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IS JIHADISTS CLAIM PARIS ATTACKS THAT KILLED 128

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(Right) Victims of a shooting attack are seen on the pavement outside La Belle Equipe restaurant in Paris late Friday. (Top left) French President Francois Hollande, protected by armed bodyguards, stands near the Bataclan concert hall in central Paris early yesterday; (Above left) A memorial of flowers and candles is seen in Strasbourg, eastern France, yesterday. — AFP

PARIS: Islamic State jihadists yesterday claimed a series of coordinated attacks by gunmen and suicide bombers in Paris that killed at least 128 people in scenes of carnage at a concert hall, restaurants and the national stadium. French President Francois Hollande also blamed the Islamist extremist group for the bloodshed and called the coordinated assault on Friday night at six different sites an "act of war".

Authorities identified the body of a French national known to the intelligence services near the Bataclan concert hall, where 82 people were killed by armed men who had shouted "Allahu akbar" ("God is greatest!") before gunning down concert-goers. Police sources said he was probably one of those who stormed the building as around 1,500 people were watching a Californian rock band. The discovery of Syrian and Egyptian passports near the body of other of assailants appeared to justify fears over the threat posed to Europe by extremism in the Middle East.

SEE PAGES 10, 11, 14, 20 & 40

The attacks, which saw the first-ever suicide bombings on French soil, were "prepared, organized and planned overseas, with help from inside (France) which the investigation will establish," Hollande said. Analysts at Eurasia Group said the attacks "confirm a structural shift in the modus operandi of the Islamic State, and represent a prelude to additional attacks in the West." A man arrested in Germany in early November after guns and explosives were found in his car may be linked to the attacks in Paris, Bavaria's state premier said, without giving details.

The streets of the French capital were eerily quiet yesterday, as authorities declared a state of national emergency following the worst attacks in Europe since the 2004 Madrid train bombings. While many residents stayed inside out of fear, hundreds gathered spontaneously at blood donation centres while others flocked to place candles and flowers at the sites where people had died.

Continued on Page 15

KUWAIT REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH FRANCE

AMIR SENDS CONDOLENCES • NO CHANGE IN SCHENGEN VISA ISSUANCE

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday night sent a cable of condolence to French President Francois Hollande following the attacks in Paris. The Amir strongly condemned "these criminal acts of terrorism which run counter to all teachings of holy faith and humanitarian values", and expressed sincere condolences over the large number of victims.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's solidarity with the French people and government, saying Kuwait supports all measures France might take to protect its security against terrorist acts. He also renewed Kuwait's commitment to the international campaign against all forms of terrorism. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables to Hollande.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem also strongly condemned the terrorist attacks. He sent a cable of condolence to the President of the French National Assembly Claude Bartolone to express profound grief over the tragic incidents and reaffirm full support to the people and government of friendly France. Ghanem said terrorism has become a global menace everywhere in the world, which requires a global collective effort to eradicate it. He wished those wounded in the multiple attacks quick recovery.

Meanwhile, a Kuwait Foreign Ministry official said Friday night that Kuwait followed, with profound concern and grief, the news of the despicable acts of terrorism

which hit Paris. Such heinous acts can only strengthen the resolve of the friends in France to pursue their role in the fight against terrorism, the official said, reaffirming Kuwait's solidarity with France in all measures it might take to protect its security and stability.

Kuwait maintains its principled stance against all forms of terrorism whatever the sources or justifications might be, the official stressed. He expressed condolences to the grieving families and wished the wounded quick recovery. Kuwait Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman urged all Kuwaiti nationals and students to remain vigilant for their safety and follow the instructions of the local authorities.

Continued on Page 15



'Jihadi John'

SEARCH FOR 'JIHADI JOHN' TOOK MONTHS

WASHINGTON: The US-British missile strike believed to have killed "Jihadi John" came together at lightning speed, but was months in preparation. Shortly before midnight Thursday, two US MQ-9 Reaper drones and one British MQ-9 cruised above Raqqa, the Syrian heart of the Islamic State's self-declared caliphate that stretches deep into Iraq, US officials said. The aircraft's controllers monitored two people who had entered a parked car.

One, they were convinced, was Mohammed Emwazi, the British computer programming graduate who catapulted to infamy in Aug 2014 when he presented the beheading of American journalist James Foley, the first of several grisly videos in which he presided over the decapitations of foreign hostages. Brandishing a knife, dressed head to toe in black, and speaking with a London accent, Emwazi became known as "Jihadi John", the most potent symbol of the group's brutality and a high-value target for US and British intelligence agencies.

US officials said the US and British military operation to kill Emwazi had been in the works well before the drones finally unleashed Hellfire missiles on Thursday night. US and British agencies had tracked the Islamic State propagandist and alleged executioner for months before delivering information on his movements and location to the US military, officials said.

In the days leading up to the strike Emwazi had been moving around Raqqa, visiting his wife's residence and an Islamic State media operations cell, said one US official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The subsequent US and British operation unfolded quickly.

Continued on Page 15



ANTALYA, Turkey: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (right) meets Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud yesterday before the upcoming G20 Turkey Leaders' Summit. — AFP

TERRORISM CENTER-STAGE AS WORLD LEADERS MEET

BELEK, Turkey: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan urged world leaders yesterday to prioritize the fight against terrorism as they gathered for a summit in southwestern Turkey, saying the Paris attacks claimed by Islamic State showed the time for words was now over. The worst bloodshed in France since the end of World War Two cast a pall over preparations for the two-day summit of the Group of 20 major economies that begins today and is due to

be attended by heads of state including US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

French President Francois Hollande has pulled out of the meetings but told Erdogan by phone that his foreign and finance ministers would attend, Turkish presidential sources said. At least 127 people were killed as bombers and gunmen went on a rampage across the French

Continued on Page 15

10 DEAD AS FRENCH TRAIN DERAILS DURING TEST RUN

STRASBOURG, France: Ten people were killed after a French high-speed train derailed during a test run yesterday, local officials said, announcing a rise in the death toll. The train accident happened "because of excessive speed" at Eckwersheim in eastern France as technicians were on board for testing, said a top local official Dominique-Nicolas Jane. However, police said the cause of the crash had not been determined. A source close to the investigation said dozens of technicians were aboard. Another 32 people were injured, 12 seriously. French Environment Minister Segolene Royal said at the scene that a further five were

unaccounted for. All those aboard the train were employees of the SNCF national railways.

The accident is the worst since the French TGV trains went into service in 1981. A total of 49 technicians, but no paying passengers, were onboard when the accident happened during testing on one of the next generation of TGV high-speed trains due to go into service in Spring 2016, the local prefecture said. The train ended up near a bridge in the water of a roughly 40-m-wide canal. A police dive team, helicopters and tens of rescue vehicles were sent to the scene in response to the crash. The initial toll was put at "at least five dead". — Agencies



ECKWERSHEIM, France: Rescuers work at the scene where a high-speed TGV train coach and engine carriage lie in a canal in near Strasbourg after derailing yesterday. — AFP



French Ambassador Christian Nakhle and Hessa Al-Humadhie stand for a moment of silence in support of the families of the victims of the Paris attack.



Waleed Shaalan leads the audience into a moment of silence for the Paris attacks' victims.

NUQAT CONFERENCE AUDIENCE PAYS RESPECT TO PARIS ATTACKS' VICTIMS

FRENCH AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGES CONDOLENCES MESSAGES

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: French Ambassador Christian Nakhle yesterday thanked everyone for the condolence messages he received after the terrorist attacks in Paris late Friday. He was speaking during the third day of the Nuqat conference "Copy & Paste" at the Americani Centre of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyah (DAI). Nakhle then joined the audience in a moment of silence to support the families of the victims of the attack.

Friday

On Friday, the program started with a gathering (diwaniya) about the copy and paste syndrome by personalities in the social media world and the influential role of bloggers and fashionistas. The discussion was moderated by Faisal Al-Fuhaid, followed by talks by art historian Dr Slawa Mikkadi, who spoke about transforming art narratives from imitation to original works of art. Architects Kevin Mitchell, Manar Mursi and other professionals also spoke later.

"The best thing about Nuqat is not just the event itself, but that the conference acts as a catalyst to link a lot of events going around in town at the same time. It brings together different cultural experiences and not only art, as you can actually witness art being created live. Art

becomes a performance as well. You get musical events, performance arts, lectures, workshops and different people from different places. It brings everything together. Also, it addresses people on many levels. You can be a person who has passion for arts or you could be somebody who's a specialist - you can find layers of information that you can extract. It is incredibly enriching and very satisfying," said architect Waleed Shaalan, the host of Nuqat.

Saturday

Yesterday, nine talks including those by artist Cyril Duval, conceptualist Jason Steel and documentary photographer Laura Boushnak, and an interactive game for the audience were held. Boushnak spoke about her experiences in documenting the problems of education in the region. Kuwait Times asked her about the need of maintaining human dignity while documenting tragic cases. "I spend a lot of time with the people I take pictures of and I can tell you that no one likes to be pictured as a victim to evoke pity. Some photographers take tragic images to sell them for the purpose of sympathy, while what those people need is empathy. This is why my project focuses on success stories and dignity appears clearly through my images," she replied.

Nuqat's cohosts are the Amricani Cultural Center, DAI, LOYAC and Al Shaheed Park, who are all offering their



Photographer Laura Boushnak speaks at the event.

spaces for Nuqat's main program. Its cultural partners include Institut Francais, the French Embassy and the British Council. The conference continues with activities and programs until November 18.



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MP Kamel Al-Awadhi

MP AWADHI CONDEMNS PARIS ATTACKS TERRORISM IS BLIND

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Chairman of the parliament's foreign affairs committee MP Kamel Al-Awadhi condemned the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of 150 and injured around 200 others in France. Awadhi stressed that terrorism is blind and that it strikes many places worldwide regardless of religion, doctrine or state. He also stressed that nobody could claim that terrorism originates from certain countries, adding that Arab countries were the most countries that suffered from its impact. "Those attacks probably present an opportunity for the world to stand united and face this black malicious terrorism," he underlined.

Kuwait, UK meeting

Kuwait and the United Kingdom are currently preparing various security and economic issues to be discussed during both countries' joint committee meeting, due to be held by the end of November. Informed sources said that Kuwait's delegation to the meeting would be headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Jarallah, adding that security concerns would take a major part of discussions, including providing Kuwait with developed British security equipment as well as training Kuwaiti security staff members. Further, the sources denied that a British request to hand over bedoons (stateless residents) who had resorted to the United Kingdom back to Kuwait would be discussed on the meeting. The sources also stressed that Kuwait said it would only receive bedoons registered with the Central Agency for Illegal Residents.

E-media bill

The parliamentary educational affairs committee is scheduled to discuss a bill on authors and patent rights in addition to the e-media bill on its meeting today, said informed sources, noting that Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah is scheduled to attend the meeting.

Abdali polyclinic

Health minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi said that a special budget had been allocated to pull down and rebuild the Abdali polyclinic, adding that consultations had already started to select an engineering consultant office to design and execute the project.

In my view

WAR IN THE HEART OF PARIS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

local@kuwaittimes.net

French newspapers described the Paris attacks as a 'War in the heart of Paris' with black mastheads. The Paris attacks are indeed an act of radical terrorism. It is an insult to humanity, and an incident that should unite the world to combat terror regardless of its location, source and power.

A state of emergency has been declared across France after attacks on restaurants, a concert hall and a sports stadium on Friday in Paris killed at least 128 people with hundreds being injured and many of them in critical condition so far. It is indeed a barbaric attack and whoever is behind this mission should not be allowed to escape punishment, be they militants, French citizens, immigrants or even state intelligence. So far, there are mixed reports over who is who behind this mess. So far, all media reports are directing fingers to conservative Islamic groups that could have a connection with the Islamic State (IS) or Salafi groups, or even new groups. All attacks have caused damage against clear targets and innocent civilians.

Four gunmen killed at least 80 young people attending a rock concert at the Bataclan music hall. The attackers were killed at the site. The assault came as France, a member of the US-led coalition waging air strikes against the Islamic State (IS), was on high alert for attacks. Police said eight assailants had also died, seven of whom had blown themselves up with explosive belts at various locations, while one had been shot dead by police.

Although IS has later declared its responsibility for the attacks, and they are a pure murderers, I think the assumption to believe this theory alone is not enough. I think such attacks need also the work of insiders, professionals and trained killers, probably French Immigrants with conservative roots who really hate France. There is a possible existence of accomplices who might be fleeing right now. Especially with the growing of conservative Salafi ideologies in France in recent years. I think France now should be open to all options. The blood of innocent people must not go in vain.

What happened is really a terrible crime against humanity. Therefore, we should not rest to consider we are safe just because we are thousands of miles away. There is no safe place as long as there are others who worship killing and bloodshed.

Reports also said that Paris has cancelled all public transportation services including the Metro yesterday, as French newspapers decried a 'War in the heart of Paris' with black mastheads. Meanwhile, some Arabs on social media here were trying to undermine the crime and in fact, some of their comments were provocative, rude and illogical because they kept comparing the number of dead people in Syria and other places with the hundreds of those who died in Paris. This comparison is wrong and naive.

All Arabian Gulf states have condemn the Paris attacks including Kuwait's government, because the attacks violate all human and moral values. I express my condolences to the French government and people of France for the terrorist attacks which are in violation of all religions, ethics and manners.

BRITISH BUSINESS DELEGATION TO VISIT KUWAIT LATE FEBRUARY

LONDON: Chief Executive Officer of Pathfinder Trade and Invest Michael Thomas announced yesterday organizing of a visit of a delegation of British businessmen to Kuwait from the 21st to the 25th of February in order to discuss investment opportunities in the state's development plan.



Michael Thomas

Thomas said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that he looks forward to head the British delegation, which hoped to include the largest possible number of representatives of all the vital sectors such as renewable energy, health, education, technology, and tourism, in addition to various infrastructure projects.

He said that British businessmen will hold several important meetings with their Kuwaiti counterparts and officials in the state in order to access to investment opportunities and projects available. He stressed that British companies are ready to help Kuwait in achieving its ambitious plan to build a strong and diverse economy capable of creating jobs and wealth for future generations.

Thomas described the development plan in Kuwait as a radiant light and came at a time the Middle East is witnessing enormous developments and changes chiefly the big drop in oil prices and security tensions such as those experienced by Syria and Yemen.

The Kuwaiti government projects he said came at a very exciting time where most of the countries in the region have cut funding for major projects because of the collapse in oil prices. Thomas felt that the Kuwaiti government has realized what it must do to diversify sources of national income so as not to face bigger difficulties and challenges in the future, especially if oil prices continue to fall for longer periods. He stressed that the development plan in Kuwait is characterized by the size of its large and ambitious projects which target vital sectors capable of advancing economic development projects forward. —KUNA

UNESCO CHOICE OF SHEIKH ABDULLAH AL-JABER 'AN HONOR FOR KUWAIT'

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Saleh Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said UNESCO selection of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as an international educational and cultural figure for 2014-2015 represents a tribute to Kuwait.

Sheikh Salman told KUNA, the UNESCO choice is a recognition of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber in the construction of educational and cultural renaissance of Kuwait since the mid-thirties that left its mark in Arab and international scenes. It also represents a beacon of cultural and educational thought that proceeded its age in Arab and international arenas.

Meanwhile, UNESCO held a ceremony to honor the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah - mastermind of much of Kuwait's cultural and educational accomplishments - as the 2014-15 international personality of educational and cultural achievements held in French capital today. Representing His Highness the Amir



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the ceremony was Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarah Al-Sabah. The late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had led the educational, cultural and enlightenment renaissance in Kuwait. —KUNA

EGOV3 FORUM OPENS TODAY UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S PATRONAGE

KUWAIT: Engineer Magdi Sabri, head of the organizing committee announced the start today of the EGOV Forum for the 3rd consecutive year - Information Management and Security - under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The Forum will be inaugurated by Minister of State for the Council of Ministers Affairs and Chairman of the Central Agency for Information Technology Sheikh Mohammad Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah at 6 pm in Marriott Courtyard Hotel's Arraya Ballroom, in the presence of government and legislative personalities with a host of leaders and specialists from the State Information Systems departments.

Commenting on this annual event, Sabri said that the EGOV Forum, which is being held for the third consecutive year, had attracted in the previous two years top technology companies which had already

sketched the trajectory of the EG worldwide and is looking today to leading the new stage ushered by the Internet for Everything phenomenon which will take the whole world to unprecedented and unimaginable dimensions, when all things, work processes and people will become directly, in one way or another, connected to the internet.

Executive managers

Sabri welcomed the executive managers from international companies such as EMC, IBM, Microsoft, FireEye, Fortinet, Cisco and Unify. The Forum hosts this year a number of local companies which have distinguished themselves regionally and internationally such as ITS And Knet.

Sabri added: "The EGOV3 forum tackles two main topics that greatly impact the development of EG programs in Kuwait and other countries, namely, Information Management and Information Security. The

Internet for Everything phenomenon dominates these two issues through the various dimensions it imposes on the large data bases analysis systems, Cloud computing, mobile smart phones or social media and others that form the basis of the information structure necessary for the EG programs. The Smart Cities topic is strongly present in these programs in order to ensure an active popular participation and a wide provision of governmental services in all walks of life.

New horizons

Sabri added that the NoufEXPO team was proud to organize this event and cooperate with the Central Agency for Information Technology in holding the Forum. He added that the assistance of all governmental agencies in this effort drives the role of the Agency and the EG programs towards new horizons that serve the progress and development in the



Engineer Magdi Sabri

State of Kuwait, especially because the Information Technology is a vital factor in attracting the productive work force among the youths in particular and in strengthening the national economy with new sources of income. Sabri concluded his statement by thanking the companies, the institutions and the specialists who helped in convening the Form as well as the guests from outside the State of Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Deputy head of the Informatics Award organizing committee Bassam Al-Shammari is seen at the press conference. —KUNA

INFORMATICS AWARDS GIVEN TO 10 GOV'TS, ARAB BODIES

KUWAIT: Ten government and Arab institutions have won the 2015 prizes of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award, as the best users of social media in the Arab World. Winners of the 15th version of the Award cover the government, the private sector, education, health and civil society.

Kuwait has won three prizes, deputy head of the Informatics Award organizing committee Bassam Al-Shammari told a press conference yesterday. The National Mobile Telecommunications Company (Ooredoo) won third place in the private sector category, while charity organization

Direct Aid won the award of the civil society, and Taiba Hospital was given the second prize in health, he added.

Shammari said that the Royal Hashemite Court (Jordan) won the first prize for government bodies, followed by the Dubai Media Incorporated (DMI), while the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority came third in the culture category.

Two Saudi companies, Almarai and Jari won first and second places in the private sector category respectively while Dallah Hospital received the third prize in health. The education prize was awarded to Qatar Foundation, Shammari said. —KUNA

SLOGAN OF KUWAIT AS CAPITAL FOR ISLAMIC CULTURE 2016 CHOSEN

KUWAIT: Assistant Secretary General of National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) for the cultural sector Mohammad Al-Asousi said that the technical committee of the celebration of Kuwait as the capital of Islamic culture 2016 has chosen the slogan of the event.

The committee cancelled the previous slogan that ran counter to the terms of the celebration and so the slogan designed by Jassem Al-Nasrallah was chosen for the event, Asousi said yesterday. "A number of countries across the globe will take part in the event as a step to promote and strengthen our relations with the world in the areas of arts and culture. Some official bodies in the country, civil society organizations and the private sector will also participate in it through presenting different cultural activities," he said. Kuwait's celebration as a capital of Islamic culture 2016 will coincide with the launch of

Qurain Cultural Festival slated for January 18.

The celebration comes in implementation of the resolution issued during the sixth conference of ministers of culture of the Islamic countries. The State of Kuwait will, through the event, seek to show the real image of Islam - the religion of tolerance and peace - and the civilized image of Kuwait among the world's countries.

A supreme committee was formed under the chairmanship of His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and some ministers, and another committee headed by Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and President of NCCAL Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Saleh Al-Humoud Al-Sabah was also formed to supervise this celebration and other events during the coming year as they believe in the interest of such cultural activities. —KUNA

KUWAITI PAPER WINS 3RD PLACE IN EUROPEAN MEDICAL CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti scientific paper has won the third place in a recent major European nephrology event, director of the kidney and urinary tract surgery program at Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization, Abdullatif Al-Turki said yesterday. The paper, prepared by the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization, an affiliate of the Ministry of Health, came third in the 11th European conference on kidney and urinary tract surgery held in Turkey lately, Turki said.

Turki, a consultative doctor of kidney

and urinary tract surgery at the Amiri Hospital, noted that the paper was prepared by a trainee doctor of the program Abdulrahman Al-Kandari, on treatment of kidney stones. A host of papers from the program were submitted to the European conference, held in the Turkish city of Antalya, 6-8 November. Previously, the program took part in an Arab conference on surgery of kidney and urinary tract, held in Amman, Jordan, 3-6 November with four papers, Turki said. —KUNA

AUTHORITY URGES SETTLING SPORTS DISPUTES INTERNALLY

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) called on national sports authorities to resort to the judicial authority or the circuit tasked of disputes in the sector for tackling differences. PAS said in a statement yesterday that the State rules do not bar referral to the judicial authorities, or the Olympic committee, the sports unions or the cup tribunal. The dispute cases

should be referred to the competent authorities at the national level, instead of seeking justice from "organizations outside the country." It expressed gratitude to the Minister of Justice and the Higher Judicial Council for establishing the sports court in the country. It also thanked the political leaders for their limitless support for the Kuwaiti sports' independence. —KUNA

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KUWAIT: Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah is pictured with Nuwair's team. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah is pictured with some participants.

NUWAIR INITIATIVE ORGANIZES 'DRIVE KINDLY' YELLOW PARADE

KUWAIT: For the second time and coinciding with the World Kindness Day, the Nuwair Initiative yesterday organized its 'Drive Kindly' Yellow Parade along the Arabian Gulf road, said Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the initiative's chairperson. She noted that the parade aims at promoting the Ministry of Interior's instructions to drive carefully and rationally. Over 40 yellow vehicles and three school buses took part in the parade along with scores of people, Ali added. "The parade aims at generating awareness about being kind on the road and promoting compassionate driving like

following traffic rules, giving way to others, and being considerate and cheerful on the road in general," she explained, noting that the parade started at the beginning of the Gulf Road and ending at Benaid Al-Gar with participation from both public and private sector bodies. Meanwhile, Gaya Kruchlik, the campaign's manager, said that the parade only include vehicles painted in yellow to highlight the fact that yellow represents kindness, happiness, optimism and positivity. She added that Kuwait now joins other world countries celebrating the Kindness Day. — KUNA



Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah with the bicycle team.



Yellow vehicles pass by the Kuwait Towers.



Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah with the Camaro team.



The parade underway.

MINOR FIRE EXTINGUISHED IN SHUAIBA REFINERY: KNPC

KUWAIT: A fire described as 'minor' broke out in the Crude Oil Unit in Shuaiba Refinery on Friday but it was rapidly extinguished without any casualties, Kuwait National Petroleum Company said. The fire broke out due to a malfunction in one of the unit's pumps which caught the

blaze, KNPC acting spokesman Ali Abdullah told KUNA. The fire was put out in record time and no one was hurt, he added. Abdullah said the affected pump would be sealed in the coming hours and the Crude Oil Unit would be re-operated as soon as possible. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A fire broke at an apartment located in the Arbeed apartment buildings in Rega'ie yesterday. Firefighters managed to put the blaze under control before it could spread to other apartments. Three firemen were injured and were treated at the scene. Meanwhile, a case was filed to investigate the cause of the fire. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

OVER 7,200 ILLEGAL RESIDENTS ADJUSTED THEIR STATUS: AGENCY

KUWAIT: Since 2011 and until October 2015, some 7,243 illegal residents have adjusted their status in Kuwait, the Central Agency for Remedy of the Illegal Residents' Status said yesterday. The illegal residents have adjusted their status, reverting back to their Saudi, Iraqi, Iranian, Jordanian, and other nationalities, Head of the status adjustment department of the apparatus Colonel Mohammad Al-Wohaib said. He called on illegal residents, who are yet to adjust their status in the country, to

visit the headquarters of the central apparatus to do the necessary measures needed.

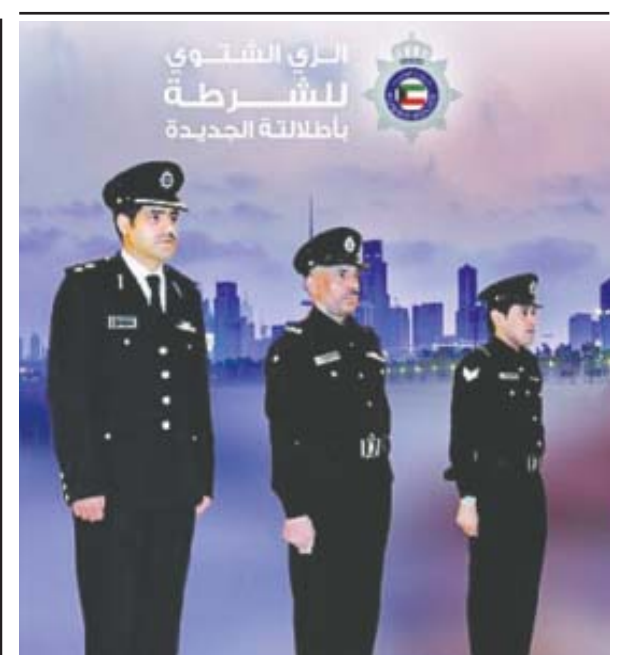
Wohaib affirmed that those complying with the law will be given residency visas which could be renewed every five years in addition to healthcare, education and ration cards. Other privileges such as priority in employment after Kuwaiti nationals and facilitating procedures for obtaining driving licenses will also apply upon adjustment of their status, said the official. — KUNA

COMPANIES REQUEST WORKERS' RECRUITMENT INSURANCE WAIVER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Manpower Public Authority mulls canceling the KD 250 financial security deposit that employers executing government projects have to make for each worker brought from abroad, said informed sources. Many major companies had requested remov-

ing the insurance imposed last April on grounds that the fee accumulates in view of the number of laborers each company brings, the sources said, adding that the companies believe that these funds could instead be utilized in finishing the projects quicker. "For example, a company bringing 2,000 laborers would have to pay half a million," explained the sources.



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's Relations and Security Media Department announced yesterday that all policemen and women will start wearing their black winter uniforms as of today Sunday November 15, 2015.

Special Report



Hayat Al-Yaqout



Dr Abdulaziz Abal

ARABIC VS ENGLISH: MOTHER TONGUE THREATENED BY LANGUAGE GLOBALIZATION

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: A rapid wave of change is necrotizing the Arabic language, as its rich and beautiful vocabulary is under the threat of the influence of English. Although there are no statistics about the number of people who have abandoned their mother tongue, there certainly is a global trend towards the adoption of English in everyday conversations, education and business. This abandonment of the mother language in favor of English is not limited to Arabic speakers. It is happening globally in almost all countries of the world.

Bringing people together

Language was invented by our ancestors millions of years ago to support them in transmitting ideas between each other. With about 8,000 languages around the world, it helps bring people together, and is considered a type of protection from ideas from those who speak different languages.

As a cultural tool, language helped develop the first human inventions. Therefore, it has been improved to accommodate more conceptions. It is a changing tool to keep up with man's present needs. The power of language is linked to the prosperity a person can provide to mankind. Therefore, weaker languages diminish with time, while the language of industry, luxury and science becomes the prevailing one. The changing process of speech has been a continuous one. Thus, it is a misnomer to call it a problem, and maybe the right thing is to face it with an open mind.

"Once upon a time, specifically during the reign of the Abbasids and Umayyads, classical Arabic was the most powerful language in the world," said Hayat Al-Yaqout, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Nashiri, a non-profit e-publishing house. "People who converted to Islam at that time needed to learn the language not only to understand the religion, but because the Islamic state was the exporter of inventions, scientists and philosophers. It was the cool language that everyone desired to learn."

Endangered generation

So why call to safeguard language if change and development are mainstream? How bizarre is the thought of robbing the identity of a whole community simply by speaking in a different language? Yaqout believes future Arab generations are endangered if they grow up not knowing classical Arabic. They need it because, from her point of view, dialect is poor of powerful vocabulary. "Language is a thinking tool; without a strong Arabic language, they won't be able to keep and live with the values that come with it. Every language brings its own values. Therefore, the future generations will forget their origins and their Arab identity," Yaqout told Kuwait Times.

But roaming in shopping centers, one might overhear parents speaking most of the time in English with their children. Also, English has become a requirement to hiring a domestic worker or nanny. Generally, using this language in daily conversations between youths and children is no longer limited to private school goers.

It is clear and obvious that English is taking over Arabic at all levels. In Kuwait, for example, after being a subject taught in middle school, English was introduced in the elementary stages in the late '90s. "We became a generation that fears the ignorance of English and are obsessed with the importance of learning the language," said Dr Abdulaziz Abal, an assistant professor at the American University of Kuwait. "I was only 15 years old in the United States with my family when the Iraqi regime invaded Kuwait. A lot of Kuwaitis like me did not understand what was going on. We were set to survival mode, and in order to get through this, we had to learn proper English. I think it's still somewhere in our subconscious that we might lose our country again, and therefore we must prepare our children to study and work abroad," he told Kuwait Times.

English is the most powerful language in the world. The media in general is a propagation tool, as movies, TV shows, Internet and social media are making it cool to speak English. Abal said the world is unanimous that English is the global language of business and academia. Plus, education and public life have become dependent on English sources because Arabic data on the Internet lacks of credibility. "Everything is in English," he said.

"When we try to see it from the child's perspective, we find that he chooses to speak in the language used in daily life and not his mother tongue, because he doesn't need it," said Abal. "We shouldn't fear colloquial language. It's close to the heart, and therefore will be absorbed and understood quicker than the classical language. Dialect is useful when we use it with Arab children who were raised in circumstances that led to weakness in their Arabic spoken or written skills," he added.

When Abal asks students which subjects they detest the most, the immediate response is Arabic and Islamic studies. He said the majority of Arabic and Islamic teachers are bitter or harsh with their students, and their teaching style is primitive. "They teach them how to receive it, not how to use it. I don't blame them for choosing English. The child in his subconscious doesn't want to speak the language of killers, as the media is trying to paint this image of Arab Muslims. He wants to speak like his favorite Disney character, or his favored YouTube celebrity," he said.

Yaqout said classical Arabic won't add any cognitive value to those who spent their first years listening and speaking the slang used in their country. Yaqout agrees with Abal that it's not the children or their parents' fault. "Arabic language teaching curricula is stupid and not suitable for everyday use. Arabic dealt with as a written language although it's primarily spoken. As a matter of fact, all languages in the world began by being spoken. Writing is a kind of abstraction because there are no reasons for writing letters in certain ways. On the other hand, children learn English by singing, making presentations and holding conversations with their peers in class," Yaqout explained. "If the next generations are raised not knowing how to understand or use classical Arabic language and depend on local dialects, the gap will get bigger, and it's more likely that religious people will appear to protect their monopoly on the Holy Quran and its interpretations. This is exactly what happened to the Bible when Latin became extinct. History repeats itself," warned Yaqout.



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UFOs

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

Thanks to rapid development, spread of means of communications and the speed in accessing information through the Internet, text messages and other media, people in various countries have been exchanging lots of information including info that might be untrue or twisted when they are passed down from one person to another, or from one media means to another. Some of these pieces of information may sometimes talk about exaggerated natural disasters or seeing some celestial bodies up in the sky, such as recent stories about spotting UFOs over Kuwait.

Well, I would like to point out that several people around the world have reported seeing UFOs, as indicated in many lengthy detailed studies. However, what I tend to believe more is that what those people have really seen was some weather-related phenomenon happening due to rain, humidity, drought, lightning, lenticular clouds, weather forecast balloons or experiments on some secret weapons by some countries that may all be mistaken for and imagined as UFOs that seem to beholders like alien spaceships sent to explore Earth.

The truth is different, however, because most of those who reported seeing UFOs described them as circular or oval objects, which means they cannot be made by intelligent aliens from outer space because we earthlings are sane creatures who geometrically manufacture everything in three dimensions, ie length, width and height. What has been seen is aerial or natural phenomena rather than objects made by intelligent aliens, because the sun, earth, moon, and even an orange or lentil seed are all circular in shape.

I do not wish to lengthen my talk about this topic because things are already settled for astronomers who have thousands of highly sophisticated and developed telescopes pointed to the sky day and night, and none of them has even mentioned spotting a single UFO. So, UFOs are actually weather and aerial phenomena, and not spaceships made by intelligent aliens from outer space to explore and study us. At least, this is what we believe so far. But one has to keep in mind that for the past four decades, human experiences have shown that things can turn stranger and more complicated than we could ever expect!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The International Bank of Kuwait (IBK) won the Superbrands award during a ceremony to honor the strongest brands in Kuwait held recently at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa. The Superbrands organization is acclaimed worldwide as being an independent authority and arbiter of branding excellence.

A MESSAGE FROM KUWAIT'S DAUGHTER

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

Some media outlets lately want to escalate social crises to become political crises. Sorry to all those who spoke, be it at the professional, social or security levels, as all our words today were written for the sake of one word - Kuwait.

Some of them are talking without realizing that they are a media reflection of their countries. Some people spoke about expatriates as being mercenaries. We have written before about the danger of the growth of the expat population, and that the state should carry out a study and prepare a strategy to expel those who do not have a job in Kuwait. We tell the media to either accept the situation gracefully or drop it all together.

I wonder who said that expats who are staying in this country of sunshine are people who wait for our weddings to eat free of charge. Excuse me! Some people want to raise family reunion fees to 25 percent of the monthly salary of an expat employee! Fear God, you owners of properties who make annual rent increases without any supervision or accountability.

You media, where are you over those who are dividing their government homes and renting them to expatriates? Excuse me, where is the law against iqama traders who are slaughtering the expat in his country to bring him here? Some media raise the slogan of getting rid of expatriates without legal justification, while they renew contracts of some of them. Is it "just where my interest lies?"

Last word: "Kuwait is not for a group without another, and is not for a sect without others, it is for all. Our pride comes from it, and our existence is from it. Our heads are high by belonging to it, sincere to it by doing work that builds, effort that enriches and a blood that sacrifices. We all realize the gravity of the responsibility and the importance of protecting it through believing in the democratic system, and shun practices that lead to divisiveness. Stay away from extremism and be wise and let public interest be first, because all that is fortified protection of this country's security and stability" (From the speech of His Highness the Amir during the opening of the parliamentary term on Oct 30, 2006).

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR KD 54,000 DEBT

KUWAIT: A woman who had been wanted for 16 cases involving up to KD 54,000 in financial claims was arrested in Fahaheel, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol suspected the woman's vehicle and on stopping and checking her personal information, she was found wanted.

KD 100,000 robbery

A man was arrested for robbing a another in Sharq and stealing KD 100,000 from him, said security sources, noting that the suspect's other three accomplices were still at large. Case papers indicate that a stateless person filed a complaint reporting that four people attacked him in Sharq and stole the money from him. Investigations led to the main suspect who admitted to stealing the money, assisted by three other expats including one who had already fled the country. The suspect also led the police to a vehicle where KD 80,000 of the stolen sum was hidden. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Attempted murder

A man was arrested for deliberately running over a pipefitter and dumping him while bleeding in a desert area, thinking he was already dead, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the man was found seriously injured and bleeding along the Salmi highway and he was rushed to Jahra Hospital. The man said that he had done a pipefitting job on a stateless person's ranch and the latter refused paying the sum he demanded and ran him over. Summoning the suspect, he claimed that it was the pipefitter who jumped out of the vehicle and fell underneath the wheels. He said that he fled the scene out of fear. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Video leads to thieves' arrest

A video recorded by a high school student in Hitteen helped police identify two car robbers, said security sources. The video was uploaded by the student to social media networks and police detectives linked it to several car robberies in the area. Policemen summoned the student who described the robbers in detail and a search warrant was issued to arrest them.

Drunk engineer caught

An engineer working at Shuaiba Port was arrested while trying to enter the port area while heavily drunk, said security sources, noting that guards at the port gates were about to let him in as he was an authorized staff person, but stopped on noticing that he was drunk. Searching the vehicle, security men found a bottle of home-made liquor in the glove compartment.

Jahra campaign

Jahra security launched an inspection campaign in Qasr were they confiscated 10 ATVs that were ridden recklessly, endangering the riders' lives and those of others. —Al-Rai



Zain Group's Head of Corporate Sustainability, Jennifer Suleiman receives the CSR award.



Winners from the ceremony pose in a group photo.

ZAIN SCOOPS 3 PRESTIGIOUS PRIZES AT COMMSMEA AWARDS

DUBAI/KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has come away with three prestigious awards from the 10th annual installment of the CommsMEA Awards held in Dubai last week.

Zain Group was presented with the award for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative of the Year for its Family Reconnect Program supporting refugees in Jordan and South Sudan; while Zain Jordan was presented with the award for best Industry Service for its Innovative Campus (ZINC). The third plaudit Zain Group received at the awards ceremony was for its managed operation in Lebanon, which was acknowledged as having the best Marketing Campaign, as related to the introduction of its Tawasol prepaid line offer to the Syrian community in Lebanon.

CommsMEA is a highly respected online and print telecom publication with circulation across the Middle East and Africa, and its annual awards ceremony identifies some of the best performing telecom companies and individuals from within the region in the last 12 months. The gala ceremony held at Jumeirah Emirates Towers in Dubai was

attended by high-profile regional and international industry figures.

Across its awards, the CommsMEA judging panel applauded Zain Group's commitment to the region, and its continuous efforts to offer its customers the best quality of service possible at all times.

Lifestyle services

Commenting on the successful night, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "We appreciate the recognition that has been given to the Group and its operating entities by these awards. Zain is transforming into a digital lifestyle services provider and while doing so we shall continue with our efforts to innovate, offer the best customer experience possible, and support the communities we serve." Zain Group's CSR award was for its work in the Family Reconnect Program, where it tied up with Ericsson and Refugees United (REFUNITE) in launching a project in Jordan and later with the addition of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in South Sudan, empowering separated families and displaced people to search for their missing loved ones and friends

through a mobile phone platform. The project leveraged simple mobile technology in support of the 1.4 million people who are internally displaced in South Sudan and similarly for approximately 750,000 people who are refugees in Jordan as a result of conflicts in both Syria and Iraq, helping to close the digital divide among those who might otherwise fail to gain access.

Tragic circumstances

Responding to the CSR award, Zain Group's Head of Corporate Sustainability, Jennifer Suleiman, said, "There are many tragic circumstances at play in our region at this point in time, which has resulted in massive displacement and suffering for large numbers of people. We sincerely appreciate CommsMEA's acknowledgment of some of the work we are doing in this area, and we shall use the award to bring greater awareness to the difficult plight of refugees across our region."

Zain's Industry Service award was in relation to Zain Jordan's initiative to enable aspiring entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into reality by scaling up and converting

their plans into productive start-up projects. ZINC was inaugurated in October 2014 by King Abdullah II and Queen Rania of Jordan and is spread over 800 square meters of premises in King Hussein Business Park. The campus has more than 60 strategic partners and vendors, led by Coventry University, which supports and provides resources for mentoring youth and coaching start-ups.

Touch's Tawasol offering, for which it received the best Marketing Campaign award, saw the operator introducing the new product, which bridged the communications gap between Lebanon and Syria, offering a tailor-made plan including international minutes and SMS from Lebanon to Syria for a discounted price.

Targeted at displaced Syrians temporarily residing in Lebanon as a result of the conflict in their home-country, Touch instituted a highly effective marketing campaign utilizing targeted outdoor panels around refugee camps for Syrians in Lebanon, as well as conducting some marketing activities inside the camps themselves.

NBK ATTRACTED MORE THAN 350 KUWAITI GRADUATES

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has recruited more than 350 Kuwaiti graduates of both genders during 2015 as part of its commitment to providing distinctive career opportunities to ambitious young Kuwaitis.

"The development of human talent remains a top priority for NBK," said Salah Al-Fulaij, NBK-Kuwait Chief Executive Officer. "NBK maintains its position as a major national employer in the private sector. In 2015, NBK hired more than 350 Kuwaiti citizens. This confirms NBK's full support of government

efforts to employ young national cadres in the private sector and develop the human capital of Kuwait."

Fulaij added "NBK continued in 2015 to invest in its employees to develop their skill sets and expand their knowledge base. We also strengthened our partnership with leading universities and academic institutions to organize many of the high level training programs to prepare the next generation of bankers - the promising young leaders.

"We believe that our people are our most

valuable resource and to that end we have implemented numerous professional training programs to continue developing our employees while focusing our recruitment efforts on hiring the country's best assets," noted Fulaij.

Aiming at developing the skills of young Kuwaitis, NBK offers several training and developing programs including NBK Academy, Shabab Program, Summer Internship Program and the first of its kind NBK High Fliers Program. NBK also organizes

Executive Training Programs in line with the bank's commitment to developing and investing in its key resource and human capital.

NBK training programs are parts of a continuous process to develop and grow young talents. The initiative provides the trainees with the right environment in which they have the opportunity to increase their understanding on the theoretical, technical and practical functionalities of various Major Banking Units.





Philippines boosts security ahead of economic summit

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JORDANIAN KILLER WAS ON A JOURNEY TO 'PARADISE OR HELL'

Page 8

US CITIES BEEF UP SECURITY

NEW YORK: New York, Boston and other cities in the United States bolstered security on Friday night after deadly gun and bomb attacks on civilians in Paris, but law enforcement officials said the beefed-up police presence was precautionary rather than a response to any specific threats. The New York Police Department said officers from its Counterterrorism Response Command and other special units were deployed in areas frequented by tourists, and at the French Consulate in Manhattan.

"Teams have been dispatched to crowded areas around the city out of an abundance of caution to provide police presence and public reassurance as we follow the developing situation overseas," the NYPD said in a statement. New York, the site of the Sept 11, 2001, hijacked plane attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people and destroyed the World Trade Center's twin towers, is considered a top target for potential attacks by Islamist militants. The top of the Empire State Building and the spire at One World Trade Center were lit up Friday night with blue, white and red, the colors of the French flag.

The nearly simultaneous gun and bomb attacks in Paris killed at least 120 people in various places across the French capital and wounded many others. The NYPD did not say how many extra officers were sent to guard the areas of concern nor did it specify the areas where the extra officers were sent. "Every time we see an attack like this, it is a reminder to be prepared, to be vigilant," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told ABC 7 television. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said he directed state law enforcement officials to monitor the Paris situation for any implications for New York state and to remain in constant communication with their local and federal partners.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said police were on heightened alert at all of the agency's bridges, tunnels and rail facilities, as well as at the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. It said it was increasing patrols and checking of buses and trains and passengers' bags. US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said in a statement that "we know of no specific or credible threats of an attack on the US homeland of the type that occurred in Paris tonight."

The National Basketball Association, which had 11 games on the schedule Friday night, said it was increasing security at each of the venues. The most popular sport, American football, would not have any games until Sunday as previously scheduled. "Security at our games is always at a heightened state of alert," National Football League spokesman Brian McCarthy said. Outside of New York, law enforcement and transportation agencies said they were also on high alert. The US Capitol Police in Washington boosted patrols around the Capitol complex, a spokeswoman said. "There is currently no known threat to the Capitol Complex," she said in an email.

The Metropolitan Police Department in Washington had deployed additional law enforcement resources to French-owned sites and other high-profile locations as a precaution, said Officer Sean Hickman. Hickman said there was no known imminent threat. In Boston, the police department said it deployed additional resources and was working closely with federal authorities but saw no credible threat in the city, where Islamist militant sympathizers set off home-made bombs at the Boston Marathon finish line in April 2013. Massachusetts State Police said they took "several actions", including bolstering security around the State House in Boston.

The Boston Police Department said in a statement that it was encouraging officers to remain vigilant as they conduct patrols. The St. Louis Police Department said it added an extra layer of security for the World Cup soccer qualifying match between the United States and St. Vincent on Friday night. Chicago police said they were following developments in France to determine whether to bolster city security but was not aware of any immediate threats. "Tonight the City of Chicago stands shoulder to shoulder with the City of Paris in the wake of today's despicable and horrifying attacks," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said.

San Francisco police officers have been told to maintain high visibility and increase patrols in areas of high public traffic, such as bus and train stations, said Sgt. Michael Andraychak. Police have been in contact with

the French Consulate and are working to address any security concerns it may have. In Pittsburgh, which was hosting a National Hockey League game on Friday, a

police spokeswoman said public safety personnel were working with intelligence authorities to identify any indications of local threats. Amtrak, the US passenger

train service, said it was monitoring the events in Paris but said there were no specific or credible threats against the railway. —Reuters

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MUSLIM WOMAN DONATES \$1 FOR EVERY HATE TWEET

SYDNEY: An Australian Muslim woman has donated close to Aus\$1,000 (US\$700) to charity after pledging to give one dollar every time she receives a hate-filled Tweet. Susan Carland, who teaches at Monash University in Melbourne, tweeted on October 22 that she was donating to UNICEF for every nasty comment from trolls. "Nearly at \$1,000 in donations. The needy children thank you, haters!" she said at the time. Carland said she had previously been blocking, muting, ignoring or occasionally engaging with trolls but decided some months ago to turn it around based on the Quran's injunction of "driving off darkness with light".

"I felt I should be actively generating good in the world for every ugly verbal bullet sent my way," she wrote in a column for Fairfax Media on Friday. Carland said any Muslim seemed to attract a lot of hate online, and abuse directed at her ranged from wishing her dead, to insults about her dress sense and accusations that she was a "stealth jihadist". But she said making the donations meant she now barely batted an eyelid when a "ghastly tweet" was served up to her. "It represents nothing more than a chalk-mark on my mental tally for the next installment to UNICEF," she wrote. —AFP

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JORDANIAN KILLER WAS ON A JOURNEY TO 'PARADISE OR HELL'

INVESTIGATORS ASK IF HE WAS LONE WOLF OR PART OF A CELL

AMMAN: Days before he shot dead five people in a canteen during his lunch break, Jordanian police officer Anwar Abu Zeid sent a message to friends saying he was going on a journey to "paradise or hell", friends and security sources said. The message, on the WhatsApp mobile messag-

ing application, may hold clues for police seeking a motive for Monday's shooting spree in which two Americans, two Jordanians and a South African were killed at a police training facility.

