buses fitted out with medical equip-

ment-while doctors performed the short procedure, which involves cutting the tubes which transport sperm from the testicles, under a local anaesthetic. Vasectomies were also being carried out to mark the day in countries including India, the United States and Spain. Around four in 10 pregnancies worldwide are unplanned and event organizers said that family planning is still too often left to women, who are the ones who must deal with the consequences of unintended pregnancies. In many countries, less than one percent of men get vasectomies, despite the fact the procedure is safe and in the majority of cases has no effect on sex life, the organizers said.

Worldwide resistance

In Muslim-majority Indonesia, efforts to persuade men to get vasectomies have been hampered after the country's top Islamic clerical body several years ago declared the procedure "haram", or against Islamic law. Other attempts to encourage vasectomies have backfired. A district on Sumatra announced in 2012 it would hand out cash to civil servants who underwent the procedure-only for the move to spark anger from women who feared their sterilized husbands would have affairs.

Elsewhere around the world the procedure is burdened by controversies, and in many countries campaigners have to overcome the misguided belief that it impairs a man's virility. Iran recently eliminated free vasectomies, as it seeks to improve its birth rate, and there has even been resistance from experts in sub-Saharan Africa, who have expressed concern that widespread use of vasectomy would lead to lower usage of condoms and so higher HIV rates.

Prominent vasectomy doctor Doug Stein, who has performed the procedure on more than 30,000 men and founded World Vasectomy Day with Stack, told the Bali audience that the operation was positive for men, their families and societies. "It seems to be a wonderful option for men who have had as many children as they want," he said.

Friday's event was the third World Vasectomy Day, with the first held in 2013 and headquartered in Australia. Organizers chose to base this year's event in Bali to coincide with an international family planning conference that had been due to take place on the island, but which was postponed after volcanic ash closed Bali airport for days. —AFP

AUTISM RATE DOUBLES IN US TO ONE IN 45 KIDS

SURVEY USES NEW APPROACH TO ASSESS FREQUENCY OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER

MIAMI: Autism affects one in 45 children in the United States, almost twice the rate from a few years ago, said a survey yesterday that uses a new approach to assess the frequency of the developmental disorder.

The latest figures may reflect a more accurate picture of autism spectrum disorder, said the report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics, and so does not necessarily mean that there is a ballooning autism epidemic.

In fact, the study found that while autism spectrum diagnoses are more frequent than in the past, the overall number of people affected by neurodevelopmental problems has not risen, but has remained steady over time. "What we call an autism spectrum disorder now is a much wider group of symptoms than what we called autism in the past so I think that captures a larger number of children that might have received other diagnoses in the past," said Katie Walton, an autism researcher who was not involved with the CDC survey.

"There have been some significant changes in the way that they are asking the questions," added Walton, a psychologist at the Ohio State University's Nisonger Center.

The report found that in 2014, one in 45 children had autism spectrum disorder, or 2.24 percent. When the survey was given in 2011-2013, one in 80 children was diagnosed with ASD (1.25 percent).

The prevalence of autism in the United States was just one in 5,000 in

1975, and has been rising steadily in recent years. Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disability that may cause a person to have difficulty behaving, learning, communicating and interacting with people. It is believed to be influenced by genetic and environmental factors, though scientists do not fully understand all its causes.

There is no known cure, but early intervention in toddlers as young as two can sometimes help. Officials changed the order of the questions posed in the latest survey, completed by more than 11,000 parents, a process that may have resulted in more of them acknowledging a diagnosis of ASD.

"The question wording was expand-

ed to include more specific details on what constituted an autism spectrum disorder," said the report.

Since the United States does not maintain national health registries, telephone surveys are among the ways that experts assess the rate of autism. School and medical records have also been used to project a nationwide autism rate of

one in 68 children, according to another CDC report issued in 2014.

'No epidemic'

Some experts agree that these surveys do not suggest there is a worsening epidemic of autism in the United States.

A study out earlier this year led by Santhosh Girirajan, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and of anthropology at Penn State, found that the rising rate of autism seen in recent years resulted from reclassifying individuals with related neurological disorders.

His study analyzed 11 years of special-education enrollment data on an average of 6.2 million children per year, and found "no overall increase in the number of students enrolled in special education." Asked for comment on Friday's figures, he told AFP that the CDC's latest approach is an improvement.

"When people say (there is an) epidemic of autism, I am not really sure," he said. "It is true that they are identifying more individuals with autism because autism is occurring with other disorders," he added.

Better diagnoses-and improved strategies for estimating prevalence-may be useful to parents who want to get improved treatment for their children at an early age, added Walton. "I think people should understand that autism is a relatively common condition at this point and if you are concerned about your child... there are an increasing number of services out there," she said. —AFP



RENNES: Demonstrators lay on the ground in front of the entrance to a social security building with protest posters in Rennes yesterday during a demonstration by doctors and health professionals against a health bill. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	2:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	5:30 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	12:15 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	4:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	7:30 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	2:15 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	6:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	9:30 PM
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	4:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	11:30 PM
ATOMIC EDEN	6:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:30 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:00 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	12:30 AM		
ATOMIC EDEN	10:00 PM				
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	12:05 AM				
SHARQIA-2		MARINA-2			
SPECTRE	12:30 PM	SPECTRE	12:00 PM		
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:30 PM	SPECTRE	3:00 PM		
SPECTRE	3:30 PM	SPECTRE	6:00 PM		
SPECTRE	6:30 PM	SPECTRE	9:00 PM		
SPECTRE	9:30 PM	SPECTRE	12:05 AM		
SPECTRE	12:30 AM				
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-3			
GOOSEBUMPS	11:45 AM	ATOMIC EDEN	12:15 PM		
SPECTRE	2:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	2:00 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	5:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	4:00 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	8:15 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	6:00 PM		
SPECTRE	11:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	8:00 PM		
		SPECTRE	10:00 PM		
		ATOMIC EDEN	1:00 AM		
MUHALAB-1		AVENUES-1			
ATOMIC EDEN	12:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	12:15 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	2:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	2:45 PM		
ATOMIC EDEN	4:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	5:15 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	7:45 PM		
ATOMIC EDEN	8:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	10:15 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:45 PM	STEVE JOBS	12:45 AM		
ATOMIC EDEN	12:45 AM				
MUHALAB-2		AVENUES-2			
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	1:00 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	1:00 PM		
SPECTRE	1:30 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM		
AKHIL	4:15 PM	VEDHALAM	6:15 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	4:15 PM	EYAL HAREEFA	9:15 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	7:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:30 PM		
SPECTRE	11:00 PM				
MUHALAB-3		AVENUES-3			
SPECTRE	12:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	12:30 PM		
SPECTRE	3:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	2:30 PM		
SPECTRE	6:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	4:30 PM		
SPECTRE	9:00 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:30 PM		
SPECTRE	12:05 AM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:30 PM		
		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:30 PM		
		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	12:30 AM		
FANAR-1		AVENUES-4			
STEVE JOBS	12:45 PM	SPECTRE	1:15 PM		
ATOMIC EDEN	1:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	2:00 PM		
STEVE JOBS	3:15 PM	SPECTRE	4:15 PM		
ATOMIC EDEN	5:45 PM	SPECTRE	7:15 PM		
STEVE JOBS	7:45 PM	NO THU			
ATOMIC EDEN	10:15 PM	SPECTRE	7:15 PM		
ATOMIC EDEN	12:15 AM	SPECTRE	10:15 PM		
		ATOMIC EDEN	1:15 AM		
FANAR-2		AVENUES-5			
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:30 PM	UNCONSCIOUS	12:00 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	2:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	2:00 PM		
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	4:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	5:15 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	6:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	8:30 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	8:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:45 PM		
ARBA'A KOTCHINA	10:30 PM				
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:30 AM				
FANAR-3		AVENUES-6			
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:45 AM	ATOMIC EDEN	11:30 AM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	3:00 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	1:30 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	6:15 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	3:30 PM		
PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	9:30 PM	ATOMIC EDEN	5:30 PM		
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	12:45 AM	ATOMIC EDEN	7:30 PM		
		ATOMIC EDEN	9:30 PM		
		ATOMIC EDEN	11:30 PM		
FANAR-4		AVENUES-7			
SPECTRE	12:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	1:30 PM		
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	1:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	3:45 PM		
SPECTRE	3:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	6:00 PM		
SPECTRE	6:30 PM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	8:15 PM		
SPECTRE	9:30 PM	EVERYDAY I LOVE YOU	8:00 PM		
SPECTRE	12:30 AM	BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	10:30 PM		
		BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	12:45 AM		
FANAR-5		360°- 1			
SPECTRE	11:30 AM	GOOSEBUMPS	11:30 AM		
SPECTRE	2:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	1:45 PM		
SPECTRE	5:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	5:00 PM		
AKHIL	6:00 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	8:15 PM		
SPECTRE	8:30 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO	11:30 PM		
EVERYDAY I LOVE YOU	8:30 PM				
SPECTRE	11:30 PM				
MARINA-1		360°- 2			
UNCONSCIOUS	12:30 PM	ARBA'A KOTCHINA	11:30 AM		
		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	1:30 PM		
		ARBA'A KOTCHINA	3:30 PM		

