



Kuwait to join sports events only when its flag is raised



Clinton urges war on Islamic State, not Muslims



Nishikori fails to crack Djokovic riddle



Holm silences Rousey in stunning KO win



WORLD LEADERS UNITE TO CONDEMN PARIS ATTACKS

OBAMA, PUTIN AGREE NEED FOR SYRIA TALKS, CEASEFIRE



150 FILS
NO: 16699
40 PAGES



Min 13°
Max 26°
High Tide
01:14 & 15:37
Low Tide
08:50 & 20:46



ANTALYA, Turkey: US President Barack Obama (left) speaks with Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) prior to the opening session of the G20 summit yesterday. — AP

ANTALYA, Turkey: World leaders united yesterday to denounce terrorism at a heavily-guarded summit in Turkey after the gun and bomb assaults in Paris, despite divisions over conflict-riven Syria. US President Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin of Russia, China's President Xi Jinping and other leaders gathered at the Mediterranean resort of Antalya two days after the Paris attacks claimed by Islamic State jihadists.

Obama condemned the killing of 129 people in Paris as well as a double suicide bombing in Ankara last month as attacks "on the civilized world" and vowed to "redouble our efforts" to eliminate the Islamic State network. "We stand in solidarity with France in hunting down the perpetrators of this crime and bringing them to justice," Obama declared after talks with his host, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Paris killings darkened the mood of the summit of the Group of 20 top world economies, with security and the Syrian conflict now eclipsing an economic agenda that will also deal with the spreading refugee crisis, climate change and tax avoidance. Erdogan said the summit agenda was now "very different" given the massacre in Paris, with the leaders to condemn the attacks in their communique or a separate statement. "I believe that our stance against international terrorism will find its expression in a very strong, tough message at the G20 summit," Erdogan said. "This terrorist action is not only against French people but all humanity."

Russia's Putin said that overcoming global terror was possible only "if all the international community unites its efforts". Putin is key to the gathering, which is taking place without French leader Francois Hollande who remains home to lead his shaken country in the aftermath of the attacks.

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KUWAIT: The Kuwait Towers are illuminated in the colors of the French flag yesterday in solidarity with the people of France after the Paris terrorist attacks. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News

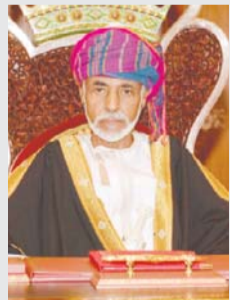
in brief

Arrest warrant out for Rajaan

KUWAIT: The public prosecution has issued an international arrest warrant against former general director of the Public Institution for Social Security Fahad Al-Rajaan after a prison sentence was handed in absentia against him on charges of manipulation of the institution's funds. The prosecution said in a statement that it had concluded investigations into the case involving Rajaan and an employee for "inflicting grave harm on the funds" of the institution. The pair are charged with breaching the institution's law and the finance minister's decisions and using the institution's funds in high-risk investments and speculations, thus leading to heavy losses and undermining the "state's financial status". It said that an international detention warrant has been issued against the fugitive Al-Rajaan and has ordered his imprisonment in absentia.

Sultan Qaboos makes rare public appearance

MUSCAT: Omani leader Sultan Qaboos made a rare public appearance yesterday to address the annual session of parliament, in his first live broadcast speech since he returned from an eight-month medical stay in Germany. Upon his return in March, state media said his treatment had been a success and that he was in "complete health".



Sultan Qaboos

Appearing in good health, Qaboos spoke for three minutes in his address to the Oman Council, which is made up of both elected and appointed members. Western-backed Qaboos has ruled since taking over from his father in a bloodless coup with the help of Oman's former colonial power, Britain. Since then, he has helped to transform an impoverished backwater riven by internal conflict into a prosperous state that plays a small but important role in regional diplomacy.

Saudis seized 22m meth pills in a year

RIYADH: Saudi authorities, where drug traffickers are sentenced to death, have seized 22.4 million amphetamine pills in one year, an interior ministry spokesman said yesterday. Around 28.8 tonnes of hashish and 26.2 kg of heroin have also been seized during the past Hijri Islamic year which ended in mid-October, the spokesman said in a statement published on the official SPA news agency. In their campaign against drug trafficking, authorities have also confiscated hundreds of weapons, including 184 machineguns as well as rifles and guns, in addition to over 41 million riyals (\$11 million), said the statement. During eight months of the past Hijri year, 1,776 drug traffickers were arrested in the kingdom.

THREE BROTHERS TIED TO PARIS ATTACKS

PARIS: Belgium issued an international arrest warrant yesterday for one of three brothers linked to the brutal attacks in Paris that killed 129 people, as the probe spread across Europe. As thousands gathered in central Paris in mourning and solidarity, authorities in at least five European countries scrambled to tie together leads and hunt down possible accomplices. Security sources said one of the three brothers died in the Bataclan concert hall where the worst of the bloodshed took place, while another had been detained along with six other people in Belgium.

Seven gunmen wearing suicide belts died during the attacks, which have been claimed by the Islamic State group - either at the Stade de France stadium, or in and around the Bataclan venue. The sports minister said at least one of the bombers who detonated their explosives near the stadium had tried to enter the venue where France were playing Germany in an international football match at the time.

Prosecutors say they believe three groups of attackers were involved in the Paris carnage, raising the possibility that one group may still be at large. It is now known that three of the suicide bombers were French nationals, but two of the men had lived in the Belgian capital Brussels. Two cars used in the attacks were hired in Belgium. One was quickly found near the Bataclan venue, and one overnight on Saturday in the suburb of Montreuil east of Paris, with two AK47 rifles inside. Witnesses said the second car, a black Seat, was used by gunmen who shot dozens of people in bars and restaurants in the hip Canal St Martin area of Paris.

The first attacker to be named by investigators is Omar Ismail Mostefai, a 29-year-old father and French citizen, who was identified from a severed finger among the carnage at the Bataclan, where 89 people were killed after heavily armed men in wearing explosives vests stormed into the venue. Police detained six people close to Mostefai, including his father, brother and sister-in-law, judicial sources said.

Born in the modest Paris suburb of Courcouronnes,

he had eight convictions for petty crimes but had never served a prison sentence. "It's a crazy thing, it's madness. Yesterday I was in Paris and I saw what a mess this was," one of his brothers told AFP before he was taken into custody on Saturday night. Belgian prosecutors said two of the attackers were Frenchmen who had lived in Brussels, at least one in the neighbourhood of Molenbeek which has been linked to Islamic radicalism. Premier Charles Michel conceded Molenbeek, a poor immigrant neighbourhood known as a hotbed of radicalisation, was a "gigantic problem".

Meanwhile, German authorities were questioning a man from Montenegro found last week with a car-load of eight Kalashnikov rifles, three pistols and explosives. The man, who had been heading for Paris, has refused to cooperate with police. The discovery of a Syrian passport near the body of one attacker has raised fears that some of the assailants might have entered Europe as part of the huge influx of people fleeing Syria's civil war.

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HAMMAD FILES TO GRILL JASSAR PANEL TO REVIEW CHARGES LAW

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Saadoun Hammad yesterday filed a request to grill Minister of Public Works, Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar over alleged financial and administrative violations in the airport expansion project. The grilling was filed although Jassar has already tendered his resignation over a suspended jail term issued against him several weeks ago. Legally, Jassar remains a Cabinet member until his resignation is accepted. The grilling is expected to figure on the Assembly session tomorrow to be debated two weeks later.

But the dilemma is that currently, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah is the acting minister of public works. This is the second grilling to be submitted in the current session which

began Oct 27. The first grilling filed by MP Mohammad Tana against Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Al-Subaih was debated on the opening day. It ended with recommendations.

In another development, head of the financial and economic affairs committee MP Faisal Al-Shayeh said yesterday the committee will meet soon to review the public charges law issued more than two decades ago. The law bans the government from introducing or raising charges on public services without the approval of the National Assembly.

Shayeh said the Assembly's legal and legislative affairs committee has pointed out that the law is unconstitutional and that the financial committee will meet to review the issue. The government has been trying to raise non-oil revenues after oil prices dropped sharply, and with the budget facing with a certain deficit.



KUWAIT: Protestors gather in solidarity outside the diwaniya of former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash (right) after the appeals court last week overturned a lower court verdict ordering the government to reinstate Barghash's citizenship and ruled that it was not competent under the law to handle sovereign issues. The government revoked the citizenship of the former Islamist lawmaker along with 56 members of his family. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

UNVEILED IRAN DRIVERS TO HAVE CARS IMPOUNDED

TELEGRAM TARGETED

TEHRAN: Iranian women who fail to wear the veil when driving will have their cars impounded for a week and are likely to be fined, police warned yesterday. In the past week, about 10,000 motorists have received warnings, with 2,000 facing further action for breaking "social norms", but the new measure to confiscate cars will come into force nationwide. Deputy police chief Said Montazer-ol-Mehdi said officers had been authorized by prosecutors to take such steps.

If traffic police spot an unveiled woman driver or passenger, "their car will be taken to a police compound for a week", he said, according to the official IRNA news agency. Some owners will be fined but other offenders will be referred to judicial authorities for further investigation, he added. The steps are part of a wider traffic police crackdown that could also see male drivers targeted for bad conduct. Violations could include "removal of veil inside the car, driving recklessly, parading in the streets and harassing women," IRNA said.

When in public, all women in the Islamic republic, including foreigners, are required to wear at least a loose scarf, known as hijab, which covers the hair and neck. Since the mid-1990s, however, there has been a gradual change in the dress code. Many women wear stylish and colorful coats and headscarves and often tight trousers instead of the traditional one-piece, head-to-toe black chador. Police patrols have continued campaigns to enforce the law and the authorities also use a network of "trustees" to identify transgressors.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —KUNA

AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE STATE OFFICIALS

AMIR CONGRATULATES KCCI CHAIRMAN ON GERMAN AWARD

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of State for

Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Minister of Education and Higher Education Bader Al-Essa.

Separately, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Mohammad Thunayan Al-Ghanem on winning the Golden Leaf Award in the German city of Berlin. In his cable, His Highness the Amir praised Ghanem's efforts in developing economic and cultural relations at regional and international levels. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent Ghanem similar cables.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa yesterday over the death of Sheikh Isa bin Ali bin Hamad

Al-Khalifa. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister also sent similar cables to King Hamad.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh patronizes Kuwait University celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the College of Engineering and Petroleum and conclusion of the global innovation and entrepreneurship conference, Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge 2015. His Highness the Crown Prince will be represented by Minister of Oil and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omair in the ceremony to be hold Monday at Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Theatre in Al Khaldiya district.

Separately, the Amiri Diwan mourned on Sunday death of Sheikhha Najma Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sheikhha Najma, who passed away at the age of 85, was laid to rest after Asr Prayers yesterday. — KUNA

INFO MINISTER SENDS CONDOLENCES ON XAVIER MORAES' PASSING

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah sent a letter of condolences to Kuwait Times Editor in Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan on the passing of the sports editor Xavier Moraes. The letter reads as follows:

"We have received with deep sorrow the news of the passing of Mr Xavier

Moraes, the sports editor in your esteemed newspaper. The media and sports families have lost with his passing a stable figure in sports analysis and editing, and one who has lift his clear professional imprint in those fields. And as we offer to you and to the family of Kuwait Times our sincerest condolences, we pray to God Almighty that he blesses his family with patience and fortitude."



AMIRI DIWAN MINISTER MEETS TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN DELEGATION

KUWAIT: Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received yesterday the director of the external of fairs of the project, 'Turquoise Mountain' in Afghanistan Scott Liddle, accompanied by Mohammadullah Yahyapoor and Saghari Hussein. Sheikh

Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad welcomed the delegation discussing with the eminent guests issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by the Advisor of His Highness the Amir and Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Association Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq. — KUNA

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
Management and Staff
convey their deepest condolences
TO
MR. BASHIR JABER
ON THE SAD DEMISE OF HIS
MOTHER

May Allah Almighty rest her soul in peace

NO KUWAITIS AMONG PARIS ATTACKS' VICTIMS: ENVOY

PARIS: Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Sulaiman has confirmed that no Kuwaiti citizens were among victims of Friday's attacks in Paris, which left 129 people killed and 352 others injured. "The French authorities have confirmed no Kuwaiti citizens among the victims of the Paris attacks," Sulaiman said in a statement to KUNA Saturday night.

He said the "Embassy and the French health authorities were verifying if there are Kuwaiti citizens among the injured because of the large number of the wounded who were admitted in many hospitals." Sulaiman commended the cooperation shown by the French authorities with the embassy.

Meanwhile, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Saturday condemned in the strongest terms the multiple shooting and bomb attacks that hit Paris last night and left hundreds of casualties. In a statement, OIC Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani conveyed his sincere condolences to the families of the victims as well as to the Government and people of France and wished for speedy recovery of the wounded. He also reaffirmed the OIC's unwavering solidarity and support to France at these critical and painful circumstances.

The Secretary General expressed his firm rejection of any terrorist act that violates the right to life and try to undermine universal human values including the values of freedom and equality that France has consistently promoted. He reiterated the OIC's principled and consistent position in condemning terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations.

Joint action

In the meantime, Madani called upon all governments across the world, international organizations and civil society institutions in all countries to close ranks and engage in a concerted joint action to combat the scourge of terrorism which has become the arch enemy of humanity at large.

In Rabat, the supreme scientific council of Morocco said the Paris attacks were acts of terrorism and aggression against innocent life which constitute definitely taboos in Islam. The synchronized attacks can by no means be justified as any kind of 'jihad' (Islamic holy war), the council said in a 'fatwa' (religious opinion), explaining the correct forms of jihad specified by Muslim scholars and jurists. The council, the highest religious advice giving body in the kingdom of Morocco, issued this fatwa in response to controversy over the attacks and the attempts of some people to link the attacks to jihad.

In Paris, the French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) denounced as "outrageous and heinous" the attacks reportedly carried out by the Islamic State (IS). The council called on the whole nation to stand united and demonstrate solidarity in the face of the current challenge, and asked the French Muslims to pray for the country to overcome the current catastrophe.

Inhuman

Meanwhile, the Dutch Muslim organizations condemned the terror attacks in Paris



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man reads yesterday's issue of Kuwait Times, which bears a headline of the deadly Paris attack that left more than 120 people dead, at his office in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

as "barbaric, cowardly and inhuman," Dutch media reported. A statement issued by the umbrella group CMO (Contact Body for Muslims) said The Dutch Muslim community is grief-stricken and feels deeply for all the victims and the people of France.

The Dutch Moroccan Mosque Association said it was deeply shocked by the attacks. "Islam teaches us that those

who kill a man, have killed all mankind," it said in a statement. "We will continue to work with all Europeans who support democracy and the rule of law to combat violence and hatred, no matter who the messenger is," it added. An estimated one million Muslims, mainly from Morocco and Turkey, live in the Netherlands which has a population of 17 million. —KUNA

ROYALS SENTENCED FOR WEAPONS POSSESSION

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday ordered two ruling family members to pay a KD 2,000 fine each for illegal possession of weapons and ammunition. This ruling came in view of the new weapons' collection law that offered a grace period to hand over unlicensed weapons without penalty, before the law was put into practice. The law includes prison penalties and fines up to KD 10,000.

Secret visit

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih yesterday made a sudden secret inspection visit to the Hawalli labor department without being escorted by any of its ministry's senior officials. She checked work progress, went directly to the applicants' waiting room and listened to complaints of people there, said informed sources. The sources added that minister was surprised to find out that the department was understaffed compared to the number of applicants. Further, the sources said that after touring the building, Subaih visited the Manpower Public Authority where she met with Acting Director Ahmad Al-Moussa and recommended immediate measures to end staff shortages in various labor departments.

MAN ARRESTED FOR STEALING KD 70,000 WORTH OF GIFTS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Capital department detectives arrested a security guard on charges of stealing goods worth KD 70,000 from a warehouse of a company that operates gift shops. The suspect, identified as Abu Asoor Mohammad Mohammad Ibrahim, Egyptian, was identified and arrested following investigations carried out after the company's lawyer reported the theft. The man explained during investigations that he had been stealing the goods for nine months, adding that he sold some items at certain shops where police later went and located valuable pens, bags and clothes reported stolen.

Forgery

Residency affairs department's detectives arrested three men for forging a company's Memorandum of Association (MoA). The arrest came after detectives received information about the forgery, and the suspects admitted following their arrests that they forged the MoA and a rent receipt on the company's name. One of the suspects had drugs and liquor with his possession when he was arrested, and officers found out that he was convicted of forgery charges before.



KUWAIT: The suspect is pictured with the stolen items in this handout photo.

SHEIKH SALMAN: KUWAIT TO JOIN SPORTS EVENTS ONLY WHEN ITS FLAG IS RAISED

GOVT OFFERS VIEW ON E-MEDIA TO COMMITTEE

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday that Kuwait would participate in sports events only when its flag was raised.

Speaking to reporters following a National Assembly session, Sheikh Salman Sabah wondered: "Could we, Kuwaitis, accept participation in tournaments and championships that don't respect our flag and State?"

The minister emphasized that this issue is of paramount significance to the Public Authority for Sports (PAS). He added that efforts were being exerted to reform and restructure the sports situation in general in order to restore Kuwait's previous prestigious position and to regain its sports role.

"We are acting in line with commitments issued through Legislation No 26/2012 regarding non-interference in administrative and technical matters. Kuwait's legal position in this regard is very clear," he said.

Asked about the single-vote mechanism for sports clubs' elections, which was recommended by the parliamentary youth and sports committee, the minister said: "It's just parliamentary jurisprudence, but, more importantly, we seek to reorganize the sports situation."

Asked if the FIFA's ban on Kuwait could be lifted, paving the way for

Kuwait to participate in World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers, Sheikh Salman said: "The ball is now in the court of those who sought to suspend the sports activity. They are the only persons who can lift the suspension." He concluded by reiterating the Kuwaiti government's



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

refusal to joint sports events under the umbrella of the Olympic flag.

E-media bill

In other news, Sheikh Salman delivered the government's view on the e-media draft law to the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee at the National Assembly. Sheikh Salman explained to the committee's members the philosophy behind the bill as well as the goals, and how it will bridge a gap in the regulation of Kuwait's

national media, the minister said in a press statement.

In addition, the new bill is considered a support to the Audio-Visual Media, and Printing and Publishing Laws, he added. During the meeting, Sheikh Salman listened to remarks offered by committee members on their relevant efforts, noting that all share the same trench to serve Kuwait and back efforts to boost the role of national media.

Parliamentary immunity

Separately, the parliamentary legal and legislative affairs committee has delayed taking a decision on the prosecution's request that MP Saleh Ashour be stripped of his parliamentary immunity. The commission rapporteur, Ahmad Al-Qudaibi, said it decided to adjourn taking the decision due MP Ashour's request, pending his attendance of the next committee meeting. Meanwhile, it recommended lifting MP Nabil Al-Fadhl's immunity but rejected such measure against MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf.

Al-Qudaibi told reporters after a committee meeting held at the parliament headquarters that it recommended extending the pre-trial detention duration in criminal cases. It also tackled the issue of the five percent commission, to be levied on expatriates' remittances. — KUNA

FARM LAND, AL-ZAD GROUP SPONSOR HORECA 2016

KUWAIT: Following the great success achieved in the three previous cycles of Horeca Kuwait, Farm Land Company, the exclusive supplier of the President brand in Kuwait, announced its participation as a golden sponsor in the Horeca 2016 exhibition, to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company. The event takes place at Badriya Ballroom at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa in the period of January 18-19, 2016, under the patronage of Minister of Information and State Minister of Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Farm Land also stressed that the Horeca Kuwait exhibition was unique in contributing to developing hospitality, catering and hotel requirements' sectors, which are the company's basic concern as one of the main providers of such services both locally and regionally.

Antoine Obaid, Farm Land's General Manager, said that Horeca had been steadily moving forward towards scientifically developing hospitality sectors with the help of a group of experts and specialists. He added that Farm Land was a unique trade mark launched in Kuwait and expanded to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and others worldwide, reiterating the company's keenness on quality control at its factories before products reach consumers.

Obaid also stressed that Farm Land was keen on achieving constant development to maintain the trust of



Abdullah Al-Nafisi

its customers, adding that President Company provides international products used in making the most delicious dishes such as Galbani fresh Italian Mozzarella, the French Valbreso goat cheese, Societe, Macland and Lactel. Finally, Obaid stressed that Farm Land would compete in the cooking competitions held at Horeca 2016 as it represents a great challenge to serve new dishes that fully observe nutritional standards.

Al-Zad Group

Separately, Al-Zad Trading Group announced its intention to participate in sponsoring the event as a silver sponsor for the fourth year in a row, saying in press statement that the decision comes in line with the ideal environment the exhibition provides in the line of hotel, hospitality industry and catering equipment



Antoine Obaid

services. Al-Zad's CEO Abdullah Al-Nafisi stressed that the Horeca exhibition had proved the significance of specialized exhibitions in promoting trade exchange amongst companies, as well as highlighting this vital line that is closely related to the development and housing projects as well as touristic plans Kuwait was currently working on executing. He added that the exhibition would be the largest gathering of specialized people under one roof.

Speaking about his group, Nafisi said that Al-Zad Group was established in 1994, and it later became one of Kuwait's largest suppliers to the hotels, restaurants and catering companies. He added that it was established by a number of hotel owners. He added that Al-Zad provided high quality food products and is an exclusive agent of many international food brands.

LEGALESE

UNDERSTANDING KUWAIT'S LAWS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

The legal system in Kuwait is more progressed than people seem to think. Even though the constitution was written more than half a century ago in 1961, it clearly protects the rights of people by stating principles like "All people are equal in human dignity, and in public rights and duties before the law, without distinction as to race, origin, language or religion" in Article 29, and also stating clearly in article 35 that "Freedom of belief is absolute." The list of rights and freedoms in the Kuwaiti Constitution goes on to protect our freedom of speech, our right to a free trial and so on.

When you read the Constitution you would think that people living in Kuwait are living a simple life. But that's far from the case. For the past two years, ever since I started writing legal articles for the public, not a day has passed without me receiving an email seeking an answer to a complicated legal inquiry, about what seems to be a simple day-to-day task. Many of these queries are due simply to a lack of understanding the law and regulations. Sadly, the large English-speaking community in Kuwait has no direct access to the legislation and rules in simple English writing.

This, in return, has made them vulnerable, complicating their visa status, their relationships with their landlord, employer and other entities in Kuwait. This is why I am ecstatic to be writing for the Kuwait Times. I hope to answer all the most pressing questions regarding legal matters and create a real awareness about the law and readers' legal rights written in a manner that is accessible and understandable to everyone.

Although I won't be able to answer all the questions that I receive, I promise to help everyone in any way that I can. I will also answer the most common questions publicly so that the most amount of people could benefit.

Please email me at ask@fajrthelawyer.com if you have any legal questions or concerns that you would like answered.

MANDATORY TESTS FOR 24 PROFESSIONS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Professional Qualifications Department recently finished setting tests for around 24 professions operating in the local labor market, and submitted the tests and conditions to Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih for approval.

According to the new testing system, laborers working in the specified professions would not be given access to the Kuwaiti labor market unless they pass the tests that are to include, general turners, vehicle mechanics, professional chefs, building painters, welders, electricity technicians, ventilation systems maintenance mechanics, automobile air conditioning technicians, assistant A/C technicians, assistant central A/C technicians, general pharmacists, X-ray technicians, medical lab technicians, nursing technicians, head nurses, aluminum smiths, furniture carpenters, pipefitters and pesticides technicians.

'Chabreet Seyassi'

Security forces recently arrested a blogger who operated a Twitter account called 'Chabreet Seyassi 2 (Political Matches 2)'. The man happens to be the brother of another blogger who was arrested on charges of offending His Highness the Amir through posts made on a Twitter account he operated under the handle 'Chabreet Seyassi', among other charges. The second blogger was referred to the state security department for investigations with the same charges his brother is already facing.

Clinics' licenses

The Ministry of Health's Assistant Undersecretary for Private Medical Services Dr Mohammed Al-Khashti said that minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi had met with the Union of Owners of Private Medical Professions, and discussed increasing the validity of private health facilities' licenses from two to five years. They also discussed doctors' transfer within private sector medical facilities and certificates. Khashti added that the meeting also discussed issuing unified IDs for all private medical facilities' staff members as well as interviewing doctors applying to work in the private sector.

OFFICE WARNS KUWAITIS OF STORMS, FLOODS IN BRITAIN

LONDON: The Kuwait's cultural office in London urged on Saturday all Kuwaiti students and citizens in northern Britain to be vigilant and cautious due to bad weather that may lead to strong storms and floods. In a statement to KUNA, Dr Fozan Al-Fares, head of the office, called on all Kuwaitis not to visit areas close to the sea especially in Scotland. He advised them to be cautious and to avoid the gathering places in London after the government had declared that tight security measures will be imposed at all airports, ports, train stations and the gathering places. He asked the Kuwaitis in Britain to dial the following phone number in case of emergency; (+44) 02075903400, saying the consulate is working 24 hours to help the Kuwaiti citizens. — KUNA

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In Brief

PHOTOGRAPHY ACHIEVEMENT

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti photographer Majed Sultan Al-Zaabi has chalked up an achievement for coming second in the international photo contest, "The Planet Earth," said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Sheikh Salman congratulated Zaabi on "this big Kuwaiti accomplishment," referring that this win affirms the ability and innovation of Kuwaiti youth in contesting the international events. Judges have declared Zaabi winner of the silver medal for his works, themed, "Wildlife And Customs." —KUNA



SURGERIES FOR SYRIANS

HATAY: Kuwait's Shifa humanitarian team has conducted 10 surgeries for Syrian refugees in Amal Hospital in the southern city of Hatay, close to the Syrian borders. The operations were carried out on a number of children, women and elderly, team coordinator Dr Talal Al-Fadhala said. He said the operations, including plastic surgeries, varied in terms of complexity, adding that the team would conduct more than 30 surgeries during their mission. —KUNA



FOOD TO SYRIANS

BEIRUT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday continued with its process of handing out humanitarian and relief aid, mainly involving food and medicine, to thousands of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The KRCS has delivered 250 food packages and cleaning tools to Syrian refugee families in Miniah and Tripoli in northern Lebanon, Youssef Boutros, Lebanon Red Crescent (LRC) coordinator said. The Number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has reached more than 1 million-most of them in northern Lebanon. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Construction works are ongoing at Jahra road's development project. The Jahra development project is the upgrade of existing at-grade Jahra road located, in the dynamic industrial area of Shuwaikh. The KD 264 million project was commenced on September 2010. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

LEADERSHIP STRONG SUPPORTER OF ARABIAN HORSE BEAUTY CONTEST



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah gives a trophy to one of the winners. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the Arabian horse beauty contest has been strongly supported by the political leadership because of the sport's genuine history. Speaking to reporters following the conclusion of the contest, held within Kuwait's Arabian Horse Festival, Sheikh Salman said he was proud

to represent His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He said His Highness the Crown Prince was keen on supporting horse sports, which were popular in Kuwait. Sheikh Salman congratulated the people in charge of the Arabian Horse Center, which organized the festival and contest. He said he was

astonished by the reaction of the crowd. He said the Public Authority for Sport sought to develop sport in general and equestrian in specific. Reem Al-Faisal won the most beautiful horse for the less than one year category. Al-Areeb Shaqra won the most beautiful horse for the 2-3 years old category. Marbella Kid won the most beautiful male horse. —KUNA

CZECH REPUBLIC WELCOMED 4,000 VISITORS FROM KUWAIT IN 2014

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kuwait issued 4,000 tourist visas to Kuwaitis and other nationals last year, a sign of an increasing appetite to visit other European destinations. Martin Vitek, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kuwait, inaugurated the new Czech visa application center located on the first floor of the Al-Banwan Building on Ali Al-Salem Street in Qibla in Kuwait City yesterday, where he lauded the continuous increase in the number of visitors from Kuwait.

"The embassy issued more than 4,000 visas last year and estimates to issue 6,000 this year. With our partnership with VFS Global, this target will be very easy for us. This place is a significant step to strengthening our capabilities to serve our clients better," he said. Most Kuwaiti visitors are seeking healthcare at various Czech hospitals including therapy sessions offered by internationally recognized spas and clinics in the country.

Tempting destination

"Historically, Czech Republic has been a tempting destination for Kuwaiti visitors. Medical and spa facilities in the Czech Republic have been treating Kuwaiti clients with high quality standards over many years. We are pleased to register an increasing demand from

Kuwaiti citizens," Vitek said. Applicants for visas to the Czech Republic can now visit the VFS Global center to submit visa applications and enroll for biometrics in a centrally-located and comfortable environment.

Ajit Alexander, Regional CEO, Middle East and Africa, VFS Global, said VFS is committed to streamlining the visa application process for travelers and providing best-in-class services to visitors. "We are privileged to partner with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kuwait and are confident our services will enhance the overall experience for applicants."

Key features

Key features of the center include a convenient and centrally-accessed location, professional staff with local language capability to handle queries and applications, a well-appointed place for enhanced comfort of applicants and automated queue governance for a smooth flow of applicants. VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. With over 1,837 application centers, operations in 122 countries across five continents and over 110 million applications processed as on Sept 30, 2015, VFS Global serves the interests of 48 client governments.



KUWAIT: Martin Vitek, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kuwait, inaugurates the new Czech visa application center. —Photo by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: A traditional Kuwaiti dance performed during the event.



A traditional Palestinian 'dabka' dance performed.



A child gives a 'thumbs up' at the festival.

SOLIDARITY DAY WITH DISABLED PEOPLE 'GREAT SUCCESS'

KUWAIT: The 11th National Day for Solidarity with Disabled People was a great success, the event organizer, Kuwait Disabled Sports Club (KDSC), has announced. The event, held under the sponsorship of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was a real success due to the remarkable participation in its cultural, social and sports activities, KDSC President Shafi Al-Hajri told KUNA on the sidelines of the closing ceremony Saturday.

The 10-day festivity was held under the rubric of "Humanity Has a Leader" to celebrate the UN honoring and proclamation of His Highness the Amir as a "Humanitarian Leader" and of Kuwait as a "Humanitarian Center." He added that the organizing committee would continue development of the event in the next year to include new activities such as an exhibition to display the products of the disabled people.

Al-Hajri thanked all government and non-government organizations as well as Arab and non-Arab diplomatic missions for their positive contributions to the event. The 11th National Day for Solidarity, was launched at KDSC headquarters on November 5th, hosted several sports, social, cultural, besides awareness activities including lectures, contests, etc to show solidarity with disabled people. —KUNA



Ministry of Health staff.

KNPC COMPLETES ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY HIGH VOLTAGE PLANT

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) announced the completion of a high voltage power plant of 132kV for an environment-friendly project that is being carried out at Mina Abdullah and Mina Al-Ahmadi refineries.

This plant is the first of its kind in the country's oil sector; it will provide electricity to environment-friendly power units in Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery, KNPC spokesman Khaled Al-Asousi, who also doubles as Deputy CEO, told the press yesterday.

He pointed out that the plant's withstand was tested on circuit breakers; a tricky and hard test. The test was carried out 'successfully' under supervision of engineers from the German Siemens company, a major contractor of the project. The test will be re-done with a 300kV on circuit breakers at Mina Abdullah, once the Ministry's approval is obtained. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Dr Hilal Al-Sayer and his wife Margaret Al-Sayer are seen during the honoring. —KUNA

BAYT ABDULLAH HONORED IN DUBAI

DUBAI: Heads of Kuwait Association for Children in Hospital (KACCH) at Bayt Abdullah (hospice) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer and his wife Margaret Al-Sayer were awarded the "Takreem Arab Achievement Awards" for their efforts, providing medical care to children.

The award was presented to the officials late Saturday, in a ceremony held in Dubai by the Lebanon-based Takreem organization, specialized in honoring prominent and creative Arab figures. The organization's delegation visited Bayt Abdullah and closely monitored the medical services and care provided for children with terminal illnesses, Hilal Al-Sayer, who is also Board Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society said. He added that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah provided the land where the house (or bayt in Arabic) was build and inaugurated under his patronage in 2012.

Bayt Abdullah is specialized in easing the suffering of terminal children patients and providing them with medical care in their last days. The center, stretching over 22,000 square km, includes wards for mothers to stay with their sick children, and offers 24-hour medical care including in-home services. It also contains entertainment areas, study halls, pool, theater, musical and artistic activities, a library, mosque, restaurant and pharmacy. —KUNA

OFFICIAL CALLS FOR PREPARING PROGRAM TO TREAT OBESITY CAUSING DIABETES

KUWAIT: Head of the media office of the Ministry of Health Dr Ghalia Al-Mutairi called for preparing a program to address obesity and educate people on healthy food, saying the rate of obesity among children reached 50 percent.

On the occasion of marking the World Diabetes Day in Al-Ghanim Diwaniya (social gathering place) in the suburb of Abdullah Al-Salem, Al-Mutairi stressed in a press statement on Saturday the importance of raising awareness on physical activity to help reduce obesity which is a main cause of diabetes and chronic diseases. She noted that Kuwait is one of the top 10 countries in the world suffering from diabetes as about 20 percent of adults and elderly people are diagnosed with the disease.

She said that the 2016 World Diabetes Day will focus on diabetes and aim at caring for patients. This year's celebration touched on the relation between nutrition and diabetes, she said, adding unhealthy food and obesity are the cause of the Type II Diabetes.

The celebration included awareness lectures delivered by specialists and a health exhibition containing several topics that interest the patients, she made clear. Al-Mutairi said that several government and non-government bodies took part in the event so as to raise awareness on the risks of diabetes and the methods of preventing the disease. — KUNA



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Crime

Report

SHRIMP STINKS UP CAR

KUWAIT: Several calls about a foul smell coming from a car in Farwaniya area led police, detectives and criminal evidence to go and check the car. Police first lifted fingerprints from the car then opened the trunk, only to find a bag of shrimps that seems to have been left there for a few days.

Man stabbed, assailant arrest

Ardhiya police arrested a citizen who stabbed an Asian and robbed him of KD 350 and his mobile phone. The arrest was made in Rihab area following leads by detectives investigations.

Police insulted

Two policemen working at the criminal detectives department, complained against two young men for insulting them while on duty. The two were interrogating the young men, when they were surprised by their insults.

Insults over traffic

A dispute over the right of way between a female citizen and another man led to her insult the motorist. The citizen told Salmiya police what happened and filed a complaint.

Bootleggers busted

Policemen arrested three men for selling liquor in Fintas area. The trio had 81 bottles, and were sent to concerned authorities.

Fishermen hurt in fire

Three firemen suffered minor injuries while fighting a fire on the fifth and sixth floor of a Riqee area building. Shuwaikh and Ardhiya fire centers responded to the call and evacuated the six floors building, after it spread to the fifth floor. Firemen succeeded in keeping the fire from spreading further before putting it out.

NBK LAUNCHES ADVANCED 'NBK HISTORY' SMART PHONE APP

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched its advanced 'NBK History' application on smart phones highlighting Kuwait's history and the evolution of NBK since its establishment in 1952 as the first indigenous bank and Shareholding Company in Kuwait and the GCC.

'NBK History' application presents the history of Kuwait and NBK in an innovative manner. The application reviews NBK's establishment and opening more than 6 decades ago, its development and the role it played in the development and progress of Kuwait.

The NBK History application offers an access to NBK's museum, the first in the region to use audio-visual and interactive displays, including interviews with Bank officials and influential economists as well as short film clips. NBK Museum presents a collection of interesting artifacts such as historical documents and the first office instruments used at that time.

"The establishment of NBK History application stands as a landmark to reserve Kuwait's History and present it to the coming generations", said Manal Al-Mattar, NBK Public Relations Executive manager. "Since its establishment 63 years ago, NBK has played a significant role in the development and progress of Kuwait. NBK grew from a small local bank to one of the largest financial institutions in the region."

Mattar added "this innovative application highlights NBK's history and contributions in the development of the national economy. It also highlights the main periods in Kuwait's history"

On 15th November, NBK celebrates the 63rd anniversary of opening its doors officially for the first time following the famous Amiri Decree issued by the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on 19 May, 1952 promulgating the incorporation of the National Bank of Kuwait as the first national bank and the first shareholding company in Kuwait and the Gulf.