Relatives described the 29-year-old police captain as pious but not an extremist, though he

would wake at dawn each day to worship in the mosque in his village in rural northern Jordan. But two officials close to security matters and relatives said evidence was growing of radical Islamist influences on Abu Zeid, and a security source, who asked not to be identified, suggested the message to close friends supported this notion.

"When we prepare our luggage for a journey ... we fear we may forget something, however small, and the longer the journey, the stronger the concern that we won't forget anything," the source quoted him as saying. "So what if we are going to a residence ... in paradise or hell," the source added, but did not say on which day the message was sent. The killings took place at the US-funded King Abdullah Training Centre near Amman on the 10th anniversary of Al-Qaeda suicide bombings that targeted three luxury hotels in the capital and killed 57 people.

No group has claimed responsibility for Monday's attack. The Americans killed were former members of the US military and were contracted to train police from regional allies such as Iraq and the Palestinian territories. The South African killed was also a trainer and the two slain Jordanians were translators. Several accounts from officials with contacts in the security forces said Abu Zeid had smuggled an assault rifle and two handguns into the compound in his car. As an officer, he was not searched as he entered. Security sources said that shortly after noon prayers he charged into a canteen on the com-

ound, shouted Allahu Akbar (God is the greatest) and fired at least 50 bullets. He then went outside and a police sniper shot him in the head near the outer gates of the compound after he defied calls to surrender, they said.

Sleeper cells

Investigators have not concluded yet whether Abu Zeid was acting alone or was part of a wider sleeper cell of jihadists, one official close to intelligence matters said. As a graduate of Jordan's top military academy, Abu Zeid, who had two young children, had a secure job and perks that many Jordanians dream of. But he had sought an honorary early discharge for what he said were "private reasons", only to find his way blocked because he had not completed 10 years service, the security sources said.

A close confidant of the attacker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abu Zeid had felt increasingly humiliated and angry at working in a job where US trainers seen as "enemies of Islam were defiling his country." Some relatives are already referring to him as a "martyr". The fact that the attacker came from one of the native tribes in Jordan that form the backbone of the security forces is a particular blow for the kingdom's Hashemite dynasty, security experts say.

Some tribes have become increasingly disgruntled over perceived corruption and feel they are being marginalized economically, posing what security experts see as an additional threat to a country long worried about possible

attacks by militant Islamists inspired by Al-Qaeda. "It is an attack from within the loyalist establishment and it compounds the complex internal risks beyond the conventional jihadist threat that comes from a suicide bomber blowing himself up, which is a more obvious risk," said one official familiar with intelligence matters.

Disaffected youth

The decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict and turmoil along Jordan's borders with Israel provide fertile ground for Islamic militancy, and mistrust of the West has long been fuelled by a perceived U.S. bias towards Israel. Jordan is now an ally of Washington in the US-led campaign against Islamic State militants who hold large areas of neighboring Syria and Iraq. Its stepped-up military role in this campaign has angered many in Jordan who believe it serves the enemies of their Muslim faith. Others fear the overt military intervention could provoke a militant backlash inside the country.

Monday's shootings have also reawakened longstanding concerns that Islamic State supporters have recruited Jordanians to sleeper cells that could one day attack, and fear they could include anyone from computer technicians to professors. Such concerns were heightened by a prominent parliamentarian saying last month that he had learned from media linked to Islamic State that his son had carried out a suicide bombing in Iraq's Anbar province. —Reuters



JARASH: People carry the body of Anwar Abu Zeid, a police captain who shot dead two US instructors, a South African and two fellow Jordanians at a police training centre during his funeral in the city of Jarash, 50 kilometers in the north of the Jordanian capital Amman. —AFP

ISRAEL RAZES HOMES OF 4 PALESTINIAN 'ATTACKERS'

DETERRENT OR COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT?



WEST BANK: Palestinians look at the rubble of the house of Palestinian Yahya Hamad, a member of a group accused of killing an Israeli settler couple in the Itmar settlement after it was destroyed by Israel yesterday. —AFP

NABLUS: Israeli troops razed the West Bank homes of four Palestinians accused of attacking Israelis yesterday, pressing a controversial policy of punitive demolitions after weeks of deadly unrest. The demolitions came hours after two Israelis were shot dead in an apparent ambush near the flash-point West Bank city of Hebron on Friday in the most serious attack on Israelis in nearly a month. In Nablus in the northern West Bank, troops destroyed the homes of three Palestinians accused of killing an Israeli settler couple on October 1 at the start of the latest flare-up of violence, the army said.

Before dawn, the army destroyed the family homes of Kerem Razek, Samir Kusa and Yahya Haj Hamed, all three of whom are awaiting trial for the murder of Eitam and Na'ama Henkin in their car in front of their young children. In Silwad, northeast of Ramallah, the army razed the home of a Palestinian accused of killing an Israeli on a West Bank road in June. The home of Mouad Hamed, accused of killing Malachi Rosenfeld, was destroyed in a controlled explosion that caused damage to at least two neighboring houses, an AFP photographer reported. The demolitions in Nablus prompted clashes between protesters and the Israeli army in which nine Palestinians were wounded, two of them by live ammunition, Palestinian medical sources said. The army operation came after the High Court ruled in favor of the demolitions on Thursday.

The policy is controversial even

in Israel. The government argues it acts as a deterrent but critics say the main victims are relatives forced to pay for another person's actions. Last month, the government ordered an intensification of the policy in response to a wave of stabbing and shooting attacks and other deadly unrest. Dalia Kerstein, director of the Hamoked NGO which filed the appeals against the demolitions, said she had expected the families to be given 48 hours to leave. "(The demolitions) are immoral, it is collective punishment and they will ignite the West Bank," she said. "How can (Israelis) not see it will fan the flames?"

Demolition orders against several other homes of alleged attackers are still being contested in the Israeli courts. The intensified demolitions are among a raft of get-tough policies Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered under pressure from far-right coalition partners. They also include minimum jail terms for Palestinian stone-throwers, looser rules of engagement for the army and the withholding of the bodies of alleged attackers to prevent their funerals becoming political rallies. But the crackdown has done little to stop the violence. Since October 1, 12 Israelis have been killed. On the Palestinian side 81 people have died, including one Israeli Arab. Many have been alleged attackers but they have also included protesters shot in clashes with the army. Friday saw three Palestinians die after being shot by troops. —AFP



ALEPPO: A fighter from the Syrian pro-government forces checks documents reportedly left by Islamic State (IS) group fighters in a tunnel near the Kweyris military air base after they took control of the surrounding villages from IS. —AFP

SYRIA'S DIVIDED OPPOSITION

BEIRUT: The international talks in Vienna on Syria's conflict are expected to include discussion of which members of the fragmented opposition will attend any final negotiations on a peace deal. Here are some of the main groups operating inside Syria and abroad:

Opposition in exile

National Coalition: The leading opposition grouping in exile, created in Doha in November 2012. The group includes members from across the political and ethnic spectrum and represents some military forces, though it is often accused of being removed from the realities on the battlefield. It has been recognized by 120 countries as the representative of the Syrian people and participated in two rounds of peace talks in Geneva with regime delegates in 2013 and 2014. The Coalition believes the war must be resolved along the lines of a document produced by the so-called Geneva 1 conference among leading powers in 2012. It called for a transitional government with full executive powers, which the Coalition says means President Bashar Al-Assad must step down. It is currently headed by Khaled Khoja, and is based in Turkey.

Cairo Conference

Formed in January 2015, the grouping brings together some 150 domestic and exiled opposition figures, including Kurds. One of the group's co-founders is Haytham Manaa, a longtime dissident. The grouping was presented in talks in Moscow and presents itself as an alternative to the National Coalition, though it has not been recognized as such.

Muslim Brotherhood

The powerful group is banned in Syria but remains a prominent member of the opposition. It belongs to the National Coalition, but has its own backers, including countries including Turkey. The group dates back to the 1930s and led an uprising in Syria that was brutally crushed by then-president Hafez Al-Assad in 1982.

Independent figures

There are also a variety of high-profile independent Syrian opposition figures overseas who have been mentioned as potential parties to any negotiations.

Domestic opposition

National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change (NCCDC): Founded in 2011, the group includes leftist, nationalist and Kurdish parties as well as individual dissidents. From the beginning of the conflict, it declared its opposition to any foreign intervention in Syria. The group is generally tolerated, but its members have been regularly harassed and detained by regime forces throughout the conflict. It participated in talks organized by Moscow on the conflict in 2014 and 2015. Popular Front for Change and Liberation: a coalition of parties established in 2011 and led by Qadri Jamil, a former deputy prime minister who was fired in 2013.

He now lives in Moscow and has good relations with the Russian government. Another of the group's key figures is Fateh Jamous, a former head of the Communist Labor party, who was imprisoned by the regime for 20 years, but continues to live in Syria. Building the Syrian State party: Founded in 2011 and led by Louay Hussein, a prominent activist from the same minority Alawite sect as the president. He was arrested in Damascus in 2014 and accused of "weakening national sentiment." Freed in May, he fled to Madrid. His party is opposed to the use of violence.

Figures close to the regime: There are several individuals who present themselves as part of the Syrian opposition but participate in the current government. Among them is Ali Haidar, the current minister of national reconciliation and head of a branch of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, who participated in talks in Moscow on the war. Others include members of several parties created after a multi-party law was passed in 2011, some of whom were invited to peace talks in Moscow. —AFP

'DEEP BREATHS' FOR TOUGH NEW SYRIA TALKS IN VIENNA

VIENNA: Some 20 countries and international bodies met in Vienna again yesterday groping for a way out of Syria's horrific civil war, with deep divisions over President Bashar Al-Assad's future and which rebel groups to back. The second such gathering in two weeks comes as Islamist rebels suffer a number of setbacks in Syria and Iraq at the hands of Assad's army helped by Russian air strikes, and Kurdish forces backed by the US. Before leaving for Vienna, US Secretary of State John Kerry warned that a quick breakthrough was unlikely in the talks which bring together key players like Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and UN special envoy Steffan de Mistura.

"I cannot say... that we are on the threshold of a comprehensive agreement, no," said Kerry, who arrived in the Austrian capital on Friday afternoon for preliminary talks with his Saudi, Turkish and UN counterparts. "The walls of mistrust within Syria, within the region, within the international community are thick and they are high." In over four years, fighting between Assad's regime and rebel groups as well as Islamic State (IS) militants has killed over 250,000 people and forced millions into exile, leaving many of them stranded in neighbouring states. Others have headed to Europe, where authorities have been on alert after several deadly jihadist attacks this year.

In the latest, 120 people were killed in a wave of coordinated attacks in Paris on Friday, including a massacre during a rock concert by men shouting "Allahu akbar" and blaming France's military intervention in Syria. At the last talks on October 30, the participants urged the United Nations to bro-

ker a peace deal between the regime and opposition to clear the way for a new constitution and UN-supervised elections. Building on that, this round of talks in the Austrian capital will try to agree on a roadmap for peace that would include a ceasefire between Assad's forces and some opposition groups.

'Assad must go'

But a key issue—which was absent from the last meeting's declaration—remains Assad's future. Western and Arab countries want him out of the way in order to allow a transitional government to unite the country behind a reconciliation process and to defeat IS. British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said on Friday that Assad "has to go". He added, however, that Western powers "recognize that if there will be a transition he may play a part, up to a point, in that transition". But Russia, carrying out air strikes against Syrian rebels since late September, is together with Iran sticking with Assad, seeing him as the best bulwark against IS.

"Syria is a sovereign country, Bashar Al-Assad is a president elected by the people," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview released Friday. That aside, the talks will focus on deciding which of the Syrian government, rebel and opposition factions—none of whom will be represented at the talks—will shape the country's future. But deciding which of the many opposition groups are moderate enough to be acceptable and which to sideline as "terrorists" is likely to be no easy task. "It will require deep breaths on several sides, including the US side," Hammond said on Tuesday.

Violence rages

On the ground, widespread fighting was raging in Syria and Iraq and further afield, with IS claiming a twin bomb attack in Beirut on Thursday that killed 44 and wounded least 239. The attack, the biggest ever attributed to IS in Lebanon, harked back to a campaign against the Shiite movement Hezbollah between 2013 and 2014, ostensibly in revenge for its military support to Assad. But in Syria, Assad's army scored its second important victory in two days on Thursday by capturing Al-Hader, a former opposition bastion largely controlled by Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front and other Islamists. Bolstered by the Russian air strikes, the breakthrough came just 48 hours after regime forces broke a siege by IS of the Kweyris air base in the east of Aleppo province.

On Friday the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces coalition of Syrian Arab and Kurdish fighters had ejected IS from Al-Hol, a key position on the border with Iraq for the supply of arms and equipment. In Iraq, Kurdish peshmerga forces and Yazidi minority fighters, backed by US-led air strikes, liberated the town of Sinjar and cut a key IS supply line, Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani said Friday. And the US military said Friday that is "reasonably certain" that it killed "Jihadi John", the notorious militant with a British accent in grisly IS execution videos, in a drone strike in Syria. US President Barack Obama said the US has now halted the expansion of IS, calling in an interview broadcast Friday for a stepped up drive to "completely decapitate" the militants' operations. —AFP

WITH RAMADI ENCIRCLED, THE IRAQI FORCES BRACE FOR URBAN WARFARE

BAGHDAD: Iraqi forces appear better positioned than ever to launch an offensive against Islamic State militants controlling Ramadi, now that months-long efforts to cut off supply lines to the city are having an effect, but plenty of risks remain. The fall of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, to the group in May was the biggest defeat for Iraq's weak central government in nearly a year, dampening its hopes of routing the Sunni militants from the country's north and west.

Retaking the city of 450,000 would provide a major psychological boost to Iraqi security forces, who have mostly collapsed in the face of advances by Islamic State, which last year seized a third of Iraq, a major OPEC oil producer and US ally. The ultimate goal for Iraqi forces is to break Islamic State's grip over its main stronghold

Mosul, the biggest city in the north. Critical momentum is needed in order to achieve that.

The Ramadi offensive has been impeded by heavy use of improvised explosive devices, inadequate troops and equipment due to government cash shortages, and stringent rules of engagement for US-led air strikes, Iraqi army and federal police officers involved in the battle said. Recent gains, however, have raised expectations that the military is set to strike, six months after vowing to quickly seize the city, 100 miles west of Baghdad. Iraq's elite US-trained counter-terrorism forces have led the campaign to put a cordon around the city. Backed by armoured divisions of the federal police, they cut off the southern and western approaches to prevent reinforcements arriving from cities near the Syrian border. —Reuters

BELGIUM KING'S DAY 15TH NOV

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC BY THE AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM HIS EXCELLENCY ANDY DETAILLE

It is my honor to address the Kuwaiti public on the occasion of today's celebration of the King's Day in Belgium. This day we celebrate King Leopold I, the first monarch of Belgium after formally gaining our independence in 1831. Our current head of state, his Majesty King Filip, is the 7th king of Belgium, and a descendent of the late King Leopold I.

Within the European Union, Belgium is one of the 7 nations with a monarch as the head of state. It is part of what makes our country unique. Belgium is rather small, but nevertheless quite complex. As a federal state it is composed of different regions with a Dutch speaking part in the North called Flanders and a French speaking part in the south called Wallonia. These regions sometimes have different political orientations, but the royal family and His Majesty King Filip - constitutionally above any religious and political affiliation - have always fulfilled an essential role in securing the unity of Belgium. King's Day is thus not only a celebration of His Majesty, but also of the unity of the country and is as such of great significance to Belgium.

Given the tight bonds between the ruling families in Kuwait and Belgium, I would like to seize the opportunity to express my gratitude to the ruling house in Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people for the excellent bilateral relations between our two countries and the hospitality we are experiencing on a daily basis. I hope that our nations can further build on those ties and further deepen their cooperation.

I would herewith also like to share with you the speech I gave on the occasion of last week's reception for King's Day: "Your Excellency the Assistant Minister for European Affairs, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the Belgian Residence for the celebration of King's Day.

Maybe it is only fitting that we celebrate the King's Day with a reception instead of our National Day and not only because the latter is in summer but because the bonds between the ruling houses of both our countries are so tight.

These ties are a part of the overall bilateral relation between our countries which is excellent. We can truly say that Belgium is a friend of Kuwait's. We stood by it in its hour of need and we care about the same issues. Take for instance the Syrian refugee crisis. Whereas Kuwait took the lead in providing humanitarian relief, Belgium settled more than its quota of allocated refugees.

Belgium is also active in Kuwait. I am very proud to say that several prominent positions in the Az-Zour project, for sure one of the most important and most successful projects in Kuwait's recent history, are held by Belgians.

But we of course always look to deepen this relationship. In this respect, I am happy to announce that a visit of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, is to take place in early 2016 and that political consultations on the level of High Officials will be held shortly after that.

Apart from all this ladies and gentlemen, there are the activities which the embassy undertakes to try to put and keep Belgium on the map in Kuwait and where I hope to see you all again. Allow me to cite two important initiatives of ours for the coming months. The first is an exhibition by a well-known Belgian architecture photographer which will open in Al-Hamra Luxry Tower on December 2nd. The second are our endeavors to bring a Belgian band which has performed on major stages around Europe to play in the new venue of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiya, God - and sponsors - willing.

Ladies and gentlemen, these activities do not happen by magic. Behind them is a hard-working and our case small team. I want to thank all of them in general. But there is one person I want to



Head of State King Filip and Queen Mathilde

thank in particular. I mean my wife Vittoria who is always on the look-out for new things for us to stage or who always tries to find new angles for the activities we are supposed to organize every year. For this her only reward is - hopefully - the eternal gratitude of the Kingdom of Belgium and of myself. So I thank her and I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your attention."

Visit Belgium in Winter!

With its strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Belgium is the seat of many international institutions, of which the most important ones are the European Union or NATO. Although Belgium and its capital Brussels are mostly associated with these institutions, Belgium has a lot more to offer. One could say that Belgium is a miniature version of Europe, with its 35 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and over 200 museums. Another reason why Belgium is worth visiting, is food. From street foods like waffles or 'Belgian fries' to traditional dishes like mussels or 'carbonades' - beef stew with brown beer sauce - the choice is endless. Belgium has per capita the most Michelin starred restaurants in the world and of course, for the chocolate-lovers there are

over 2000 chocolate shops and for the beer lovers, literally hundreds and hundreds of brews.

This winter season, as the frosty months are approaching and Belgium might get coated under a layer of snow, Belgium will be more attractive than ever. Cozy Christmas markets will pop up in nearly every Belgian city and will fill their stalls with gifts, tasty treats and morsels, ornaments and plenty of delicacies. It is a part of what makes Belgium great in winter.

The Christmas atmosphere is particularly enthralling because the medieval town centers are so beautiful in the winter darkness. Think of canals, twinkling lights, Christmas trees, delicious food, ice rinks and the cosines of meandering crowds.

To be recommended are the markets in the centers of the bigger cities such as Brussels or Bruges. Brussels will start with its "Winterpret" (in Dutch) or "Plaisirs d'Hiver" (in French) festival on the 27th of November and it will run until January 2nd. A trail in the city center of over two and a half kilometres long guides the visitors through the chalets and the winter entertainment venues. Bruges "Kerstmarkt 2015", the

Christmas market in Bruges, will take place from Friday 20th of November until January 3rd.

Six Construct: building the future of the Gulf region

One of the Belgian companies standing out in the Gulf region is Six Construct. For over five decades, Six Construct has worked diligently, building up experience and expertise to contribute to the Gulf region's development through various award winning construction projects.

Six Construct, a subsidiary of the BESIX Group, is the largest Belgian construction company operating in the Middle East. It combines the efforts of a highly skilled workforce, strategic planning and innovative use of technology to overcome the most complex business challenges. Six Construct is a multi-services company operating in the construction of commercial and residential buildings, sport and leisure facilities, infrastructure and marine related projects. The workforce consists of 16,000 people in the Middle East and 19,000 worldwide.

Having entered the Gulf market in 1965, Six Construct is proud to celebrate this year its fiftieth anniversary in the region. Starting with its first contract, the Abu Dhabi Corniche project, Six Construct has been excelling in the completion and timely delivery of its projects.

Six Construct can now look back with pride on how solidly it has built an inimitable portfolio of projects and clients over the years. The company's unique developments include, among others, the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, the Dubai Tram, The Emirates Palace Hotel, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Ferrari World Theme Park, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, Four Seasons Hotel in Bahrain, Khalifa Stadium and Hamad International Airport in Qatar as well as King Abdullah Sports City in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Executing over 20 projects simultaneously in 2015, Six Construct believes integrity, quality, safety and timely delivery are the key factors to its success.

Six Construct persistently ensures its vision and values are in line with those of the GCC region. Carrying over a framework of excellence from its past and current projects to its future ones, Six Construct remains a leader and a first mover in the construction industry, always at the service of its clients.

Belgium first on FIFA world ranking

The most recent cause of pride to Belgians of all walks of life is undoubtedly the national football team aka The Red Devils, as they have steadily moved up the FIFA rankings to become number 1 on November 5th 2015, overtaking Argentina. Ironically, it was Argentina which eliminated Belgium from the world championship in Brazil last year.

Today's generation of football players is indeed exceptional. They emerged under coach Marc Wilmots in the early 2010s to become household names in the English Premier League and other prestigious national competitions. Needless to introduce the likes of Romelu Lukaku, Vincent Company, Thibaut Courtois, Christian Benteke, Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Marouane Fellaini to the average football fan.

Adding up the transfer fees disbursed for its players, the current Belgian national team has also become the most expensive team in the world. The latest transfer of Kevin De Bruyne from Wolfsburg to Manchester City, for a hallucinating 76 million euros, has made the Red Devils surpass the net worth of the national team of Brazil.

The Red Devils earned their first place on the FIFA world ranking after beating Andorra and Israel, thus qualifying for the European Championship in France next year. Belgians have very high hopes for this tournament, after ending first of their group in the qualifying stages. Many commentators even consider Belgium to be one of the favorites to win the tournament.

And the good news is...that there may be more good news as young players like Origi, Ferreira-Carrasco and Bakali are gearing up to carry the bright torch of Belgian football further into the future.

Kuwait and Belgium: A comparison

	Belgium	Kuwait
Capital	Brussels	Kuwait City
Currency	Euro	KWD
Area	31000 sq km	18000 sq km
Population	11,1 m	4,1 m
GDP (2014)	534,230 bn \$	172,608 bn \$
GDP per person	43,139 \$	70,686 \$
Median age	41,6 years	29,2 years



Bruges Christmas market runs from November 20th until January 2nd.



Dries Mertens and Kevin De Bruyne playing for the national team

APOCALYPTIC SCENES AS



PARIS: Dried blood can be seen on the window of the Carillon cafe in Paris yesterday, a day after over 120 people were killed in a series of shooting and explosions. — AP



WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama looks down as he speaks to the press in Washington, DC after being informed about a series of deadly attacks that rocked Paris. — AFP

PARIS: Sirens blaring, blood on the roads, weeping relatives: nightmare scenes played out on the streets of Paris on Friday night as at least 120 people were killed in simultaneous attacks. Pierre Montfort lives close to a Cambodian restaurant on Rue Bichat, where one of seven attacks took place in a night of bloodshed not seen in decades. "We heard the sound of guns, 30-second bursts. It was endless. We thought it was fireworks," he said.

Another witness described the scene: "For a moment, we could only see the flames from the gun. We were scared, how did we know he wasn't going to shoot the windows?" Florence said she arrived by scooter a minute or so after. "It was surreal, everyone was on the ground. No one was moving inside the Petit Cambodge restaurant and everyone was on the ground in bar Carillon," she said. "It was very calm—people didn't understand what was going on. A young girl was being carried in the arms of a young man. She seemed to be dead."

On Rue Charonne, a little further east, fire engines drive past, their sirens wailing. A man said he heard shots ring out, in sharp bursts, for two or three minutes. "I saw several bloody bodies on the ground. I don't know if they were dead," he said. "There was blood everywhere," said another

witness. Outside the Saint-Louis Hospital in the north of the capital a police cordon had been set up. Standing nearby, a tearful man said his sister had been killed. At his side, his mother burst into tears and collapsed into his arms. "They won't let us pass," he said, pointing at the intersection 50 metres (yards) away. Further east, near the Bataclan concert hall and not far from the scene of another deadly attack in January on the offices of satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo, the area was on lock down.

Police say around 100 people were killed at the music venue, with reports saying armed attackers shot dead people attending a rock concert one by one before police stormed the building. "My wife was in Bataclan, it's a catastrophe," said one man as he tried to run into the site but was blocked by the police cordon. "All I can tell you is that it's worse than Charlie Hebdo," said a security officer. In the north of Paris, near the Stade de France stadium, three explosions left at least five dead as France were playing a friendly football match against Germany. "We heard explosions 25 minutes after the start of the match. It continued as normal. I thought it was a joke," said Ludovic Klein, 37, who came from Limoges to watch the match with his 10-year-old son. — AFP

Paris attack targets

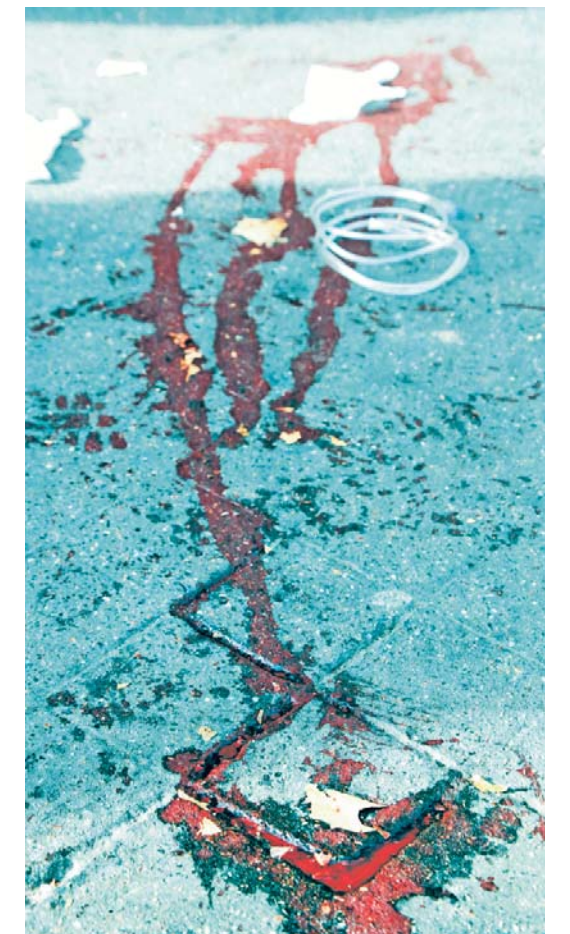
PARIS: The string of coordinated attacks in and around Paris late Friday left more than 120 people dead, in the worst such violence in France's history. The assailants struck at least six different venues, ranging from the Stade de France football stadium to a pizzeria.

Bataclan concert hall, 82 dead

A full house of 1,500 people were packed into the popular venue in eastern Paris for a concert by the US band Eagles of Death Metal. About an hour after the band took to the stage, the concert hall was turned into "a bloodbath" according to a French radio reporter at the scene. Black-clad gunmen wielding AK-47s stormed into the hall and fired calmly and methodically at hundreds of screaming concert-goers. Fellow radio presenter Pierre Janaszak heard the first shots and thought it was part of the act. "But we quickly understood. They were just firing into the crowd." He said he heard an attacker say, "It's the fault of Hollande, it's the fault of your president, he should not have intervened in Syria." Four assailants were killed after police stormed in—three by activating their suicide vests and a fourth shot dead—but not before they had killed at least 82 people.

Stade de France, 4 dead

Three loud explosions were heard outside France's national stadium during the first half of a friendly international football match between France and Germany. At least four people died outside the glittering venue which staged the 1998 World Cup final with several others seriously hurt. One of the explosions was near a McDonald's restaurant on the fringes of the stadium. At least one of the two explosions in rue Jules-Rimet was a suicide bomb attack. French President Francois Hollande, who was watching the game, was immediately evacuated. The two sides played on to the end. Afterwards, bewildered fans poured onto the pitch while waiting for all the exits to be declared secure. The stadium emptied in a relatively calm atmosphere.



PARIS: Blood and medical items are pictured outside the Bataclan concert hall. — AP



PARIS: The French and European flags (at half mast) are seen at the Elysee palace in Paris yesterday. — AP



PARIS: A victim under a blanket lays dead outside the Bataclan theater in Paris. — AP



PARIS: Victims lay on the pavement in a Paris restaurant. — AP



PARIS: Victims belongings lay on the pavement outside the Bataclan concert hall yesterday. — AP

Rue de Charonne, 18 dead

A little further east, on Rue de Charonne, 18 people were killed, with one witness saying a Japanese restaurant and nearby cafe were the main targets. "There was blood everywhere," the witness said. Another man said he heard shots ring out, in sharp bursts, for two or three minutes. "I saw several bloodied bodies on the ground. I don't know if they were dead," he said.

Rue Alibert, at least 12 dead

The terrace of a Cambodian restaurant on Rue Alibert in the 10th district, Le Petit Cambodge, was the scene of another attack, which killed at least 12 people. "We heard the sound of guns, 30-second bursts. It was endless. We thought it was fireworks," Pierre Montfort, a local resident, said. Florence said she arrived by scooter a minute or so after. "It was surreal, everyone was on the ground. No one was moving inside the Petit Cambodge and everyone was on the ground in (the adjacent) Carillon bar," she said. "It was very calm—people didn't understand what was going on. A girl was being carried in the arms of a young man. She seemed to be dead."

Rue de la Fontaine au Roi, at least 5 dead

A few hundred meters from the Bataclan, the terrace of the Casa Nostra pizzeria was targeted. Five people were killed by attackers wielding automatic rifles, according to witness Mathieu, 35. "There were at least five dead around me, others in the road, there was blood everywhere. I was very lucky." Another witness said he saw shots being fired from a black Ford Focus.

Boulevard Voltaire, 1 dead

A judicial source said one of the attackers died when he detonated his suicide vest on Boulevard Voltaire, near the Bataclan. — AFP

TERRORISTS HIT PARIS



SAINT DENIS: Soccer fans leave the Stade de France stadium after an international friendly soccer match in Saint Denis, outside Paris. An explosion occurred outside the stadium. — AP



MOSCOW: People leave flowers and candles outside the French embassy in Moscow yesterday to pay tribute to the victims of the deadly attacks in Paris. — AFP

Disbelief, panic as Paris struck the second time

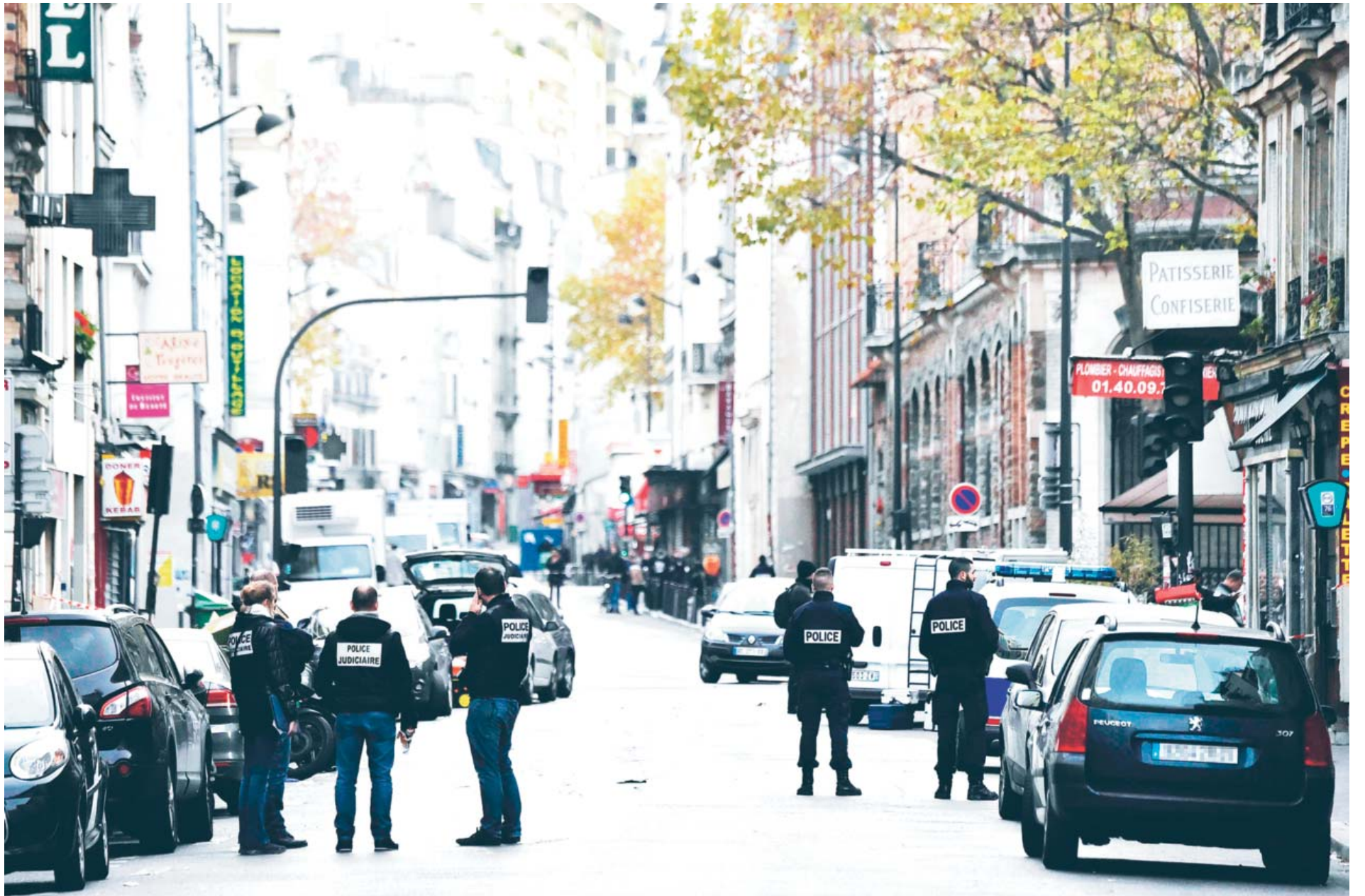
PARIS: It should have been a Friday night like any other in central Paris, with locals and visitors alike watching a show, enjoying a meal or shrugging off the cares of the week over a drink. But for the second time in less than a year, France and the world are asking how carnage could strike at the heart of this much-loved city, including at a concert hall barely a few hundred steps from January's deadly attack on the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo.

"As we went to our car we saw dozens of people running out of the Bataclan," local resident Caterina Giardino, an Italian national, said of the 19th century theatre-turned-music venue where gunman clad in black systematically killed nearly 100. "Many of them were covered with blood, people were screaming," she added, sitting on a bench with a friend as she recalled how one young man emerged from the concert hall with the bloody imprint of a hand on his shirt.

The exact sequence of gun and bomb assaults on the concert hall, a sports stadium and restaurants in the French capital that left at least 120 dead is still unclear. The first blast was heard at 9.17 pm outside the Stade de France national sports stadium, where France and Germany were playing a friendly soccer international in the presence of President Francois Hollande. Spectators distinctly heard a second detonation about two minutes later. No claim of responsibility has been made so far, but witnesses at the Bataclan music venue heard the killers shout Islamic slogans and condemn France's role in the US-led coalition fighting Islamic State in Syria.

Inside the hall, California-based rock band Eagles of Death Metal were on stage promoting their fourth album when the audience began to notice something was not right. "I turned round and I saw one of these attackers, he was very young, barely 20, with a small beard," Julien Pearce, a reporter for Europe 1 radio who was in the theatre said. "At first we thought it was part of the show, pyrotechnics or whatever. But when I turned round and saw him with his assault rifle and saw flames coming from his barrel, I understood it was no joke," he added. As the gunman paused to reload, Pearce managed to sneak round the side of the stage and out through an exit. But witnesses described how others were not so lucky.

"People were falling like dominoes," said a 22-year-old message-runner who gave his name as Toon. He had walked through the doors of the theatre just as three gunmen began shooting indiscriminately at those inside. "One of the guys had a big hat. They were all dressed in black," he said, adding that he turned on his heels and fled. Early indications were that members of the band, formed in the late 1990s by lifelong friends Jesse Hughes and Josh Homme, were safe. Hughes' mother, Jo Ellen Hughes, told a Reuters reporter outside her home in Palm Desert, California, that she had spoken to her son by telephone after the attack and that he was unharmed but "very upset and shaken."



Outside the venue, there was panic. Paris police chief Michel Cadot told local television the gunman had sprayed the terraces of several nearby cafes with bullets before entering the hall. One witness saw a man racing down a street outside screaming "War's broken out!" A young Parisian said he and 60 others hid for an hour in the cellar of a bar on a street behind the theatre. Emergency services were by now in full swing. Dozens of ambulances were racing to the Bataclan. Soldiers in camouflage fatigues were gathering on the nearby Bastille Square.

Shortly after midnight Paris time, a handful of

loud bangs were heard coming from the theatre, not long after Hollande had issued a statement saying operations were under way to free those still in the theatre. "The police assault was extremely difficult. The terrorists who locked themselves in one of the floor had explosives belts which they detonated, and the four were killed during the assault," said Cadot. Hollande was quick to declare a state of emergency after what he called a terrorist attack of unprecedented scale on French soil. The Interior Ministry declined to say whether there were further gunmen on the loose.

For his government, as for the French, the com-

ing days are likely to raise as many questions as answers. If the attack was linked to France's role in Syria, why was it yet again targeted above other members of the US-led coalition? Could the authorities, who already had the country on a heightened level of security and had promised improved surveillance after the Charlie Hebdo attacks, have done more to prevent this new assault? And will the French, who in January defiantly came out on the streets in their hundreds of thousands to mourn the Charlie Hebdo victims, have the courage to overcome their growing security fears and do the same a second time? — Reuters

PARIS: Police are seen near the Cafe La Belle Equipe at the Rue de Charonne yesterday, following a series of coordinated attacks in and around Paris late Friday which left more than 120 people dead. — AFP

NY lights World Trade Center red, white, blue



NEW YORK: New York lit One World Trade Center, the tallest building in America, red, white and blue in solidarity with France after attackers killed at least 120 people in Paris. It was a powerful symbol of US friendship and support for the French, made from the tallest building in the United States, which was built on the site of the 9/11 attacks on New York. Its 408-foot spire is so large it can be seen across much of America's largest city and across the Hudson River in New Jersey.

"Today, and in the days ahead, New York will light One World Trade Center in blue, white and red as we stand in solemn solidarity with the people of France," Governor Andrew Cuomo said. "We join them in mourning those who were killed and in praying for those who were injured or lost loved ones. And we continue to stand side by side with them in our commitment to a free and peaceful world."

The French attacks are among the deadliest in the West since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Other US buildings also lit themselves in the colors of the French flag, including city hall in San Francisco and the Omni Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Elsewhere in the city, French expats gathered in Union Square to express their solidarity with their compatriots. Some of the 50 or so demonstrators carried handmade signs reading "Don't be afraid," and "Pray for Paris," as they stood together in silence. "It's very hard not to be in Paris at this moment," said Anais Bourrut-Lacouture, 22, a business student.

Celebrated guerrilla artist Banksy on his Twitter account made a plea for "Peace for Paris, posting a painting in which the iconic lines of the Eiffel Tower were fashioned into a peace symbol. The image was re-tweeted thousands of times. New York police meanwhile were on heightened alert, deploying counter-terrorism reinforcements to crowded places and outside the French mission to the United Nations, and the French consulate. The New York police department said the reinforcements were made "out of an abundance of caution" to reassure the public. — AFP

NEW YORK: One World Trade Center's spire is shown lit in French flags colors of white, blue and red in solidarity with France after tonight's terror attacks in Paris. — AFP

SEOUL GRIPPED BY LARGE-SCALE ANTI-GOVERNMENT RALLY

SEOUL: Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of central Seoul yesterday in a massive protest against the conservative government's drive for labor reform and state-issued history textbooks. Police sprayed water on the crowd, estimated to number about 50,000, as some protesters attempted to push through barricades at the rally outside City Hall in central Seoul. Ahead of the rally, labour unionists scuffled with scores of plainclothes policemen to prevent the arrest of the head of the militant Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), who showed up for a press conference near the protest site.

Labor activists successfully blocked police from arresting KCTU President Han Sang-Kyun, who has been sought for leading outlawed labor strikes last year and May Day protests this year. "Down with (President) Park Geun-Hye", the unionists chanted following the scuffles, calling her conservative government "fascist", an AFP journalist on the scene said. Authorities said they had mobilized 20,000 riot police for fear that the protest might turn violent.

Organizers of the protest said there would be a march toward the presidential Blue House, a move which is likely

to spark a clash with police. Participants, many of whom were bused in from across the country, chanted slogans demanding the withdrawal of a government labor policy which KCTU says benefits businesses by keeping wages low and making it easier for companies to fire activists. They also condemned the opening of protected markets for some agricultural goods and a plan to impose government-issued textbooks on schools starting in 2017.

The textbooks have become a bitter ideological battleground between left and right in South Korea, with critics accusing Park's administration of seeking to deliberately manipulate and distort the narrative of how the South Korean state was created. Conservative critics argue that currently the authors are too left-wing, but liberal opponents accuse the government of reverting to a policy used by past authoritarian regimes in South Korea including that of late president Park Chung-Hee, father of the current president. Yesterday's rally was the largest South Korea has seen since 2008 when the country was hit by waves of protest against the import of US beef. — AFP



SEOUL: South Korean protesters stage a rally against government policy in Seoul yesterday. — AP



MANILA: Members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force conduct a raid to simulate an attack as part of heightened security efforts leading up to next week's APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit of Leaders yesterday in Manila. — AP

PHILIPPINES BOOSTS SECURITY AHEAD OF ECONOMIC SUMMIT

125,000-MEMBER FORCE ON 'FULL ALERT'

MANILA: The Philippines put its military and police on full alert yesterday and pledged "higher security" for world leaders meeting at an economic summit in Manila next week after gunmen killed more than 120 people in Paris. US President Barack Obama is set to join the leaders of China, Japan, Australia, Canada and 15 other countries at an annual Asia-Pacific Economic Conference summit in Manila on November 18-19. "There is no credible threat registered at this time, but let us all be cooperative and vigilant," President Benigno Aquino said in a statement, also expressing solidarity with France after gunmen shooting "Allah akbar" massacred scores of diners and concert-goers across Paris.

The Filipino leader later met with his top security advisers, his spokeswoman Abigail Valte told reporters. "President Aquino wanted to ensure that all our preparations are in place and all contingencies have been planned for," she said. The Philippine military put the 125,000-member force on "full alert" yesterday, hours after a similar announcement by the 150,000-strong national police. "The alert status was also raised... as a matter of procedure following any international terrorist incident such as this morning's

terrorist attack in Paris," military spokesman Colonel Restituto Padilla said in a statement. "Philippine APEC security planners are now seriously looking into this recent incident to ensure our security preparations are appropriately upgraded."

Filipino security forces conducted a mock terrorist attack and response at the APEC venue yesterday, with about a hundred Special Forces troops jumping out of a military helicopter and storming the building. Other members of the security forces lay on the pavement outside the Philippine International Convention Centre, acting out the role of bloodied civilian casualties. Philippine marines also deployed anti-aircraft guns and riot police around the summit venue as authorities conducted a full rehearsal of the visiting leaders' motorcades travelling between the summit venues and their hotels. Military helicopters flew low overhead while naval gunboats patrolled the waters of nearby Manila Bay.

Heightened security

Asked about the implications of the Paris attacks on the APEC summit, Foreign Undersecretary Laura del Rosario, a member of the organizing committee

said by text: "Higher security." National police spokesman Chief Superintendent Wilben Mayor said the authorities "have not monitored any specific or direct threat" to the country. "Nonetheless, target-hardening measures on vital installations, particularly sea ports, airports and our rail systems have been further elevated to maximize deterrence against unforeseen events," he said in a statement. The Philippines has cancelled more than a thousand flights, deployed 18,000 police, and declared public holidays in Manila to ensure a safe and efficient summit, the organizers have said.

Major streets in the usually chaotic capital are being closed to traffic to speed up the shuttling of delegates, with police asking building owners to close their windows to prevent their use by snipers. The Philippines has a long history of Islamic militancy in a southern region about 1,000 kilometers from Manila, although extremists have also carried out deadly attacks in the capital. Al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf gunmen killed more than 100 people when they fire-bombed a ferry on Manila Bay in 2004, while the group regularly kidnaps foreign tourists and bombs churches and shopping malls in the south. — AFP

PARIS ATTACKS EVOKE DARK MEMORIES FOR MUMBAI

MUMBAI: For residents of the bustling Indian port of Mumbai, the horrific attacks in Paris on Friday night carry somber echoes of a bloody series of killings in their own city seven years ago. A total of 166 people were killed in November 2008 when Islamist gunmen stormed luxury hotels, the main railway station, a Jewish centre and other sites in the booming metropolis, the financial heart of India. "Anger is filling up inside me again as the pictures, the videos and the social media chats make me relive the horror of that night even more graphically," said Sourav Mishra, who was injured in the November 26 attacks.

Mishra was enjoying a beer with friends at Leopold Cafe, a popular tourist haunt in the historic district of Colaba, when two gunmen burst in. "One second I was drinking and chatting with my friends... the next second we had bullets whizzing past killing fellow diners," he said. The coordinated spate of attacks began at around 10:30 pm when gunmen armed with powerful assault rifles and grenades seized two five-star hotels, the Taj Mahal and the Oberoi Trident, taking hostages. Military commandos later stormed the Taj and began a battle with militants that transformed the city into a war zone for 60 hours as live television footage of the shootout was beamed around the world.