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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, Abdul Rasheed Usman Walile changed to new name as Rasheed Usman Walile, Indian Passport No. G5617919, VPO Rajawadi TK. Mahad, Raigad DT. MS. (C 5071) 14-11-2015

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

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



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

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

Arrival Flights on Saturday 14/11/2015				Departure Flights on Saturday 14/11/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	KAC	118	New York	17:55
KLM	413	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	SVA	500	Jeddah	18:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	FDB	063	Dubai	18:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45
MSR	614	Cairo	01:20	QTR	1080	Doha	18:55
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	IRA	669	Mashhad	18:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	KAC	742	Dammam	19:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:25	IRM	1188	Mashhad	19:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	618	Doha	19:35
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	CLX	856	Luxembourg	19:35
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	KAC	104	London	19:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	19:55
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	KNE	480	Taif	20:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	JZR	189	Dubai	20:15
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	FDB	061	Dubai	20:20
AGY	680	Alexandria	04:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	20:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	04:45	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55
THY	764	Istanbul	05:55	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
BAW	157	London	06:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:45
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	QTR	082	Doha	22:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KLM	15	Amsterdam	22:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KNE	70	Jeddah	22:15
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	KAC	64	Amma	22:25
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	FDB	059	Dubai	22:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30	OMA	647	Muscat	23:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	UAL	981	Bahrain	23:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	JAD	301	Amman	23:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	125	Bahrain	23:55
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55
IRC	526	Mashhad	10:20				
RJD	135	Abu Dhabi	10:30				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
SYR	341	Damascus	10:55				
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05				
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30				
AGY	684	Sohag	11:35				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:50				
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55				
MRJ	4815	Mashhad	12:00				
SVA	2618	Jeddah	12:05				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50				
JZR	241	Amman	12:50				
OMA	645	Muscat	13:00				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
IRC	6511	ABD	13:05				
SVA	2312	Jeddah	13:05				
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:35				
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	13:55				
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10				
KNE	72	Jeddah	14:35				
SVA	314	Jeddah	14:45				
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:50				
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50				
KNE	462	Madinah	14:55				
GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00				
IRM	1186	Tehran	15:00				
SVA	2610	Jeddah	15:00				
IZG	4167	Mashhad	15:00				
KAC	562	Amman	15:40				
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				
JZR	535	Cairo	16:10				
QTR	1072	Doha	16:10				
JZR	357	Mashhad	16:30				
FDB	051	Dubai	16:30				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40				
KAC	542	Cairo	16:55				
RJA	640	Amman	16:55				
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15				
UAL	982	IAD	17:15				
KNE	474	Jeddah	17:25				
KAC	502	Beirut	17:30				
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30				
JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50				
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55				

Word Search Puzzles

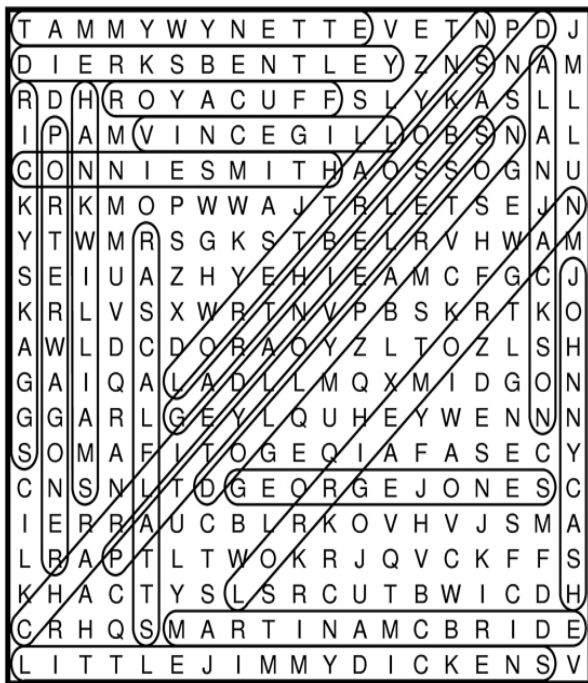
METALLURGY WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| ALLOY | EXTRACTION | HEAT TREATMENT | MINING |
| ALUMINUM | EXTRUSION | IRON ORE | NONFERROUS |
| BRONZE | FABRICATION | LATHE | PLATING |
| CASTING | FORGING | METALWORKING | SMELTING |
| CRYSTALLOGRAPHY | HARDNESS | MINERALS | STEEL |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO GRAND OLE OPRY PUZZLE

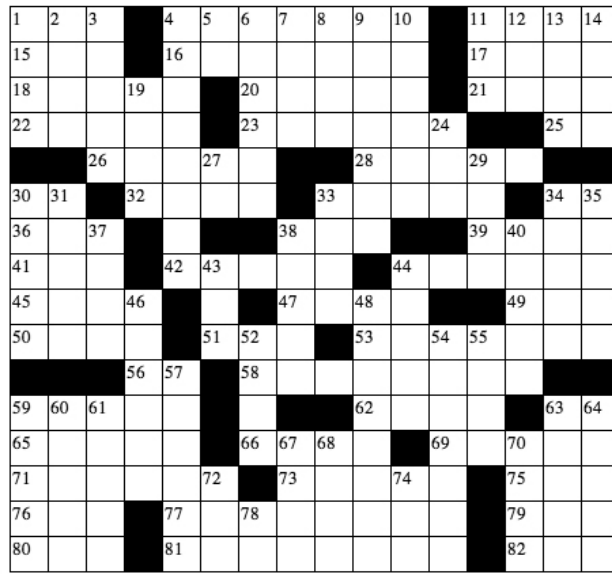


Daily SuDoku

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

medium

CROSSWORD 1079



ACROSS

- A pilgrimage to Mecca.
- A commercial city in northern Japan on western Hokkaido.
- Telephone line (Wide Area Telephone Service).
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Heighten or intensify.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.
- Jordan's port.
- A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
- Become ground down or deteriorate.
- Small genus of Eurasian herbs.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Found along western Atlantic coast.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- (trademark) A liquid that temporarily disables a person.
- Light informal conversation for social occasions.
- A unit of area (4840 square yards) used in English-speaking countries.
- A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
- An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
- A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- A federally sponsored corporation that insures accounts in national banks and other qualified institutions.
- A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
- An ancient town on Crete where Bronze Age culture flourished from about 2000 BC to 1400 BC.
- 1,000,000,000 periods per second.
- Semisweet golden-colored table or dessert wine from around Bordeaux in France.
- Australian operatic soprano (1861-1931).
- The content of cognition.
- Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
- A district in southwestern Manhattan noted for its shops and restaurants and galleries and artist's lofts.

- The unlimited 3-dimensional expanse in which everything is located.
- Popular music originating in the West Indies.
- The capital of Morocco.
- A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
- A graphical record of electric currents associated with muscle contractions.
- A small book usually having a paper cover.
- A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
- Time for Earth to make a complete rotation on its axis.
- A state in south central United States.
- Liquid excretory product.

DOWN

- Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
- Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- French biochemist who (with Jacques Monod) studied regulatory processes in cells (born in 1920).
- Waste matter carried away in sewers or drains.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- A serious (sometimes fatal) infection transmitted by the bite of an infected rat flea (especially bubonic plague).
- Small short-eared burrowing mammal of rocky uplands of Asia and western North America.
- Rounded like an egg.
- (Old Testament) Wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau.
- Medieval artillery used during sieges.
- Pan with a convex bottom.
- Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
- A three-tone Chadic language.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- The second month of the Moslem calendar.
- King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
- Any system of principles or beliefs.
- Yellow-fever mosquitos.
- (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- Little known Kamarupan languages.
- At or within a short distance in space or time or having elements near each other.
- Seed of a pea plant.
- (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- A motley assortment of things.
- Buffalo fishes.
- Goddess of fertility.
- (Greek mythology) The son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra.
- The act of catching an object with the hands.
- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
- (of plants) Having tall spindly stems.
- Red pear-shaped tropical fruit with poisonous seeds.
- A European river.
- Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
- German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
- An association of people to promote the welfare of senior citizens.
- To make a mistake or be incorrect.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- (informal) Being satisfactory or in satisfactory condition.

Yesterday's Solution

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

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

HAMILTON FEELING GOOD AFTER FEVER AND ACCIDENT

SAN PAULO: Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton said he was feeling good for Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix after making a delayed arrival in Sao Paulo due to sickness and a car accident.

"I'm on the up-slope, so I am a lot closer to 100 percent," the Mercedes driver told reporters at the Interlagos circuit ahead of the penultimate race of a championship that he has already won.