'KUWAIT, COMOROS COULD AGREE ON BEDOONS'

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah said that 800 out of 32,000 bedoons (stateless residents) who have 1965 census documents deserve naturalization. Jarrah said 'the wheels of naturalization' will not start rolling at the current time, adding that the solution must be carried out in agreement with countries who could potentially award them with nationalities. He mentioned the example of the United Arab Emirates who reached a similar agreement with the Comoros Islands. Jarrah said there will not be any forced deportation for bedoons, adding that they will have the choice of either 'revealing their original nationalities' or get one from the Comoros, "especially that the Central Agency of Stateless Residents is working on an agreement with the country."

Meanwhile, Director General of Residency Affairs Major General Talal Maarafi said that there are 13,000 workers who are registered as absconding in Kuwait, accusing the social affairs ministry of being inaccurate in registering claims. —Al-Qabas



Al-Jarida

الأنباء

Al-Anbaa

IS-MINDED MEDIA

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

"This is the least I can present to Kuwait as an Egyptian who loves both Kuwait and my home country, Egypt. I have asked the championship organizers to play Kuwait's national anthem because both countries will always be united, God willing!"

The above were the words the world kickboxing champion, Egyptian Ismail Radhwan, posted on his Instagram account, noting that he asked the championship organizers to play Kuwait's national anthem instead of his own country's on receiving his trophy to emphasize how united both countries are.

To start with, I have to thank this champion who really understands the meanings and values of fraternity and humanity and translated this awareness and realization into real life attitudes, forgetting all about sensitivities and the annoyance he might go through at the hands of some 'fishers in murky waters' and those fond of division, hatred, envy and repulsion.

These words were said in view of the current vicious attempts to create tumults and division between the peoples of Kuwait and Egypt. They truly represent real

understanding of human and intercultural relations.

The awareness of this sportsman who mainly focuses on building his body and muscles has absolutely surpassed that of many who are supposed to lead the public, educate them and boost their awareness, be they journalists or members of the media who have been carried away with waves of grudge, and thus, unmasking their true ugly yellow faces and black hearts. They show no care for shedding human blood. They create disorder and instigate simple naive people regardless of people's blood and national interests.

These are the IS-minded members of the media, who despite being clean shaven, have very cruel black IS minds and hearts. However, these hatred promoters will someday vanish along with the hatred they have implanted amongst peoples, leaving only the good-doers and their virtuous deeds, because hatred never lasts forever. It vanishes with the death of its creator.

Heartiest thanks to Ismail Radhwan and congratulations for winning the championship. Most of all, congratulation for your awareness and virtuous heart!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Mark Kawano poses in a group photo with Zain employees and officials

ZAIN HOLDS EXCLUSIVE 'STEPS TOWARDS FURTHER SUCCESS' SEMINAR FOR STAFF FACILITATED BY STOREHOUSE COFOUNDER MARK KAWANO

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently held an exclusive seminar for its employees entitled "Steps Towards Further Success". The seminar was facilitated by Mark Kawano, Cofounder and CEO of popular social media app Storehouse, and came as part of Zain's strategic partnership with the fourth edition of the Youth Empowerment Symposium.

The exclusive seminar that saw the participation of both company executives and employees came in line with Zain's Human Resources development strategy. The company places the growth and development of its staff as a top priority and believes investing in the human element of its operations will ultimately have a positive impact on the company overall.

During the seminar, Kawano shared his experience in following his dream and developing Storehouse to becoming one of the most successful social media applications. The cofounder also discussed the challenges he faced during the early days of developing the app as well as the necessary steps that every

entrepreneur must undertake to reach success and achieve their dreams.

Zain employees expressed their admiration in Kawano's success story, who stressed on the importance of following one's passion in order to achieve success. Kawano explained that his passion and love for photography and storytelling led him into developing the app, which received the Apple Design Award in 2014 and the 2015 TechCrunch Best Mobile Application title. Zain is keen on finding and providing the best development programs to its human resources, with the aim to raise their skills up to international standards. The company will continue to bring the most renowned international speakers and innovative thinkers to share their experiences with its employees throughout the year.

Storehouse is a mobile application that turns a collection of photos and videos into a shareable story. It provides users with a fast and easy way to share a collection of photos from their iPhone or iPad by creating a collage, album or telling a story and sharing all of the moments that made the memory.



Mark Kawano is pictured during the seminar

Zain was the strategic partner of this year's fourth Youth Empowerment Symposium that was attended by a number of local and international experts and

pioneers who shared their personal experiences with participants and highlighted the importance of building oneself through education.

STATE DEPARTMENTS ORDERED TO WITHDRAW FROM DEPOSITS

KUWAIT: As preparations are on to launch the first issuance of sovereign sukuk and enroll them at Kuwait Stock Exchange for trading in cooperation with a specialized mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), state departments have been given verbal instructions to cover any future needs, by withdrawing from their

deposits in foreign or local banks.

Information received on that regard indicated that the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) expressed readiness to underwrite half a billion Kuwaiti dinars this year, and the same amount next year, while Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) offered the same, as the Finance Minister is

waiting for answers from other government bodies about the amount of money that they can allocate to underwrite in government bonds.

Sources said the Finance Ministry is preparing to exchange due transfers to the PIFSS, with sovereign debt bonds in order to spare the banking system the dues of funds transfer cycle from

and to the Finance Ministry. PIFSS told the Finance Ministry that it can exchange half a billion dinars only with a Sovereign debt bonds, and prefers to get the rest of dues in cash which is nearly one billion dinars. The bonds term varies between three to five years with less than two percent interest.—Al-Rai

الأنباء

Al-Anbaa

LATEST EDITION

By Sami Al-Khorafi

Who, of us, is not keen on getting the latest mobile phone or at least equipping it with applications like Twitter and Instagram? We keep asking about the latest updates to download them and avoid previous bugs and so on. The question, here is: How many of us tend to change their bad temper in dealing with others and 'update' or improve it?

How can we be happy when all hearts are filled with envy towards whoever feels happy or succeeds in his life? How can we be happy when everybody looks down upon others? I know some people who are keen to stand in front rows while praying while their hearts are full of grudges for those standing next to them. It seems that these people forget to wash their hearts during ablution. In fact, there are so many forms of bad conduct that one cannot write them in one article.

Our beloved Prophet (PBUH) said: "Those closest to me on doomsday will be the ones with best manners". The Prophet (PBUH) did not refer to those ranking higher or descending from prestigious families. He stressed that those with good conduct and supreme ethics would have a 'VIP' seat booked for them beside him in heaven. Why did he focus on this? Well, from my point of view, the answer is that an outstanding place requires constant training and self-restraint, which is not an easy task. I recall a story about one of the Prophet's (PBUH) companions, about whom for three days, the Prophet (PBUH) kept telling those sitting with him that a man destined to paradise would come in. This happened on three consecutive days and people got very curious about this mysterious visitor and wanted to know why he would go to paradise. After three days, this companion said that he never goes to bed holding any grudge or hard feelings towards anybody.

So, we can start 'updating' our souls by removing any grudges, lies, meanness, greed or 'insulting' tongues and gradually substituting them with good traits, which is not easy for so many people and not hard for those determined to do it and change for the better to make this life more beautiful, happy and easy.

Life is too short to waste on trivialities and bad conduct. We should, instead, race to purify it and keep 'updating' and improving ourselves. Let us start by forgiving those who did us wrong. Let us socialize with those who had stopped seeing us. Let us be tolerant. Such 'updates' will surely get us to the top and the 'latest edition' of ethics!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

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UK MUSLIMS SEEK OWN PATH IN COUNTERING JIHADISM

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Lebanon arrests nine suspects over Beirut bombings



DES MOINES, Iowa: Democratic Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders (left) wave and Martin O'Malley looks on during the second Democratic presidential primary debate in the Sheslow Auditorium of Drake University on Saturday.— AFP

CLINTON URGES WAR ON IS, NOT MUSLIMS

FRONTRUNNER PLAYS DEFENSE ON IRAQ, WALL ST AT DEBATE

DES MOINES, Iowa: White House hopeful Hillary Clinton called for global unity to crush the Islamic State group, as the carnage in Paris took center stage at Saturday's Democratic presidential debate. The three candidates began their debate with a moment of silence for the victims in France, bringing Friday's horrific attacks an ocean away to the forefront of the 2016 race as they dominated the first half hour of the political showdown.

Clinton, liberal US Senator Bernie Sanders and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley united in calling for the destruction of the jihadists accused of massacring at least 129 people in the French capital. "We are not at war with Islam," said the former secretary of state, choosing her words with care as she warned ordinary Muslims should not be viewed as a threat. "We are at war with violent extremism. Our prayers are with the people of France tonight, but that is not enough," she said, calling for global resolve to defeat ISIS, "a barbaric, ruthless, violent jihadist terrorist group."

The Islamic State group (ISIS or IS) claimed responsibility for the coordinated attacks on a Paris concert hall, restaurants and bars, and outside France's national stadium - calling it retribution for French air strikes in Syria. "It cannot be contained, it must be defeated," Clinton said of the group which has overrun swathes of Syria and Iraq.

With all the talk of battling the jihadist wave, the Democrats on stage refused to use the term "radical Islam," which moderators used Saturday - and Republicans in the presidential race have used throughout the campaign - to describe the scourge. "Let's not fall into the trap of thinking our Muslim-American neighbors... are the enemy," O'Malley said. Former Florida governor and Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush spoke up from afar during the debate, tweeting: "Yes, we are at war with radical Islamic terrorism"

While Democrats displayed equal determination to eradicate jihadism,

fissures appeared between the candidates on whether the United States should lead the struggle. Clinton said American leadership was critical in the effort, with all the diplomatic tools at Washington's disposal beyond just military might, "but this cannot be an American fight."

America's Fight

That drew a sharp disagreement from O'Malley. "This actually is America's fight," he insisted. "America is best when we are actually standing up to evil in this world." Relatively hawkish Clinton, self-described democratic socialist Sanders and low-polling O'Malley took the stage in Des Moines, Iowa for their second Democratic showdown in the 2016 primary cycle. With 79 days before the first state-wide vote in Iowa, frontrunner Clinton has reinforced her status as the woman to beat in the race.

Her poll numbers have risen steadily since mid-September, to more than 54 percent today according to a RealClearPolitics average. Sanders is at 33 percent, while O'Malley is languishing at three percent. With Sanders eager to take the fight to Clinton on the economy - he is calling for an economic revolution, while knocking Clinton for her ties to Wall Street - the refocus on terrorism shifted the early portion of the debate in favor of the former top diplomat, fluent in foreign policy.

But Sanders stood his ground, arguing that the Iraq war, which then-senator Clinton voted to authorize in 2002, laid the foundation for the surging jihadist threat that once more sowed carnage on Friday. "I would argue that the disastrous invasion of Iraq, something that I strongly opposed, has unraveled the region completely and led to the rise of Al-Qaeda and to ISIS," Sanders said. The Iraq war, he repeated, "was one of the worst foreign policy blunders in the modern history of the United States."

Clinton, who has frequently called the Iraq vote a mistake, said it should be placed in the historical context of years of terrorism before the invasion.

"This is an incredibly complicated region of the world. It's become more complicated. And many of the fights that are going on are not ones that the United States has either started or have a role in," she said.

Clinton said countries in the region would have to play a major role in resolving the conflict. "It cannot be an American fight. And I think what the president has consistently said, which I agree with, is that we will support those who take the fight to ISIS," she said. Clinton struck a sharp contrast to Obama's comments in an interview aired on Friday that IS had been contained, saying it "cannot be contained, it must be defeated."

She also played up her efforts to find solutions in the region, noting she had pushed for an effort to train and equip Syrian moderates "because I thought there would be extremist groups filling the vacuum". The former secretary of state drew another contrast with Obama on Syrian refugees, saying she urged the administration to increase its plan to accept 10,000 refugees in fiscal 2016. "I said we should go to 65 (thousand), but only if we have as carefully screening and vetting process as we can imagine, whatever resources it takes," she said.

Wall Street

On the economic front, the candidates sparred - gently, compared with their Republican rivals who have already clashed in four on-stage debates - over how to increase wages and expand the work force. Clinton also said Saturday she had a "very aggressive plan" to rein in Wall Street's big banks. Sanders shot back with a blunt message - "Not good enough" - and essentially challenged Clinton to disavow much of her connections to Wall Street millionaires who back her campaign. "They expect to get something, everybody knows that," Sanders said, implying that establishment candidates like Clinton would be in debt to Wall Street supporters. "The business model of Wall Street is fraud," Sanders said. "I will break up these banks" if elected. —Agencies

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SYRIA OPPOSITION WARNS OF 'UNREALISTIC' VIENNA PLAN

BEIRUT: Syrian opposition members yesterday said an ambitious plan by world powers for a political transition in their war-ravaged country was unrealistic, though some reacted with cautious optimism. Global diplomats gathered in Vienna agreed Saturday on a fixed calendar for Syria that would see a transition government in six months and elections within 18 months. A final statement after the meeting said the goal was to bring Syrian government and opposition representatives together by Jan 1.

Anas Al-Abdeh, a member of the opposition National Coalition, said the statement remained "unclear" but marked some progress. "A ceasefire is in principle a good thing as it will alleviate people's suffering. But the most important thing is observing its implementation," he told AFP by telephone. But

Samir Nashar, a fellow Coalition member, derided the Vienna plan as "frustrating and unrealistic", insisting it "will not lead to a political solution". "How do they expect that after everything that has happened in Syria, people will just kiss each other in the streets?" he said.

With millions displaced and the country's infrastructure devastated, Nashar said Syria would need much longer to hold free and fair elections. He warned that the omission from the Vienna statement of a key aim of the uprising - the departure of President Bashar Al-Assad - would strengthen claims by jihadist groups that the international community is "conspiring against the Syrian people". "This was the biggest blow... This is a gift to Daesh, to extremism," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State jihadist group.

'Paving the Way' for Peace

Yesterday, a top Iranian official said several countries involved in the peace talks had tried to bar Assad from future elections, but Tehran, a key backer of Syria's regime, insisted the demand be withdrawn. Assad's departure has been the centrepiece of opposition demands since Syria's uprising began in 2011 and Western powers - including the United States, France and Britain - have called for him to step down. Saturday's talks in Vienna were the second round of the broadened diplomatic efforts to reach an end to Syria's war, which has left more than 250,000 people dead. Top diplomats from 17 countries as well as three international organisations met the day after a deadly coordinated assault claimed by IS in Paris left at least 129 people dead.

Hassan Abdel Azim, the head of the

National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change, an internal opposition group, said Vienna had set out a "practical plan". "Everything that happens in Vienna, we agree with and is in line with the vision of the NCCDC for a political solution," he said. But he cautioned that the process remained "open to amendments". Confidence-building measures, including a ceasefire, prisoner releases, and aid deliveries were all "steps that pave the way for a transitional period, forming a government, and holding elections," Abdel Azim said.

Ceasefire 'Far from Reality'

Though Syria's conflict began with anti-government protests, it has since fractured into a multi-front war between the regime, rebels, Kurds, and jihadists, with shifting military alliances throughout the country. UN peace envoy to Syria Staffan de

Mistura was tasked, as part of the Vienna talks, with bringing about a ceasefire between warring groups. But Fares Buyush, head of the Fursan al-Haq rebel brigade fighting in north and northwestern Syria, said the decisions reached in Vienna were "far from reality" and that a ceasefire would be "very difficult" to implement.

And Asaad Hanna, a spokesman for the Division 101 rebel group, said Vienna's goals - including a ceasefire - were divorced from the reality of forces fighting both IS and Assad's troops. "Just because the international community holds a press conference, it doesn't mean they're going to stop Daesh," Hanna said by phone. "The uprising is happening on the ground. How can the meetings exclude the decision-makers on the ground, who would be the ones implementing the ceasefire?" — AFP

EGYPT POLICE KILL 15 SUDAN MIGRANTS AT ISRAEL BORDER

EL-ARISH, Egypt: Egyptian police yesterday killed 15 Sudanese migrants and wounded another eight who were trying to jump into Israel over the fence separating it from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, security and hospital officials said.

They said police opened fire on the migrants after they ignored warning shots and sprinted toward the fence. The security forces arrested another eight Sudanese migrants who were not wounded. Most of the wounded were in serious condition after they suffered wounds to the chest and stomach, they said.

The incident took place at a border point about 17 km south of Rafah, an Egyptian town on the border with the Gaza Strip. The killings ended a lull in attempts by migrants to cross into Israel from Sinai, mostly because of stricter surveillance and stepped up military operations in the area by Egyptian security forces battling

Islamic militants led by a local affiliate of the extremist Islamic State group. All Egyptian officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Sunday's death toll is among the highest in a single incident involving Sudanese migrants in Egypt since 2005, when Egyptian riot police used water cannons and truncheons to brutally clear a ramshackle encampment set up by Sudanese refugees in an upscale Cairo neighborhood. The migrants had hoped to draw attention to their demands to be resettled in a third country.

Israel's Interior Ministry says more than 45,000 African migrants and asylum seekers, who include many Sudanese, are in Israel. Many say they are fleeing conflict and persecution and are seeking refugee status. Israel says they are economic migrants whose growing numbers threaten the country's Jewish character. — AP

'ISLAMIC JIHAD MEMBER' ARRESTED BY ISRAELI FORCES

JERUSALEM: Israeli security forces have arrested an alleged member of militant movement Islamic Jihad and detained other suspects over the murder of a rabbi and his son near West Bank city Hebron, officials said yesterday. The army, in a joint statement with the Shin Bet security agency, did not disclose the number of people arrested, but added that "forces also located the weapon and vehicle used to execute the attack".

Shin Bet said that the chief suspect "linked himself to the attack" during the investigation. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the main suspect in the murders on Friday was a member of Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad. "The reprehensible terrorist who murdered Yaakov Litman and his son Netanel last Friday has been apprehended by the security forces; he belongs to Islamic Jihad," Netanyahu said at the start of a cabinet meeting.

The Islamist movement is banned in Israel and considered a terrorist organization by the European Union and many Western countries. The 40-year-old father and 18-year-old son were ambushed and shot dead as they drove near the Jewish settlement of Otniel, south of Hebron, in the bloodiest attack on Israelis in nearly a month. There were a total of seven people in the car, and Litman's wife and a 16-year-old son were also wounded, according to Israeli media and Shin Bet. The army said the Israeli family was on its way to a Sabbath dinner at the time. Their murders sparked a manhunt, with soldiers backed by air units deploying in the neighbouring Palestinian communities of Yatta and As Samou in the occupied West Bank.

Ambulance Controversy

Controversy also broke out yesterday over an allegation by Litman's wife, Noa, that a Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance stopped at the scene but did not help the wounded. The Red Crescent denied the allegation. The claim drew a response from Netanyahu, who asked the foreign ministry to file a protest with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and request explanations. "If things are indeed as they seem to me today, the state of Israel will take appropriate steps against the Red Crescent," which is a member of the ICRC, Netanyahu said in a statement.

Azzam Nimar, Red Crescent emergency centre director for Jerusalem, told AFP they had been refused entry by the Israeli military. "Our ambulance reached the scene, and the military refused to allow them and threatened them and told them to leave," he said. "They left the area according to the army's orders. Our mission is to provide care to anybody who needs it. We don't look at religion. We have provided care for Jews many times." Nimar said that the Israeli army has often delayed access to scenes of attacks. Violence since the start of October has killed 81 people on the Palestinian side - including one Arab Israeli - and 12 Israelis. Many of the Palestinians killed were alleged attackers, while others have been shot dead by Israeli security forces during clashes. The shooting dead of two settlers in front of their children in the northern West Bank on Oct 1 was the first incident in the weeks-long wave of gun, knife and car-ramming attacks by Palestinians. —AFP



BEIRUT: Young people practice yoga in Beirut's Martyrs Square in the heart of the Lebanese capital yesterday. The special 108 Sun Salutations event was aimed to help restore prana (positive energy) and raise consciousness towards harmony, organizers said. — AFP

LEBANON ARRESTS NINE OVER BEIRUT BOMBINGS

MINISTER HINTS FURTHER ATTACKS EXPECTED

BEIRUT: Lebanon has arrested nine people, mostly Syrians, over last week's Beirut bombings that killed 44 people, an attack whose original target was a hospital, the interior minister said yesterday. "The detained include seven Syrians and two Lebanese, one of them a (would-be) suicide bomber and the other a trafficker who smuggled them across the border from Syria," Interior Minister Nuhad Mashnuq said in a televised press conference.

The Islamic State (IS) jihadist group claimed responsibility for Thursday's attacks, which hit a busy shopping street in Burj al-Barajneh, a suburb where the Shiite movement Hezbollah is popular. "The whole suicide bombing network and its supporters were arrested in the 48 hours following the explosion," Mashnuq said, calling the arrests "an extraordinary achievement". He said the Syrians were detained in a Palestinian refugee camp located in Burj al-Barajneh and a flat in the capital's eastern district of Ashrafieh

that had been used to prepare the explosive belts.

Security forces arrested the Lebanese would-be suicide attacker in the northern port city of Tripoli after he had failed to detonate his suicide belt, Mashnuq said. The initial plan was apparently to send five suicide bombers to a hospital in the neighbourhood, he said, but heavy security forced them to change the target to a densely populated area.

'It won't be the Last'

Mashnuq hinted that he expected further attacks: "When they send five suicide attackers to one place, it means... it won't be the last." The bloodshed in Beirut came a day before a string of bomb and gun attacks in the French capital, also claimed by IS, that left at least 129 dead and more than 350 people wounded. The blasts were the first to target a Hezbollah-dominated neighbourhood since mid-2014, after a string of such

attacks rocked the capital in 2013 and 2014. Those explosions were ostensibly in revenge for Hezbollah's military support of regime forces in neighbouring Syria's civil war.

Most of them were claimed by a variety of Sunni extremist groups, including one in January 2014 by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which later became IS. But Thursday's was the largest IS attack ever in Lebanon, and among the deadliest bombings to hit the volatile country in decades. It sparked an outpouring of sympathy for the victims, with people sharing photographs of those killed on social media accounts.

One victim, Adel Tarmous, was hailed as a hero in the newspapers for having prevented a bomber from entering a Shiite place of worship. In a televised address Saturday, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah urged supporters not to retaliate against the over one million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. — AFP

IRAQI KURDS UNCOVER MASS GRAVES IN SINJAR

IRBIL, Iraq: Kurdish forces said yesterday they uncovered two mass graves outside Sinjar, a northern Iraqi town near the Syrian border that was ruled by the Islamic State group for more than a year before the extremists were driven out last week. The first grave uncovered was west of the town's center near the technical institute and contained 78 elderly women's bodies, the Sinjar director of intelligence, Qasim Samir, told AP. The second grave was uncovered about 15 km west of Sinjar and contained between 50 and 60 bodies of men, women and children, he said.

More precise information from the second grave is unavailable at the moment, Samir explained, because the surrounding area is thought to be rigged with homemade bombs, preventing investigation teams from reaching it. The Islamic State group captured Sinjar during its rampage across northern Iraq in the summer of 2014 and killed and captured thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority, including women forced into sexual slavery. Kurdish forces backed by US-led airstrikes pushed the extremist group out of the town in a two-day operation last week. "These people (in the mass graves) were shot and buried during the Daesh invasion last year," Samir said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. Sinjar was taken by IS militants in Aug 2014 following the earlier fall of Mosul. During the same territorial push, IS advanced on Erbil, prompting the beginning of a US-led campaign of airstrikes against the group, first in Iraq and later in Syria. A security official with the Kurdish militia forces known as peshmerga also confirmed the discovery of the mass graves. "This is not a surprise," the official explained, requesting anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media on the matter. "In other areas that have been taken back, we have found similar mass graves."

In the nearby town of Snuny, the Peshmerga

uncovered 7 mass graves after retaking the territory earlier this year, the peshmerga official said. Nawaf Ashur, a resident of Sinjar who was forced to flee with his family in August last year, said the news of the mass graves has jarred the Yazidi community. "Everyone who was missing a family member was hoping that they were still out there, that they are still alive and maybe they'll come back," he said. Thousands of Yazidis remain

unaccounted for more than a year after IS took a number of majority Yazidi towns in Iraq's north.

While hundreds of Yazidi women and girls have been released or escaped IS captivity, human rights groups estimate thousands still remain in IS custody. "But now with the news of each grave found, we know not all of them will come back," he said. "Some of them are never coming back." — AP



JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (second right) and Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon (right) attend the weekly cabinet meeting at the PM's office yesterday. — AFP



RAMADI: Soldiers of Iraq's anti-terrorism force watch movements during a military operation to regain control of the western suburbs of the capital of Iraq's Anbar province, 115 km west of Baghdad on Saturday. — AP

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HOW A NIGHT OF HORROR WASHES PARIS IN BLOOD

PARIS: The attackers worked in three synchronized teams, wearing matching suicide vests and carrying the same weapons. In an excruciating half-hour, they unleashed their terror.

One suicide bombing after another at the national stadium, sprays of gunfire in the crowded restaurants and streets of central Paris, and finally a hostage standoff that drenched a 19th-century dance hall with the blood of dozens of young people out for a night of rock music. Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said three suicide attackers died near the stadium, three in the concert hall, and one further south on the same boulevard.

Here is how it happened, based on accounts from French authorities and witnesses.

9 p.m.

Kickoff of the France-Germany soccer match at the French national stadium and the beginning of the rock show at the Bataclan concert hall. Both packed with fans, the match includes French President Francois Hollande among spectators. In the audience at the Eagles of Death Metal show is the sister of French striker Antoine Griezmann, who started in Friday night's game.

9:20 p.m.

A man with a Syrian passport and an explosives vest blows himself up at Gate D of the stadium, killing himself and a bystander. The match continues.

9:25 p.m.

Gunmen in a black rented Seat Leon open

fire on a bar and a restaurant - Le Carillon and Petit Cambodge - killing 15 people and leaving more than 100 shell casings of different calibers, including 7.62 mm, strewn at the scene. When the shooting starts, Emilio Macchia, an Italian book designer visiting for a publishing fair, starts to run from the Carillon. "A girl opened the door to her building and let us in. We hid inside with 10 or 15 other people. I still remember one girl, she said she'd seen one huge man shooting. That's when I realized it was a terror attack."

9:30 p.m.

A second suicide bomber approaches Gate H of the stadium, blowing himself up but claiming no other victims.

9:32 p.m.

Gunmen in a rented Seat Leon open fire on a La Bonne Biere bar on La Fontaine au Roi street, just around the corner from the restaurant shootings. Five people are killed. About a hundred shells are left on the ground of different caliber, including again 7.62 mm.

9:36 p.m.

Hollande presses the cell phone to his ear inside the glass-lined booth overlooking the soccer field, absorbing the horror tearing into the French capital for the second time this year. The digital clock above him ticks away the seconds in red: 21:36:49.

Just then, gunmen in a black Seat car attack Charonne street, killing 19 people. Sebastien Jagreau, a witness who arrives shortly afterward, says the bodies of the dead



PARIS: Women comfort each other as they gather with others at a memorial site yesterday outside of the La Belle Equipe, in the 11th district of Paris, for victims of the November 13 attacks in Paris. — AFP

and wounded were sprawled on tables and the ground. "We saw a lady on the first table. I thought she had bump and then we realized it was a bullet in her head and not a bump. She was stretched on the table with her beer next to her. Then I see a guy crying because his wife was dead. Then we go on and we realize we are in the middle of a pond of blood." Again, about 100 shell casings are left on the ground, including 7.62 mm.

9:40 p.m.

A black Volkswagen Polo parks outside the Bataclan concert hall on Boulevard Voltaire, and three people emerge, opening fire as they enter the packed venue. Eagles of Death Metal is several songs into their show and playing to a full house. The attackers enter, apparently unnoticed over the loud music, armed with automatic weapons, their bodies wired with explosives.

Among the hostage-takers is a Frenchman, one week shy of his 30th birthday, convicted eight times between 2004 and 2010 for minor crimes and flagged for ties to Islamic radicals. In a brief communication with security forces, the hostage-takers invoke Syria and Iraq. As shots ring out, people escape from side doors of the venue, some dragging bodies with them. One woman clings to a second-story window, trying to get out of the line of fire. Among those to escape is Griezmann's sister.

At that moment, a suicide bomber detonates his vest further down Boulevard Voltaire. The bomber is the only victim.

9:53 p.m.

A suicide attacker about 400 meters (yards) from the stadium detonates his vest, identical to those of the others with TATP explosives. No one else is killed.

12:20 a.m.

Security forces storm the Bataclan. Two of the attackers detonate their suicide vests; a third is shot by law enforcement and the vest explodes. Eighty-nine people are killed, and many remain critically injured. Philippe Juvin, an emergency room doctor at the Georges Pompidou hospital, said he has never had to care for so many victims at once. "The majority were gunshot wounds inflicted with weapons of war, of high caliber, in the thorax, the abdomen, their legs and arms. Also, the psychological trauma. The people that witness these kinds of events are deeply affected, even if some may not be physically injured, it hurts their soul. That is why we had a psychiatrist with us." — AP

PARIS AIR TRAVEL PROCEEDS, BUT SOME CANCEL FUTURE VISITS

PARIS: Even as airlines operated a normal schedule of flights into and out of Paris on Saturday, travelers with future plans to visit the French capital reconsidered their options after a series of terror attacks. Some quickly canceled their tickets, a worrisome sign for the travel and tourism industries.

Joe Nardozi, a 31-year-old New York investment banker, and his wife won't be taking the wedding-anniversary trip they planned later this month.

"I have no interest in losing my life over a trip to Paris," he said. Travel agents said some clients called to cancel trips, and one advocacy group for business travelers predicted that corporations would let frightened employees do the same. On Friday night, terrorists with guns and suicide vests carried out coordinated attacks across Paris that left at least 129 people dead and more than 350 injured. The targets, including a cafe and a concert hall, were the types of places that travelers on a vacation or business trip might visit. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Decisions by companies and leisure travelers could hinge on whether the Paris attacks are seen as a one-time event or the vanguard of a stepped-up campaign by Islamic radicals. Islamic State, the group fighting in Syria and Iraq, also claimed last month that it bombed a Russian passenger jet over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, although investigators have not determined the cause of the crash that killed 224 people.

High tensions after the attacks could be seen at airports across Europe on Saturday.

Threats

A Paris-bound Air France jet was evacuated at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport after authorities received a threatening tweet. A terminal at London's Gatwick Airport was shut down for hours after a man was seen throwing away what looked like a gun. Air France said it would operate all upcoming flights to and from France but that delays were expected because of increased security at airports, including Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport.

US authorities said that they had nothing to add to Friday's comment by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson that officials didn't know of any specific or credible terror threats against the United States.

United Airlines and Delta Air Lines said that all their flights between the US and Paris operated on Saturday. American Airlines said all its flights would run too except a Paris-to-Dallas flight - that plane remained in Dallas when the Paris-bound

leg was canceled Friday night.

Delta spokesman Anthony Black said flights to and from Paris were full. Still, some Americans canceled upcoming trips after seeing coverage of the terror on Paris streets.

Blake Fleetwood, president of New York-based Cook Travel, said about 10 customers out of the roughly 30 with trips booked to Paris told him they want to cancel. He and his wife might do the same next month. "It's a terrible situation," Fleetwood said. "It's going to hurt the travel industry, the hotels, the airlines, the restaurants."

Kevin Mitchell, who runs an advocacy group called the Business Travel Coalition, expects some worried corporate travelers to cancel trips to Europe.

"These companies have to continue to do business," he said, "but for some period of time they'll give employees a lot of leeway about traveling to Europe and Paris in particular."

Scary

It's not just Western visitors who might avoid Paris after the attacks. Egyptian college graduate Aya Sayed has always dreamed of strolling the streets of the City of Light.

"I would be too afraid to go because I don't want to be mistreated because of my headscarf or ethnicity," she said. "Who knows what they might do to us now?" Consumers with travel insurance that includes terrorism coverage can probably recover the cost of a trip to Paris, according to Squaremouth, a policy-comparison website. But even policies that cover terrorism may only apply to trips scheduled in the next week or month and might not apply to travel in other parts of France or Europe more broadly, a company spokeswoman said.

Wendy Perrin, who writes about consumer topics for TripAdvisor, encouraged people to keep traveling in a post on her Facebook page. "The answer is not to stop traveling... The answer is to keep traveling, to make friends around the world, to be a thoughtful ambassador for your country," she wrote.

Even travelers who go to Paris are likely to be in a less celebratory mood. On Saturday, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and other must-see attractions were closed until further notice, and the mood in the city was changed. Toronto residents Mark Hutchison and Ashleigh Marshall planned a big night out during a Paris stopover on their trip back home from Tanzania - "go to a restaurant, go to a bar, have a glass of wine," Hutchison said. Instead, they decided to hunker down in their hotel with a bottle of wine once the sun went down Saturday evening. — AP

PARIS SUICIDE VESTS MARK CHANGE OF TACTICS AND NEW THREAT

PARIS: The suicide vests used by Friday's attackers in Paris-a first in France-were made by a highly skilled professional who could still be at large in Europe, intelligence and security experts say.

All seven of the militants wore identical explosive vests and did not hesitate to blow themselves up-a worrying change of tactic for jihadists targeting France. Unlike the attacks in London in 2005 where the bombers' explosives were stored in backpacks, Friday's attackers used the sort of suicide vests normally associated with bombings in the Middle East.

"Suicide vests require a munitions specialist. To make a reliable and effective explosive is not something anyone can do," a former French intelligence chief told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. "A munitions specialist is someone who is used to handling explosives, who knows how to make them, to arrange them in a way that the belt or vest is not so unwieldy that the person can't move," he added. "And it must also not blow up by accident."

French authorities say the vests appeared to have been made with TATP, or acetone peroxide, that is easy for amateurs to make at home but is highly unstable. The vests also included a battery, a detonation button and shrapnel to maximize injuries. "They didn't bring these vests from Syria: the more you shake these things, the more you multiply

the risks," said the former intelligence chief.

"It's very likely he is here, in France or Europe, one or several guys who have come back from jihadist areas and who learned over there."

'Not cannon fodder'

Three specialists contacted by AFP said it was probable the vests were made by someone outside the group that carried out the attacks. "The explosive specialist is too precious. He never participates in attacks," said Alain Chouet, a former director at France's DGSE external intelligence agency.

"So he's around, somewhere." The bomb-maker is not cannon fodder," added Pierre Martinet, another former DGSE official who now works in corporate security.

"He's there to make more suicide vests and allow other guys to carry out actions."

Making a vest is extremely complicated. "It can't be done in a couple of days," said the former intelligence chief. "It takes weeks of training, and you have to work under the watch of a master. It's meticulous work."

On the eve of the UN global climate conference in the northern suburbs of Paris later this month, followed by New Year's celebrations and next year's Euro 2016 football championships, concerns are high. "It's extremely worrying," said the retired intelligence chief who asked not to be named.

"Every service is on tenterhooks." — AFP



PARIS: A French police officer patrols at the Sacre Coeur basilica in Paris yesterday. — AP

JUNCKER DEFENDS REFUGEE PLAN DESPITE PARIS ATTACKS

SYRIAN REFUGEES BRACE FOR BACKLASH

ANTALYA, Turkey: European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker firmly defended yesterday the EU's hotly-contested plan to redistribute refugees across Europe despite calls by Poland to scrap the scheme after the deadly attacks in Paris.

The EU's eastern-most members have been furious over the redistribution plan agreed in October, calling instead for a stronger EU outer-border, but Juncker warned against using the tragedy in Paris as means to roll it back.

"I would like to invite those in Europe who are trying to change the migration agenda we have adopted... to be serious about this and not to give in to these basic reactions. I don't like it," Juncker told reporters on the sidelines of the G20 leaders' meeting in Antalya, Turkey.

The fresh criticism of the plan emerged after officials in Greece said a Syrian passport found at the scene of the mass shooting in a Paris concert hall belonged to an asylum seeker who registered on a Greek island in October. Greek police did not rule out that the passport had changed hands before the attacks. Poland's incoming European Affairs Minister Konrad Szymanski led the charge against the EU saying that Warsaw no longer considered the plan as a "political possibility" in the light of the Paris attacks.

But Juncker said that "those who organised, who perpetrated the attacks are the very same people who the refugees are fleeing and not the opposite." And so there is no need for an overall review of the European

policy on refugees," Juncker said. The policy is also staunchly defended by Germany, which urged against any over-reaction after the events in Paris, as it deals with consequences of absorbing an expected one million asylum seekers this year.

"I would like to make this urgent plea to avoid drawing such swift links to the situation surrounding refugees," Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said in Germany on Saturday. Carefully shielding a lit candle against the cold pouring rain, Syrian refugee Ghaled, 22, had come to the French embassy in Berlin to pay tribute to victims of the Paris attacks.