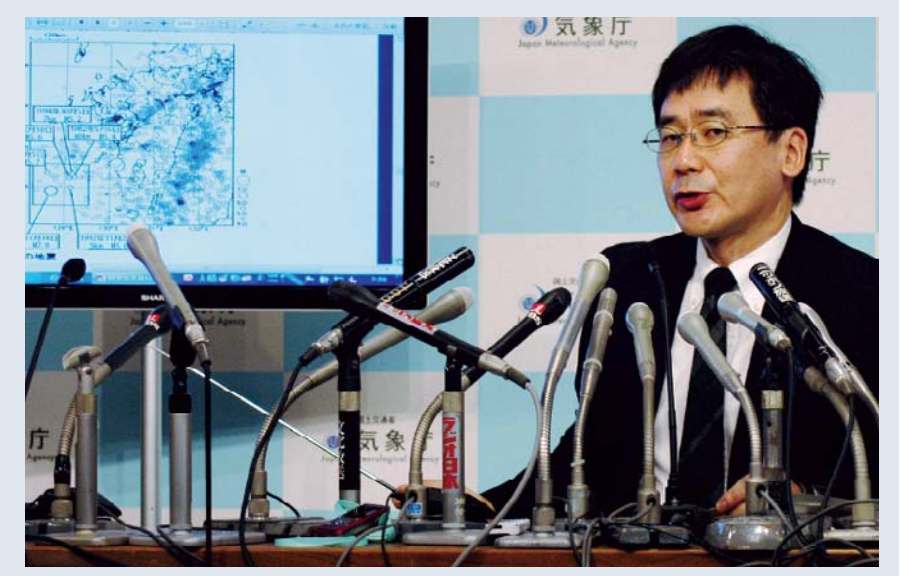
Fifty-two people died at the Taj Mahal hotel while another 38 perished at the Oberoi Trident. A 20-minute killing spree at Mumbai's main railway station, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, left some 80 people dead. "It had a psychological effect on each and every 'Mumbaikar'. The entire city was under siege for three days," said Manoj Singh, 39, who was working at a television station in Mumbai at the time. "This is French media, so they do not show all the images. But I could see the pictures they are not showing in my mind," he said.

'Horrible' memories

Mumbai and New Delhi were placed on high alert following the attacks on the French capital, with beefed-up security at airports and metro stations, a Home Ministry official said. There was no specific threat to the Indian cities, he said, adding that raising the alert level was "standard procedure" following large-scale terror incidents. Nirmala Ponnudurai, who had to have a piece of bullet shrapnel removed from her head after being shot at the station, said the events in Paris "bring back all the memories." "Even after the years have passed by it's not an easy situation to deal with," she said.

Chintan Sakariya, who witnessed the attack on Nariman House, a Jewish Community Centre, said reading about the Paris attacks on Saturday morning had given him "goosebumps." "The memories are fresh and unforgettable. They are horrifying," he said. The Paris attacks have echoes of the Mumbai atrocity not just in their co-ordination but in their choosing of "soft targets," according to terror analysts. "There are similarities because of the targeting of a restaurant, a crowded place and in terms of targeting a prominent city," Sameer Patil, a terrorism and security expert in Mumbai said.

While it took less-experienced Mumbai three days to bring the city under control, "because of the law enforcement machinery that Paris has and the experience of the Charlie Hebdo attacks in January" French special ops were able to quickly mobilize a response, he said. Vappala Balachandran, former deputy head of India's foreign intelligence agency, said while the security services had learnt from the 2008 attacks, the Paris atrocities showed how difficult they were to prevent. "Even the better protected countries and cities are not able to stop the subversion from within and the fact that terrorists are constantly adapting," he said. — AFP



TOKYO: Japan Meteorological Agency earthquake expert Koji Nakamura speaks during a press conference at the meteorological Agency in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

7.0-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS OFF JAPAN COAST

TOKYO: A powerful 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck off the southwestern coast of Japan early yesterday, authorities said, with a small tsunami observed on one island but no major damage reported. The US Geological Survey (USGS) put the epicentre of the shallow quake about 160 kilometres (100 miles) from the town of Makurazaki in southwestern Japan.

It was centered about 10 kilometres under the ocean floor and struck at 5:51 am (20:51 GMT Friday), the USGS and Japan's Meteorological Agency said. The Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami advisory as a result of the quake but cancelled it about 90 minutes later. A tsunami measuring 30 centimetres (about one foot) in height was observed on the southern island of Nakanoshima, it said. No major damage from the quake or tsunami was reported, while a pair of nuclear reactors on the southern island of Kyushu were unaffected, its operator said.

"We have not received any reports of injuries or damage following the earthquake and tsunami advisory," Tetsuro Shinchi, an official with the Kagoshima prefectural government on Japan's main island of Honshu, told AFP. Still, he said residents were being urged to exhibit caution.

"I felt a fairly strong jolt, but I have not seen anything unusual," he said.

A nuclear power facility on Kyushu was operating normally, an official said. "There was no abnormality at the number one and the number two reactors following the quake," said Naoyuki Igawa, a spokesman with operator Kyushu Electric. "We are still checking but we have not seen any damage to the facility." Japan is situated at the juncture of several tectonic plates and experiences a number of relatively violent quakes every year.

But building codes are rigorous and regular disaster drills are held, helping to ensure that despite their frequency and magnitude, quakes usually pass without loss of life or significant damage to property in Japan. A massive undersea quake that hit in March 2011 sent a tsunami barreling into Japan's northeast coast.

As well as killing thousands of people and destroying communities, the waves also swamped the cooling systems at the Fukushima nuclear plant, sending three reactors into meltdown.

The nuclear disaster, the world's worst since Chernobyl, displaced tens of thousands of people and rendered tracts of land uninhabitable, possibly for decades. — AFP

US RAISES ALARM OVER CAMBODIA CRACKDOWN

WASHINGTON: The United States expressed alarm about the political crisis in Cambodia on Friday and urged the authorities to drop charges against opposition leader Sam Rainsy. A Cambodian court issued an arrest warrant against Rainsy over an unreserved defamation sentence Friday, in what many saw as a power play by Prime Minister Hun Sen's supporters. This came after Hun Sen threatened Rainsy with legal action for urging the international community to pressure him to exit the office he has held for more than three decades.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the deteriorating political climate in Cambodia "includes assaults against two opposition lawmakers and now the arrest warrant against opposition leader Sam Rainsy." "The timing of these charges gives the appearance of undue political influence in the judicial process. "More broadly the pattern of actions against the opposition suggest a return to the harsh political practices and tactics that the Cambodian people have made clear they no longer want," he told reporters in Washington.

Rainsy was sentenced for defamation in a 2011 case, while he was living outside Cambodia, for accusing the country's foreign minister of being a former Khmer Rouge member. It was one

of a string of convictions against the opposition leader, the main challenge to Hun Sen's powerful grip over the country. Rainsy insists the convictions were politically motivated and he returned to Cambodia ahead of 2013 elections only after receiving a royal pardon. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Congress party President Sonia Gandhi, center, former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh (right), party Vice President Rahul Gandhi (left) release a book during celebrations marking the birth anniversary of the first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in New Delhi yesterday. — AP

AFTER OUTCRY, UTAH JUDGE REVERSES ORDER TAKING BABY FROM LESBIANS

PRICE: April Hoagland and Beckie Peirce, a Utah couple who married last year, went to a routine hearing Tuesday expecting to hear an update on how long it would be before they could adopt the baby girl they'd been raising as foster parents for three months. Instead, they were shocked and devastated when a judge in the central Utah city of Price ordered the child be removed from their home within a week and placed with a heterosexual couple, citing a belief that children are worse off when raised by gay couples.

There were audible gasps in the courtroom, Hoagland said, and outrage echoed around the country this week as national LGBT groups, Utah's Republican governor and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton criticized the judge's ruling. State officials and an attorney for the women filed court documents demanding the judge rescind his decision. Judge Scott Johansen reversed course later in the week but could still order the child removed at a Dec 4 custody hearing. "We're just happy we don't have to say goodbye to her on Tuesday," Hoagland told The Associated Press. "That's a big relief."

Hours after finding out they would be able to keep the girl for at least a few more weeks, the couple spoke at a courthouse Friday afternoon in Price, a city two hours southeast of Salt Lake City in scrub-dotted coal country punctuated by low hills and stark buttes. The couple said they were stunned when Johansen made his initial ruling in court Tuesday, mentioning research that said children raised by heterosexual families do better and that "same-sex marriages have double the rate of instability as heterosexual marriages."

State lawyers countered with evidence to the contrary and asked Johansen to reconsider, but he declined, Hoagland said. The American Psychological Association has said there's no scientific basis that gay couples are

unfit parents based on sexual orientation. "Obviously, we can prove him wrong because we have two great children at home," said Peirce, who was wearing a T-shirt quoting pioneering gay leader Harvey Milk: "Rights are won only by those who make their voices heard."

References to instability in same-sex marriages were crossed out in Johansen's new order, released Friday. It now says the court merely cited concerns that research has shown children are more emotionally and mentally stable when raised by a mother and father in the same home. "We all make mistakes as humans. We all have our own opinions. Sometimes they come out in the wrong setting," said Peirce, a paramedic. "I'm not going to guess as to where it came from. I'm just going to be thankful that he decided to fix it."

Hoagland, a stay-at-home mother, and Peirce are among a group of same-sex married couples who were allowed to become foster parents in Utah after last summer's US Supreme Court ruling that made gay marriage legal across the country. The couple is also raising Peirce's biological children, girls ages 12 and 13. They were worried about what would happen to their girls at school in the small central Utah city with about 8,400 people. Instead, the girls discovered widespread support from their classmates, Hoagland and Peirce said.

They said they want to adopt the 9-month old baby, who wasn't with them Friday as they spoke to reporters. Ashley Sumner, spokeswoman for the Utah Division of Child and Family Services, said the agency is cautiously optimistic and relieved. But Johansen's decision still leaves open the possibility that he could order the child removed at a Dec. 4 custody hearing, she said. "We're moving in the right direction, but it's not the final answer," Sumner said. —AP



LONDON: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks after unveiling a statue of the 12th century Indian philosopher Basaveshwara, on the bank of the River Thames in London yesterday. British Prime Minister David Cameron announced trade deals worth £9 billion (12.7 billion euros, \$13.7 billion), as Modi indicated he wanted the UK to stay in the EU.—AFP

THOUSANDS CHEER MODI AT LONDON MEGA-RALLY

500 PROTESTERS BARRACK DEPARTING MODI SUPPORTERS

LONDON: London's hallowed Wembley Stadium gave Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi a raucous welcome usually reserved for football stars David Beckham and Wayne Rooney as 60,000 people celebrated British-Indian ties. Members of Britain's large Indian diaspora, many waving India's tricolour flag and wearing Modi masks, chanted the visiting leader's name and let out a deafening cheer as he took to the stage for an hour-long speech, which combined soaring rhetoric with detailed policy strategy.

On a chilly night, Modi broke the ice with a joke, saying "they told me England would be cold, but not this cold!" He called it a "historic day," and attempted to counter accusations of neglecting minorities by paying tribute to Sikhs who had "spilled blood to protect Mother India", although was more reserved on Muslims, calling for a deeper Sufi influence. Both Sikhs and Muslims were among around 500 protesters who barracked departing Modi supporters along the fabled Wembley Way. A police line separated the opposition groups in scenes more often witnessed after a heated football match.

Undeterred, Modi fan Kamlesh Chudasama, called the event "absolutely fantastic." "Watch out, India is coming fast," he added. "We'll be the superpower soon." Fellow supporter Paresh Kotecha called Modi's speech "brilliant," saying "the future is bright" for India. Earlier, the crowd danced in the aisles as they were entertained by a raft of singers, dancers and musicians. Slick videos highlighted India's economic prowess, in a muscular production underscoring the country's shift from British colonial possession to a global power courted for its vast markets, deep-pocketed investors and strategic importance. "We are here to experience the aura of Modi, it is the aura of truth and development. There is no comparison for him in this era," said audience member Mahdu Kabra, 32.

The event also underscored Modi's shift from political pariah to—according to his many supporters—India's savior, after he swept to office last year promising economic reform and less bureaucracy. Only a few years earlier, Britain and several other countries had shunned Modi due to accusations he turned a blind eye while he was chief minister of Gujarat to 2002 communal violence in which hundreds were killed. "All great leaders had protests, look at Churchill. This is a trivial and fragile way to bring him down. It's a political vendetta," Kabra said.

British-Indian PM

The iconic British stadium had been thoroughly Indianite for Modi's visit, with burger vans replaced by kiosks selling chicken tikka and samosas. Inside, the sacred turf had been covered with two giant lotus leaf designs, one in Union Jack colors, another in the white, green and saffron of the Indian tricolor. The Indian flag had also been recreated by covering seats with plastic sheets behind one goalmouth, where a stage had been set up. A massive "UK Welcomes Modi" banner showed on screens above the stadium's entrances. Many of Modi's supporters wore orange bandanas and scarves, the colour of Modi's ruling rightist Bharatiya Janata Party. "The development Mr Modi has done in the last 10 years, since he has been chief minister over there, has been unbelievable," said Suresh Bhojani, 37, from Bolton. —AFP



PRICE: Equality Utah Executive Director Troy Williams, left, April Hoagland, center, Beckie Peirce smile during a press conference outside of the Juvenile Court in Price, Utah on Friday.—AP

AFTER PARIS ATTACKS, TRUDEAU MULLS CANADA MILITARY POLICY

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday it was too soon to say whether the deadly attacks in Paris would prompt him to reconsider his pledge to withdraw Canada from airstrikes against Islamic State militants in the Middle East. Trudeau, who spoke briefly to the media minutes before boarding a plane, said his government would focus on balancing security and freedom amid concern about possible future attacks. Asked whether the gun and bomb attacks on civilians in Paris would cause him to reconsider his pledge, Trudeau said:

"It's too soon to jump to conclusions, but obviously governments have a responsibility to keep their citizens safe, while defending our rights and freedoms, and that balance is something the Canadian government, and indeed all governments around the world, will be focusing on." He spoke minutes before he departed for his first

overseas trip since taking power less than two weeks ago. During the election campaign that vaulted his Liberals to victory over the nine-year-old Conservative government of Stephen Harper, Trudeau pledged to withdraw Canadian jets from the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State.

He has also said he wants Canada to be more welcoming to Syrian refugees and has been outspoken against portions of new national security laws passed by Harper in the wake of attacks against Canadian soldiers and on Parliament Hill in 2014. Trudeau's positions could be shaken by the bloodshed in Paris. Trudeau told reporters there was no indication so far that any Canadians had been targeted or were victims in Paris. "I've been speaking with our national security team to ensure that everything is being done to keep people safe and we will have more to say as we learn more about this terrible tragedy," Trudeau said. — Reuters



SAN FRANCISCO: People tend to an injured person near Union Square in San Francisco on Friday. According to The San Francisco Fire Department, a double-decker tour bus crashed into multiple vehicles and pedestrians.—AP

TOUR BUS CRASHES IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO: A double-decker tourist bus careened wildly out of control Friday in San Francisco's crowded Union Square, running down a bicyclist, at least two pedestrians and striking several cars before it plowed into scaffolding lining a construction site. Twenty people were hurt, including six critically. Twelve people suffered minor injuries in the crash that happened just before 3 pm, San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White said. The others suffered moderate injuries.

Union Square is one of the city's most popular tourist destinations with several high-end stores, including Macy's and Saks Fifth Avenue, as well as its Union Square Park and skating rink. The scaffolding was in front of what is going to be a new Apple store. The square was crowded with shoppers and tourists when, according to eyewitnesses, the bus came roaring across two city blocks at a high rate of speed. It struck several moving vehicles in its path as well as the bicyclist and the two pedestrians, the latter ending up trapped underneath the vehicle after it plowed into the scaffolding.

It also knocked down several power lines used to propel the city's fleet of electrical buses. Firefighters had to extricate the two people under the bus as well as one trapped on the top deck, Hayes-White said. As many as 30 people were believed to have been on board when the vehicle went out of control, officials said. The driver was conscious and able to speak when firefighters pulled him from the wreckage, Hayes-White said.

But she added it was too early to speculate about what caused him to lose control. "The police department will investigate what those circumstances involved, whether it was mechanical failure, whether it was driver error. It's way too early to tell right now," she said. San Francisco police Officer Albie Esparza couldn't immediately say which bus company owned the vehicle. Six of the injured are in critical condition San Francisco General Hospital spokesman Brent Andrew said. They are three men and three women between the ages of 20 and 60, he said. — AP

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Focus

PAK ARMY CHIEF HEADS TO US AS PRESSURE GROWS

By Khurram Shahzad

Pakistan's influential military chief will visit the US from today, a trip analysts say will underscore security issues facing Islamabad and Washington in the region as well as the imbalance in civilian-military power in Pakistan. The Nov 15-20 visit - apparently instigated by General Raheel Sharif - comes weeks after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with US President Barack Obama at the Oval Office to discuss many of the same issues said to be on his army chief's agenda, including Afghan peace talks and Pakistan's nuclear ambitions.

Analysts said Raheel Sharif's influence over both issues makes him, rather than the civilian leadership, the dominant broker for Washington's regional agenda. The Americans "know where the power is", Pakistani defence and security analyst Talat Masood told AFP. However that is likely to make the visit "a bit trickier" for Sharif as he tries to balance Washington's demands, particularly in Afghanistan, said analyst Zahid Hussain, a columnist for Pakistan's top English newspaper Dawn.

Stability in Pakistan's neighbour Afghanistan has spiralled after a Taliban surge in recent months, and Obama announced in October that Washington will keep thousands of soldiers in the country past 2016. Pakistan has been historically close to the Taliban and Washington sees Islamabad as one of its few partners with the influence to bring the militants to the negotiating table. The new Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour is believed to have close ties to Pakistan.

Sharif will also hold detailed discussions with US defence officials about the militant Haqqani network, which comes under the umbrella of the Taliban and has been described by US officials in the past as a "veritable arm" of Pakistani intelligence, a security official said. Some in Washington believe Pakistan has not done enough to bring its influence to bear and to persuade the group to renounce violence, and during Nawaz Sharif's trip in October Obama stressed that Pakistan needed to take action against groups that undermine peaceful dialogue.

The pressure has increased since an initial round of peace talks was broken off this summer when the death of long-time Taliban leader Mullah Omar was announced. Nawaz Sharif agreed last month to help Afghanistan re-start the talks, but Washington's concerns over the collapse of negotiations are "casting a shadow over the general's coming visit", Hussain wrote this week. Masood, a retired lieutenant general, noted the unusual circumstances surrounding the trip. "It's not that the Americans have invited him but he has invited himself", he said, adding that it would be Sharif's second visit this year. "Normally this doesn't happen." It signals the "importance of the problems that both the countries seem to be facing in the region and especially because of the Afghan situation", he said.

By Military Only

A military statement issued this week said that Raheel Sharif will use the US trip to "clearly highlight Pakistan's perspective of new emerging regional realities", in what some saw as implied criticism of Nawaz Sharif's government's failure to take long-term steps to tackle extremism. But other sources downplayed the significance of the question over who instigated the visit, with one security official saying all that matters is that the discussions are taking place, "even if we have proposed these meetings".

Issues such as Pakistan's nuclear weapons are being handled "by the military only", he said, so it was natural for the army to want to talk to its US counterparts. "Our political leaders are not even aware of the strength of our nuclear weapons... They are also unaware of military needs and other operational details," he said. "We understand that international powers and India have concerns about our short range smaller nuclear warhead weapons," a second security official said, adding that the US is expected to raise the issue with Sharif. The general will argue that Pakistan must maintain its nuclear capability to combat the threat from archrival India, he said. —AFP

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Washington Watch

INVISIBLE VICTIMS

By Dr James J Zogby

Everyone made nice, when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to Washington last week. It was made up time. The Administration sought to demonstrate that despite, what the President referred to as their "minor difference" over the Iran deal, there were no remaining hard feelings. Three-quarters of the Congress welcomed Netanyahu with a letter denouncing Palestinian violence and incitement. And the Israeli PM was fawned over during an appearance at a liberal think-tank.

Before, during, and after the visit, official statements and press coverage largely focused on two themes: Israel's security needs in the wake of the P5+1 Agreement with Iran; and how, despite Netanyahu's testy relationship with President Obama, the US-Israel relationship remains as strong as ever. When Palestinians were discussed at all, it was most often as perpetrators of incitement and violence or as a problem to be solved so that Israel could live in peace.

Suffering

President Obama did speak of the need to "lower the temperature between Israelis and Palestinians" and his concern "that legitimate Palestinian aspirations are met through a political process". For his part, Netanyahu stated that he remained "committed to a vision of two states for two peoples, a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes the Jewish state". But in the overall scheme of things, the President's call to "lower the temperature" and Netanyahu's response that he was open to "discussing...practical ways...[to] lower the tension", appeared to be "throwaway" lines - oft repeated, but never implemented.

What was missing was any forthright acknowledgment of the suffering of Palestinians under a harsh occupation

that has abused and humiliated them, denied their fundamental rights, and sucked the very life out of their hopes for the future. There was nothing new here, since the failure to address these realities has long characterized US policy discussions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

From the earliest days of the Zionist enterprise in Palestine, the West has portrayed the resultant conflict in a simplistic equation - Jewish humanity confronting the Arab problem - real people versus an abstraction. Even when Palestinian national rights were finally recognized, the policy discussion shifted only slightly with the call for a Palestinian state presented as necessary, not to free that Israel would remain a "Jewish state".

There were occasions when leaders deviated from this dominant narrative. Bill Clinton spoke about Palestinian suffering in his remarkable address to the Palestinian National Council in 1998, as did Barack Obama in his 2009 Cairo University address and his 2013 Jerusalem speech. But instead of marking a permanent change in our policy discourse, these appeared to have been one-off exercises. In any case, in recent years, there has been little or no mention of the cruel burdens faced by Palestinians. And no outright denunciation of Israel's cruel treatment of the captive people over whom it rules or any proposed action to change this deplorable situation.

Sympathy

We can talk about "lowering the temperature", but unless the behaviors that raise that temperature are called out by name, nothing will change. Sympathy is, of course, due to victims of stabbings. And those who incite such behavior should be called to account for their words. But where is the sympathy for the thousands of families in

Hebron who have been evicted from their homes to make way for extremist Israelis who have settled in the midst of their city; or the fathers who have been subjected to humiliating treatment at Israeli checkpoints in front of their children; or the children who have recoiled in shock at the sight of their fathers demeaned in this way; or the innocent victims of collective punishment, whose only crime was to be related to someone who is alleged to have committed a violent crime; or the family members of those who have died at checkpoints because they were denied access to hospitals; or the 50 percent of young Palestinians who have no jobs, no prospect of a job, and therefore no hope for the future?

In the end, these Palestinian lives matter and must be acknowledged and protected. In the absence of concern for Palestinian lives, talk of one-state or two-states is empty. In the face of the systematic violations of Palestinian rights, it is an abomination to argue that a two-state solution is needed in order to protect Israel's Jewish character.

Palestinians are victims, invisible victims. It is this history of abuse to which they have been subjected and the anger and despair it has fostered that has led the very young to act out, as they have. Their desperate actions are deplorable and should not be celebrated. They should instead set off alarm bells causing us to reflect on how we in the West have contributed to their anger and despair by ignoring them for so long. Netanyahu should not have been hosted and feted in Washington, he should have been called out by policy makers for his behavior. Until that occurs, nothing will change. Palestinians will remain invisible victims, denied their rights, and peace will remain as elusive as ever.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

SECURITY SERVICES' NIGHTMARE COMES TRUE

By Michel Moutot

Simultaneous attacks on multiple targets by gunmen and suicide bombers working in unison: A nightmare scenario that France's anti-terror agencies had dreaded for months came true in Paris on Friday night. Security officials and experts have predicted that an unprecedented attack was in the offing, and would be nigh impossible to thwart. "Determined guys who are prepared to die, who have studied their target and have a solid operational background, they can do a lot of damage," Yves Trotignon, who used to work for DGSE intelligence agency's anti-terrorist service, recently told AFP. "More jihadist fighters are graduating as veterans every day. Faced with that, it has to be said, the (security) services are overwhelmed," he said.

Eight assailants - a mix of gunmen and suicide bombers - killed more than 120 people and wounded over 200 in attacks at six popular Parisian recreational spots late Friday. Targets included the Bataclan concert hall and eateries around the Stade de France sports stadium where a France-Germany football match was underway. Also hit was a restaurant in a vibey Parisian neighbourhood near Republique square, not far from the erstwhile offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine where 12 people were gunned down in January.

The events of Friday were exactly the kind of multi-pronged attack authorities had been dreading. So far this year they have been fortunate: More than one potential bloodbath was prevented by the offender's own ineptitude. In April, Algerian IT student Sid Ahmed Ghlam was arrested after he shot himself in the leg by accident, leading police to uncover a plot to attack a church in Paris' Villejuif suburb.

Battle-Hardened and Trained

And in August, two off-duty US servicemen and a friend overpowered a gunman who opened fire on passengers on a high-

speed train from Amsterdam to Paris. But the authorities' luck was bound to run out as radicalised Muslims return from warzones battle-hardened and well-trained, said the experts. And they are coming home in such great numbers that it is impossible to keep tabs on them all. "The risk is greatest from groups of young men who return hardened from conflicts, maybe in Syria, maybe Libya or Yemen, then obtain weapons here (in France) and go over into action," Trotignon said.

Since the January slaying of 17 people in joint attacks on Charlie Hebdo, known for its satirical caricatures of Islam, and a Jewish supermarket elsewhere in Paris, anti-terror, intelligence, police and rescue services have been rehearsing for another such multi-pronged assault. Like anti-terror services the world over, French experts closely studied the Mumbai attacks in Nov 2008, in which 10 attackers struck five different spots in concert, killing about 170 people.

But plan as they like, the experts agree there will always be an element of surprise. And things have become complicated by wall-to-wall media coverage - with attackers nowadays positioning themselves "for maximum publicity", a senior anti-terror official recently told AFP on condition of anonymity. "Right now, we fear Kalashnikov attacks" - exactly like the one on the Bataclan theatre which ended when police stormed the building, but only after at least 82 people were killed. —AFP



PARIS: A woman reacts as she looks at the flowers and messages left at a rail cordon close to the Bataclan theatre in the 11th district of Paris yesterday, a day after a series of attacks on the city resulting in the deaths of more than 128 people. —AFP



The iconic sails of the Sydney Opera House are lit in red, white and blue, resembling the colors of the French flag, in Sydney yesterday, as Australians express their solidarity with France following a spate of coordinated attacks. — AFP

IS JIHADISTS CLAIM PARIS ATTACKS THAT KILLED...

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The attack on the Bataclan took place a short distance from the former offices of Charlie Hebdo magazine that was attacked by jihadists in January. Like those attacks, the massacre sparked an outpouring of emotion around the world, with London's Tower Bridge, Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and New York's World Trade Center all illuminated in the red, white and blue of the French tricolore.

Shocked survivors told how eight militants, all wearing suicide vests, stalked the city, indiscriminately gunning down people at bars and restaurants on a busy Friday night. In the worst of the bloodshed, dozens of people were mown down at a sold-out show by American rock group Eagles of Death Metal. The gunmen then began executing hostages one by one, witnesses said. "They didn't stop firing. There was blood everywhere, corpses everywhere. Everyone was trying to flee," Pierre Janaszak, a radio presenter who was at the concert, told AFP.

The gunmen were heard raging at Hollande and his decision in September to begin air strikes on Islamic State jihadists in Syria. "I clearly heard them say 'It's the fault of Hollande, it's the fault of your president, he should not have intervened in Syria'," Janaszak added. The band survived the attack but abruptly cut short their European tour and have returned to the United States, the concert promoters said.

As heavily-armed police stormed the Bataclan at around 12.30 am (2330 GMT), three of the gunmen blew themselves up, while a fourth was hit by police fire. A police officer who took part in the storming of the building told AFP: "It was horrible inside, a bloodbath, people shot in the head, people who were shot as they were lying on the ground."

In a statement posted online yesterday, IS said "eight brothers wearing explosive belts and carrying assault rifles" conducted a "blessed attack on... Crusader France" saying the targets were "carefully chosen". It also referred to French air strikes on IS in Syria, threatening further attacks "as long as it continues its Crusader campaign."

A total of 128 people were killed and 300 wounded, of whom 80 were said to be in critical condition. The toll does not include the eight attackers. Among the victims were at least three foreigners, including two Belgians and a Portuguese man, officials said yesterday. France has been on high alert following the January attacks and narrowly averted more bloodshed in August when a gunman was overpowered on a packed high-speed train coming from Amsterdam. No arrests had been made by 5:00 pm (1600 GMT) yesterday. Police were trying to identify the attackers' body parts and screening hours of CCTV footage.

Hollande immediately declared three days of national mourning, and France will hold a minute's silence at midday tomorrow when flags will be lowered to half mast. "Faced with war, the country must take appropriate action," Hollande said after an emergency meeting of security chiefs. He also announced three days of national mourning. "France will be merciless towards these barbarians from Daesh," he said, using an Arab acronym for Islamic State. Former president Nicolas Sarkozy said in a statement: "The war we must wage should be total."

In a sign of the tension gripping the world's most visited city, the Eiffel Tower was closed indefinitely and the main cinema chains shut on police advice. Disneyland Paris also said it would not open in a move of solidarity and several of Paris' big department stores were also closed after initially opening for several hours. Hollande

himself was hastily evacuated from the Stade de France when suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the stadium during a friendly football international between France and Germany. As the drama unfolded, the German team decided to spend the night at the stadium rather than risking the drive through the French capital to their hotel, the manager said. After being whisked from the stadium near the blasts, Hollande declared a national state of emergency, the first since World War Two. Border controls were temporarily re-imposed to stop perpetrators escaping.

US President Barack Obama described the carnage as "an attack on all of humanity" and an emotional Pope Francis said he was "shaken" by the "inhuman" attacks on the French capital. British Prime Minister David Cameron said the attacks showed IS jihadists had stepped up their capabilities. "Last night's attacks suggest a new degree of planning and coordination and a greater ambition for mass casualty attacks," he said.

The carnage took place after France tightened border security ahead of key UN climate talks just outside the French capital which begin on Nov 30 and will be attended by Obama and dozens of other world leaders. And Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who was due to visit France today, postponed his trip.

As well as the stadium and the concert hall, several restaurants were also targeted, including a popular Cambodian eatery in the trendy Canal St Martin area, where at least 12 people died. Outside the restaurant, mourners yesterday left flowers, a candle and the French national flag emblazoned with the Latin slogan of Paris, which reads: "It is buffeted by the waves, yet remains afloat." Another 18 people were killed at nearby Rue de Charonne where witnesses said a cafe and a Japanese restaurant were targeted.

Sylvestre, a young man who was at the Stade de France when bombs went off there, said he was saved by his cellphone, which he was holding to his ear when debris hit it. "This is the cell phone that took the hit, it's what saved me," he said. "Otherwise my head would have been blown to bits," he said, showing the phone with its screen smashed. French newspapers spoke of "carnage" and "horror". Le Figaro's headline said: "War in the heart of Paris" on a black background with a picture of people on stretchers.

Julien Pearce, a journalist from Europe 1 radio, was inside the concert hall when the shooting began. In an eyewitness report posted on the station's website, Pearce said several very young individuals, who were not wearing masks, entered the hall during the concert, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and started "blindly shooting at the crowd". "There were bodies everywhere," he said. The gunmen shot their victims in the back, finishing some off at point-blank range before reloading their guns and firing again, Pearce said, after escaping into the street by a stage door, carrying a wounded girl on his shoulder.

Toon, a 22-year-old messenger who lives near the Bataclan, was going into the concert hall with two friends at around 10.30 pm when he saw three young men dressed in black and armed with machine guns. He stayed outside. One of the gunmen began firing into the crowd. "People were falling like dominoes," he told Reuters. He saw people shot in the leg, shoulder and back, with several lying on the floor, apparently dead. But amid the shock, some residents were defiant. Speaking to AFP at the Bataclan, concert-goer Charles insisted he would not be cowed by terror. "We won't give in to fear," he said. "I'm going to a concert on Tuesday. Keep rocking!" — Agencies

TERRORISM CENTER-STAGE AS WORLD LEADERS MEET

Continued from Page 1

capital overnight, targeting a concert hall, restaurants, bars and a sports stadium. "We are now at a point where words end in the fight against terrorism. We are now at a stage where this should be put at the forefront," Erdogan told reporters ahead of the summit, also due to be attended by leaders from Europe, China, Japan, Canada, Australia and Brazil, among others.

Although the G20 usually focuses on economic issues, the fight against terrorism was already expected to be on the agenda. The summit comes two weeks after a suspected bomb attack on a Russian airliner killed 224 people in the Sinai Peninsula. It also comes just over a month after two suspected Islamic State suicide bombers blew themselves up at a peace rally in the Turkish capital Ankara, killing more than 100 people in the worst such attack in the country.

Events such as the attacks in Paris made it crucial for the world's top economies to stand shoulder to shoulder at the summit, China's vice finance minister said. "We must work together, we must enhance our solidarity," Zhu Guangyou told a news conference in the coastal resort of Belek, where leaders began gathering for the summit. Speaking in Vienna, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said there was growing consensus among global powers that they had to work together to confront Islamic State.

The G20 summit takes place just 500 km from Syria, where a 4-1/2-year conflict has transformed Islamic State militants into a global security threat and spawned Europe's largest migration flows since World War Two. Erdogan condemned the Paris killings and pointed to Turkey's own long battle with domestic security threats, which include its fight with Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants in its southeast and recent bomb attacks linked to Islamic State. — Reuters

KUWAIT REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH FRANCE

Continued from Page 1

The embassy is in touch with the competent authorities and keeps close watch on the developments of the situation, he added. Separately, the French embassy yesterday said no changes have taken place in measures for issuing Schengen visas to Kuwaitis wishing to visit France. A Schengen visa is still issued in 48 hours, an embassy statement noted. France has tightened border security in the wake of the attacks that hit Paris late Friday.

Yet, this does not lead to any change, not in the least, on the issuance of Schengen visas that are issued in two days' time, the statement said. Schengen visas that have been already issued are valid, the embassy said, noting that tightening security implies potential security inspection during travels among member states. French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle also strongly denied banning Kuwaitis or people from other nationalities from entering France in the aftermath of the attacks. — Agencies

SEARCH FOR 'JIHADI JOHN' TOOK MONTHS

Continued from Page 1

Two missiles destroyed the car targeted in the strike. The United States expressed growing optimism on Friday that Emwazi was dead but cautioned that a formal determination would take time. "We're 100 percent sure the guy we hit is dead. We are reasonably sure the dead guy is Jihadi John," said one US official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The strike illustrates an apparent improvement in Western intelligence-gathering over the past year or more in a rugged region where reliable on-the-ground information is scarce and where the United States has struggled to infiltrate the extremist group. Use of American spy satellites, eavesdropping sensors and drones have been expanded over the past year, US officials and a former official said. Some monitoring resources were moved to Syria from Afghanistan.

Emwazi was principally tracked and targeted through surveillance technology included both satellite and ground-based sensors rather than informants on the ground, said one US government source familiar with details of Thursday's operation. Britain's GCHQ intelligence agency and America's National Security Agency have extensive electronic surveillance coverage of the region, including systems for locating targets through mobile-phone signals, officials say.

The attack on Emwazi follows a series of strikes by the United States and Britain against other British recruits to the Islamic State movement. In August, a man from Birmingham regarded as one of Islamic State's top computer experts, Junaid Hussain, was killed in a US drone strike. Around the same time, two other British recruits to Islamic State, Reyyad Khan and Ruhul Amin, were killed by

drone strikes launched by British forces, a European government source confirmed. The White House said in August that the Islamic State's second-in-command was killed in a US air strike in Iraq.

An activist group called Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently said Emwazi was killed close to what is known as the Clock Roundabout, several blocks away from Islamic State's main headquarters and the Islamic Court building. It said the location was one where Islamic State carries out public executions. The activist group said on its Twitter feed that Emwazi was killed at 11:40 pm and that there were at least 14 more airstrikes around the city between 11:51 pm and midnight on Thursday. Islamic State fighters cordoned off the area, it added.

Emwazi participated in videos showing the killings of US journalists Foley and Steven Sotloff, US aid worker Peter Kassig, British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning, Japanese journalist Kenji Goto, and other hostages. Kassig, from Indiana, was also known as Abdul-Rahman, a name he took after converting to Islam in captivity.

Emwazi used the videos to threaten the West, admonish its Arab allies and taunt US President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron in front of hostages kneeling in orange jumpsuits. It was not immediately clear which British agencies led the hunt for Jihadi John, but in the past both Britain's domestic intelligence service, known as MI-5, and its foreign intelligence service, known as MI-6 have been involved with the CIA in operations against Al-Qaeda and its affiliates.

Britain said it had a crucial role in the operation. "We have been working, with the United States, literally around the clock to track him down. This was a combined effort. And the contribution of both our countries was essential," Cameron said. — Reuters

EGYPT WOES ERODE SISI IMAGE OF INVINCIBILITY

CAIRO: The criticism was blunt - and startling, since it came from a TV presenter on a state-owned station that, like most other media in Egypt, usually has nothing but praise for Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi, the country's general-turned-president. Presenter Azza El-Henawy demanded Sisi take action after deaths from floods in areas north of Cairo last month that many blamed on neglect of infrastructure by authorities. She said corruption was being ignored and addressed the president, saying, "As long as no one is held accountable, you will be just talking and making promises and we will get no results... This is why the people are fed up."

Henawy was promptly suspended by the state broadcaster for "unprofessional conduct". Her outspoken comments on Nov 1 pointed to the erosion of the aura of invincibility that Sisi has enjoyed. Sisi had seemed impervious to criticism ever since he, as military chief, led the 2013 ouster of Egypt's first freely elected president, the Islamist Mohamed Morsi, after nationwide protests against Morsi and the political domination of the Muslim Brotherhood. Sisi then stormed into the presidency with a 2014 landslide election victory.

For more than two years, he has been lauded as Egypt's savior. The media have praised his every move, telling the public that he is putting Egypt on the path of security and economic revival. He's had virtually no political opposition, since secular political parties have largely joined the cheer-leading and a fierce crackdown has crushed the Brotherhood, killing hundreds of its protesting supporters and jailing thousands more. Secular and pro-democracy activists who fueled the 2011 uprising against longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak were not spared, with dozens jailed, mostly for breaking a law effectively banning street protests.

But in recent weeks, Sisi seemed to struggle with expectations among a population that is fatigued by years of turmoil and has still seen little improvement in the economy, corruption or infrastructure. Worries over the economy have been compounded by the crash of a Russian passenger plane in the Sinai Peninsula that killed all 224 on board. The US and Britain believe it was downed by a bomb planted by the Sinai branch of the Islamic State group, which has been waging an insurgency against Sisi's government. Russia suspended flights to Egypt and on Friday took the further step

of halting EgyptAir flights to Russia - all likely to have a devastating effect on tourism.

Sisi himself appears to have little tolerance for criticism. "It's inappropriate! We are crossing all boundaries. It's inappropriate!" he said, visibly angry during an address on Nov 1 after a different TV presenter was critical of him for meeting with a senior Western businessman when the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria was inundated by rain. "Are you punishing me for taking this job?" he said. The speech inspired widespread mockery on social media.

Asked by a TV reporter Wednesday about the tourism crisis, he proclaimed bombastically that people shouldn't worry so much. "We don't eat? Then, we won't eat. We go hungry? So be it. What is the problem? As long as our country is secure and we're moving forward. Success is clear," he said.

Although the grumbling hardly poses any immediate threat to Sisi's authority, even a dulling of enthusiasm could represent a shift in his popularity. There are no reliable opinion polls on Sisi's approval ratings. But relatively low turnout in last month's first round of parliamentary elections - 26.6 percent - has been interpreted by commentators, including

supporters, as evidence of distrust in a political process overseen by Sisi and discontent over the economy.

Cracks have grown in the fierce anti-protest law imposed after Morsi's fall, despite long prison sentences imposed on those who organize rallies. In recent weeks, numerous groups have held protests to air various grievances, though the demonstrations have not been large and focused on specific demands, not larger political issues. "These social and economic crises are beyond Sisi's control," explained Imad el-Deen Hussein, editor in chief of the independent Al-Shorouk daily and a Sisi supporter. "It is impossible to tell accurately if he is losing popularity. But that is the general feeling many have."

Henawy's defiant commentary was the most overt toward Sisi, but there has increasingly been grumbling over perceived policy failures. Reasons included the flooding, the loss of value by the Egyptian pound, the negative fallout from the arrest of a wealthy newspaper owner and the military's detention of a leading rights advocate and investigative journalist. On her show this week, Lamees El-Hadidi, a popular TV anchor who ranks among Sisi's strongest supporters, appeared to indirectly fault Sisi. — AP

PISTORIUS REPORTS FOR FIRST COMMUNITY SERVICE

PRETORIA: Oscar Pistorius reported yesterday for his first day of community service in the South African capital Pretoria as part of his parole conditions after being released from jail three weeks ago. The Paralympian athlete was allowed out of prison after serving one year of his five-year sentence for killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in the early hours of Valentine's Day, 2013. Pistorius, 28, arrived at Garsfontein police station in Pretoria, driven by his sister Aimee, and declined to speak to waiting reporters. He is serving the rest of his sentence under house arrest at his uncle's home in the city. In his first appearance in public since his

release, he walked into the police station wearing sunglasses and a white T-shirt, and carrying a backpack. The disgraced sprinter was found guilty last year of culpable homicide—a charge equivalent to manslaughter—after telling his trial that he shot Steenkamp through a bathroom door because he mistook her for an intruder. His parole conditions have not been released, but are reported to allow him to meet with Steenkamp's parents June and Barry if they wish. The Department of Correctional Services has also said Pistorius would undergo "continued psychotherapy" and face restrictions on owning firearms.

State appeal

Pistorius was jailed after a six-month trial that made headlines around the world. Prosecutors said he killed Steenkamp in a fit of rage, firing four shots through the locked toilet door. They described the double amputee as an egotistical liar obsessed with guns, fast cars and beautiful women, who was not prepared to take responsibility for his actions. The case is currently being reviewed by the Supreme Court of Appeal as state prosecutors push to have the culpable homicide verdict overturned in favor of a murder conviction.

The court heard arguments from both sides last week, and is expected to take some weeks before announcing its decision. The five appeal judges could alter the original trial verdict and send the case back to the high court for a new sentence. If he was found guilty of murder, he would face a minimum of 15 years in prison. Pistorius's family made no comment on his community service yesterday. When he was released, a family spokeswoman said he would serve the rest of his sentence "under the strict conditions that govern correctional supervision." Pistorius shot Steenkamp, a model and law graduate, at the peak of

his fame, following his historic performance in 2012 when he became the first double-amputee to race at Olympic level. During the trial, Pistorius often broke down, weeping and at times vomiting as he heard how Steenkamp was hit by hollow-point bullets he fired from the 9mm pistol that he kept under his bed. In the shooting's aftermath, he lost his glittering sports career, lucrative contracts and status as a global role model for the disabled. His release on house arrest was in line with normal treatment of South African convicts, but was criticized by women's rights groups and many others in the country.—AFP

WILLIAMSON CARRIES NEW ZEALAND'S HOPES AFTER HUGE AUSTRALIAN TOTAL

PERTH: In-form batsman Kane Williamson carried New Zealand hopes with another fighting half-century at stumps on the second day of the second Test at the WACA Ground yesterday. After Australia had declared their first innings at 559 for nine, New Zealand were 140 for two in reply on an easy-going pitch. Williamson was unbeaten on 70, with Ross Taylor on 26 not out, the pair having added 53 runs but the Kiwis still trailing by 419 runs with eight wickets in hand. Put in to bat around 40 minutes before tea, the Kiwis lost both their openers.

Martin Guptill was trapped leg before wicket by left-arm quick Mitchell Starc for just one when the score was six. Tom Latham again looked solid in making 36, but Australian captain Steve Smith was rewarded for his decision to bring off-spinner Nathan Lyon back into the attack. Lyon removed Latham in his first over after tea with Smith taking a sharp catch low to his left. Williamson again looked in total control after scoring 140 and 59 in Brisbane, and his only moments of concern came when his concentration appeared to waver during a short spell by all-rounder Mitchell Marsh provoking him to play a couple of false shots.

One significant setback for Australia during the second day was an apparent hamstring injury suffered by first innings centurion Usman Khawaja. The 28-year-old, who has scored centuries in the two Tests against the Kiwis and made 121 on Friday, pulled up sharply after chasing a ball to the boundary and immediately left the field. He didn't return and Cricket Australia said his injury would be assessed today. Earlier in the day, New Zealand foiled Australian opener David Warner's bid to break more batting records when they removed him for 253, caught in slips off paceman Trent Boult. Australia, ahead 1-0 in the three-

match series after a 208-run win in Brisbane, had resumed at 416 for two, with Warner on 244 and eyeing Matthew Hayden's record WACA score of 380 against Zimbabwe in 2003. However, he added just nine runs before some much-improved bowling from Boult had him edging to Mark Craig in slips.

'Determined and focused'

It was the second-highest individual score at the ground, behind only Hayden's massive knock. Warner faced 286 balls and was at the crease for 409 minutes, hitting 24 boundaries and two sixes in an impressive innings that was the highest of his career and his first double-century at Test level. Warner said he was pleased to bat for such a long period for the second match in succession. "I faced 200 balls for the first time last game," he said. "For me it is about being determined and focused. I achieved what I set out to do and that was to score a double hundred in my career, and it has put us into a great position. But it's going to be tough to take 20 wickets on this deck."