Hamilton had revealed late on Wednesday, via Instagram and after the team had said he was suffering from a fever, that he had been involved in a road accident in Monaco in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

The 30-year-old Briton said he wanted to take responsibility for the incident to prevent people from making a "quick buck" out of it. "Nobody was hurt, which is the most important thing," he had told his fans. "But the car was obviously damaged and I made very light contact with a stationary vehicle."

He gave no further details after flying in on Thursday. Unconfirmed media reports suggested he had been driving a purple Pagani Zonda supercar, worth



SAN PAULO: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, steers his car during a free practice for the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix at the Interlagos race track in Sao Paulo, Brazil, yesterday. — AP

around \$2 million, at the time. The triple champion said life had been hectic since the Mexican Grand Prix on Nov 1.

"I had gone to Mexico on the

Wednesday. We worked all day Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday," he said.

"And then I had my mum's (60th birthday) party (in London) and that killed me. That was pretty amazing, but I really felt it on Sunday and Monday."

Hamilton said he had decided to rest at home and leave a day later than scheduled after consulting with his team and doctor.

"However, I am informing you because I feel we all must take responsibility for our actions. Mistakes happen to us all but what's important is that we learn from them and grow. Can't wait for the weekend Brazil."

Hamilton clinched his third world title in Texas last month with three races to spare but has a patchy record behind the wheel when away from the race track. He was banned from driving in France in 2007 and had his car impounded after being caught driving at 40 miles per hour above the speed-limit on a motorway northeast of Paris.

He was also booked for reckless driving during the 2010 Australian Grand Prix after police saw him spinning the wheels of his car near Melbourne's Albert Park street circuit. — Reuters

BJERREGAARD TAKES ANOTHER ROUTE 66 TO REACH BMW SUMMIT

SHANGHAI: Denmark's Lucas Bjerregaard continued his recent strong form in Asia by firing a second straight six-under-par 66 to grab a three-shot lead at the halfway stage of the BMW Masters in China yesterday.

The 24-year-old, chasing a first European Tour title, fired seven birdies in his round at Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai to sit clear of Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee (68) and overnight leader Sergio Garcia of Spain (71).

Bjerregaard finished second in Hong Kong three weeks ago and said he was determined to go one better in the penultimate event of the European Tour season.

"It was nice in Hong Kong to prove to myself and to everyone else that I can still compete up there," he was quoted as saying by EuropeanTour.com "So hopefully I can do that again this week and just come up one place better than last time."

The Dane's Hong Kong performance, where he lost out by one shot to England's Justin Rose, went some way to erasing the agony of a final round 17-over-par 89 at the Alfred Dunhill Championships a year ago when he was playing in the final group.

The world number 178 needs a strong showing this week to ensure a place in the 60-man field at next week's season finale in the United Arab Emirates. He is currently 55th in the Race to Dubai Standings.

Spain's Sergio Garcia shot an 8-under 64 to take a one-stroke lead over France's Victor Dubuisson and South Korea's An Byeong-hun in the rain-soaked BMW Masters. Garcia, who started his round on the back nine, made four birdies in his first five holes and added another five after the turn to offset one bogey. Dubuisson, the Turkish Airlines Open two weeks ago, and An each had seven birdies at Lake Malaren. The event is the third of four in the European Tour's Finals Series. The DP World Tour Championship is next week in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

In Mexico, Justin Leonard got off to a quick start in what he expects to be his shortest season, opening with a 6-under 65 on Thursday in

the OHL Classic at Mayakoba to share the lead with Aaron Baddeley, Shawn Stefani and Derek Fathauer.

Leonard, who moved from Dallas to Colorado during the summer, said he plans to play only 12 events this season to spend more time with his wife and four children. The former British Open champion is using his one-time exemption for being top 50 on the PGA Tour's career money list.

The 43-year-old Leonard played bogey-free at El Camaleon before the wind and rain arrived and stopped play for 1 hour, 14 minutes. The round was suspended because of darkness, and 21 players did not finish.

Stefani was a runner-up last year at Mayakoba to Charley Hoffman. Baddeley, a three-time winner, lost his card last season and

failed to get it back through the Web.com Tour Finals. He is playing as a past champion, and got into the Mexico event through a top-10 finish last week. He tied for fourth in the rain-plagued Sanderson Farms Championship in Mississippi.

D.J. Trahan, another past champion, also got into Mayakoba through a top 10 in Mississippi. He was in a large group at 66 that included Charles Howell III and Patton Kizzire.

Matt Kuchar, at No. 16 in the world the highest-ranked player at Mayakoba, opened with a 72. He was in the same group as Mississippi winner Peter Malnati, who shot a 68, and HSBC Champions winner Russell Knox, who had a 70. Knox is playing his fifth straight week, going from Napa, California, to Las Vegas to Malaysia to Shanghai and now Mexico. — Agencies



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

SCOTT HAMILTON RETURNS TO ICE WITH 7-YEAR-OLD SON

It's been 31 years since he won his Olympic gold, yet Scott Hamilton in many ways remains the face of figure skating. Problem is, his face and the rest of him have not been on the ice much recently. So when Hamilton was offered a chance to skate with his 7-year-old son, Maxx, for a nationally televised show, it was impossible to resist.

"I don't skate anymore, full disclosure," says Hamilton, now 57 and a fundraiser/campaigner for cancer research as well as a producer of skating shows. "This is a family show, which I knew Maxx would really enjoy being part of. He loves to skate and at the rink the skating director calls him her assistant."

Hamilton had not skated as a performer since 2009, and he spent nearly a year preparing and getting in shape for that 10th annual cancer benefit show - Hamilton is a survivor of testicular and brain cancer. He even resumed, at age 51, doing the back flip that audiences came to see.

This routine was a lot different. "This was not a run-through of my Olympic long program, that's for sure," Hamilton says with a laugh. "I did my thing. But this was great for me, a real father-son experience you can't beat." Scott and Maxx performed in Musselman's Apple Sauce Family Skating Tribute, the first special in the Colgate Skating Series. ABC will televise the show on Nov. 15 at 3 p.m. ET.

They make quite a striking pair: the bald Hamilton and the red-haired mop-top kid. And they had a ball in their short stint on the Cox Convention Center rink in Oklahoma City. But it almost didn't come off. Maxx had a playground incident and didn't get off crutches until two days before the Oklahoma City show. So the Hamiltons had no chance to put together anything intricate.

Even so, their stint on the ice is as much a showstopper as anything done that day by the other stars of the show: Michael Weiss, Ekaterina Gordeeva, Ilya Kulik, Paul Wylie, Irena Slutskaya, Todd Eldredge, Naomi Lang, John and Sinead Kerr. Choreographer and former world-level skater Steven Cousins put together a routine "designed with movement where we could come out and not be doing any heavy lifting," Hamilton says. — AP

CHAMP DJOKOVIC TO FACE FEDERER AT TOUR FINALS

LONDON: Defending champion Novak Djokovic has been handed an early show-down with Roger Federer as the world number one launches his bid for a fourth successive ATP Tour Finals title.

Djokovic arrives in south London hoping to win the prestigious season-ending event for a fifth time to cap another remarkable year that saw him win three Grand Slam crowns and cement his position on top of the world rankings.

The 28-year-old Serb will get a quick test of his appetite for further success on the banks of the River Thames when he faces Swiss great Federer in the 43rd instalment of their rivalry.

They are tied at 21 wins each, with Djokovic defeating Federer in the Wimbledon and US Open finals this year. Federer is no slouch at the Tour Finals either, having won the tournament a record six times, but not even he reeled off

four successive titles and Djokovic would become the first player to achieve that impressive feat if he lifts the trophy on November 22.

If Djokovic triumphs he will also draw level with Pete Sampras and Ivan Lendl as five-time Tour Finals winners. Also in Djokovic's group are Japan's Kei Nishikori, his first opponent when the event gets underway on Sunday, and Czech world number five Tomas Berdych.

"This has been, by far, the most successful season of my life and I just try to better it," Djokovic said. Despite having won so much over the last 11 months, 10-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic has shown no signs of easing up as the season winds down.

Since losing to Federer in the Cincinnati final in August, Djokovic has embarked on a 22-match winning run that has brought him the US Open, the China Open and

Masters 1000 titles in Shanghai and Paris.

Murray focus

The other group in the round-robin tournament, which features the world's top eight players, sees Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka and David Ferrer pitted together.

Most of the interest in that group will focus on former Wimbledon champion Murray.

The world number two has never won the Tour Finals, but he may not be too concerned if he makes an early exit on home turf this year as he has made the Davis Cup his number one priority in recent months.

Murray has led Great Britain in their first Davis Cup final in 37 years and his country will bid for a first title since 1936 when they face Belgium in Ghent less than a week after the end of the Tour Finals.

After previously hinting he might pull

out of the Tour Finals to give him more time to adapt to the clay surface chosen for the Davis Cup final, Murray has decided to participate, but it will be intriguing to see how he reacts if his troublesome lower back injury flares up over the coming week.

Federer, mindful of Switzerland's looming Davis Cup final appearance, pulled out of last year's Tour Finals final against Djokovic due to injury. "I feel fresh and hopefully I can play some good tennis this week," Murray said.