"We are with them right now, just to help them with this crisis. What's happening to them is happening every day in Syria, 100 times per day for five years, so we know what that means," he told AFP. Ghaled was a student in dentistry in Damascus, but decided to leave the Syrian capital after seeing no end to the violence engulfing his homeland. Like tens of thousands of his fellow countrymen, he first risked his life crossing the Mediterranean in an inflatable boat, before trekking for 17 days to get to Germany five months ago.

But just as he began looking forward to rebuilding his life with German language classes which he hopes would help him return to dentistry school one day, Friday's attacks that killed 129 people in Paris have raised fears of a backlash in Europe. French police's discovery of a Syrian passport near the body of one attacker in particular has sparked concerns that some

of the assailants might have entered Europe as part of the huge influx of people fleeing Syria's civil war.

"It's a problem," said Ghaled, who urged against victimizing his countrymen, saying the attackers "are not Syrians" and that the passport link was simply make-believe.

"I think it's a big lie because all the area is destroyed, and just the passport is still ok? That's silly, really silly," he said, suggesting that the passport was either fake or had been planted "because they hate refugees... so many people hate Syrians". Another Syrian refugee, William, 24, who had also arrived in Germany five months ago, was equally anxious. "Many news speak about Syrians, police find Syrian passport. Of course I'm worried. It's not good," said the 24-year-old tourism student from the northern town of Hama.

"Syrians are not terrorists, we need life and peace for work," he said, adding that he wanted to return home once the war is over. Mouhanad Dawood, who had reached the EU through Italy before eventually seeking asylum in Germany 11 months ago, said his host country has been "very welcoming".

"People here understand not everyone are terrorists, a lot of people are running from terrorists, especially from IS," said the trained architect.

But he conceded that he was "a little bit" afraid that attitudes could change. "I have my family here now, I want to start my life here." To those who have doubts about Syrians after the French attacks, Dawood said: "A terrorist is a terrorist. It doesn't matter where they come from." In Germany, where a debate had already been raging before Paris attacks over the influx of asylum seekers expected to top a million this year, Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere came out quickly to counter any attempt at drawing a link between terrorists and migrants.

"I would like to make this urgent plea to avoid drawing such swift links to the situation surrounding refugees," de Maiziere said on Saturday following a crisis cabinet meeting. He said authorities would watch far-right extremists closely, noting there have already been in recent months "appalling scales of attacks against asylum seekers and asylum seeker shelters". Yesterday, the interior minister confirmed that security would be stepped up at asylum seeker shelters.

'Bombs falling like rain'

The anxiety was also palpable on social media among asylum seekers in Europe.

"Will yesterday night's attacks in Paris affect our lives as refugees?" asked one user on "Bus Stop for the Lost Ones", a Facebook page that is extremely popular among Arabic-speaking migrants taking the Balkan route to Europe. "Of course," replies another member.

"Curse the guy who blew himself up... Did he have to take his passport with him? He should have put it away somewhere and gone to hell," wrote Jalal Abazid on Facebook, a Syrian refugee in Germany. — AFP



PARIS: Imam of one of the Nimes Mosque, Hocine Drouiche (2nd R), French author Marek Halter (L), Imam of the Drancy Mosque, Hassene Chalhouni (C) and representative of the Jewish community gather at a makeshift memorial near the Bataclan concert hall in Paris yesterday. — AFP

UK MUSLIMS SEEK OWN PATH IN COUNTERING JIHADISM

LONDON: Feeling unfairly targeted by the government's anti-radicalisation drive, Britain's Muslim community is rallying to find its own response to extremism and take a greater role in the fight against terrorism. The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) has planned a series of conferences around the country where community leaders, activists and others will speak out against jihadist ideology, but also government security measures they say alienate Muslims.

"We do know that for any policy to succeed it needs to involve Muslim communities as part of the solution and not only as part of the problem," said MCB secretary general Shuja Shafi at the first of a series of conferences in London this week. The initiative comes as concerns mount over the number of Britons heeding calls by the Islamic State (IS) group and other extremists to launch attacks domestically or fight abroad. IS has been

blamed for a string of outrages, including coordinated attacks in Paris Friday that left 129 dead and more than 350 wounded.

Mohammed Emwazi, a British militant known as "Jihadi John", became the poster-child for IS after he appeared in propaganda videos depicting the executions of Western hostages. Emwazi, who the US military said was likely killed in an air strike in Syria on Thursday, and other jihadists who have conducted grisly attacks in recent years have cast a pall over ties between Britain's Muslims and wider society. "We feel like many in our community do, that for too long terrorism has cast a long dark shadow on our community," said Shafi. The government has repeatedly called on Muslim civil society to help counter the lure of jihadist ideology, but such measures have been poorly received.

A January letter to imams inviting

them to "explain and demonstrate how faith in Islam can be part of the British identity" was criticised as implying that Muslims were not part of British society.

'Culture of surveillance'

Conference delegates decried a government anti-extremism programme called "Prevent", which was launched after July 2005 suicide attacks in London by four Islamist extremists, three of them British-born. "Prevent is supposed to concern all types of extremism but all evidence shows that through training, reporting, the real focus is on Muslim students," said Shelly Asquith of the National Union of Students, who has campaigned against the programme.

Critics say it creates a "culture of surveillance", and since the start of the year local authorities, schools and universities have been required to report anyone showing signs of radicalisation.

In September, police questioned a Muslim schoolboy who used the word "ecoterrorist" in a discussion in French class about environmental activism.

"If you're genuinely concerned about engaging with the community then it cannot be done through the prism of securitisation, the prism of Prevent," said Yasmine Ahmed, director of UK Rights Watch. Former police chief superintendent Dal Babu, one of the few Muslims and Britons of Asian origin to achieve the rank, said Prevent was a "problem".

"We need to make sure that Prevent is for the people, by the people and has the trust of the people. Unfortunately we are not in that position."

Experts puzzled

One of the difficulties in preventing radicalisation is that the process is not well understood, conference speakers said. According to official figures, more

than 700 Britons have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq, and of those nearly 300 have returned.

"The reasons for radicalisation of these young people going to Syria are complex and multi-layered. There's still no consensus about what's going on," said Catriona Robertson, director of the Christian Muslim Forum. Social media has been cited by many as a key IS recruitment tool, but experts say it is difficult to take action against content that is mostly posted abroad.

Banning people from accessing such content is also difficult. "What is the tipping point? Why do young British citizens, despite everything we have to offer, suddenly decide to get up and go to Istanbul and end up in Syria?" said lawmaker Keith Vaz, chairman of parliament's home affairs committee. "The prime minister is genuinely puzzled by this—I'm genuinely puzzled."—AFP

ROMANIA PM-ELECT NAMES CABINET OF TECHNOCRATS

BUCHAREST: Romania's prime minister-designate yesterday named his Cabinet of mostly young professionals with management experience, after the former government collapsed following mass protests over a nightclub fire where at least 55 died.

Dacian Cioloș named his ministers, who will need to be approved by Parliament, later this week. Seven of the 22 posts are held by women.

The nomination of Cioloș, who named a government of technocrats, is a direct criticism of Romania's politicians who are perceived as being corrupt, arrogant and removed from the problems of ordinary people. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for late 2016. Parties indicated yesterday they will approve the government.

Former Prime Minister Victor Ponta, who was already on trial for corruption charges related to work as he did as a lawyer from 2007 to 2008, and his Cabinet resigned on Nov. 4 after tens of thousands protested the nightclub fire. Protesters say the

tragedy was because of lax fire regulations and corruption. Thousands continued to protest for several evenings, demanding better governance and an end to corruption.

Romania's ambassador to Britain, Mihnea Motoc, was named defense minister, while Cristina Guseth, director of the Freedom House Foundation, was picked as justice minister. "I want an efficient and professional team," said Cioloș, a former EU agriculture commissioner.

Cioloș named Anca Paliu Dragu, an economic analyst in the European Commission, as finance minister.

The most senior member of the Cabinet is Lazar Comanescu, 66, who began his career in the foreign ministry in 1972, and was formerly Romania's ambassador to Germany. Romanian police chief Petre Toba has been proposed as interior minister. Dan Marian Costescu, currently the CEO of Romania's national railways, CFR, has been named as transportation minister. — AP



YANGON: Representatives of political parties listen to Myanmar's President Thein Sein's speech at the Yangon Regional Government Office in Yangon yesterday.—AFP

MYANMAR PRESIDENT VOWS SMOOTH POWER TRANSITION

SUU KYI'S NLD WINS 80% OF ELECTED SEATS

YANGON: Myanmar's President Thein Sein yesterday said historic polls won in a thumping landslide by Aung San Suu Kyi's party were the consequence of his government's reforms and vowed a smooth transition of power. The former junta general, who shed his uniform to lead the country's quasi-civilian regime five years ago, said the November 8 polls were testament to the political and economic changes that have swept the former pariah state since the end of junta rule.

"The election is the result of our reform process and as we promised, we were able to hold it very successfully," he told a meeting of political parties in Yangon, in his first public appearance since the polls. "We will hand this process (of reform) on to a new government," he said, adding "don't worry about the transition" in comments aimed at calming nerves in the country's first attempt at a democratic-style transition for decades.

Addressing representatives of nearly 90 political parties, many of which were trounced by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, the Myanmar leader said elections are the "duty" of a democratic nation. He appeared sanguine about the resounding defeat of his army-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, which will slip into opposition

in the next parliament due to sit from February.

"The winning party is responsible for carrying out its duty and other opposition parties should provide checks and balances. That is called democracy," he said.

Poll rout

According to the latest official results released yesterday evening the NLD has won nearly 80 percent of elected seats in the combined parliament so far, with only a few seats left to call.

The USDP has just 8 percent while ethnic parties have around 11 percent. Election commission head Tin Aye told reporters in Naypyidaw that officials had tried to run a "free and fair" vote.

He added that out of 91 parties registered for the polls, only 11 would enter the legislature after the NLD rout. Thein Sein, a slight bespectacled 70-year-old, has steered the country's dramatic opening up after years of isolation, freeing political prisoners, unleashing a long-muzzled press and welcoming foreign investment.

Yesterday Sunday he listed tasks for the next government to tackle in the country, which still struggles with high poverty rates and poor education, infrastructure and healthcare after years of

junta neglect. These include national reconciliation, continuing efforts to end ethnic rebellions and pushing forward with development.

Key talks

Both the president and army chief have agreed to talks with Suu Kyi in the coming days as the country's political big-hitters look to negotiate the transition. Observers say it is imperative that Suu Kyi build friendly ties with the military elite, which retains significant political and economic power.

Suu Kyi has already travelled to the capital Naypyidaw, where today she will attend a last session of the old parliament, which will continue sitting as a caretaker legislature until January.

On Sunday she held talks with the parliament speaker Shwe Mann, a key USDP figure who was tipped as a favourite compromise candidate for president until he was ousted as head of his party by military-backed rivals, including Thein Sein in August. "She comforted me about the election and congratulated me on accepting the results swiftly," the speaker, who lost his constituency in the polls, said in a post on his official Facebook page. He said a more formal meeting between the two would take place on Thursday. —AFP

AT LEAST ONE MAN LINKED TO PARIS ATTACKS REGISTERED AS REFUGEE

ATHENS: Greek police on Saturday said at least one man with a possible connection to the Paris attacks had registered as a refugee with Greek authorities earlier this year. French authorities had asked their Greek counterparts to check the fingerprints of one man who died in the attacks, with a Syrian passport found next to him, in addition to the fingerprints of another man.

There were efforts to establish whether both had registered in Greece, the main entry point into Europe for Syrian refugees. The Greek minister for citizen protection, Nikos Toskas, said one of the men had been registered on the Greek island of Leros in October. "We confirm that the (Syrian) passport holder came through the Greek island of Leros on October 3 where he was registered under EU rules," he said a statement.

French police said the passport was found "near the body of one of the attackers" during the investigation into the main site of Friday's carnage, at the Bataclan concert hall where 89 people were killed. The authenticity of the passport was being checked, but its discovery indicates a possible Syrian connection in Friday night's violence, which also saw three suicide blasts outside the Stade de France and gun attacks on restaurants and cafes in Paris.

Greek police are not ruling out that the Syrian passport changed hands before the attacks. Separately, a Greek police source

said they had not yet matched the second person to refugee application records. This contradicted earlier information from a Greek police source who said the second man had also registered in Greece, with TV station Mega adding this was also on Leros in August.

European security officials have long feared that jihadists could take advantage of the mass migration influx, mainly from war-torn Syria, that Europe has been experiencing since the beginning of the year.

"It is clear now that together with the victims of Islamo-fascism in the Middle East that come as refugees, extreme elements are crossing to Europe," Defence Minister Panos Kammenos said after an emergency meeting with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

Greece's junior minister for migration Yiannis Mouzalas admitted in September that it would be "foolish" to completely discount the possibility of jihadists sneaking into Europe among the refugee wave. Over 800,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean to Europe this year, with over 3,400 dying in the process.

Tsipras on Saturday insisted that the refugees fleeing Syria "are hunted by the same terrorists" that struck in Paris on Friday. "We must find solutions to the drama of the people who leave their homes, hunted by the same terrorists, and drown in the Mediterranean," Tsipras said in a televised address. —AFP



A mother hugs her children after they disembarked from a boat on the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey yesterday. —AFP

EX-POLISH LEADER WALESA SLAMS PLAN TO DROP REFUGEE QUOTAS

BARCELONA: Former Polish leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa slammed plans yesterday by his country's incoming government to stop welcoming refugees under a hotly-contested EU plan due to the Paris attacks.

"I would categorically disagree with the position," he told AFP on the sidelines of a gathering of Nobel laureates in Barcelona. "Poles used to really enjoy help from other people and we have to be in solidarity with all those who are in need."

Poland's incoming European Affairs Minister Konrad Szymanski said Saturday that Warsaw no longer considered an EU plan to redistribute refugees across Europe as a "political possibility" in light of the Paris attacks that left at least 129 people dead. The program-long criticized by the EU's eastern-most members has come under fresh criticism after officials said a Syrian passport found at the scene of one of the attacks belonged to an asylum seeker who registered on a Greek island in October.

"I personally am in favor of assisting the migrants and helping them," said Walesa, whose Solidarity opposition movement triggered the peaceful demise of communism in Poland in 1989.

"But on the other hand, our major help should be focusing on helping to overcome war in their countries of origin. "Until these are ended, we need to help them survive and be sheltered in our country," the 72-year-old said.

Walesa, who in 1990 became Poland's first democratically elected president since World

War II, has made contrasting comments on the flow of refugees entering Europe—many of them fleeing war in Syria.

He said yesterday that he had noted some of the refugees trekking across Europe towards countries-of-choice Germany and Sweden were "better dressed, they seemed to be better taken care of than myself." And while he insisted on the fact that people must help one another, he questioned why they were not staying home to

fight for their country.

"When martial law was introduced in Poland I was invited to different places around the world, I had open invitations but I decided to stay on and not to leave," he said, referring to the early 1980s in Poland when the communist government tried to crush opposition, arresting Walesa and other dissidents. "I can understand women, children fleeing, but males should be there to fight," he said. —AFP



BARCELONA: Polish 1983 Nobel peace laureate Lech Walesa attends during the XV World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Barcelona on Saturday.—AP

SOUTH KOREA VOWS NO TOLERANCE AFTER VIOLENT PROTEST IN SEOUL

SEOUL: The South Korean government vowed yesterday to crack down on any more violent protests, a day after dozens were arrested during a rally against labour reforms, the largest street protest of President Park Geun-hye's term. Organizers say they will take to the streets again on Dec 5.

More than 60,000 people took part in Saturday's protest, according to police, and a group of a few dozen fought with the police at the front line, trying to break through barricades of police buses blocking off downtown Seoul's main thoroughfare. Police used water can-

nons to disperse the crowd and sprayed liquid laced with an irritant found in chilli pepper to fight off protesters swinging metal pipes and sharpened bamboo sticks.

"The government was fully prepared to guarantee a lawful and peaceful rally, but some people came prepared with illegal equipment such as steel pipes and conducted a violent protest," Justice Minister Kim Hyun-woong told a news conference. "These activities were a grave challenge to law and order and public authority, and they will not be tolerated."

The police arrested 51 people and are questioning them on various charges including illegal protest, assaulting police officers and destroying public equipment.

The police said about 10 protesters were injured, including a member of a militant farm activist group who was knocked down by a water canon blast. He was in stable condition after emergency surgery on Sunday, a police official said.

Some of the country's most militant labor and activist groups were involved in the protests, including Han Sang-

gyun, the president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, who is wanted under a warrant for organizing previous illegal rallies.

"It was led by some of the most organised elements- labour, farm, anti-poverty activists, which was a little different from when there was more public participation," said Yu Chang-seon, an independent political commentator.

Protestors say the labor reforms benefit only the country's huge family-controlled conglomerates, and make it easier to fire workers. Park, who had left earlier on Saturday for Turkey to take part in

the summit of G20 nations, has seen her public support ratings fall recently over a decision to replace privately published school history textbooks with a government version.

The protests do not, however, appear to pose an immediate threat to Park or her conservative Saenuri Party, which is well ahead in opinion polls, scoring 39 percent in a Gallup survey of 1,012 people released on Friday, while the largest opposition party, New Politics Alliance for Democracy, polled 22 percent. Parliamentary elections take place next April. — Reuters

US'S PELOSI VOICED SUPPORT FOR DALAI LAMA DURING CHINA VISIT

SHANGHAI: Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, enjoys strong support in the United States, Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi told Chinese officials during a visit this week to the Himalayan region, while expressing concern about human rights there.

Pelosi, a long-time critic of China's human rights record, was leading a senior US Congressional delegation on a rare visit to Tibet, which China has ruled with an iron fist since 1950, when it was "peacefully liberated" by communist forces. The delegation met senior government officials, including communist party boss Chen Quanguo, Pelosi said in a statement. "The delegation reiterated the imperative of respect for religious freedom and expression in Tibet," she added.

"We also conveyed to the Chinese government officials the strong, bipartisan support the Dalai Lama enjoys in the Congress of the United States and among the American people."

The delegation, the first Congressional delegation Chinese authorities have allowed to enter Tibet since widespread unrest in 2008, also expressed concern over the recent arrests and detentions of human rights lawyers and activists in China. "America has a

responsibility to stand up for human rights at home and abroad," said Jim McGovern, the chairman of a Congress Human Rights Commission, who accompanied Pelosi.

"Human rights in China, and Tibet in particular, continue to be an area of grave concern," he said in a statement. The official Tibet Daily had said Pelosi praised the huge changes that had taken place in Tibet and the hard work of the Chinese government in protecting religious freedom and cultural practices.

China's Foreign Ministry has described the Tibet visit, which was not formally announced ahead of time, as "a normal exchange between the US and Chinese legislatures".

Rights groups and exiles say China tramples on the cultural and religious rights of Tibet's Buddhist people. China denies this, saying it has brought much needed development to what was a backward region. Pelosi has regularly spoken out about human rights issues in Tibet and has met the Dalai Lama, whom Beijing reviles as a violent separatist. The Nobel peace laureate says he simply wants real autonomy for Tibet. — Reuters



MANILA: Chile President Michelle Bachelet arrives at Manila International Airport yesterday. — AFP

OBAMA SET TO CHALLENGE CHINA AT APEC SUMMIT

MANILA: US President Barack Obama is set to challenge China when Asia-Pacific leaders gather in the Philippines this week, speaking out on a territorial row and lobbying to set pro-American trade rules. Chinese President Xi Jinping will also be in Manila for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, an annual event that is meant to forge unity on free trade within the region.

But this year's meeting risks becoming entangled in various US-China power struggles, including over the South China Sea where Chinese island building in disputed waters has caused alarm in the United States and with its Asian allies.

The global menace of terrorism will also be an unwanted talking point after gunmen massacred more than 120 people in a series of coordinated attacks in Paris on Friday.

Philippine authorities had already undertaken their biggest security operation for the summit, which will gather leaders from 21 Pacific Rim economies on Wednesday and Thursday, but they vowed after the French carnage to do even more. While China said it wanted the summit to focus only on trade, the French attacks and US attention on the South China Sea showed this was unrealistic, according to Curtis S. Chin, a former US ambassador to the Manila-based Asian Development Bank.

"One cannot separate the economic and the non-economic in today's interconnected world," Chin, now an Asia fellow of the Milken Institute, a non-partisan think-tank, told AFP.

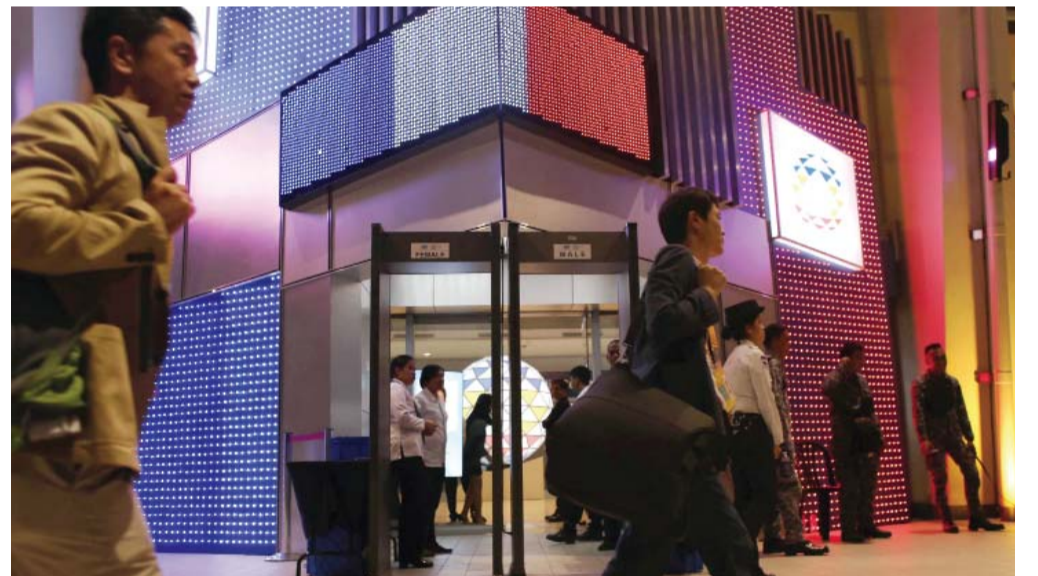
"That's as true in the battle against ISIS (Islamic State group) as in the search for a peaceful resolution to the many territorial disputes with China that haunt development in the South China Sea."

Sovereign rights

China insists it has sovereign rights to nearly all of the sea, even waters approaching the coasts of its Asian neighbors. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims to some of the waters, which are home to some of the world's most important shipping trade routes.

China's island building in the Spratlys archipelago, which is close to the Philippines, prompted the US military to recently deploy a missile destroyer and B-52 bomber planes to the area.

China had insisted repeatedly in the lead-up to the summit that the South China Sea dispute was not relevant to the trade talks. But US National Security Advisor



MANILA: Journalists walk past the main entrance of the International Media Center of the upcoming APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit of Leaders which is lit with the colors of the French national flag in solidarity with the French people following Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris yesterday in Manila. — AP

Susan Rice said the dispute would be a "central issue" during Obama's three-day trip to the Philippines starting on Tuesday, and a subsequent visit to Malaysia for another regional summit.

Rice also emphasised Obama would raise the issues of "maritime security" and "freedom of navigation", terms commonly used when referring to the dispute.

The Philippines, which has hauled China before a United Nations tribunal over the row, initially promised to respect that demand.

But in his first press conference as official APEC spokesperson on Friday, Philippine foreign ministry spokesman Charles Jose talked at length about China's "aggressive" actions in the sea. Jose also said that, while the issue was not on the official agenda, leaders may discuss it at their retreat, one of the summit's key events where the delegates speak less formally.

Promoting trade deals

Obama will also use both legs of his Asian trip to promote the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) mega-trade deal, which was signed last month by 12 APEC nations but excludes China.

BRITAIN'S PRINCE CHARLES WRAPS UP AUSTRALIA VISIT

SYDNEY: Britain's Prince Charles and wife Camilla wrapped up their tour of Australia and New Zealand in Perth yesterday, attending a church service with prayers for victims of the Paris attacks.

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, who have been touring Australia for six days, joined hundreds of parishioners at St George Cathedral in Western Australia's capital in the morning. Charles on Saturday spoke of the "total horror" of the Paris attacks as he led a crowd at a beach barbecue event in a minute's silence for the victims.

The heir to the throne, an admirer of heritage architecture, later officially opened several 140-year-old state buildings near the cathedral, which have been converted into a hotel, restaurants and shops. "For quite a large part of my life,

I've tried to help find new uses for historic buildings," he said.

"So many of them convert brilliantly for other uses, so I'm thrilled to see this building being put to such wonderful use." The couple concluded their visit at the State War Memorial in Kings Park, days after attending a Remembrance Day ceremony in Canberra.

Charles' time in Australia was marked by revived debate about whether the country's citizens were ready to dump the monarchy, particularly after staunch republican Malcolm Turnbull became prime minister. Turnbull, who ousted fervent royalist Tony Abbott in a party coup in mid-September, recently removed knights and dames from Australia's national honours system, calling it "not appropriate" in the modern age. — AFP



PERTH: Britain's Prince Charles (C) and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall (L) pay their respects with West Australian Premier Colin Barnett (R) at the Flame of Remembrance during a visit to Kings Park in Perth. — AFP

TURKEY CANCELS \$3.4BN MISSILE DEAL WITH CHINA

ANTALYA: Turkey has cancelled a multi-billion-dollar deal with China to build its first anti-missile system that had alarmed Ankara's allies in NATO, a Turkish official said yesterday. "The deal was cancelled," the official from Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's office told AFP.

"One of the main reasons is that we will launch our own national missile project," added the official. The news came as Turkey hosted key Western allies including US President Barack Obama but also Chinese leader Xi Jinping for the summit of G20 top executives in the Mediterranean resort of Antalya. Turkey entered negotiations in 2013 with the China Precision Machinery Export-Import Corporation (CPMIEC) to finalise a contract worth \$3.4 billion (3 billion euros).

French-Italian consortium Eurosam and US-listed Raytheon Co had also submitted offers but the government had prioritised talks with the Chinese company, which raised serious concerns over the compatibility of CPMIEC's systems with NATO missile

defenses. NATO has said missile systems within the alliance must be compatible with each other while calling on Turkey to take

this factor into account. Turkish government sources said an official announcement was expected next week. — AFP



SHANGHAI: A building near the site of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo is lit up in the colors of the French national flag to mourn for the victims killed in Friday's attacks in Paris, at a district of Shanghai, China Saturday. — AP

N KOREA PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE MISSILE LAUNCH

SEOUL: North Korea has declared a no-sail zone off its east coast in a sign it could be preparing a missile launch, Yonhap news agency reported yesterday. The warning covers all movement of ships from Nov. 11 to Dec. 7 for an area off the North's central coast, the agency said, quoting an unnamed government source.

"We are observing closely whether North Korea will launch a Scud missile or a new model of ballistic missile because the area under the warning is quite vast," a government source was quoted as saying by Yonhap.

The Scud is a short-range missile initially developed by the Soviet Union. South Korea's defence ministry declined to confirm whether a no-sail warning had been issued. The prohibited area is near the eastern port city of Wonsan where leader Kim Jong Un's family compounds are located, according to media reports. The North has previously declared a no-sail zone without launching a missile. The country is under UN sanctions for its previous ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests. — Reuters

FLOOD-SPARKED LANDSLIDE KILLS 16 IN CHINA

BEIJING: A landslide that engulfed homes in China killed at least 16 people, with 21 still missing, as heavy rains brought misery across a swathe of the country. Photos posted on Sina Weibo, a Chinese version of Twitter, showed rescue teams working through the night as they attempted to pull people from mud and rock that had buried 27 houses in Zhejiang province.

More than 300 people were evacuated after the landslide, with 21 additional homes flooded in the wake of the disaster, which struck on Friday evening, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Meanwhile, the central province of Hunan was hit by the worst winter flooding in more than 50 years, the official Xinhua news agency reported, forcing thousands to flee. About 8,200 people were resettled after their homes were destroyed in the flooding, according to Xinhua, with more than 87,000 people affected by the waters, which caused blackouts and road closures.

The flooding, which has also damaged crops, was the worst since record keeping began in 1961, provincial weather authorities said. No casualties have been reported so far. Floods are likely to continue, with heavy rains expected through Wednesday, Xinhua said. Photos circulating online showed rescue personnel driving boats through village streets and helping residents escape through their windows. Waters were more than three metres over the alert level on Friday, Xinhua said. — AFP



PARIS: A bird flies in front of the Eiffel Tower yesterday, which remained closed on the first of three days of national mourning.— AP

WORLD LEADERS UNITE TO CONDEMN PARIS...

Continued from Page 1

Russia launched its own Syrian air campaign in September but the West suspects the Russian bombardment is aimed at propping up the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad, a difference that risks driving a wedge through the summit. European Union President Donald Tusk told reporters that Russian actions in Syria must be focused on Islamic State and not the anti-Assad opposition.

The summit saw the first encounter between Obama and Putin since Russia launched its Syrian air campaign. Their icy body language at previous encounters has grabbed as many headlines as their comments. A White House official said Obama and Putin agreed on the need for UN-sponsored peace talks and a ceasefire to resolve years of war in Syria. The two leaders spoke during a short and unannounced summit meeting over a coffee table. "President Obama and President Putin agreed on the need for a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, which would be preceded by UN-mediated negotiations between the Syrian opposition and regime as well as a ceasefire," the official told reporters after the meeting.

The two "held a constructive discussion" that lasted about 35 minutes, the official added, calling the need for a solution for Syria "an imperative made all the more urgent by the horrifying terrorist attacks in Paris". The official, who wished to remain anonymous, said Obama welcomed efforts by all nations to confront Islamic State jihadists in Syria amid Western suspicions that Russia's intervention is really aimed at propping up Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

A top Kremlin official said that while Moscow and Washington shared "strategic objectives" to fight Islamic State, divergences still existed. "Differences on tactics still

remain," Putin's foreign policy advisor Yuri Ushakov told reporters on the sidelines of the summit. Obama also offered his "deep condolences for the loss of Russian life" in the bombing of a Metrojet passenger flight in Egypt killing all 224 people on board in Russia's worst air disaster.

Erdogan used the summit to cement his status as a global leader after winning a resounding victory in an election last month, held three weeks after a twin suicide bombing in Ankara that killed 102 people and was blamed on Islamic State militants. All musical events, including at the official dinner yesterday night, have been cancelled as a mark of respect for the Paris victims and Turkish state media said the already tight security at the summit was stepped up. Turkey is deeply opposed to Russia's air strikes but has received only a lukewarm reaction so far to its proposal for a safe zone free of Islamic State jihadists to be created inside Syria as a haven for refugees. Top diplomats gathered in Vienna on Saturday agreed a fixed calendar for Syria that would see a transition government in six months and elections in 18 months but failed to agree on the future of Assad. The refugee crisis is a key topic at the summit here, with Turkey housing some 2.2 million Syrian refugees from the conflict but the European Union urging Ankara to do more to prevent migrants undertaking risky boat crossings to the EU.

European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker warned that the attacks in Paris should in no way poison the sensitive debate over refugees. "Those who organised, who perpetrated the attacks are the very same people who the refugees are fleeing and not the opposite," Juncker said. Discussions on climate change will assume greater importance than usual coming just ahead of a UN conference in Paris that aims to agree a global pact to curb warming of the planet. — Agencies

THREE BROTHERS TIED TO PARIS ATTACKS

Continued from Page 1

Greek and Serbian authorities have confirmed the passport belonged to a man who registered as a refugee in October on the island of Leros and applied for asylum in Serbia a few days later.

But European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who has urged EU countries to take in refugees, said there was no need for a complete review of the bloc's policies. "Those who organized, who perpetrated the attacks are the very same people who the refugees are fleeing and not the opposite," he said.

Paris was plunged into three days of mourning as residents struggled to come to terms with the latest shock, 10 months after jihadists hit satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a Jewish supermarket. Although much of the city was shut and the government had banned public demonstrations on security grounds, thousands flocked to lay flowers and lit candles at the sites of the violence.

By early evening, the Place de la Republique square was full of people standing in quiet solidarity while many more

joined a solemn memorial at Notre Dame cathedral. Meanwhile, outside the Bataclan venue, 38-year-old Herve came to pay his respects with his six-year-old son. "We need to get out, you shouldn't stay at home," he told AFP. "You need to go out and look, get a feel for yourself of what happened."

The Islamic State group said they carried out the attacks that left a trail of destruction. The group said they were acting in revenge for French air strikes in Syria and threatened further violence in France "as long as it continues its Crusader campaign". President Francois Hollande has called the assault an "act of war" and vowed to hit back "without mercy". Forensic teams were still scouring the Bataclan venue, where three attackers burst in shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) and sprayed gunfire during a gig by Californian band Eagles of Death Metal. They are believed to have executed hostages one by one after rounding them up near the stage. Videos have shown terrified people scrambling out of a door and hanging out of windows to escape the violence. As armed police stormed the venue, two gunmen blew themselves up, while the third was shot by police. — AFP

UNVEILED IRAN DRIVERS TO HAVE CARS...

Continued from Page 1

But in some upmarket neighborhoods of northern Tehran, a city of 12 million, it is not uncommon to see women's scarves wrapped around their shoulders. "A number of officials, army and government chiefs and covert police agents have been given access to a system set up to report the violations," Montazer-ol-Mehdi said of the latest campaign. "These trustees will report the license plate of violators and the cars will be flagged for further investigation."

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei accused fast-driving wealthy youngsters in April of creating "psychological insecurity" on the streets after two high-speed accidents killed five people. "I hear that young people from the generation of wealth, a generation intoxicated by their money, are driving luxury cars and parading in the streets, making the streets insecure," he said, quoted by his website.

Meanwhile, Iranian authorities have arrested administrators of more than 20 groups on the messaging app Telegram for spreading "immoral content", semi-official Fars news agency reported yesterday, the latest detentions in a clampdown on freedom of expression. In recent weeks, Iran's powerful headline Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has rounded up a number of artists, journalists and US citizens, citing fears of Western "infiltration".

Their campaign coincides with Iran beginning the implementation of a nuclear deal signed with world powers in July, which hardliners oppose for fear it will open up Iranian society to what they see as corrupting Western influences. The Telegram groups were targeted for their "immoral content", Montazer-ol-Mehdi was quoted as saying by Fars. He also said more than 100 "hackers" had been arrested in the past month, without giving more details.

Telegram's Chief Executive Pavel Durov said last month that Iranian authorities had demanded he hand over "spying and censorship tools", and temporarily blocked the app when he refused. He was later informed by Iran's Ministry of Information that the request was "not authorized by any higher authorities". The IRGC announced the Telegram users' arrests last week, saying they had shared images and text "insulting to Iranian officials" as well as "satire and sexual advice". At the time, the judiciary denied any such arrests had occurred. It has not commented on Sunday's reports.

Last week, UN human rights investigators called on the authorities to cease arresting, harassing and prosecuting journalists and other activists to pave the way for free debate ahead of parliamentary elections in February. Under the nuclear deal, Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear program in exchange for an easing of sanctions on its economy. Iran always denied Western suspicions it wanted to develop a nuclear weapon.