At one stage Australia were 512 for four yesterday, but they collapsed after lunch with New Zealand spinner Craig (3-123) on a hat-trick as the wickets tumbled in the chase for quick runs. Paceman Doug Bracewell (2-81) provided a rare moment of delight for the visitors when he took a brilliant reflex catch off his own bowling to remove Marsh for 34. Bracewell, who conceded a draw was their main focus, said the Kiwis were rewarded for bowling with more consistency. "It was pretty pleasing to have a good day like that after yesterday," he said. "We spoke about improving and being more consistent and we got a few rewards. We talked about making them hit our good balls rather than giving them the release we were yesterday."—AFP



BANGALORE: Indian wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha (right) takes the catch to dismiss South African cricketer AB de Villiers for 85 runs during the first day of the second Test match between India and South Africa at The M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.—AFP

INDIA SPIN OUT SA FOR 214

BANGALORE: India's spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja shared eight wickets as South Africa crumbled for 214 on the opening day of the second Test in Bangalore yesterday. AB de Villiers marked his 100th Test with a stroke-filled 85 to bolster the score after Indian captain Virat Kohli won the toss and elected to field in overcast conditions at the Chinnaswamy stadium.

Opener Dean Elgar's 38 was the next highest score as the top-ranked Proteas, who lost the first Test in Mohali by 108 runs, once again floundered against the spinners on a pitch that held no demons. India replied with 80 for no loss by stumps with Murali Vijay unbeaten on 28 and Shikhar Dhawan finding form with 45 not out after being dismissed for a pair in Mohali. South Africa, aiming to bounce back in the four-Test series, were reduced to 120-5 before being dismissed in just 59 overs during the post-tea session to hand India the early advantage.

Off-spinner Ashwin wreaked havoc with the top order by claiming three of the first five wickets, including two in his opening over when he was brought on to bowl the eighth over. Ashwin finished with four for 70 to build on his eight-wicket match haul in the first Test. Left-arm Jadeja, who also took eight scalps in Mohali, returned with four for 50, including the important wicket of de Villiers off the last ball before tea. De Villiers hit 11 boundaries and a six, before wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha dived in front of the stumps to pick up a low catch.

'Too many soft dismissals'

South African coach Russell Domingo blamed the batsmen for the low total, saying there was nothing in the wicket to suggest another bowler-dominated game. "There were far too

many soft dismissals from us," he said. "The pitch was fine. We just did not play well." Domingo, however, did not rule out a turnaround in the Test. "At the moment we are obviously too far behind in the game, but things can change fast because six to seven wickets can fall in a session."

De Villiers walked in at 45-3 to generous applause from some 23,000 fans who regard him as one of their own due to his stint with the Bangalore team in the Indian Premier League. He got off the mark with five runs, courtesy of an overthrow by Indian captain Virat Kohli that raced to the fence. De Villiers, who went to lunch unbeaten on 19, brought up South Africa's 100 with a superb cover drive off fast bowler Varun Aaron and reached his half-century with a single off Ashwin.

Ashwin praised de Villiers' effort but felt the

star batsman was not at his best. "AB is a world-class batsman and played his strokes, but I thought he was a bit edgy today," the off-spinner said. "There was not much for us in the pitch but we bowled well. Even when AB was batting, we were able to maintain control by taking wickets at the other end."

Ashwin trapped Stiaan van Zyl (10) leg-before with his second delivery and had Faf du Plessis (0) caught at short-leg by Cheteshwar Pujara off the fifth to make it 15-2. Aaron claimed the key wicket of Hashim Amla (7) in the 15th over, uprooting the captain's off-stump as the Proteas were reduced to 45-3. The ninth-wicket pair of Kyle Abbott (14) and Morne Morkel (22) put on 37 to steer the tourists past the 200-run mark for the first time in the series. They had fallen for 184 and 109 in Mohali.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

PERTH, Australia: Scores after the second day in the second Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth on yesterday.

Australia 1st innings (overnight 416-2)		Bowling: Southee 29-6-88-0, Boult 26-2-123-2 (1w), Henry 22-2-105-2, Bracewell 25-1-81-2 (4nb), Craig 23-0-123-3, Williamson 3-0-11-0, Guptill 3-0-7-0, McCullum 2-0-16-0.	
J. Burns b Henry	40	New Zealand 1st innings	
D. Warner c Craig b Boult	253	M. Guptill lbw Starc	1
U. Khawaja c Latham b Bracewell	121	T. Latham c Smith b Lyon	36
S. Smith c Watling b Henry	27	K. Williamson not out	70
A. Voges c Watling b Boult	41	R. Taylor not out	26
M. Marsh c and b Bracewell	34	Extras (lb4, nb3)	7
P. Nevill st Watling b Craig	19	Total (2 wickets, 42 overs)	140
M. Johnson st Watling b Craig	2	Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Guptill), 2-87 (Latham)	
M. Starc c Latham b Craig	0	Bowling: Starc 11-3-17-1, Hazlewood 11-1-48-0 (1nb), Johnson 8-1-34-0, Lyon 8-1-24-1, Marsh 4-1-13-0 (2nb)	
J. Hazlewood not out	8	To Bat: B McCullum, BJ Watling, D Bracewell, M Craig, M Henry, T Southee, T Boult.	
N. Lyon not out	4		
Extras (4lb, 1b, 1w, 4nb)	10		
Total (9 wickets declared; 133 overs)	559		
Fall of wickets: 1-101 (Burns), 2-403 (Khawaja), 3-427 (Warner), 4-462 (Smith), 5-512 (Voges), 6-539 (Marsh), 7-547 (Nevill), 8-547 (Starc), 9-547 (Johnson)			



PERTH: New Zealand's batsman Kane Williamson plays a shot during day two of the second cricket Test match between Australia and New Zealand in Perth yesterday.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day in the second Test between India and South Africa on yesterday in Bangalore, India.

South Africa 1st innings		India 1st innings	
S. van Zyl lbw b Ashwin	10	M. Vijay not out	28
D. Elgar b Jadeja	38	S. Dhawan not out	45
F. du Plessis c Pujara b Ashwin	0	Extras (b-4 nb-3)	7
H. Amla b Aaron	7	Total (for no loss, 22 overs)	80
A. de Villiers c Saha b Jadeja	85	Fall of wickets: To bat: C. Pujara, V. Kohli, A. Rahane, W. Saha, R. Jadeja, S. Binny, R. Ashwin, I. Sharma, V. Aaron	
J. Duminy c Rahane b Ashwin	15	Bowling: M. Morkel 7-1-23-0(nb-3); K. Abbott 6-1-18-0; K. Rabada 5-1-17-0; J. Duminy 2-0-9-0; I. Tahir 2-0-9-0.	
D. Vilas c&b Jadeja	15		
K. Abbott run out (Dhawan, Saha)	14		
K. Rabada c Pujara b Jadeja	0		
M. Morkel c Binny b Ashwin	22		
I. Tahir not out	0		
Extras (lb-2 nb-6)	8		
Total (all out, 59 overs)	214		
Fall of wickets: 1-15 S. van Zyl, 2-15 F. du Plessis, 3-45 H. Amla, 4-78 D. Elgar, 5-120 J. Duminy, 6-159 D. Vilas, 7-177			

VIVA ANNOUNCES 3 DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announces the three winners of "Get ready for the Clasico" campaign's draw, held in presence of a representative from the ministry of commerce and industry. The winners are: Amr Ibrahim Hussain, Sultan Meshal Al-Sabah and Hatem Nawaf Al-Mohammed. This campaign granted the chance for those three persons to win and travel to Madrid to watch the upcoming match between Real Madrid vs Barcelona live from Bernabeu stadium on 21 November 2015. VIVA announced its official sponsorship of Real Madrid Football Club in 2012, being the first in Kuwait to sponsor this world renowned football club. To find out more about VIVA's new prepaid packages, or any of its other competitive promotions, products and packages, visit one of the 70 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw, or call VIVA's 24 hour call center on 102.

Get ready for the Clasico and win your ticket with VIVA





NEW YORK: New York Rangers defenseman Ryan McDonagh (27) trips over St. Louis Blues right wing Vladimir Tarasenko (91), of Russia, as Rangers left wing Rick Nash (61) block the puck in front of the Rangers' goal in the third period of an NHL hockey game in New York on Thursday, Nov 12, 2015. The Rangers defeated the Blues 6-3. —AP

FLAMES OVERWHELM CAPITALS

WASHINGTON: Sean Monahan scored his second goal of the game 1:40 into overtime to give the Calgary Flames a 3-2 win over the Washington Capitals on Friday night. Michael Frolik also scored for Calgary and Karri Ramo stopped 34 shots. Michael Latta and Jay Beagle had the goals for Washington, and Philipp Grubauer finished with 26 saves. In overtime, Monahan took a pass from TJ Brodie and beat Grubauer from right in front. Washington coach Barry Trotz challenged the goal, claiming that Monahan was offside, but the goal was quickly confirmed. Monahan has six goals this season, including four in the last four games. The Flames, which lost two straight entered the game with the worst record in the Western Conference.

seconds left but the referees waved it off after ruling Hornqvist intentionally kicked the puck into the net.

SHARKS 3, RED WINGS 2

Joe Pavelski scored his ninth goal of the season, Martin Jones made 26 saves and San Jose beat Detroit. Melker Karlsson and Matt Nieto also scored for the Sharks, who improved to 7-1 in Detroit since the 2010-11 season. Tomas Tatar and Teemu Pulkkinen scored for the Red Wings, and Jimmy Howard finished with 11 saves. Pavel Datsyuk made his season debut for Detroit after missing the first 15 games due to off-season ankle surgery. He received a standing ovation when coming onto the ice for his first shift.

ISLANDERS 4, DUCKS 1

Frans Nielsen scored twice in the third period, backup goalie Thomas Greiss stopped 24 shots, and New York beat Anaheim. Brock Nelson and Cal Clutterbuck also had goals for the Islanders, who won two of three on a California road trip. Nelson, who had the Islanders' only goal in a 2-1 loss at Los Angeles on Thursday night, has scored in consecutive games for the first time since last Dec 2-4. Corey Perry scored for the Ducks, who were coming off consecutive overtime losses at home against the Coyotes and Oilers. Anton Khudobin finished with 25 saves. — AP

BLUE JACKETS 2, PENGUINS 1

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 28 shots and narrowly missed his 12th career shutout as Columbus held off Pittsburgh. Scott Hartnell scored his team-leading eighth goal to help the Blue Jackets improve to 5-5 under John Tortorella. Brandon Saad picked up his sixth with a power-play goal in the second period that gave Columbus a 2-0 lead. Marc-Andre Fleury made 26 saves for the Penguins but Pittsburgh went 0 for 6 on the power play. Patrick Hornqvist deflected a shot from the point past Bobrovsky with 52 seconds remaining to spoil Bobrovsky's shutout bid. Hornqvist appeared to tie it with 13

CAVALIERS ROLL TO EIGHTH STRAIGHT WIN

NEW YORK: LeBron James scored 31 points, Mo Williams made a tiebreaking jumper with 41 seconds left and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks 90-84 on Friday night for their eighth straight victory. Cleveland remained unbeaten since dropping its opener at Chicago and matched its best start through nine games at 8-1. Williams scored Cleveland's final six points and finished with 20. Carmelo Anthony scored 26 for the Knicks, but 22 came in the first half and his only field goal in the second half was a follow dunk as James kept his friend in check when it mattered. Arron Afflalo had 14 points for the Knicks.

BULLS 102, HORNETS 97

Jimmy Butler had 27 points, Pau Gasol added 19 points and 13 rebounds and Chicago beat Charlotte. Nicolas Batum scored 12 of his 28 points in the third quarter and was 5 of 6 from 3-point range for Charlotte. Kemba Walker had 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Charlotte trailed for most of the fourth quarter, but Jeremy Lamb scored eight straight points to pull the Hornets within 88-87 with 5:54 left. But Butler hit a jumper and made a pair of free throws and Derrick Rose had a driving layup to get the lead up to 94-87 with 4:32 left. Lamb missed a 3-pointer with 27 seconds left that would have tied it at 100. Butler then iced it with a 22-footer to put the Bulls up 102-97.

THUNDER 102, 76ERS 85

Russell Westbrook had his second straight triple-double and Oklahoma City beat Philadelphia. Westbrook stepped up while top scorer Kevin Durant sat out with a strained left hamstring. Westbrook finished with 21 points, a career-high 17 rebounds and 11 assists for the 21st triple-double of his career. It was his third in his past four games against Philadelphia. Dion Waiters scored 14 points and Enes Kanter had 13 for the Thunder, who won their third straight. Christian Wood scored 15 points and Nerlens Noel had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the 76ers, who lost their 19th in a row. Philadelphia's Jahli Okafor, who had led all rookies with 20.6 points per game, finished with six on 3-for-18 shooting.

NUGGETS 107, ROCKETS 98

Danilo Gallinari had 27 points, Will Barton scored a career-high 26 and Denver beat Houston to spoil the return of Ty Lawson. Kenneth Faried added 14 points and 11 rebounds for Denver. The home crowd didn't give Lawson a warm reception despite his mostly productive six years with the Nuggets. He helped Denver reach the playoffs four straight seasons and win a franchise-best 57 games in 2012-13 before a disappointing first-round exit against Golden State. Trouble off the court, including multiple arrests, soured his reputation with the fans and preceded him being dealt to Houston in the summer. James Harden led the Rockets with 28 points. Terrence Jones added 23 off the bench and Dwight Howard had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

KINGS 111, NETS 109

DeMarcus Cousins had 30 of his season-high 40 points in the second half and added 13 rebounds, Rajon Rondo had a triple-double and Sacramento Kings beat struggling Brooklyn. It was the second straight victory for the Kings, who had snapped a six-game losing streak on Wednesday. Rondo had his third triple-double in four games, with 23 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds. Reserve Ben McLemore had a season-high 15 points and Marco Belinelli had 14. Jarrett Jack had 21 points and 12 assists for the Nets, who have opened the season with a 18 record.

GRIZZLIES 101, TRAIL BLAZERS 100

Zach Randolph's put-back basket with less than a second left and a season-high 31 points from Marc Gasol led Memphis to a victory over Portland. Portland had a final shot with 0.6 of a second left, but Al-Farouq Aminu's 17-footer was short and the Grizzlies snapped a four-game losing streak. The Trail Blazers lost their fourth straight and haven't won since a 115-96 victory over Memphis on Nov 5. Randolph's winning basket gave him 15 points for the game. Jeff Green scored 14, while Mike Conley and newcomer Mario Chalmers added 11 points apiece. CJ McCollum led Portland with 26 points.

MAVERICKS 90, LAKERS 82

Zaza Pachulia notched his sixth double-dou-



DENVER: Denver Nuggets forward JJ Hickson (7) pressures Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Friday, Nov 13, 2015 in Denver. —AP

ble in nine games and Dallas sent Los Angeles to its fourth straight loss. Kobe Bryant returned to action after missing the Lakers' two previous games with a tight back. He hit his first three shots and finished with 19 points while playing a season-high 32:25. Dallas extended its record winning streak in the series between the teams to nine. Pachulia led the Mavs with season highs of 18 points and 16 rebounds. He was acquired last summer after free agent DeAndre Jordan decided to stay with the Los Angeles Clippers. Jordan Clarkson led the Lakers with 21 points and was 3 of 5 on 3-point shots.

PACERS 107, TIMBERWOLVES 103

Paul George scored 29 points, Monta Ellis added 24 points in his best game this season and Indiana beat Minnesota for its sixth win in seven games. Zach LaVine and Andrew Wiggins each scored 26 points and led a furious charge that almost brought Minnesota back from a 27-point deficit in the final 16 minutes. After Indiana built an 87-60 lead with 4 minutes left in the third quarter, the Timberwolves pulled within 101-100 with 1:18 left. Ian Mahinmi added 12 points and nine rebounds and Glenn Robinson III scored 11 points and had five rebounds off the bench for Indiana. Karl-Anthony Towns, the league's seventh-best rebounder, had 12 points and nine rebounds for Minnesota. Nemanja Bjelica and Shabazz Muhammad each had 10 points.

CELTICS 106, HAWKS 93

Isaiah Thomas scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half and added 10 assists as Boston recovered from early shooting troubles to beat Atlanta. The Hawks played without coach Mike Budenholzer, who returned to Atlanta earlier Friday for a family emergency. Assistant Kenny Atkinson coached the team. Amir Johnson scored 19 and Jared Sullinger had 10 points and 10 rebounds for Boston, which closed the game on a 10-0 run while holding the Hawks without a

point for the final three minutes. The Celtics outrebounded the Hawks 50-35 and had only 10 turnovers to Atlanta's 17. Paul Millsap led Atlanta with 14 points and eight rebounds, but scored only four in the final three quarters. Al Horford added 13 points, Kent Bazemore scored 12 and Kyle Korver finished with 11 points for the Hawks.

RAPTORS 100, PELICANS 81

Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points and 10 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan added 15 points and 11 assists and Toronto pulled away in the second half for a win over New Orleans. After trailing by nine points during the first half, the Raptors turned a 40-40 halftime tie into a rout against the banged-up Pelicans - New Orleans was without five regulars. Five Raptors scored in double-figures, including Kyle Lowry with 20 points. Toronto begins a five-game road trip Sunday night at Sacramento and plays 11 of its first 15 games of the season on the road. Guards Eric Gordon and Jrue Holiday led New Orleans. Gordon had 30 points and Holiday added 19. The Raptors hit just 2 of 10 3-point attempts in the first half, but made 7 of 11 from beyond the arc in the second half.

MAGIC 102, JAZZ 93

Evan Fournier scored 21 points and Orlando raced out to a big early lead to defeat Utah. Tobias Harris added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Magic, who won for the fifth time in their last seven games. The Magic jumped out to a 16-2 lead in the first four minutes while the Jazz missed eight of their first nine shots and turned the ball over four times. They stretched their advantage to 22 points early in the second quarter and were up by as many as 23 in the fourth before the Jazz got within seven points in the closing minutes. Gordon Hayward and Trey Burke each scored 16 points for the Jazz. Hayward was their only starter to make a field goal in the first half. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

Columbus 2, Pittsburgh 1; Calgary 3, Washington 2 (OT); San Jose 3, Detroit 2; NY Islanders 4, Anaheim 1.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference						
Central Division						Atlantic Division						
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Dallas	13	4	0	62	45	26	Montreal	13	2	2	62	33
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						Metropolitan Division						
Los Angeles	10	6	0	39	33	20	NY Rangers	12	2	2	51	28
Arizona	9	6	1	46	44	19	Washington	11	4	1	50	37
Vancouver	7	5	5	50	42	19	NY Islanders	9	6	3	49	42
San Jose	8	8	0	43	42	16	Pittsburgh	10	6	0	36	33
Anaheim	5	8	4	29	45	14	New Jersey	9	6	1	40	40
Calgary	6	11	1	44	68	13	Carolina	6	9	1	32	46
Edmonton	6	11	0	44	54	12	Philadelphia	5	8	3	30	48
							Columbus	5	12	0	40	60

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

FIGURE SKATING

CHAN, TUKTAMYSHEVA STRUGGLE AS GOLD SHINES AT TROPHÉE BOMPARD

BORDEAUX: Gracie Gold stormed to the women's lead at the Trophée Bompard on Friday with Japanese teenager Shoma Uno leading the men as reigning world champion Elizaveta Tuktamysheva and Canadian star Patrick Chan both struggled. US silver medalist Gold pulled out a near perfect short program to the popular Argentinean tango music "El Choclo" to score a personal best 73.32 points at the Meriadeck ice rink. The 20-year-old improved her previous best by over two points to lead Russian Julia Lipnitskaya by 7.69 going into the free skating final in the fourth of the six-leg ISU Grand Prix series. Gold is bidding to add to her silver medal from Skate America last month to book her ticket to the elite ISU Grand Prix final in Barcelona from December 10-13.

Reigning world and European champion Tuktamysheva, who had finished second in her opening Grand Prix at Skate Canada this month, fell twice to trail in fifth (56.21). Former three-time world champion Chan, who started off his season by upstaging Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu to win Skate Canada, also produced an error-strewn performance to a Michael Buble song, "Mack the Knife" to sit a distant fifth 76.10 behind Uno. Uno, the reigning world junior champion, also scored a personal best 89.56 points with Russia's Maxim Kovtun third best with 86.82 ahead of Japan's

Daisuke Murakami 80.24.

Chan has won the Trophée Bompard four times, most recently in 2013 when the 24-year-old set personal best scores in the short program and free skate, and the world record for free skate and combined total that year. But the Olympic silver medalist, returning to competition after a year off, was far from his best failing in his attempt at an opening quadruple jump before also stumbling on his triple axel. Olympic champions Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov of Russia dominated the pairs event, scoring 74.50 in the short program to open up a nine point lead on France's Vanessa James and Morgan Ciprès (65.75 points).

In ice dancing, Americans Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue took the lead with 64.45. The American duo last summer joined the Montreal-based dance centre where world and European champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France train. Papadakis was ruled out of the Trophée Bompard after fresh fears over the head injury the French figure skater suffered in August. The Montreal-based skater suffered panic attacks, depression, memory loss and dyslexia after hitting her head on the ice during a training session last August. The 20-year-old has undergone treatment pioneered for members of the military suffering head trauma. —AFP

SERBIAN PLAYER BACK ON THE COURT AFTER LOSING LEG

BELGRADE: Met by cheers and a standing ovation from supporters, a professional Serbian basketball player has made an extraordinary comeback to the court two years after losing her leg in a bus crash. Wearing a prosthetic limb under black leggings, 21-year-old Natasa Kovacevic scored five points towards Wednesday night's victory by Red Star Belgrade, the club with which she began her career, in a return to the game that she described as "sublime". Many had believed Kovacevic's exemplary career was over when she was caught up in a deadly accident in September 2013 while travelling with her

Hungarian club, Gyor.

The club's coach and general manager were killed, while seriously injured Kovacevic had to have her leg amputated. But 26 months later, she has shown a level of resilience that even her rivals applaud. "I am overwhelmed to be back, the feeling on the ground was sublime. I feel as if I never left, as if two years has not gone by," a smiling Kovacevic said after her team beat southern Serbian side Student Nis by 78-47. "I need to improve my fitness, if I'm honest I lost my breath a little, but I will work and it will come," she said.

Spectators pointed out that what she lacked through her disability, Kovacevic made up for with her experience in the game, despite her young age. The coach of the opposing team, Zvonimir Stankovic, was no less admiring. "What she has accomplished, her perseverance, deserve everyone's respect. We should all teach our children about her example," he said. "From the moment she entered the game, we treated her like any other player," he added.

'One wish'

Natasa was emerging as one of the most talented Serbian players of her generation-primed to play for her basketball-mad country in the EuroBasket championship this year-when tragedy struck. At time she was just 19. "From the beginning I have had one wish-to play basketball again. Deep inside myself I am convinced that this day will come," she told local media after the accident. Following the crash, the French Basketball Federation (FFBB) and its president Jean-Pierre Siutau, who had been close to the deceased Hungarian coach Akos Fuzy, came to the young player's rescue.

Impressed by her will and courage, the FFBB helped to finance the special prosthetic leg that would allow her to return to the competition. In 2014, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) made Kovacevic an ambassador for young people and she gradually resumed training. She also created a foundation bearing her name that aims to help other young athletes. "My comeback is very important to me, but I hope it shows other people that they can do anything they want if they have the will," she said after her triumphant return. — AFP



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



WARSAW: Poland's striker Robert Lewandowski celebrates scoring during the international friendly football match Poland vs Iceland on November 13, 2015 in Warsaw. — AFP

LEWANDOWSKI LATE DOUBLE HELPS POLAND SINK ICELAND

WARSAW: Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski scored twice as Poland overcame fellow Euro 2016 qualifiers Iceland 4-2 in a high-scoring friendly on Friday. The visitors, cheered on by a small contingent of 200 Iceland fans, took the lead after three minutes when Gylfi Sigurdsson beat keeper Wojciech Szczesny from the penalty spot to notch his 12th international goal. Poland were roared on by a sellout crowd of 58,000 at the National Stadium but they lacked punch up front with Lewandowski, who scored 13 goals in Euro 2016 qualifying, being repeatedly caught offside.

The home team's best first-half opportunity came in the 31st minute when winger

Kamil Grosicki's shot went just wide. Grosicki made amends eight minutes into the second half, scoring from just inside the area. Poland went 2-1 up 14 minutes later when 18-year-old midfielder Bartosz Kapustka marked his second international appearance with his second goal. Iceland struck back immediately as Alfred Finnbogason beat Szczesny but Lewandowski restored Poland's lead when he took advantage of chaos in the visiting defense following a corner. Lewandowski, the Bundesliga's leading scorer this season with 14 goals, then made sure of victory in the 76th minute with an accurate drive from a narrow angle. — Reuters

DAVIS SINKS LATVIA TO KEEP IRISH BUOYANT

BELFAST: Steven Davis was Northern Ireland's inspiration once again as the surprise Euro 2016 qualifiers warmed up for the tournament with a 1-0 friendly win over Latvia on Friday. Davis's double strike against Greece in October had sealed Northern Ireland's first ever appearance at the European Championships and their first berth in a major tournament since the 1986 World Cup. And Northern Ireland captain Davis underlined why he is such a crucial figure for Michael O'Neill's side with the second half winner against the obdurate Latvians at Windsor Park. It was Northern Ireland's first friendly win since March 2008, a barren run that had stretched over 23 matches before Davis's close-range finish brought it to an end.

The Irish had never qualified for the European Championships in 13 previous attempts, with even Manchester United legend George Best unable to lead his country to the continent's international showpiece. But O'Neill masterminded a fairytale qualifying campaign from an unheralded squad comprised of players drawn from the likes of Hamilton, Melbourne City, Fleetwood, Luton, Ross County and Kilmarnock. They will be

regarded by many as group stage fodder once they get to France next year, yet Southampton midfielder Davis provides the kind of vibrant presence that could help the minnows unsettle the more illustrious opponents they are likely to be pitted against in December's group stage draw. O'Neill took the opportunity to experiment with a 3-5-2 formation as he began plotting his tactics for the finals.

Craig Cathcart, Jonny Evans and Gareth McAuley were solid at the back, but they were hardly tested as Northern Ireland's unbeaten run reached eight matches. Davis laid on an early chance for Kyle Lafferty when his precise pass set the striker clean through on goal, but he pulled his shot tamerly wide. The hosts kept pressing and Evans glanced past a post from Oliver Norwood's free-kick before the interval, while Lafferty's shot was parried by Andris Vanins in the opening moments of the second half. Davis finally broke down the Latvia defense in the 55th minute. Cathcart pumped a high ball into the penalty area and Davis arrived unmarked at the far post. His header was blocked by Vanins but Davis followed up to slot home from close-range for his eighth international goal. — AFP

RUSSIA PAYS DOPING PRICE WITH IAAF BAN

PARIS: Athletics giant Russia was provisionally suspended from track and field on Friday over accusations of "state-sponsored" doping as the IAAF scrambled to salvage the sport's credibility just nine months out from the Rio Olympics. "Today we have been dealing with the failure of ARAF (All-Russia Athletic Federation) and made the decision to provisionally suspend them, the toughest sanction we can apply at this time," IAAF president Sebastian Coe said.

"But we discussed and agreed that the whole system has failed the athletes, not just in Russia, but around the world. "This has been a shameful wake-up call and we are clear that cheating at any level will not be tolerated." Russian Mikhail Butov, an IAAF council member and ARAF secretary general, presented his country's position before 24 of the 27-strong IAAF Council chaired by Coe. But the council returned a vote of 22 for and 1 against, the simple majority confirming a suspension for Russia, who were accused of widespread doping by an independent commission set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in a report which has shaken track and field, one of the Olympic Games' flagship sports.

In that report, commission head Dick Pound, a former president of WADA, called for Russia to be suspended for 2016 "so that they can take the remedial work in time to make sure that Russian athletes can compete under a new framework". The IAAF took his words to heart, saying the consequences of the provisional suspension were that "athletes and athlete support personnel from Russia may not compete in international competitions including World Athletic Series competitions and the Olympic Games".

It also means Russia "will not be entitled to host the 2016 World Race Walking Cup (Cheboksary) and 2016 World Junior Championships (Kazan)". The IAAF added: "To regain membership to the IAAF the new federation would have to fulfil a list of criteria. "An inspection team led by Independent Chair Rune Andersen, an independent inter-

national anti-doping expert (Norwegian) and three members of the IAAF Council who will be appointed in the next few days." The 335-page WADA report blasted Russian officials for blackmailing athletes to cover up positive tests as well as destroying test samples.

Lamine Diack, whom Coe succeeded as IAAF president in August, has also been charged with corruption by French investigators amid allegations he took bribes to cover up doping cases, principally in Russia. Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko had been in pains before the council meeting to stress that Moscow was ready to reform or "create a new anti-doping organization" were the IAAF or WADA to demand it. Mutko, who initially ruled out any Olympic boycott in the event of a ban, also broached the idea of appointing a "foreign specialist" as head of the doping laboratory, a move towards openness never before seen in Russian sport.

'Cleaning up athletics'

"We are ready to cooperate (with the IAAF) so that our athletics is brought up to the norms demanded of us. "But let's do this together. We're ready to do whatever it takes." 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." Calls by Russia's star pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva and Ukraine's former pole vault legend Sergey Bubka, the IAAF vice-president, not to enforce collective punishment against all Russian athletes also fell on deaf ears. — AFP

BELGIUM CELEBRATES NO 1 RANKING, OUTCLASS ITALY

BRUSSELS: Marseille striker Michy Batshuayi put the finishing touches on a superb Belgium display as the world number one-ranked team outclassed Italy 3-1 in Brussels on Friday. The match that will be remembered for its commemoration of the Heysel Stadium disaster 30 years ago—the names of all 39 victims were shown on big screens in the 39th minute—will also be one that served as a lesson for Italy ahead of next summer's European Championships. The Azzurri got off to the best possible start possible at the King Beaudoin stadium, Antonio Candreva tapping home into a virtually empty net in the third minute after Simon Mignolet had parried Graziano Pelle's effort. Candreva should have doubled Italy's lead moments later only for Mignolet to palm the Lazio winger's angled striker over the bar. But Italy's joy was short-lived.

Italy's defense was nowhere near Tottenham defender Jan Vertonghen he leaned forward to meet a dipping corner and head past a static Gianluigi Buffon and into the 'keeper's bottom corner on 12 minutes. Antonio Conte expected a tough test against Marc Wilmots' hosts as they continue rebuilding following their disastrous first-round exit from last year's World Cup. Those expectations rang especially true in a one-sided second-half that saw Manchester City forward Kevin De Bruyne give Belgium a 74th minute lead before Batshuayi came off the bench to fire home eight minutes from time.

Belgium were quickly out of the traps after the interval and kept the pressure high throughout. Vertonghen collected Romelu Lukaku's mis-hit cross to fire just wide of Buffon's net and minutes later Buffon gave away a corner when he panicked and hit the ball out while trying to pass to a defender. When Chiellini stepped up to block a shot from De Bruyne it fell to Axel Witsel, but his effort went wide. Lukaku was then unlucky to see his header come off the post after Roma midfielder Radja Nainggolan whipped in a cross from the left that had Buffon in a panic.

Italy were under pressure but on the counter Southampton striker Pelle narrowly missed connecting with Matteo Darmian's delivery. Italy came close again when Eder ran on to and deflected Florenzi's pacy delivery from midfield to see his shot come off the crossbar, with Mignolet scrambling to clear, and Candreva's cross was wasted on Florenzi at the back post when Pelle had been screaming for quick ball on a promising counter. Yet Belgium continued to threaten and Witsel needed just a touch to get on the end of De Bruyne's delivery from the left wing only to see the ball bounce inches wide of Buffon's far post.

Italy's central defense was at fault on 75 minutes when De Bruyne hit Belgium's second goal. After Eden Hazard set up Batshuayi, Leonardo Bonucci hurried to intercept only to run into Juventus teammate Giorgio Chiellini. Buffon had rushed out and got a touch but could do nothing when the ball fell to De Bruyne. Italy should have levelled moments later when Pelle was left unmarked to fire a bullet header from the edge of the box that Mignolet parried superbly. But Batshuayi put the match beyond reach on 87 minutes after he ran on to Ferreria Carrasco's short pass inside the area to fire inside Buffon's near post after the Atletico Madrid winger had Italy's defense ball-watching. — AFP



BRUSSELS: Italy's Stephan El Shaarawy (right) fight for the ball with Belgium goalkeeper Simon Mignolet during a friendly soccer match at the King Baudouin stadium in Brussels on Friday, Nov 13, 2015. Belgium won 3-1. — AP

DJOKOVIC TARGETS TOUR FINALS HISTORY TO CAP GOLDEN YEAR

LONDON: Novak Djokovic has history in his sights as the world number one aims to cap the greatest year of his life by winning a fourth successive ATP Tour Finals title. Even by Djokovic's already sky-high standards, 2015 has been a golden period for the 10-time Grand Slam winner, who has cemented his position as the sport's preeminent force with one of the best single-seasons in the Open era. With 78 wins from his 83 matches over the last 11 months, the 28-year-old Serb has amassed 10 titles including the Australian and US Opens, Wimbledon and a record six Masters tournaments.

The prize money from that haul has swelled Djokovic's bank balance by \$16.7 million and underlined his right to be regarded as the world's best, yet he has shown no signs of slowing down in the closing weeks of the campaign. Since losing to Roger 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 titles in Shanghai and Paris. Now Djokovic arrives at London's O2 Arena hoping to win the prestigious season-ending Tour Finals for a fifth time.

Djokovic, who opens his Tour Finals challenge against Japan's Kei Nishikori on Sunday, would become the first player to win the event four years in a row if he lifts the trophy on November 22 and, ominously for his rivals, he claims he feels in the form of his life. "I feel this season is even better than 2011. I'm in love with the game. I really don't find it that difficult to go out on the practice courts and prepare myself in the off-season," Djokovic said. "I always look to set up new goals to try to get as far as possible in terms of my abilities and achievements."

Massive priority

With a fearsome record of 37 successive indoor match wins, including 14 at the Tour Finals, few would bet against Djokovic, even with an early showdown against Federer looming in the group stage. World number three Federer, who starts his 14th straight Tour Finals campaign against Tomas Berdych on Sunday, has a record six Tour Finals titles and has reached the final four times in the last five years. The 17-time Grand Slam champion, defeated by Djokovic in the Wimbledon and the US Open finals, pulled out of last year's final against Djokovic just hours before the scheduled start due to an injury, but he expects to mount another strong challenge for the title.

"I've never had issues getting motivated for this event at the end of the season," Federer said. "It's a massive priority for me and because it's a priority it helps me play better. "Indoors has helped my game throughout my career and the idea of playing fellow top 10 players gets me really excited." The other group in the round-robin tournament, which features the world's top eight players, features Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka and David Ferrer. Most of the interest in that group will focus on former Wimbledon champion Murray, who has made it clear his main priority is Great Britain's attempt to win the Davis Cup for the first time since 1936.

Britain face Belgium on clay in Ghent less than a week after the Tour Finals and Murray has spent most of this week practicing on that surface at Queen's Club. But the world number two, who starts against Spain's Ferrer on Monday, hopes to make the best of a difficult situation. "It's been tricky with my preparation being mainly on the clay but it was never going to be perfect," Murray said. "But I would have signed up to be in this situation at the end of the year in comparison to last year and hopefully I can play some good tennis here and in the Davis Cup." — AFP



MELBOURNE: Ronda Rousey of the US (left) faces-off with compatriot Holly Holm for the UFC fight in Melbourne. — AFP

ROUSEY SCUFFLES WITH HOLM AT UFC WEIGH-IN

MELBOURNE: Mixed martial arts star Ronda Rousey and challenger Holly Holm scuffled and had to be separated at the official weigh-in yesterday ahead of their weekend title fight in Melbourne. As the American UFC bantamweight champion approached Holm for the obligatory stare down, the challenger put her fist in Rousey's face and she responded with a raised elbow to swat her away. Then a war of words erupted as a fired-up Rousey started a shouting match with the former boxing world champion, who loudly declared: "I am here to shock the world."

Rousey put all the blame for the incident on Holm, while calling the New Mexico native 'fake'. "I just wanted to get in her face and show her that I was there for a reason," Rousey told reporters. "She put her fist on my face. I didn't touch her, she touched me. "I told her that fake, sweet act... I can see right through it. "All that respect, all you being sweet I see right now it is fake and you're gonna get it on Sunday. "It's not the first time your camp thought they had the perfect plan

to beat me. "I'm going to show you on Sunday why I'm the champ." The most feared female prizefighter on the planet boasts a 12-0 undefeated record and organizers are hoping for a sell-out 63,000 crowd at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium for the bout against Holm.

Rousey, a former Olympic judoka, has helped push mixed martial arts into the mainstream of US sport with a series of dynamic knockout victories that have earned her comparisons to Mike Tyson's rise in heavyweight boxing during the 1980s. Holm is also undefeated in the sport with a 9-0 record, and offers a contrast in calm to the quickfire verbals of Rousey. The pair had initially been due to fight in Las Vegas on January 2 but the contest was brought forward two months in a bid to spread Rousey's appeal to another corner of the globe. In her last bout, Rousey demolished Brazil's Bethe Correia with a first-round victory in Rio de Janeiro, taking just 34 seconds to finish off her opponent. Australian bookies are predicting Holms will not last two rounds. — AFP



BUENOS AIRES: Brazil's David Luiz (front) fouls Argentina's Lucas Biglia during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Friday, Nov 13, 2015. — AP

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

BRAZIL'S FIGHTBACK THWARTS ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES: Ten-man Brazil came from behind to snatch a 1-1 draw against arch-rivals Argentina on Friday in a tense World Cup qualifying battle between the two South American superpowers. A second half strike from Santos player Lucas Lima salvaged a vital point for Brazil after Argentina had taken the lead midway through the half thanks to an Ezequiel Lavezzi strike. Lavezzi's Paris Saint-Germain team-mate David Luiz was sent off for a second yellow card in the dying minutes but Brazil hung on for the draw. The result leaves Argentina winless after three games of South America's marathon qualifying campaign, with

only two points from a possible nine.

Friday's match at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires had been delayed by 24 hours after a deluge made the pitch unplayable on Thursday. Argentina, missing a glut of injured stars including Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero, started the stronger against a Brazil side who welcomed back suspended striker Neymar. Neymar however was largely anonymous for long periods as Argentina got on top early on and opened up Brazil with ease on several occasions. The only surprise was that it took Argentina more than half an hour to get on the scoresheet. The goal came after superb

interplay between Argentina's powerful attacking front three.

Angel Di Maria darted inside on a jinking run near halfway before releasing Gonzalo Higuain down the right flank. The Napoli striker looked up and picked out Lavezzi with a superb low cross for the France-based star to ram past Alisson Becker for 1-0 on 34 minutes. It was no less than Argentina's bold attacking approach deserved. Argentina might have taken an early lead after only two minutes, when Facundo Roncaglia drew a save from Alisson from a wide angle with looping shot.

Moments later Di Maria embarrassed Luiz

down the right flank, turning the midfielder inside out before firing in a low cross which flew across the face of goal. Brazil escaped however, with no Argentinean attacker on hand to meet Di Maria's centre. Luiz might have leveled for Brazil shortly before half-time but could only head over the bar from close range after Willian's freekick from the right. Argentina started the second half in the same vein, with Ever Banega only being denied a goal from a tight angle when his fierce low shot struck the foot of the post in the 46th minute.

But it was Brazil who struck next, getting on

level terms through a cleverly worked goal on 58 minutes. Dani Alves curled a sublime cross to the far post with the outside of right boot to pick out Douglas Costa, who headed firmly against the bar before Lima smashed in the rebound on the volley. Buoyed by the goal Brazil looked the likelier to grab a winner, with Willian going close with a shot deflected over the bar. Manchester City defender Nicolas Otamendi went close with a late header which flew just wide. In the closing minutes Luiz was shown a red card for two bookings within as many minutes, but Brazil held on for the draw.—AFP



CARDIFF: Netherlands' midfielder Arjen Robben (left) vies with Wales's midfielder Emyr Huws (center) during the international friendly football match between Wales and Netherlands at Cardiff City Stadium in south Wales on November 13, 2015. —AFP

ROBBEN'S DOUBLE SEALS 3-2 WIN FOR NETHERLANDS

CARDIFF: Arjen Robben scored twice to lead the Netherlands to a 3-2 victory against Wales in a friendly match in Cardiff on Friday. The Netherlands, which failed to qualify for next year's European Championship in France, went ahead through striker Bas Dost's header after 32 minutes. Joe Ledley equalized for the hosts on the stroke of halftime, converting a rebound after Netherlands goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen parried a penalty by Joe Allen.

Robben restored the visitors' lead nine minutes into the second half, before Wales leveled again on 70 through a header from midfielder Emyr Huws. But Robben won the match with his second goal in the 81st minute, racing clear of the Wales defense and slotting past goalkeeper Owain Fon Williams with a composed finish. Wales

coach Chris Coleman, who is preparing for his team to play at the Euros next year, was encouraged by his squad's display despite the defeat.

Wales was missing its two biggest stars in Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey, through injury. "We scored two goals without Bale and Ramsey, which is a big thing when you look at who was getting the goals for us in the qualification campaign," Coleman said. "We are building and these lads need minutes if they are to come with us to France." Netherlands coach Danny Blind was pleased with the response from his players in the team's first match since missing out on next year's championship. "It was a hard job to motivate them after we missed out on the Euros but the team were focused and put a lot of energy in the game," he said.—AP

SPAIN'S LATE SHOW ENDS ENGLAND UNBEATEN RUN

ALICANTE: Spain struck twice in the final 20 minutes as goals from Mario Gaspar and Santi Cazorla ended England's 15-match unbeaten run in Alicante on Friday. Villarreal right-back Gaspar scored a sensational volley to open the scoring when he swivelled in mid-air to turn home Cesc Fabregas's pass. And Cazorla sealed the win for the European champions when he slotted home from the edge of the area six minutes from time.

"It is a prestigious result against a very strong team that threatened us the whole game," said Spain coach Vicente del Bosque. England boss Roy Hodgson meanwhile lamented his side's inability to take advantage of their few counter-attacking opportunities.

"The assessment of the result is it is obviously disappointing to lose," said Hodgson. "For 70 minutes I thought we worked hard defensively. We always knew how good they are at keeping the ball. "We were hoping that on a counter-attack we could cause them some problems. We had moments in the game, but we didn't profit from those moments."

Hodgson kept his pre-match promise to leave captain Wayne Rooney on the bench with Harry Kane and Ross Barkley given their chance to shine. And it was the visitors who had the first two openings, but neither Raheem Sterling nor Barkley could find the target when well-placed on the edge of the box.—AFP

US ROUT ST VINCENT 6-1

LOS ANGELES: The United States shook off a nightmare start to launch their 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign with a 6-1 rout of St Vincent and the Grenadines on Friday. Jurgen Klinsmann's men were rocked when Oalex Anderson put the Caribbean visitors ahead in the fifth minute at the Busch Stadium in St Louis, Missouri. But Bobby Wood equalized six minutes later and the United States cruised from there, with two goals from Jozy Altidore to go with goals from Fabian Johnson, Geoff Cameron and Gyasi Zardes. The United States came into the match off of a Gold Cup flop on home soil and a defeat by Mexico in a crunch playoff for a place in the 2017 Confederations Cup in Russia.

So it was especially nervewracking for the crowd to see St Vincent take a quick lead after Anderson seized upon a long ball over the top of the American defense. He cut and fired it past US keeper Brad Guzan. Wood responded six minutes later, heading a ball from DeAndre Yedlin past St Vincent goalkeeper Winslow McDowall. Johnson extended the lead in the 29th when his free kick deflected off the wall and into McDowall's net. Just two minutes later Altidore made it 3-1. Alone at the far post he headed into an open net after Jermaine Jones had nodded on a corner kick.

With the US playing aggressively and dominating possession, Cameron headed in a corner in the 51st. Zardes made it 5-1 in the 58th and Altidore wrapped up the scoring with his second in the 74th, firing a left-footed blast from inside the area that shot off a defender and into the net. It was just the start to qualifying that the US needed, and they will try to maintain the momentum when they visit Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday. The match was played before 43,433 fans at the home of baseball's St Louis Cardinals. A moment of silence was observed before kick-off to pay respect to the victims of terror attacks in Paris earlier Friday.—AFP



ST LOUIS: St Vincent and the Grenadines goaltender Winslow McDowall (left) stops a shot as he collides with St Vincent defenseman Roy Richards and United States forward Jozy Altidore (17) pressures in the first half of a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match Friday, Nov 13, 2015. — AP

LATE GOAL SAVES BOSNIA IN PLAYOFF WITH IRELAND

ZENICA: A late goal by striker Edin Dzeko rescued a 1-1 draw for Bosnia after the first leg of their Euro 2016 playoff with Ireland was hampered by poor visibility on Friday. The Irish took an 82nd-minute lead through midfielder Robbie Brady, after thick fog had descended on the Bilino Polje stadium, before Dzeko replied with a neat finish. The players were barely visible throughout the second half of a disjointed match during which the home side had the upper hand but fell behind against the run of play.

"It was difficult to relay instructions to the players in the second half because we could barely see anything at all from the dugout," Bosnia coach Mehmed Bazdarevic told BHT television. "We are a bit disappointed with the result but I have to admit that we didn't play well, perhaps because we weren't composed enough. Ireland defender Ciaran Clark told

Sky Sports: "It was a good night's work, as a sitter on the hour, allowing Randolph to parry a feeble close-range effort after a ricochet from a poor clearance fell for the left winger.