"I feel good about the Davis Cup final. I have been practising at Queen's on clay for the past four days."

DRAW:

Group Ilie Nastase
Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka, Rafael Nadal, David Ferrer
Group Stan Smith
Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Tomas Berdych, Kei Nishikori. — AFP



PRAGUE: Petra Kvitova (L) of the Czech tennis Fed Cup team poses with Maria Sharapova of the Russian Fed Cup team after the International Tennis Federation Fed Cup final draw ceremony yesterday in Prague. The Fed Cup final, Czech Republic against Russia, is scheduled today. — AFP

KVITOVA, PAVLYUCHENKOVA TO OPEN FED CUP FINAL

PRAGUE: Petra Kvitova and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova will open the Fed Cup final tie between holders the Czech Republic and Russia in Prague today, following yesterday's draw. Kvitova, the world number six and the Czech number one, will take on 28th-ranked Pavlyuchenkova on the hardcourt of Prague's O2 Arena from 1300 GMT. Czech number two Karolina Pliskova, ranked 11th, will then face fourth-ranked Russian number one Maria Sharapova in the hosts' quest for the fourth trophy in five years.

In Sunday's reverse singles, Kvitova will first play against Sharapova and Pliskova will then take on Pavlyuchenkova. Lucie Safarova and Barbora Strycova were drawn against Elena Vesnina and Ekaterina Makarova for Sunday's doubles.

"We have already won twice at home (in 2012 and 2014) and we are glad to have strong opponents-the happier we will be when we win," said Kvitova. Czech captain

Petr Pala chose Pliskova over a higher-ranking Safarova for singles, while his Russian counterpart Anastasia Myskina picked Pavlyuchenkova over a better-placed Makarova. But Makarova and teammate Elena Vesnina are in the top ten for doubles which would decide the tie if it gets down to 2-2 on Sunday. "I made the decision after the morning training today," said Pala. "Lucie told me she didn't feel a hundred percent fit so my decision was clear."

Pliskova, who has played six WTA tournament finals this year and won one, said she was looking forward to facing Sharapova in their first-ever encounter. "It will definitely be my greatest game ever," said the 23-year-old.

"I will know it's Sharapova, but there's no room for respect on the court." Sharapova, who has played only four Fed Cup ties in her career, said she was "excited" to face Pliskova. "It is a bit of a surprise that I haven't played against her since I've been on the tour quite

long." "She's up and coming, she's had really good results this year and of course when you don't know what to expect in a completely new match and in the atmosphere I think it will be about competing ... and doing the best that you can."

After being sidelined with leg and arm problems in July, Sharapova returned to action at the WTA Tour Finals last month, where she lost to Kvitova in the semi-finals.

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

PHELPS BEATEN IN MINNEAPOLIS RACE

LOS ANGELES: Michael Phelps suffered a rare defeat on Thursday in the 100m butterfly final at the Minneapolis swim meet as he continues his preparations towards the 2016 Olympics. The most decorated medallist in Olympic history was beaten into third place behind winner Giles Smith and San Condorelli in second. Phelps clocked 52.99 sec, far slower than the 50.45 which he produced at last year's US Swimming Championships, the fastest time over the distance in 2015.

Phelps, winner of a record 18 Olympic gold medals, told Sports Illustrated this week he has rediscovered his zest for swimming after initially retiring following the 2012 London Games.

After an arrest for drink-driving in Baltimore in 2014 he checked himself into rehab and decided to return to Olympic competition. He has not drunk alcohol since his arrest, and has vowed not to drink until after the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro next August. "Haven't had a single sip and will not have a sip," Phelps told Sports Illustrated. "You're going to see a different me than you saw in any of the other Olympics."

In other races in Minneapolis on Thursday, US prodigy Katie Ledecky dominated her compatriot Missy Franklin to win the 200m freestyle. Ledecky came home in 1min 55.37sec, more than a second ahead of Franklin, who clocked 1:56.73. Allison Smith was third with 1:57.28. — AFP



MINNEAPOLIS: Michael Phelps starts the 100-meter men's butterfly during the finals of the Arena Pro Swim Series at the Aquatic Center, Thursday, in Minneapolis. — AP



NASHVILLE: Nashville Predators defenseman Ryan Ellis (4) dives for the puck as he chases it with Toronto Maple Leafs center Leo Komarov (47), of Estonia, in the second period of an NHL hockey game, in Nashville, Tenn. — AP

RANGERS SCORE EARLY AND OFTEN, BEAT BLUES 6-3

NEW YORK: Right winger Mats Zuccarello had a goal and two assists to lead the red-hot New York Rangers to a 6-3 win over the St. Louis Blues. It was the seventh successive win for the Rangers. Leading 4-3 after two periods, the Rangers cashed in on their first power play of the game as defenseman Ryan McDonagh put a slap shot through a screen set up by left winger Rick Nash at 2:44 of the third period to get his second goal of the season. Defenseman Dan Girardi added an empty-netter with 1:34 left in the third to put the finishing touches on the Rangers win.

Avalanche 3, Bruins 2

Matt Duchene scored his sixth goal in the last five games midway through the third period to help the Colorado Avalanche erase a two-goal deficit and earn a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins at TD Garden. The Avalanche center finished off a pass from Mikhail Grigorenko at 6:39 of the final period after Ben Street forced a costly turnover from Bruins defenseman Kevin Miller.

Wild 3, Hurricanes 2 (OT)

Jason Zucker scored his second goal of the game with 1:10 remaining in overtime as the Minnesota Wild defeated the Carolina Hurricanes 3-2 at PNC Arena. Zucker broke free along the right side and got the puck past Carolina goalie Cam Ward.

Capitals 5, Flyers 2

The Washington Capitals beat the Philadelphia Flyers 5-2 at Wells Fargo Center. Trailing 2-1 in the second period, the Capitals (11-4-0) scored three goals-two from Jason Chimera-to seize control and secure their fifth win in the last seven games.

Senators 3, Canucks 2

Goaltender Andrew Hammond made 33 saves as the Ottawa Senators snapped out of a two-game

losing streak by beating the Vancouver Canucks 3-2 at Canadian Tire Centre. Erik Karlsson led the Senators with a goal and an assist, while Bobby Ryan and Chris Wideman had the other Ottawa goals. Sven Baertschi and Alex Edler scored for the Canucks.

Sabres 3, Panthers 2

The Buffalo Sabres, who had lost eight straight games against Florida Panthers goalie Roberto Luongo, snapped that streak by prevailing 3-2 at the BB&T Center. The Sabres (8-8-0) got their first win against Luongo since 2010 and passed the Panthers (6-7-3) in the Atlantic Division standings.

Lightning 3, Flames 1

Late goals by Steven Stamkos and Tyler

Johnson helped Tampa Bay earn a 3-1 win over the Calgary Flames at Amalie Arena. The Lightning (8-8-2) ended a three-game home losing streak and helped goalie Ben Bishop end a five-game losing streak. He allowed two goals or fewer in each of the five losses.

Maple Leafs 2, Predators 1

Center Peter Holland scored the only shootout goal for either team as Toronto edged the Nashville Predators 2-1 after five rounds of a shootout. Goaltender James Reimer came up with 21 saves for the Maple Leafs, while goalie Pekka Rinne collected 22 for the Predators.

Devils 3, Blackhawks 2

Left winger Sergey Kalinin scored the defining

goal in the third period, lifting the New Jersey Devils to a 3-2 win against the Chicago Blackhawks. Right winger Kyle Palmieri and center Adam Henrique also scored for New Jersey, who earned their ninth win in the past 12 games.

Blackhawks right winger Patrick Kane and left winger Artemi Panarin scored for Chicago. Devils goaltender Cory Schneider stopped 27 of 29 shots, while Chicago's Corey Crawford turned aside 19 of 22.

Stars 6, Jets 3

Goalie Kari Lehtonen stopped 35 of 38 shots as the Dallas Stars beat the Winnipeg Jets 6-3. Left winger Jamie Benn gave Dallas the lead with 5:55 remaining in regulation when he knocked a rebound off the far post and in after Jets goaltender Ondrej Pavelec denied the initial slap shot from center Tyler Seguin. Dallas scored twice into an empty net in the final 75 seconds. Right winger Blake Wheeler and defensemen Jacob Trouba and Tyler Myers scored for Winnipeg.

Coyotes 4, Oilers 1

Defenseman Oliver Ekman-Larsson, right winger Shane Doan, defenseman Stefan Elliott and left winger Max Domi scored for Arizona, who won their third successive game behind 27 saves from goalie Mike Smith. Left winger Taylor Hall scored for the Oilers, who got 17 saves from Anders Nilsson.

Kings 2, Islanders 1

A fluke goal off New York Islanders defenseman Johnny Boychuk in the second period gave the Los Angeles Kings a 2-1 victory at Staples Center.