Smartphone messaging applications are highly popular in Iran, where half of the population is aged 24 or younger. The Islamic Republic has some of the strictest controls on Internet access in the world, but its blocks on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are routinely bypassed by the tech-savvy. Several branches of the security establishment monitor content, including the IRGC. Infractions on social media can result in harsh sentences from the headline judiciary. Last year, 11 people were arrested by the IRGC for insulting Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic Republic's founder, on messaging services WhatsApp, Tango, Viber and Telegram. Telegram, which was launched in 2013, has become popular among activists and ordinary Iranians because it is seen as being more secure than its rivals.— Agencies



ANTALYA: US President Barack Obama poses for photographs along with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud during a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit yesterday. — AFP

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• Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaeel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

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People huddle together at a memorial set up along a police cordon close to the Bataclan concert hall yesterday, two days after a series of deadly attacks. —AFP

STARC BOWLS FASTEST EVER TEST DELIVERY

PERTH: Australian paceman Mitchell Starc bowled what is believed to be the fastest delivery in Test cricket history yesterday on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth. Starc joined an exclusive club with a sizzling delivery, with the fourth ball of his 21st over clocked at 160.4 kilometres per hour (99.7 mph). Only four other fast bowlers have officially been recorded to have bowled at more than 160 kilometres per hour, but none of those deliveries were in Test cricket. Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar holds the record with a 161.3 kilometres per hour thunderbolt in a one-day match against England at Newlands in 2003. Australian pair Shaun Tait and Brett Lee were both recorded at 161.1 kilometres per hour, in separate limited overs matches. The only other bowler to reach the mark was Australian firebrand Jeff Thomson at 160.6 kilometres per hour, when he was clocked during a study into fast bowling at the WACA Ground in 1976. Thomson is widely considered the fastest bowler in cricket history. Starc's delivery was a yorker dug out by Kiwi batsman Ross Taylor. On the very next ball, Taylor edged an attempted drive to gully, where a tough chance was grassed by Mitchell Marsh. — AFP

BROBERG WINS BMW MASTERS IN PLAYOFF

SHANGHAI: Sweden's Kristoffer Broberg sank a 10-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole against Patrick Reed to capture his first European Tour title at the BMW Masters yesterday. Broberg and Reed both finished regulation at 17-under 271 after a momentum-shifting afternoon that saw five players briefly share the lead on the back nine. Both had a chance to clinch the win on the 18th hole in regulation, too, but left their birdie putts short from 10 feet out.

Two other title contenders, Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee and South Korea's An Byeong-hun, also barely missed birdie putts on the 18th to get into the playoff. Reed surged into a share of the lead with an eagle from the bunker on the par-5 15th, then birdied the 16th hole to move one stroke clear of Broberg. The American slipped up on the next hole, however, missing a 4-footer for par that just caught the edge of the hole and curled away. Broberg hit his tee shot in the playoff straight down the fairway for an easy approach to the pin, while Reed landed in the rough off the tee and dropped his second shot in the bunker.

"All you can ask for is to have a chance come down late yesterday and I've put myself in that position quite a bit recently and unfortunately haven't gotten in the winner's circle," Reed said. "It hurts, but at the same time, I know what I'm working on right now is definitely the right thing because I'm moving in the right direction. Just have to close one out."

Broberg has been runner-up three times on the European Tour over the past three years, but had yet to have a breakthrough win. Thongchai (71) and An (70) finished in a share of third place with Henrik Stenson (68) and Lucas Bjerregaard (70) at 16 under, while Justin Rose (67) and Paul Casey (69) were another stroke back in joint-seventh.

Slump down

Sergio Garcia, who briefly had a share of the lead on the back nine, slumped down the stretch with a bogey and double bogey on his final two holes. He finished in a tie for 11th place after shooting a 73.

Bjerregaard had the early lead yesterday after making back-to-back birdies to start his round, but fell back after making costly mistakes on his approach shots on No. 8 and 12, leading to bogeys.

2015年BMW



SHANGHAI: Kristoffer Broberg of Sweden reacts while holding his champion trophy during the award ceremony of the BMW Masters golf tournament at the Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai, China yesterday. — AP

Broberg caught him first, followed by Casey after tapping in for birdie on the par-5 No. 13. Moments later, Garcia made it a four-way tie at the top with a 25-foot eagle putt on the same hole. Then, after Broberg holed a birdie on the 14th to take the outright lead at 17 under, Reed came out of nowhere to join him with a beautiful iron shot from the bunker on the 15th that bounced once and rolled straight into the hole for eagle.

Play was halted on Sunday during the final round of the BMW Masters golf tournament in Shanghai to observe a moment of silence for the victims of Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris.

At noon, tournament officials blew the horns on the course, normally used to halt play to inclement weather, and all the players stopped momentarily, took off their hats and bowed their heads for a minute of silence.

"You realize there's so much things more important than golf, for sure," said France's Benjamin Hebert, who wore a white hat with the words "Pray for Paris" written on it. "You wake up in the morning and you see that on Internet and TV and it's just wow, it's happened already this year, and you just don't understand. "But you can't stop living, actually, and that's the thing in France, we won't stop living." — AP

F1 DRIVERS TO WEAR BLACK ARMBANDS FOR PARIS VICTIMS

SAO PAULO: Drivers will wear black armbands as a tribute to the victims of the deadly Paris attacks when they are presented to Formula One fans before yesterday's Brazilian Grand Prix. A flatbed truck carrying drivers around the track on the normally joyous parade lap will also be decorated with a French flag with a black ribbon, according to changes made by the sport's governing International Automobile Federation (FIA), Paris-based and led by Frenchman Jean Todt. However, a planned minute's silence before the race will be billed as a tribute to road traffic victims rather than the 129 people killed in the Paris attacks on Friday night. Sunday is the United Nations' World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Todt, who has made road safety a cornerstone of his presidency, drew media criticism on Saturday for his reaction when he spoke to French television station Canal Plus about the events in Paris. "One can only suffer when you see a drama like that, one can only think of all the victims and hope that it never happens again," he said. "We have already planned to do something tomorrow to mark the day of remembrance for road traffic victims. Every day, there are 3,500 people who die on the roads, that's 30 times more than the number who died in the attacks." All major sporting events in the Paris region were suspended on Saturday as France mourned the victims of the attacks in the capital city the night before. The targets included the national sports stadium where France were playing Germany in a soccer friendly. Romain Grosjean, the only French driver in the race, made his position clear. — Reuters

LONG, O'SHEA BOOST FOR IRISH EURO HOPES

LONDON: Republic of Ireland boss Martin O'Neill received a major boost ahead of today's Euro 2016 showdown with Bosnia-Herzegovina when Shane Long and John O'Shea resumed training. The pair, who missed the first leg in Zenica on Friday through a combination of injury and suspension, were joined by striker Jonathan Walters, who like O'Shea, was suspended for the 1-1 draw. Daryl Murphy, who led the line in Long's absence in the first leg, was the only man to sit out the warm-up. O'Neill will hope Sunderland defender O'Shea, who has not played since damaging a hamstring in the north-east derby against Newcastle two weeks ago, and Southampton striker Long, who limped out of the 2-1 defeat in Poland on October 11 with a foot problem, are both available as the campaign draws to a close at Dublin's Aviva Stadium. Robbie Brady's strike in Bosnia handed the Republic a precious away goal, meaning a 0-0 draw or any victory will be enough to book their trip to France next year. — AFP



NAIROBI: In this Tuesday, Sept 1, 2015 file photo, traditional Maasai dancers welcome some of Kenya's athletics medallists back at the airport in Nairobi, Kenya. An IAAF spokesman told The Associated Press in an emailed statement yesterday that it had alerted its ethics commission to allegations made by British newspaper The Sunday Times against David Okeyo, who is also a vice president of Kenya's athletics federation. — AP

IAAF REFERS KENYAN OFFICIAL OKEYO TO ETHICS COMMISSION

LONDON: The IAAF has referred Athletics Kenya vice-president David Okeyo to the organisation's ethics commission after the Sunday Times revealed he had been questioned by police in Kenya over claims of corruption.

Okeyo, a member of the IAAF ruling council, is alleged, along with two other officials, to have syphoned off funds from a sponsorship deal between the national association and multinational sportswear giant Nike. "An investigation by The Sunday Times and the German broadcaster ARD/WDR has uncovered a sworn affidavit in which a whistleblower claimed that the officials syphoned close to \$700,000 (650,000 euros) out of the federation's bank account, most of it in cash. He says he reported his concerns to the police," the Sunday Times said.

The newspaper added that a case file on the alleged corruption has been handed to Kenya's Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions. The allegations came as news to the IAAF, whose newly-elected president

Sebastian Coe has come in for intense criticism for retaining his role as an ambassador for Nike.

"The IAAF was not aware of the investigation into Mr Okeyo in Kenya and the information has immediately been passed on to the independent IAAF Ethics Commission," the International Association of Athletics Federations said in a statement.

"As part of the root and branch governance reform project that Sebastian Coe has announced, there will be new processes introduced to ensure all persons appointed to IAAF Commissions and advisory groups in the future have been duly vetted and declared as 'fit and proper persons' to hold office.

"Over 200 people were due to be appointed to new Commissions and advisory groups at the Council meeting at the end of this month but their appointment will now be delayed until the new procedures are in place."

Okeyo denies any wrongdoing, but the investigation

heaps further embarrassment on the IAAF, which on Friday provisionally suspended Russia from all competition after a report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) alleged the country had been involved in state-sponsored doping.

Former IAAF president Lamine Diack, his son Papa Massata Diack, advisor Habib Cisse and the former IAAF anti-doping chief Gabriel Dolle are all being investigated by French police over allegations they were complicit in covering up Russian doping, allegations they deny. The Sunday Times reported a response from Nike, in which a spokesman for the firm said it had acted with "integrity" in its dealings with AK and that the "expectation and understanding" of the AK sponsorship deal was that the funds would be "used to support and service the teams and athletes".

The spokesman added that Nike was co-operating with the local authorities in their investigation. — AFP

EVERGREEN THONGCHAI HAILS 'FANTASTIC WEEK'

SHANGHAI: Overnight leader Thongchai Jaidee fell three inches from a playoff in the BMW Masters yesterday but the veteran still called it a "fantastic week".

He left a 15-foot putt on the final green agonisingly short when a couple of more rolls would have taken him into sudden death finale against Patrick Reed and eventual winner Kristoffer Broberg in the \$7 million event. The 46-year-old from Thailand was chasing his eighth European Tour title, and second of the season, when he teed off his final round at Lake Malaren in the lead at 15 under par.

His strength all week-finding fairways and rock solid putting-let him down early in Sunday's final round as his worst round of the tournament, a one-under 71, left him in a four-way tie for third at 16 under par. "Yes I was struggling with putting on the front nine. And the last putt was just a bit short to get into the playoff," Thongchai reflected. "For me, I think very good week anyway," he added. "My week is fantastic week. If I don't win then it's because a lot of guys played well." The ex-Thai army paratrooper revealed he will make a quick dash back to Thailand on Monday from Shanghai and then will fly to Dubai late Monday from Bangkok, getting in Tuesday morning.

"We have to go back home for tomorrow, stay a couple hours at home and then fly over at midnight from Bangkok to Dubai, probably land Tuesday morning," he told AFP.

"I will spend a little bit of time with my family so I think that's a good plan to make." At an age when many players are looking forward to the senior tour, Thongchai seems to be competing, and beating, many of his younger opponents every week. He won the European Open in Cologne in September for his seventh victory on the European Tour and made his Presidents Cup debut just a couple of weeks later.

Next week will be his 316th start on the European

Tour and his powers show no sign of diminishing. He moved up to eighth in the European Tour's Race to Dubai standings from 11th before the BMW Masters with just next week's DP World Tour Championship remaining. He also looks likely to break into the

world's top 30 for the first time in his career as a result when the new rankings are announced Monday. He is currently 32nd. "This year is going to be a fantastic year for me I think," said Thongchai. "I think I have a pretty good year." — AFP



SINGAPORE: In this handout photograph taken and received from the Asian Tour, Danthai Boonma of Thailand posing with the trophy after winning the World Classic Championship at Laguna National Golf and Country Club in Singapore. — AFP

DJOKOVIC ROUTS NISHIKORI IN TOUR FINALS OPENER

LONDON: Novak Djokovic made a flying start to his bid for a record fourth successive ATP Tour Finals title as the defending champion routed Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-1, 6-1 yesterday.

Djokovic has arrived at London's O2 Arena hoping to win the prestigious season-ending event for a fifth time and in the process become the first player to lift the trophy four years in a row.

The world number one showed why he is the firm favourite to do just that, demolishing Nishikori in 65 minutes in the tournament's opening match to record his 23rd successive win and his 79th victory in 84 matches this year.

With two more group ties remaining against six-time champion Roger Federer and Tomas Berdych, who meet later on Sunday, Djokovic's stroll by the banks of the River Thames was a significant statement of intent to his rivals for the title. Djokovic has dominated to such an extent over the last 11 months that the sport's big four, previously comprised of the Serb, Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy

Murray, has been reduced to a one-man show. Even by Djokovic's 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 pre-eminent force with one of the best single seasons in the Open era.

The 28-year-old has amassed 10 titles, including the Australian and US Opens, Wimbledon and a record six Masters tournaments. Since losing to Roger Federer in the Cincinnati final in August, Djokovic has been unbeatable and Nishikori never came close to inflicting his first Tour Finals defeat in 15 matches.

Frustrating

Just before the match started, Djokovic and Nishikori joined the capacity 17,500 crowd in a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the horrific Paris attacks, with the French flag displayed on screens above and around the court. Unaffected by that sombre opening, Djokovic set about dismantling Nishikori in typically relentless fashion



LONDON: Serbia's Novak Djokovic holds the trophy of the ATP World No 1 Award after it was presented to him following his men's singles group stage match against Japan's Kei Nishikori on day one of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament in London yesterday. Djokovic won the match 6-1, 6-1. — AFP

and landed the first blow with a break in the second game. Nishikori, ranked eighth in the world, is making his second appearance at the Tour Finals after marking his maiden entry last year with a run to the last four. He famously enjoyed a shock win over Djokovic when they met in the 2014 US Open semi-finals. But the 25-year-old has been unable to build on that success during a frustrating year that reached its lowest ebb with an embarrassing US Open first round exit.

Djokovic was hardly the ideal opponent for Nishikori to play himself back into form and, seeming completely overwhelmed, he contributed to his own downfall with a host of unforced errors as the Serb broke again in the sixth game before closing out the first set.

Too quick for Nishikori in mind and deed, Djokovic kept up the pressure and broke in the first game of the second set. Djokovic pressed home his advantage with one more break for a 4-1 lead and quickly served out his 38th consecutive indoor match victory. — AFP



PRAGUE: Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a ball to Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic during the International Tennis Federation Fed Cup final match between Czech Republic and Russia yesterday in Prague. — AFP

SHARAPOVA BEATS KVITOVA TO PUT RUSSIA AHEAD

PRAGUE: Maria Sharapova took Russia within a point of winning the Fed Cup after coming back from a set down to beat Petra Kvitova in a tense final rubber in Prague yesterday. In a clash of the teams' number-one players, Sharapova, the world number four, edged sixth-ranked Kvitova 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 in two and a half hours. Karolina Pliskova is now due to take on Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the day's second rubber on the hardcourt of Prague's O2 Arena. Kvitova was 4-6 head-to-head with

Sharapova before Sunday's rubber after winning their previous encounter in the semi-final of the WTA Tour Finals last month when Sharapova had come back from a four-month pause due to leg and arm problems.

Eager to please the home crowd, a rampant Kvitova broke Sharapova in game one and kept her under constant pressure with daring returns, taking the set with another break as Sharapova volleyed into the net. Playing only her fifth Fed Cup tie, Sharapova, a five-time

Grand Slam winner, regained momentum in the second set as the 25-year-old Kvitova seemed to lose concentration.

The 28-year-old Sharapova squandered two break points in game one but gladly accepted the next offer four games later. Kvitova, the left-handed 2011 and 2014 Wimbledon champion, immediately broke her back to love, then averted two break points in an epic game seven before losing her serve once more in game nine, which was enough

for Sharapova to win the set in over an hour.

In the decider, Sharapova broke to go 3-2 on Kvitova's two consecutive crosscourt backhands into the net, then broke again for a rather comfortable win as Kvitova piled up errors.

On Saturday, Kvitova came back from a set down to beat Pavlyuchenkova 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 and Sharapova then won her first ever meeting with Pliskova 6-3, 6-4 to put Russia level. If the score is tied at 2-2 after Sunday's singles,

Czechs Lucie Safarova and Barbora Strycova are due to play against Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina in the final doubles rubber.

The Czechs are seeking their fourth title in five years and ninth overall, including five as Czechoslovakia which went on to split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. Russia, who are 2-3 head-to-head with the Czechs including three ties between the former Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have won four titles so far. — AFP

KLINGBERG LIFTS STARS PAST WILD 3-2 IN OT

DALLAS: John Klingberg scored at 3:18 of overtime, and the Dallas Stars beat the Minnesota Wild 3-2 on Saturday night. Klingberg got a cross-ice pass from Tyler Seguin and beat Devan Dubnyk for his fourth of the season. Klingberg and Jamie Benn each had a goal and an assist for the Stars, who had all six shots on goal in overtime. First-place Dallas (14-4-0) has won eight of 10. Minnesota (10-3-3) had won three in a row.

Rangers 2, Senators 1 (SO)

Defenseman Dan Boyle scored the deciding goal in a shootout as the New York Rangers extended their winning streak to eight games with a 2-1 victory over the Ottawa Senators. Boyle, who was born in Ottawa, beat Senators goalie Craig Anderson with a high shot to end the game. New York's Chris Kreider opened the scoring in regulation with a power-play goal 2:31 into the first period when he deflected a shot by Kevin Hayes. Ottawa defenseman Erik Karlsson tied it four minutes later with neither side able to score again.

Bruins 3, Red Wings 1

The Boston Bruins scored three goals in the second period to produce a 3-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings. Centers Patrice Bergeron and David Krejci and defenseman Torey Krug all scored for Boston. Goaltender Tuukka Rask lost his shutout bid on a power play goal by left winger Justin Abdelkader with 13:23 left.

Devils 4, Penguins 0

Goaltender Cory Schneider made 21 saves to record his first shutout of the season in the New Jersey Devils' 4-0 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins. The shutout was the 18th of Schneider's NHL career, and his second against Pittsburgh. Defenseman David Schlemko, left winger Mike Cammalleri and right wingers Bobby Farnham and Lee Stempniak all scored for New Jersey. Jeff Zatkoff stopped 33 shots for Pittsburgh.

Avalanche 6, Canadiens 1

Center Nathan MacKinnon recorded two goals and an assist to lead the Colorado Avalanche to a 6-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens. Goaltender Reto Berra stopped 39 shots for Colorado. Mike Condon stopped only 7 of 11 shots in two periods

before he was replaced in the third period by Dustin Tokarski, who made 11 saves in relief.

Flyers 3, Hurricanes 2 (OT)

Right winger Jakub Voracek scored 37 seconds into overtime as the Philadelphia Flyers wiped away some of their offensive struggles with a late-game surge to defeat the Carolina Hurricanes. Voracek's first goal of the season came on the only shot on goal in the extra session. The Flyers were stagnant on offense until the third period, but they found enough spark to win for only the second time in their last nine games. Flyers right winger Wayne Simmonds scored with 3:09 remaining in regulation to tie the game. Goalie Steve Mason stopped 19 shots.

Blue Jackets 5, Coyotes 2

Center William Karlsson scored his first two goals of the season to spark the Blue Jackets to a 5-2 win over the Arizona Coyotes and their first win of the season at home. Boone Jenner, Brandon Saad and Ryan Johansen also scored for the Blue Jackets. Goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky made 27 saves.

Rookie left winger Anthony Duclair and defenseman Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored for the Coyotes, who rallied from an early 2-0 deficit. Coyotes goaltender Mike Smith allowed two goals on his first three shots but finished with 16 saves.

Sharks 2, Sabres 1 (OT)

Left winger Patrick Marleau scored 2:59 into overtime to lead the San Jose Sharks to a 2-1 win over the Buffalo Sabres. After defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic's long shot ricocheted off the right post, Marleau put home the rebound for his fifth goal of the season. Vlasic scored in regulation for the Sharks, who got 30 saves from Martin Jones. Center Ryan O'Reilly scored for the Sabres. Goalie Chad Johnson made 30 saves.

Maple Leafs 4, Canucks 2

Goaltender James Reimer made 43 saves to lead the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 4-2 victory over the Vancouver Canucks. Left winger James van Riemsdyk, right winger Pierre-Alexandre Parenteau, center Shawn Matthias and left winger Joffrey Lupul scored for Toronto. Right winger

Jannik Hansen and left winger Alexandre Burrows scored for the Canucks. Goaltender Ryan Miller made 36 saves.

Predators 7, Jets 0

Nashville forward Craig Smith's three first-period points - as many as he had scored in the Predators' first 15 games - sparked the Predators to a 7-0 win over Winnipeg. It was the second seven-goal game of the season for Nashville, who defeated Ottawa 7-5 on Tuesday. Smith, who had scored just three goals this season, had a goal and a pair of assists as the Predators shelled Jets starting goalkeeper Michael Hutchinson early. Nashville took a 3-0 lead just 12 minutes into the game and led 4-0 after the first period.

Panthers 5, Lightning 4 (SO)

Brandon Pirri scored the only goal in the shootout to lead the Florida Panthers to a 5-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning. Despite giving up four goals in regulation, Panthers goalie Roberto Luongo came up big in overtime and stopped all three Lightning shooters in the shootout.

Blackhawks 4, Blues 2

Right winger Patrick Kane's power-play goal late in the second period lifted the Chicago Blackhawks to a 4-2 win over the St. Louis Blues. The goal was Kane's 12th of the season. He came into the game tied for the NHL lead with 11 goals and 25 points. It also extended his scoring streaks to six consecutive games with a goal and 12 consecutive games with at least a point.

Kings 4, Oilers 3

Center Nick Shore scored the winning goal with 1:39 left, lifting the Los Angeles Kings to a 4-3 victory over the Edmonton Oilers at the Staples Center. Edmonton left winger Taylor Hall tied the score at 3-3 with 4:50 left in the third period after defenseman Oscar Klefbom connected with him on a backhanded pass. However, Shore bailed out the Kings a little more than three minutes later with his second goal this season. Goaltender Jonathan Quick stopped 22 of 25 shots as the Kings won for the 11th time in 14 games. — Reuters



VANCOUVER: Brendan Semchuk #28 of the Vancouver Giants checks Evan Weinger #25 of the Portland Winterhawks into the boards during the second period of their NHL game at the Pacific Coliseum Saturday in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. —AFP

NHL Results/Standings

NY Rangers 2, Ottawa 1 (SO); Boston 3, Detroit 1; San Jose 2, Buffalo 1 (OT); Toronto 4, Vancouver 2; Colorado 6, Montreal 1; Florida 5, Tampa Bay 4 (SO); New Jersey 4, Pittsburgh 0; Philadelphia 3, Carolina 2 (OT); Columbus 5, Arizona 2; Nashville 7, Winnipeg 0; Chicago 4, St Louis 2; Dallas 3, Minnesota 2 (OT); Los Angeles 4, Edmonton 3.

Western Conference							Eastern Conference						
Central Division							Atlantic Division						
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Dallas	14	4	0	65	47	28	Montreal	13	3	2	63	39	28
Minnesota	10	3	3	48	43	23	Ottawa	8	5	4	51	53	20
Nashville	10	3	3	50	38	23	Tampa Bay	8	8	3	46	48	19
St. Louis	11	5	1	47	41	23	Boston	8	7	1	52	49	17
Chicago	9	7	1	45	43	19	Detroit	8	8	1	37	42	17
Winnipeg	8	8	2	48	59	18	Buffalo	8	8	1	40	46	17
Colorado	7	9	1	49	45	15	Florida	7	7	3	48	45	17
Pacific Division							Florida	5	8	4	38	50	14
Los Angeles	11	6	0	43	36	22	Metropolitan Division						
Arizona	9	7	1	48	49	19	NY Rangers	13	2	2	53	29	28
Vancouver	7	6	5	52	46	19	Washington	11	4	1	50	37	23
San Jose	9	8	0	45	43	18	New Jersey	10	6	1	44	40	21
Anaheim	5	8	4	29	45	14	NY Islanders	9	6	3	49	42	21
Calgary	6	11	1	44	68	13	Pittsburgh	10	7	0	36	37	20
Edmonton	6	12	0	47	58	12	Philadelphia	6	8	3	33	50	15
							Carolina	6	9	2	34	49	14
							Columbus	6	12	0	45	62	12

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

RAIN WASHES OUT SECOND DAY OF BANGALORE TEST

BANGALORE: Steady rain washed out the entire second day's play in the second test between India and South Africa yesterday with the weather forecast for the next two days casting a cloud of doubt over the possibility of a result.

Having bowled out South Africa for 214 and knocking off 80 runs without losing any wicket on Saturday, the hosts were keen on putting up a big first innings total but the inclement weather played

spoilsport. After the early morning showers relented, start was pushed back by an hour to 10:30 local time (0500 GMT) and the players walked out to warm up for action. The rain, however, returned soon resulting first in an early lunch before play was called off for the day.

"If weather permits, tomorrow the play will start at 9:15 (3:15 GMT)," the Indian cricket board posted on Twitter. More rain and thunderstorms have been

predicted for the next two days, jeopardising the possibility of a result in the contest.

While this is surely not how South African talisman AB de Villiers expected his 100th test to pan out, the Proteas are unlikely to mind the rain intervention.

Beaten inside three days in the first test on a turning track in Mohali, the visitors still seem in a spin funk with eight of their batsmen surrendering

to the Indian spinners in their first innings at Bangalore. Currently the top ranked test team, South Africa have not lost an away series since 2006 but Hashim Amla's team find themselves on the back foot in the four-test series in India.

Apart from the batsmen's vulnerability against spin, the absence of injured pacemen Dale Steyn and Vernon Philander has also taken much of the sting off their pace attack. — Reuters

ZIMBABWE SNATCH DRAMATIC T20 WIN AGAINST BANGLADESH

DHAKA: Neville Madziva hit 18 runs in the last over as Zimbabwe pulled off a nail-biting three-wicket victory against Bangladesh in the second Twenty20 international to level the two-match series in Dhaka yesterday.

Madziva first starred with his pace bowling and then made the most of a reprieve to score an unbeaten 28 runs to steer Zimbabwe to 136-7 in 19.5 overs, after the visitors restricted Bangladesh to 135-9 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Bangladesh, who won the preceding one-day series 3-0, almost sealed off another clean-sweep when Nasir Hossain dismissed Malcolm Waller in the first ball of the last over, but Madziva hit the off-spinner for 6, 2, 4, and 6 off the next four balls to stun the home crowd.

Madziva was caught behind for 10 in the previous over off medium pacer Mustafizur Rahman, but the right-hander was called back after television replays showed Rahman had overstepped.

Waller made 40 off 27 balls with two fours and three sixes and shared 55 runs in the sixth wicket stand with Luke Jongwe (34) as Zimbabwe recovered from a wobbly 39-5 to win the game. The victory ended Zimbabwe's 13-match losing streak against Bangladesh in all formats of the game.

"When I saw Nasir bowling, I told myself to get on strike," Madziva said after the

match. "I had that self-belief that we will win this game. "I enjoy facing spinners more. I said to myself, this is it. I will go back to my country with a win," he said.

Anamul Haque earlier made 47 off 51 balls to hold the Bangladesh innings together amid a free-fall of wickets at the other end. Pacer Tinashe Panyangara claimed 3-30 for Zimbabwe while leg-spinner Graeme Cremer and Madziva claimed two wickets each giving away 21 and 25 runs respectively.

The hosts started confidently as Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes put on 34 runs in the opening stand after skipper Mashrafe Mortaza elected to bat first.

Tamim miscued a pull shot off Madziva to give a catch to Sean Williams at long on for 21 and Kayes fell in the next over to Tendai Chisoro for 10. Zimbabwe then made regular breakthroughs to keep the home side in check. Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusinghe said his side was still developing in the Twenty20 format. "I think we still need to find our best game-plan, approach and combination," he said. "We are still developing in T20s. So in that sense I think we have probably a long way to go to be consistent."

Anamul was run out in the final over as Bangladesh settled for their lowest total against Zimbabwe in five Twenty20 internationals. — AFP



PERTH: New Zealand's batsman Ross Taylor reaches 235 runs not out during day three of the second Test cricket match between Australia and New Zealand in Perth yesterday. — AFP

TAYLOR'S DOUBLE CENTURY PUTS N ZEALAND IN TOUCH

PERTH: New Zealand batsman Kane Williamson and Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc joined elite company as bat continued to dominate ball on the third day of the second Test against Australia at the WACA Ground yesterday.

In reply to Australia's formidable 559 for nine declared on a placid wicket, the Kiwis were 510 for six at stumps, trailing by just 49 runs. Ross Taylor emerged from a form slump and scored his second Test double century to be a career-best 235 not out, with Mark Craig on seven. Williamson became one of the four youngest players to reach 12 Test centuries when he made 166, while Starc bowled what is believed to be the fastest recorded delivery in Test cricket.

Williamson rarely looked troubled in posting his second century in as many matches, before mistiming a pull shot off Josh Hazlewood and was caught at mid-on by Mitchell Johnson to end a record 265-run stand with Taylor, a new benchmark for New Zealand in Tests against Australia. He faced 250 balls in 390 minutes and hit 24 boundaries. The 25-year-old made 140 and 59 in the first Test at the Gabba, which New Zealand lost by 208 runs, and continued that form in Perth. It was his 12th Test century and only three other players have scored as many centuries at the same age which include Sachin Tendulkar (16), Don Bradman (13) and Alastair Cook (12).

Records tumble

However, Williamson played down the comparisons. "I don't think I'm in that company," he said. "It is just nice to be scoring runs, helping the team out, trying to move the team forward and trying to get results, that's what it's about."

Williamson has made centuries in five of his last seven Tests against Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England

SCOREBOARD

PERTH, Australia: Scoreboard yesterday at stumps on the third day of the second cricket test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA.

Australia 1st innings, 559-9 decl.	Extras (7b, 10lb, 5w, 3nb)	25
New Zealand 1st innings Overnight 140 for 2	TOTAL: (for six wickets)	510
Martin Gupthill lbw b Starc	Overs: 129. Batting time: 589 minutes.	
Tom Latham c Smith b Lyon	Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-87, 3-352, 4-432, 5-447, 6-485.	
Kane Williamson c Johnson b Hazlewood	Still to bat: Matt Henry, Tim Southee, Trent Boult.	
Ross Taylor not out	Bowling: Mitch Starc 30-6-83-2, Josh Hazlewood	
Brendon McCullum b Marsh	27-2-98-1 (1nb), Mitchell Johnson 24-2-131-1	
B.J. Watling c Lyon b Starc	(5w), Nathan Lyon 30-4-93-1, Mitchell Marsh 15-	
Doug Bracewell c Nevill b Johnson	1-73-1 (2nb), Steve Smith 3-0-15-0.	
Mark Craig not out		

and Australia. Taylor was a little less sure at the crease and flirted with disaster on a couple of occasions, but recovered to post his 13th Test hundred and looked increasingly comfortable during his innings.

It was a welcome performance for the classy Taylor, who has been struggling with form for some time and had not scored a Test century since November last year. In a game where records have been tumbling with incredible regularity, Taylor posted a new benchmark for visiting players at the WACA and also became the first New Zealander to score a Test double century against Australia. Starc raised the home crowd from its run-fuelled stupor when he sent down a 160.4 kilometres per hour (99.7 miles per hour) thunderbolt to Taylor before tea.

It was part of a fiery spell from the left armer and was the fourth-fastest delivery ever recorded, with Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar holding the

record with 161.3 kph. Australian duo Brett Lee and Shaun Tait both once clocked at 161.1 kph, and 1970s firebrand Jeff Thomson is the only other player recorded at over 160 kph. However, none of that group performed the feat in Test cricket. While he didn't want to be drawn on the accuracy of the speed reading on that particular delivery, Starc did believe it was one of his fastest spells. "It was nice to have rhythm and have the ball coming out nicely," he said. "It felt really good" Fellow paceman Mitchell Johnson moved into fourth on the all-time list of Australian Test wicket-takers when he removed Doug Bracewell late in the day to claim his 311th scalp, passing Brett Lee.

Australia did not help their own cause with some dropped catches, while there was embarrassment for local officials early in the day, with play halted for 17 minutes by a malfunctioning sightsscreen. — AFP

ROY RELISHES PAKISTAN PACEMAN TALL ORDER

SHARJAH: England's talented opener Jason Roy yesterday admitted lanky Mohammad Irfan poses a different challenge with his giant-like height, saying it's difficult to get hold of the Pakistani paceman in the ongoing one-day series. The seven feet, one inch (2.16m) tall Irfan-the tallest-ever player to play the game-bowled Roy with the second ball of the first one-day international in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Irfan picked 3-35 to anchor Pakistan's six-wicket win but England levelled the four-match series at 1-1 by winning the second match-also in Abu Dhabi — on Friday. Roy said Irfan is difficult with the ball coming from an unusual height. "He's an absolute giant," said Roy of Irfan ahead of the third match in Sharjah on Tuesday. "Yes it is different. You saw how he completely did me in the first game. It's something to get used to and something to work on but he's very difficult to get hold of."

Roy, who hit a brilliant 54 in England's 283-5 in the second game, said he tries to keep his eyes on the ball. "You just have to watch the ball no matter who's bowling at you. There are so many different actions out there you just have to watch that ball. Yes, you've almost got to have a different set up and wait for the ball a bit more. "He probably seems a bit quicker than he is because he's (almost) 12 foot tall but my team-mate at Surrey was Chris Tremlett so I've had a bit of experience at facing big bowlers. He was a handful and so is Irfan." Roy said England's batsmen had coped well against leg-spinner Yasir Shah in one-day matches after the Pakistani bowler took 15 wickets in the preceding 2-0 Test win.

"It's (just) been two games, and he's obviously a class bowler - so you've always got to be on edge

with players like him. But I think you've just got to have your way of playing, and back it," Roy said, hailing England's levelling of the series.

"It was extremely satisfying, and a great turnaround from the team as well after the disappointment of the first game. To turn it round like we did was an outstanding effort with bat and ball." Roy praised his opening partner Alex Hales who knocked

his maiden hundred on Friday. "He's an outstanding player. He's come a long way, since starting in the Twenty20 format. He's got his maiden hundred - and that was his key task for this trip, he said.

"Now that he's crossed that kind of hurdle, I think he'd be more than ready (for the step into Tests)," said Roy of Hales's prospect of selection on next month's tour to South Africa. — AFP



ABU DHABI: Pakistan's Mohammad Irfan (L) reacts after delivering a ball as England's Joe Root looks on during the second One Day International (ODI) cricket match between Pakistan and England at The Zayed Cricket Stadium in the Gulf Emirate of Abu Dhabi. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

DHAKA: Scoreboard of the second Twenty20 international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on yesterday.

Bangladesh	Zimbabwe
Tamim Iqbal c Chigumbura b Madziva 21	S. Raza c Rahim b Al-Amin 5
Imrul Kayes c Williams b Chisoro 10	R. Chakabva c Sabbir b Mustafizur 4
Anamul Haque run out 47	S. Williams b Al-Amin 0
Mushfiqur Rahim c Williams b Cremer 9	C. Ervine run out 15
Sabbir Rahman lbw b Cremer 17	L. Jongwe c Kayes b Al-Amin 34
Nasir Hossain b Panyangara 3	E. Chigumbura c Mahmudullah b Sunny 0
Mahmudullah c Jongwe b Panyangara 8	M. Waller c Sabbir b Nasir 40
Mashrafe Mortaza b Madziva 0	N. Madziva not out 28
Arafat Sunny c Jongwe b Panyangara 5	G. Cremer not out 0
Mustafizur Rahman not out 1	Extras (b4, lb2, w2, nb2) 10
Al-Amin Hossain not out 1	Total (seven wickets; 19.5 overs) 136
Extras (b4, lb2, w3, nb4) 13	Did not bat: TS Chisoro, T Panyangara
Total (nine wickets; 20 overs) 135	Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Raza), 2-7 (Williams), 3-15 (Chakabva) 4-33 (Ervine), 5-39 (Chigumbura), 6-94 (Jongwe), 7-118.
Fall of wickets: 1-34 (Tamim), 2-35 (Kayes), 3-59 (Rahim), 4-98 (Sabbir), 5-113 (Nasir), 6-121 (Mahmudullah), 7-122(Mortaza), 8-130 (Sunny), 9-134 (Anamul)	Bowling: Mortaza 4-0-27-0 (nb1), Al-Amin 4-0-20-3, Mustafizur 4-0-12-1 (nb1, w2), Sunny 4-0-26-1, Nasir 3.5-0-45-1.
Bowling: Panyangara 4-0-30-3 (nb1, w2), Madziva 4-0-25-2 (nb1), Chisoro 4-0-27-1 (nb1), Williams 4-0-26-0 (nb1), Cremer 4-0-21-2 (w1)	Result: Zimbabwe win by three wickets
	Series Result: Two-match series 1-1 draw

KHAWAJA SUFFERS INJURY SETBACK

PERTH: Australian batsman Usman Khawaja said yesterday he will resist the temptation to rush his return from a hamstring injury. Cricket Australia suggested Khawaja's earliest return would be in the second Test against the West Indies in Melbourne starting on December 26, although Khawaja said he was pleased with the results of his scan and still hoped to be available for the first Test of that series, starting on December 10 in Hobart.