The game was played under tight security, amid fears of crowd trouble with several hundred Irish fans in the stadium, but it was an incident-free playoff after the home supporters had applauded the visiting team's national anthem. Bosnia dominated the opening half as winger Edin Visca and full back Mensur Mujdza found space to operate on the right flank against an Irish team missing several key players through injury and suspension. Ibisevic missed the best chance in the 22nd minute when he volleyed wide while Ireland keeper Darren Randolph saved an Ervin Zukanovic header. Senad Lulic then missed a

With the fog getting thicker, Brady stunned later after substitute Ognjen Vranjes found Bosnia's top scorer in the heart of the penalty box. Ireland need only a goalless draw in the return leg in Dublin to reach next year's tournament in France, but Bazdarevic was confident Bosnia still had a good chance of progressing. "It's not a good result but we are hopeful we can swing the tie our way and I still believe we are the better team," said the former Yugoslavia midfielder. "However, we have to improve our final pass and take our chances because it's going to be a very difficult task." — Reuters

Sports

Cavaliers roll to eighth straight win



Rousey scuffles with Holm at UFC weigh-in



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STADE DE FRANCE: Spectators invade the pitch of the Stade de France stadium after the international friendly soccer France against Germany in Saint Denis, outside Paris. At least 35 people were killed in shootings and explosions around Paris, many of them in a popular theater where patrons were taken hostage, police and medical officials said Friday. Two explosions were heard outside the Stade de France stadium. — AP

SHOCK, HORROR FOR FANS AT STADE DE FRANCE

PARIS: It started as a celebration of football, a glamour friendly between France and world champions Germany in front of 80,000 fans at Paris's showpiece Stade de France. Then they heard the explosions. "I thought it was just a firework, then my friends told me what was going on in Paris," said a French fan in his 20s as the grim reality of Friday's deadly attacks suddenly hit home. When three loud explosions were heard from outside the stadium during the first half, football soon drifted from the minds of the spectators when it eventually emerged that three people had died near the arena in the north of the city.

Later, the death toll climbed to five outside the glittering venue which staged the 1998 World Cup final with 11 seriously hurt and around 30 people slightly injured. It emerged that one of the explosions was near to a McDonald's restaurant on the fringes of the stadium. A police source later said that one of the blasts was caused by a suicide bomber on the Rue Jules Rimet. "A man wearing an explosives belt blew himself up," said the officer. French president Francois Hollande, who was in attendance at the game, was hurried from the stadium amid the early reports of shootings in central Paris and of the developing hostage crisis in the

Bataclan theatre.

"The game's going on and it's awful—I'll be honest, I'm very spooked," said an AFP journalist as the match progressed. At first, very few, if any, of the crowd appeared to be aware of the significance of what was happening despite the appearance of helicopters low in the sky overhead during the second half and the audible sound of sirens from outside. The crowd still loudly celebrated goals by Olivier Giroud and substitute Andre-Pierre Gignac late in either half of the match that gave France the win. However, with tight security building up around the stadium, there was evident confusion

after the final whistle.

With exit points being restricted, large numbers of fans poured onto the pitch. There was no visible sense of panic, but it was after 11:30pm local time (2230 GMT) before the pitch was emptied. "One of the fast food restaurants was being searched by police forensics and officers dressed in white outfits," added an AFP reporter outside the ground. The evacuation of the fans finished at around midnight, many heading for their cars, others to catch the train back into the city. "The RER B (one of the main suburban train lines serving the station) isn't working...It's a black Friday the 13th," said 27-year-old

Sarah Gopal, carrying a French flag in her hand.

The drama followed events earlier in the day when the German team were evacuated from their plush hotel in the west of Paris following a bomb scare. When the players left the field at the end of the game, they had other concerns on their minds which went beyond the significance of the game. As they gathered in the tunnel, world famous superstars like Germany's World Cup winner Thomas Mueller and Arsenal striker Giroud immediately turned their attention to the TV screens, staring blank-faced as the horror on the streets of Paris unfolded.— AFP



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Kuwait trade surplus widens on brief oil price recovery

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Indian PM meets British PM at India-UK CEO Forum

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Etihad welcomes Royalty as it displays Airbus A380

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KUWAIT INDICES REMAIN LACKLUSTER

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HONG KONG: A staff member displays the new version of the 100-yuan RMB (US 15.7 dollars) banknotes for photographers at the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong on Thursday. China released on Thursday a new version of the 100-yuan bill, which bears a golden "100" and adopts advanced anti-counterfeit technology. —AP

IMF FOR INCLUSION OF YUAN IN ELITE CURRENCY BASKET CHINA WELCOMES IMF BACKING TO MAKE YUAN WORLD RESERVE CURRENCY

WASHINGTON: IMF experts recommended Friday that the Chinese yuan be included in the Fund's SDR basket of currencies, backing a strong push by Beijing to join the elite grouping.

Now the world's second-largest economy, China asked last year for the yuan to be added to the grouping, but until recently the yuan's exchangeability on international markets has been deemed too tightly controlled by Beijing for it to fully qualify.

IMF chief Christine Lagarde said in a statement that the staff experts, in their report to the IMF board, ruled the yuan or renminbi (RMB) now "meets the requirements to be a 'freely usable' currency."

That was a key hurdle to the yuan joining the yen, dollar, pound and euro in the Fund's "special drawing rights" currency basket, seen as the leading currencies of international commerce.

After years of keeping the yuan tightly controlled, China has moved over the past few years to allow it to be more widely used in international transactions. Lagarde said the staff experts ruled that Beijing has addressed "all remaining operational issues" required for SDR inclusion, which will be decided by the executive board at a November 30 meeting.

"I support the staff's findings," she said, adding to expectations that the board will also back the yuan.



IMF chief Christine Lagarde

The Fund has been generally receptive to the idea that the yuan could join the other four currencies in the grouping. While not a freely traded currency, the SDR is important as an international reserve asset, and because the IMF issues its crisis loans—crucial to struggling economies like Greece—valued in SDRs.

On August 4 the IMF said the yuan fell short of meeting all the standards for inclu-

sion, particularly on being "freely usable" in international finance.

China's economic slowdown complicated Beijing's efforts to widen the currency's use to meet that requirement. But there was strong pressure to do so because the IMF reviews the SDR basket only every five years, and the deadline for the current review is the end of the year. In a move seen as trying to accommodate China's push for inclusion, on August 19 the Fund announced that it had extended by nine months the implementation of the basket revision, giving more time for adjustment to the potential inclusion of the yuan.

If a decision to include the yuan is made this month, the actual inclusion could take place as late as September 30, 2016, giving Beijing more time to prepare.

"The extension would also allow users sufficient lead time to adjust in the event that a decision were to be taken to add a new currency to the SDR basket," the IMF said at the time.

The recommendation Friday was broadly backed by the United States. "We intend to support the renminbi's inclusion in the Special Drawing Rights basket provided the currency meets the International Monetary Fund's existing criteria," the Treasury Department said, using another name for the yuan. "We will review the IMF's paper in that light."

China happy

China yesterday welcomed backing from IMF experts that the yuan should be included in its reserve currencies, saying the move would strengthen the world's financial system. Now the world's second-largest economy, China asked last year for the yuan to be added to the elite basket of SDR currencies, but until recently it was considered too tightly controlled to qualify.

It now looks likely the yuan will be formally admitted to the IMF's "special drawing rights" currency basket at the end of the month, which would mark a milestone in China's efforts to become a global economic power.

The yuan hit headlines in August when China's central bank devalued the currency and said it would use a more market-oriented system to calculate the point around which the currency can trade each day. The move sent markets into a tailspin as investors took it as a sign of slowing growth in China, a key driver of the world economy, but the central bank on Saturday said such reforms had taken it closer to joining the SDR basket.

"China thinks that the inclusion of the RMB (yuan) into the SDR basket will strengthen the representativeness and the attraction of the SDR (and) that it will improve the existing international monetary system," the People's Bank of China (PBoC) added. "It will have win

benefits both for China and the world."

Yuan's rapid rise

The yuan has rapidly grown in importance in recent years as China—the world's top trading nation—has used it to settle more of its commerce, and made it directly convertible with more currencies. Including the Chinese currency in the SDR would likely boost demand for yuan-denominated assets among central banks, and give it a sheen of respectability at a time when many investors are questioning Beijing's ability to manage the slowing economy.

Lagarde said IMF experts ruled Beijing had addressed "all remaining operational issues" required for SDR inclusion, which will be decided by the executive board at a November 30 meeting. "I support the staff's findings," she said, adding to expectations that the board will also back the yuan.

That would mark an about turn from the beginning of August—before the yuan devaluation—when the Fund said the currency was not freely usable enough to be included in the basket. Despite the recent misgivings, there has been strong pressure for the IMF to act now as the SDR basket is only reviewed every five years. If a decision to include the yuan is made this month, the actual inclusion could take place as late as September 30, 2016, giving Beijing more time to prepare. —AFP



FRANKFURT: Nicoley Baubles, head of the cabin crew union, demonstrates for better pension plans for the Lufthansa flight attendants on the seventh and last day of a strike of the cabin crew union in Frankfurt on Friday. —AP

FRANCE FACES PRESSURE TO LOOSEN LABOR LAWS

PARIS: Pressure is mounting on the French government to reform strict labor laws as evidence suggests they are deterring companies from hiring full-time staff and could act as a brake on the country's sluggish economic recovery. It can be extremely difficult to dismiss permanent workers in France - the process can take years as companies must take cases through labor courts, and often involves compensation payouts. Four out of five new hires in the country this year have been on short-term contracts.

Such temporary status is a drag on worker motivation and company productivity, according to Stefano Scarpetta, director of employment, labor and social affairs at the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It needlessly increases employee turnover and reduces the incentive to invest in training, he said.

When 24-year-old Marine from Marseille landed a job at a big cosmetics company in Paris last year, she thought she had made it. But on arriving, her employer was unwilling to give her a permanent job - and the risk of the one-year contract she got instead made landlords unwilling to rent her a flat. In the end, she used a forged ID to pretend she was a student and, with her parents as guarantors, found a studio in the Paris suburb of Levallois.

"I don't even feel guilty because I pay my rent, and I know there will never be a problem for that," said Marine, who did not want her surname published because of her rental situation.

Her fixed-term contract is called a CDD - Contrat à Durée Déterminée. She would prefer to have a CDI, or Contrat à Durée Indéterminée - a full-time job. In 1982, 95 percent of the French workforce had a CDI. By 2012 it was only 86.5 percent, and for the under-25s, 48 percent.

The OECD's Scarpetta said southern European countries whose labour market rigidity was dragging on economic growth had made reforms to address the issue. "Now it's up to France to see whether it wants to follow, because the risk is that they are the one lagging behind."

The inflexibility of France's labor market is one factor capping the country's growth at 1.5 percent over the medium term, debt rating agency Moody's said in its decision to downgrade France in September. French unions and leftist politicians, however, say moves to loosen labor rules have increased poverty and inequality in countries like Germany and Britain, simply creating more low-paid, part-time jobs as well as "zero-hour contracts" where an employer has no obligation to provide any work.

ITALY, SPAIN

In Italy, the government earlier this year eased firing restrictions for large firms earlier this year, introduced an open-ended contract in which rights gradually increase with seniority and offered temporary tax breaks for companies that hire workers on permanent contracts.

Although it is still early days, the first batch of data seems promising. The share of new hires on temporary contracts dropped to 67.8 percent in Italy in the second quarter, from 68.6 percent a year ago. In France, by contrast, the latest data available show an increase in new hires on CDD contracts, to 85.3 percent in the first quarter from 84.4 percent over the same period a year ago.

Italian trade unions and other critics, however, say firms in the country are simply taking advantage of the temporary tax breaks, and question whether the trend will continue. Successive Spanish governments have also changed laws in the past five years to reduce the cost of firing employees on permanent contracts, depending on the economic circumstances of the company - and the labor issue will be a central one in a general election next month. —Reuters

OVERCOME YOUR FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING IN 5 EASY STEPS

You may have been there before. You feel nervous, your palms sweat, and your stomach ties itself into knots. You don't want to do it. You would rather do anything else than talk in public. Is this you? The fear of public speaking is very real and can be a barrier to career success. However, there are techniques to help you overcome your fear. There are even ways to help harness your energy in a positive way.

Below are 5 quick tips to help you overcome your fear of public speaking as suggested by the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site:

1. Balance your confidence

Think back to your childhood, to the first time your teachers made you get up to present a project. "Be confident," they said. They were right. Experts recommend that speakers improve their performances by striking the right balance of calm and anxiety. Low confidence comes off as weak, unpracticed and unprofessional. Too much confidence comes off as arrogant and could hurt your performance as a lack of excitement (associated with anxiety) is easily noticeable. Find your best balance.

BAYT.COM WEEKLY REPORT

2. The eye contact trial

You may have heard the legendary, "look over their audience's head to the back wall, as a tactic to ease your nerves during a presentation. In reality your audience will feel neglected and will lose interest quickly. Next time you practice a speech play the eye contact game. Similar to preparing for a job interview, ask some colleagues or friends to be your 'audience' and then have them stand up by their seats as you begin your presentation. While you speak make sure you look at each individual in the eye; once they feel you've made eye contact, they may sit down. Try to have everyone seated in 5 seconds.

3. Include transitions

A successful speech depends on your charisma and creativity, no doubt. But keeping your speech coherent and memorable depends on your transitions. Insert clear, simple transitions between your main points. For example, after discussing the new product your company is launching, plug in "now that we've looked at our latest product, I'm going to show you its benefits to society." It may sound cheesy now, but people retain information in chunks allowing them to remember it for as long as you need them to.

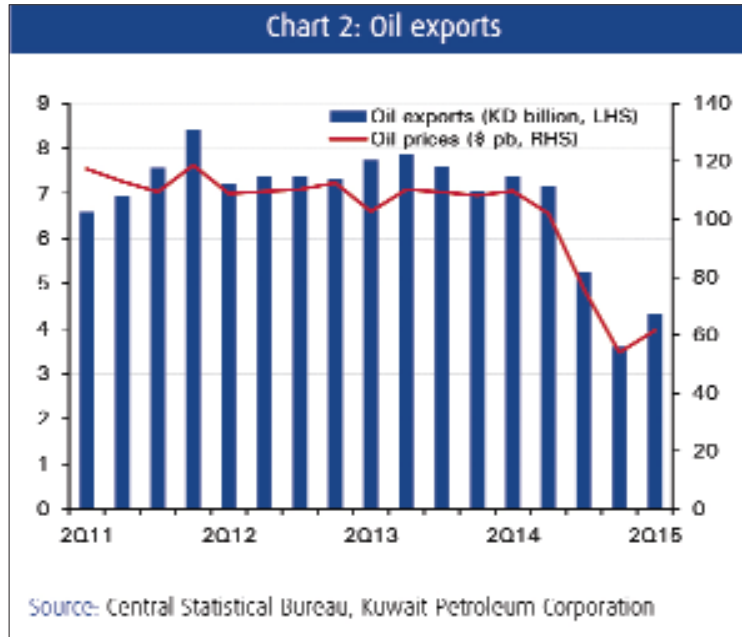
4. Less points

It's easy to get carried away when you present a concept you have become an expert on. In fact, 97% of professionals in the MENA are very dedicated to lifelong learning, as stated in the Bayt.com 'Learning in the Workplace in the Middle East and North Africa' poll, March 2015, so know that your audience is interested in what you have to say. However, your desire to share every single detail with your audience could harm you. When planning your speech, sketch out a quick outline to settle on the three main points you wish to get across

5. Where do I put my hands?

Body languages counts, and if you have nowhere to put your hands, then use them! Most people are familiar with the awkward feeling of their arms unnaturally hanging by their sides. Being conscious is distracting, so rather than worry about your hands, assign them a task. Point to presentation aids if you use any, make hand gestures, hold index cards if appropriate, mimic your descriptions, or count your points on your fingers. Just make sure you avoid fidgeting and becoming excessive with your gestures.

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ETHIOPIA SAYS DROUGHT TO HAVE NO IMPACT ON GDP GROWTH

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia has kept its economic growth forecast at 10 percent for the 2015/16 fiscal year despite a drought, its finance minister said, adding it was affecting agricultural areas only and he did not expect to divert resources from the budget to respond to it. Failed rains during both the spring and summer have had devastating consequences for the Horn of Africa nation, creating food and water shortages. The government and aid agencies say Ethiopia needs \$600 million to cope with the crisis.

Although it has some of the highest economic growth rates in Africa, Ethiopia's economy still depends heavily on rain-fed farming, which employs some three-quarters of the population of more than 90 million.

Ethiopia's fiscal year starts on July 8. "Regarding the impact on economic growth, the drought affected areas are peripheral and pastoral communities in the southern and eastern parts of the country," Finance Minister Abdulaziz Mohammed told Reuters in an interview.

"Normally, those parts of the country contribute not more than 5 percent to our GDP. On the other hand, we expect harvest to be more this year," Abdulaziz said the government will not divert funds from other projects in its budget to deal with the drought.

"The government has immediately responded to the humanitarian crisis and so far we have been able to control the

impact of the drought," he said. "But we have not yet diverted any resource from our development projects. We have been doing it from our own reserves. We don't expect any diversion."

Earlier this week, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a donation of \$97 million for Ethiopia to help feed more than 8 million people in need of aid because of the drought. It said its support included more than 154,000 tons of emergency food aid to help about 3.5 million people in Ethiopia, including refugees from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Aid agencies have said the number of those needing support could rise to 15 million people by early 2016 after the drought, which has been exacerbated by the El Nino weather effect.

El Nino, which is marked by warming sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, causes extremes such as scorching weather in some regions of the globe and heavy rains and flooding in others. Meteorologists expect El Nino to peak between October and January.

The United Nations has said 350,000 children are expected to require treatment for acute malnutrition in Ethiopia by the end of 2015. The Ethiopian government said it would start distributing 222,000 tons of wheat this month and plans to import an additional 405,000 tons if the scale of food shortage does not ease. Addis Ababa has allocated more than \$190 million for the emergency. — Reuters

KUWAIT TRADE SURPLUS WIDENS ON BRIEF OIL PRICE RECOVERY

KUWAIT: Kuwait's trade surplus widened for the first time in three quarters in 2015, thanks to a temporary recovery in oil prices. The surplus expanded to KD 2.4 billion in the second quarter of 2015. However, it still remains comparatively low. The pickup was mainly due to a rise in oil revenues, given

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

that oil prices improved slightly in 2015 and import growth slowed.

Oil export revenues edged higher from KD 3.6 billion in 1Q15 to KD 4.3 billion in 2Q15. The international oil price benchmark, Brent, rose

from an average of \$54 per barrel in 1Q15 to \$62 per barrel in 2Q15, which in turn led oil revenues higher. In spite of the marginal rise, revenues were still down by 41 percent year-on-year (y/y). With oil prices

hitting new lows in 3Q15 and staying there, we expect oil revenues to come in lower in the coming quarters. Brent averaged \$50 in 3Q15.

Non-oil export growth saw some improvement, but continued to contract in 2Q15, declining by 7 percent y/y. Non-oil export growth was propped up by a strong rebound in ethylene prices, but a stronger Kuwaiti dinar against most major currencies (with the exception of the US dollar) kept any significant gains at bay. Growth in non-oil exports is poised to remain in decline in the near-to-medium term, against a backdrop of a stronger dinar and weaker ethylene prices in 3Q15.

Central Statistical Bureau

Import growth held strong at 9.7 percent y/y in 2Q15 and climbed to another record high of KD 2.4 billion. Growth in imports has remained buoyant for a year now, mainly due to robust gains in capital goods imports. Capital goods imports grew by a strong 17.4 percent y/y in 2Q15. The demand for capital goods has been on the rise this year, on the back of a pickup in spending on capital projects. An ongoing recovery in the demand for transport and consumer goods imports, (due in part to the stronger Kuwaiti dinar) has also propped up overall import growth of late.



MANILA: A Philippine Air Force helicopter hovers over the venue as part of security preparations for next week's APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit of Leaders yesterday in Manila. Thousands of police and soldiers are mobilized for the annual summit of the APEC which is slated Nov18-19, 2015. —AP

'BRIGHTER PROSPECTS AHEAD' FOR GHANA ECONOMY: FM

ACCRA: Ghana's finance minister on Friday said the economic outlook was brighter going into 2016, as the country heads towards presidential elections. Seth Terkper said the government in Accra was aiming for overall GDP growth of 5.4 percent, to cut inflation to 10.1 percent and further reduce the country's fiscal deficit. "We now see brighter prospects ahead," he told parliament.

"There is a clear sign that our fiscal consolidation efforts are yielding positive results, making the economy more efficient." According to the GSS (Ghana Statistical Service) estimates that GDP will grow at 4.1 percent at the end of 2015 compared to the 3.5 percent initially projected. Ghana's economy, historically reliant on cocoa and gold exports, took off in 2010 after the discovery of oil, hitting 14.0 percent growth that year, making it an attractive emerging market.

But it has been on a downward trajectory

ever since, hit by falling global commodities prices and spiralling public sector debt that has weakened the cedi currency. Ghana has levelled off at about 4.0 percent since 2014, according to government figures. The International Monetary Fund has imposed a budget deficit target on Ghana of 5.3 percent of GDP as part of a \$918 million loan agreement to boost growth and job creation. Terkper said it was "on target" to meet that in the coming year, as the pace of public debt had slowed in the first half of this year. But he said the "tighter fiscal space" because of the IMF agreement meant the government "must be even more prudent in 2016". Terkper said the government was targeting 8.2 percent annual growth by 2018. "We will resist the temptation of election year overspending," he said. President John Dramani Mahama is expected to seek re-election at the polls against opposition leader Nana Akufo-Addo. A date has not yet been set. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.485
Indian Rupees	4.613
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.152
Nepali Rupees	2.874
Singapore Dollar	215.760
Hongkong Dollar	39.305
Bangladesh Taka	3.864
Philippine Peso	6.482
Thai Baht	8.515

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.283
Qatari Riyal	83.730
Omani Riyal	791.710
Bahraini Dinar	809.490
UAE Dirham	82.988

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	38.050
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	37.974
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.422
Tunisian Dinar	151.270
Jordanian Dinar	429.300
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.031
Syrian Lira	2.172
Morocco Dirham	30.992

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.650
Euro	331.920
Sterling Pound	467.790
Canadian dollar	230.800
Turkish lira	106.420
Swiss Franc	306.330
Australian dollar	220.410
US Dollar Buying	303.450

20 gram	221.41
10 gram	113.40
5 gram	57.38

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	203.63
Canadian Dollar	233.24
Swiss Franc	307.65
Euro	330.39
US Dollar	304.95
Sterling Pound	463.23
Japanese Yen	2.51
Bangladesh Taka	3.902
Indian Rupee	4.599
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.160
Nepali Rupee	2.873
Pakistani Rupee	2.887
UAE Dirhams	0.08298
Bahraini Dinar	0.8104
Egyptian Pound	0.03789
Jordanian Dinar	0.4337
Omani Riyal	0.7919
Qatari Riyal	0.08408
Saudi Riyal	0.08128

TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.900
Canadian Dollar	232.105
Sterling Pound	463.020
Euro	329.150
Swiss Franc	307.005
Bahrain Dinar	809.245
UAE Dirhams	83.310
Qatari Riyals	91.340

Saudi Riyals	82.030
Jordanian Dinar	429.635
Egyptian Pound	37.861
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.153
Indian Rupees	4.601
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.883
Philippines Peso	6.450
Cyprus pound	580.745
Japanese Yen	3.475
Syrian Pound	2.610
Nepalese Rupees	3.860
Malaysian Ringgit	70.705
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.285
Thai Bhat	9.485
Turkish Lira	104.935

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.457980	0.466980
Czech Korune	0.004180	0.016180
Danish Krone	0.040076	0.045076
Euro	0.323266	0.331266
Norwegian Krone	0.031204	0.036404
Romanian Leu	0.087392	0.087392
Slovakia	0.009111	0.019111
Swedish Krona	0.031253	0.036253
Swiss Franc	0.296438	0.306638
Turkish Lira	0.100849	0.111149
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.209324	0.220824
New Zealand Dollar	0.193391	0.202891
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.223706	0.232206
US Dollars	0.300550	0.305050

US Dollars Mint	0.301050	0.305050
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Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003512	0.004112
Chinese Yuan	0.046442	0.049942
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037207	0.039957
Indian rupee	0.004411	0.004801
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002403	0.002583
Kenyan Shilling	0.003166	0.003166
Korean Won	0.000251	0.000266
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066035	0.072035
Nepalese Rupee	0.002919	0.003089
Pakistan Rupee	0.002741	0.003021
Philippine Peso	0.006411	0.006691
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.211472	0.217472
South African Rand	0.015308	0.023808
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001803	0.002383
Taiwan	0.009209	0.009389
Thai Baht	0.008187	0.008737

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.800879	0.808879
Egyptian Pound	0.037467	0.040297
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000205	0.000265
Jordanian Dinar	0.425697	0.433197
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000153	0.000253
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020683	0.044683
Nigerian Naira	0.001260	0.001895
Omani Riyal	0.784878	0.790558
Qatar Riyal	0.082968	0.084181
Saudi Riyal	0.080603	0.081303
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.147356	0.155356
Turkish Lira	0.100849	0.111149
UAE Dirhams	0.081964	0.083113
Yemeni Riyal	0.001377	0.001457



LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with members of the UK-India CEO Forum.

INDIAN PM MEETS BRITISH PM AT INDIA-UK CEO FORUM

LONDON: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his recent visit to the United Kingdom held talks, in the presence of his British counterpart David Cameron, with high-profile businessmen from India and the UK on 13 November.

The event labeled, India-UK CEOs Forum, saw the attendance of leading business figures from the two countries, including from the Indian side, Tata Group chairman Cyrus Mistry, Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Mittal, Lulu Group Chairman Yusuff Ali M.A., CEO of Tata Consultancy Services N. Chandrasekaran and Bharat Forge Chairman Baba Kalyani.

Meanwhile, the UK side was represented by Chairman of Standard Life Sir Gerry Grimstone, the Chairman of

Standard Chartered Bank Sir John Peace, Vodafone CEO Vittorio Colao, BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley, HSBC Chairman Douglas Flint, Rolls Royce CEO Warren East and others.

Speaking at the Forum, PM Modi called for a globally integrated economy. Saying that cooperation between India and Britain was mutually beneficial, he urged the CEOs to invest in the growing Indian economy. Adding that people of both countries had a historic relationship and were economically very compatible, the prime minister called for greater participation by the private sector.

Two areas the Indian prime minister highlighted in his speech were the defense industry where the country was

looking for technological expertise, and developing the rail network in the country through Public Private Partnerships. Stressing his government pro-active approach to business, the PM also emphasized his 'Make in India' program and skill development as being critical to the country's economic development.

For his part, Prime Minister Cameron voiced his support for India and said the both countries have the political will to take their economic relationship forward. The CEOs Forum is expected to identify new areas of opportunity, promote projects which will enable these opportunities to be realized and examine bilateral issues which, if addressed, would catalyze business between the two countries.



HAVANA: US Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack (center right) and Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon (left of Vilsack) visit the Guira De Melenas cooperative organic farm in Guira De Melenas near Havana on Friday. In the foreground are "malanga" plants, or taro root. Vilsack is on a four-day visit to Cuba to try to boost agricultural trade. —AP

DESPITE TAIL WINDS, EURO-ZONE ECONOMY LOSES MOMENTUM

LONDON: Without the consumer, the euro-zone economy would have struggled to grow at all in the third quarter. Official figures on Friday showed the 19-country euro-zone only expanded 0.3 percent in the July-September period from the previous quarter. That was below market expectations for a second straight 0.4 percent rise and piles further pressure on the European Central Bank to offer more stimulus.

On an annual basis, the euro-zone economy, which comprises 330 million people from the Atlantic to the eastern Mediterranean, was 1.6 percent bigger, just ahead of the 1.5 percent rate in the second quarter but below the 2 percent recorded in the US.

Since emerging from its longest-ever recession over two years ago, the euro-zone has been stuck in a narrow growth range, despite favorable conditions such as cheaper oil, a lower euro and weak inflation. A slowdown in emerging markets, notably China, is hurting trade, leaving consumer spending as the main pillar of growth.

"Strong household spending is insulating the economy from export and industrial weakness," said Ben May, lead euro-zone economist at Oxford Economics.

Confidence remains fragile in a region that has spent much of the past seven years dealing with a financial crisis that has threatened the future of the euro itself. Problems aren't confined to countries that suffered most from the crisis. Finland was the worst-performing euro-zone country in the third quarter, contracting 0.6 percent. Here are some things we learned from Friday's figures.

Consumer cheer

Though the third-quarter data were preliminary, they indicate that growth was highly dependent on one factor - the consumer. The German and French statistics agencies credited consumer spending for much of the growth their economies witnessed. Both expanded by 0.3 percent in the quarter.

Consumer demand has helped compensate for subdued industrial and trade activity, which economists blame on the emerging market slowdown. A number of factors have helped shore up spending, most notably the halving in oil prices over the past year, which has translated into lower fuel prices. Money saved at the forecourt or on domestic energy bills is being spent elsewhere. Low inflation has helped, too, especially as wages are rising in many parts of the euro-zone. And though unemployment remains high, notably in Greece and Spain, it's been falling gradually.

Spain surges

Spain was the standout major euro-zone economy, growing 0.8 percent in the quarter for a 3.4 percent year-on-year increase. The country's exporters appear to be benefiting from a raft of economic reforms that have kept a lid on wages, boosting competitiveness.

There are questions over how sustainable the recovery is, however. Though the number of jobless has fallen by around half a million over the past year to just below 5 million, about one in five workers is still out of work. Around half the country's unemployed are thought to have been out of work for so long they are potentially lacking the requisite skills for jobs that come up. Spain, the euro-zone's fourth-largest economy, also has to fully deal with the bursting of its property bubble.

Portuguese Pause

Portugal only recently emerged from its bailout with much praise, but the country's economy isn't managing to gain much traction. One of the euro-zone's poorest countries, Portugal saw its economy flat-line in the third

quarter following solid increases in the previous three.

The fact the country is effectively without a government following last month's general election and could be heading to the polls again soon has raised concerns.

Ratings agency Fitch said this week that Portugal's economic outlook remains fragile and that it "may come under pressure if political instability and policy uncertainty damage confidence."

Greek Grind

Greece saw its economy shrink again. The 0.5 percent fall offset the cumulative gains recorded in the previous two quarters. The decline was unsurprising given tough controls on money flows, including a 60-euro a day limit on ATM withdrawals, since late-June.

It's a far cry from a year ago, when there was optimism over Greece's emergence from a long, savage recession that contracted the economy by a quarter. Since then, the country has faced another crisis over its euro membership, which culminated in the money controls and July's bailout agreement, Greece's third. — AP



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama speaks during a meeting with national security leaders to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement on Friday in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Joining him, from left are, National Economic Council Director Jeffrey Zients, Defense Secretary Ash Carter, former Defense Secretary William Cohen, former Secretaries of State Colin Powell, James A. Baker III, Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright. — AP

WALL STREET DROPS, ENDS WORST WEEK SINCE AUGUST

NEW YORK: Wall Street fell sharply on Friday and capped off its worst week since the dark days of August, hurt by a selloff in technology companies, while department stores dropped on concerns about the upcoming holiday shopping season.

The three major indexes ended the week down more than 3 percent, firmly putting the brakes on a fast rally that began in October. Dow component Cisco dropped 5.8 percent after it gave a flimsy forecast, citing a slowdown in orders and weak spending outside the United States.

It was the second-biggest drag on the S&P and the Nasdaq and pulled down shares of tech heavyweights including Apple and Facebook. Retailers were hit by disappointing reports from department store chains. Nordstrom lowered its full-year forecast on Thursday, spooking investors already on edge after Macy's cut its forecast on Wednesday.

Added to that, data showed US retail sales rose less than expected in October, suggesting a slowdown in consumer spending. Consumer stocks have been a bright spot this year as weak commodity prices, fears of a global slowdown and the anticipation of a US rate hike have hit most stocks, especially those of materials, energy and industrial companies. The S&P 600 smallcap index lost 4.6 percent for the week, its worst weekly performance in over three years.

The underperformance of smallcaps relative to larger companies in recent weeks hints at vulnerability in the broader market, said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist at RidgeWorth Investments in Atlanta, which has \$50 billion in assets under management.

"The market got to up within about a percent of its previous record high. It got overbought, but we really didn't get the follow-through we wanted from the small caps," Gayle said.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 1.16 percent to finish at 17,245.24 points and the S&P 500 lost 1.12 percent to 2,023.04. The Nasdaq Composite dropped 1.54 percent to 4,927.88.

All three major indices had their worst week since August, when fears about the health of China's economy and stock market slammed global asset prices. The Dow lost 3.7 percent for the week, the S&P fell 3.6 percent and the Nasdaq declined 4.3 percent.

For 2015, the S&P is now down about 2 percent. Nine of the 10 major S&P sectors finished lower on Friday, with the consumer discretionary sector's 2.65 percent fall leading the decliners. Nordstrom and JC Penney both sank about 15 percent.

Fossil slumped 36.50 percent after the watchmaker said current-quarter sales could fall as much as 16 percent. The S&P technology index fell 2.01 percent, with Apple down 2.92 percent. Facebook fell 3.77 percent, its worst day in over a month.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by 1,903 to 1,154. On the Nasdaq, 1,761 issues fell and 1,027 advanced.

The S&P 500 index showed no new 52-week highs and 36 new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 29 new highs and 181 new lows. About 7.7 billion shares changing hands on US exchanges, well above the 7.1 billion daily average for the past 20 trading days, according to Thomson Reuters data. — Reuters

MALAYSIA AIRLINES MAY LAUNCH PREMIUM ECONOMY SERVICE

BALI, Indonesia: Malaysia Airlines (MAS) could introduce a premium economy option to attract long-haul business travellers as one part of a broader strategy to try to help it exit years of losses, its chief executive said in an interview on Friday.

The airline, which introduced a new business class seat last week, will make a decision in "a couple of months", Chief Executive Christoph Mueller told Reuters, speaking on the sidelines of an industry event in Bali. "We are very happy with business class demand, and this gives us the opportunity to increase the revenue per passenger in the economy class. The target passenger is in economy class, and you don't want to cannibalize the business class," said Mueller. The airline is seeking recovery after suffering huge damage to its brand after flight MH370, carrying 239 passengers and crew, disappeared in March last year. In July 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down over rebel-held territory in eastern Ukraine, and all 298 aboard were killed.

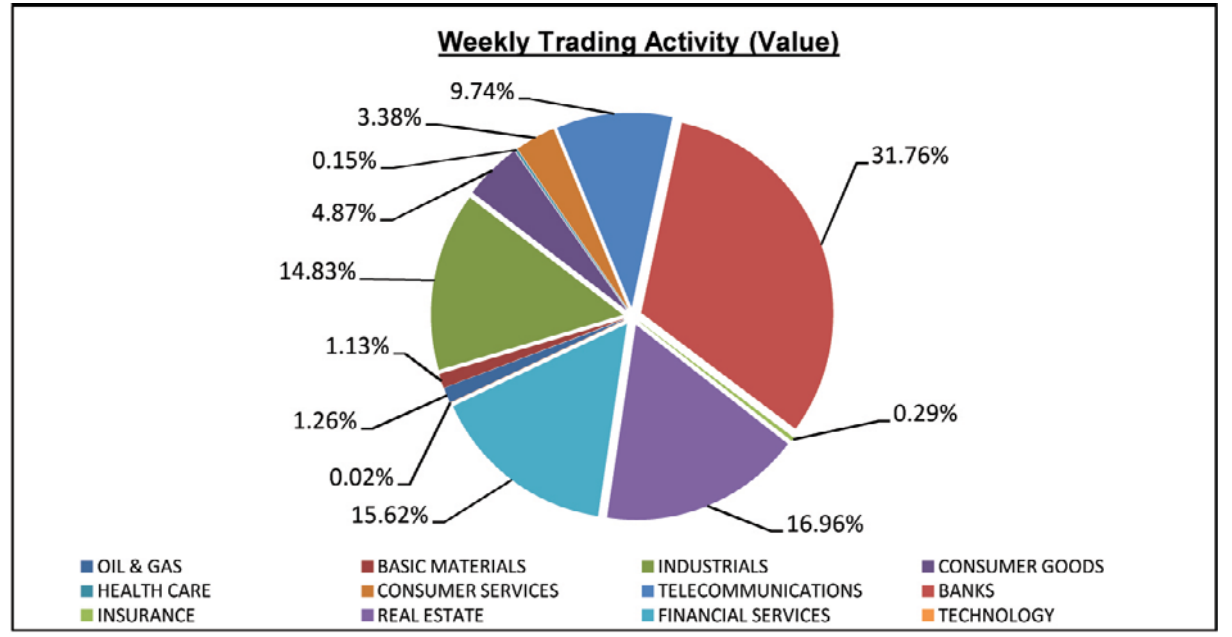
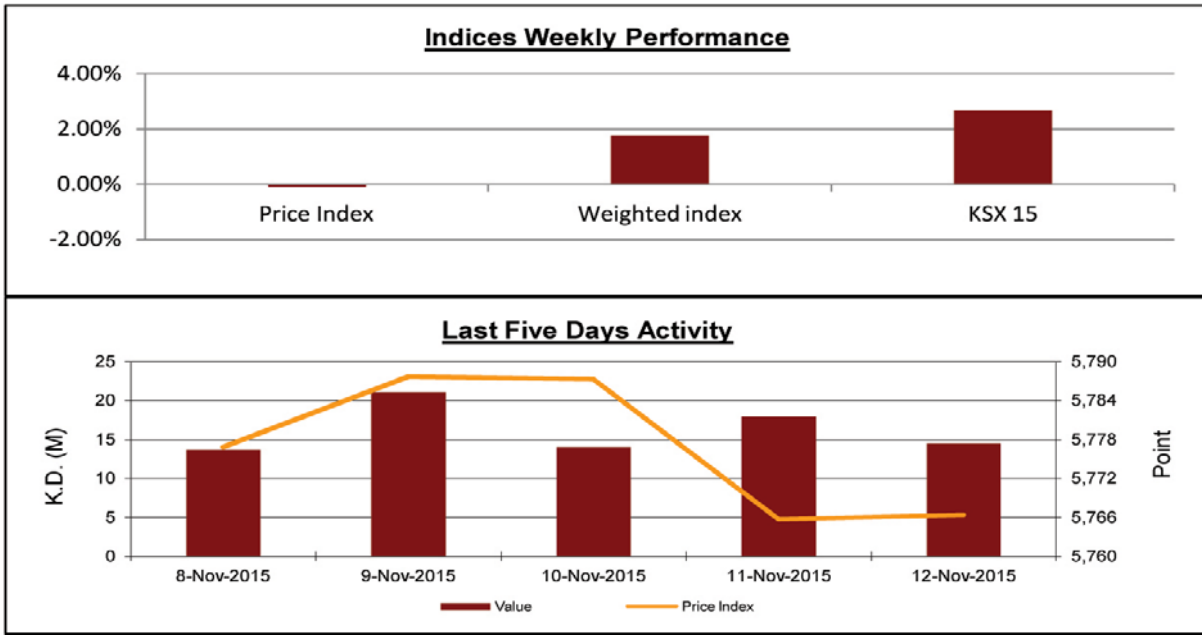
Mueller, an experienced industry executive, was hired to push through restructuring at MAS in May after Malaysian national investment firm Khazanah took it private late last year as part of a 6 billion ringgit (\$1.37 billion) program that also cut the airline's work-

force by a third.

"We have to prove every quarter that we are on track, and only against the delivery of certain targets is the funding provided," said Mueller, referring to progress in his efforts to turn the company around. Introducing premium economy seats - usually wider and with more leg room than in economy class - would allow MAS to compete more effectively for business passengers against its rivals. Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways began offering a premium economy option in 2012, and Singapore Airlines from this year.

Airlines like SIA also offer priority check-in, boarding and baggage handling. All MAS aircraft currently operate in a two-class configuration - business and economy - except for its Airbus jumbo A380s, which also have a first class option. MAS considered premium economy for the A380s in 2012, but decided against it in favor of additional economy class seats.

The fate of the airline's A380s remains uncertain. The airline has unsuccessfully tried to sell two of the four-engined jets, and industry sources say it could also try to offload the other four in the coming years as it reworks its fleet plans. Mueller said that while it is too early to talk about retiring the A380s, he would "never say never" to the option. — Reuters



KUWAIT INDICES REMAIN LACKLUSTER

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 5,766.37 points, down by 0.08 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 1.77 percent after closing at 397.50 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 954.64 points up by 2.67 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 30.15 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 16.24 million, whereas trading volume average was 145.57 million shares, recording a loss of 3.61 percent.

Kuwait Stock Market ended the week's trading activity with mixed closings, whereas the Price Index recorded light weekly losses affected by the continued presence of some negative indicators represented by the selling pressures and the profit collection operations in addition to the quick speculations concentrated on the small-cap stocks of the companies that did not disclose its third quarter financial results yet, among fears of the possibility of holding such companies' stocks from being traded if not announced its results before the end of the disclosure period which will end on Sunday. Meanwhile, the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to end last week's trading activity in the green zone, supported by the purchasing activity that included many large-cap and operational stocks, especially of companies that disclosed positive nine months financial results.

Also, the three stock market indicators were able to realize good gains in the two sessions at the beginning of the week resulted from the purchasing power that included many stocks of different sectors, both of leading and small-cap stocks, among a noticeable increase in the trading activity, especially the liquidity which reached its highest level in more than two months. However, the profit collection operations witnessed by the market on Tuesday's session were able to stop the upward direction initiated by the indicators since the beginning of the week, pushing it to close in the red zone, and somehow lightening its gains.

On Wednesday's session, the market witnessed variance in its closings for the three indices, whereas the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to return to the green zone supported by the collection operations that concentrated on the large-cap stocks, especially the companies' stocks that disclosed positive third quarter results, whilst the Price Index continued its decline affected by the profit collection operations executed on some small-cap stocks, losing all its weekly gains, and closing below its last week's level. On the end of week session, the three stock market indicators were able to increase, however of the Price Index decline throughout the whole session, as it was able to end it with very limited increase supported by the positive trading witnessed the last moments; the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able also to record good growth supported by the continued purchasing operations executed on the oper-

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,766.37	397.50	954.64
	Previous week	5,770.78	390.58	929.77
	Change (Point)	-4.41	6.92	24.87
	Change (%)	-0.08%	1.77%	2.67%
Annual	Last year	6,535.72	438.88	1,059.95
	Change (Point)	-769.35	-41.38	-105.31
	Change (%)	-11.77%	-9.43%	-9.94%

ational stocks, enhancing by this its weekly gains.

As far as the listed companies disclosures for the 9 months 2015 results, the total number of the disclosed companies reached 133 by the end of last week, representing 69 percent of the 192 total listed companies in KSE; the disclosed companies realized around KD 1.27 billion net profits for the 9 months 2015, against KD 1.24 billion for the same period of 2014, increasing by 2.29 percent. When comparing the net profits realized by the different market sectors, the Banks sector came in the first place with a total profit of KD 681.06 million, while the Telecommunication sector came in second place with KD 151.75 million in profits, and the Industrial sector came in third with a total profit of KD 126.61 million. However, the Technology sector took the last place among the market sectors in terms of the realized profits, as its companies' profits reached around KD 1.53 million.

Moreover, the KSE market cap reached by the end of last week KD 26.36 billion, increasing by 1.78 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 25.90 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 5.80 percent from its value at end of 2014 where it was KD 27.98 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 11.77 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2014, while the Weighted Index decreased by 9.43 percent, and the KSX-15 contracted by 9.94 percent.

Sectors' Indices

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, and four recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Insurance sector, achieving 5.45 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,112.80 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Technology sector's index closed at 883.72 points recording 4.07 percent increase. The Basic Materials sector came in third as its index achieved 2.06 percent growth, ending the week at 1,032.96 points. The Telecommunications sector was the least growing as its index closed at 577.17 points with a 0.04 percent increase. On the other hand, the Industrial sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.30 percent to end the week's activity at 1,051.03 points. The Oil & Gas sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.18 percent, closing at 781.01 points, followed by the Financial Services sector, as its index closed at 650.85 points at a loss of 0.49 percent. The Health Care sector was the least declining during last week, as its index recorded a weekly loss of 0.15 percent, closing at 951.51 point.

Sectors' Activity

The Real Estate sector dominated a total trade volume of around 288.62 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 39.65 percent of the total market trading volume. The Financial Services sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	727,839,639	755,077,996	-3.61%
Value (K.D)	81,218,162	62,405,275	30.15%
Deals	17,127	18,418	-7.01%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
26,358,161,092	25,896,935,937	1.78%	-5.80%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
IFAHR	120.00	106.00	14.0	13.21%
FUTURE	122.00	108.00	14.0	12.96%
TAHSSILAT	48.50	43.00	5.5	12.79%
SANAM	47.00	42.00	5.0	11.90%
ZIMAH	104.00	94.00	10.0	10.64%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
HUMANSOFT	770.00	940.00	-170.0	-18.09%
ABAR	89.00	99.00	-10.0	-10.10%
ADNC	27.50	30.50	-3.0	-9.84%
JEERANH	57.00	63.00	-6.0	-9.52%
LOGISTICS	73.00	79.00	-6.0	-7.59%

27.78 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 202.22 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 25.79 million or 31.76 percent of last week's total market trading value.

The Real Estate sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 13.77 million representing 16.96 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	24,464,050	3.36%	1,023,439	1.26%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,367,776	0.33%	918,515	1.13%
INDUSTRIALS	78,330,807	10.76%	12,046,683	14.83%
CONSUMER GOODS	17,655,284	2.43%	3,951,959	4.87%
HEALTH CARE	950,500	0.13%	118,113	0.15%
CONSUMER SERVICES	20,746,746	2.85%	2,748,392	3.38%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	33,522,369	4.61%	7,908,408	9.74%
BANKS	58,089,017	7.98%	25,792,474	31.76%
INSURANCE	667,219	0.09%	234,881	0.29%
REAL ESTATE	288,620,377	39.65%	13,774,788	16.96%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	202,218,948	27.78%	12,687,339	15.62%
TECHNOLOGY	206,546	0.03%	13,172	0.02%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	781.01	790.36	-1.18%	-26.53%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,032.96	1,012.13	2.06%	-8.69%
INDUSTRIALS	1,051.03	1,075.72	-2.30%	-1.81%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,103.18	1,098.22	0.45%	-10.01%
HEALTH CARE	951.51	952.98	-0.15%	1.20%
CONSUMER SERVICES	992.71	987.36	0.54%	-8.21%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	577.17	576.93	0.04%	1.18%
BANKS	951.54	934.07	1.87%	-5.33%
INSURANCE	1,112.80	1,055.33	5.45%	-5.49%
REAL ESTATE	967.13	963.17	0.41%	-14.41%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	650.85	654.03	-0.49%	-21.79%
TECHNOLOGY	883.72	849.18	4.07%	-3.55%

INVESTORS FACE QUAGMIRE OF FALLING EARNINGS, HIGHER RATES

WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

NEW YORK: Investors may wade into unknown territory next month as the Federal Reserve readies the first rate hike in nearly a decade amid a corporate earnings recession. S&P 500 earnings are on track to close their first reporting season of negative growth

since the Great Recession and estimates call for sub-zero growth in the current quarter as well.