Kings winger Milan Lucic was credited with the goal at 3:28 of the second, lifting Los Angeles (10-6) to their 10th win in 13 games. Goaltender Jhonas Enroth stopped 31 of 32 shots for the Kings. Enroth, the backup to Jonathan Quick, is unbeaten in three starts this season. — Reuters

NHL Results/Standings

Colorado 3, Boston 2; NY Rangers 6, St. Louis 3; Washington 5, Philadelphia 2; Minnesota 3, Carolina 2 (OT); Ottawa 3, Vancouver 2; Tampa Bay 3, Calgary 1; Buffalo 3, Florida 2; Toronto 2, Nashville 1 (SO); New Jersey 3, Chicago 2; Dallas 6, Winnipeg 3; Arizona 4, Edmonton 1; Los Angeles 2, NY Islanders 1.

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Dallas	13	4	0	62	45	26
St. Louis	11	4	1	45	37	23
Minnesota	10	3	2	46	40	22
Nashville	9	3	3	43	38	21
Winnipeg	8	7	2	48	52	18
Chicago	8	7	1	41	41	17
Colorado	6	9	1	43	44	13
Pacific Division						
Los Angeles	10	6	0	39	33	20
Arizona	9	6	1	46	44	19
Vancouver	7	5	5	50	42	19
San Jose	7	8	0	40	40	14
Anaheim	5	7	4	28	41	14
Edmonton	6	11	0	44	54	12
Calgary	5	11	1	41	66	11

Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Montreal	13	2	2	62	33	28
Ottawa	8	5	3	50	51	19
Tampa Bay	8	8	2	42	43	18
Detroit	8	6	1	34	36	17
Buffalo	8	8	0	39	44	16
Boston	7	7	1	49	48	15
Florida	6	7	3	43	41	15
Toronto	4	8	4	34	48	12
Metropolitan Division						
NY Rangers	12	2	2	51	28	26
Washington	11	4	0	48	34	22
Pittsburgh	10	5	0	35	31	20
New Jersey	9	6	1	40	40	19
NY Islanders	8	6	3	45	41	19
Carolina	6	9	1	32	46	13
Philadelphia	5	8	3	30	48	13
Columbus	4	12	0	38	59	8

INDIAN TWEETERS TURN ON BRITISH AIRWAYS IN TENDULKAR ROW

LONDON: British Airways found itself under attack from fans of Sachin Tendulkar yesterday after the Indian cricket great complained on Twitter about the airline's poor service. Tendulkar, a national hero in cricket crazy India and the idol of millions of fans worldwide, accused British Airways of a "don't care attitude" and said they had tagged his luggage to the wrong destination.

The airline responded by saying: "We're sorry to hear this Sachin, could you please DM (direct message) us your baggage ref, full name and address so we can look into this for you?"

Although now retired from top-flight cricket, the 42-year-old Tendulkar who has recently been taking part in an exhibition tour in the United States, remains arguably the most famous of all living

Indians. British Airways' request for contact details led Twitter user Omar Abdullah to respond: "Dear @BritishAirways try Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, India. I'm sure this is enough for the postal service/courier company here". That was a mild comment in comparison to some calls for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to abandon his ongoing visit to Britain because of the offence given to Tendulkar.

The BBC subsequently reported that British Airways was the top trend on Twitter India, with politicians also weighing into the row. It is often said that famous sportsmen have 'god-like' status, particularly in their own countries.

But few come closer to that definition than batting great Tendulkar, who has had temples erected to him in India, the world's second-most

populous nation.

Prayer ceremonies would often be held for him ahead of India matches that Tendulkar was playing in and his final appearance before retirement, in his home town of Mumbai in 2013, stopped the nation as tributes poured in for a man who some fans often refer to as "God".

A number of Tendulkar's most loyal supporters can be extremely sensitive if they feel their hero has been slighted in any way, as Maria Sharapova discovered last year when the tennis star faced a Twitter storm after admitting she had no idea who he was.

But as she comes from Russia, a non-cricket playing country, Sharapova also received some sympathy for her ignorance of Tendulkar-sympathy which is unlikely to be extended to British Airways. —AFP



DHAKA: Zimbabwe cricketer Malcolm Waller (L) plays a shot as the Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim looks on during the first T20 cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. —AFP

BANGLADESH WINS 1ST T20 AGAINST ZIMBABWE BY 4 WKTS

DHAKA: Bangladesh overcame a belligerent 68 off 31 balls by Malcolm Waller to knock Zimbabwe down by four wickets in the first Twenty20 yesterday.

Waller was the only one in the either side to make batting look easy on the difficult pitch, but his effort couldn't dent Bangladesh's surge. Without Waller's fireworks, Zimbabwe's total would have been far worse than the 131 they put up before being all out in 19.3 overs.

Bangladesh cantered to the victory with 14 balls to spare, scoring 136-6. Tamim Iqbal led Bangladesh with 31, and Mahmudullah added 22 not out. Zimbabwe was reeling at 38-4 when Waller unleashed a counterattack, smashing six sixes and four fours on his way to the fastest T20 half-century for Zimbabwe.

His half-century came off just 20 balls, but wickets tumbled around him. Craig Ervine gave him proper support in a 67-run stand for the fifth wicket to lift the side past 100. Mustafizur Rahman removed Waller in the 18th over to give Bangladesh relief.

Mustafizur, Mashrafe Mortaza and Al-Amin Hossain claimed two wickets apiece. In pursuit of 132, Bangladesh lost Anamul Haque in the first over but a convincing victory looked to set up by the untroubled Tamim Iqbal and Sabbir Rahman. Until the spinners started operating.

Left-arm Tendrai Chisoro dismissed Rahman (18), when Craig Ervine took a brilliant diving catch at point, rejuvenating Zimbabwe. Graeme Cremer removed Mushfiqur Rahim (2), and took out Tamim and Nasir Hossain (16) in the space of three deliveries, leaving Bangladesh 80-5.

Mahmudullah and Liton Das, however, shared 38 runs to take the side closer. Chisoro bagged Das on 17, but captain Mashrafe ensured there would be no more drama as he smacked Luke Jongwe with a consecutive four and six. Cremer took 3-29, and Chisoro 2-15. —AP

AUSTRALIA DOMINATE AS WARNER HITS DOUBLE CENTURY

PERTH: David Warner dominated, dissected and demolished New Zealand with his maiden double century to drive Australia to 416 for two at the close of play on a one-sided opening day of the second test at the WACA yesterday.

Picking up where he left off in the first test in Brisbane, the opener scored 244 not out for his third century in three innings as the hosts dominated New Zealand's bowlers as ruthlessly as they had in the 208-run victory at the Gabba.

Usman Khawaja claimed his maiden test century in the first test and got his second on Friday but even his sometimes sublime strokeplay had to play second fiddle to his fellow lefthander's brilliance on a sweltering day in Perth.

The 28-year-old was caught by Tom Latham in the covers off Doug Bracewell and departed for 121 to end a 302-run partnership with Warner shortly before stumps, leaving skipper Steve Smith (five not out) to resume on day two.

Warner, once dismissed as a Twenty20 slogger, was batting on the same ground where he hit a 69-ball century on the way to his previous career-high score of 180 against India in 2012. This innings was the work of a far more experienced batsman, however, even if it started with similar aggression when Warner clattered the first two balls he faced for four to either side of the ground.

Having established his dominance, however, his batting became more circumspect and he was happy to reach his fifty off a single. The 29-year-old had put on 101 with Joe Burns when his new opening partner chopped a Matt Henry delivery onto his stumps to depart for 40 just before lunch.

Celebratory leap

Warner was by no means done yet, though, and he brought up his 15th test century by hammering his 12th four over mid-wicket.

The 150 came from 182 balls with another two fours and the addition of his first six but his celebrations were muted compared to that for his century, indicating that his real target still lay ahead.

His second six took him to 197 and after a single from the 236th ball he



PERTH: Australia's Dave Warner reacts after scoring a double century against New Zealand during their cricket test match in Perth, Australia, yesterday. —AP

faced got him to the milestone for the first time, Warner performed another celebratory leap before raising his bat and helmet to the sky.

At stumps, he had faced 272 balls and hit 22 fours and two sixes.

New Zealand's day had started well with key paceman Tim Southee passed fit to play but it rapidly went downhill after skipper Brendon McCullum lost the toss.

Fielding a four-pronged pace attack after Henry replaced injured all-rounder James Neesham, the Black Caps were unable to muster any movement from

swing or seam to test the Australian batsmen.