But he said he would assess his recovery and not return too soon. The left-hander strained his left hamstring in the field during the second Test against New Zealand and admitted it was a tough blow, having been plagued by hamstring and knee problems in recent years.

"I was pretty shattered yesterday," Khawaja said. "It is never nice getting injured, it always sucks. "The physios and doctors are pretty adamant I take my time so that when I do come back I'm 100 percent.

"The scan was pretty good news and it feels pretty good, I'd like to be available for the first Test but I have to assess how my hamstring pulls up and how I am recovering. "I

need to nip it in the bud and make sure I am not trying to come back too early and have it happen again." Khawaja said he felt tightness in the hamstring during the first Test against the Kiwis in Brisbane, but felt much better heading into the Perth match.

"My hamstring was pretty tight during the last Test match," he said. "I managed to get through that Test match and felt alright in this one and before I did it, I felt really good."

Khawaja scored centuries in each of the first two Tests against the Kiwis and was looking to cement his place at number three. His absence will open the door for a number of players, including experienced left-hander Shaun Marsh and uncapped West Australian opener Cameron Bancroft.

Khawaja was recalled to the Australian side for the first Test against New Zealand at the Gabba, having missed most of the last Australian season with a serious knee injury. Having previously played just nine Tests since debuting against England in Sydney in 2011, he posted his maiden Test century in Brisbane, making 174 batting at number three. —AFP

IOC'S BACH CONFIDENT IN RIO SECURITY AFTER PARIS ATTACKS

LONDON: IOC President Thomas Bach expressed confidence yesterday in the ability of Brazilian authorities to protect next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in the wake of the deadly terrorist attacks in Paris.

With the games nine months away, the bomb and gun attacks in the French capital that left at least 129 people dead and over 350 wounded will raise concerns over the safety of athletes and fans at the Olympics. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Friday's attacks.

"We have confidence in the Brazilian authorities and in the international cooperation of their security agencies," Bach said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I'm sure all these international services will make all efforts to protect the Olympic Games from these kinds of terrorist attacks."

Security will be among the issues discussed when IOC officials travel to Rio in the coming days for their latest "project review" of Olympic preparations, Bach added. The games, the first in South

America, start on Aug. 5. "The IOC is not a security agency," Bach said. "This is the duty of the police and security forces of the host country in cooperation with the international services." Security has been the top priority for the International Olympic Committee ever since the 1972 Munich Games, where 11 Israeli athletes and coaches died after Palestinian gunmen raided the Olympic village.

The attacks in Paris came at a time when the French capital is bidding to host the 2024 Olympics. Paris, which last

ed hosted the games in 1924, is competing against Rome, Los Angeles, Hamburg and Budapest. The IOC will select the host city in September 2017.

Bach said the attacks should not harm the Paris bid. "We have to take into consideration we are talking about Olympic Games nine years from now," he said. "Terrorism is international. Terrorism is not restricted to Paris or France. It's an international challenge. Terrorism is not restricted to sports events. We could sadly see in Paris it affects any kind of gathering."

Friday night's bloodshed began when two explosions went off outside Stade de France during a friendly soccer match between France and Germany. Four people, including three suicide bombers, were killed in those attacks.

The Stade de France would serve as the flagship Olympic Stadium if Paris wins the right to host the 2024 Games. "In nine years I hope the world will look differently, that the responsible politicians will have an answer to terrorism," Bach said. — AP

IMPRESSIVE WASPS STING TOOTHLESS LEINSTER

PARIS: All Black full-back Charles Piutau led a free-running and defensively sound Wasps to a vital 33-6 hammering of three-time European champions Leinster in their opening Pool 5 fixture yesterday.

In a Champions Cup pool that also includes reigning three-time champions Toulon and Bath, last season's English Premiership runners-up with only the winner guaranteed of progressing to the knock-out phases, away wins are like gold dust.

"It's a great achievement for the team," Piutau told BT Sport after the three tries to nil victory, the first for an English side against Leinster in Dublin in the European Cup since London Irish in 2009. "We had composure and didn't panic in defence. We knew we had to be patient and when we had our opportunities we made the most of them." Wasps coach Dai Young, whose side host Toulon next week, added: "It was our day today without a shadow of a doubt."

"The plan wasn't to defend for periods like we did, but we worked for one another ... and came out the other end. 'I don't think they played poorly today, I think we didn't let them play.' An early Ruaidh Jackson penalty handed Wasps the lead before Sexton hit back with two of his own as Leinster camped out in the Wasps' half. Jackson levelled the score in the 20th minute of a hard-hitting encounter. Dave Kearney was on hand to produce a great try-saving tackle on once-capped All Black winger Frank Halai, who looked a real handful alongside fellow New Zealander and man-of-the-match Piutau. Centre Elliot Daly stepped up to nail a long-range penalty to restore the visitors' lead as Leinster

infringed when trying to play their way out of their own 22m area.

Kearney was made to pay for a cruel bounce from a Joe Simpson box kick, electric winger Christian Wade skipping past the Ireland winger for a simple dot down, Jackson getting the extras.

Wade was guilty of a knock-on on the stroke of half-time with a clear run-in to the tryline ahead of him after great work by Wasps No 8 Nathan Hughes. Wasps got the ideal start to the second period, livewire scrum-half Simpson scorching over for the team's second try after a smart break and offload from Halai.

Jackson's conversion took Wasps out to 23-6 to leave Leinster a mountain to climb in the final 30 minutes. That was compounded after an elementary mistake by Leinster saw replacement Jack Conan pick up a Kearney knock-on of a long-range Daly penalty kick in an offside position, Jackson making no mistake with the second opportunity in front of the posts.

Piutau was credited with a third try for Wasps after collecting a rebound from Sailosi Tagicakibau effort that fell just short of the line, the All Black perfectly placed to pick up and cross the whitewash, replacement Alex Lozowski converting to wrap up a convincing victory.

With all weekend games in France postponed following Friday's terror attacks in Paris, Saracens thumped record four-time champions Toulon 32-7 in Pool 1 action on Saturday.

Simon Zebo's try five minutes from time ensured Munster eant the bonus point in their 32-7 Pool 4 victory over Treviso, while Northampton laboured to a 15-11 victory over Scarlets in Pool 3. — AFP



PALO ALTO: Vernon Adams Jr. #33 congratulates Kani Benoit #29 of the Oregon Ducks after he scored a touchdown in the first quarter of their game against the Stanford Cardinal at Stanford Stadium on Saturday in Palo Alto, California. — AFP

OREGON SPOILS NO 7 STANFORD'S PLAYOFF HOPES WITH 38-36 WIN

STANFORD: Vernon Adams had Oregon's big-play offense clicking. Stanford was able to grind it out behind Kevin Hogan and Christian McCaffrey. When it came down to it, two botched snaps and a failed 2-point conversion spoiled the Cardinal's playoff hopes and kept the Ducks alive in the Pac-12 race.

Adams threw for 205 yards and two touchdowns and Oregon used its quick-strike offense and the late 2-point stop to beat No. 7 Stanford 38-36 victory Saturday night. "We kept fighting out there," Adams said. "It was a great team win. It shows how good we can be." In a game dominated by offenses that combined for more than 900 yards, it was a defensive stop on the 2-point attempt with 10 seconds left that sealed the win for Oregon (7-3, 5-2 Pac-12) and kept the Ducks' hopes for a conference title alive.

After Hogan lost two fumbles on snaps in the fourth quarter, Stanford (8-2, 7-1, No. 7 CFP) tied it on Hogan's 4-yard touchdown pass to Greg Taboada. Needing a 2-point conversion to tie it, Hogan tried to find tight end Austin Hooper over the middle against the blitz. But linebacker Joe Walker got a finger on the ball and the Ducks held on for the win.

"I might have touched it a little bit," Walker said. "Just a little finger." Royce Freeman ran for 105 yards and a score and Charles Nelson scored on a 75-yard run on one of the Ducks' three touchdowns of more than 45 yards.

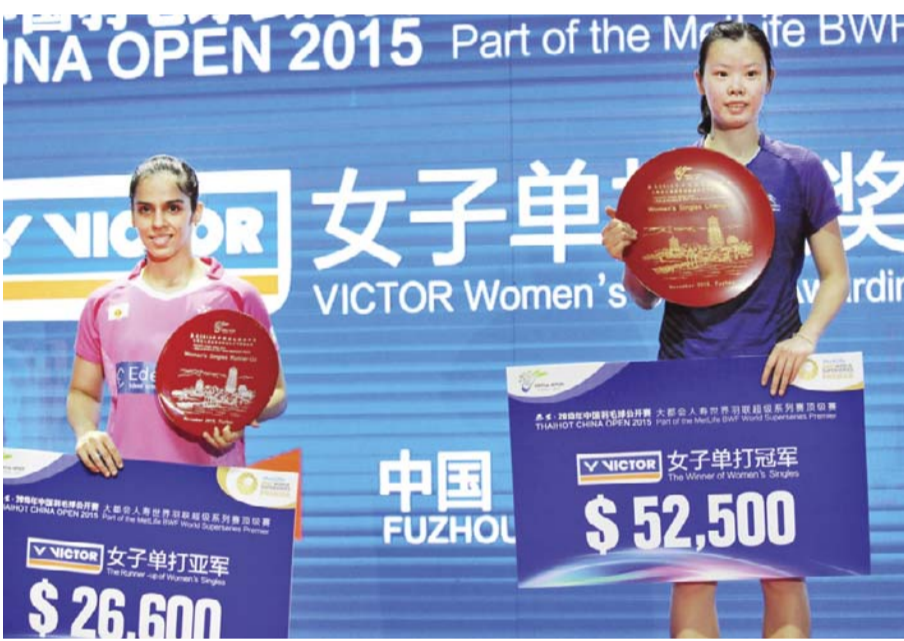
Oregon needs to win the final two games and hope Stanford loses next week at home to California to win the Pac-12 North title. While Stanford is still in control of the division race, the Cardinal had higher goals of making the College Football Playoff if they could win out. But a suspect defense and two costly botched snaps by Hogan helped do them in. "Any time you lose, it stings, it's tough," linebacker Kevin Anderson said. "If you told me at the beginning of the season we'd have a chance to beat Cal to win the Pac-12 North, go to the Pac-12 championship with a chance to go to the Rose Bowl, I'd say that's awesome. A little bit of perspective here, but it definitely stings right now."

Broken index finger

Hogan lost one fumble near midfield midway through the fourth quarter with the Cardinal down five. After Oregon kicked a field goal to make it 38-30, Stanford drove inside the 20 before Hogan lost another snap with 2:06 to play. Stanford still had a chance to tie it but missed on the 2-point attempt. "There was a guy coming after Kevin scot free," coach David Shaw said. "Just didn't make the play. Either the throw or the catch." Hogan threw for 304 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score. McCaffrey set a Stanford record with his eighth straight 100-yard rushing game, running for 147 yards and a touchdown. With Adams healthy after being

slowed early this season by a broken right index finger, the Ducks showed off the high-powered offense they've been accustomed to in recent years. They gained 436 yards on 48 plays, averaging 9.1 yards per play for the most allowed by Stanford this century. "We're definitely a different team than at the beginning of the season," Adams said. "We're playing a lot faster and I'm a lot more confident in the offense." Trailing 23-21 at the half, the Ducks took control in the third quarter. They took the opening kick and easily drove down to score on Freeman's 19-yard run. The Ducks then stopped Hogan for 1 yard on a third-and-3 and Conrad Ukropina missed a 43-yard field goal attempt. The teams then traded three-and-outs before Oregon struck with another big play when Adams found Taj Griffin open down the sideline for a 49-yard touchdown catch that made it 35-23. Hogan's two touchdown passes to Taboada helped Stanford nearly overcome the deficit but the Cardinal fell short. The contrast in styles between grind-it-out Stanford and fast-break Oregon was stark as Stanford took a 23-21 halftime lead.

The Cardinal got touchdown runs from Hogan and McCaffrey and powered their way to 276 yards on 43 plays in 21:32 of possession. The Ducks relied on the big plays with Nelson scoring on a 75-yard run and Adams hitting Darren Carrington on a 47-yard pass in the final minute to gain 268 yards on 23 plays in 8:28. — AP



FUZHOU: Li Xuerui (R) of China and Saina Nehwal of India pose with their trophies after their women's singles final match at the China Open badminton tournament in Fuzhou, east China's Fujian province yesterday. — AFP

LEE DOWNS CHEN TO TAKE CHINA OPEN

BEIJING: Former world number one Lee Chong Wei beat current top rank Chen Long to win the China Open yesterday in straight sets, securing his second major title of the season. Lee dismissed China's Chen in 50 minutes at the Haixia Olympic Sports Centre in the southeastern city of Fuzhou, 21-15, 21-11, denying the top seed his sixth Super Series title of the year.

Lee, currently unseeded after a eight-month doping ban, has had a patchy year that saw him make early exits in Japan, South Korea and Denmark, and had lost to Chen in their last four meetings.

The Malaysian beat longtime rival and five-time world champion Lin Dan on Saturday to reach the final, in a hard-fought three sets that may silence critics who have questioned Lee's fitness since he returned to the court. "I'm really happy to have won the China Open on the home court of Lin Dan and Chen Long," said Lee. "I've won many titles, except the China Open. It

was very hard to get. Today I just played fast, just kept going." Meanwhile, in the women's singles, world number six Li Xuerui of China beat top seed and defending champion Saina Nehwal of India 21-12, 21-15.

Former world number one and Olympic champion Li continued a solid run in Fuzhou after scooping the title in Denmark last month, while Nehwal has recently been plagued by injury and illness.

"I started well, but I wasn't able to connect the shuttle, it was very strange," said Nehwal. "Many of my shots went out, and she was anticipating everything." Chinese players fared well in both the women's and mixed doubles. China's Tang Yunting and Yu Yang beat Japan's Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi 18-21, 21-13, 21-12. In mixed doubles, Zhang Nan and Zhao Yunlei of China triumphed over Denmark's Joachim Fischer Nielsen and Christinna Pedersen, 21-19, 17-21, 21-19. — AFP



FUZHOU: Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia poses with his trophy after the men's singles final match against Chen Long of China at the China Open badminton tournament in Fuzhou, east China's Fujian province yesterday. — AFP

F1 ENGINE PLAN IS ABOUT CONTROL OF SPORT: HORNER

SAO PAULO: Formula One's plan to introduce an alternative engine from 2017 ultimately comes down to a question of who runs the sport, according to Red Bull principal Christian Horner. "I think it's about who controls Formula One," he told BBC television at the Brazilian Grand Prix. "At the moment you've got two very powerful engine manufacturers that are working closely together and then you've got the promoter and governing body and the engine is the catalyst of that."

"I think Jean (Todt) and Bernie (Ecclestone) are trying to get control of the sport back through the introduction of a cost-effective available engine."

The governing International Automobile Federation, run by president Jean Todt, has sought expressions of interest ahead of a tender for a standard engine that would be cheaper and simpler than those offered by the main manufacturers. The engine, which has yet to be approved by the Formula One commission, would be available as an alternative to the costly 1.6 litre V6 turbo hybrids.

The FIA has been backed by Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone. Formula One currently has four engine makers-Mercedes, Ferrari, Renault and Honda—who have invested massively in the technology. The first two are far more competitive than the latter duo.

The four supply the 10 teams but an attempt to agree a cost cap on 'customer' engines, with the FIA suggesting an 'acceptable' sum of 12 million euros (\$12.92 million), failed when Ferrari used veto powers they were granted decades ago. The situation has been exacerbated by Mercedes refusing to supply Red Bull with engines, Ferrari reportedly seeking in excess of \$30 million for year-old units and McLaren

blocking partners Honda from helping.

Red Bull, who had fallen out with Renault, are now expected to agree a deal to use the French manufacturer's unbranded units and develop them. "We are going to be on the grid next year. We are homing in on a solution," said Horner. "We will have a solution, it will be a little bit different to where we currently are."

While Red Bull have sided with the FIA and Ecclestone, who want to ensure teams always

have an affordable option and are not left high and dry, the manufacturers and other teams remain unconvinced by the proposal to run two different kinds of engines.

"I don't see how you can balance it really in a way that it would not be damaging," Mercedes motorsport head Toto Wolff told reporters. "What you have to do is make sure that there is some kind of engine parity between the two concepts. How do you do that?" — Reuters



SAO PAULO: Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg, of Germany, leads the race followed by teammate Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, after the start of the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix at the Interlagos race track in Sao Paulo, Brazil, yesterday. — AP

O'NEILL URGES IRELAND TO FINISH EURO JOB AGAINST BOSNIA

DUBLIN: Martin O'Neill has challenged his Republic of Ireland side to carry on from where they left off in their 1-1 first leg draw away to Bosnia when they complete the Euro 2016 qualifying tie in Dublin today. O'Neill's men travelled to Zenica, two hours north of Sarajevo, on Friday to the intimidating Bilina Polje stadium, where Euro qualifiers Wales were beaten 2-0 in a recent clash.

Shorn of a host of experienced stars like Shay Given, John O'Shea, Jon Walters and Shane Long, and with a handful of players one booking away from suspension, the Irish were more hopeful than expectant. But Robbie Brady's 81st-minute strike, combined with some determined defending, saw them return to Dublin's Lansdowne Road

with a vital away goal, although there was still time on Friday for Bosnia's Edin Dzeko to equalise. With O'Shea, Walters and possibly Long available on Monday, Republic manager O'Neill was in high spirits.

"Everybody walked off the field (fit) and in terms of other players like Glenn Whelan, Seamus Coleman, Marc Wilson...all those people (avoided bookings), so in that sense it's really good news," O'Neill said. "We have a number of people to choose from including Jon Walters and hopefully John O'Shea," the former Northern Ireland midfielder added. "I need to see Shane, but all his messages for me the whole time have been 'don't exclude me at this minute' and I wouldn't do. 'I'll wait until the

last possible moment because he's come up with some big things for us. I'd say I'll wait until about a minute and a half to kick off!" joked O'Neill.

The former Celtic boss again insisted he had no thought of telling the Republic to play for a goalless draw on Monday and so go through to next year's finals in France on the away goals rule.

"I didn't say that in the dressing room and I haven't felt that way," he said. "I think the message for us is 'we got to try and win the game'. 'We will have that attitude, that's been our attitude at home in every single game that we play.

"Our attitude has been very, very positive at home and Bosnia are capable of scoring. That puts it back into the melting pot." Bosnia goalkeeper

Asmir Begovic accepted his side would need to offer more in attack after rarely threatening Republic counterpart Darren Randolph on Friday.

"Ireland are a hard working side and they have some skill as well so they didn't surprise me," said the Chelsea star. "We need to work on that, analyse it and see if we can break them down on Monday.

"Our late goal was good for our confidence and we have the players to go through as long as we play smart, it sets it up for a good second leg.

"We had decent possession but we just couldn't get it going, we couldn't see much of the opposing half in the second half. "We controlled the game which was pleasing and hopefully we can pick it up for today." — AFP

MERKEL TO ATTEND GERMAN FRIENDLY AFTER PARIS ATTACKS

BERLIN: Germany will face the Netherlands in a friendly on Tuesday with chancellor Angela Merkel and senior ministers to attend in a show of solidarity following the Paris terror attacks. A spokesperson for the German government confirmed to AFP that Merkel will attend after the German Football Association (DFB) announced yesterday that the game in Hanover will go ahead as planned.

"The message is clear: We will not allow ourselves to be intimidated by terrorism," said German Football Association (DFB) interim president Reinhard Rauball. At least 129 people were killed in a series of violent incidents across the French capital on Friday, with several deaths taking place near the Stade de France where France were playing Germany in a friendly international. "The fact the team will run out for a friendly against the Netherlands a few days after the bad experiences in Paris sends a message," Rauball added. "Our head coach Joachim Loew and every one of his players deserve respect for this demonstration of solidarity with the victims and the entire French people."

The presence of Merkel and members of her cabinet amidst the expected tightened security in Hanover is seen in Germany as a show of support for the victims of the horrific scenes in Paris.

"We will check and adjust the security measures in consultation with the local authorities. There's a fine line, but you have to have a sensibility to the dangers," said Hendrik Gross Lefert, the DFB's head of security. In the wake of Friday's terror attacks, the fearful German squad preferred to spend Friday night at the Stade de France, attempting to grab some sleep on mattresses on the changing room

floor, before flying home early Saturday.

Prior to the match, the German team had to switch hotels in Paris after a bomb scare. Head coach Joachim Loew has explained why the world champions want to play the Dutch friendly: "Basically, I am of the opinion that we do not yield to terror and terrorists should not be allowed the triumph that we dance to their tune," said Loew, who described the events of Friday as a "nightmare".

The German team were all given Sunday off to be with their families and will fly to Hanover on Monday, a day later than scheduled.

Loew has opted to leave out six members of the original squad, including captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, defenders Jerome Boateng, and Jonas Hector, plus forwards Lukas Podolski and Leroy Sane.

Schweinsteiger, Podolski and Neuer are rested, Hector and Boateng are injured, while teenager Sane will play for Germany's Under-21 side.

"Yet we all know that it's important to set an example and promote our values and culture," said team manager Oliver Bierhof. "But under these circumstances, the sporting value of the game against the Netherlands has, of course, been lowered."

Schweinsteiger admitted on Facebook and Twitter that he is still "speechless" about Friday's events in Paris and the twin bombings in Beirut last Thursday.

"My sincerest condolences to everybody who is affected by this terrible tragedy. My prayers also go out to all the people who lost their lives the day before in Beirut," wrote the Manchester United midfielder. "No matter where you come from and what religion you follow - we are united." — AFP



SOLNA: Sweden's forward and team captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic (2ndL) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the Euro 2016 play-off football match between Sweden and Denmark at the Friends arena in Solna on Saturday. — AFP

IBRAHIMOVIC ON TARGET AS SWEDES EDGE DENMARK

SOLNA: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his ninth goal in his last nine European qualifiers to give Sweden a 2-1 win over Denmark in the first leg of their Euro 2016 play-off on Saturday. The 34-year-old striker converted a second half penalty after Emil Forsberg had scored his first international goal on the stroke of half-time as the Swedes seemed to be coasting to victory.

But substitute Nicolai Jorgensen grabbed an away-goal lifeline for Denmark 10 minutes from time ahead of the second leg in Copenhagen on Tuesday. After a minute's silence to honour the victims of the Paris attacks, Denmark, the 1992 champions, dominated early possession but it was Sweden who had the best opening. It fell to Panathinaikos striker Marcus Berg in the 18th

minute but his low, left-foot shot was well saved by Kasper Schmeichel. Berg went wide of the target on the half-hour mark after being released by a fine pass from Ibrahimovic who was furious that he did not receive a return pass.

Ibrahimovic was becoming increasingly influential as the game progressed and just missed out on a goal after a smart turn and drive. At the other end, Nicklas Bendtner squandered Denmark's best chance, missing from just six yards out after an incisive pass from Christian Eriksen. The Danes were made to pay when Sweden grabbed the lead on the stroke of half-time. A backheel from Jimmy Durmaz allowed Mikael Lustig to sprint away down the right flank and his pass reached Forsberg at speed and the

Leipzig winger buried a first-time shot into the corner past Schmeichel.

The Denmark goalkeeper rescued his team just before the half-time whistle with a diving save to deny Ibrahimovic's power-packed free-kick from just outside the box.

Ibrahimovic made it 2-0 five minutes into the second period, converting a penalty after Thomas Kahlenburg had clumsily tripped Forsberg. It was the Paris Saint Germain star's first goal against the Danes in seven matches.

But with 10 minutes left, substitute Jorgensen latched onto a Yussuf Poulsen flick-on from an Eriksen corner to boost Denmark's hopes of making the finals in France next summer. — AFP



PACHUCA: Ariel Rojas (L) of Cruz Azul vies for the ball with Hugo Rodriguez (R) of Pachuca during their Mexican Apertura tournament football match at the Hidalgo stadium on Saturday, in Pachuca, Mexico. — AFP

UGANDAN TEEN MIYA BAGS WORLD CUP BRACE

JOHANNESBURG: Seventeen-year-old Farouk Miya bagged a brace as Uganda trounced Togo 3-0 yesterday and advanced to the group stage of 2018 World Cup qualifying in Africa.

Captain Geoffrey Massa scored the other goal in Kampala as Uganda qualified 4-0 on aggregate after matching their record home victory margin in a qualifier for the global football show-piece.

Zambia also advanced from the second knockout round with post-half-time goals by Lubambo Musonda and Winston Kalengo delivering a 2-0 win over Sudan in Ndola.

The Chipolopolo (Copper Bullets), one of the strongest African national teams never to play at the World Cup, progressed 3-0 overall. Gabon were first to reach the five-group stage, which kicks off next October, beating Mozambique in a penalty shootout in Libreville Saturday after a 1-1 aggregate stalemate.

Uganda, buoyant after a historic first World Cup qualifying away win last Thursday, were ahead within five minutes before a packed, vibrant Nelson Mandela National Stadium crowd.

Burly Massa was given time to line

up a shot from just outside the area that goalkeeper N'Guissan Djehani should have saved, but he allowed the ball to creep into the corner of the net.

Miya, a regular scorer this year for the national under-23 team, struck twice in the final five minutes of opening half as near-total Ugandan dominance was translated into goals.

He blasted a cross past Djehani for his first goal, then latched on to a headed pass across the goalmouth to net again. The woodwork foiled the Ugandan Cranes of a fourth goal during the second half as idea-less Togo offered little resistance.

After a dreary opening half at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium, Zambia went ahead just before the hour when Musonda pounced on a parried clearance by goalkeeper Akram El Hadi Salim to fire home.

Kalengo, scorer of the winner in Sudan four days ago, doubled the second-leg lead with a run past several defenders and an unstoppable shot. A further three second legs are scheduled for later yesterday and 14 for Tuesday. Five places have been reserved for Africa at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. — Reuters

UKRAINE TOO STRONG FOR SLOVENIA IN EURO PLAYOFF

LVIV: Ukraine, who have never won a playoff for a major tournament finals in five previous attempts, took a firm grip on their Euro 2016 qualifying tie with Slovenia by winning the first leg 2-0 on Saturday.

Winger Andriy Yarmolenko opened the scoring with a low shot into the far corner of the net in the 22nd minute that sparked wild celebrations at a packed Lviv Arena. Yarmolenko also played a part in the second goal in the 54th minute, striker Yevhen Seleznyov converting his cross to supply the finishing touch to a swift counter-attack.

Seleznyov could have added a third goal 15 minutes later when he scuffed his shot when well-placed but Ukraine will still be in a strong position in Tuesday's second leg to book their ticket to the finals in France. Slovenia provided little threat up front although Branko Ilic fired just over the bar from the edge of the penalty area in the first half following a clever header from Milivoje Novakovic.

The visitors, bidding to repeat their Euro 2000 playoff victory over Ukraine, never looked like getting back into the game after the break. Keeper Samir Handanovic, captaining Slovenia, produced a stunning save from a header by Denys Gamrash before Seleznyov struck the woodwork in the 69th minute. Ukraine coach Mykhaylo Fomenko warned his players not to get carried away by the margin of victory.

Offside claim

"We have only played the first leg," he told national television. "We could have scored a third goal and I'm glad Slovenia did not capitalise on our mistakes.

"I think my players understand what they have to do and I should not need to find any additional words (of motivation) for the second leg." Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko and Slovenia counterpart Borut Pahor watched the game from the stands.

"The President greeted us in the dressing room after and wished us good luck for the return game," said defender Evhen Khacheridi. Slovenia coach Sreco Katanec, who was also at the helm for the Euro 2000 playoff, blamed the referee for the second goal.

"We started off with purpose but couldn't keep it going," he said. "I think the second goal

was offside so the luck was not on our side today. "The result is hard for us but there is nothing impossible in football. We will do our best to snatch a win with the right scoreline." A minute's silence was observed before kick-off in memory of the 129 people killed and 352 wounded during the attacks in Paris on Friday evening. — Reuters



LVIV: Ukraine's Serhii Rybalka (L) vies with Slovenia's Milivoje Novakovic (C) during the Euro 2016 play-off football match between Ukraine and Slovenia at the Arena Lviv stadium in Lviv on Saturday. — AFP

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MELBOURNE: Holly Holm of the US (R) lands a kick to the neck to knock out compatriot Ronda Rousey and win the UFC title fight in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

HOLM STUNS ROUSEY WITH 2ND-ROUND KO

ONE OF THE SPORT'S BIGGEST UPSETS

MELBOURNE: Ronda Rousey was the UFC's unstoppable force until Holly Holm used the former champion's aggression against her to produce one of the sport's biggest upsets. Rousey chased Holm around the ring at UFC 193 yesterday - looking for the right hold and taking head shots along the way - until Holm saw an opening 59 seconds into the second round and snapped a kick to the head that immediately dropped her more fancied opponent to the canvas.

Holm (10-0) jumped on the prone Rousey, delivering several blows to her head before the referee intervened, ending Rousey's 12-fight unbeaten run and handing Holm the bantamweight title.

As an ecstatic Holm jumped around the ring, Rousey stayed on the canvas as she received medical treatment amid the roar of a stunned, record UFC crowd. "She's won a lot of fights and imposed her will on a lot of fighters," Holm said. "So expect her to be aggressive and impose her will on me.

"She had me on the cage for a minute and obviously she was trying for a take down right there ... she had a lot of things she was trying so I'm just glad I put in the practice," she added.

Rousey, a former judo Olympian, was unbeaten through 12 UFC fights before meeting Holm, and a win would have been her seventh title defense. Instead, Holm, a 34-year-old veteran female boxer from Albuquerque, New Mexico, has the championship belt. "We figured her aggression was coming, if it didn't that's OK, but with footwork and my career we figured she wouldn't give me that space," Holm said. "There's been a lot of blood, sweat and tears but it was all worth it."

Facial cuts

Rousey left the stadium to receive treatment for facial cuts at a nearby hospital after the loss and skipped the post-fight media conference. UFC chief Dana White said a

rematch between Holm and Rousey made "a lot of sense" and would put other potential matchups on the backburner.

"Obviously we don't make fights the night of the fight, but the rematch makes a lot of sense," he said. "The rematch is what the people want to see." In the other title bout, a bloodied Joanna Jedrzejczyk outlasted Valerie Letourneau to successfully defend her straw-weight belt in a five-round slugfest.

Jedrzejczyk (11-0) won a unanimous decision over Letourneau (8-4) who offered the champion one of her tougher fights in some time. Jedrzejczyk, a six-time Muay Thai world champion, built the pressure from the second round with some trademark, lightning-quick combinations to Letourneau's head, while forcing the challenger to keep her distance with some effective kicks.

Organizers announced a crowd of 56,214 at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium, which normally hosts Australian rules football matches. The mark eclipsed the 55,724 fans who

attended UFC 129 at Toronto's Rogers Centre in 2011.

Scariest moments

Rousey, 28, has taken UFC by storm since her debut in 2012 and her success has led to several movie projects as well the publishing of her autobiography. But it was Holm's calm confidence and the manner of her win that attracted all the attention yesterday.

"Tonight was one of those moments," White said. "These are the moments in fighting that make it so crazy and so fun. Tonight was one of those moments." Holm, a former undisputed welterweight boxing champion, said the moment of her UFC title victory was "one of those moments that you live for."

"They're the scariest moments. This fight was a lot for me mentally," she added. "I couldn't tell you tell you how many times I cried in the gym leading up to this fight. It's a lot to take in, but those kinds of fights are the ones where a loss is devastating but a

win is that sweet of a victory."

White said that while most onlookers were shocked by Rousey's loss, he was not one of them. "At the end of the day I made this fight. I said this was a good fight," he said. "Holly was the right fight. Ronda had never faced anybody who uses the range and distance the way she does. "This woman has four times more fights than Ronda does. She's been a world champion," he said.

In other fights on the undercard, Mark Hunt of New Zealand (11-10-1) won his rematch with Brazil's Antonio Silva (19-8) by technical knockout after the referee stopped the feature heavyweight bout in the first round.

New Zealand-born Australian middleweight Robert Whittaker (16-4) earned a gutsy win on points over Uriah Hall (13-6), while Jared Rosholt (14-2) won a unanimous decision of towering Dutchman Stefan Struve (30-8) in a scrappy opening heavyweight bout of the main card. — AP

FORTUNATE WARRIORS EDGE NETS IN OT TO EXTEND STREAK

OAKLAND: The Golden State Warriors won an 11th consecutive game on Saturday night, beating the Nets 107-99 in overtime with Brooklyn left with only themselves to blame. Reserve Warriors swingman Andre Iguodala sent the game to overtime with a tying three-pointer with 5.9 seconds remaining in regulation, allowing them to outlast the Nets and remain the NBA's lone unbeaten team. But in between, Nets center Brook Lopez couldn't convert a lob pass from no more than two feet in front of the rim as time expired, extending the game and eventually leading to the Nets' ninth loss in 10 games this season. "I think our tank was on empty emotionally and physically," Nets coach Lionel Hollins said of the overtime that immediately followed Lopez's miss. "It's a heartbreaking loss. We had a chance to have our shot at point blank and it didn't go in." Brooklyn, which completed its road trip 1-3, had two shots at a win, but point guard Jarrett Jack misfired on an 18-footer before Lopez's miss at the horn. The play began with five-tenths of a second remaining, with Nets small forward Joe Johnson inbound from under the Brooklyn basket. "We feel like we should have had this one," Lopez said. "I blew that chip shot. Joe made a perfect pass. It was exactly the way the play was drawn up. I owe Joe. He put that on a platter and I just blew it." The Nets didn't respond well to the misfortune. They scored only two points in the five-minute overtime after they had fallen 10 down in the first 3:10. Power forward Draymond Green had a hoop and two assists, capping the second triple-double of his career, in the winning burst as

Golden State became just the 11th team in NBA history to open a season 11-0.

Clippers 101, Pistons 96

Forward Blake Griffin had 34 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, while guard Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 37 points to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 101-96 victory over the Detroit Pistons. Forward Ersan Ilyasova and point guard Reggie Jackson both scored 20 points for the Pistons, while center Andre Drummond finished with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Clippers guard Austin Rivers, who finished with 13 points, nailed a three-point jumper with 2:34 remaining to lift his side to a 93-90 lead they never relinquished.

Wizards 108, Magic 99

Forward Kris Humphries scored 23 points and sank three of his five three-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Washington Wizards snapped a three-game losing streak with a 108-99 win over the Orlando Magic. Guard Garrett Temple matched his career high with 18 points for the Wizards, who pulled ahead with an 8-0 run for a 94-90 lead. Guard John Wall finished with 15 points and 11 assists. Center Nikola Vucevic had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Magic. Guard Evan Fournier scored 18 points, Elfrid Payton 17, and forward Aaron Gordon added 12.

Mavericks 110, Rockets 98

Raymond Felton and Charlie Villanueva led a makeshift starting lineup to a 110-98 victory for the Dallas Mavericks over the Houston Rockets.

Felton (23 points) and Villanueva (19 points) led six Mavericks in double figures as Dallas rested starters Dirk Nowitzki, Chandler Parsons and Wesley Matthews following a win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday.

Spurs 92, 76ers 83

LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 19 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs received double-figure scoring from four of their five starters in beating the Philadelphia 76ers. Spurs guard Tony Parker and French compatriot Boris Diaw stood at half court before the game with their team mates as a moment of silence was observed for the victims of Friday's attacks in Paris. The French national anthem was then played as the lights of the arena were kept low in tribute. San Antonio played without Kawhi Leonard (respiratory infection) and Manu Ginobili (adductor tightness) but still had enough firepower to keep Philadelphia winless after 10 games.

Suns 105, Nuggets 81

Phoenix guard Eric Bledsoe scored 30 points in three quarters as the Suns had an easy 105-81 win over the Denver Nuggets. Bledsoe had outscored Denver's five starters 30-26 when he departed at the end of three quarters with the Suns leading 88-54. He added seven rebounds, four assists and two steals. Center Tyson Chandler added 11 points and eight rebounds while Mirza Teletovic scored 11 points for the Suns. Will Barton had 19 points and 12 rebounds off the bench to lead Denver. — Agencies



OAKLAND: Brooklyn Nets' Jarrett Jack passes over Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, in Oakland, Calif. — AP



KAMCO ANNOUNCES ITS FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR Q3 2015



A Chinese woman (left) poses for a photograph with a Pakistani man at the Pakistan-China Khunjerab Pass, the world's highest paved border crossing at 4,600 meters above sea level. —AFP

CHINA'S NEW SILK ROAD: BOOM OR DUST FOR PAKISTAN? LOCALS REMAIN SKEPTIC AS MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

SOST, Pakistan: A glossy highway and hundreds of lorries transporting Chinese workers by the thousands: the new Silk Road is under construction in northern Pakistan, but locals living on the border are yet to be convinced they will receive more from it than dust. The town of Sost is gateway to millions in customs duties, with its rickety stalls of corrugated iron engraved in Mandarin and Urdu, its cross-border secret agents and its dusty petrol station's abrupt service.