Even if the trend reverses next year, as expected, a Fed rate hike in December could mark an unprecedented conflict between a

tightening cycle starting at the same time as earnings fall into recession.

"We can't think of any instances when the Fed was hiking during an (earnings) recession," said Joseph Zidle, portfolio strategist at Richard Bernstein Advisors in New York. "In

the last six months one can point at a lot of different things. But if you think about fundamentals, falling corporate profits and the threat of rising rates" are behind the market stalling, Zidle said.

With more than 90 percent of S&P 500 components having reported, S&P 500 earnings are down 0.9 percent in the third quarter. Absent surprisingly high numbers from the companies left to report, it will be the first negative growth quarter since the third quarter of 2009. Fourth-quarter estimates are for a 2.4-percent earnings contraction, according to Thomson Reuters IBES data; that would set up the two quarters of declining earnings, required for a bona fide earnings recession.

That already occurred in the second and third quarters, according to FactSet Research Systems, which calculates its quarterly results slightly differently than does Thomson Reuters.

Furthermore, the decline in revenue has been steeper than that in earnings, a bad sign for investors who like to put money into companies that are growing sales and not just cutting costs or buying back their own shares. Last quarter's sales are seen falling 4.3 percent and estimates for the current quarter are for a 2.7-percent decline. It is hard to argue that those numbers correspond to an economy that is on the brink of becoming too hot and in need for monetary policy tightening.

The bulk of the S&P 500's earnings declines come from the energy and materials sectors as commodity prices have tumbled to multi-year lows.

The Fed, then, could be looking at the earnings decline as it does low inflation: A

problem that will take care of itself once the declines fall out of the comparisons.

But if the Fed does decide to raise rates despite the gloomy earnings, that could hurt investors who may get whipsawed by the diverging cycles in the market and the economy.

Conventional wisdom calls for a defensive position - buying healthcare, staples and telecoms - when corporate profits are falling, and aggressively buying cyclical like energy and materials at the start of a tightening cycle. Both are happening at the same time.

"Rising interest rates are always a negative for stocks, period," said RBA's Zidle. "In most (tightening) cycles, corporate profits are booming so much that the rise in profits is more than offsetting the drag of interest rates."

FED PREPPING MARKETS

The Fed maintains its mantra of being data dependent when it comes to tightening monetary policy, and though it has strongly hinted of a December move, it also has acknowledged that it watches stock prices. Investors are reacting accordingly: Last week the S&P 500 came within 1 percent of its record high set in May, but Friday it was on track to close its worst week in two months.

"Since 2013 every time the Fed signals a rate hike (the stock market) throws a tantrum, and that's a little bit of what we're seeing now," said Michael Arone, chief investment strategist at State Street Global Advisors' US Intermediary Business in Boston.

"Over the last couple years, every time this has happened the Fed has decided not to raise rates so we shall see if that cycle is broken in December." — Reuters



NEW YORK: Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday. Retailers were plunging Friday as earnings reports from Nordstrom and others touched off investor worries that the holiday shopping season will be a dud. —AP

KUWAIT BOURSE NEEDS CONFIDENCE-BUILDING

KUWAIT: A paragraph in our last week report called for starting a process of confidence-building in Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE). This process certainly warrants legislation and decisions that cope with the essential changes in the global and domestic investment climate. For those decisions and legislations to be fruitful, they need quick reform to some basics, namely, the supply of stocks and the demand for them. As the Chinese did in the quick reform measures last summer when they started first by limiting the supply surplus coinciding with demand stimulating measures. And it seems until now at least that the plan succeeded.

Most reactions focused on the section of the paragraph in which we mentioned that 75 percent of the listed companies are sold at less than their book value. They stressed two points which we value.

First is the call for government intervention to purchase from the 103 small companies category. Is this a new orientation to AlShall? The answer is that the call is documented in our reports more than 10 times since 2008 and is irrelevant of course to the falling support/subsidy. It is a call for purchase for the benefit of the public funds.

Second, is the government administration capable of studying, buying and restructuring this huge number of companies without corruption. Though we cannot guarantee that but specifying buying criteria, price levels and leaving the selling as an option to shareholders and conditioning the consent of the absolute majority of shareholders in each company are controls that will help restrict corruption prospects and deviation in the decision. Benefits outweigh losses.

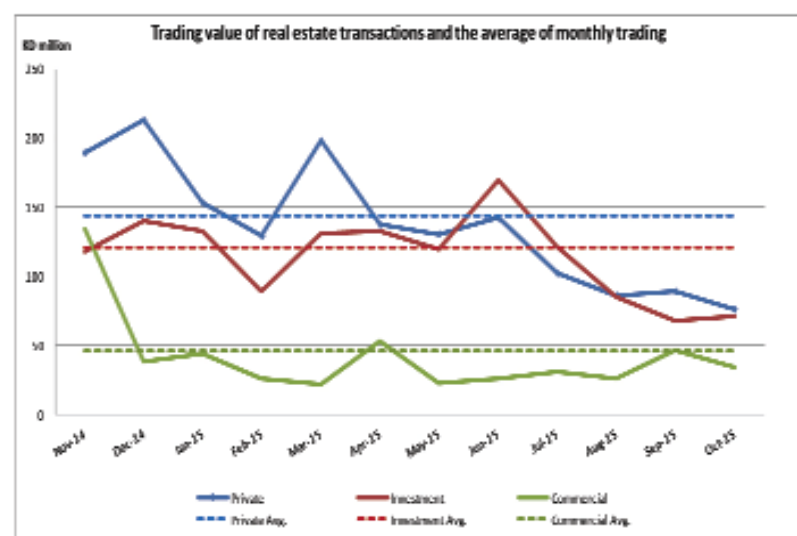
The purpose of the proposal was to reduce or withhold stocks from the supply side and stimulate the demand side by saving liquidity and increasing confidence in the remaining companies after filtering the listed companies. It justifies the drop in the liquidity of the first ten months of the current year by -32.5 percent vis-a-vis 2014, the drop in the second quarter liquidity by -18.7 percent compared with the first quarter, the third quarter's liquidity by -29.1 percent below the second quarter and the drop in last October liquidity by -39.7 percent compared with October 2014. The proposal also is a preventative measure or hedging before liquidity shrinkage continues or even accelerates associated with

market in the same period was \$237 million per company (54 listed companies only), \$59 million for a Kuwaiti listed company (192 companies most of which are dormant), \$ 519 million for Qatar (43 listed companies), \$611 million for Dubai (62 listed companies), \$2.29 billion for Saudi market (166 listed companies), and \$40 million for the Omani, which is close to the Kuwaiti market though its capital value is no more than 22.3 percent of the Kuwaiti stock market's capital value.

The bottom line is that diagnosis implies that there is an unhealthy and unjustified case in the Kuwait stock exchange with open and strong exacerbation prospects. The best policies are the preemptive or preventive ones like our proposal here or before. But sitting idle and motionless to watch while the conditions continue their deterioration is no option.

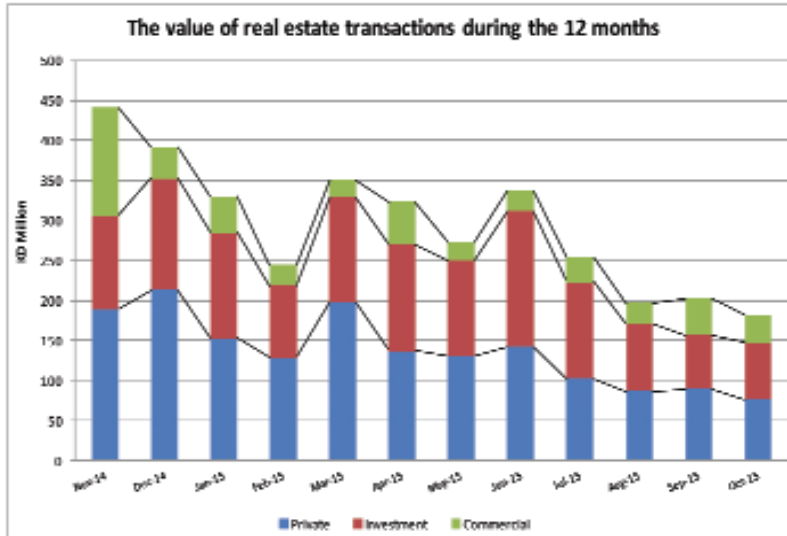
Local real estate market

The latest available data at the Ministry of Justice -Real Estate Registration and Authentications Department- excluding crafts activity, parking lots, restaurants and the coastal strip indicate drop in the real estate market liquidity during October



2015 by -8.4 percent vis-a-vis September 2015 liquidity. Total value of contracts and agencies trading scored KD 187.2 million versus KD 204.3 million but it dropped by -50.4 percent compared with October 2014 trading.

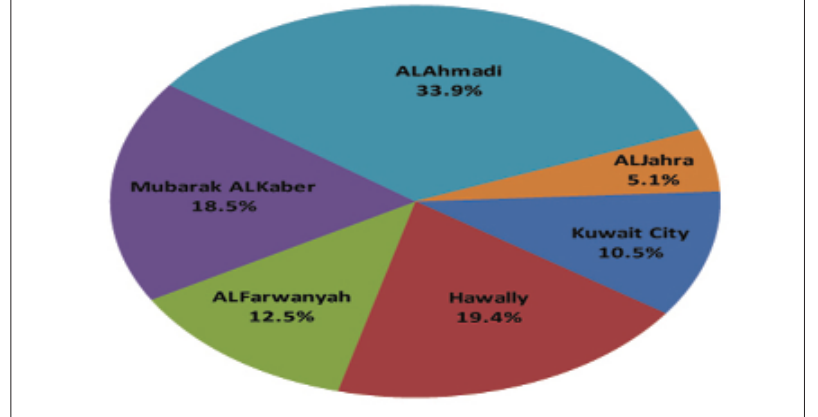
AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT



representing about 33.9 percent of the total number of deals, followed by Hawally Governorate by 68 deals, representing approximately 19.4 percent, while the lowest share went to Jahra Governorate by 18 deals representing about 5.1 percent.

Value of investment residence activity increased to KD 71.2 million, an increase by 5 percent, compared with KD 67.5 million in September 2015. Its percentage share out of total liquidity rose to about 38 percent versus 33.1 percent in September

Deals Distribution on the governorates of Kuwait



Kuwait's commodity imports (excluding the military) reached about KD 2.442 billion, a rise of 4.3 percent as compared to that of the first quarter. The surplus in the first quarter was KD 1.746 billion, which means that the balance of trade surplus for the first half this year reached about KD 4.188 billion or KD 8.376 billion if calculated to the entire 2015 year. The surplus might be less due to the continued decrease in oil prices in the third quarter

(KD 46.97 million in the same period 2014). This increased slightly the net profit margin to 31.3 percent (31.2 percent in the same period 2014).

Total bank assets scored KD 4.035 billion, down by 4.2 percent, (KD 4.213 billion in the end of 2014) and increased by 3.6 percent if compared with assets in the same period 2014 in the amount of KD 3.893 billion. Performance of customers loans and advances portfolio dropped by

	30/09/2015 (Thousand KD)	30/09/2014 (Thousand KD)	Change Value	%	
Total Assets	4,034,965	3,893,463	141,502	3.6%	↑
Total Liabilities	3,482,721	3,313,992	168,729	5.1%	↑
Equity Attributable to the equity holders of the bank	551,201	578,423	(27,222)	-4.7%	↓
Total Operating Revenues	102,860	100,492	2,368	2.4%	↑
Total Operating Expenses	28,906	27,011	1,895	7.0%	↑
Provision	47,480	46,974	506	1.1%	↑
Taxation	1,084	1,166	(82)	-7.0%	↓
Net income	25,390	25,341	49	0.2%	↑
Ratios					
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	0.8%	0.9%			↓
**Return on Average Equity Relevant To The Bank Shareholder (ROE)	6.1%	5.9%			↑
**Return on Capital (ROC)	24.0%	23.9%			↑
Earnings per share (EPS) - (Fils)	18.0	18.0	0	0.0%	↔
Closing price - (Fils)	600	670	(70)	-10.4%	↓
*Price to Earnings Per Share Multiples (P/E)	25.0	27.9			
Price to Book Value Multiples (P/B)	1.5	1.6			

* Indicators ended September 30, 2015 on an annual basis
** Calculated based on the average rate of the financial data at the end of December 2014 and 30 September 2015

2015. The average value for investment residence activity trading during 12 months scored KD 114.8 million, making value of this month trading lower by -38 percent than the 12 months average. Its deals scored 94 deals (91 deals in September 2015). As such, the average value per deal for the investment residence was about KD 757.3 thousand, higher by 2.1 percent than September 2015 average.

Commercial activity trading value

and the past part of the fourth quarter. The surplus will be less by -59.5 percent than its counterpart value in 2014 which was about KD 20.677 billion due to the sharp drop in oil prices.

The bulletin points to continuing drop in the weighted interest rates of balances on deposits from 1.494 percent in the first quarter of this year to about 1.485 percent in the second quarter, a quarterly drop by -0.6 percent. The weighted interest rates of

KD 84.2 million, or by 3.6 percent, to KD 2.236 billion (55.4 percent of total assets), vis-a-vis KD 2.320 billion (55.1 percent of total assets) in the end of December 2014. They also dropped by KD 103.9 million, or by 4.4 percent, when compared with KD 2.339 billion (60.1 percent of total assets) in the same period of 2014. Item of cash and short term funds balances increased by KD 161.1 million, or by 30.7 percent, to KD 686.4 million (17 percent of total assets)

Most Active Sectors & Companies		
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT	11,023,190	13.6%
AGILITY PUBLIC WAREHOUSING COMPANY	7,766,767	9.6%
KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE	7,231,340	8.9%
KUWAIT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO.	4,340,179	5.3%
INJAZZAT REAL ESTATE DEV. CO (K.S.C.C.)	3,535,435	4.4%
Total	33,896,911	41.7%
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
BANKS SECTOR	25,792,474	31.8%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR	13,774,788	17.0%
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR	12,687,339	15.6%
INDUSTRIALS SECTOR	12,046,683	14.8%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR	7,908,408	9.7%

pressure on prices which threatens to transform the crisis from one of assets price to a deficit crisis in mortgages.

Until the impact of reduced supply clarifies, we notice that Abu Dhabi's liquidity in the first 10 months of 2015 was at \$12.82 billion, and the Kuwaiti liquidity was close to it at \$11.33 billion. But the share from liquidity of a company listed at Abu Dhabi

October 2015 trading was divided between KD 179.5 million for contracts and about KD 7.7 million for agencies. Number of real estate struck deals in the month was 351 deals distributed between 334 contracts and 17 agencies. The highest share went to Al-Ahmedi Governorate which captured the highest percentage in the number of real estate deals (119 deals) rep-

resenting about 33.9 percent of the total number of deals, followed by Hawally Governorate by 68 deals, representing approximately 19.4 percent, while the lowest share went to Jahra Governorate by 18 deals representing about 5.1 percent.

The following tables summarize last week's performance of KSE

Description	Week 45	Week 44	Diff
	12/11/2015	5/11/2015	
Working days	5	5	
AlShall index (38 Companies)	392.5	380.4	3.2%
KSE index	5,766.4	5,770.8	-0.1%
Value Trade (KD)	81,218,162	62,405,275	
Daily average (KD)	16,243,632	12,481,055	30.1%
Volume Trade (Shares)	727,839,639	755,077,996	
Daily average (Shares)	145,567,928	151,015,599	-3.6%
Transactions	17,127	18,418	
Daily average (Transactions)	3,425	3,684	-7.0%

dropped to about KD 34.5 million, a drop by -25.2 percent compared with KD 46.1 million for September 2015. Its percentage share out of total real estate trading value dropped to about 18.4 percent (22.6 percent in September 2015). Average value of commercial activity transactions in 12 months scored KD 42 million which means that trading value during this

balances on loans continued its drop from 4.394 percent to 4.379 percent, a quarterly drop by -0.3 percent for the same period.

The bulletin also indicated that total deposits of the private sector at local banks scored about KD 34.166 billion, up from KD 33.544 billion in the end of the first quarter this year, a quarterly increase by 1.9 per-

vis-a-vis KD 525.3 million (12.5 percent of total assets) in the end of 2014, and increased by KD 243.4 million, 54.9 percent, when compared with its value in the same period of last year at KD 443 million (11.4 percent of total assets), due to the rise in the item of balances deposits at banks due within seven days by 72.8 percent.

Company Name	T11U	T11U	DIFF	CLOSE	DIFF
	12/11/2015	05/11/2015			
1 The National Bank Of Kuwait	432.4	416.8	3.7	435.9	(0.8)
2 The Gulf Bank	235.7	215.3	9.5	224.4	5.0
3 Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	418.4	418.4	0.0	506.9	(17.5)
4 Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	248.8	242.2	2.7	268.4	(7.3)
5 Kuwait International Bank	239.7	239.7	0.0	258.4	(7.2)
6 Ahli United Bank	440.2	432.2	1.9	465.7	(5.5)
7 Burgan Bank	369.1	373.9	(1.3)	428.3	(13.8)
8 Kuwait Finance House	1185.5	1118.7	6.0	1,306.8	(9.3)
Banking Sector	4407.7	4254.4	3.6	4645.4	(5.1)
9 Commercial Facilities Co	132.8	138.6	(4.2)	198.5	(33.1)
10 International Financial Advisors	271.5	279.6	(2.9)	332.3	(18.3)
11 National Investments	133.4	138.4	(3.6)	191.3	(30.3)
12 Kuwait Investment Projects	1359.3	1337.1	1.7	1,559.9	(12.9)
13 Coast Investment & Development	48.5	47.8	1.5	79.3	(38.8)
Investment Sector	370.9	370.1	0.2	455.4	(18.6)
14 Kuwait Insurance Company	69.5	66.2	5.0	64.0	8.6
15 Gulf Insurance Company	427.7	342.2	25.0	342.2	25.0
16 Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	154.0	154.0	0.0	185.9	(17.2)
17 Warba Insurance Company	93.4	90.1	3.7	95.0	(1.7)
Insurance Sector	153.5	136.8	12.2	143.8	6.7
18 Kuwait Real Estate Company	103.4	100.1	3.3	116.5	(11.2)
19 United Realty Company	193.7	195.8	(1.1)	203.9	(5.0)
20 National Real Estate Company	179.1	176.9	1.2	274.6	(34.8)
21 Salhiyah Real Estate Company	1372.9	1312.3	4.6	1,514.2	(9.3)
Real Estate Sector	179.8	175.8	2.3	216.7	(17.0)
22 The National Industries	130.4	128.7	1.3	169.8	(23.2)
23 Kuwait Cement Co	610.5	565.3	8.0	603.0	1.2
24 Refrigeration Industries Co	104.9	106.5	(1.5)	109.8	(4.5)
25 Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	163.9	163.9	0.0	275.8	(40.6)
26 Contracting & Marine Services Co	69.7	67.6	9.6	71.7	(3.3)
Industrial Sector	184.7	177.4	4.1	219.7	(15.9)
27 Kuwait National Cinemas	608.9	608.9	0.0	615.2	(1.0)
28 Kuwait Hotels Company	107.8	107.8	0.0	97.9	10.1
29 The Public Warehousing Co	1979.2	1979.2	0.0	2,735.1	(27.6)
30 Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	416.3	400.6	3.9	915.7	(54.5)
31 Safat Energy Co	13.6	13.6	0.0	22.8	(40.4)
Services Sector	657.3	648.4	1.4	1,074.4	(38.8)
32 Livestock Transport & Trading Co	110.0	111.7	(1.5)	121.7	(9.6)
33 Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	96.1	89.0	8.0	76.7	25.3
34 Kuwait United Poultry Co	58.7	58.7	0.0	60.0	(2.2)
35 Kuwait Food Co	2246.6	2226.9	0.9	2,759.0	(18.6)
Food Sector	769.2	762.6	0.9	932.7	(17.5)
36 Sharjah Cement Co	366.6	366.6	0.0	371.7	(1.4)
37 Gulf Cement Co	334.7	330.6	1.2	387.1	(13.5)
38 Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries	588.6	596.0	(1.2)	750.5	(21.6)
Non Kuwaiti Companies	231.2	230.9	0.1	249.2	(7.2)
General Index	392.5	380.4	3.2	444.0	(11.6)

ALSHALL INDEX	Week 45	Week 44
	12/11/2015	05/11/2015
Increased Value (# of Companies)	20	11
Decreased Value (# of Companies)	8	10
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)	10	17
Total Companies	38	38

month was lower by about -17.9 percent than the 12 months' average. Its transactions were 9 deals (11 deals in September 2015). Therefore, the average value of the commercial deal was at approximately KD 3.829 million. Value of warehousing trading activity was at approximately KD 5.3 million (3 deals).

When we compare October 2015 trading with October 2014, we note decline in the real estate market liquidity from about KD 377.5 million to KD 187.2 million, i.e. -50.4 percent, as we mentioned. The drop involved the private residential activity by -49.5 percent, the investment residence activity by -51.1 percent and the commercial activity liquidity declined by -56.7 percent. If liquidity average continues at the same average in the past 10 months of the year, total real estate market liquidity in 2015 will score about KD 3.27 billion, less by -34.6 percent than 2014. This means indicators hint at a drop in the real estate market's liquidity coupled with decline in the stock exchange liquidity this year.

Monetary and economic indicators

The periodical Quarterly Statistical Bulletin (April - June 2015) of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) as published on its website, provided some economic and monetary indicators whose developments are worth follow up and documentation. The balance of trade (commodity exports minus commodity imports), for instance, achieved in the second quarter this year a surplus by KD 2.424 billion, up by 37.4 percent compared with the first quarter. Kuwait's commodity exports during the second quarter scored KD 4.866 billion, 89.2 percent of which were oil exports.

Finally, the local banks claims on private sector rose to about KD 33.753 billion from KD 33.046 billion in the end of the first quarter, a quarterly rise by 2.1 percent.

The CBK financial results

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced results of its operations for the first nine months ending 30 September 2015 which indicate that the bank achieved net profits, after tax deductions, by KD 25.39 million (KD 25.34 million in the same period of 2014). This means the bank achieved a slight increase in its profits by KD 49 thousands, or by 0.2 percent. The slight rise in net profits level is due to the rise in total operations incomes by a higher value than the rise in total expenditures.

In details, total operational incomes increased to KD 102.9 million (KD 100.5 million in the same period of 2014). In other words, these incomes increased by KD 2.4 million, or by 2.4 percent, as a result of increase in net gain on disposal of assets pending sale by KD 5.1 million to KD 5.7 million compared to KD 613 thousands in September 2014. Item of net gain from investment securities increased by KD 2.3 million to KD 4 million (KD 1.8 million). Item of fees and commissions increased by KD 2.2 million to KD 2.5 million (KD 23.3 million). While item of net gains from dealing in foreign currencies declined by KD 5 million to KD 1.6 million (KD 6.6 million in the same period 2014).

Total operating expenses went up by less value than the increase in total operations incomes and rose by KD 1.9 million, i.e. 7 percent, to KD 28.9 million (KD 27 million in the same period of 2014). Total provisions increased by KD 506 thousand, or by 1.1 percent, and scored KD 47.48 million

Figures indicate that the bank's liabilities (without including total equity) dropped by KD 176.3 million, or by 4.8 percent, to KD 3.483 billion (KD 3.659 billion in the end of 2014). While they increased by KD 168.7 million, or by 5.1 percent, when compared with the total in the same period of 2014. Percentage of loans and advances to deposits scored 66.5 percent down from 73.2 percent in the same period of last year.

Analysis of financial statements, calculated on annual basis, indicates that most bank profitability indexes recorded rise compared with the same period of 2014. Return on average equities relevant to the bank shareholders (ROE) rose to 6.1 percent (5.9 percent). Likewise, the return on bank capital (ROC) increased to 24 percent compared with 23.9 percent in the same period last year. While return on average bank assets (ROA) decreased slightly to 0.8 percent (0.9 percent). EPS remained constant at 18 fils for the two periods. (P/E) scored 25 times in 30 September 2015 (improved) compared with 27.9 times in the same period 2014. (P/B) scored 1.5 times (1.6 times in the same period last year).

The weekly performance of KSE

The performance of Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) for the last week was mixed compared to the previous one, where the indices of the trade value and the general index, show an increase, while the trade volume index and number of transactions index show a decrease. AlShall Index (value index) closed at 392.5 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase of about 12.1 points or about 3.2 percent compared with its level last week, while it decreased by 51.5 points or about 11.6 percent compared with the end of 2014.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS WELCOMES ROYALTY AS IT DISPLAYS FLAGSHIP AIRBUS A380

DUBAI AIRSHOW 2015

KUWAIT: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, welcomed Royalty to its flagship Airbus A380 at the Dubai Airshow, giving visitors a glimpse of

Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE, and Ruler of Dubai; Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai;

Aviation Authority; and His Excellency Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al-Nahyan, Chairman of the Department of Transport (DoT), and a member of the Executive

ation - The Residence by Etihad - as well as nine First Apartments, 70 Business Studios, and 415 Economy Smart Seats.

Etihad Airways' cabin crew provided VIPs, trade visitors and media with guided tours of the aircraft during the day-long static display at the Middle East's premier aerospace industry event.

Etihad Airways currently operates a fleet of five A380s - with a further five on order - flying to London Heathrow and Sydney from its Abu Dhabi hub. From November 23, the carrier introduces the aircraft on one of its double-daily flights to New York. Beginning May 1, one of the thrice-daily Mumbai flights will be served by an A380, and the aircraft will be inducted on one of the double-daily Melbourne scheduled services, beginning June 1.

James Hogan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, said: "It's been almost a year since Etihad Airways took delivery of its first A380 aircraft and today we are promoting the best-in class service to our industry partners at this prestigious global event."

"Etihad Airways has had a tremendous response from guests travelling on our A380 flights and we look forward to welcoming more with the introduction of the aircraft on a further three destinations over the next few months."



the airline's award-winning flight products. The aircraft was toured by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline & Group, and Chairman of Dubai Civil

Council, Abu Dhabi. The Abu Dhabi-based airline's 496-seat A380 suite in commercial avi-

MARKAZ ANNOUNCES NET PROFIT OF KD 2.39M FOR 3 QUARTERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announced a net profit attributable to shareholders of KD 2.39 million (EPS 5 fils per share) for the nine months ending 30th September 2015, as compared with a net profit of 6.31 million during the same period in 2014. Markaz's total assets under management (AUM) reached KD 1.05 billion as of Sept 30th, 2015.

These results come amidst a prevalent negative performance of the GCC equity markets due to low oil prices and geopolitical tension in the region. S&P GCC Composite lost 11% during the nine months period, while Kuwait Stock Exchange weighted index dropped by 11.5 percent during the same period. Global markets also declined due to sluggish growth in Chinese economy and uncertainty concerning the US Federal Reserve's plan to raise interest rates. MSCI Emerging Markets Index fell by 17.2 percent during the nine-month period, while MSCI WORLD Index lost 7.5 percent during the same period.

Meanwhile, the company's corporate finance activities have strengthened throughout the nine-month period, with continued growth of announced and executed merger and acquisition transactions. During 2015, Markaz has been at the fore-

front of M&A activity in Kuwait and has successfully completed three key M&A transactions; a flagship tender offer in Kuwait's market by Al-Ahleia Insurance for Kuwait Reinsurance completed in the third quarter, acquisition of a company in the hospitality sector and a restructuring transaction. Markaz has also delivered on four general advisory assignments in addition to a pipeline of transactions under execution.

It is worth noting that Markaz recently



received "Best Equity Manager in Kuwait - 2015" award by Global Investor Magazine; it is the sixth consecutive year Markaz wins a Global Investor award. Markaz also won "Best Asset Managers for Corporates in Kuwait 2015" from Global Finance magazine. Markaz was also named "Best Investment Bank in Kuwait" by Global Finance in 2015. The award reflects the company's professional skills in executing many successful transactions for its clients in the fields of credit markets, equities, merge and acquisitions along with offering financial consultancy services.

GE AND ITS JVS GARNER MORE THAN \$17BN IN AGREEMENTS

DUBAI: At the 2015 Dubai Air Show this week, GE Aviation and CFM International, its partner company with Snecma (Safran), secured and finalized several engine orders and long-term contracts valued at more than \$17 billion with the region's leading carriers. At the same time, GE Aviation also forged new relationships with the Middle East's growing aviation industry players.

"The Middle East aviation industry is making a significant impact worldwide," said Muhammad Al-Lamadani, senior executive and general manager of GE Aviation Sales for the Middle East, Russia/Commonwealth of Independent States and Turkey. "GE Aviation is honored to join the region's aviation leaders to help take the industry to new heights."

Highlights from the show include:

- Emirates signed its largest single engine MRO contract to date worth \$16 billion with GE Aviation for the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of the GE9X engines that will power the airline's fleet of 150 Boeing 777X aircraft over a period of 12 years. Emirates also signed a 12-year GE OnPoint solution contract, covering the maintenance and inventory support for various avionics, electrical power and mechanical systems on all Emirates Boeing 777 aircraft in currently service and the 44 more 777-300ERs on order.
- Etihad Airways signed an agreement with GE for GE90-115B engines to power its two Boeing 777 Freighters and a 12-year OnPointSM solution agreement for the new GE90 engines valued at more than \$475 million (USD) list price.
- Vietnam's VietJetAir selected CFM International's CFM56-5B engine to power 15

additional Airbus A321ceo aircraft and signed a long-term service agreement valued at more than \$700 million (USD) list price.

- Pegasus Airlines signed an eight-year Time & Materials Support agreement with CFM International to cover a total of 90 shop visits for the CFM56-7B engines powering its fleet of Boeing 737-800 aircraft valued at \$500 million (USD) list price.
- Royal Air Maroc selected GE Aviation for a five-year exclusive OnPointSM solution agreement for the time and material to maintain, repair and overhaul its CF6-80C2 engines that power its four Boeing 767 aircraft.
- Unison Industries, a wholly owned subsidiary of GE Aviation's Services organization, signed a 10-year Material Services Agreement with Qatar Airways to cover external Unison new parts and component repairs for all engine lines in the Qatar Airways fleet.
- GE opened its Middle East Aviation Technology Center at the Dubai Airport Free Zone to support customers' operations by leveraging data analytics, domain experience and software capabilities to increase productivity, maximize performance and minimize down time for customers using GE's platform for the Industrial Internet.
- GE Aviation and Dubai's Museum of the Future signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to accelerate innovation and advanced technology around the world.
- GE Aviation successfully completed its first transfer of avionics manufacture and support capability to the Advanced Electronics Company (AEC) in Saudi Arabia for the T-165 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft.

ETIHAD LAUNCHES SPECIAL PROMOTION FARES IN GCC

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways has launched an exciting new sales promotion within the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC), offering return Business Class and Economy Class air fares to a range of worldwide destinations for as little as KD 141. The promotion

Nabil Matarweh, Etihad Airways' General Manager for the Kuwait, said: "This is great for our Kuwait-based guests and with such low fares to so many popular destinations on our worldwide network it is an ideal time to travel and take advantage of this

great promotion. "With Etihad Airways now flying five times daily between Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, travellers will be able to find many convenient connections to the destinations on offer and we look forward to our Kuwaiti

guests taking advantage of these terrific value offers." The special promotional fares, all via Etihad Airways' Abu Dhabi hub, start from just KD185 for a return Economy Class flight to European destinations which include destinations such as Munich and Frankfurt.

Premium guests are included in the Super Sale promotion where customers can fly to New York and to London for as little as KD 668.

Travellers to Etihad Airways' Australian online destinations can take advantage of the airline's commercial agreement with Virgin Australia which allows customers to connect onto a wider range of cities across Australia.

1. The unique US Preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi has helped to facilitate and expedite easy travel by allowing Etihad Airways guests flying on the airline's services to the United States to clear US immigration and customs in Abu Dhabi Airport.
2. To take advantage of Etihad Airways' promotional campaign, travellers should book flights and purchase their tickets between 9 and 12 November, and complete their travel before 10 December 2015. Terms and conditions apply.



runs from 9 November till 12 November, and covers more than 90 popular destinations in Europe, North America, Africa and the Asia Pacific region, include the UAE flag carrier's latest new route to Tanzania, which launches on 1 December 2015.

great promotion. "With Etihad Airways now flying five times daily between Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, travellers will be able to find many convenient connections to the destinations on offer and we look forward to our Kuwaiti

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCE OFFER AT ATLANTIS RESORT, DUBAI IN COOPERATION WITH MASTERCARD INTERNATIONAL

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) have announced its partnership with MasterCard international for their Promotion with the famous Atlantis Dubai

The offer includes a variety of benefits ranging from spa sessions, to a full breakfast, a choice of lunch or dinner in 15 Atlantis restaurants and unlimited access to Aquaventure Waterpark, the lost chamber and many more benefits. Customers can take advantage of the exclusive offer that is valid for stays until 18 March 2016. For more information, customers can check the latest promotion section on bank website on www.cbk.com, booking can be made directly on the link in the website where customers can avail the offer by using their credit or debit CBK MasterCard.

MasterCard has always collaborated with Commercial Bank of Kuwait on creating the most innovative, and dynamic campaigns to ensure their customers are always satisfied. CBK urges its customer to take advantage of this special offer, and enjoy the wonderful world of Atlantis resort in Dubai.



the Palm, where customers can use their CBK MasterCard debit or credit card to book their getaway at Atlantis resort in Dubai, and enjoy the exclusive offer for a family fun packages from only KD 165.

CHINA PROBES SECURITIES REGULATOR'S DEPUTY HEAD

BEIJING: The deputy chief of China's top securities regulator is under investigation, state media said Friday, as the country moves the focus of its sweeping anti-graft campaign to the financial sector months after a stock market rout rocked global markets.

The official Xinhua news service said Yao Gang, vice chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), has come under suspicion of committing "severe disciplinary violations"-normally a euphemism for graft. Chinese authorities have been pursuing a hard-hitting campaign against crooked officials since President Xi Jinping took office in 2013, a crusade that some experts have called a political purge.

In October, China's anti-corruption watchdog said it would expand its inspections to

major financial institutions, including the central bank and regulatory authorities, which are already under pressure after a spectacular stock market meltdown.

The announcement last month said that the new round of inspections will cover the central People's Bank of China, the China Banking Regulatory Commission, China Insurance Regulatory Commission and the CSRC, among a long list of others.

China Investment Corp, the world's largest sovereign fund, commercial banks ICB and the Bank of China and the country's major insurance companies will also come under scrutiny.

The anti-corruption watchdog will also examine stock exchange operators in Shanghai and Shenzhen, and the parent company of major brokerage Citic Securities. —AFP

WARBA BANK LAUNCHES CREDIT CARD CAMPAIGN

GET BACK UP TO 100 PERCENT FOR EVERY KD100 KD SPEND

KUWAIT: Warba Bank has launched a credit card campaign as a part of the Bank's new initiative for the Kuwaiti market. The goal is to provide existing customers with benefits for using various credit cards in their purchases thus enhancing the card's value and making it easier for customers to accomplish the purchasing transactions.

This campaign offers customers special features in compliance with the provisions of Islamic sharia as well as other benefits. The customer can get back a fixed and guaranteed amount accounting for 1 percent of all monthly purchases automatically. Moreover, the customer will have a chance to get back up to 100 percent for every 100 Kuwaiti Dinars of the monthly purchases. This offer will not be applicable for cash withdrawals.

Khalid Jassim Al-Subaie, the Chief Retail Banking Officer at Warba Bank, said: "Warba Bank's policy is based on providing competitive and exclusive products in the market that comply with Islamic Sharia, meeting customer needs and responding to their requirements which witness daily increase due to the economic development and e-commerce. The campaign also reflects Warba Bank's keenness to provide customers with new and distinctive offers having unique

features on credit card level in Kuwait. Customers can directly get back cash amounts for each purchase transaction on the same card automatically."

Al-Subaie added: "Under this offer, the customer will receive a fixed and guaranteed cash



Khalid Jassim Al-Subaie

amount at 1 percent of each purchase transaction carried out using the credit card through any point of purchase including the internet whether in Kuwait or abroad. This will also help customers to enter a monthly draw as an incentive to back up to 100 percent for each KD 100 of purchases. The amount will be deposited automatically in the primary card account during the

subsequent month of the purchase transactions using the credit card. The customer will then be notified by an SMS message. In the case that a customer gets back cash on the first month, the customer can get another chance to win during the next month if the card is used in accordance with the terms and conditions. There is no limit for the purchase transactions; the more the customer spends, the higher his chances to get back amounts. The total transactions amount at KD 100 will give the customer a chance for monthly recovery for using cards. The number of chances shall be 100 ranging between 5 percent-100 percent for a period of one month. The campaign shall continue for 3 Months from October till the end of December 2015. This campaign will be availed only by customers holding credit cards before the campaign initiation."

Al-Subaie continued: "Warba Bank is keen on rewarding its customers with the best offers and biggest promotional campaigns that provide them with unique features. The Bank also gives utmost care to its various credit cardholders giving the cards an added value, contributing in customer satisfaction and increasing the customers' chances of getting more benefits on card use. In addition, the Bank's care and cam-

paigns strengthen the Bank's presence and market share in this sector and expand the credit card portfolio. Warba Bank has made great achievements in this trend embodied in the remarkable growth of issuing credit cards at various types. This enhances the Bank's competitiveness in the retail banking and cards, creates new horizons in the Islamic banking sector within a strategy aiming at the development of innovative products and services which are specifically tailored to meet the needs of various market segments along with constant care for performance level and service quality provided to the customers."

It is worth mentioning that debit cards of "Safwa and Lamar" category give their cardholders special benefits allowing them free access to VIP lounges at most international airports, in addition to receiving a prepaid card with "My Box" service that gives the customer a local address in the United States of America, Britain, United Arab Emirates, and China.

Customers that wish to learn more about credit cards campaign or other unique Warba services can contact the Call Center on 1825555, visit any of the Bank's branches or follow the Bank's official social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

HIRED-GUN HACKING PLAYED KEY ROLE IN BREACHES

NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO: When US prosecutors this week charged two Israelis and an American fugitive with raking in hundreds of millions of dollars in one of the largest and most complex cases of cyber fraud ever exposed, they also provided an unusual look into the burgeoning industry of criminal hackers for hire. The trio, who are accused of orchestrating massive computer breaches at JPMorgan Chase & Co and other financial firms, as well as a series of other major offences, did little if any hacking themselves, the federal indictments and a previous civil case brought by the US Securities and Exchange Commission indicate.

Rather, they constructed a criminal conglomerate with activities ranging from pump-and-dump stock fraud to Internet casino break-ins and unlicensed Bitcoin trading. And just like many legitimate corporations, they outsourced much of their technology needs. "They clearly had to recruit co-conspirators and have that type of hacker-for-hire," said Austin Berglas, former assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's New York cyber division, who worked the JPMorgan case before he left the agency in May. "This is the first case where it's that clear of a connection."

Berglas, who now heads cyber investigations for private firm K2 Intelligence, said additional major cases of freelance hacking will come to light, especially as more people become familiar with online tools such as Tor that seek to conceal a user's identity and location.

Rented Time

This week's indictments accused a hacker referred to as "co-conspirator 1" of installing malicious software on the servers of multiple victims at the direction of Gery Shalon, the alleged mastermind of the scheme now under arrest in Israel. A second indictment charges a man referred to as John Doe, believed to be in Russia, for an attack on online trading firm E-Trade. Officials have not said if the co-conspirator and John Doe were the same person, or even if the FBI knows their true identities.

Law enforcement and computer security officials say that outsourced cyber-crime services - including rented time on networks of previously compromised personal computers and custom break-ins - are most readily found on underground Russian-language computer forums, where skilled attackers advertise their services. The forums are tight-knit communities where newbies must be vouched for by multiple known members and pay membership fees that cost thousands of dollars, said Daniel Cohen, who oversees an undercover team at EMC Corp's RSA Security that monitors the forums.

"You can find anything you want for an operation. Hackers, servers, software, code writing. They are all available," said Cohen. Individuals hide their identities even from each other, making infiltration and arrests rare. In this case, the ringleaders are accused of hiring hackers to steal contact information and other data that they then used to help convince ordinary investors to buy little-regulated stocks. Prosecutors have not disclosed how the hackers

were compensated.

Fees vary greatly in the cyber underground, depending on the complexity of the assignment and supply of talent available to do a particular job. Elite hackers who pull off the most technically challenging attacks might get a percentage of profits, while others might earn an hourly rate or get paid a few thousand dollars for winning access to a target's network, researchers said.

Pump-and-Dump

All three of those accused this week - Shalon, Joshua Samuel Aaron, who is at large, and Ziv Orenstein, who is also in jail in Israel - began promoting penny stocks before the hacks took place, according to US government claims. They used websites including Pennystockdiscoveries.com and Stockcastle.com to send emails as part of a scheme in which they invested in penny stocks, spread false information to boost their prices, and then sold them to make windfall profits, according to an SEC suit filed in July. Orenstein's lawyer declined to comment, and Shalon's lawyer did not return messages seeking comment. In one case in early 2012, the SEC claims that they used the website Stockcastle.com to promote shares in Mustang Alliances Inc, reaping \$2.2 million, the largest pump-and-dump cited in the regulator's lawsuit. In March of that year, the British Virgin Islands Financial Services Commission issued an alert warning that two entities tied to Stockcastle were falsely claiming to be registered in the territory.

That same year, the enterprise began a massive hacking spree to get contact information for investors who might be good targets, according to prosecutors. By the end of 2013 they had ordered up six hacks that provided data on tens of millions of customers, prosecutors said. They hit the mother lode in 2014 when they attacked three other firms, and stole data on 83 million customers from JP Morgan alone, prosecutors said. In addition to JP Morgan and E*Trade, the firms attacked included the mutual fund giant Fidelity Investments, Scottrade, TD Ameritrade Holding Corp and News Corp's Dow Jones unit, the publisher of the Wall Street Journal, according to court documents and people familiar with the cases.

"To do a 'pump-and-dump' operation, you no longer need 30 people behind phones in a strip mall," said Shane Shook, a security consultant specializing in investigating financial breaches. All you need is to find a hacker on a "Dark Web" forum to provide addresses from customers of financial services firms like Fidelity or JPMorgan, then hire a spam service to push out promotional emails, he said.

Shalon bragged about the stock manipulation scheme, telling the hacker known as co-conspirator 1 in a web chat message that it was "a small step towards a large empire," according to the indictment.

His plan, Shalon told the hacker, was to distribute "mailers" on stocks to those customers. The hacker asked if buying stocks was popular in America, the indictment said, prompting Shalon

to reply: "It's like drinking freaking vodka in Russia." Shalon ultimately made good on his promise to build an empire, according to the indictments. Profits from the pump-and-dump fed into a sprawling conglomerate including offshore Internet casinos and payment-processing services for other criminal operators, such as counterfeit pharmaceutical makers. Shalon also allegedly directed hackers to attack rival casinos, stealing customer data and temporarily bringing down their websites with denial-of-service attacks, which are easily commissioned online.

Butterfly and Hidden Lynx

While this week's indictments opened the first major criminal case involving outsourced hacking, there have been other substantial break-ins that researchers believe were contract jobs. Researchers at Symantec in July attributed a series of precision breaches at Apple, Facebook, Microsoft and Twitter in 2012 and 2013 to a sophisticated gang called Butterfly, which also attacked law firms and pharmaceutical companies.

Computer security firm Symantec concluded that the group likely works for hire, either for a client looking for financial gain in the stock market or for competitors. How Butterfly gets hired remains unclear. Tech criminologist Marc Goodman, author of the book "Future Crimes," says another group, dubbed Hidden Lynx by Symantec, may consist of contractors moonlighting from jobs with the Chinese military. "It's crime as a service," Goodman said. "They take all the pain out of it." — Reuters

YOUTUBE MUSIC IS A GREAT VIDEO APP -IF YOU PAY UP

LOS ANGELES: If you were going to reinvent MTV for a mobile generation, you'd probably come up with something like YouTube Music. It's a video-first music service that also plays in the background like you'd expect a music app to do. That sets it apart from other music apps out there, many of which give you a choice of videos or songs, but not interchangeably.

But while YouTube Music offers a lot of interesting features, most of them require a subscription to the new YouTube Red service, which will set you back \$10 a month - \$13 if you sign up through YouTube's iPhone app. Without Red, YouTube Music will play ads similar to what you see on YouTube proper, and several other functions won't work at all. YouTube is offering new users a 14-day free trial to Red, but to continue commercial free, you'll need to pony up.

YouTube Music is first and foremost a music-video app, albeit one that doesn't forget that most people will be using it on their phones. For those times you'd rather just listen instead of watching, you can hit a toggle that switches the app to audio-only mode, which turns off the video playback and swaps in a still image. You can even turn off the screen and keep listening while you do something else.

But here's the first gotcha: Audio-only mode only works for paid subscribers. I also found the audio-only toggle worked far better on a Samsung Galaxy Note 4 than on an iPhone 5, where it introduced a jarring pause. You can similarly shrink the video to a little strip at the bottom of the app, which keeps it playing in a cropped format while you look for the next video. The app will even keep playing if you switch to other tasks, like checking email - although again only if you've paid up for Red.

There are some curious omissions.