McCullum was also culpable for using up New Zealand's two DRS reviews on marginal lbw calls and leaving them without one when Khawaja appeared to get an edge on a Mark Craig delivery and was caught behind. Khawaja had another life just before tea when Bracewell let the ball through his hands on the boundary and he made the most of his reprieve in the final session as Australia racked up the highest score ever on the opening day of a WACA test. —Reuters

SCOREBOARD

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

Australia 1st innings		Khawaja
J. Burns b Henry	40	To bat: A. Voges, M. Marsh, P. Nevill, M. Johnson, M. Starc, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon
D. Warner not out	244	Bowling: T. Southee 19-1-73-0; T. Boult 17-0-99-0(w-1); M. Henry 16-0-75-1; D. Bracewell 16-0-57-1(nb-4); M. Craig 14-0-77-0; K. Williamson 3-0-11-0; M. Guptill 3-0-7-0; B. McCullum 2-0-16-0.
U. Khawaja c Latham b Bracewell	121	
S. Smith not out	5	
Extras (lb-1 nb-4 w-1)	6	
Total (for 2 wickets, 90 overs)	416	
Fall of wickets: 1-101 J. Burns, 2-403 U.		

RUSSIA FACES EXILE AS IAAF DECIDES DOPING FATE

MONACO: Russia, accused of "state-sponsored" doping, have said they are ready to establish a new anti-doping agency hours before world athletics chiefs meet with exclusion from the 2016 Olympics a potential long-term consequence for Moscow.

Sebastian Coe, the recently-elected president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), will not be at the organisation's headquarters in Monaco but will preside over a conference call of the body's 26 members at around 1800GMT from London.

Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko told R-Sport news agency hours before the IAAF meeting that Moscow was ready to reform or "create a new anti-doping organisation" if the IAAF or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) demanded it.

A simple majority is all that will be needed to confirm a suspension for Russia who were accused of widespread doping by an independent commission set up by WADA in a report which has shaken track and field, one of the Olympic Games' flagship attractions.

The 335-page report also blasted Russian officials for blackmailing athletes to cover up positive tests as well as destroying test samples.

Although Russian officials are expected to offer an olive branch by admitting to some cases of cheating, the IAAF is under huge pressure to take strong action less than a year out from the Rio Olympics. Of the 26 members on the IAAF Council, nine are European.

"Europe will support Sebastian Coe. We have full confidence in him. We are all on the same page," Svein Arne Hansen, the president of European Athletics, told Britain's Daily Telegraph.

However, one leading IAAF council member, legendary Ukraine pole-vaulter Sergei Bubka who lost out to Coe in the race for the organisation's top job,

warned that it would be wrong to punish innocent athletes for the transgressions of others.

"All those involved, officials, managers or coaches, must pay the price," Bubka told the AIPS world sports journalists association. "But ordinary athletes, those who have nothing to do with this matter, should not have to miss a single competition."



MOSCOW: Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko gestures speaking at his meeting with the media in Moscow, yesterday. —AP

'No Olympic boycott'

The IAAF, he said, needed to live up to its responsibilities as an important player on the world sports stage but it must take it "case by case, person by person".

On Thursday, Russia sent a formal reply to the allegations ahead of Friday's meeting. Acting president of Russia's athletics federation Vadim Zelichenok said that it had produced the response "in such a way as to try to prove our innocence".

"How many pages is it? One or 100, it's not important," he added. In another development, Russia's

Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov flew into Lausanne in Switzerland Thursday evening for talks with International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach, R-Sport reported.

The fallout from the WADA report's damning conclusions reached as far up as Russian President Vladimir Putin who ordered officials to launch their own internal investigation and cooperate with international anti-doping authorities.

"We must do everything in Russia to rid ourselves of this problem," said Putin, an avid sportsman who led Russia's bid to host last year's Winter Olympics and the 2018 football World Cup.

However, he added: "This problem does not exist only in Russia, but if our foreign colleagues have questions, we must answer them."

Should an Olympic athletics ban be eventually imposed, Sports Minister Mutko rejected the notion of a Russia boycott of Rio 2016.

In quotes published by British newspaper The Guardian, Mutko said that even if Russia's athletes are suspended, "we don't plan to boycott anything, anywhere".

'Sports world suffered'

Russia's legendary high jump coach Yevgeny Zagorulko warned that a ban would be a blow for the sport. "I don't believe that Russia's athletics squad, or all the more, the whole country's team will be banned," Zagorulko told AFP. "It's only (WADA) recommendations. But if it happens it will be a great loss for the world of athletics."

"Many athletes were deprived a chance to compete at the Olympics in 1980 and 1984," continued Zagorulko, who coached Anna Chicherova and Ivan Ukhov to high jump gold medals at the 2012 London Olympics. "The reasons for their absence were different but the result was the same. —AFP

BILLS BEAT JETS ON RYAN'S RETURN

NEW YORK: Rex Ryan's homecoming was a victorious one barely. The Buffalo Bills raced out to a 19-point third quarter lead on Thursday before withstanding a furious rally by the New York Jets to hang on for a 22-17 victory at MetLife Stadium. The Bills won their second in a row to improve to 5-4 and moved into the thick of the AFC wild card picture in their first year under Ryan, who coached the Jets from 2009-14. The Jets (5-4) have lost three of four.

The Bills led 12-3 at the half and extended the lead to 22-3 in the first seven minutes of the third quarter when quarterback Tyrod Taylor threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to running back Karlos Williams and kicker Dan Carpenter booted a 29-yard field goal. But the Jets pulled within five on a pair of touchdown passes by quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick—a 14-yarder to Brandon Marshall late in the third quarter and a 31-yarder to Eric Decker midway through the fourth quarter. The Bills went three-and-out on their next possession and prepared to punt from their own 28-yard-line. But punter Colton Schmidt dropped the snap and was swallowed up by several Jets as he recovered it at the Bills' 13-yard-line with 5:12 left. But the Jets could not take advantage. Running back Chris Ivory gained eight yards on first down before losing a yard on second down. A short pass to Decker lost a yard on third down and Fitzpatrick's fourth down pass into the end zone sailed over the head of tight end Kellen Davis. The Bills punted with less than a minute left, but Fitzpatrick's next pass was picked off. Ryan responded by pumping his fist so hard his hat fell off.

Running back LeSean McCoy gained 112 yards on 19 carries for the Bills. Fitzpatrick was 15-of-34 for 193 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. Ryan jogged out of the tunnel at to a chorus of boos from a sparse, late-arriving crowd just prior to kickoff. The boos grew a little louder a few minutes later, when the captains—including Bills linebacker IK Enemkpal, who was released by the Jets after slugging quarterback Geno Smith in a locker room



EAST RUTHERFORD: Buffalo Bills running back Karlos Williams makes a touchdown catch against the New York Jets during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, in East Rutherford, NJ. —AP

altercation Aug. 12 — went to midfield for the coin toss.

The Jets and Bills then went out and played the type of sluggish, offensively-challenged game that only Ryan could love. The two teams combined for 12 first half possessions, only two of which yielded more than one first down. The Jets took a 3-0 lead when new kicker Randy Bullock capped a 10-play, 76-yard drive by booting a 29-yard field goal with 4:01 left in the first quarter.

The Bills took the lead by scoring nine points in nine seconds late in the second quarter. A 47-yard field goal by Carpenter tied the game with 5:47 remaining. Jets wide receiver Devin Smith fumbled the subsequent kickoff and safety Duke Williams picked up the ball and raced untouched into the end zone for a 19-yard touchdown. Carpenter's 41-yard field goal with three seconds left extended the lead to 12-3. —Reuters

FIFA VP VILLAR WARNED, FINED \$25K IN WC BID CASE

GENEVA: FIFA vice president Angel Maria Villar was warned and fined 25,000 Swiss francs (\$25,000) yesterday for misconduct during the 2018-2022 World Cup bid investigation.

The light sanctions from the FIFA ethics committee end a case which last year had potential to bring a more severe verdict on Villar, who is the No. 2 elected UEFA official behind President Michel Platini.

The punishment was for an "indecent" remark during a one-hour interview with then-FIFA prosecutor Michael Garcia, the Spanish soccer federation said in a statement. Villar, the longtime federation president, said something similar to "He's got a

nerve" in his native language, according to the Spanish body.

"(Villar) regrets that oral expressions made by him have been perceived differently by some members of the FIFA ethics committee," the federation said, adding he believed that "at no time he behaved in an indecent manner or breached any other provision of the FIFA Code of Ethics."

Villar, a lawyer who chairs the FIFA legal committee, at first refused to cooperate with Garcia. He then tried within FIFA to have the former U.S. Attorney thrown off a case which many saw as key to FIFA's credibility. The Spanish soccer federation president "failed to behave in accordance with

the general rules of conduct," during Garcia's investigation, the FIFA ethics panel said in a statement.

FIFA ethics judge Joachim Eckert imposed a lighter sanction because Villar later "demonstrated a willingness to cooperate." Villar was previously suspected of orchestrating a rule-breaking voting pact between the Spain-Portugal bid to host the 2018 World Cup and 2022 winner Qatar. A brief probe by FIFA's previous ethics committee dismissed that claim in 2010. Still, Garcia's investigation was expected to go deeper into the alleged seven-vote pact which FIFA President Sepp Blatter later acknowledged did exist. Villar's light sanc-

tion could mean that Franz Beckenbauer, a former FIFA executive committee member who took part in the December 2010 votes, will also escape a ban.