It is the first stop along a new \$46 billion "economic corridor" designed by China in Pakistan.

Drivers from China arrive through the Khunjerab Pass, the world's highest paved border crossing at 4,600 metres (15,000 feet) above sea level, and unload their goods encircled by the magnificent Karakoram mountains, swirled with snow.

From there, Pakistani colleagues pick up the goods and transport them the length of the country—currently to Karachi, some 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) away on the Arabian Sea, but in the future to Gwadar, where Beijing has been given management of the port in a grand project allow-

ing China greater access to the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

But, until recently, the highway was cut off just south of Sost, blocked for five years by a landslide that dammed the Hunza river and birthed the 10 kilometre long lake of Attabad, with its ice-blue glacier water. Unable to drive around the mountain, China simply tunnelled through it, sending thousands of workers in a titanic effort that took more than three years and cost at least \$275 million.

"We have suffered because of the lake," joked Amjad Ali, a round-faced trader who sells clothing in the Sost bazaar, where the new Chinese highway has replaced the old Silk Road—a tortuous dirt track travelled for centuries by trade caravans.

Before the tunnel, residents of Sost had to cross the lake by boat in a journey that took at least an hour. Traffic in winter was meagre. "With the tunnel, we hope business will take off and tourists flock here," said Ali. "We are once again connected by road to the rest of Pakistan," rejoiced another resident, Mohammed Israr.

But their optimism is tempered by fear that the

trucks will simply drive on by, leaving Sost to receive, as Ali put it, "nothing but dust".

"The Chinese care only for their own economic interest," said Noor-e-din, another trader with a russet moustache. "We risk spending our days counting trucks as they drive past."

Islamabad, he predicted, is set to collect millions in customs duty from Sost while doing little or nothing for the town. Israr, for his part, evoked a land grab by wealthy Chinese and Pakistanis "from below" (the south). The latter have already approached farmers in the region in a bid to snap up their fields.

'My land, not China's'

Sitting on the border of his potato field under the shade of an apple tree, Ali Qurban fears losing his beloved region in Islamabad's grand dance with Beijing. "This is my land of Gilgit-Baltistan—not that of Pakistan or China," the local activist and occasional poet cries.

A land of peaks and glaciers, of verdant valleys and azure lakes, Gilgit-Baltistan was long a collec-

tion of small kingdoms before being attached to Pakistan in the 1970s.

It does not have provincial status and its inhabitants do not have the right to vote in national elections, hence the feeling of alienation from Islamabad and the lack of a voice on the economic corridor. But for the head of local government, Hafiz Hafeez ur-Rehman, the project is a "game-changer" for a region that should be the "prime beneficiary" as it is located on the threshold of China.

The government plans to install commercial areas and invest in hydroelectric dam projects along the future super-highway to the south, he told AFP.

The Uighur question

Other, more shadowy political and security factors also contribute to the sense of alienation in Gilgit: such as Beijing and Islamabad's apparent efforts to clamp down on the restive regions that surround the corridor. In Gilgit-Baltistan, the most famous local labour activist, Baba Jan, has been

imprisoned for "terrorism" since 2011 for organising an anti-government demonstration.

In the neighbouring Chinese region of Xinjiang, Beijing is closely monitoring Muslim Uighurs, saying that extremists from the minority are in hiding in Pakistan—a claim that has been supported by local security sources.

For locals, it all adds up to a lack of agency. The government and the military have "paralysed the people here," the activist Qurban said, adding they are suppressed "as Uighurs are suppressed by the Chinese government in Xinjiang." The decision-makers will decide for themselves what the benefit of the economic corridor is," he says.

Muhammad Qasim, a Uighur now living in Gilgit whose angular face is woven with wrinkles, remembers leaving Xinjiang as a child to seek refuge in Pakistan after China's communist revolution.

He travelled, he said, by the ancient Silk Road. "At the time it was just a narrow path—no roads, no vehicles. Our only means of transport was a donkey." —AFP

GLOBAL MARKETS BRACE FOR SHORT-TERM SELLOFF

SYDNEY/TOKYO: Global stocks are set for a short-term sell-off today after Islamist militants launched coordinated attacks across Paris that killed 129 people, but analysts said a prolonged economic impact or market reaction was unlikely. President Francois Hollande has declared a state of emergency, ordering police and troops into the streets, and set three days of official mourning after the attacks he called an "act of war" by Islamic State.

The carnage prompted condemnation by world leaders and outpourings of support for Parisians from around the globe, but would likely have only a knee-jerk impact on investment decisions, said Shane Oliver, chief economist at Australia's AMP Capital in Sydney. "History will tell us that if the economic impact is limited and I think it will be - that markets will quickly recover and go on to focus on other things," Oliver, who is also head of strategy at the A\$156 billion (\$111 billion) wealth management firm.

While news of the attacks hit after markets closed on Friday, S&P 500

Index futures were still trading and shed about 1 percent in light volume.

"If this had happened during market trading hours there could have been a panic but markets had a week-end to digest all the information," said Eiji Kinouchi, chief technical analyst at Daiwa Securities in Tokyo. With Wall Street closing more than 1 percent lower after weak US retail sales figures, Asian and European share markets would have been expected to fall even without the Paris attacks.

French stocks, particularly those exposed to the country's large tourism sector, are likely to suffer the biggest falls. "These Paris terrorist attacks and the larger scale of this attack could have a meaningful negative impact on the travel and tourism sector," said Robert T. Lutts, president and chief investment officer at Cabot Wealth Management in Salem, Massachusetts.

France has the largest number of tourists in the world and the sector accounts for almost 7.5 percent of GDP.

"Given that France has a big tourism industry there may be some damage

to the economy if this leads to a fall in visitors to France, or in tourism in general after the crash of a Russian plane," said Hidenori Suezawa, financial market and fiscal analyst at SMBC Nikko Securities.

"I do not expect this impact to go so far as to affect the Fed's monetary policy though at this point." Europe has suffered similar coordinated attacks on public transport systems previously, in Madrid in 2004 and London in 2005. Almost 250 people were killed and more than 2,500 injured in those bombings on trains and buses by Al Qaeda-inspired militants.

"The knee-jerk reaction in other terrorist attacks over the last decade has been a rush to safety, including aggressive buying in the US Treasury markets," said Guy LeBas, chief fixed income strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott LLC in Philadelphia. "I sincerely hope these attacks will prove short in duration and will abate in intensity, in which case the market reaction will likely only include a brief safety bid in Treasuries."

EMIRATES URGES CAUTION ON EU-LEVEL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH GULF

BRUSSELS: Emirates has written to several European governments expressing concern that its flying rights could be frozen if the European Commission is allowed to use aviation negotiations with Gulf countries as a way to challenge alleged illegal state subsidies to Gulf airlines. The Commission, the European Union's executive, is expected to ask member states for a mandate to start talks on flying agreements with the Gulf countries and others such as China and Turkey when it presents an aviation package in December.

However, some European countries, notably France and Germany, have pushed the Commission to use a commercial aviation agreement with the Gulf countries as a way to tackle alleged subsidies to carriers like Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways. The debate on unfair competition from the Gulf carriers has been raging in both Europe and the United States, where several airlines are campaigning to persuade Washington to alter commercial flying arrangements with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

In a letter to Hungary, seen by Reuters, the company's President Timothy Clark says handing power to the Commission to initiate talks "on the wrong terms" would undermine connectivity and tourism growth in Europe.

"It has come to our attention that there has been growing pressure on the European Commission from the French and German Transport Ministers to ensure conditions are virtually impossible for all sides to adhere to, thereby freezing Emirates' flying rights as long as any negotiations are ongoing," the letter says.

Emirates sent letters to governments in its major markets in Europe. Germany's Lufthansa and France's Air France KLM have spoken out against what they see as unfair competition from the Gulf carriers.

Emirates has firmly denied receiving subsidies. In the letter Clark says Emirates has been profitable for the last 27 years and supported 85,100 jobs across the EU in 2013-14.

"Rather than receive subsidies as erroneously alleged, Emirates has in

fact paid its state shareholder over \$3.363 billion in dividends up to and including its 2014-15 financial year."

The Commission is working on a legislative proposal to tackle unfair competition from non-EU airlines which could include the ability to suspend air traffic rights, according to a document seen by Reuters. It is also developing a "fair competition" clause to be inserted in commercial flying agreements with non-EU countries.

A spokesman for the Commission said fair competition would be addressed as part of the "comprehensive agreements the Commission aims to discuss with several countries."

"The need to ensure a level playing field when liberalising is widely recognised internationally," said Jakub Adamowicz. An Emirates spokeswoman said the airline remained committed to developing its European operations and regularly engages with governments on various matters, but declined to elaborate on details of specific communications. —Reuters

SAUDI PLUNGES TO 35-MONTH LOW AS OIL DROP FUELS ROUT

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's benchmark index tumbled to a 35-month low yesterday and Dubai and Egypt's benchmarks hit their lowest closes of 2015 as a renewed slump in oil prices spurred a region-wide sell-off. Saudi's benchmark fell 2.9 percent to its lowest finish since Jan. 1, 2013 to take its losses this year to 17.4 percent.

Oil made its biggest weekly decline in eight months last week and US Light Crude fell 5.1 percent on Thursday and Friday alone, the latter declines coming after regional bours-

es last traded. The sustained slump in oil prices has hurt state finances in the Gulf along with earnings in the important petrochemical sector. "Gulf markets have been in a bearish mode for quite a while now; today's declines were triggered by the latest drop in oil prices," said Shakeel Sarwar, head of asset management at Securities & Investment Co (SICO) in Bahrain.

"Third quarter earnings have not been helpful either," he said, forecasting Gulf markets' earnings would fall 10-15 percent on average in 2015

based on results for the first nine months of the year.

Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) and fellow petrochemical producers Saudi Kayan each dropped 3 percent. Almost all sectors declined in a broad sell-off. The banking index lost 2.7 percent. "Investors are now realising oil prices won't recover any time soon," Sarwar said.

DUBAI DROP
Construction stocks headed losers as Dubai's index fell 3.7 percent to its

lowest close since mid-December 2014 Drake & Scull plunged the maximum daily limit of 10 percent to an all-time low after the contractor reported a third-quarter net loss of 985 million dirhams (\$268.18 million).

Builder Arabtec dropped 9.3 percent to take its losses to 85 percent from a May 2014 high, since when several senior management have left. It has reported widening losses in the past four quarters including a third-quarter loss of 944.8 million dirhams last week.

In Abu Dhabi, Etisalat dropped 1.6 percent as traders booked profits after MSCI said it would include the telecom operator in its emerging market index from November-end.

Etisalat's shares had gained 29 percent since June when the former monopoly said it would allow foreigners and institutions to own its shares, a prerequisite to join the index. In Egypt, the main index fell 4.2 percent to a 23-month low as losers outnumbered gainers 26 to one. — Reuters

SAUDI TO START PRIVATIZING ITS AIRPORTS NEXT YEAR

KINGDOM SEEKS WAYS TO SUPPORT STATE FINANCES

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will begin privatizing its airports and related services in the first quarter of 2016, the country's civil aviation authority said yesterday as the kingdom seeks ways to support state finances due to lower oil prices. The announcement is the latest sign the world's top crude exporter is looking at ways to manage the impact of lower oil prices on its budget. The International Monetary Fund has forecast a deficit this year of more than \$100 billion.

"The privatization program comes in line with the kingdom's plan to improve

the productive efficiency of airport systems and ease the financial burden on (the) state budget," Sulaiman Al-Hamdan, chairman of the General Authority for Civil Aviation, said in the statement. Oil prices have more than halved in the past 18 months with supply bolstered by US shale oil output and producer group OPEC's refusal to cede market share.

King Khaled International Airport, the main airport in the capital Riyadh, will be the first asset to be privatized in the first quarter next year. Air traffic control

and information technology units will followed in the second and third quarters respectively, the statement said.

Other units at the country's international airports, as well as local and regional airports, will also be privatized according to a schedule to run up until 2020, the statement said without elaborating. Saudi Arabia has privatized units of the national airline in recent years. Saudi Airlines Catering Co and Saudi Ground Services Co have been listed on the stock market and the cargo unit is expected to be next.

The kingdom has been investing heavily in aviation infrastructure to back the industry's expansion plans, including building multi-billion dollar projects to expand capacity at the country's airports. But the kingdom, the biggest Arab economy and the largest country in the Gulf geographically, still has one of the smallest airline networks in the region relative to its size. According to GACA 2014 statistics, the latest on its website, there are 27 airports in the kingdom of which four - in Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Medina - are international. — Reuters

News

in brief

US dollar stable at KD 0.303 against dinar

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at KD 0.303, while the euro rose to KD 0.327 yesterday compared to Thursday's rates. The Central Bank of Kuwait said in its daily bulletin that the sterling was stable at KD 0.462, the Swiss franc at KD 0.301 and the Japanese yen was unchanged at KD 0.002. The exchange rate of main currencies was stable as the international markets await the results of the G20 meeting to be inaugurated later on in Turkey, amid anxiety over the effects of the recent terrorist attacks on Paris.

Aluminum Bahrain to reach cost cutting target

DAMMAM: Aluminum Bahrain , owner of one of the world's largest smelters of the lightweight metal, said yesterday it was on track to reduce its cash costs by \$150 a ton by January and is looking to cut costs further. The state-backed company had started the two-year project to reduce its cash costs in 2013, the company's chief executive Tim Murray told an industry conference. "We are ahead of the curve in terms of cost-cutting," he said. "We will reach target by January 2016 but we need a lot more."

Egyptian unemployment edges up to 12.8% in Q3

CAIRO: Egypt's unemployment rate edged up to 12.8 percent in the third quarter of 2015 from 12.7 percent the previous quarter, but was lower than the 13.1 percent rate in the same period of last year, the statistics agency said yesterday. President Abdel Fatah Al-Sisi has pledged to reduce joblessness to 10 percent over the next five years-a target that will require much higher levels of economic growth. Egypt has struggled to restore growth levels battered by political upheaval since the 2011 uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak after 30 years in power. That revolt was partly driven by anger about the lack of job prospects for young Egyptians. Egypt's labor force grew by 218,000 people in the third quarter to reach about 28 million, the agency said in a statement, but joblessness among young people remained stubbornly high at almost twice the national rate. Unemployment among 15-29 year-olds rose to 27.4 percent in the third quarter from 26 percent in the previous quarter.

Qatar CB rules out market intervention

DOHA: Qatar's central bank is comfortable with liquidity levels in the banking system and does not see any need for intervention in the money market ahead of a possible US interest rate hike, central bank governor Sheikh Abdullah bin Saud Al-Thani said yesterday. "Liquidity is very comfortable at the moment. I don't see there is a need of any intervention at the moment. "The interest rate in the US might in the future go up and that will give us a chance to review monetary policies, which will be based on the condition of the market at that time," he told reporters on the sidelines of a conference in Doha. Sheikh Abdullah also said the recent reduction in the size of Treasury bill issues was not a sign of tightening liquidity. In October and November, the central bank sold half the amount of bills that it planned at auctions. "The drop from 4 billion (riyals) to 2 billion in Treasury bills is not a sign of anything, it's just trying to base the quantity of Treasuries to smooth the yield curve. It's not a sign that there is no interest, it has nothing to do with liquidity," Sheikh Abdullah said.

DANA GAS PLANS MORE COST CUTS

DUBAI: United Arab Emirates energy firm Dana Gas plans to cut costs in 2016 as the company gears up for a prolonged period of low crude prices, its chief executive said yesterday. The Abu Dhabi-listed firm plans to cut general and administrative expenses by 55 percent in 2016 and operating expenses by a smaller amount, CEO Patrick Allman-Ward said.

"We need to prepare ourselves for the continued low oil price environment going forward," Allman-Ward told reporters on an earnings call. Oil prices have fallen by more than half since a June 2014 peak.

Since the beginning of the year the firm has cut \$5 million in costs by lowering general and administrative expenses, as well as reducing the workforce in the fourth quarter of this year, according to a company statement yesterday. Dana Gas reported a net loss of \$9 million in the three months to Sept. 30, from a profit of \$38 million in the prior-year period, it said in the statement.

Allman-Ward said the fourth quarter would be similarly challenging.

A bright spot is Egypt, where the company expects production to increase significantly in 2016, he said. Dana expects initial production from the Balsam Field in the Nile Delta to come on stream before the end of the year. The company recorded 32,144 barrels of oil equivalent per day in Egypt in the third quarter, a decline of 21 percent from the same period in 2014.

Allman-Ward also said he expected a judgment "imminently" on a legal dispute with Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The company is one of the largest oil and gas investors in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

On Sept. 21 it was among claimants that made an application to the London Court of International Arbitration Tribunal for a final monetary award against the Kurdish government for outstanding unpaid invoices for produced condensate and LPG. Dana Gas saw falling profits in the first and second quarters and a loss in the fourth quarter of 2014, hit by a slump in oil prices. Crude prices have dropped substantially since a June 2014 peak. — Reuters



KUWAIT: The KSE closed trading yesterday with the benchmark dropping by 66.3 points to 5,700 points. —KUNA

JITTERS TO GRIP KSE THIS WEEK: ANALYSTS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) main indices are expected to fluctuate up and down throughout this week due to suspension of companies that have failed to make their financial disclosures for the year's Q3 as scheduled, according to analysts.

The market is forecast to witness fall of value volume, which grew the past week and contributed to lifting the capital value by 1.87 percent to reach KD 26.3 billion. Hamad Al-Hajeri told KUNA the market usually witnesses

instability in the end of fiscal seasons, noting that the companies' suspension would impact negatively on the investors' psychological condition.

These defaulters are the same who had failed to make the announcements on time in the past, Al-Hajeri said, calling on "the competent authorities" to investigate their status.

His fellow Mohammad Al-Tarrah said in remarks to KUNA that the issue of companies' suspension has been witnessed in the market since 10 years

ago, noting that some of them could not restore their normal condition since break-out of the global financial crisis. Bulk of their stocks are below 100 fils in addition to their inactive shares. The KSE closed trading yesterday with the benchmark dropping by 66.3 points to 5,700 points, the weighted index went down 5.08 points, and KSX 15 was also down by 14.22 points. Value of traded shares stood at KD 17.8 million, volume of exchanged stocks some 137.7 million, done in 3,398 deals. — KUNA

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.485
Indian Rupees	4.613
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Srilankan 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

GOLD	
20 gram	221.41
10 gram	113.40
5 gram	57.38

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
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

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 Frank	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
Kenyan Shilling	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	0.0031253	0.036253
Swiss Franc	0.296438	0.306638
Turkish Lira	0.100849	0.111149

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 upee	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

BAYT.COM CROSSES PIVOTAL 10,000-JOBS-A-DAY MILESTONE CAREER PORTAL CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

DUBAI: Bayt.com, the Middle East's number one job site, is celebrating 15 years of delivering effective, end-to-end employment solutions to job seekers and HR professionals throughout the region. Since its inception, Bayt.com has grown at an incredibly rapid pace - from a simple online job portal to the single largest career site and recruitment solutions marketplace for professionals and companies in the Middle East and North Africa. Bayt.com has continued to provide unparalleled value across the employment spectrum by maintaining its commitment, over the years, to deliver unique and innovative products that specifically cater to the region's special employment needs.

"Using Bayt.com, Gulf International Bank (GIB) has become much more cost-effective in the recruitment function," said Nawaf Kably, Head of Recruitment & Staff Benefits, at Gulf International Bank. "In just one year, Bayt.com has helped us trim the time it takes to close our hiring targets to almost half, and saved approximately \$150,000. Bayt.com solutions has especially been a terrific tool that has measurably improved our bottom line and quality of hire."

Today, over 22,750,000 professionals and over 40,000 leading organizations enjoy the job site's fully-trilingual (Arabic, English, and French) recruitment platform. Bayt.com caters to all industry categories, job roles and career levels. In 2015 alone, Bayt.com welcomed over 3 million new members spanning the region's hottest and most vibrant sectors and career profiles.

"From its very inception, Bayt.com set out to serve as an engaging, powerful, and indispensable online platform, designed to match the needs of qualified job seekers with those of employers across the career and industry spectrum," said Suhail Masri, VP of Sales,

local provider to other famous branded career channels. Rotana's Bayt.com-powered careers website has become our main source for recruiting candidates. Having at our disposal our very own pool of more than 300,000 job-seekers of all career levels, departments and geographical regions, has helped us considerably reduce the ratio of utilizing recruitment agencies and other hiring sources, and hence, remarkably saving on our recruitment expenses."

"From an administrative point of view," Karpovich continues. "The platform is a very handy recruitment tool - the entire process is managed easily, allowing us to post vacancies, receive CVs, filter, screen, contact candidates and track all activities from the confines of a highly functional Employer Workspace. To crown it all, Bayt.com technical support team is very much responsive and efficient in handling not only sporadic system glitches but also in working together on introducing new features and developing the functionality of the website. We regularly receive commendable feedback from jobseekers using the website from their side."

Looking back, Bayt.com's 15-year journey has been punctuated by a slew of milestones and industry firsts. In 2001, Bayt.com became the first bilingual recruitment portal in the region; two years later, it launched an application service provider enabling instant connections between relevant jobs and potential employees. In 2004, Bayt.com launched a CV writing service, followed by professional career coaching in 2006. This led to the first ever Virtual Job Fair in the Middle East, a platform now very popular with conglomerates and educational institutes seeking to engage real-time on a large scale with jobseekers and students across the region.

In 2010, Bayt.com launched its Salaries platform, a salary benchmark repository and calculator which has since evolved into a comprehensive salary research tool for both professionals and companies. In 2012, a mobile application was launched, making the site

more accessible to professionals who wished to explore career options while on the move. In line with its mission to maximize community value, Bayt.com Specialties, the first pan-regional Middle East social career tool was introduced in 2013. It enables professionals to showcase their interests and expertise while networking with industry peers. In September 2015, Bayt.com Specialties hit the 1-million-

questions milestone and 10-million-users mark in a resounding testimony to the dynamism of the career conversations on the site. As part of its efforts to encourage entrepreneurship and small business creation in the Middle East and North Africa, Bayt.com also launched its Start-up Kit earlier this year.

Bayt.com's current roster of high value pioneering functions includes a 'Learning' section - that consists of tests and courses - especially created to empower members to enhance and develop their careers. In addition, it enables employers to gauge knowledge of new hires in a fast and simple way with pre-existing tests. There is also a new and highly differentiated mobile application, in an extensively augmented line-up of employer tools.

Masri concludes: "We are delighted with how far Bayt.com has come and we continue to expand assignments from loyal existing clients and attract strategic new business from market leaders in every industry. We are very proud of how our work in both the private and public sector advisory and core direct recruitment arenas has gone a long way in truly paving the region's employment landscape and impacting the lives of millions of professionals and their families, in line with our mission to empower people with the tools and technologies to build a better life. Bayt.com remains the region's leading platform for top talent and employers to meet, interact and effect highly informed employment decisions in the fastest, easiest and most efficient manner possible."



Suhail Masri, VP of Sales, Bayt.com.



MANILA: Street sweepers watch as a convoy of APCs (Armored Personnel Carrier) and Philippine National Police Special Action Force prepare to 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. — AP

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL WILL STRENGTHEN TIES WITH ASIA

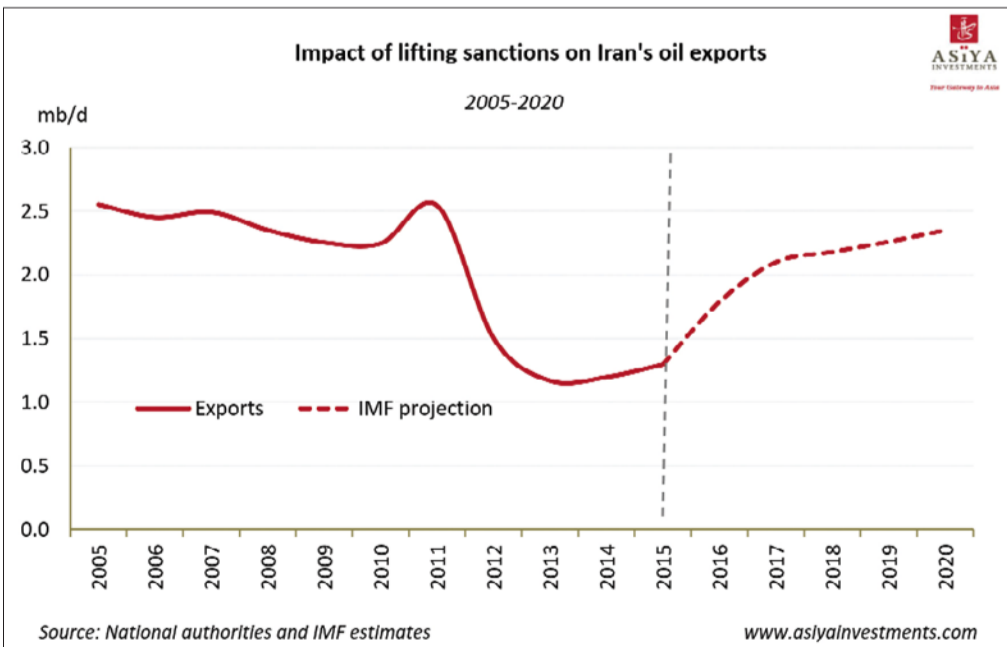
ASIYA INVESTMENTS COMPANY WEEKLY ANALYSIS

By Ahmad A Al-Nafisi,

KUWAIT: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement reached in July between Iran and the P5+1 - US, Britain, China, France, Russia, plus Germany - will have significant economic consequences for Iran, as well as for Asia-Pacific countries and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Under the deal, Iran will receive relief from economic sanctions imposed by the US, EU and the United Nations in return for limits on its nuclear capabilities. The deal has now been approved by Iran's Supreme Leader and has survived the 60-day congressional review in the US, which were considered to be the two most significant political hurdles to the deal. If the International Atomic Energy Agency verifies that Iran has lived up to its obligations under the agreement, most sanctions are expected to be lifted at some point early next year.

Sanctions took a toll on the Iranian economy when they were intensified in 2011, causing it to contract by about 9 percent over 2013 and 2014. The agreement could provide a significant boost to the Iranian economy once implemented. The IMF estimates that lifting sanctions could add a cumulative 15 percentage points to the country's GDP growth over the next five years, relative to a baseline in which sanctions are sustained. In the short term, the main driver of Iran's growth post sanctions would be a pickup in oil exports, which are expected to increase by between 0.5 and 1 million barrels per day (b/d) as soon as the deal comes into effect, up from its current exports of around 1 million b/d.

The removal of sanctions is expected to boost trade and investment ties between Iran and the Asia-Pacific region. Iran's top four crude oil importers are all Asian countries - China, India, South Korea and Japan - but these countries have progressively cut volume since sanctions were put in place. The JCPOA would allow Asian importers to remove caps on oil imports from Iran, and insurance companies would be able to underwrite tankers transporting Iranian oil. A lift on a ban to pay for Iranian oil with hard currencies will also facilitate transactions. China and India have already ramped up oil imports from Iran last year after sanctions were eased in late 2013. In the first half of 2014 China's Iranian oil imports surged 50 percent from a year earlier, while India's rose by about a third.



Asian investment into Iran's oil and gas sector and into infrastructure construction is also expected to increase. Chinese, Indian and Japanese energy companies have been in talks with Iran recently to resume oil and gas exploration and development projects that were either scrapped or put on hold when sanctions began to intensify. The China National Petroleum Corp. agreed to a \$2 billion deal earlier this year to finish development of the North Azadegan oil field that would produce 120,000 b/d once completed. India is also considering building a pipeline under the Arabian Sea to import Iranian gas,

and has reportedly agreed to supply Iran with rail tracks to develop its railway system.

The Iran deal will also have economic implications for the GCC countries through its impact on oil prices. The IMF estimates that Iran's re-entry into the global oil market could cause oil prices to decline by between 5 percent and 10 percent, if OPEC's members do not compensate for Iran's entry by cutting production. This means that the price of oil could drop below \$40 a barrel if Iran increases oil exports while oil prices are at current levels. According to the IMF, if the oil price stayed at \$50, the GCC countries, with the exception of Kuwait, UAE and Qatar, would run out of cash reserves in less than five years if current fiscal spending policies do not change. The resumption of Iranian oil exports will put additional pressure on GCC countries to adjust their fiscal policies.

JAPAN PLANS TO BOOST BIRTH RATE TO SPUR GROWTH

TOKYO: Japan plans to include steps to raise the birth rate, such as easier access to childcare and tax incentives, in a package of reforms due this month to tackle the biggest bottleneck to economic growth. Japan's population began declining four years ago after several years of warnings that the birth rate was too low, prompting some economists to applaud Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision to put the issue on the agenda.

"I want to confront the demographic problem head on and place particular emphasis on policies that will contribute to raising the birth rate," Abe said on Thursday after a cabinet meeting.

However, others warn the government has fallen so far behind on the population issue that it will be difficult to raise economic growth without opening up to large-scale immigration. Most countries would turn to immigration, but this has met with resistance from politicians and the public, who prize the country's mostly homogeneous society. "There is a lack of childcare facilities and improving this is important," said Hiroshi Shiraiishi, senior economist at BNP Paribas Securities.

"However, this will not boost growth in the next five years. The more direct way is through

immigration." Abe wants to raise the birth rate to 1.8 per woman from 1.42 currently by loosening regulations on childcare providers and making it easier for women to return to work after their child is born.

Other proposals the government will consider are easing the tax burden for some part-time employees and making interest-free loans available for higher education.

The idea is to prevent the population from falling below 100 million from around 127 million currently. Advanced economies usually require a birth rate around 2.1 children per woman simply to keep the population stable. Japan's population is projected to fall around a third to 87 million in 2060, the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research says.

Japan's working-age population peaked in the mid-1990s and has been falling ever since, data from the internal affairs ministry shows. Projections show the labour force could shrink to 44 million in 2060, which is half of its peak.

China's scrapping of its one-child policy and adoption of a two-child policy is expected to boost the country's economic growth by about 0.5 of a percentage point, a senior Chinese official said on Tuesday. — Reuters

CHINA TRYING TO REVIVE GROWTH WITH INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

HONG KONG: Local officials in China are dithering over project approvals and business deals, some to avoid the spotlight of an anti-corruption campaign, impeding Beijing's plans to use infrastructure spending to arrest slowing economic growth. Though the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) approved 1.9 trillion yuan (\$300 billion) of investment projects in the first 10 months of 2015, the country's top auditor estimates \$45 billion of projects are behind schedule, including a railway line in Yunnan delayed five years by official sloth.

Provincial and city officials were once in the vanguard of China's breakneck expansion, and they didn't always play by the rules for procurement or when awarding contracts or rights for land use. Now, when central government is trying to lift growth from 25-year lows, they fear drawing attention to themselves in case their past comes back to bite them.

China has stepped up inspection and auditing of big projects to curb graft since late 2012, when President Xi Jinping declared war on corruption, vowing to go after powerful "tigers" and lowly "flies".

"Many people fear that the more they do, the more likely they will get into trouble," said an official in southern Jiangxi province, who requested anonymity. "Local officials are not fully implementing the central government's policy measures," said the official. Prosecutors investigated 4,040 civil servants at the county level or above in 2014, an average of 11 a day, parliament was told in March.

But keeping their heads down is also getting them into trouble. State media reported in September that nearly 250 officials had been punished for failing to spend government funds, delaying projects or sitting on land earmarked for development. Premier Li Keqiang has repeatedly scolded procrastinating officials for laziness. Local media said he pounded the table as he blasted officials for inertia at a meeting last year.

CARROT AND STICK

Li has since been trying a little carrot to go

with the stick, promising to promote "upright" officials while sacking crooked ones, and give them a bit more rope to do the right thing.

"We should give local authorities more autonomy in making decisions and give more support for local officials who are willing and capable of doing things," Li told provincial officials during a meeting in October. In the first 10 months of the year, local reticence has contributed to a slowing of annual growth in fixed-asset investment to 10.2 percent, the weakest pace since 2000, despite the NDRC's quickening of project approvals.

Low returns and the lack of legal protection have hampered Beijing's efforts to lure private investment into infrastructure projects, adding pressure on the government to spend more.

"It will be very difficult to stabilise economic growth without local support," said a researcher with the NDRC. "The ordinary people welcome the fight on corruption, but this brings about side effects as some officials are not doing anything."

Many growth-obsessed officials have been caught in the campaign. Liu Zhijun, the former railway minister nicknamed "Great Leap Liu" for pushing construction of the world's largest high-speed network, received a suspended death sentence in 2013 for corruption and abuse of power. Local media said a well-known businesswoman, sentenced to 20 years, had helped Liu secure 49 million yuan in kickbacks for railway construction contracts.

Xi looks determined to sustain the anti-graft drive, promising institutional reforms and system building so officials "will not dare and cannot afford to be corrupt".

The anti-corruption campaign is not the only reason officials are dragging their feet. Provinces and cities are groaning under 24 trillion yuan in debt, equivalent to almost two-fifths of GDP, after responding to Beijing's last big stimulus push during the global financial crisis in 2008-09. Economic growth slowed to an annual 6.9 percent in the third quarter, and many analysts expect it to slow further. — Reuters

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEKAHEAD

Analysts do not see an impact on the Fed's monetary policy at this point. "The knee-jerk reaction in other terrorist attacks over the last decade has been a rush to safety, including aggressive buying in the US Treasury markets," said Guy LeBas, chief fixed income strategist at

"Recently, we have seen an increasing number of cities reporting a sequential home price increase, a trend which we think continued despite a slowdown in home sales growth in October," said Robert Carnell at ING. "Overall, we believe that China's growth prospects depend on housing." The world's second-largest economy grew a reported 6.9 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, the weakest pace since the global financial crisis, but a pace many say likely overestimated the real pace of growth. — Reuters

No change in policy is expected from



Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.2296	3.2749	3.0391	2.1503	3.2952	401.57	4.5906
Saudi Riyal	0.08177		0.2678	0.2485	0.1758	0.2694	32.84	0.3754
US Dollar	0.30535	3.7343		0.9280	0.6566	1.0062	122.62	1.4017

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30535	3.7343	0.3742	3.6264	0.3831	3.6570	7.7201
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2749		12.2296	1.2255	11.8762	1.2547	11.9764	25.2828
Saudi Riyal	0.2670	0.08177		0.1002	0.9711	0.1026	0.9793	2.0673
Bahraini Dinar	2.6724	0.18601	9.9794		9.6911	1.0239	9.7728	20.6309
Qatari Riyal	0.2758	0.08420	1.0298	0.1032		0.1057	1.0084	2.1289
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79699	9.7468	0.9767	9.4652		9.5451	20.1501
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08350	1.0211	0.1023	0.9916	0.1048		2.1110
Egyptian Pound	0.1295	0.03955	0.4837	0.0485	0.4697	0.0496	0.4737	

Global Bond Yields				
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.85	1.66	2.77	3.06
Europe	-0.39	-0.12	0.55	1.41
United Kingdom	0.66	1.33	1.98	2.67

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

Trades								Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	—	0.0	SOKOUK	49.0	47.5	1737392	83,662	47	48.5	▼ -1.5	
IKARUS	96	96	116,650	11,198	8	96	▼ -6.0	KRE	62	60	2,342,978	143,082	30	61	▼ -2.0		
IPG	265	248	307	81	3	248	▼ -2.0	URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—	0.0	
NAPESCO	600	600	1,512	907	1	600	—	0.0	NRE	82	82	81,356	6,671	7	82	—	0.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5	—	0.0	SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	340	—	0.0
GPI	48.5	48.5	1,091,985	52,961	19	48.5	▼ -3.5	TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	510	—	0.0	
ABAR	84	84	1,000	84	2	84	▼ -5.0	AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	—	0.0	
Oil & Gas			1,211,454	65,231	33	762.94	▼ -18.07	MASSALEH	47.0	47.0	80,000	3,760	3	47.0	▼ -1.5		
								ARABREC	33.5	32.0	1,009,000	32,960	15	32.0	▼ -2.5		
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	238	—	0.0	ERESCO	65	64	17,725	1,139	3	65	▲	1.0
BPCC	570	560	300	169	3	570	—	0.0	MBANEE	900	880	110,644	98,062	19	890	—	0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	—	0.0	INJAZZAT	86	81	952,218	80,283	63	86	▲	5.0
ALQURAIN	190	188	282,513	53,208	19	188	—	0.0	INVESTORS	30.0	29.0	9,385,314	274,916	82	29.5	▼ -0.5	
Basic Materials			282,813	53,377	22	1032.96	—	0.00	IRC	32.5	31.5	597,502	19,211	25	32.5	▼ -1.5	

KINS	305	305	1,145,766	349,459	11	305	▼	-10
GINS	800	730	6,355	4,640	2	800	▲	50.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	—	0.0
WINS	110	108	102,950	11,319	2	108	▼	-6.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	—	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	—	0.0
WETHAQ	40.0	40.0	5,500	220	1	40.0	▲	1.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			1,260,571	365,637	16	1119.04	▲	6.24

BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	—	0.0
AFQA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	—	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
SAFRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	16.5	—	0.0
AJWAN	26.5	26.5	1,000	27	1	26.5	▼	-1.5
MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.0	—	0.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	—	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	—	0.0
FLEX	43.0	38.5	1,502	58	3	42.0	▲	1.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	—	0.0
KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	—	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	—	0.0
Parallel Market			2,502	84	4	1249.97	▼	-5.3

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

WHATEVER IT TAKES, TO KEEP THE EURO LOWER

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Since the latest strong employment report, market confusion continue to be the main theme. As the odds of a rate hike in December have almost reached 70 percent, the dollar continues to be supported at least for the next month by a potential hike in interest rates.