For instance, there's no easy way to create a playlist to queue up a bunch of videos in a row. The app does offer "song stations," which queue up videos from artists related to the one you're on. You can toggle the range of the resulting mix with options like "less variety," "more variety" or "balanced." I started a station starting with Passenger's "Let Her Go" and so far I'm pretty happy with the "balanced" playlist it created, which included "Counting Stars" from OneRepublic and "Burn" by Ellie Goulding.

You can also play all of the videos you've thumbs-upped, which turns that grouping into a crude sort of playlist. YouTube Music is far less cluttered than competing services like Apple Music, which has more lists and tabs than you'll know what to do with. YouTube Music keeps the tabs to three - home, hot (trending videos), and thumbs up (your favorites). Home offers recommended videos, and it's easy to find something playable. Your mileage may vary with the "hot" tab; it didn't do much for me, although I'm usually a bit out of sync with the mainstream.

Finally, there's one more fun feature, which is called "offline mixtape." It automatically saves 20 audio-only songs for you based on your tastes, for when you know you're going to get spotty reception. I wish it saved the videos instead of just the audio, but this will keep the tunes turning in a pinch. Alas, offline mixtapes are disabled in the ad-supported version of YouTube Music.

The app makes Google's \$10-a-month music subscription a lot more attractive. Paying up not only unlocks features in YouTube Music itself, it also gets you ad-free playback on the main YouTube app, access to Google Play Music, and, down the road, some original material from YouTube stars. — AP



PARIS: People hug each other before being evacuated by bus near the Bataclan concert hall in central Paris early yesterday. — AFP

FRENCH SEEK FRIENDS, SHELTER ON SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER ATTACKS

PARIS: French people took to social media to find friends and relatives, search for shelter and tell the world they were safe yesterday, after a wave of attacks across Paris left more than 120 people dead. Internet users posted poignant appeals on Twitter to find their loved ones who had been at the scenes of the bloodshed, including at the Stade de France stadium and a rock gig at the Bataclan theatre. "If anyone has news of Lola, aged 17, at #Bataclan this evening, contact us," read one post, while another expressed concern for a friend Thibault, who was also at the concert. "He's not getting back to me: Help me," it read.

Other Twitter feeds remained ominously silent after announcing the start of the concert at the Bataclan concert hall, where at least 82 people were later killed by gunmen wielding

AK47s. Eight attackers struck numerous locations around the capital, leaving more than 120 people dead on Friday night, the bloodiest such incident in Europe for more than a decade.

Thousands of Parisians used the hashtag #PorteOuverte (open door) to organise places to stay for people who had been left stranded - particularly in areas that had been attacked. The hashtag was re-posted 480,000 times as the hours passed with the city on lock down, making it the second-most used keyword on Twitter in France after #fusillade (shooting) which was used 700,000 times. "If people are stranded, I can accommodate two of three people on Rue des Martyrs," offered one user, while WroteGabDeLioncourt said: "Our sofa is always available for two/three people in Maraisers".

Others set up an emergency website "porteouverte.eu" to help people find temporary shelter. Meanwhile, Facebook launched a "Paris Terror Attacks" check-in feature to let people signal whether they were out of harm's way, then notify their connections on the social networking site. "Quickly find and connect with friends in the area," a message from the Facebook Safety Check service read. "Mark them safe if you know they're OK."

The feature also allowed people to check which friends listed as being in Paris had not yet checked in as safe. "We are shocked and saddened by the events unfolding in Paris," a Facebook spokesman told AFP. "Communication is critical in these moments both for people there and for their friends and families anxious for news." — AFP

FACEBOOK SETS UP SAFETY CHECK FOR PARIS FRIENDS

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook launched a check-in feature to let people know that friends in Paris were safe after a series of bombings and shootings in the French capital killed more than 120 people on Friday. The "Paris Terror Attacks" safety check let people signal whether they were out of harm's way, then notified all those they know at the leading social network. "Quickly find and connect with friends in the area," a message at the Facebook Safety Check page read. "Mark them safe if you know they're OK."

The feature also allowed people to check which friends listed as being in Paris had not yet checked in as safe. "We are shocked and saddened by the events unfolding in Paris," a Facebook spokesman told AFP. "Communication is critical in these moments both for people there and for their friends and families anxious for news." — AFP

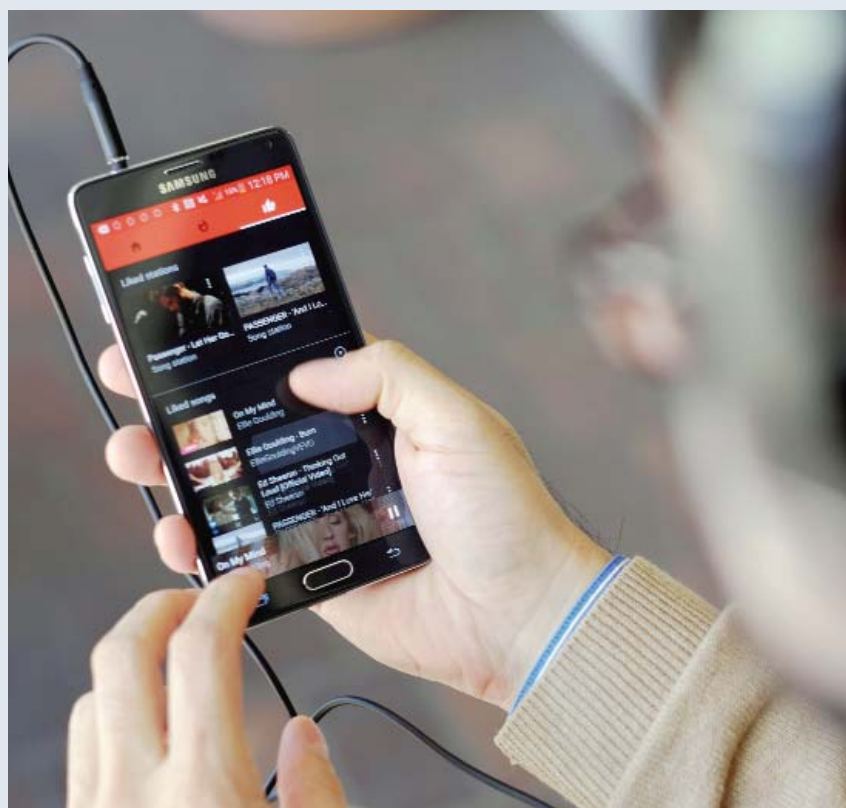
PARISIANS OFFER REFUGE TO STRANGERS VIA TWITTER

PARIS: People in Paris took to social media to find and offer refuge on Friday night, as the city was gripped by chaos following a string of attacks that left dozens dead. The Twitter hashtag #porteouverte, which means "open door" in English, was being used to offer shelter as authorities urged people to evacuate the streets. The hashtag trended globally, with more than 400,000 Tweets using it, in the few hours since its creation. "This account will be used for tweeting and retweeting places to stay safe tonight," said a post from @PorteOuverteFRA, a Twitter handle opened within hours of the attacks. Dozens of addresses and phone numbers for apartments were being tweeted on the handle, and it was retweeting offers of accommodation from other individuals.

A post from @LaraPlowright, written in mixed English and French, read: "Anyone stuck around gare du nord area, si besoin (if needed) #porteouverte quartier Gare du Nord, peut loger 2-3 personnes (can

accommodate 2-3 people)." Other posts on the tag said taxis were offering free transport for anyone in need a lift to shelter. Still, some people found the process confusing amid the chaos. "I'm not using the tag at the moment, but people are stuck in various areas and cannot leave, I hear," said Alessandra Gargiulo, who was waiting for her landlord's permission to open up her apartment for the night.

Gargiulo, 24, lives in the 24th arrondissement on the other side of the city from the attacks, but said she could see and hear helicopters and sirens from her apartment. She spoke to Reuters via Facebook messenger. "We're super scared here, it's hell, but we'll use the tag and it's worth trying everything," said Maria Vittoria Zanetti, 23, who had just become aware of the tag. Zanetti, also contacted over Facebook, is stuck at a friend's apartment in the 2nd arrondissement. Both Gargiulo and Zanetti, 23, have used the Facebook Safety Check to let friends know they are safe. — Reuters



LOS ANGELES: This photo shows the YouTube Music app on a mobile phone on Friday. — AP

DASMAN INSTITUTE HOLDS OPEN DAY COMMEMORATING WORLD DIABETES DAY 2015

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), a leading campaigner for diabetes awareness in Kuwait, held an informative event to commemorate World Diabetes Day on Thursday, 12 November, 2015 at its premises. The event allowed visitors to consult with diabetes specialists and dietitians as well as gather healthy information from booths that explained various facts of diabetes and promoted healthy lifestyle modification. Around 1000 guests attended the event underlining the interest in Kuwait to prevent and manage this dangerous lifestyle disease.

Many of the booths at the event were about educating visitors on proper dietary habits, sage physical activities and oral health. At this event, there were informative booths by the Kuwait Diabetes Society, Kuwait Pharmacists Society, Oral Health Program (Ministry of Health), and others that provided assistance to people living with diabetes. There were also various booths from volunteer organizations and exercise clubs promoting proper fitness regimens, to support youths willing to improve their quality of life and well-being such as the "Blue Circle".

During the World Diabetes Day event the "Prevention of Diabetes Complications" campaign was launched. This is an organizational wide initiative was spearheaded and coordinated by the Public Relations and Media Services Department and the Education and Training department. The primary goal of



the campaign is to prevent the complications of diabetes in people with diabetes through raising awareness about the complications, and empowering those affected by diabetes to proactively take control of their diabetes and improve their quality of life. The main key messages were to take control of blood sugar, watch your cholesterol, keep blood pressure in check, don't forget your kidneys, look out for your eyes and examine your feet. The campaign slogan is "Life is better without complications" and was

promoted on social media with the hashtag #STOPComplications.

Diabetes care

As part of diabetes management, lectures were organized in the auditorium delivering additional information about diabetes care and to empower and educate participants. Due to the fact that some diabetic patients are unable to cook healthy meals, a live cooking demonstration emphasizing cooking nutritious international and Kuwaiti recipes was available for guests to watch

and learn, in collaboration with the Peruvian Embassy in Kuwait. The event reflected an exciting environment for everyone, and the activities were even tailored towards young children through fun shows featuring mascots, a magic show, and other fun activities.

DDI's awareness event also provided free testing by professional staff who conducted screenings for blood glucose and HbA1c, as well as body measurements. These tests help physicians determine those who are prone to diabetes, and provided them with free consulta-

tions to teach them how to better manage their diabetes.

Holding such events and activities stems from Dasman Diabetes Institute's mission statement, where health promotion and awareness are a priority for the Institute. Since its establishment by the Kuwait Foundation of the Advancement of Sciences in 2006, the Institute organizes and takes part in many events and campaigns annually to shed light on diabetes and health in general. This is in accordance with the Institute's belief that "Prevention is better than cure".



THOUSANDS WALK TO SUPPORT DIABETES AWARENESS AT LANDMARK'S SIXTH BEAT DIABETES WALK 2015

KUWAIT: A good stretch of the Gulf Road was dressed in blue as more than 5000 residents came together to raise awareness about diabetes during the annual walkathon organized by the Landmark Group. The Beat Diabetes walk supported by Ministry of Health and Dasman Diabetes Institute marked a very successful completion for the sixth year in a row.

Many dignitaries joined the supporters at the Yacht Club in the 3.2 km walk sporting blue 'Beat Diabetes' T-shirts. Professional trainers from Fitness First led a mass

beat awareness, signaled the start of the walkathon.

Saibal Basu, Chief Operating Officer, Landmark Group Kuwait, said: "Now in its sixth year, the Beat Diabetes initiative has touched the lives of millions of people across seven nations. The overwhelming turnout that the walkathon draws year after year is truly heartwarming. We are thankful to all the people who continue to support us in our fight against diabetes. Our mission is to focus this momentum on fostering a better and seamless understanding of the condition



Daily struggle

Professor Kazem Behbehani, OBE, Director-General of Dasman Diabetes Institute, an affiliate of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) added: "Living with diabetes is a daily struggle but can be managed by following a disciplined lifestyle. The involvement of the Institute in the 'Beat Diabetes Walkathon' stems from our mission to improve the lifestyle of the population of Kuwait. Adopting a healthy lifestyle, which includes regular exercise and physical activity such as the walkathon, is essential in living well with diabetes. The condition can lead to serious consequences if not detected and controlled at an early stage. Hence, awareness is extremely crucial. It is

really inspiring to see the dedication of the Landmark Group and the support they receive from the Kuwait residents to spread the message about diabetes."

To reinforce the Group's core message 'Beat Diabetes - Take the Test', free blood glucose testing booths were set up at all Centrepoint stores in Kuwait on 29 October, 30 October, and 31 October. Landmark Group would like to thank its Partners - Al Ghanim / Xerox, Fitness First, Bahrah Trading Co, One Touch. Media Sponsors - "Al Rai, Al Qabas, Al Seyassah Al Anba, Kuwait Times, Arab Times, Al Jarida, The Times. Al Yaqza, Ahlan, Student Talk, The Talk, Al Hadaf, Bazaar, Mondanete, Sarab, Layalena, Styles, Business Islamica, Executive Woman, City Pages, Lana, Kidzine, Wave Line. Bikers Association - Kuwait Dragon Riders, Bikers in Kuwait Encounter, Filipino International Triathletes and other entities who extended their support to the Beat Diabetes campaign.

The Beat Diabetes initiative is of particular significance to the GCC countries and India with both regions ranking high in the International Diabetes Federation (IDF)'s list of countries for prevalence of diabetes.

Landmark Group is the only retail and hospitality conglomerate to lead diabetes related educational and community-focused activities across six GCC countries and India. In November 2014, Landmark Group's walkathons held across Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and India drew an overwhelming response.



warm-up session prior to the walkathon. Participants were also provided with complimentary t-shirts, caps and a healthy breakfast. The release of blue balloons, symbolic of the global color for dia-

and help the community achieve a healthy, active lifestyle. I would like to extend our appreciation and thank every person who joined us at the walk to spread the message and support the campaign".



NEW PRODUCE SAFETY RULES AIM TO PREVENT ILLNESS OUTBREAKS

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration wants you to eat your fruits and vegetables. They also want the produce to be safe. Long-awaited rules announced by the Food and Drug Administration Friday are designed to help prevent large-scale, deadly outbreaks of foodborne illness like those linked to fresh spinach, cantaloupes, cucumbers and other foods over the last decade. That means making sure workers are trained to wash their hands, irrigation water is monitored for harmful bacteria and animals do not leave droppings in fields.

The rules will phase in over the next several years and give the FDA sweeping new oversight over how food is grown on farms. The majority of farmers and food manufacturers already follow good safety practices, but the rules are intended to give greater focus on prevention in a system that has been largely reactive after large outbreaks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 48 million people - or 1 in 6 people in the United States - are sickened each year from foodborne diseases, and an estimated 3,000 people die.

The Obama administration has said they don't want people to eat fewer fruits and vegetables because of safety concerns. "The rules will help better protect consumers from foodborne illness and strengthen their confidence that modern preventive practices are in place, no matter where in the world the food is produced," said Michael Taylor, the FDA deputy commissioner for foods.

Food safety

The FDA also released rules Friday that will require importers to be more accountable for the safety of food they bring into the US market. The government estimates that about 52 percent of fresh fruit and 22 percent of fresh vegetables are imported.

Taylor said both rules could help prevent illnesses such as an ongoing outbreak of salmonella linked to cucumber imported from Mexico. In that outbreak, four people have died and more than 700 people have fallen ill.

The agency has haggled over how to write the rules since Congress approved them in 2010, trying to find a balance between food safety and regulating farms with safety measures already in place. The FDA originally proposed the produce rules in 2013, but rewrote them last year after some farmers said they would be too burdensome. The final rules, released under a court-ordered deadline after advocacy groups sued over the delays, largely follow that rewrite.

The regulations are tailored to cover foods and growing methods that pose the greatest risk. They target produce such as berries, melons, leafy greens and other items usually eaten raw and more prone to contamination. A farm that produces green beans that will be cooked and canned, for example, would not be regulated. There are also exemptions for smaller farms.

Water quality

The rules require farmers to test irrigation water quality, regularly train workers on the best health and hygiene practices and monitor wildlife that may intrude on growing fields, among other measures. There are also standards for keeping equipment and facilities clean.

Compared with the original 2013 proposal, the final rule requires less stringent standards for irrigation water quality and reduces the frequency of testing, in some cases. The organic industry had expressed concerns about the rules, especially because many organic farmers use raw manure as fertilizer and try to treat irrigation water with fewer chemicals.

Food industry groups and food safety advocates praised the rules. Sandra Eskin, director of food safety at the Pew Charitable Trusts, called the new rules a major public health victory. She said the focus now shifts to Congress, which will have to pay for the FDA's efforts. "With the rules now being finalized, its crunch time for FDA to be ready to help food processors and growers meet the requirements and then to ensure they can enforce them," Eskin said.



SEATTLE: A customer leaves a Chipotle restaurant in Seattle as the company started to reopen the outlets closed because of an E coli outbreak in the Pacific Northwest, Wednesday, November 11, 2015. — AP

There have been many other outbreaks linked to produce in recent years. In 2006, E coli in fresh spinach was linked to several deaths, including a 2-year-old. The CDC later issued a report saying the cause may have been contaminated irrigation water. A 2011 outbreak of listeria linked to cantaloupes killed 33 people. After outbreaks of cyclospora illnesses linked to imported cilantro, American investigators found toilet paper and human feces in Mexican fields where cilantro is grown.

FDA has asked for an extra \$109 million to implement the entire food safety law, which also includes separate rules aimed at food manufacturing facilities released in September. Acting Commissioner Stephen Ostroff said in congressional testimony this fall that getting those dollars over the next budget year is crucial to ensure the rules work as intended. The 2010 food safety law also authorized more inspections by the FDA and gave the agency additional powers to shut down facilities. — AP

FEDERAL REGULATORS: PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL HARMING PATIENTS

SEATTLE: Federal regulators plan to cut millions in Medicare and Medicaid funding for Washington state's largest psychiatric hospital after a recent inspection found "multi-system wide failures" have caused serious harm to patients and placed the health and safety of all patients at risk.

In addition, federal officials said Western State Hospital's governing body "failed to provide oversight and supervision necessary to ensure patients are protected from abuse and neglect and received safe and appropriate psychiatric, medical and nursing services," according to a letter sent this week to hospital CEO Ron Alder and acquired by The Associated Press on Friday. The US Department of Health

and Human Services said it will end its provider agreement with the 842-bed facility on November 28, the letter said. The Lakewood, Washington facility receives \$4.7 million from Medicaid and \$11.2 million from Medicare annually, according to state officials.

State officials said they plan to fix the problems before the two-week deadline. "We have been under the threat of losing federal funding since the inspection in September," Kathy Spears, spokeswoman for the state Department of Social and Health Services, said in an email Friday. The agency is working with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to correct the problems, she said.

"Patient and staff safety remain priorities

and to that end we are working to recruit more staff, which is key to improving safety and providing quality services to the patients at all of our state psychiatric hospitals," she said. "We have not lost federal funding."

Stephanie Magill, a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services spokeswoman in Seattle, said Friday that although terminations sometimes happen, "more often than not, facilities come back into compliance."

The letter marks the fourth time in 2015 that the hospital has been under threat of losing federal funds. The federal agency sent 90-day termination notices to the hospital in January, March and September after finding that patients were at risk. This is the first letter

that threatens funding cuts within weeks of the announcement.

The decision followed an inspection that ended on Nov. 5 in which investigators identified several "immediate jeopardy" findings. "Immediate jeopardy" is defined by law as a situation in which the hospital's failure to comply with program requirements "has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm, impairment, or death to a resident."

The infractions related to patient rights, quality assessment, medical staff, nursing services and infection control, the letter said. Western State Hospital has struggled with staffing as it sought to comply with a federal court order issued in April that requires the

state to provide timely competency services. The hospital was in the process of opening new wards to handle the competency cases, but when federal inspectors found the hospital out of compliance, health services secretary Kevin Quigley announced that they ended the hospital expansion until they get things under control. Jaime Smith, spokeswoman for Gov. Jay Inslee, said they are aware of the possible effect on the budget and ensuring patient and staff safety is the most important thing. "At the same time we are also focused on complying with recent court orders," she said. "Accomplishing these two aims at the same time is a complex issue. We are working with DSHS to determine viable next steps." — AP

TEXAS ABORTION LAW DRAWS HEARING FROM SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court is giving an election-year hearing to a dispute over state regulation of abortion clinics in the court's first abortion case in eight years. The justices said Friday they will hear arguments, probably in March, over a Texas law that would leave about 10 abortion clinics open across the state. A decision should come by late June, four months before the presidential election.

The issue split the court 5-4 the last time the justices decided an abortion case in 2007, and Justice Anthony Kennedy is expected to hold the controlling vote on a divided court. The case tests whether tough new standards for clinics and the doctors who work in them are reasonable measures intended to protect women's health or a pretext designed to make abortions hard, if not impossible, to obtain.

Texas clinics challenged the 2013 law as a violation of a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. The high court previously blocked parts of the Texas law. The court took no action on a separate appeal from Mississippi, where a state law would close the only abortion clinic, in Jackson. States have enacted a wave of measures in recent years that have placed restrictions on when in a pregnancy abortions may be performed, imposed limits on abortions using drugs instead of surgery and raised standards for clinics and the doctors who work in them.

The new case concerns the last category. In Texas, the fight is over two provisions of the law that Gov Rick Perry signed in 2013. One requires abortion facilities to be constructed like surgical centers. The other allows doctors to perform abortions at clinics only if they have admitting privileges at a local hospital.

Surgical center

Twenty-two states have surgical center requirements for abortion clinics, according to the Guttmacher Institute, which supports legal

access to abortion. Eleven states impose admitting privileges requirements on doctors who perform abortions in clinics, the institute said.

The measures go beyond what is necessary to ensure patients' safety because the risks from abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy, when the overwhelming majority of abortions are performed, are minimal, the institute said.

Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, said Texas is one of several states that have enacted "sham laws" to restrict access to abortion. "This law does not advance women's health and in fact undermines it," Northup said.

But National Right to Life president Carol Tobias said the clinics are more interested in preserving their cash flow than protecting women. "The abortion industry doesn't like these laws because abortion clinics would be forced to spend money to meet basic health and safety standards," Tobias said.

There is no dispute that the law has had a significant impact on Texas clinics. The state had 41 abortion clinics before the clinic law. More than half of those closed when the admitting privileges requirement was allowed to take effect. Nineteen clinics remain.

Wait times

Northup said the effect of the law has been to increase wait times for women in the Dallas area from an average of five days to 20 days. The focus of the dispute at the Supreme Court is whether the law imposes what the court has called an undue burden on a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. If allowed to take full effect, the law would leave no abortion clinics west of San Antonio and only one operating on a limited basis in the Rio Grande Valley. The state has argued that women in west Texas already cross into New Mexico to obtain abortions at a clinic in suburban El Paso. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian women demonstrate in favor of abort legalization and against the president of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, Eduardo Cunha, in Rio de Janeiro downtown on November 11, 2015. — AFP

BILL RESTRICTING BRAZIL ABORTIONS INSPIRES ANGER

RIO DE JANEIRO: It is a disturbing scene: A Brazilian rape victim arrives at the hospital seeking an abortion, but first she must prove she was raped and undergo invasive questioning. That is the proposal contained in a bill introduced by the controversial speaker of Brazil's lower house, Eduardo Cunha, that has sparked protests by outraged women across the country.

Answering rallying cries issued on social networks, thousands of women have taken to the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brasilia calling for the bill to be shelved and for the ouster of Cunha, an Evangelical Christian who is being investigated on corruption charges. "The criminal is Cunha! Legal abortion now!" they chant. Cunha's bill would require rape victims to submit proof before having an abortion, make it a crime to help or induce a woman to abort and limit the definition of sexual violence to cases in which physical or psychological harm can be proven. Critics say the bill's vague language also threatens access to the "morning-after pill," an emergency contraceptive to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Brazil, the world's largest Catholic country by population, places tight restrictions on abortion.

It is a crime punishable by up to three years in prison, except in three cases: a brain-damaged fetus, risk of death for the mother and rape. Rights groups estimate 850,000 women have abortions every year in Brazil-but just 1,500 of them are legal.

Punishing rapists or victims?

Marcela Arruda, a 32-year-old artist who joined one march along with her mother and aunt, said Cunha's bill was a throwback to 75 years ago, when Brazil began allowing abortions for rape victims. "It seems like we're in 1940, not 2015. We've made a lot of gains, we're not going to give up now, we're not going to just shut up and take it," she said.

Backers of the bill say it aims to strengthen rape investigations. "We want the examination of the evidence to be mandatory to help punish the rapist. The more we carry out these exams, the better the chances of punishing the rapist, of putting him in jail," said Green Party lawmaker Evandro Gussi. The goal, he said, is to eliminate "any doubts that a rape was committed."

Many women disagree. "To prove that you were raped is extremely difficult. Because you get to the police station and they ask you, 'Have you been drinking? How were you dressed? Did you consent?'" said Marcela Vegah, a 26-year-old activist at a march Thursday in Rio.

The bill's real aim is to further restrict access to legal abortion, "which is already difficult," said Sinara Gumieri, a lawyer and researcher at Brazil's Institute for Bioethics, Human Rights and Gender.

Some critics call the bill a smokescreen to distract from accusations that Cunha took millions of dollars in bribes in a massive corruption scandal that has

engulfed state oil company Petrobras. The controversies come as Cunha is center stage in Brazilian politics. As speaker, he has the power to decide whether to put to a vote a slew of pending impeachment petitions against embattled left-wing President Dilma Rousseff.

Climate of fear

Even when it is legal, abortion is not easy in Brazil. Of the 68 centers authorized to perform the procedure, just 37 actually do, according to Gumieri's organization. Many require a police report, forensic medical report or court permit. "Victims are being treated as suspects," said Gumieri.

She said 36 percent of women who have had abortions in Brazil are girls or adolescents who have suffered sexual violence, usually in their own homes. Critics say the bill also threatens access to the "morning-after pill." "The bill is vague. It talks about non-abortive procedures or drugs. That's the case with the morning-after pill, an emergency contraceptive. Confusion could arise in the interpretation," said lawmaker Erika Kokay of the ruling Workers' Party, who voted against the bill in committee. The legislation is the latest salvo from a powerful conservative caucus in Brazil's Congress that is also seeking to relax gun control laws, limit the definition of the family to heterosexual couples and restrict indigenous Brazilians' rights to their ancestral lands. — AFP



EL PASO: In this August 11, 2014 file photo, the Hilltop Women's Reproductive clinic is seen in El Paso, Texas. — AP

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INDIAN AMBASSADOR HOSTS FAREWELL PARTY IN HONOR OF BHUTANESE AMBASSADOR

By Sajeev K Peter

Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain and his spouse Dr Gargi Jain hosted a farewell reception in honor of the outgoing

Ambassador of Bhutan to Kuwait Dashi Phuntsog and his spouse Rinzin Wangmo at the India House, Indian embassy yesterday. A cross section of the Indian community members attended the farewell reception.

Ambassador Jain, briefly addressing the gathering, conveyed his good wishes to the Ambassador Phuntsog and his wife. He said Bhutan is a paradise on earth and it is a country that is blessed with breathtaking scenic

beauty and rich cultural heritage. In his reply, Phuntsog expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Jain and Dr Gargi Jain for their wholehearted support and cooperation. He also conveyed greetings to the Indian

community in Kuwait. The ambassador Phuntsog, who took office as Bhutanese Ambassador to Kuwait in March 2012, will leave the country early next month after completing his tenure here.

THE 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 aims 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 bombed 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 Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity signed a memorandum of understanding recently with the Kuwait Society of Engineers for cooperation that includes hosting joint training courses.



The Public Authority for Industry celebrated the recent achievement of Abdulkareem Taki, Deputy General Manager, Administrative and Financial Affairs Departments, who won two awards at the 'Tatweeg' Excellence Awards Academy in the United Arab Emirates.

SERIES OF LECTURES ON LIFE AND TIMES OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

The TIES Center cordially invites all those interested to a special series of lectures on the life and times of the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). You will learn all about his life, from his birth to his death. Every Thursday in November and December, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

In November, the focus will be on the battle of Uhud - examining the causes of the battle, Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) consultation with his companions before going to the battle, his dream that described the dramatic events that would occur at Uhud, reasons why the companions decided to meet the enemy outside of Medina, the hypocrites' flimsy excuses to return to Medina, some of his companions who fought for personal reasons such as tribal honor, etc.

Also, you will learn about some miracles that happened during that battle, the participation of the handicapped and elderly people - despite all odds, women's crucial role in the battle, failure to kill the Prophet (PBUH) and how the battle ended in favor of Muslims as well as great lessons will learn from that in our daily life.

Come and learn more about the life and times of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in a friendly environment. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net or log onto: www.tiescenter.net



VIKING CLUB OF RADISSON MARKS ITS YEAR END WITH MEMBERS' NIGHT CELEBRATION

The Viking Club of The Radisson Blu Hotel marked its year end with a members' night celebration perked with dinner and all night fun of games, presentations and prizes. The annual year end occasion offers its health club members and families to come together to celebrate and the hotel and club managements to thank its members for their continuous support and patronage of the club. The event commenced with the Radisson Blu Hotel General Manager Philippe Pellaud expressing his brief message of welcome and gratitude to everyone who came to grace the occasion. The speech was immediately followed by games for the kids and prizes for the lucky draw. Viking Club freestyle dance instructor Christian Balingit took center stage with seven young kids and teen agers dancing to a medley of hiphop moves. Dinner immediately followed while Kuwait's popular group 'Al

Hassan Brothers" entertained everyone with medley of classic and contemporary guitars and Spanish Portuguese vocal renditions to the delight of the crowd. In addition Viking Club fitness trainer Teodora Valcheva exhibited one of her paintings and was up for auction, proceed of the sales was intended for charity donations. The host of the occasion also announced would be open soon "Azur" infinity pool located by the beachfront of the club. The double level pool aims to provide additional relaxing aqua experience paired with a spectacular view of the Arabian Sea. Additional facilities such as the "Blu Route" a running track pavement along the beachfront and a good area for fishing enthusiasts. Kayaks are also available for members' use in addition to beach volleyball and basketball courts leisurely located along the beachfront. "Radisson Blu Kuwait has earned the respect, trust and confi-

dence of Kuwait as a good result of highly competitive and international standard hotel facilities, services and outlets, hardworking staff that anticipate our clients' needs. We thank everyone for their usual and kind support to the hotel" commented Pellaud. To add Director of Recreations Ivan Zzenkov commented "The Viking Club will continuously provide the best service to its clients and will never cease to exhaust its resources to give members and guests excellent facilities and added value for their membership fees". Viking Club hosts 2,300 active members with complementary 16 free cardio and aerobics classes held on daily basis, three pools, outdoor sports facilities, sauna, steam, massage services and equipped gym. Discounts are given to the hotel for club members. Further developments and additional facilities of Viking Club are currently on pipeline.

WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net



BURGER & LOBSTER OPENS AT THE AVENUES MALL

The UK's hottest restaurant hits The Avenues Mall this year, Burger & Lobster made its way over from London and officially opened its doors open last Thursday. Based on the same winning formula as its London restaurants, Burger & Lobster is aiming to take Kuwait by storm with the offer of its simple yet unique dining experience that often sees Londoners and visitors alike queuing around corners to get a taste of the B&L experience.

The Burger & Lobster concept is clear, there are no menus; it simply serves

Burger or Lobster. No, really! Choose from a massive 280 g burger, a whole lobster or a lobster roll, served with chips and fresh salad and all priced at KD 8,950. You can also get your claws on the "big boys" jumbo lobsters, which are sold by weight and are perfect for sharing.

Three premium cuts of high-grade fresh beef create the juiciest burgers around. The all-time favorite signature lobster roll is made from chilled lobster meat in a warm, freshly baked buttery brioche. The restaurant's wild lobster is flown in alive from the Atlantic Ocean to its dedicated

tank at the restaurant where you will find live lobsters to pick from. On top of this, the space in The Avenues, will also shake things up with a slick bar, serving up a range of original mocktails and healthy juices designed exclusively for Kuwait.

Maisie Denning, Marketing Manager at Burger & Lobster, London, said; "We are sure that the restaurant will be a hit as we have so many fans from Kuwait who come and visit us in the UK. We're so excited to finally be opening our first restaurant in the Middle East. It's been a long time in the planning, but we're com-

ing for you!"

The CEO of Gourmania International, Mohammed Bseiso responsible for bringing the Burger & Lobster concept to Kuwait, explained the concept further; "What distinguishes B&L from other restaurants is the fact that we serve only three items which gives us the opportunity to put a strong focus on these thus perfecting the end result." Mohammed added "This outlet is the only the first of more to come."

On November 11th the restaurant opened its doors to a handful of VIP's with

H.E. the Ambassador of the United Kingdom as the guest of honor. During the event friendly B&L staff were serving miniature versions of the menu with a live DJ adding to the vibe. It will be open to the public from Thursday the 12th of November on a non-reservation basis!

To see what all the fuss is about take a cheeky peek at their instagram page @BurgerandLobsterKuwait or check them out on Facebook and Twitter. Burger & Lobster Kuwait will be the 14th restaurant in the brand's portfolio, following the likes of London, New York and Stockholm.



TSC EMPLOYEES COMPETE IN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

As part of The Sultan Center's commitment to supporting a healthy lifestyle and fostering a sense of team spirit amongst its employees, TSC Together held its annual basketball tournament at the Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST) on October 19, 21 and 24. Supported by TSC management, staff, families and friends in attendance, the tournament proved to be an exciting event.

The Restaurant Team opened the event with a cheerleading dance as a special presentation for being the defending champion.

Over the course of the 3 day event each team involved displayed a great sense of teamwork and enthusiasm as family and friends sat on the sidelines and cheered them on.

The Head Office Team was first runner-up followed by the Salwa store while Al-Kout Team took third place. Christian Lee, Fritz Querubin, Jess Frias, Benson Sarguilla and Mosaab Khalil were named the Five Mythical Players while Jess Frias also took the Most Valuable Player (MVP) title.

Nobelyn Dela Cruz (Hawally Team) was named the Free Throw Queen, Michael

Tuazon (Hawally Team) won the 3-Point Shootout award and Mira Magat (Al-Kout Team) was declared the Best Muse 2015. The Championship Winner of 2015 TSC Basketball Tournament went to the TSC Restaurant Team.

TSC Together is an Employee Sports and Social Committee whose aim is to foster team spirit along with the opportunity to share common activities. TSC Together members worked diligently to deliver a top-class event, for all TSC employees to enjoy in an environment that embraces teamwork through fun and engaging activities.



The Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) conducted a lecture on fire prevention and how to act during an emergency at Sabah Al- Salem Specialized Health Center. The lecture was followed by a practical evacuation exercise, in which doctors, pharmacists, technicians and other employees participated. Arrangements were made by Head of the center Dr Zahra Hussein.



- 00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Call Of The Wildman
02:15 Call Of The Wildman
02:40 Bondi Vet
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Ten Deadliest Snakes
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Gator Boys
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Dogs 101: Specials
09:15 Ten Deadliest Snakes
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Dogs 101: Specials
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Bondi Vet
14:45 Ten Deadliest Snakes
15:40 Treehouse Masters
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Gangland Killers
18:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
19:20 Biggest And Baddest
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
21:35 Shamwari: A Wild Life
22:05 Treehouse Masters
23:00 Biggest And Baddest
23:55 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster



- 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 Lollipop
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:50 Girl Meets World
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
07:40 Jessie
08:25 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:45 Austin & Ally
10:10 Austin & Ally
10:35 H2O: Just Add Water
11:00 H2O: Just Add Water
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Hank Zipzer
12:20 Gravity Falls
12:45 Gravity Falls
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 I Didn't Do It
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
14:55 Lollipop
15:20 Austin & Ally
15:45 Girl Meets World
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Make Me Mermaids
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Dog With A Blog
18:40 Gravity Falls
19:05 H2O: Just Add Water
19:30 Violetta
20:20 The Next Step
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood
23:35 Wolfblood

- 12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Guy's Grocery Games
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 The Pioneer Woman
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man Finds Food
22:30 Man Finds Food
23:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
23:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin



- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
02:00 Emmerdale
02:25 Eggheads
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
05:15 Take On The Twisters
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
09:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
10:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
12:30 Take On The Twisters
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:30 Kate Middleton: Heir We Go Again!
17:25 Shetland
18:20 Take On The Twisters
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:30 Kate Middleton: Heir We Go Again!
21:25 Shetland
22:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
23:40 Eggheads



- 04:00 Marry Me
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Marry Me
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30 Marry Me
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Hot In Cleveland
19:30 2 Broke Girls
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



- 00:00 Better Call Saul
01:00 Quantico
02:00 Homeland
06:00 Parenthood
12:00 Emmerdale
12:30 Coronation Street
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
16:00 Emmerdale
16:30 Coronation Street
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
19:00 The Voice
21:00 Blood & Oil
22:00 Downton Abbey
23:00 Tyrant



- 03:00 Odyssey
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
12:00 Graeceland
13:00 Banshee
00:00 One In The Chamber
02:00 Punisher: War Zone
04:00 47 Ronin
06:00 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra
08:00 The Aggression Scale
10:00 The Courier
11:45 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra
14:00 The Perfect Storm
16:15 A Stranger In Paradise
17:45 The Courier
19:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2
22:00 Android Cop



- 00:00 Punisher: War Zone-18
02:00 47 Ronin-PG15
04:00 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra-PG15
06:00 The Aggression Scale-PG15
08:00 The Courier-PG15
14:15 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15
15:45 The Courier-PG15
17:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-PG15
20:00 Android Cop-PG15
22:00 Kiss The Girls-PG15



- 00:00 Punisher: War Zone-18
02:00 47 Ronin-PG15
04:00 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra-PG15
06:00 The Aggression Scale-PG15
08:00 The Courier-PG15
09:45 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra-PG15
12:00 The Perfect Storm-PG15
14:15 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15
15:45 The Courier-PG15
17:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-PG15
20:00 Android Cop-PG15
22:00 Kiss The Girls-PG15



- 00:00 Pretty Woman
02:15 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
04:15 The Love Guide
06:00 Muppets Most Wanted
08:00 Life With Mikey
10:00 The Love Guide
12:00 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
14:00 Big Fat Liar
16:00 Life With Mikey
18:00 You Again
20:00 AmeriQua
22:00 No Way Jose



- 00:30 The Signal-PG15
02:30 Testament Of Youth-PG15
04:45 Stand Off-PG15
06:30 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom-PG15
09:00 Breathe In-PG15
11:00 Stand Off-PG15
13:00 Testament Of Youth-PG15
15:15 Little Red-PG15
17:00 Breathe In-PG15
19:00 A Thousand Times Good Night-PG15
21:00 The Fold-PG15
23:00 American Hustle-18



- 01:00 Grace Of Monaco
03:00 Collaborator
05:00 Casanova
07:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
09:00 1911
11:00 Casanova
13:00 The Butler
15:15 The Trouble With Bliss
17:00 1911
19:00 How I Live Now
21:00 Men Of Honor
23:15 The Master



- 01:00 3 Days To Kill-PG15
03:00 Hours-PG15
05:00 Knight Rusty-PG
07:00 The Lego Movie-PG
09:00 So Undercover-PG15
11:00 House Of Versace-PG15
13:00 Trigger Point-PG15
15:00 The 7th Dwarf-PG
17:00 So Undercover-PG15
18:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I-PG15
21:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga-PG15
23:00 The Interview-18



- 01:00 Blue Elephant 2
02:45 The Heart Of The Oak
04:30 Goat Story 2
06:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
08:00 Blackie And Kanuto
10:00 Memory Loss
11:30 Space Dogs
13:00 The Heart Of The Oak
14:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
16:00 Top Cat: The Movie
18:00 Memory Loss
20:00 Krazzy Planet
22:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
23:30 Marvel's The Invincible Iron Man



- 00:00 Outlaw Prophet: Warren Jeffs-18
02:00 Schuks! Your Country Needs You-PG15
03:45 The Past-PG15
06:00 Mr. Peabody & Sherman-FAM
08:00 Stolen Child-PG15
10:00 Hellboy: Blood & Iron-PG
11:30 Captain America: The Winter Soldier-PG15
14:00 Brave-PG15



THE AGGRESSION SCALE
FABIANNE THERESE RYAN HARTWIG DANA ASHBROOK AND RAY WISE
ag-gres-sion scale: (noun) "A psychological test measuring the frequency of overt aggressive behaviours that may result in physical or psychological injury to others."

THE AGGRESSION SCALE ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 16:00 Stolen Child-PG15
17:45 Godzilla-PG15
20:00 Transit-PG15
22:00 Insidious: Chapter 2-PG15
20:15 New Steven Universe
20:27 Steven Universe
20:40 Uncle Grandpa
21:00 Teen Titans Go!
21:50 Ben 10 Omniverse
22:40 Adventure Time
01:10 Regular Show
01:40 Total Drama World Tour
02:03 Total Drama World Tour
02:26 Total Drama World Tour
02:51 Grojband
03:14 Grojband
03:35 Johnny Test
05:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
05:27 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
05:50 Regular Show
06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
07:00 Uncle Grandpa
07:25 Adventure Time
07:50 Teen Titans Go!
08:35 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
09:45 Regular Show
10:30 Clarence
10:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
11:20 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
11:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
12:05 Johnny Test
12:50 New Steven Universe
13:02 Steven Universe
13:15 Uncle Grandpa
13:40 Regular Show
14:25 Adventure Time
15:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:30 Teen Titans Go!
18:20 Regular Show
19:05 The Amazing World Of Gumball
19:51 Adventure Time
03:05 Calmero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calmero
04:30 Zou
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calmero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calmero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopdidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calmero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA
03:45 The Monster Project
04:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
05:35 I, Predator
06:30 Dangerous Encounters
07:25 The Monster Project
08:20 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
09:15 Unlikely Animal Friends
10:10 Expedition Wild
11:05 Swamp Men
12:00 When Sharks Attack
12:55 Dangerous Encounters
13:45 Predator CSI
15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
16:35 Unlikely Animal Friends
17:30 Expedition Wild
18:25 Swamp Men
19:20 Predator CSI
20:10 The Incredible Dr. Pol
21:00 Unlikely Animal Friends
21:50 Expedition Wild
22:40 Swamp Men
23:30 When Sharks Attack
00:20 The Pack
01:10 Dangerous Encounters
02:00 Shark Kill Zone
02:50 World's Deadliest Killer Three
03:15 Sister Wives
03:40 The Undateables
04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
05:00 Little People, Big World
05:30 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Bakery Boss
07:15 Toddlers & Taras
08:05 Perfect Look
08:55 Our Little Family
09:20 Our Little Family
09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:35 Sister Wives
11:00 Sister Wives
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Perfect Look
12:40 Bakery Boss
13:30 Oprah's Master Class
14:20 Oprah's Master Class
15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Toddlers & Taras
16:50 Sister Wives
17:15 Sister Wives
17:40 Cake Boss
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 The Undateables
19:20 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
20:10 Bakery Boss
21:00 Diagnose Me
21:50 Living Without Arms: Body Bizarre
22:40 Psychic Matchmaker
23:05 Mob Wives
23:55 Diagnose Me
00:45 Living Without Arms: Body Bizarre
01:35 Psychic Matchmaker
02:00 Mob Wives
02:50 Sister Wives



THE COURIER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

CLASSIFIEDS



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FANAR-3
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 11:45 AM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 3:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 6:15 PM

PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 9:30 PM
 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION 12:45 AM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AVENUES-4
 SPECTRE 1:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 2:00 PM
 SPECTRE 4:15 PM
 SPECTRE 7:15 PM

NO THU
 SPECTRE 7:15 PM
 SPECTRE 10:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 1:15 AM

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

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

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

360°-1
 GOOSEBUMPS 11:30 AM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 1:45 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 5:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 8:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 11:30 PM

36°-2
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 11:30 AM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 1:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 3:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 5:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 7:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 9:30 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 11:30 PM

360°-3
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 12:00 PM
 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 3:15 PM
 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 5:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 7:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 10:30 PM

AL-KOUT.1
 SPECTRE 12:15 PM
 SPECTRE 3:15 PM
 SPECTRE 6:15 PM
 SPECTRE 9:15 PM
 SPECTRE 12:15 AM

AL-KOUT.2
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 12:00 PM
 UNCONSCIOUS 2:45 PM
 BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA 4:45 PM
 UNCONSCIOUS 6:45 PM

REQUIRED

Bank Security Driver

TEL: 97364049

Apartment for Rent in Qurtuba

3 bedrooms + 2 bathrooms + maid's room with bathroom + living room

Good location near the main services straight from the owner

TEL: 99603233

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAGOOR GANI AHAMAD SALIH, S/o Thiru. Nagoor Gani, Muslim, born on 21st April 1960, Passport No. J5551958 (native district: Thanjavur), residing at No. 158, Kandiyan Street, Chakkrapalli Post, Papanasam Taluk, Thanjavur Dist - 614211, shall henceforth be known as N. MOHAMED SALIH S/o Nagoor Gani Ahmad Salih. (C 5073) 15-11-2015

I, Abdul Rasheed Usman Waliie changed to new name as Rasheed Usman Waliie, 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

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait seeks a Cleaner

Summary of duties: Maintaining cleanliness and upkeep of the Chancery, cleaning outdoor walkways and attending to other service requests.

The competition is open to all persons who live in Kuwait City and who are legally entitled to work in Kuwait, who meet all of the essential requirements, and whose applications are received by the closing date.

The ideal applicant must have 5 years of experience as Cleaner and must speak English. French would be an asset.

A full statement of qualifications, essential criteria, conditions of employment, and selection procedures can be found at <www.kuwait.gc.ca>. Please go to this link to apply

Clearly specify the title of the position in the subject line of the e-mail and on the title page of the fax (965) 2256-0173. Please include a cover letter and CV. Closing date: 19/11/2015

Please note that only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait seeks a Handyman

Summary of duties: Completing general repairs and maintenance of the Chancery, Official Residence and staff quarters, assisting mission administration with materials and property tasks, keeping inventories of goods, working with contractors, resolving electrical problems, assisting IT personnel if required, performing delivery and courier services and working as a backup driver if needed.