Beckenbauer's pending case also involves allegations of initially refusing to cooperate with Garcia. In a separate case, the ethics panel also imposed six-month bans on Congolese officials Jean Guy Mayolas and Badji Wantete for misconduct during the FIFA congress in May.

Their offenses related to "offering and accepting gifts and other benefits," the ethics committee said. Both officials have 45 days left to serve after their provisional suspensions imposed in June. — AP

OCHAYA GIVES UGANDA HISTORIC W CUP WIN

JOHANNESBURG: Uganda celebrated Thursday a first away victory in a World Cup qualifier after defeating Togo 1-0 in Lome through a first-half Joseph Ochaya goal. The defender scored at Stade Kegue with a glancing header off a Farouk Miya free-kick five minutes before half-time in the first leg of a second-round tie. Uganda played 17 previous away qualifiers since debuting against Zambia in 1977, losing 15 and drawing two.

Outstanding Denis Onyango saved a second-half penalty from France-born Mathieu Dossevi to deprive the home team of an equaliser. By keeping a clean sheet, the South Africa-based goalkeeper ensured Uganda did not concede a goal in an away World Cup qualifier for only the second time. Uganda could have won more convincingly in the west African city as Miya was foiled by the woodwork and Brian Umony and Caesar Okhuti wasted good chances. Lacklustre Togo sorely missed unavailable star striker Emmanuel Adebayor, who watched from the main stand wearing a scarf comprised of the national colours.

The 31-year-old former African Footballer of the Year was released by Tottenham Hotspur two months ago after making only 13 Premier League appearances last season.

Yannick Bolasie, whose goal last weekend helped Crystal Palace inflict a first defeat on new Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, was on target again as the Democratic Republic of Congo triumphed 3-2 in Burundi. The winger put the visitors ahead after five minutes as torrential rain turned much of the Stade Prince Louis Rwagasore pitch in Bujumbura into mini-lakes.

A Cedric Amissi brace nudged the Burundians ahead before a couple of late goals from Qatar-based Firmin Ndombe Mubele swung the match back in favour of the Congolese.

Morocco, whose last of four World Cup appearances was 17 years ago in France, overcame Equatorial Guinea 2-0 at Grand Stade d'Agadir in the southern coastal city. Youssef El Arabi put the Atlas Lions ahead on the half hour and Yacine Bammou struck midway through the second half. — AFP



SANTIAGO: Colombia's James Rodriguez, center, followed by teammate Jackson Martinez, takes a shot on goal as Chile's Francisco Silva, left, attempts to block the shot, in Santiago, Chile, Thursday. — AP

JAMES STRIKES FOR COLOMBIA AS DELUGE SINKS BRAZIL-ARGENTINA

MONTEVIDEO: Real Madrid star James Rodriguez returned to snatch a draw for Colombia against Chile on Thursday as Argentina and Brazil's long-awaited World Cup qualifying clash was postponed by torrential rain.

Rodriguez, who missed Colombia's opening two 2018 World Cup qualifiers last month through injury, pounced in the 68th minute to help give his team a precious point in a 1-1 draw with the Copa America champions in Santiago. Chile, who dominated possession for long periods but struggled to break down a disciplined Colombian defence, had taken the lead on the stroke of half-time through a headed Arturo Vidal effort.

In other games Thursday, surprise package Ecuador defeated Uruguay 2-1 to maintain their 100 percent start to the qualifying campaign after three matches. Ecuador, shock winners over Argentina in Buenos Aires last month, secured all three points through Fidel Martinez's second-half winner. Uruguay, missing suspended superstar Luis Suarez—still serving a ban for his infamous bite at the 2014 World Cup—struggled to contain a vibrant Ecuador side, comfortable in the challenging

thin Andean air of Quito, some 9,000-feet above sea level.

Ecuador took the lead on 23 minutes through Felipe Caicedo, the Espanyol striker coolly tucking away a low cross from Juan Paredes on the right flank. But Uruguay levelled four minutes after half-time through returning striker Edinson Cavani, the Paris Saint-Germain forward heading home from Nicolas Lodeiro's perfectly flighted free-kick.

But Ecuador regained the lead only 10 minutes later however through an opportunistic strike from Martinez.

'Superclasico' washout

Swansea City forward Jefferson Montero was the catalyst, cutting in purposefully from the left flank and unleashing a fierce low shot towards Fernando Muslera.

Muslera could only parry the shot into the path of Martinez, who jabbed home the rebound to trigger wild celebrations in Quito's Atahualpa Stadium. Ecuador will now aim to secure a fourth consecutive victory when they travel to Venezuela next Tuesday.

Venezuela, who lost their opening two matches last month, suffered a third defeat

earlier Thursday when they slumped to a 4-2 defeat to Bolivia in La Paz. But the most eagerly awaited match of the day, the "Superclasico" between South American heavyweights Argentina and Brazil, was a washout. Torrential rain pounded Buenos Aires for hours prior to kick off, leaving the pitch at River Plate's famous Monumental Stadium heavily waterlogged with no chance of play possible.

"The bad weather made it impossible for the match to be played. Heavy rain is still falling on Buenos Aires so the match has been postponed," a statement from the Argentine Football Association (AFA) said. The match was called off approximately 40 minutes before it was due to kick-off at 9pm local time (0000 GMT).

Argentina and Brazil will now face each other on Friday, weather permitting. Brazil are welcoming back superstar striker Neymar from suspension after his four-match ban at the Copa America.

Argentina meanwhile are looking to bag their first win of the qualifying campaign after taking only one point from their first two matches last month. — AFP



PETERSBURG: In this Saturday, July 25, 2015 file photo UEFA President Michel Platini, left, FIFA vice president Angel Maria Villar Llona attend the preliminary draw for the 2018 soccer World Cup in Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia. The adjudicatory chamber of FIFA's Ethics Committee yesterday imposed the sanction of a warning and a fine on Villar Llona, Vice-President of FIFA and President of the Spanish Football Association. — AP

ROONEY FACES 'HUGE CHALLENGE' FOR ENGLAND STARTING PLACE

LONDON: Wayne Rooney has said he faces a "huge challenge" to keep his place in England's starting line-up and hailed their current crop of forwards as the "best group of strikers" he has played with. The England captain will not start Friday's friendly against Spain in Alicante, with manager Roy Hodgson expected to pair the in-form Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane and Everton midfielder Ross Barkley in attack.

Rooney, England's record goalscorer, has nine goals in 20 games in all competitions this season, but has lost much of the explosiveness that marked him out as a special talent when he burst on to the scene as a 16-year-old for Everton. He has scored twice in 11 Premier League games for Manchester United this term, well behind the league's top scorer Jamie Vardy (12 goals) of Leicester City, and Kane, who has five in his last three

league games. "I want to prove myself. I feel that since Roy has been in charge, my international form has been great," Rooney told reporters at a pre-match news conference. "I have scored a lot of goals and I hope that will continue."

The imminent returns of Daniel Sturridge, Theo Walcott and Danny Welbeck will also increase Hodgson's selection headache for next year's European Championship finals in France. Welbeck has a knack of finding the back of the net for England and scored six in his last seven games for his country before injuring his knee.

Sturridge, who has played only three times this season, has scored two league goals. Walcott, expected back after the international break, is finding his feet as a central striker, and like Vardy can also play out wide.

"It's certainly the best group of strikers since I've been involved in the squad," Rooney said. "It's a huge challenge to keep your place in the team and that's what I want to do."

Hodgson also backed Barkley to thrive playing behind the striker as England gear-up to face a higher quality of opposition than they encountered in their Euro 2016 qualifying group.

"We're going to find ourselves in a situation now where games should be more cut and thrust," Hodgson said. "Counter-attacking football has not really been much of an option (in the qualifiers) because the opponents have stayed so deep."

"We think the type of players we have in the team are well suited to counter-attacking football and Barkley, of course, is one of those." — Reuters



OSLO: Norway's Per Ciljan Skjelbred, left, duels for the ball with Hungary's Attila Fiola during their Euro 2016 play off match in Oslo, Thursday. — AP

HUNGARY ON VERGE OF FINALS AFTER VICTORY IN NORWAY

OSLO: Hungary moved tantalisingly close to a first appearance at a major tournament for nearly 30 years when Laszlo Kleinheisler's goal gave them a 1-0 win in the first leg of a Euro 2016 playoff against Norway in Oslo on Thursday. Kleinheisler scored the game's only goal in the 26th minute, taking a touch to control Adam Szalai's pass before whipping the ball home after Norway had created a flurry of chances in a strong opening period. A draw in the home leg on Sunday will put Hungary into the finals in France after years in the wilderness since they qualified for the 1986 World Cup.

"We are happy now after 90 minutes, to win this game, but the second game will be on Sunday. We can't think about celebrating," Hungary coach Bernd Storck told reporters. "It's a very good job and nothing more—we have to do a very good job on Sunday," he added.