Fed officials have been speaking this week and moving market expectations closer to the Fed dots. Federal Reserve of New York, Dudley gave hints about approaching a rate hike by saying policy should be tightened only slowly after lift-off. Fed vice chairman Fischer also said the Fed's decision to delay raising rates has helped to offset economic headwinds caused by a stronger Dollar.

Having endured a poor performance during September and October, the US dollar is slowly becoming a scarce commodity. Whether by devaluing their currencies using negative interest rates, or turning surpluses into deficits, countries are scrambling to find cheap funding sources after taking major hits against the USD in 2015.

Adding insult to injuries, ECB President Draghi reiterated this week again that the ECB was willing to do whatever it took to revive the European economy. Although we do not think it would make sense to raise the amount of QE in December by looking at the latest economic figures out of Europe, dropping rates more into negative might make more sense for the ECB to force banks into opening more aggressively their balance sheet. In summary, on the foreign exchange side, the dollar index ended the week mostly unchanged against the majors consolidating the recent gains. US data continue to show a strong US economy and expectations of a December rates hike continue to move higher.

If anyone had any doubt, the euro has now become the funding currency of choice on the back of the ECB actions. This week, Draghi's comments were fairly cautious on growth and inflation and noted that the downside risk to global growth and trade were clearly visible. He also added that signs of a sustained turnaround in core inflation have somewhat weakened. Draghi basically signaled that more easing was coming adding to the other ECB speakers. It now seems that an extension of QE and a cut in the deposit rate could be inevitable. After attempting to move higher above the 1.08 level, the Euro closed the week back to the same level of Monday at 1.0773.

With UK headline inflation at historic lows and household price expectations edging down again, the Bank of England has been able to point to better wage growth as evidence that inflation will return to target in two years' time. Late this week, Bank of

England Chief Economist Haldane stuck to his dovish stance, saying that in his view the first BoE rate hike is still a long way off. Clearly the dovish picture disappointed investors who started to look at the downside for the Sterling. The Pound ended the week at 1.5237.

This week's final release of Japan's Industrial production for September showed a slightly stronger rebound in outputs, but such data offered no support to the JPY. After opening on Monday at the 123 level, the Yen ended the week at 122.61.

Commodities remain under pressure as Brent and crude fell -3.8 percent and -2.8 percent respectively on Thursday and again on Friday. Copper fell -2 percent to the lowest



since July 2009. Sentiment was weighed down by somewhat hawkish Fed speakers which clearly did little to ease the anxiety ahead of the December Fed meeting. The commodity weakness was perhaps also an ongoing reflection of the perceived sluggishness in China's underlying economy. Indeed, this week soft bank lending, trade, inflation and industrial data, have all put more emphasis on worries about Chinese growth.

Wage inflation

The National Federation of Independent Business optimism survey for October was unchanged relative to September at 96.1, but slightly lower than expectations of 96.4. The October import price index reading was down -0.5 percent on a monthly basis versus -0.1 percent expected which puts the yearly rate now at -10.5 percent.

In parallel, the rate of job openings in the US has improved the most among the series. The series bottomed in July 2009 and rose to a record high in July 2015 before slipping

slightly in August.

Last but not least, the quits rate has remained unchanged at 1.9 percent from April through August. It is important to note that when people voluntarily quit their job, it is typically a sign of economic strength and confidence in the labor market outlook. The modest rise in the quits rate from its recession low suggests that the recent firming in wages is unlikely to reverse.

Europe & UK

According to newspapers, the ECB is considering the possibility of buying debt of cities and municipalities as part of its asset purchasing program, possibly as soon as March 2016. Papers suggested that almost

percent on a monthly basis during September after expectations for a decline; helping to lift the yearly rate up to +1.8 percent. Manufacturing production 0.0 percent month on month versus expectations of -0.5 percent also beat consensus. France's gross domestic product expanded 0.3 percent in the third quarter from the second, in line with economists' expectations.

In parallel, German quarterly GDP slowed to 0.3 percent from the previous figure of 0.4 percent reflecting the impact of weaker demand for the country's exports from China and other large developing economies. However, the annualized GDP ticked higher to 1.7 percent from 1.6 percent. A decline in investment was another weak spot for the German economy, while consumer spending was the main driver of growth. Germany's consumers remained positive in light of a tight labor market and bright jobs prospects, while in France, falling prices for household energy and fuel are boosting households' disposable income.

UK employment remain strong

UK Q3 unemployment dropped to the lowest level in more than 7-years. Although employment increased 177,000 to 31.2 million, the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits rose by 3,000 in October double the forecasted number. Additionally, employee average earnings only rose 3 percent against 3.2 percent expectations. Finally, the unemployment rate unexpectedly decreased 0.1 percent over the same period to 5.3 percent beating expectations.

On a different front, in its quarterly inflation report, the Bank of England said "the outlook for global growth has weakened since August". It blamed emerging market economies for that weakness, saying growth in those regions had "slowed markedly". While the Bank expects inflation to rise above its 2 percent target in two years, it said that risks "lie slightly to the downside" during that time period. In other words, inflation may not rise as quickly as the Bank forecasts. As a consequence, forecasts for the first change in interest rates have been pushed further into the future.

Asia and commodities

Chinese trade was much weaker than a year ago in October. As exports were falling much quicker than imports, China recorded a record \$61.6bn surplus for the month. Exports on one hand fell 6.9 percent, compared to a 3.7 percent fall in September. Economists expected some improvement, forecasting a 3.2 percent fall, but weak global demand and higher Chinese costs led to low-

er exports. On the other hand, Chinese imports fell 18.8 percent, also lower than expected, however with a slight improvement from the 20.4 percent yearly fall in September.

Different data were slightly more optimistic. Retail sales during October were up more than expected at +11.0 percent on a yearly basis versus consensus of +10.9 percent, up from September. However, industrial production declined last month to +5.6 percent on a yearly basis from +5.7 percent the previous month and below expectations of a rise to +5.8 percent. Lastly fixed asset investment was down last month, although in line with consensus at +10.2 percent on a yearly basis.

China's economy is gradually shifting from manufacturing to services, as it becomes more dependent on consumer spending. For the moment, Beijing is likely to focus on policies to help domestic demand, increasing expectations that the People Bank of China would add further easing measures, and increase direct lending to infrastructure projects.

Australia

A much stronger than expected employment report and lower than expected unemployment rate at 5.9 percent compared to expectations of 6.2 percent in October were the main news in Australia this week. Clearly, employment is continuing to strengthen and the unemployment rate is trending down. The RBA should definitely be pleased with these figures as the data provide further support that the strengthening non-mining sectors of the economy are more than offsetting the drag from weakness in mining. The RBA appears to be coming to that same conclusion as evidenced in its recent November Statement of Monetary

Oil glut not going away

Commodities markets tumbled sharply lower this week. Crude oil finished the week down over 7 percent to close back below \$42 for the first time since August. Brent was weak too, finishing down over 7 percent and back below \$45. For now, it seems there are no shortages of fresh negative headlines on a daily basis suggesting the glut in prices is set to be prolonged. In addition, the latest American Petroleum Institute numbers showed inventories increased by 6.3m barrels last week which was far higher than analyst expectations of 1.1m.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30380

The USDKWD opened at 0.30280 yesterday morning.



BEIJING: Workers install decorations outside a shopping complex in Beijing yesterday. Chinese authorities are trying to transform the country's growth model to a slower but more sustainable one driven by consumption rather than infrastructure investment, but the transition to the "new normal" is proving bumpy. — AFP

CHINA OVERCOMING RELUCTANCE TO ALLOW BOND DEFAULTS

SHANGHAI/HONG KONG: China looks set to allow more bond defaults as part of its market reform agenda, but domestic ratings agencies and bond investors are still betting Beijing will lose its nerve, for fear of hammering its banks. Critics say the \$4 trillion Chinese bond market, the world's third largest, has misallocated its vast sums to some of China's most inefficient companies, such as state-owned dinosaurs in sunset industries or opaque local government financing vehicles.

The market's assumption that such issuers have an unwritten state guarantee has kept bond yields low, while demand among investors is high, especially after a summer stock market crash sent many fleeing to relative safety. "China is still experiencing an onshore debt boom," said Mervyn Teo, credit analyst with Lucror Analytics, but he believes recent defaults argue for more caution.

As recently as Thursday, China Shanshui Cement defaulted on a 2 billion yuan (\$300 million) onshore debt payment, and in April Baoding Tianwei Baobian Electric became the first state-owned firm to default, while another, metals trader Sinosteel, deferred interest payments last month.

All of which suggests Chinese authorities, which used to work feverishly to prevent defaults, are growing

more willing to let weak firms fail.

Despite such defaults, the spread between benchmark yields on safe AAA-rated bonds and riskier AA-rated bonds has fallen sharply in recent months, indicating that people see them as less, not more, risky. Indeed, it has been declining gradually all year, as investors have instead assumed that government concern about slowing growth will make them less willing to let market discipline run its course, especially in the state sector.

"In the past there were no defaults, because almost all issuers were SOEs or government backed," said Phillip Li, managing director at China Chengxin Asia Pacific Credit Ratings.

"This cannot continue. In order for the debt market to be normal, unhealthy debt should be identified."

AGENTS OF BOOM

Domestic debt rating agencies ought to perform that function, but industry insiders say they are instead engaging in a price war for clients, in many cases offering optimistic ratings in exchange for the contract.

Their ratings certainly paint a rosier picture of local firms than their foreign counterparts.

The local agencies say their ratings take into account the fact of regular government intervention, an unwrit-

ten assumption that foreign rivals are less likely to rely upon.

But at the bottom of the heap, distressed debts all smell equally bad, says Kalai Pillay, Fitch Ratings director in Singapore, so their domestic and foreign ratings ought to converge but don't.

"A 'D' is a 'D' - there is no ambiguity," he said.

Policymakers in Beijing are faced with a sticky dilemma. Let more of its industrial dinosaurs go extinct, prompting the local agencies to downgrade the bonds of companies like them, which in turn could trigger a crisis for China's banks, by far the biggest bondholders.

Or let an unreformed bond market continue to set artificially low yields and throw good money after bad, which exacerbates China's industrial overcapacity and increases the likelihood of falling prices and economic stagnation.

"Avoiding a crisis and the spread of systemic risk is always the number one priority of the government," said Oliver Barron, policy research analyst at China-focused investment bank NSBO. "This means that some companies that shouldn't be bailed out will be, perpetuating the current moral hazard and leading to wasted capital," he said. — Reuters

UPHILL TASK FOR NIGERIA'S NEW ECONOMIC TEAM

LAGOS: Nigeria finally has a government after a wait of more than five months but the new ministers have their work cut out to reverse a damaging slump in Africa's leading economy.

Falling global oil prices have shrunk government revenues and slowed growth to a near standstill, while the naira currency is weak, inflation high and unemployment causing widespread concern.

At the same time, the military is working to end a bloody insurgency by the radical Islamist Boko Haram group that has devastated the people and economy of the remote northeast.

"Nigeria has never been this bad," said political commentator Olapade Agoro, who is also an opposition politician and former presidential candidate. All eyes are now on new Finance Minister Kemi Adeosun and her team to come up with policies to tackle the rot.

But Bisarck Rewane, of the Lagos-based consultancy Financial Derivatives, said time was of the essence, with investors keen for clarity about the direction the government will take.

"The thing to do is to hit the ground running because there is no time for rhetoric," he said. "The economy is in dire straits. The GDP is low at 2.4 percent, while inflation is nearing 10 percent with weak

purchasing power and a falling naira."

Unemployment is currently at 8.2 percent, while the oil shock has left Nigeria-Africa's number one crude producer-short of cash to pay for government projects and even civil servants' salaries.

"You've got to raise money to deal with fiscal deficits," said Rewane.

Cash required

Adeosun, a former investment banker, has been credited with turning round the finances of the cash-strapped southwestern state of Ogun, yet is untested at national level. Analysts suggest she will work closely with other key ministers such as Udo Udoma, in charge of budget and national planning, and Okechukwu Enelamah at industry, trade and investment.

The appointment of other technocrats has also been welcomed, in particular former ExxonMobil executive Ibe Kachikwu as junior oil minister to overhaul the graft-ridden sector.

Babatunde Fashola was put in charge of a "super-ministry" for power, works and housing after being seen to have performed well in those areas in Lagos State, which drives Nigeria's economy.

Rotimi Amaechi, the former governor of oil-producing Rivers state, was named

transport minister. Both are seen as powerful members of the new cabinet. But they will need ready cash to follow through and are under pressure to show results quickly, with almost half of President Muhammadu Buhari's first year in office already over.

Sola Oni, of Lagos-based stockbrokers Sofunix Investment and Communications, said the government should look to the stock market for financing. "The federal government should for once exploit the capital market to fund the infrastructural deficiency which has become the bane of our economic growth and development," he said.

Dependency on oil, which supplies 70 percent of government revenue, should be cut, and a renewed emphasis put on addressing the country's crippling power deficit, he added.

Drive growth

The five-month absence of government ministers created uncertainty among investors in what has been a fast-growing emerging market, with nearly 7.0 percent annual average growth from 2005-13.

Attention now is on the announcement of next year's budget, which has to be submitted to parliament by December. Reports this week suggested Vice President Yemi Osinbajo was proposing a budget of about eight trillion naira (\$40 billion, 37 billion euros) for 2016 double that for this year.

Muda Yusuf, director-general of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce, said with a ministerial team now in place, "there should be coherent, consistent and positive signals to investors" to drive growth.

The Central Bank of Nigeria, which filled the void in fiscal policy in the absence of a cabinet, in particular should review its foreign exchange restrictions policy, he added. Seeking to conserve dollar reserves, the bank in June ruled that importers could no longer get hard currency from the interbank market to import dozens of items, from toothpicks to private jets.

In the past year, reserves have fallen by nearly a quarter as it tried to prevent the naira from falling in tandem with plummeting crude prices. The central bank has twice devalued the currency, taking it from 155 naira to the dollar a year ago to 199 currently.

Adeosun, viewed as a reformist, and her fellow ministers should meet with the private sector to plot a way forward and also address rising national debts, he added. "Debt service burden is becoming increasingly unbearable, especially domestic debt," he said. — AFP

KAMCO ANNOUNCES ITS FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR Q3 2015



Faisal Sarkhou

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region and winner of the prestigious Kuwait Asset Manager of the Year Award 2015, announced its financial results for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015.

The Company recorded a loss of KD 736 thousand with earnings-per-share (EPS) of -3.09 fils. However, despite the stressed economic environment, KAMCO's fee income stood at KD 3.6 million (YTD nine months 2014 - KD 3.7 million).

Faisal Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO said, "Operationally and despite the severe equity market fall impact on profitability, KAMCO continued to maintain its Assets under Management at KD 3.3 billion and to grow interest and subscriptions in its managed funds and

recently launched products and services. In addition and despite the poor economic conditions, the investment banking team continued its efforts in undertaking key announced transactions in the market."

Sarkhou added, "KAMCO's management team believes that with oil prices flattening-out and major risks being priced-in, the future should be more promising. Positive indicators going forward include rising oil demand in the US and Europe, an extended quantitative easing program in EU and a stabilizing Chinese economy. In addition, we expect to see an increase in bonds and debt instrument issuances led by various government and financial institutions amid an expected rising interest rate environment. Once the sentiments turn positive, we expect additional flows to capital markets."

Decline in performance

The losses in the third quarter are attributed primarily to the significant decline in local, regional and International equity markets on the back of stressed international and regional geo-political environment, the fall in oil prices and weak economic cues that emanated from China after the Yuan devaluation. Stock market sentiments remained extremely low as seen in the decline recorded by all of the regional indices taking cues from the decline in oil prices, particularly during the third quarter. The investors remained in the 'wait and watch' mode as seen from the decline in trading activity and reduced flow in capital markets. During the first nine months of the year, the KSE Weighted and KSE-15 indices fell almost

by 12 percent, MSCI GCC Index fell by 10 percent whereas S&P 500 declined by almost 7 percent. Meanwhile, oil prices plunged during Q3-15 after showing some improvement during the 1H-15. OPEC oil declined by 26 percent during Q3-15 resulting in a YTD-15 decline of 16.2 percent.

KAMCO Investment Company is a premier investment company based in Kuwait and is regulated by the Capital Markets Authority with one of the largest private sector AUMs in the region.

Established in 1998 and listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in 2003, KAMCO is a subsidiary of United Gulf Bank (UGB) and is the asset management and investment banking arm of Kuwait Projects Holding Company (KIPCO).

OOREDOO WINS 4 TOP AWARDS AT COMMSMEA AWARDS 2015

WINNER OF OVERALL OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AMONG HONORS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo enjoyed incredible success at the CommsMEA Awards in Dubai last week, winning a total of four top prizes, including the highest honour, "Overall Operator of the Year" for Ooredoo Group, and a new category, the "Network Optimization Award" for Ooredoo Qatar's inspiring initiative to enhance the Ooredoo Supernet.

In addition, Ooredoo Oman took home the "Middle East Mobile Operator of the Year," while its Ooredoo Qatar received a second award, "Converged Service Provider of the Year."

With four wins out of a total 14 categories, following 12 nominations, Ooredoo secured its best-ever night at the annual CommsMEA Awards, which is one of the telecoms industry's leading events.

Youssef Al-Shalal, Senior Manager, CSR, Sponsorships and Social Media and Sara Al-Qabandi, CSR Specialist, were presenting Ooredoo Kuwait at the awards ceremony which took place in Dubai last week.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo, said: "Our strategy at Ooredoo is to build a leadership position in every market that we serve, and winning these awards validates our pioneering approach. The whole Ooredoo family is working hard to support customers' digital lifestyles, drive data development and deliver the best networks for all our customers. We dedicate these awards to their ongoing efforts."

Ooredoo received the "Overall

Operator of the Year" award following a remarkable year that has seen the company grow its customer base to nearly 115 million people across the Middle East, North Africa and South East Asia.

Ooredoo has also been very successful in driving data services across its markets as part of its future-facing strategy. Data rev-

enue now represents 35 percent of Ooredoo's total revenue, a new record for the company, and the company holds data leadership positions across a wide range of markets, including Qatar, Iraq, Algeria, and the Maldives.

Ooredoo Oman has also seen a very strong year, increasing customer numbers by 10 percent to

2.8 million in its last financial results (9M 2015), and taking a lead in network performance, most recently acquiring new spectrum frequency (LTE 800) to provide improved 4G coverage and additional capacity.

For Ooredoo Qatar, winning the inaugural "Network Optimization" award is an important testimony to the strength, speed and resilience of the Ooredoo Supernet, which the company has continued to upgrade throughout 2015. Ooredoo now has more than 1,030 4G and 4G+ sites in Qatar and adds more every month, as it aims to make Qatar the best-connected country in the world.

The strength of Ooredoo Qatar's work in this area was reinforced by its second award, "Converged Service Provider of the Year," which recognized Ooredoo as offering the best converged service for its Next Generation Mozaic TV service, supported by Ooredoo Fibre. Ooredoo is shortly set to complete phase three of the nationwide Ooredoo Fibre roll-out, which will make Qatar in the top five nations in terms of fibre penetration worldwide.

Ooredoo's success at the CommsMEA Awards capped a remarkable week for the company, which saw its Ooredoo Global Services wholesale arm win "Best Middle Eastern Wholesale Carrier" at the Global Carrier Awards in Paris and Ooredoo Qatar take home the award for "Telecoms Innovator" at the 2015 Qatar Enterprise Agility Awards: Entrepreneur of the Year.



ABDULAZIZ AL-ABBAD WINS KD1500 IN GULF BANK'S RED ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank welcomed Abdulaziz Hussain Al-Abbad, one of the winners in its monthly Red account draw, to the bank's headquarters in Mubarak Al Kabeer where Yaser Sulaiman, Executive Manager, Consumer Banking congratulated him on winning the KD1500 prize.

On winning the cash prize, Abdulaziz said: "I was informed by my friend who called and told me he heard my name as one of the winners on Marina FM. I was very happy to hear the news."

Gulf Bank had announced six winners for its monthly Salary and Red account draw, which took place recently, live at Marina FM. Customers who open Red Account or Salary Account and transfer their student allowance or monthly salary will be eligible to enter the monthly cash

draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,500. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac SRX.

Through the bank's red program, customers can also see movies at all Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) cinemas during the weekend (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) for KD 1.750 instead of the usual KD 3.5, which is a 50% discount on the normal price. Gulf Bank is the only bank in Kuwait presenting both Salary and Red customers with these one of a kind offers.

For further information about Gulf Bank's red account and other prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at www.e-gulfbank.com.

NISSAN EXTENDS SERVICE INTERVALS AS PART OF CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE STRATEGY IN MIDEAST

DUBAI: Nissan Middle East is affirming its commitment to its regional customers by offering them a greater choice and flexibility with extended service intervals for its new vehicles.

As part of its regional after-sales excellence strategy, the Japanese automaker is offering its customers an extended 10,000km service interval instead of the 5,000km interval, which is currently standard throughout the industry in the Middle East.

This offers a greater flexibility and peace of mind while ensuring optimum Safety & reliability of all its Vehicles. This offers greater flexibility and even better value for money while maintaining its well-earned reputation as a champion for customer service excellence in the region.

"As part of Nissan's strategy for customer service excellence, we are showing our commitment to our regional customers by offering extended service intervals for our new models," says Managing Director of Nissan Middle East, Samir Cherfan. "With this extension of the scheduled service intervals to 10,000km instead of 5,000, our customers can continue enjoying the most competitive cost of maintenance and ownership, but also the most consumer focused."

From 1 December 2015, all Nissans sold in the region will be supplied with periodic service intervals of either 10,000km or every six months, depending on which comes first.

Owners also have the option of getting their Cars serviced at every 5000km, as per their requirement and usage patterns. For more details, get in touch with your Nearest "Authorized Nissan Service Center". This ensures a greater flexibility to the Nissan Owners. "Most of us in the region live in extreme weather conditions and we have adapted to the heat,

dust, humidity in our own way. Our cars operate in punishing environments and with that in mind, many of our customers might prefer to stick with their existing arrangements, especially as Nissan's service costs are the lowest in the business. This new announcement is about Nissan staying in tune with customer requirements and offering more choice than ever," added Cherfan.

With the climatic conditions of the Middle East front of mind, Nissan has carried out comprehensive studies to find the best Engine Oil for the extending the service intervals. As a result, the company now recommends using the new "Nissan Genuine Synthetic Motor Oil (NGMO: 5W30SM)", which extends engine durability and safety even in extreme heat and dust conditions.

In 2014, Nissan Middle East's Aftersales Division reported a 70 per cent growth in demand for Nissan Genuine Motor Oil Range and its popularity with Nissan customers has spread throughout the entire region. It was specially developed for the Middle East's extreme weather conditions and has been proved to increase engine life and performance while reducing maintenance costs.

Nissan Genuine Motor Oil Range is available through its main National Sales Companies and can be found at Nissan Service Centers, Parts Outlets and Authorized Oil Wholesalers

across the Middle East.

"All of our models deserve the best quality service and maintenance and we will not swerve in our dedication to delivering the very best levels of customer service. This commitment to Aftersales has helped our impressive growth, not only in sales but in levels of customer satisfaction," concluded Cherfan. In 2014 Nissan was recognized as the most awarded automotive brand in the MENA region for the third consecutive year, having received no fewer than 15 prestigious international and regional accolades.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES YAWMI ACCOUNT WINNERS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced today the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. AHMED NASER ALI AL EID
2. ALI NAHER MOJADDAMI
3. MOHAMMAD MAKKI ABDULAZIZ AL QALLAF
4. FAISAL FALEH AYED AL SUBAIEI
5. JUMAH BADER JABER WADI

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their

account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If



the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

AUB TO HOLD SEMINAR ON CHANGES IN TAX ON REAL ESTATE IN UK

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank will organize a seminar for its clients on November 17 in collaboration with the well-known London-based law firm, Charles Russell LLP. The seminar will provide Ahli United Bank customers with details about the proposed changes to the law related to UK inheritance tax on residential properties owned by offshore companies and will conclude by an open session for Q&A.

On this occasion, Medhat Tawfik, General Manager of Private Banking and Wealth Management at Ahli United Bank, said in a press release: "This seminar continues a series of seminars that Ahli United Bank has organized to shed light on buying and selling residential properties in London and elsewhere in the

United Kingdom. In the past we have received an excellent attendance from our bank clients especially as the real estate market in London increasingly attracts clients".

Tawfik added, "The Bank's ambition is to keep clients informed of such changes



and the impact they may have on real estate investments. Such seminars show that Ahli United Bank is always concerned with fulfilling client expectations of us at all times."

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account draw on 15th November, 2015. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are: Mohammad Sadiq Mohammad Hussain — KD 7000, Sajjad Ali Hassan — KD 7000, Najmiyah Mohammad Kazim — KD 7000, Mohammad Ahmad Mohammad Abdulmajeed — KD 7000, Abdulaziz Mohammad Mohammad Faraj Nafea — KD 7000.

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announces the biggest daily draw in Kuwait with the launch of the new Najma account. Customers of the bank can now enjoy a KD 7,000 daily prize which is the highest in the country and another 4 mega prizes during the year worth KD 100,000 each on different occasions: The National Day, Eid Al-Fitr, Eid Al-Adha and on the 19th of June which is the date of the bank's establishment.

With a minimum balance of KD 500, customers will be eligible for the daily draw provided that the money is in the account one week prior to the daily draw or 2 months prior to the mega draw. In addition, for each KD 25 a customer can get one chance for winning instead of KD 50.

Commercial Bank of Kuwait takes this opportunity to congratulate all lucky winners and also extends appreciation to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for their effective supervision of the draws which were conducted in an orderly and organized manner.



CBS HOPES DEBATE COVERAGE WILL BOOST STREAMING SERVICE

NEW YORK: CBS News sees its coverage of Saturday's Democratic presidential debate as a key moment in helping to establish CBSN, the streaming service that just celebrated its first birthday.

Political reporter Major Garrett will host a preview of the debate an hour before it begins on CBSN. The free service will stream the debate live, accompanied by data and tweets provided by Twitter, with Garrett stepping in with reactions during commercial breaks of the televised contest. It is also being shown on the broadcast television network.

CBSN, which launched on Nov. 6, 2014, provides a continuous newscast and also allows users to click on streams of individual stories. It is available on the CBS News website, on the network's mobile apps and

through services like Apple TV, Roku and Android TV. Starting this week, it can also be seen on Xbox One. "What this has to be to be a success is to be completely ubiquitous, that everybody who is delivering live news content has to be distributing us," said CBS News President David Rhodes.

CBS views it as the future of video news, a generation removed from cable news networks. The average age of a CBSN viewer is just under 40, considerably younger than the traditional television news demographic, the Nielsen company said. It is younger by three years for people watching on Internet-connected televisions.

For now, the service is unique to CBS. Rhodes said he believes competitors like CNN, Fox News and MSNBC are reluctant to

try something similar because potential users would be put off by having to go through cable companies to use the service. "If we make a go of this and it becomes a commercial success, I think you will see others try to get into it," he said. "I think we would welcome that because it's a validation of our strategy."

Ongoing debates

While the network does not say how many people use CBSN, Rhodes said he expected it will get more views Saturday night than ever before.

Usage tends to spike around major news events, he said. Oddly, the service has done well before, during and after previous presidential debates, which Rhodes found surprising considering CBSN did not stream them.

The service has offered ongoing discussions about the debates while they were happening with occasional highlights, and Rhodes speculated it appeals to cord-cutters who have no traditional TV service.

This Saturday, network executives anticipate CBSN will be used as a second screen for many people already watching the debate on the broadcast network.

Garrett said he'll be helping to curate the Twitter feed that will appear on the CBSN screen. "That's part of the experiment," he said. "Everyone associated with social media is trying to figure out - how do you make it meaningful and not just noisy?"

Because of social media, the "spin room" that existed after debates is now in operation while the event is still going on. Garrett will

use the broadcast commercial breaks to show how campaign aides are trying to shape the stories. Garrett, who worked at both CNN and Fox News Channel, had anticipated a more structured environment at CBS with newscasts in the morning and evening broadcasts. CBSN takes him back to his cable days where there is much more time to fill; fewer commercials mean discussions can go even longer at CBSN.

His children - ages 20, 19 and 15 - provide him with a daily reminder of the importance of CBSN. Their dad works in TV but they rarely see him there. They catch him in clips that are linked on social media.

"The digital platform is essential for the fate of broadcast network news," he said. "We have to be in that space." — AP

MOBILE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY EXPENSIVE IN US THAN EUROPE

PARIS: Perhaps everything's bigger in America, as the old saw goes, but when it comes to mobile phone calls and data usage, US consumers are certainly paying big, sometimes nearly as 20 times as much as Europeans.

If you live in France, you can pay as little as 20 euros (\$21.50) per month for a monthly package featuring 50 gigabytes of data, unlimited domestic and international calls to over 100 countries and unlimited text messages. In the United States, that much data could cost you \$390 per month from one national operator.

While the above comparison may be the extreme, it dovetails with an International Telecommunications Union report last year which found US data to be up to 19.5 times more expensive than in Europe when corrected for purchasing power of consumers.

The result is that while US companies may be the pioneers with online video streaming services like Netflix and Hulu, Americans have been asked to pay much more for what it takes to use them on a smartphone, which is rapidly becoming a popular platform for catching the latest episode of your TV show.

That may be changing though, as another US operator recently dropped its unlimited calls and data package from \$180 to \$80 per month.

Less choice, higher prices

So why has there been such a huge difference?

"The fundamental reason is competition," said Steven Hartley, Practice leader for Service Providers and Markets at telecoms and IT consultancy Ovum.

France and Britain-where you can get an unlimited data plan for as little as £27 (\$41) — each have four national mobile operators. The same goes for Sweden, where the cheapest 50 gigabyte plan is roughly \$46.

Meanwhile in the United States the handful of so-called national operators don't really fully cover all of the country. At any given location only one or two may be present, plus a small regional player.

"Of course where you have less choice you are going to have higher prices," said Hartley. The situation is in some ways ironic, given that the United States is generally seen as the paragon of free competition which is supposed to lead to lower prices while the European Union ties companies up in red tape, thus causing higher prices.

But in this case "the EU has gone out of its way to encourage more competition and to regulate prices, and to regulate them down", which has benefited consumers, said Hartley.

Hellish circle

Sylvain Chevallier, an associate at telcoms specialist BearingPoint consultancy, agreed that competition is the issue, but believes the problem is in Europe. "It's not that the US market isn't competitive, but I would say that in fact the European market is way too competitive" which has resulted in plunging prices, he said.

Companies need a certain number of subscribers to cover their costs of building and operating their networks, he said. In the United States "you don't have this constant life or death struggle for a sufficient number of customers" said Chevallier, calling it a "competitive but reasonable market".

But he believes in certain European markets, such as France, there are too many operators for the number of customers, noting that the revenue per customer fell by nearly a third when a fourth operator started business.

"To survive the operators must get as many clients as possible, but to do so cut prices," said Chevallier. "It's a hellish circle that results in the market losing its value."

While Europeans may enjoy low prices now, the question will be whether operators will be willing to invest the massive sums needed to upgrade and expand their networks. Indeed, the need to recoup investment costs is the main argument advanced by the US mobile industry to explain its tariffs.

Low income households burdened

But such an explanation is just "smoke and mirrors" said Linda Sherry, a spokeswoman for Consumer Action, a US consumer advocacy group that takes issue with a number of practices that stick consumers with higher bills.

In Europe, if you exceed your data allowance you'll see your speed reduced, but in the United States you'll find an extra charge from some operators.

Long term contracts with subsidised phones make it difficult to change operators to take advantage of a better deal. The importance of service charges for smartphones is about more than paying a premium to catch the latest episode of Empire.

A US Census report last year found that minorities and low-income households are more likely to only have handheld devices to access the Internet, which is increasingly becoming the gateway for many services. "We see why people feel this is a critical service," said Sherry. "It eats up a much larger percentage of their income, but as it is necessary, minorities and low-income families bite the bullet and pay. They are going without something else," she said. — AFP



ROME: A photo taken on Saturday shows a peace sign next to flowers outside the French embassy in Rome, a day after a string of attacks on the French capital Paris. — AFP

‘PEACE FOR PARIS’ SYMBOL GOES VIRAL

MUSLIM AUSTRALIAN DONATES \$1 FOR EVERY HATE-FILLED TWEET

PARIS: A "Peace for Paris" symbol, combining the city's beloved Eiffel Tower with the peace sign of the Sixties, has gone viral following the Paris terror attacks. The designer is a 32-year-old French graphic artist, Jean Jullien, who lives in London.

Listening to the radio, he became horrified by the violence unfolding in his nation's capital and reached for his sketchpad. "My first reaction was to draw something and share it," he told AFP. "It was spontaneous. I wanted to do something that could be useful for people."

"Given the scale of the violence, the peace-and-love symbol was essential. It was then quite an easy thing to combine it with the Eiffel Tower, the symbol of Paris," he added. "The two symbols fit together." The peace-and-love motif was adopted by Britain's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in the 1950s, before being used by anti-war and "counter-culture" militants in the 1960s.

Jullien posted the combined symbol on his website and then tweeted it. Within hours, it was shared more 45,000 times and retweeted 76,000

times, including by the British underground artist Banksy. At least 128 people were killed and several hundred were killed in coordinated gun-and-explosives attacks on a Paris concert hall, restaurants and the Stade de France stadium.

A similar Internet phenomenon occurred after the January 7 attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, in which 12 people were killed by jihadist gunmen.

Joachim Roncin, artist director and music journalist at the lifestyle magazine Stylist, devised a slogan of solidarity, "Je Suis Charlie" (I am Charlie), in white capital letters on a black background.

He placed the image on social media, and within hours it was picked up around France and beyond, becoming the totem of nationwide rallies totalling an estimated four million.

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 instalment to UNICEF," she wrote. — Agencies

HUMAN ROADBLOCK FOR JAPANESE FIRMS DEVELOPING AUTONOMOUS CARS

TOKYO: Japanese car manufacturers will have to convince the public that letting go of the wheel in a self-driving car is safe, while also dealing with the biggest threat to the cars' security: the humans using them.

Toyota, Nissan and Honda are intent on putting autonomous cars on highways-and also city roads for Nissan-by 2020, and the triumvirate of Japan's auto industry were keen to stress the advances made so far at the recent Tokyo Motor Show.

Their stated goal-preventing deaths on the road-is laudable, but the technological arms race is also highly lucrative: consultancy firm AT Kearney has estimated the market for the self-driving car could be worth more than \$566 billion by 2035.

Nissan chief executive Carlos Ghosn told reporters at the Tokyo show the company has high hopes the technology will save lives while altering car journeys forever. "It compensates for human error, which causes more than 90 percent of all car accidents." As a result, time spent behind the wheel is safer, more efficient and more fun," he said.