The competition is open to all persons who live in Kuwait City and who are legally entitled to work in Kuwait, who meet all of the essential requirements, and whose applications are received by the closing date.

The ideal applicant must have 5 years of experience in a job role with main duty of general repair and/or maintenance OR a specialist role working as an electrician. Handyman must speak English and Arabic. French would be an asset

A full statement of qualifications, essential criteria, conditions of employment, and selection procedures can be found at <www.kuwait.gc.ca>. Please go to this link to apply

Clearly specify the title of the position in the subject line of the e-mail or on the title page of the fax (965) 2256-0173. Please include a cover letter and CV. Closing date: 19/11/2015

Please note that only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait seeks a Driver

Summary of duties: Providing driving, transportation, delivery and errand services for all mission programs, arranging for car maintenance, and providing basic administrative, maintenance and support services to the mission, following established mission and department policies, assisting at the Chancery with basic office work.

The competition is open to all persons who live in Kuwait City and who are legally entitled to work in Kuwait, who meet all of the essential requirements, and whose applications are received by the closing date.

MATRIMONIAL
 email: benjaminbabu57@gmail.com (C 5074) 15-11-2015

Seeking for Marthoman Groom, Alliance invited for Kerala Marthoman family for their daughter, 26 years, 165 cm, Bsc Nurse, MOH Kuwait, from Marthoman boys from Kuwait or Western countries and Europe age limit 28 to 31 years, Btech, MBA etc, from God fearing family. Contact 10-11-2015

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:49
Shorook	06:11
Duhr:	11:32
Asr:	14:32
Maghrib:	16:54
Isha:	18:13

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

Flight Schedule

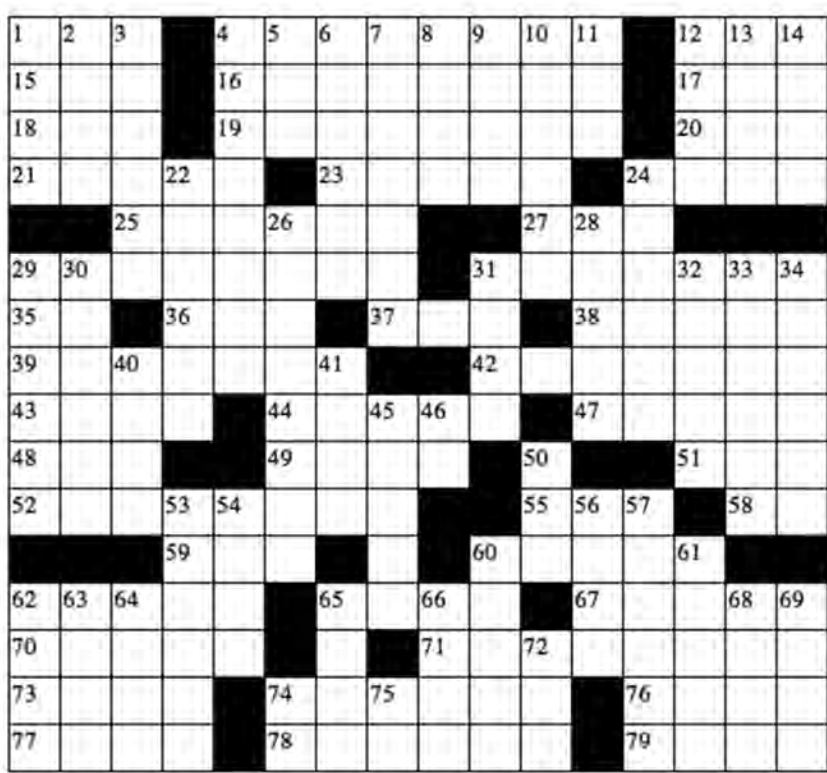
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05
NIA	251	Alexandria	00:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05
MSR	614	Cairo	01:20
ETH	3402	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:25
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:35
LMU	510	Cairo	04:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55
THY	764	Istanbul	05:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
QTR	8516	Doha	07:10
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
SVR	512	Riyadh	08:00
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00
OMA	641	Muscat	08:15
KAC	354	BLR	08:20
KAC	206	Kochi	08:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50
KAC	362	Colombo	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
AGY	682	Asyut	11:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
AKB	393	Kozhikode	14:20
SVR	500	Jeddah	14:30
KNE	472	Jeddah	14:35
KAC	672	Dubai	14:45
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50
GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:30
KAC	562	Amman	15:40
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:25
FDB	051	Dubai	16:30
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40
KAC	542	Cairo	16:55
RJA	640	Amman	16:55
SVR	510	Riyadh	17:15
KAC	502	Beirut	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:50
KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55
UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
FDB	063	Dubai	18:05
KAC	791	Madinah	18:10
UAL	982	IAD	18:15
JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30
ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45
QTR	1080	Doha	18:55
KAC	742	Dammam	19:05
KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25
GFA	166	Paris/Rome	19:30
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	618	Doha	19:35
JZR	483	Istanbul	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
OMA	647	New York/London	19:55
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
FDB	061	Dubai	20:20
MSR	606	Luxor	20:45
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50
JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55
MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:00
KLM	417	Amsterdam	22:05
AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25
FDB	059	Dubai	22:30
KAC	172	Frankfurt	22:35
JZR	239	Amman	23:05
JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
UAL	981	Bahrain	23:25
PIA	205	Lahore	23:40
FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

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

Airlines	Flt
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CROSSWORD 1080



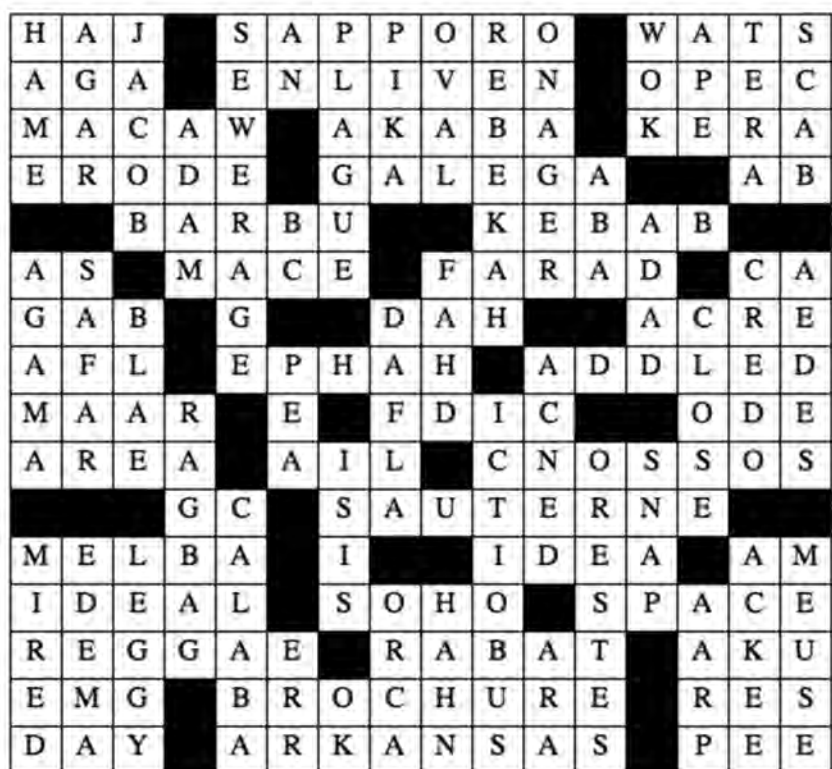
ACROSS

- An intricate network suggesting something that was formed by weaving or interweaving.
- Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
- Inquire about.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- Lacking gonads.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- A piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep.
- A region of central Spain.
- Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
- An area of sand sloping down to the water of a sea or lake.
- Infections of the skin or nails caused by fungi and appearing as itching circular patches.
- A cardinal number represented as 1 followed by 100 zeros (ten raised to the power of a hundred).
- Nocturnal mouselike mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
- A port and fashionable resort city on southern Mexico's Pacific coast.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.
- A unit of force equal to the force exerted by gravity.
- Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
- The doctrine or belief that there is no God.
- Fish-eating bird of warm inland waters having a long flexible neck and slender sharp-pointed bill.
- A small ball with a hole through the middle.
- A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
- A member of western Finnish people formerly living in the Baltic province where Saint Petersburg was built.
- Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydrizid) used to treat tuberculosis.
- (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- Of or relating to a canton.
- Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
- (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Type genus of the Salmonidae.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- A military trainee (as at a military academy).
- United States physicist who isolated the electron and measured its charge (1868-1953).
- The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
- Clean or orderly.
- A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
- A narrow zigzag ribbon used as trimming.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

DOWN

- English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
- A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
- A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- Small East Indian shrubby mint.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Found in moist places as rounded jellylike colonies.
- The number of which a given number is the logarithm.
- Most important element.
- Not in action or at work.
- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- God of love and erotic desire.
- Derived by copying something else.
- Russian Soviet leader.
- Blood-sucking African fly.
- A genus of Indriidae.
- A chain of connected ideas or passages or objects so arranged that each member is closely related to the preceding and following members (especially a series of patristic comments elucidating Christian dogma).
- Not only so, but.
- A large heavy knife used in Central and South America as a weapon or for cutting vegetation.
- Lustrous gray.
- A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
- German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
- Informal terms for a mother.
- (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
- Before noon.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
- A slender double-reed instrument.
- (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.
- Small low-growing annual or perennial herbs of temperate and cool regions.
- A board with the alphabet on it.
- Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
- (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
- A period of 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday.
- A form of magnetic resonance imaging of the brain that registers blood flow to functioning areas of the brain.
- An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
- A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- (prefix) In front of or before in space.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You might assume that working hard today will enable you to complete everything expected of you. However, a creative aspect between the Sun and ingenious Uranus can ignite distracting fireworks. An unexpected series of events could suddenly transform your day into a temporary obstacle course. Nevertheless, don't blame your troubles on anyone else; how you handle your responsibilities is ultimately your call. The cosmos is testing your resiliency so there's little to do but laugh.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There are too many alternatives to choose from today as you contemplate where you want to go next. But your resources are limited by the current circumstances, forcing you to be clever enough to find the best route to your goals. Whether you lack money or time, don't pilfer your energy by micromanaging the details of every contingency. Narrow the field of options prior to fine-tuning your plan. Nevertheless, leaving room for the element of surprise may make all the difference in the world.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's growing more apparent that you can't do every single thing you set your heart on, even if you're ready to give it your all. Unfortunately, burning your candle at both ends will exhaust you without any guarantee that you will accomplish your goals. Try a totally different tactic now by employing self-discipline right from the start. Paring back your activities will make you more productive in the long run. Remember, a laser-like approach is better than a scattered one.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Being sensitive to the needs of others is one of your most admirable traits, but it's unhealthy if your happiness is totally dependent on someone else's feelings. The problem with placing the sole determinant of your emotional well-being in other people's hands is that you can't take responsibility for their shifting moods. Fortunately, you can have a positive impact on a situation by changing your priorities. Remember, nurturing those you love begins with taking care of yourself.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Although this should be a day of rest, you're already worried about tomorrow. You're acutely aware of the increasing emotional tension that exists between you and your workmates. Unfortunately, you may not know how to navigate these dicey dynamics. You might mistakenly believe you can change your behavior without addressing your true feelings. Nevertheless, you will only fuel additional conflict today by pretending that everything is okay. There's no question about it: if you want things to improve, radical honesty is your only viable option.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Thankfully, the intensity level at home seems to be more manageable today, yet you're still not convinced that everything is truly returning back to normal. To the contrary, you might be wondering if anything in your life will ever be the same. Luckily, you don't need to take major action now. Although this is a stressful period, maintaining a positive outlook on current events has a direct impact on the future. You must first visualize greatness if you are to achieve it.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may create an unnecessary crisis by attempting to squeeze one too many activities into your busy schedule today. There's so much to do that you can't possibly feel satisfied by the amount you manage to accomplish while the ambitious Capricorn Moon visits your 4th House of Family. Unfortunately, your stress level won't likely prevent you from attempting the impossible. Nevertheless, the sooner you simplify your life, the more time you'll have available for the ones you love.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Perhaps you recently missed a chance to share what's on your mind with your friends. Unfortunately, the window of opportunity is starting to close, so you must get the conversational ball rolling as quickly as possible today. You might want to wait for the perfect moment to declare your truth, but the time for contemplation is over. Anything that currently remains unsaid may be banished into the shadows for an indeterminate amount of time. Speak now or forever hold your piece.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You must be serious-minded about your current commitments and you expect others to respect your no-nonsense attitude. However, you still may be unable to concentrate on your pressing obligations due to your wandering imagination. Saying all the right words is easy; however, it's quite another thing to put them into action. Good intentions won't take you as far as you want to go today; you have to walk your talk to be recognized.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You might claim you're not obsessed with getting ahead now, but the dynamics of a relationship are changing and you want to make the most of the situation. It's tempting to ignore the immediate pressure, but the current emotional instability may be just the catalyst you need to propel you into your next developmental phase. However, it's not just about seizing an irresistible opportunity; the real potential comes from reconnecting with your heart's desires. Happily, outer progress becomes less problematic once you're in touch with your soul.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Floating through the day by doing as little as possible sounds like a recipe for fun, but you won't likely get away with this lovely plan of escape now. Although you might linger over the breakfast table, you may retrospectively wish that you worked harder in the morning. You can't accept a surprise invitation later in the day if you're not finished with your chores. Thankfully, unexpected pleasures could be yours if you fulfill your responsibilities in a timely manner. Finding a healthy balance between work and play sets you up for success.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your confidence wanes as the day wears on, and you might have second thoughts about attending a social event later this evening. But retreating for a short while prior to your night out enables you to emerge physically revitalized and emotionally refreshed, ready to fight off unnecessary change. Don't be afraid of expressing your own power now, even if you think that you should wait for a better time to act. Just remember to choose your battles wisely when your integrity is at stake.

WORD SEARCH

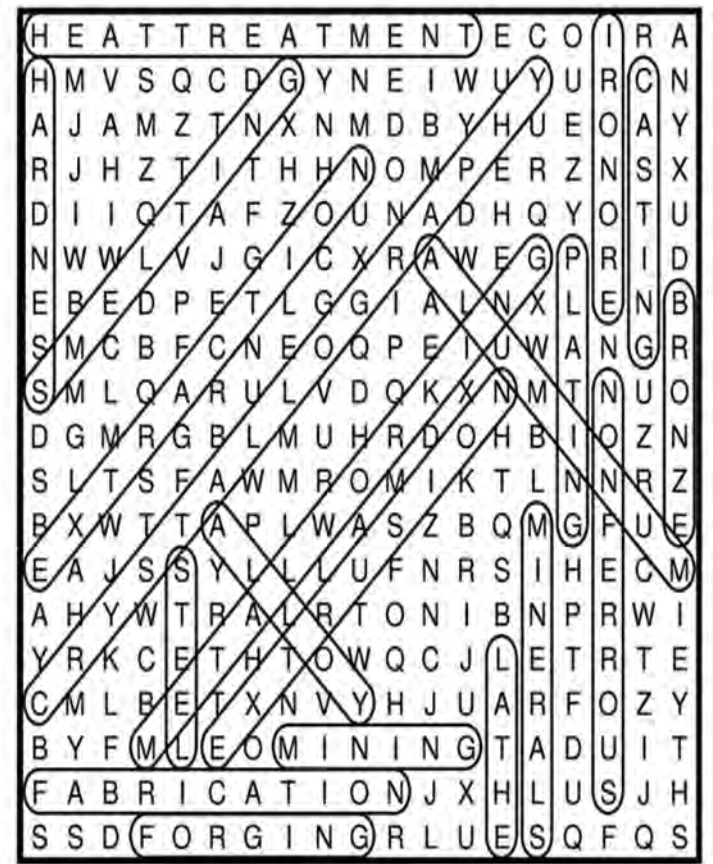
OKLAHOMA! WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



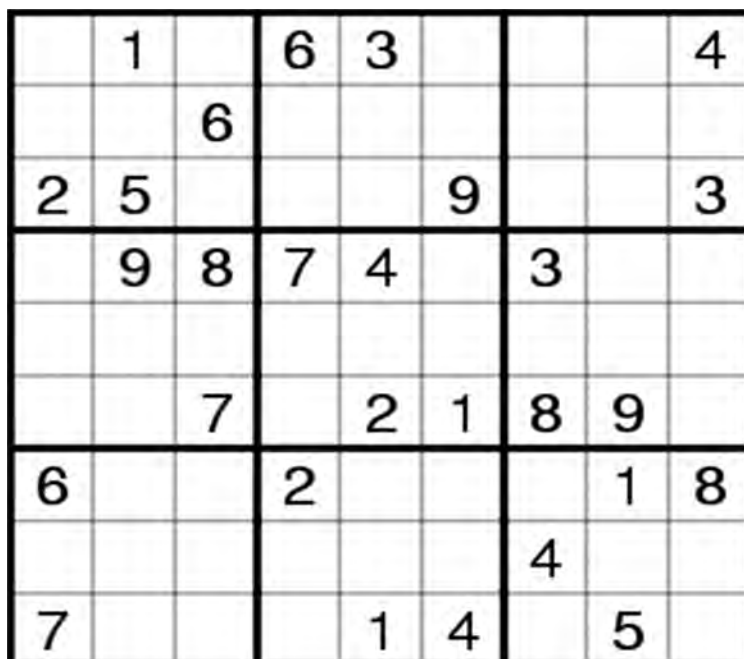
- AGRICULTURE
- ANTELOPE HILLS
- BISON
- BLACK MESA
- BROKEN ARROW
- CHEROKEE
- CHOCTAW
- DUST BOWL
- GREAT PLAINS
- LAND RUN
- OIL RIGS
- OUACHITA
- OUZARKS
- PANHANDLE
- PIONEERS
- ROSE ROCK
- SOONER STATE
- TORNADO
- TRAIL OF TEARS
- TULSA

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO METALLURGY PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

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
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



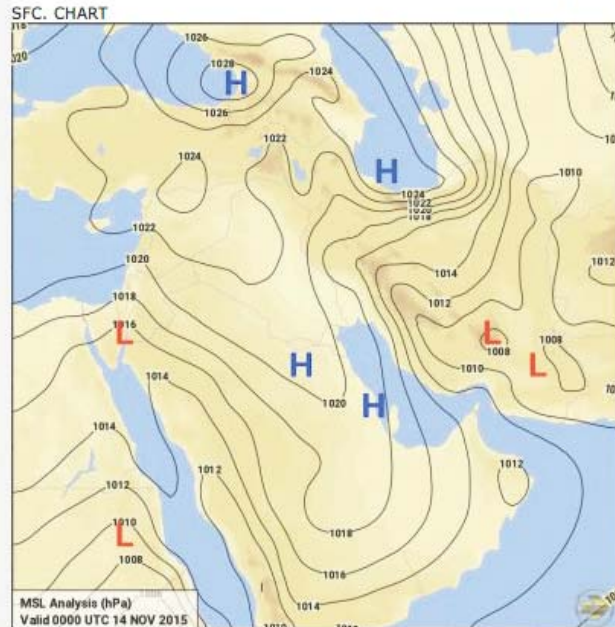
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 14/11/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 24 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h
By Night : Cool with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	13	13	15	14
Max Temp °C	25	25	27	27
Wind Direction	north westerly	variable	southerly to south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly later on
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 32	06 - 22	15 - 35	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings
NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	18		23	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	12		24	
ABDALLY	10		24	
BUBYAN	12		23	
JAHRA	14		25	
FAILAKA ISLAND	14		23	
SALMIYAH	19		23	
AHMADI	17		23	
JAL ALIYAH	11		22	
QAROH ISLAND	21		23	
UMM AL-MARADEM	21		23	
NUWAISIB	14		26	
WAFRA	11		25	
MANAGISH	11		25	
SALMY	10		26	
MUTRIBA	10		24	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	24
Min Temp (°C)	11
Max Rel Hum (%)	69
Min Rel Hum (%)	26
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	06:11
	Sunset	16:54

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:49
Sunrise	06:11
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:32
Sunset	16:54
Isha	18:13



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammed Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	22639920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt will always 'stick together'

The 'Maleficent' actress worked alongside her husband on drama 'By The Sea' and whilst she admits there are days when they "drive each other absolutely mad", they are as strong as ever. She said: "The film says, 'Whatever you go through, weather the storm and stick together'. Brad and I have fights and problems like any other couple. "We have days when we drive each other absolutely mad and want space. So it was kind of a message to each other that we are going to weather whatever comes and stick together." But the 40-year-old actress admits the film could have been a "disaster" for their marriage if they had just got together. She told the Daily Mirror

newspaper: "There were a few days when we thought this wasn't the best idea. There were days when we were really worried and it was hard. If we had married and were just starting a relationship it would have been a disaster, but because we have been together so long we wanted to see how far we could push our relationship and our love and see if we could work together under very intense circumstances and with very complex issues and see if it would make us better. At the end, we came out of it thinking, "This was the best honeymoon."

Dwayne Johnson says being a father is 'greatest job' he's ever had



The 'Furious 7' hitmaker - who has 14-year-old daughter Simone with his ex-wife Dany Garcia - insists there is nothing he wouldn't do for his little girl. He shared: "I realised being a father is the greatest job I have ever had and the greatest job I will ever have. I always wanted to be a great dad. I always wanted to give Simone things that I felt I never got. I said to her, 'I will always, always take care of you, for the rest of your life. You are safe.' Throughout the years, throughout the ups and downs, I've realised that the most important thing that I could do with my daughter is lead our life with love. Not success, not fame, not anything else but, 'I'm always here for you. I love you.'" The 43-year-old actor recalled a particularly special moment when he asked his daughter what she loved most about their relationship and she gave him a beautiful response. Speaking on an episode Oprah's Master Class, he added: "There was a time where I said, 'Do me a favour: I want you to tell me what is the thing that you love most about our relationship.' And she said, 'Well, that I trust you.' And for a 13-year-old girl to say that to her dad, considering where I was at 13, the instability I had. She said, 'Well, that I trust you and that we have a very special bond,' that moved me. And so, you know, at 13, she's saying that and I couldn't ask for anything else."

Kourtney Kardashian is 'starting to trust' Scott Disick a bit more

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' beauty - who split from her partner earlier this year after nearly a decade together - is reportedly pleased her former flame is making good progress in rehab and focusing on their three children, Mason, five, Penelope, three and Reign, 10 months. A source told PEOPLE magazine: "Scott is doing well and seems very happy. He is committed to staying sober. He is happy to get his life back in order and is focused on being the best dad for the kids. "Kourtney is very pleased that Scott is doing so well. She is happy that he is finally focused on his sobriety. She likes that he is really making an effort when it comes to the kids. She is starting to trust him more, but there are no talks of getting back together yet." Meanwhile, the 36-year-old television personality previously took her children to see their father in rehab where they enjoyed some birdwatching with the 32-year-old model. An insider shared: "Scott was really happy to see the kids and was very loving with them. He visited with them inside for awhile and then took them outside to admire the view from the balcony." Kourtney stood back and let Scott do his thing with the kids. But she seemed to be on decent terms with Scott and they were chatting from time to time."



Kim Kardashian West says her pregnancy has been 'awful'

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star, who has gained 52 lbs, has admitted the past eight months have been horrific but she feels "blessed" to be expecting her second child with her husband Kanye West after struggling to fall pregnant following the birth of their daughter North two years ago. Speaking to E! News, she said: "I just don't think pregnancy and me really agree with each other. "You know, it was really hard for me to get pregnant so I do feel really blessed that I am pregnant and, at the end of the day, it is a million times worth it. I'm really not complaining, I'm just being honest and being honest about [it]. I hate it. I'm not going to sit here and lie and act like it's the most

blissful experience. It's awful." Meanwhile, the 35-year-old beauty recently said she was anxious about giving birth to her baby, believed to be a boy, next month because he already weighs 7 lbs. She said earlier this week: "He's [the weight of] a REALLY heavy pineapple, LOL! [I have] Anxiety, knowing my baby is so big and I'm gaining a lot of weight. My doctor wants me to manage it better, but it's hard to! I have gained more than I did the first pregnancy. I'm up 52 pounds so far, with six weeks to go. North was just four pounds, so this is new to me. This baby is already seven pounds (sic)."

Christina Aguilera 'feels' for Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani

The 'Beautiful' hitmaker is pleased her fellow 'Voice USA' coaches have found happiness together following their recent divorces and has urged them to "tune out the bulls**t". She said: "My ultimate advice is to be happy. Find happiness where you can and tune out the bulls**t. It's hard for anybody, no matter on what scale or which way you twist it. It's a hard time. And then to be under a microscope at the same time, I feel for both of them and their situation. More power to them." The 34-year-old singer also praised the 'What You Waiting For' hitmaker's parental skills and is glad her split from Gavin Rossdale has turned into something positive. She told PEOPLE magazine: "[Gwen]'s a great mom to her boys. I just think everybody deserves happiness and sometimes the end of something means something great is

going to happen." Meanwhile, Christina recently admitted she is glad the pair have found each other as she knows how painful divorces can be from personal experience. She shared: "I do know from my own personal experience how difficult divorce can be. I know first-hand what that's like, so good for them. Whatever makes them happy - they deserve it. Life is hard enough, right?"

Kylie Minogue 'very happy' with her new toyboy lover

The 47-year-old singer may be 20 years older than her actor beau Joshua Sasse, 27, but she believes they're the perfect pair and he makes her feel uplifted and positive about life. Speaking on Australia's 'The Project', she said: "I think the general consensus is, we kind of look right together. "So even though on paper it might not look right, it just is right. He is an absolutely brilliant, brilliant guy. "And even if I try and act cool and natural, it's written all over my face that I am very happy." The pair sparked speculation they were dating last month when they uploaded a series of snaps onto their individual Instagram accounts and, after many weeks of tongue wagging, Kylie has now confirmed their relationship status. The 'I Should Be So Lucky' hitmaker recently revealed their romance kicked off after they met on the set of his television show 'Galavant' and she was in awe of his incredible talent. She said: "He's amazing in it [the show]. It's such a fun show. There are so many guest stars on the show and I was one of them so yes, that's where we met."





Louis Tomlinson gets frisky on a plane

The One Direction singer, 23, who is expecting his first child with stylist Briana Jungwirth, revealed during a game of 'I Have Never' on the 'Jonathan Ross Show' that he is a member of the mile high club after getting frisky in the sky. According to the Daily Mirror newspaper, he isn't the only member of the popular boy band to have performed an explicit act on board an airborne aircraft either as his band mate Liam Payne, 22, claimed he has in the past as well. However, Niall Horan, 22, admitted during the interview recording that he is yet to check that off his bucket list, while Harry Styles, 21, remained bizarrely tight-lipped throughout. Meanwhile, the 'Little Things' hitmakers recently revealed they are taking an extended break from the limelight next year following the departure of their bandmate Zayn Malik. However, what

was initially believed to be a one-year break has now turned out to be two years. Liam said: "Obviously we're all going to take a break for a bit first and then consider where we are in the world. Then I just want to write songs. That's been the most fun process out of this, except for touring, the writing of the songs. We're going to come back, so there's something to write for as well, for us and for other people. We haven't really had time to write an album. Writing's not really a job, it's so much fun. We've always had to rush it, so it's going to be nice for the next two years - I'm going to write a few songs and see what happens."

Khloe Kardashian

is glad she has 'supportive' boyfriend

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star is happy her boyfriend James Harden is so understanding of her need to call off the divorce from her estranged husband Lamar Odom as she looks after the basketball star following his hospitalisation. She said: "Well I'm there helping him and I love him and I've always loved him. And that will never change and I just feel like it's a really insensitive thing to fast forward a divorce. But I love him and I always will and he's a fantastic person who deserves support and love and for someone to be by his side and for me I'm that to him. "And thank God I have a fantastic family who loves me and loves him just as much. And they're so supportive and they're with me and I have a great boyfriend [James Harden] who's understanding." And whilst the 31-year-old television personality admits it is a "unique" relationship, she insists it is very simple on the inside. She told The Ellen DeGeneres Show on Monday's show: "It's definitely a very unique situation, to say the least. Yeah he's fine with it. I mean we have to communicate a lot. And he's really supportive and great. "I think the press and everything they make it more complicated. I think inside our circle we know exactly what's going on and I feel sometimes it's crazy that I, yes we live so much of our life in public, but that I have to explain every step when that's kind of frustrating."



The 'Boyhood' actress - who won an Oscar for her portrayal of Olivia Evans in the coming-of-age film - admits she based her character on her own experiences bringing up her son Enzo, now 26. She said: "I was a single mom when I was 20, and there were times where I didn't know if I could buy him diapers and could buy food. "I knew what that was like. I was winning that award for a character [in 'Boyhood'] who predominantly raised her two kids and had to move them time and time again and put herself through school and be the primary breadwinner, and how was she going to do all that?". The 47-year-old actress - who also has daughter Harlow, 12 - opened up about the importance of women being regarded as equals to their

male counterparts. She told Huff Post Live: "The demographics changed in America. We have only 30 percent of families living in the traditional 'dad is the breadwinner, mom stays home' model. "[But] right now, we have 66 million women and children living in poverty. Half of those ... would not be living in poverty if their moms were paid a full dollar [to a man's dollar]. So the number one thing we could at this moment for child poverty ... is to make sure their moms get paid a full dollar."



Patricia Arquette

struggled as single mother in her 20s

Lady Gaga vomited in a plastic bag and gave it to her 'American Horror Story' boss

The 29-year-old singer was so nervous about making her acting debut in the television series that she was sick on her way to set and later handed it to creator Ryan Murphy. Speaking to News.com.au, she said: "I threw up on the way in a Ziploc bag in my Rolls Royce, and I saved it and brought it for Ryan Murphy. Ryan was like, 'Oh you think you can disgust me? You can't. You think you can't get anything past him but then he met me. And I'll bring him a bag of my own vomit to the set and I'll just say 'I did this in the car, I'm so nervous.'" And it wasn't just Ryan who got a special treat from the blonde

beauty - who portrays 100-year-old monster The Countess in the show - as she also made her co-star Angela Bassett an explicit cake prior to their disturbing sex scene. Angela, 57, who portrays Ramona Royale in the program, explained: "It's her performing a sexual act on my person. I didn't eat any I was so shocked. I took it home and hid it in the garage refrigerator because I have young kids who I hope haven't seen it."



Drew Barrymore

says compromise is key to successful relationship

The 'Miss You Already' star has been married to Will Kopelman for three years and insists she is happy to change herself "for the better" for the sake of her marriage. She told Us Weekly magazine: "I think a good place to start is when a significant other points things out that are tough for them and they are things that you're willing to change in your life. "If you really said, 'Why am I fighting for this?' Start with those. My husband used to tell me, 'I hate that we're always racing to the airport. It's like an anxiety attack.' And I thought, 'Yeah, why am I fighting for that?' I don't like anxiety, so now I pack the night before. "My husband and I compromise on a lot of things like that, it's the little things that you can change

that can make the relationship stronger. Compromise is about changing yourself for the better, it's an opportunity for you to become a more functional, better person." The 40-year-old beauty also praised Will and her two daughters, Frankie, nineteen months and Olive, three. She added: "That's the balance of life. The agony and the ecstasy - that's the seesaw we're all on. "They're all great, my kids are so amazing, my husband is great. The kids are my whole world, my universe, my everything."



Lewis Hamilton believes 'heavy partying' to blame for car crash in Monaco

The Formula 1 driver, 30, has claimed he lost control of his £1.5 million Paganì Zonda and smashed into three stationary vehicles in Monte Carlo in the early hours of Tuesday morning because he was tired and "run down". He said: "It was a result of heavy partying and not much rest for a week and a half. I am a bit run down. I have been non-stop and trying to fit training in at the same time and not getting a lot of sleep." The handsome star, who was breathalysed at the scene but the results came back negative, took to his

Instagram immediately after the crash to set the record straight. He wrote: "Whilst ultimately, it is nobody's business, there are people knowing my position that will try to take advantage of the situation and make a quick buck. Nobody was hurt, which is the most important thing. But the car was obviously damaged and I made very light contact with a stationary vehicle. Talking with the team and my doctor, we decided together that it was best for me to rest at home and leave a day later." Meanwhile, the smash-up comes five years after Lewis was slapped with a £300 fine for driving recklessly in Melbourne. Three years before that, the athlete was also dished out a driving ban and handed a £430 fine for speeding in France. His plush Mercedes CLK, which he was driving at 123mph, was impounded immediately by the French authorities.





Kyrgyz communist party supporters hold red flags in front of the monument to Lenin during the rally. —AFP Photos

Stuck between past and present, Lenin lingers on

On a recent morning a small group of pensioners gathered round a monument to Communist leader Vladimir Lenin in a far-flung corner of the bygone empire he helped found. The system he established disappeared from Kyrgyzstan in central Asia when the Soviet Union collapsed some 25 years ago but the Russian leader still draws a crowd of die-hards in the capital Bishkek each year to mark the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. "The USSR was an opportunity to be part of a great power," historian Emil Jumabayev told AFP in a separate interview. "Nowadays Lenin is a feature of the city like any building, a road or a bridge. He doesn't really bother people."

Across the former USSR the fate of Lenin monuments has become a symbol of a region still struggling to define itself - and its relations with former imperial master Russia. The phenomenon is most striking in crisis-stricken Ukraine, where more than 500 statues of the bearded revolutionary have been torn down over the past year, after Kiev turned westwards and Moscow responded by seizing Crimea and backing separatist rebels.

Different Paths

Around Central Asia the process may have been less

dramatic but the fate of Lenin has often echoed the paths the different nations have taken since becoming independent - with leaders seeking to impose their own personalities or emphasise a historic identity. In isolated Turkmenistan, the monuments to the man behind the dictatorship of the proletariat were replaced by golden monuments of post-Soviet leaders who have established their own authoritarian systems.

Meanwhile in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, Lenin has respectively been edged out by brutal 14th century Mongol conqueror Tamerlane and medieval Persian-speaking emperor Ismoil Somoni. The debate has often been nuanced and in Kyrgyzstan, an impoverished nation that borders China but remains close to Moscow, Lenin lingers on. Kyrgyzstan's main Lenin statue, once positioned on the main square in front of the national history museum, now occupies a slightly less prominent space behind it.

When thousands in the majority-Muslim country use the space for public prayers on the Islamic holidays they face Mecca in the West, but Lenin gestures towards the north and Russia, where up to a million Kyrgyz work as labour migrants. "While the statue is insignificant in people's everyday lives, it can easily be turned into a point of geopolitical contention," Erica Marat, a regional

expert at the National Defense University in Washington, said.

History still occasionally complicates relations between Kyrgyzstan, part of the Russian empire before it became a Soviet republic, and its allies in the Kremlin. Earlier this year, strongly pro-Russian President Almazbek Atambayev signed a decree to mark in 2016 the centennial of a historic event some Kyrgyz politicians liken to a genocide, when Tsarist Russian authorities brutally crushed a revolt rippling across Central Asia.

In the decree Atambayev was careful to draw a distinction between Tsarist Russia and the Russians that still make up a tenth of Kyrgyzstan's population, while noting the October revolution "cardinally changed the Kyrgyz people's situation". "In contrast to the tsarist autocracy Soviet authorities succeeded in providing prospects for the national development of the Kyrgyz," Atambayev's decree reads.

No Yearning for Communism

Kyrgyzstan is one of the few ex-Soviet territories that still has an official public holiday to mark the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. Lenin and the Soviet Union still dominate the history museum once named

after him, despite periodic demands by nationalists to strip away signs of the communist past in favour of nods to an earlier nomadic history. "It would be wrong to get rid of the busts of Lenin and other Soviet items. These are a part of our history too," culture ministry spokesman Baktygul Noruzbaeva told AFP.

But the economic and political system Lenin's Bolsheviks created dissolved quickly in Kyrgyzstan, where privatisation was rapid and the region's largest bazaar grew up on the back of booming trade with China. Last month neither of the country's two Communist parties bothered even standing in parliamentary elections. "Sadly there is no Communist movement in Kyrgyzstan any longer," Marxist thinker Georgy Mamedov, 31, told AFP at the recent meeting near the Lenin statue. But even this leftist admitted that the monument was a "dead symbol" of a country that ceased to exist when he was still a child. "It has fulfilled its evolutionary function," Mamedov conceded. — AFP



Kyrgyz Communist party supporters hold portraits of Soviet Union founder Vladimir Lenin during a rally to mark the 98th anniversary of Russia's Bolshevik Revolution in central Bishkek.



Rastafarians Priest Briand (left) and Bandulai Bobo Shanti sing and pray on Nov 2, 2015 in Shashamane.



A Rastafarian mural in seen in Shashamane.

Promised land? Rastafaris struggle in Ethiopia

They came from across the world to Ethiopia in search of their "promised land", but for many Rastafarians, struggling to win even basic rights, the dream never materialized. "How did we survive so far? I wonder," said Reuben Kush, the grey-bearded president of the Ethiopian World Federation, a branch of Rastafarianism. Kush left his home in Birmingham in Britain a decade ago to join a Rastafarian community based in the southern Ethiopian town of Shashamane, 250 km south of Addis Ababa.

But in decades of existence, the settlement's around 500 members have failed to win legal rights to property, education or work. Celebrating the 85th anniversary this month of the 1930 crowning of their messiah, Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie, the dreadlocked group sway in a circle chanting to a drum beat "Emperor Selassie I, Jah Rastafari". Rastafarianism - which jettisoned to worldwide notice in the 1960s and 70s with the music of reggae stars and committed Rastafaris Bob Marley and Jimmy Cliff - first emerged as a spiritual movement in the 1930s among descendants of African slaves in Jamaica, who adopted Haile Selassie as their leader at a time when he stood out as the only independent black monarch in Africa.

They even took their name from his pre-coronation title, "Ras" for "head" and his birth name "Tafari Makonnen". The "King of Kings" was deposed then killed by a military junta in 1974.



Rastafarians play music, sing and pray on Nov 2, 2015 in Shashamane. — AFP photos

They even took their name from his pre-coronation title, "Ras" for "head" and his birth name "Tafari Makonnen". The "King of Kings" was deposed then killed by a military junta in 1974. A supporter of decolonisation and cooperation among African states then largely under European control, Haile Selassie in the 1950s set aside 500 hectares (1,200 acres) in Shashamane to welcome back descendants of slaves seeking to return "home".

"Ethiopia is our land, for we blacks in the West," said Kush. Rastafarians say it was the "divinity" of the land that drew them to Ethiopia, mentioned in the Bible more than 30 times and believed to be the birthplace of the Queen of Sheba, who visited the wise King Solomon. In the late 1970s, Mengistu Haile Mariam's Marxist-Leninist regime confiscated the Shashamane plot, prompting most Rastas to flee its

authoritarian rule. When Mengistu's rule was toppled in 1991, some returned. But life in the promised land remains a struggle, with exile followed by exclusion. "The Emperor had given us 500 hectares - today we live on six or seven hectares," said Kush. "Today, we have no control over our property." Though many turned their backs on their country of origin by not renewing their passports, they have not been granted Ethiopian nationality, leaving them effectively stateless.

In tightly controlled Ethiopia, still run by Communist-inspired ex-rebels, land is a sensitive issue with Rastas neither allowed to file building permits or own property. Nor can they work, pay taxes or send their children to university. "What's disappointing is that I have to confess to my relatives back home that we aren't integrated here either," Kush said.

'We're in a Limbo'

On the recent anniversary of the emperor's coronation, Rastafarians gathered as reggae music played and psalms were sung in a church painted red, yellow and green - the colours of both the Ethiopian and Rastafarian flags. The smell of marijuana hung in air. "We want to be identified as natural Ethiopians now - not as Jamaican, nor American!" said Paul Phang, a Rastafari leader, without fully clarifying what he meant.

The Rastas' political wing, the Ethiopian World Federation, started in the 1930s but is still lobbying for their basic rights. "We're here to stay. We haven't been kicked out of Ethiopia after all these years, that means we are accepted," Kush said. But they remain in legal limbo. "Our needs are basic human rights needs," Kush added. "We need to be able to tell our children that they have a state. Children are being born here and being

classed as stateless - not able to get identification here and not able to get IDs from the countries where their parents come from. So we're in a limbo."

But with each Rastafarian church celebrating its own way, there are political divisions within the movement too. "If every one of us was in accord, then these natural rights would have been granted to us already," said Phang, a priest from the Bobo Ashanti Rastafari group. "So because of this different ideology, different thinking, it's like we cannot approach the government in our oneness." — AFP



President of the Ethiopian World Federation, one of the branches of Rastafarianism, Reuben Kush, stands in a room on Nov 2, 2015 in Shashamane.



A boy washes his hands near a poster of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie in Shashamane.



American rock group Eagles of Death Metal performs onstage late Friday at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, few moments before four men armed with assault rifles stormed into the venue. — AFP photos

US band caught up in Paris attacks



Joshua Homme

The California-based rock band Eagles of Death Metal was in the midst of a European tour, promoting its fourth album release, when the musicians found themselves caught up in a terror attack at the Paris concert hall where they had begun to perform on Friday. The Bataclan music hall was one of several entertainment sites around Paris targeted by gunmen and bombers in a coordinated assault that killed 127 people. Islamic State claimed responsibility yesterday for the attacks.

A Paris city hall official said at least 87 young people were slaughtered at the Bataclan concert hall before anti-terrorist commandos launched an assault on the building. Early indications were that members of the band, which also goes by the acronym EODM, were all safe. The group was formed in the late 1990s by lifelong friends Jesse Hughes and Josh Homme, the group's only two permanent members.

Hughes' mother, Jo Ellen Hughes, told a Reuters correspondent outside her home in Palm Desert, California, 125 miles east of Los Angeles, that she had spoken to her son by telephone and that he was unhurt but "very upset and shaken". "From my understanding, I think the whole band's been accounted for," she said, adding that she was not sure about the whereabouts or wellbeing of the rest of the entourage because the band and crew became separated in the pandemonium.

Hughes' mother also said she believed the band had just gone on stage when the attack began, but she had no other details, except that the musicians were taken into protective custody at a police station afterward. A person close to the band confirmed that the group was onstage performing when the deadly assault began. The Washington Post interviewed Mary Lou Dorio, mother of one member of the band, who said her son and the other members of the group escaped the concert hall as the attack began. "It was awful," she told The Post, adding that her son, drummer Julian Dorio, had been able to phone his wife from a local police station after the ordeal.

Co-Founder Absent From Show

The group's US-based publicist, Jennifer Ballantyne of Universal Music Enterprises, told Reuters by email that Homme was not in Paris with the band on Friday. His absence was not unusual as Homme is known for sitting out many of the group's live shows due to multiple commitments to other projects. Ballantyne said another EODM member, guitarist-vocalist Eden Galindo, was reportedly safe and not inside the venue, citing a Facebook post by yet another associate that said: "Hey everyone. I just spoke with Eden. He is fine."

The French band Red Lemons appeared to indicate



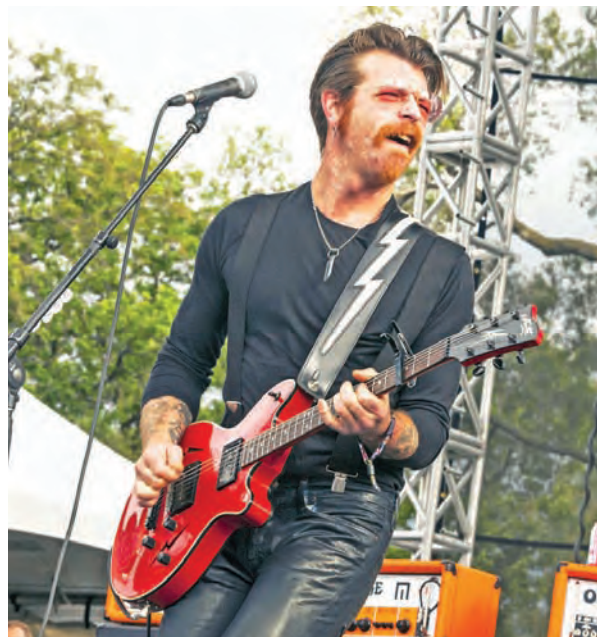
A man plays the piano near the cordoned off area around the Bataclan theatre yesterday.

Hughes' fiancée, porn star Tuesday Cross, was with Hughes and unharmed, too, saying: "We were with your mates Jesse, Tuesday, the other musicians outside, they're safe, too, they took a cab." A statement posted on the band's Facebook page attributed to EODM, said: "We are still currently trying to determine the safety and whereabouts of all our band and crew. Our thoughts are with all of the people involved in this tragic situation."

The bloodshed came about a month after the release of EODM's fourth album, "Unzipped", which was followed by the group's appearance and performance on the late-night ABC television show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Homme, 42, and Hughes, 43, both from Palm Desert, met as teenagers. They perform with a wide range of others who play under the EODM banner, both in the studio and in live concerts, including actor-musician Jack Black and Dave Grohl, the Foo Fighters frontman and former Nirvana drummer. The band's

lyricism - and shows - are often known for lasciviousness, with the two men seeing themselves in the tradition of sex, drugs and rock and roll.

According to band lore, the group took its name from Homme's joking description of the Polish band Vader as "the Eagles of Death Metal", a reference he and Hughes ultimately adopted for their own musical collaboration that critics say is more in keeping with garage band rock than death metal rock. Homme also founded the band Queens of the Stone Age. EODM had last performed Wednesday in Glasgow and was due to play next in Tourcoing, France yesterday. A Paris concert scheduled for yesterday night by Irish band U2 was canceled due to the state of emergency across France, according to a statement from HBO, which had planned to broadcast the show. — Agencies



Jesse Hughes



A woman looks at flowers laid close to the Bataclan theatre yesterday.



A note reading 'Your wars our deads' lies on the pavement near what appears to be bloodstains near the Bataclan theatre yesterday.