Norway attacked relentlessly in search of an equaliser but they lacked guile in attack as Hungary's veteran goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly celebrated his 100th cap with a clean sheet. Norway were denied two second-half penalties for fouls on Omar Elabdellaoui, and coach Per-Mathias Hogmo expressed his dissatisfaction with English referee Mark Clattenburg. Clattenburg booked the full back for diving for the second incident and turned down an even stronger call for the first when Elabdellaoui went down after having his shirt pulled. "Clearly a penalty. Crystal clear," Hogmo told reporters.

"It's remarkable that an experienced referee didn't see it." Norway battled on and came close late on, but substitute Pal Andre Helland's header hit the bar and Hogmo now has to rally his players for the second leg in Budapest. The defeat was Norway's first by Hungary since 1981 and highlighted their inability to score, having managed only 13 goals during a qualifying campaign in which midfielder Alexander Tettey was their top scorer with three goals. In all they managed 16 shots but only six on target, the best coming in the third minute when captain Per Ciljan Skjelbred's well-struck effort was steered to safety by Kiraly. — Reuters

URUGUAY SINK AS PERFECT ECUADOR MARCH ON

QUITO: Ecuador defeated Uruguay 2-1 to maintain their 100 percent start to South American World Cup qualifiers on Thursday with a third consecutive victory.

Ecuador, who opened their qualifying campaign with a stunning upset of Argentina in Buenos Aires last month, took another three points after Fidel Martinez's second-half winner.

The victory left Ecuador with nine points after three games of South America's marathon qualifying tournament for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

The Ecuadorans are bidding to qualify for their second World Cup finals in a row after reaching the 2014 tournament in Brazil, where they were eliminated in the first round.

Uruguay, missing suspended superstar Luis Suarez—still serving a ban for his infamous bite at the 2014 World Cup—struggled to contain a vibrant Ecuador side, comfortable in the challenging thin Andean air of Quito, some 9,000-feet above sea level.

Ecuador took the lead on 23 minutes through Felipe Caicedo, the Espanyol striker coolly tucking away a low cross from Juan Paredes on the right flank.

But Uruguay levelled four minutes after half-time through returning striker Edinson Cavani, the Paris Saint-Germain forward heading home from Nicolas Lodeiro's perfectly flighted free-kick.

But Ecuador regained the lead only 10 minutes later however through an opportunistic strike from Martinez.

Swansea City forward Jefferson Montero was the catalyst, cutting in purposefully from the left flank and unleashing a fierce low shot towards Fernando Muslera.

Muslera could only parry the shot into the path of Martinez, who jabbed home the rebound to trigger wild celebrations in Quito's Atahualpa Stadium. Ecuador will now aim to secure a fourth consecutive victory when they travel to Venezuela next Tuesday. Venezuela, who lost their opening two matches last month, suffered a third defeat earlier Thursday when they slumped to a 4-2 defeat to Bolivia in La Paz.

Striker Rodrigo Ramallo scored two

first-half goals as Bolivia got their World Cup qualifying campaign off the ground with an exciting 4-2 home victory over Venezuela on Thursday.

The win at the Hernando Siles stadium lifted Bolivia off the bottom of South America's qualifying standings following two defeats last month in which they failed to score.

Bolivia, who have not reached the World Cup finals since 1994, avoided equalling their worst run of 10 qualifying matches without a win set between 2005 and 2008.

Venezuela, who had managed a 1-1 draw on their previous visit to La Paz for a qualifier in June 2013, struggled with Bolivia's pace 3,600 metres above sea level and are bottom with no points.

Ramallo opened the scoring in the 19th minute with a chip over goalkeeper

Alain Baroja and four minutes later midfielder Juan Carlos Arce converted a penalty to put Venezuela in further trouble.

Mario Rondon got La Vinotinto back into the match after half an hour when deflected Tomas Rincon's initial effort past goalkeeper Daniel Vaca into the net.

The home side, however, took a 3-1 lead into the interval after Ramallo's second goal, a diving header in first-half stoppage time.

Bolivia went three goals up three minutes into the second half when Rudy Cardozo converted on the rebound after Baroja had parried a shot from Ramallo. Richard Blanco pulled another goal back in the 55th and Rondon had a header ruled out for offside in the dying minutes before Venezuela had striker Luis Seijas sent off deep into stoppage time. — Agencies



QUITO: Uruguay's Sebastian Coates, right, fights for the ball with Ecuador's Miller Bolanos during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Quito, Ecuador, Thursday. Ecuador won the match 2-1. — AP

Sports



Australia dominate as Warner hits double century 44



PHOENIX: Phoenix Suns guard Eric Bledsoe draws the offensive foul on Los Angeles Clippers guard Jamal Crawford (11) during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, in Phoenix. —AP

CURRY SCORES 46, WARRIORS STAY UNBEATEN

MINNESOTA: Sam Mitchell just shrugged his shoulders watching guard Stephen Curry make shot after shot. It seemed as though he never missed. Curry scored 46 points to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 129-116 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves at Target Center. Mitchell, Minnesota's interim head coach, said his team played good defense. They contested shots. They put pressure on Curry.

It did not matter. "You commit so much effort to try and slow Steph Curry down and he still scores (46) points," Mitchell said. "You sit there and wonder, if you don't do those things and you just try to put him conventionally, he might get 60."

It was the fourth time this season Curry scored at least 20 points in a single quarter and his third 40-point game. He shot 15-for-25 on the night, including 8-for-13 from 3-point range. "He was decent tonight. He was OK," Warriors interim coach Luke Walton said with a smile.

"He's just so dangerous. At any time, he can go on a 6-0, 8-0 run just off of transition and getting a steal and putting it up

for three. He's always in attack mode."

At 10-0, Golden State is off to the best start in franchise history. The 1960-61 Warriors opened 9-0. "Definitely a good start to the season, best start we could have hopes for," Curry said. "(We) just want to keep it going. We can still play better." Andrew Wiggins led Minnesota with 19 points, Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds, and reserve forward Shabazz Muhammad added 16 points in 19 minutes. The Timberwolves, who are 4-0 on the road this season, dropped to 0-4 at home. Curry had 21 points after the first quarter and 25 at the half as the Warriors looked to run away with the game early.

'ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE'

The Warriors scored the game's first 10 points, including six by Curry. He had 12 points and lifted the Warriors to a 22-10 lead before Minnesota called timeout less than halfway through the quarter.

Curry finished the first quarter 6-for-9 from the floor, including 4-for-5 from

beyond the arc, as the Warriors led by 40-27 after the period. With last season's MVP on the bench, Minnesota pulled as close as 48-42 midway through the second but trailed 75-63 at the half. The 75 points scored by Golden State are the most by any team in a half this season.

With Minnesota getting back into the game, Curry entered and scored 10 more in the third, including back-to-back threes as Golden State pushed their lead to its largest of the night at 21 points.

However, the Wolves closed the quarter on an 11-0 run, capped by guard Kevin Martin's 18-foot jumper at the buzzer to pull within 97-87.

"I was hoping he was going to be done," Walton said. "He played some big minutes last night but obviously it was going to depend on how the game went. That's a good team and they fought back and got back into it." Martin started the fourth with a 3-pointer to get Minnesota back within single digits, and the Wolves clawed as close as 104-99 before the Warriors pulled away late.

"To get down a deficit like we did, to roar back and be so close," Towns said, "that's something, like I've said before, we just continue to fight. When the team fights, anything is possible." All five Warriors starters finished in double figures. Forward Draymond Green had 23 points to go with 12 assists and eight rebounds. "We got some stops and crawled our way back into it," Mitchell said. "Then when you have Klay Thompson and (Andre) Iguodala and Harrison Barnes and Draymond Green, and all those guys, they spread the floor really well. "They're just a very tough basketball team to defend because of all those shooters. You can't leave anybody open."

HEAT 92, JAZZ 91

Chris Bosh scored 25 points, and reserve Tyler Johnson capped his 17-point night with two key field goals in the final 1:48 as Miami won its third straight win to open a seven-game homestand. Goran Dragic finished with 14 points and Hassan Whiteside grabbed 14 rebounds for Miami, which started the game on a 9-0 run and

opened the fourth quarter with a 13-4 spurt. Derrick Favors led Utah with 25 points and 12 rebounds. Gordon Hayward had 24 points and 11 rebounds and Alec Burks added 24 - the last of those a 3-pointer as time expired - for the Jazz. Miami played without Dwyane Wade, who was excused for a family emergency. Utah was without starting center Rudy Gobert, the NBA's No. 3 shot-blocker, who has a sprained left ankle.

SUNS 118, CLIPPERS 104

Brandon Knight matched his career high with 37 points and Eric Bledsoe fell an assist shy of his second career triple-double as Phoenix rolled past the severely depleted Clippers. Bledsoe had 26 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. The Clippers were without starting guards Chris Paul (groin strain) and J.J. Redick (lower back spasms), then Blake Griffin was ejected after drawing his second technical foul with 2:36 left in the first half. That left Los Angeles without its top three scorers the rest of the way. —Agencies