But Ghosn's comments belie the work still to be done, as its engineers edge forward in steps rather than leaps. Google offers promises of a fully autonomous car, but these automakers are taking a more gradual approach, focusing on aspects such as self-parking and crash avoidance technology.

Functions such as emergency braking and speed-limiting devices that track the distance between vehicles already exist, but getting drivers to abandon the steering wheel completely is a harder sell.

"We must make sure our clients understand how the machine works," said Nissan's chief planning officer, Philippe Klein.

To instill confidence, the artificial intelligence that will power Nissan's autonomous cars will mirror the driver's driving style as closely as possible, while "ironing out any bad habits," the automaker said.

Intersection conundrum

Obtaining the trust of drivers is crucial, as without it

"we cannot move forward," said Moritaka Yoshida, a Toyota executive. And even if the user of a self-driving car is convinced of its superior safety, other road users need to feel secure sharing the tarmac. Manufacturers are experimenting with icons or written messages appearing on wind-shields, warning sounds, and in one case a light-strip along the length of the car whose colour and intensity would alter in different situations. Intersections present a particular challenge, said Melissa Cefkin, who is based at Nissan's Silicon Valley research centre.

"Sometimes drivers communicate between them-

selves and with pedestrians or cyclists directly, by swapping looks, with a hand gesture, or even verbally," she said. "Sometimes it's interpretative: we look for signals while judging the vehicle's speed and movements."

The tiny pointers that motorists pick up from one another are not yet within the reach of the technology. "Currently, the machine isn't capable of grasping all the subtlety of these clues," Cefkin said.

To better understand them, Nissan is undertaking the immense task of studying thousands of intersection scenarios in an attempt to identify cultural patterns by country or context. — AFP



TOKYO: This picture taken on October 6, 2015 shows Japanese auto giant Toyota's autonomous driving demonstration with a Lexus GS450h on the Tokyo metropolitan highway during Toyota's advanced technology presentation in Tokyo. Japanese car manufacturers will have to convince the public that letting go of the wheel in a self-driving car is safe, while also dealing with the biggest threat to the cars' security: the humans using them. — AFP

‘CALL OF DUTY’ VIDEO GAME BLITZES ON DEBUT

SAN FRANCISCO: The latest "Call of Duty" video game boasted an opening weekend that blew away any other game, film, book or music debut this year, the company behind it said Wednesday.

"Call of Duty: Black Ops III" racked up more than \$550 million in sales in the three days after its release on November 6, according to California-based Activision Publishing, a subsidiary of Activision Blizzard.

"Call of Duty's millions of passionate fans have shown us, yet again, the strength of their commitment to this enduring franchise," said Activision Blizzard chief executive Bobby Kotick.

It was "the biggest entertainment launch this year in any medium, and bigger than any theatrical opening weekend ever," he added. Fans played the game online for more than 75 million hours, setting a new record for the blockbuster franchise.

Black Ops III is the 12th game in the series, testimony to its longevity and ability to reinvent itself, all the while earning it a loyal following of tens of millions of fans.

"Our fans are engaging more deeply with the franchise than ever before," said Activision Publishing chief executive Eric Hirschberg. "Call of Duty is more than a game, it's a year round passion for a growing base of millions of fans and it's only gaining momentum."

The latest mission in the first-person shooter franchise sends players into a "dark and twisted future." For Activision Blizzard, the latest revamp of its gaming megahit aimed to revive stagnating sales

and came hot on the heels of an announcement that it is buying the maker of the addictive "Candy Crush Saga," King Digital Entertainment, for \$5.9 billion-tapping into a market of half a billion gamers worldwide.

Zombie mode

This time the action is set in the year 2065. Climate change has spawned fierce competition over scarce resources. Highly effective anti-aircraft systems mean fighting is on the ground, and often in covert or "black" operations.

The game launched across an array of consoles and PCs. "Call of Duty: Black Ops III is off to a great start," said Bob Puzon, senior vice president of merchandising for US retail chain GameStop. "The game's story line, new features and intense zombie mode have helped make it our most successful title launch so far this year."

"Black Ops III" was created by Treyarch studio and published by Activision. And while the latest incarnation harks back to recent episodes, notably with shades of 2014's Advanced Warfare, it is a far cry from its debut based on World War II action.

Advances in consoles mean that for the first time the "Campaign" the main narrative of the game-can be played with friends. It also features women soldiers.

As usual the game offers over-the-Internet multiplayer battles as well, not to mention "Zombies" mode as gamers look to survive attacks from hordes of the living dead. Activision uses three developer studios so a new "Call of Duty" title is available each year. — AFP

MEDICARE SPENDING \$9B ON HEPATITIS C DRUGS

WASHINGTON: Medicare spending on breakthrough medications for hepatitis C will nearly double this year, passing \$9 billion, according to new government figures. That's raising insurance costs for all beneficiaries, whether or not they have the liver-wasting viral disease. The price of drugs is the public's top health care concern in opinion polls, and the 2016 presidential candidates are increasingly paying attention. The federal Department of Health and Human Services will hold a public forum next week to examine the high cost of new drugs for difficult diseases. The challenge: how to reward drug company research while keeping innovative medications affordable for patients, insurers, employers and government programs.

New cost estimates indicate that Medicare's popular prescription drug program will spend \$9.2 billion on hepatitis C drugs this year, a 96 percent increase from \$4.7 billion in 2014. That works out to nearly 7 percent of drug costs for all of Part D, as the program is known. The Associated Press requested the numbers from Medicare's Office of the Chief Actuary, a unit that handles economic analysis. Hepatitis C affects some 3 million people in the US and claims more lives here than AIDS. More than three out of four infected adults are baby

boomers, the age group now entering Medicare. It's primarily spread by contact with infected blood.

Premiums and deductibles

Patients say "hep C" feels like a bad flu that never goes away. While the disease advances gradually, it can ultimately destroy the liver, requiring a transplant to save the patient's life. The new drugs cure the disease but treatment can cost from \$80,000 to \$100,000. Medicare's economic analysts say hepatitis C drugs have become one of the main cost drivers for the prescription program. Without the hepatitis C medications, costs per beneficiary would have risen by 4.6 percent this year. Instead the growth rate will be considerably higher, 7.9 percent.

The pressure is expected to ease next year, partly due to competition from more medications entering the market. In addition, rebates expected from drug manufacturers should reduce Medicare's ultimate costs, but the amount of those won't be known for months. Meanwhile, Medicare beneficiaries will face rising premiums and deductibles. Because Medicare prescription benefits are delivered through private insurance companies, it's difficult to tease out the effect on premiums. But

another indicator called the Part D deductible gives a general idea. A deductible is the amount of drug costs that beneficiaries are responsible for each year before their insurance kicks in.

Hit and miss

In 2016, the prescription program's standard deductible is going up by \$40, to \$360. It's by far the largest increase in the deductible since the inception of Part D 10 years ago. Tricia Neuman of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation says the cost of new medications has been "a sleeper issue" for Medicare, but that's about to change. "This increase already seems to be having an impact on premiums and deductibles," said Neuman. "We also have anti-cholesterol drugs that are coming on the market." Previous treatments for hepatitis C were hit and miss, and many patients couldn't tolerate the side effects. With new drugs like Harvoni and Viekira Pak, patients finally have a choice among highly effective cures with minimal side effects. But the costs are straining government programs and private insurers alike.

Some private insurers and state Medicaid programs require that patients show signs of advanced liver disease before trying the new



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, a sign supporting Medicare is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington as registered nurses and other community leaders celebrate the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. — AP

drugs. Medicare, following the advice of doctors' groups, does not impose such restrictions. "If you think about it, these are really drugs that can prevent liver disease," said Sean

Cavanaugh, deputy director for Medicare with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "We felt it was most appropriate to allow patients to have them earlier." — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: Jinsen Zhao pulls an imported Dungeness crab from the Northwest out of a cooker at Fisherman's Wharf. — AP photos

BOATS SIT IDLE AS ALGAE THREATENS DUNGENESS CRAB SEASON

'WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING DUNGENESS CRAB FOR CHRISTMAS EVE'

SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf typically bustles this time of year as workers prepare to haul millions of pounds of Dungeness crab that are a tradition at Thanksgiving and other holiday meals. But crab pots are sitting empty on docks, boats are idled and fishermen are anxiously waiting for California authorities to open the lucrative Dungeness crab season. California has delayed the Nov 15 start of its commercial crab season after finding dangerous levels of a toxin in crabs. Officials in Oregon and Washington are testing crab samples and will decide soon whether to open its coastal season by Dec 1 as planned. A massive bloom of microscopic algae - which produced a natural toxin called domoic acid that is harmful to wildlife and fish - in the Pacific Ocean is threatening the crab

here," said Vera Trainer, who manages the marine biotoxin program at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. "We're being shown what the future is going to look like. This is more of what we can expect."

Coastal communities

Razor clams, for now, have been taken off menus in Oregon and Washington. Shellfish managers have closed recreational digs after finding dangerous levels of domoic acid in the bivalves. Those closures have cost an estimated \$22 million in tourism-related spending, said Dan Ayres, coastal shellfish manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Crabbing was also closed along parts of the Washington coast over the summer, though crabbing continued in the Puget



SAN FRANCISCO: Mark Covert, of Houston, eats a sandwich made with imported Dungeness crab from the Northwest at Fisherman's Wharf.

my, not only on the coastal communities."

Crab can still be found in many restaurants and stores, including San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, and health officials say crabs sold in stores are safe to eat. Some crab on the market now may have been harvested months ago and frozen for later; commercial crab fishing is currently open in some parts of Alaska, Oregon and Puget Sound. In California, crab fishermen are bracing for a tough season. "Needless to say, this is devastating," said Steve Fitz, who owns Mr Morgan Fisheries in Half Moon Bay. Crab represents the bulk of annual income for many in the fishing community, he said. Still, he's optimistic that toxin levels will go down and the season will open soon.

Holiday tradition

Restaurants and customers say they'll adjust their habits. "It's a disappointment because we really look forward to it every November," said Matt Watson, manager of Woodhouse Fish Co

in San Francisco, which will do its best to get whole crab at a reasonable price from other states. Kris Ducker, who grew up in California, looks forward to her family's holiday tradition: eating crab served ice cold, cracked, with a side of sourdough bread. Even though she now lives in Texas, she still tries to find fresh Dungeness crab.

"We're looking forward to having Dungeness crab for Christmas Eve. We could move on to something else. It wouldn't kill us, but we would be sad," she said. Scientists say the warm waters that fostered the massive toxic algae bloom off the West Coast this year is more likely a short-term climate event than one attributed to climate change. "Whether this warming itself is a direct function of climate change or not, we can't say," said Mark Wells, an oceanography professor in the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine. However, the climate change models project warming along the coastlines over the next several decades, so "this type of event probably is going to become much more frequent in the future."

On the Northeast coast, scientists have documented shifts in species as the result of warmer waters and that's meant some changes in what is caught and where. "We see lots of shifting going on," said Richard Merrick, NOAA Fisheries chief science adviser. Significant fish stocks have been shifting northward and deeper into cooler waters along the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, he noted. The New England cod fishery collapsed but haddock fishing has gone up as fishermen switched, he said. Another study found that warming seas will likely send West Coast fish species northward by about 20 miles a decade, and some species probably will disappear from southern ranges off California and Oregon. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: Imported Dungeness crabs from the Northwest are shown for sale outside a restaurant at Fisherman's Wharf.

industry during a time when many fishing outfits make their most money. It's also roiling coastal tourism and marine ecosystems.

A closure along the entire West Coast would be a blow to the industry, which harvested nearly \$170 million worth of Dungeness crab in 2014. "Everybody is counting on crab to make it, so this is pretty disappointing," said Larry Collins, president of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association. "Whenever they test clean, we'll go get them. I'm very hopeful that it's sooner than later."

Experts say the warm conditions that set up the toxic algae bloom - while not attributed to climate change - does offer a picture of what's to come as ocean temperatures are projected to warm. Already, warmer ocean temperatures off New England have shaken up fisheries there, contributing to the collapse of the region's cod fishery and the shift northward in the lobster population, studies have found. "I don't have a crystal ball, but I think we're being given a warning



SAN FRANCISCO: A sign is posted on the closure of Dungeness and rock crab fishing at Fisherman's Wharf.

WHY ARE OIL AND GAS COMPANIES CALLING FOR MORE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

NEW YORK: This year many of us have increased our advocacy on this issue. And last month, companies responsible for a fifth of the world's oil and gas supply in the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) threw their support behind a new global agreement at the forthcoming UN talks in Paris. For oil and gas companies to take such a stance has been described as "unusual" and even "unprecedented". However, in fact, in BP we have publicly acknowledged the risk and have been working to address it since the 1990s. So why do companies that produce oil and gas want to see more done to tackle climate change? The first reason is simply that we want the planet to be sustainable in the future. We have the same hopes and fears for our children and grandchildren as anyone else. The second reason for our stance is that, being close to the issue, we have views on the realistic and affordable ways to make the transition to a lower carbon economy. And we can see that oil and gas are part of that transition.

With the UN-led conference on climate change in Paris approaching, it's important that we explain our view. In BP, as we and several other companies made clear in a letter to the UN in June, we believe the best mechanism to drive a shift to a lower carbon future is to put a price on carbon. That can be done via taxes or by cap-and-trade systems. Either can be effective if well-constructed. There are many ways to reduce carbon emissions: greater energy efficiency, renewable energy, gas displacing coal, carbon capture and storage, nuclear power and many others. Of these, energy efficiency is generally viewed as being "good for all seasons", whereas the rest have their supporters and their detractors. The benefit of a broad-based, well-designed carbon price is that it encourages improvements in energy efficiency as well as shifts in the fuel mix. In terms of the fuel mix, a carbon price makes all of the lower carbon alternatives more competitive and in each particular situation the most economical options will emerge. This is vital when the technologies need to be deployed at massive scale and affordability is key.

Keen to compete

A price that treats all carbon emissions equally, whether from a refinery smokestack or car tailpipe, will make our operations and products more costly in some cases. We accept that. If it has the same impact on everyone, we are keen to compete. A carbon price creates opportunities as well as risks. Others take different views. Some call for the rapid phasing out of fossil fuels now. Some ask shareholders to sell their fossil fuel holdings, arguing that some reserves are effectively "unburnable" or some company assets "stranded" if the world is to limit the global temperature rise to the widely recognised goal of 2 degrees Celsius on pre-industrial times. Others ask us to switch investment wholesale from oil and gas to renewable energy. These are passionately held views that deserve a response. To start on common ground, we agree that if all the world's fossil fuel resources were burned, the temperature rise would exceed the 2 degrees threshold.

To put the resource issue into perspective, society has so far consumed the equivalent of around two trillion barrels of oil and gas and we estimate that there are still more than 40 trillion barrels worth in the world's reservoirs. So there is clearly far more oil and gas out there than we can burn if we are to have a sustainable future. As Sheikh Yamani famously observed, the Stone Age did not end because we ran out of stones and it will be the same with fossil fuels. However this does not mean that we should

stop using all fossil fuels now, even if we could.

Starting point

To devise a workable route forward we need to understand the starting point and particularly the scale of the world's reliance on fossil fuels. Today the world uses the equivalent of around a quarter of a billion barrels of energy every day. Of that, 32 percent of energy comes from oil, 30 percent from coal, and 24 percent from gas - so 87 percent from fossil fuels in total. That means, 7 percent comes from hydro-electricity, 4 percent from nuclear power and 3 percent from other renewables, including wind and solar power.

This global energy system, with its huge reliance on hydrocarbons, has evolved over two centuries as societies have used fossil fuels to support the world's growing population and raise global living standards. Global energy needs to continue to play that role over the next 50 years, as some of the world's poorest countries grow and hundreds of millions of people are lifted out of fuel poverty, but it needs to do so in a sustainable and safe manner. This energy system which underpins modern life and human development cannot be dismantled overnight.

Fortunately, that's not only impossible, but unnecessary. Studies such as the widely cited International Energy Agency's '450 scenario' show that oil and gas can and will be part of the journey to a more sustainable future. That scenario envisages a future energy mix where the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stabilizes at 450 parts per million and the global temperature rise is kept to 2 degrees and emissions in 2040 are around 40 percent down on 2013. However, in that scenario the total consumption of energy still grows, by 12 percent to 2040, and oil and gas still make up almost half of the energy used.

Affordable transition

While we cannot be complacent, the world can make an orderly and affordable transition to a low-carbon economy. And there are several means to that end. The road to sustainability has several lanes. The first is energy efficiency-reducing emissions by using energy more effectively. A carbon price would encourage smart buildings, advanced industrial plant, home insulation, higher fuel economy and the myriad of other ways to use energy more efficiently.

There is plenty of potential here. Europe has been a leader in energy efficiency but the US, China and others are catching up. This can account for around half of the emissions reduction required, according to the International Energy Agency. Our industry has an important part to play in this, particularly by providing products that promote fuel economy in vehicles.

Second, gas is very much part of the solution because it emits around half the carbon of coal when used to generate power. So replacing coal with gas in power stations can make a massive difference, given that coal is the largest source of energy-related emissions. Switching just 1 percent of power generation from coal-fired plants to gas-fired ones would cut global CO2 emissions as much as increasing renewable energy capacity by 11 percent - and do so rapidly and economically. A ton of emissions saved by switching from coal to gas is just as effective as one saved by switching from fossil fuels to renewables. A third route towards lower emissions is of course renewable energy. For the future, it is important to build the renewable sector from today's low level. — Reuters

COLOMBIA TO LEGALIZE MEDICAL MARIJUANA UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE

BOGOTA: Colombia said on Friday it plans to legalize medical marijuana in a further shift in drug policy after suspending aerial fumigation of illicit crops. The government is preparing a decree which would approve the therapeutic use of marijuana, the president's office said in an information sheet, and President Juan Manuel Santos told BBC Mundo the decree would be signed in the coming days. Growing, distributing and selling cannabis will remain illegal. The South American country suspended spraying of illicit crops this year, citing cancer concerns related to the herbicide glyphosate.

Current law allows possession of up to 20 grams of marijuana or 20 marijuana plants for personal use. A recent study showed 11.5 percent of Colombians have used marijuana

at least once. The government said some companies, including foreign ones, are interested in producing and selling cannabis. There are no plans to fully legalize marijuana for recreational consumption or commercial sale, however, unlike in Uruguay, which legalized it in 2013. Colombia, long a hub for narcotics production and trafficking, was once home to large marijuana cultivations. Much of the crop was smuggled to the United States before drug cartels began producing the more profitable cocaine. Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Israel and some US states already allow medical cannabis use. Studies show marijuana can help treat pain and nausea and offers relief for sufferers of epilepsy and other conditions. — Reuters

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. The FDA also released



CALIFORNIA: In this combo of file photos, an operator of a fruit and vegetable stand near Denver holds a cantaloupe, Sept 16, 2011, and untainted spinach grows near Castroville, Sept 18, 2006. — AP



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.

Several deaths

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. 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.

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. — AP



THAILAND: A Thai officer give bananas to orangutans in cages waiting to be sent back to Indonesia at a military airport. — AP photos

14 ORANGUTANS SMUGGLED INTO THAILAND SENT HOME TO INDONESIA

BANGKOK : Fourteen orangutans that were smuggled out of Indonesia and believed to have been put to work at tourist attractions in Thailand were sent home Thursday. Indonesia's air force sent a C-130 plane to transport the apes, each in a metal cage, for the five-hour trip from Bangkok to Jakarta, the Indonesian capital.

Indonesia's minister of environment and forestry, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, welcomed the orangutans at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusuma Airbase and expressed excitement and gratitude for their return. "This afternoon, we received back part of Indonesia's treasure, 14 orangutans from Thailand's government," she said, adding that it brought to 68 the total number of smuggled orangutans returned from abroad since 2007.

Most of the 14 orangutans returned Thursday were rescued six years ago on the Thai resort island of Phuket and were sent to an animal sanctuary and breeding center outside Bangkok, where two of the animals were born. "We believe they were smuggled into Thailand and put in private zoos or tourist attractions around Phuket," said Tuenjai Noochdumrong, director of Thailand's Wildlife Conservation Office. Many private zoos in Thailand have animal shows where orangutans perform Thai kick boxing and other acts. Thailand is trying to shed its image as a hub for black market wildlife trading and has been cracking down on violators.

Over the past 10 years, Thailand has returned 52 orangutans to Indonesia as part of a program to fight the illicit wildlife trade and send animals home to their



THAILAND: Barito, a female orangutan, waits in a cage to be sent back to Indonesia at a military airport in Bangkok.

countries of origin, Tuenjai said. Indonesia is home to about 90 percent of the orangutans left in the wild, but half its lush rain forest has been cleared in the past half-century in the rush to supply the world with timber,

pulp, paper and more recently, palm oil. As a result, most of the roughly 60,000 remaining apes live in scattered, degrading forests, putting them in frequent and often deadly conflict with humans. — AP

HEART DRUGS OFTEN UNAVAILABLE OR UNAFFORDABLE

NEW YORK: Cardiovascular disease drugs are often unavailable or unaffordable in many communities around the world, particularly in poorer countries, a recent study suggests. Four types of medicines are recommended to help prevent deaths from cardiovascular disease: aspirin, beta blockers to control heart rhythm and lower high blood pressure (like atenolol or metoprolol, for example), drugs such as ACE inhibitors to relax blood vessels and improve blood flow (like captopril or enalapril, for instance) and statins to lower cholesterol (such as simvastatin or atorvastatin, or others).

To assess how easy it might be for people get to all four medicines, researchers looked at whether local pharmacies stocked all of the drugs and, if so, whether the combined cost was less than 20 percent of household income remaining after basic subsistence needs have been met. The four medicines were available and affordable in most urban and rural communities in high-income countries, researchers reported in The Lancet. But except for India, all of four drugs were available in low-income countries in only 25 percent of urban areas and 3 percent of rural communities.

Transportation cost

In addition, these drugs were potentially unaffordable in 60 percent of low-income countries outside of India. "The real unaffordability is even worse than what our paper suggests because it's not just the pills, it is the amount of time off work, the cost to see the doctor, and the transportation cost," said senior author Salim Yusuf, executive director of the Population Health Research Institute and professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. An estimated 17 million people worldwide die of cardiovascular disease each

year, Yusuf and colleagues note. The World Health Organization wants medicines for preventing cardiovascular disease to be available in 80 percent of communities and used by 50 percent of eligible individuals by 2025. To see how the current reality measures up to this goal, the research team analyzed data on almost 95,000 households from nearly 600 communities in 18 countries - including about 7,000 people with cardiovascular disease. In upper middle-income countries, the four medicines were available in 80 percent of urban and 73 percent of rural communities, the analysis found. But the drugs were unaffordable in 25 percent of these countries.

For lower middle-income nations, the drugs were all available in 62 percent of urban and 37 percent of rural areas but unaffordable in one third of the countries. Access was better in India than in a typical low-income country, the study found. Here, the medicines were available in 89 percent of urban and 81 percent of rural communities - and affordable for 59 percent of households. Louis Niessen and Jahangir Khan, health economists at the Center for Applied Health Research and Delivery at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK, write in an editorial that the findings highlight a problem that goes far beyond just the accessibility of medicines for cardiovascular disease. That's because families may lose work due to cardiovascular events, or suffer from additional diseases or injuries that are challenging to treat due to the cost or the unavailability of care close to home, they wrote. "Our failure to provide health care for many leads to a lot of human suffering and loss of important adults in our lives as they die prematurely, up to ten to twenty years too early or remain with disability from stroke or from a more classical tropical condition," Niessen said by email. — Reuters

OHIO ZOO CARES FOR NEWBORN POLAR BEAR; SECOND CUB DIES

POWELL, Ohio: The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium says a polar bear gave birth to a pair of cubs, and though only one survived, staff are "cautiously optimistic" about its health. The zoo in central Ohio said Friday that staff started hand-rearing the week-old female cub after her mother, Aurora, began taking breaks from caring for her. Zoo staff initially had opted not to intervene in caring for the cubs after talk-

ing with staff at other polar bear breeding facilities.

Polar bears have the lowest reproductive rates of all mammals. The zoo says one in two cubs typically survives. The zoo says the 1.5-pound cub is healthy, feeding regularly and receiving around-the-clock care. Aurora and her 8-year-old twin, Anana, arrived at the zoo in 2010. Both mated with a 28-year-old bear. — AP

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ACK ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF ITS 2ND ANNUAL MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS FORUM

For the second year in a row, the School of Business at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) is organizing its 'Annual Marketing Communications Forum' under the theme 'New Trends in Marketing Communications, Challenges and Successes in the Gulf' on Sunday, the 22nd of November, 2015.

Set to be held at ACK's campus in West Mishref, the forum will bring together leaders from sectors such as telecom, hospitality management, retail and advertising, as well as entrepreneurs and academics to share expertise, techniques and experi-

ences that influence and shape the marketing industry.

With a keynote speech from the best-selling author of 'Getting Things Done' David Allen, the forum will also serve as a platform for professional development, while providing networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities between the panel of speakers and audience members.

The School of Business invites interested parties to attend the forum, whereby registration can be completed online by visiting the website: www.ack.edu.kw.



AOU DELIVERS PMP PROGRAM

The Training Center of the Arab Open University (AOU) organized a training program entitled 'Project Management Professional (PMP)' at AOU Headquarters in participation of various representatives of private and public sectors. The program was delivered by engineer Ehab Shaban, Project Manager of AOU IT Division, who addressed the importance of PMP certificate which is granted by PMI in Pennsylvania, USA, saying this program can qualify the trainees with knowledge and skills necessary for planning, exe-

cuting, monitoring and controlling projects.

The program was concluded by a statement of Dr Sami Khalifa, Director of the Training Center of AOU. He extended his thanks to the participants and their commitment and interaction with all what had been addressed in this program. He also affirmed the Training Center of AOU would keep its gates open for all and it would present all required programs and workshops that could be in interest of academic and scientific development.



ASSE Kuwait chapter recently organized the third session of its course titled 'Contractor Safety Month - Latest Technologies in Breathing Air Systems.'

LULU HYPERMARKET BRINGS DIWALI DELIGHTS TO CUSTOMERS



LuLu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, is celebrating Diwali, the Indian 'Festival of Lights', with a special promotion, 'Diwali Delights 2015'.

The celebrations, which run from 4 to 14 November at all LuLu outlets in Kuwait, is

replete with exciting competitions, promotions and a delectable variety of mouthwatering Diwali sweets. The main attraction during the 11-day promotion period was the 'Rangoli competition' at the hypermarket's Al-Rai branch on 14 November.

A total of ten teams, with four members per team, competed to design the best 'Rangoli' art. The first place winner received a valuable gift voucher worth KD100 while the second and third prize winners were given KD75 and KD50 respectively, in addi-

tion to consolation prizes for all the participants.

Traditional Diwali sweets prepared to exacting standards as available at amazing prices during the festival period.

LuLu, which prides itself on providing

customers with a value-driven shopping experience, has built an enviable customer base in the country through their commitment to delivering high-quality products at competitive prices, while ensuring the utmost customer satisfaction.



TIES QUR'AN QUOTES WEEKLY CLASS

The TIES Center cordially invites you to attend a Qur'an Quotes and Tafseer class ever Monday in November and December, 2015 at 7:00pm. In this class, the focus will be on Surat Al-Mur'salaat (those sent forth in succession) and Surat Al-Insaan (the human-being.)

After reading some Qur'anic verses aloud and explaining them very briefly, the presentation will illustrate the various connotations of some words and phrases to show the literary beauty and miracle of the Qur'an. The class will include some tips on the Arabic linguistic beauty such as why some words are prolonged as well as their meter and rhyming and the impact of that to those who listen to the recitation whether Muslims or people of other faiths Come and learn more about the Book of Allah (SWT) in a more relaxed, friendly and serene atmosphere. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@ties-center.net or log onto: www.tiescenter.net.



The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon was held in Kuwait City last Saturday, commemorating the World Diabetes Day. Around 2,500 people participated in the race which took place along the Gulf Road starting from Souq Sharq.



GUST INAUGURATES INDIAN LITERATURE CORNER IN AM AL-REFAI LIBRARY

INDIAN AMBASSADOR SUNIL JAIN ATTENDS THE CELEBRATION

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) and the Indian Embassy in Kuwait held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the A.M. Al-Refai Library at GUST to celebrate the inauguration of the Indian Literature Corner and officially launch three new books authored by the university's faculty members.

The event was attended by Sunil Jain, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Professor Donald Bates, GUST President, and Dr Salah Al-Sharhan, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Also at the ceremony was Dr Fahed Al-Sumait, Head of the Mass Communication and Media Department, and Dr Jean-Etienne Jouille, Assistant Professor in the Business Administration Department at GUST, and Dr Thorsten Botz, Associate Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department who were there to promote the publication of their new books. Covering Bin Laden: Global Media and the World's Most Wanted Man was

co-edited by Dr Sumait, whilst Philosophy of Leadership: The Power of Authority is an original work penned by Dr Jouille, and "Transcultural Architecture" by Dr Thorsten Botz.

Professor Donald Bates, GUST President said, "I always say that GUST is a dynamic environment, and this event is solid proof of that statement. Our library is constantly striving to enrich its collection by providing students, staff and faculty with books by authors from various backgrounds. What's more, this occasion also demonstrates that we have the best faculty in the country who are at the forefront in their fields of expertise."

Attendees were introduced to the various books on display depicting the amazing literary work available at the Indian Literature Corner, which boasts 125 books about India, its history and culture, fulfilling its goal of creating a corner for students to be able to understand India and acquaint themselves

with the country's best and brightest.

The Indian Literature Corner is a permanent installation in the library and its contents will constantly be refreshed with a new showcase of the country's best works.

Dr Salah Al-Sharhan, VP of Academic Affairs at GUST, said, "Academia is built on scholars enriching their academic fields. We work hard on research and producing academic texts to add facts and more knowledge to the community. With these three new publications, we elevate GUST's status from a consumer of knowledge to a producer of knowledge." The Indian Literature Corner in the library brings the total number of international corners to seven, and joins the pre-existing American, African, Chinese, Spanish, German and French corners.



ANIMAL
PLANET HD

00:20 Snake Sheila
00:50 Ten Deadliest Snakes
01:45 Austin Stevens:
Snakemaster
02:40 Snake Crusader With Bruce
George
03:35 Austin Stevens:
Snakemaster
04:25 In Search Of The King Cobra
05:15 Ten Deadliest Snakes
06:02 Austin Stevens:
Snakemaster
06:49 Snake Crusader With Bruce
George
07:12 Snake Crusader With Bruce
George
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Dog Rescuers
09:15 In Search Of The King Cobra
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Dog Rescuers
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 River Monsters
14:45 In Search Of The King Cobra
15:40 Treehouse Masters
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Roaring With Pride
18:25 Ten Deadliest Snakes
19:20 Bondi Vet
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Gangland Killers
22:00 Treehouse Masters
23:00 Bondi Vet
23:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes

Discovery
CHANNEL
HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Impossible Engineering
02:00 Impossible Engineering
02:50 Wheeler Dealers
03:40 Auction Hunters
04:05 Garage Gold
04:30 Baggage Battles
05:00 Backyard Oil
05:30 How It's Made
06:00 Alaskan Bush People
06:50 Classic Car Rescue
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Auction Hunters
08:55 Garage Gold
09:20 Baggage Battles
09:45 Backyard Oil
10:10 How It's Made
10:35 Misfit Garage
11:25 Wheeler Dealers
12:15 Cuban Chrome
13:05 Auction Hunters
13:30 Garage Gold
13:55 Baggage Battles
14:20 Alaskan Bush People
15:10 Classic Car Rescue
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 Backyard Oil
17:15 How It's Made
17:40 Deadliest Catch
18:30 Outback Truckers
19:20 Dual Survival
20:10 Garage Gold
20:35 Baggage Battles
21:00 Deadliest Catch
21:50 Outback Truckers
22:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
23:30 Classic Car Rescue

SC DISCOVERY
SCIENCE

00:40 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
01:30 What Could Possibly Go
Wrong?
02:20 Race To Escape
03:10 Joe Rogan Questions
Everything
04:00 Deadly Dilemmas
04:48 NASA's Greatest Missions
08:00 Storm Chasers
08:50 Food Factory
09:40 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made
10:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
11:20 Joe Rogan Questions
Everything
12:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
13:00 Mythbusters
13:50 How It's Made
14:40 Food Factory
15:05 Food Factory
15:30 Joe Rogan Questions
Everything
16:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
17:10 You Have Been Warned
18:00 How It's Made
18:50 Food Factory
19:40 Home Factory
20:30 NASA's Greatest Missions
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
23:00 Home Factory
23:25 Home Factory
23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions

Disney
CHANNEL

00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch

01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
01:40 Wolfblood
02:05 Wolfblood
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
04:10 Wolfblood
04:35 Wolfblood
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:50 Girl Meets World
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
09:45 Austin & Ally
10:10 Austin & Ally
10:35 H2O: Just Add Water
11:00 H2O: Just Add Water
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:20 Hank Zipzer
12:45 Gravity Falls
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 I Didn't Do It
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
14:55 Lolirock
15:20 Austin & Ally
15:45 Girl Meets World
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Mako 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
21:35 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

E

00:00 The Soup
00:30 WAGs
01:25 Sex With Brody
01:50 The Grace Helbig Show
02:20 E! News
03:15 Extreme Close-Up
03:40 Extreme Close-Up
04:10 The E! True Hollywood Story
05:05 E! Entertainment Special
06:00 Keeping Up With The
Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The
Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 E! News
13:05 The Grace Helbig Show
13:35 The Grace Helbig Show
14:05 Hollywood Cycle
15:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take
The Hamptons
16:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take
The Hamptons
17:00 Stewart And Hamiltons
18:00 E! News
19:00 Keeping Up With The
Kardashians
20:00 House Of DVF
21:00 Hollywood Cycle
22:00 WAGs
23:00 Sex With Brody
23:30 Fashion Bloggers

food
network

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Siba's Table
02:00 Australian Food Adventures
With Matt Moran
03:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The
Riviera
04:00 Mystery Diners
04:30 Mystery Diners
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Guy's Grocery Games
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To
Basics
11:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To
Basics
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Guy's Grocery Games
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Jeny And Reza's Fabulous

Food Academy
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
21:00 Food Court Wars
22:00 Mystery Diners
23:00 Ching's Restaurant
Redemption
23:30 Ching's Restaurant
Redemption

itv
CHOICE

00:20 Shetland
01:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
02:00 Emmerdale
02:25 Eggheads
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 The Queen's Sister
05:15 Take On The Twisters
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Harry At 30
08:25 The Chase: Celebrity
Specials
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 Harry At 30
16:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In
Crime
17:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
18:20 Take On The Twisters
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Harry At 30
20:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In
Crime
21:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:20 Eggheads
22:50 The Chase: Celebrity
Specials
23:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway

OSN FIRST HD

COMEDY

02:00 Silicon Valley
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring
Jimmy Fallon
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
09:30 Benched
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring
Jimmy Fallon
14:30 Benched
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
19:00 Hot In Cleveland
20:00 Community
23:30 Community

OSN FIRST

00:00 Downton Abbey
01:00 Salem
02:00 How To Get Away With
Murder
06:00 Parenthood
12:00 Emmerdale
12:30 Coronation Street
16:00 Emmerdale
16:30 Coronation Street
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
19:00 Scandal
20:00 How To Get Away With
Murder
21:00 Quantico
22:00 Homeland
23:00 The Leftovers

OSN FIRST
MORE

07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
12:00 Castle

OSN MOVIES
ACTION

00:00 Kiss The Girls
02:00 Pusher
03:45 The Amazing Spider-Man 2
06:15 The Courier
08:00 Android Cop
09:45 A Stranger In Paradise
11:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2
14:00 Son Of Batman
16:00 Android Cop
16:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
19:45 Percy Jackson And The
Lightning Thief
22:00 Man Of Tai Chi

OSN MOVIES HD

ACTION

00:00 Pusher-PG15
01:45 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-
PG15
04:15 The Courier-PG15
06:00 Android Cop-PG15
07:45 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15
09:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-
PG15
12:00 Son Of Batman-PG15

14:00 Android Cop-PG15
16:00 Born To Race: Fast Track-
PG15
17:45 Percy Jackson And The
Lightning Thief-PG15
20:00 Man Of Tai Chi-PG15
22:00 The Bag Man-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

00:00 Jackass Presents: Bad
Grandpa
02:00 You Again
04:00 Big Fat Liar
06:00 Life With Mikey
08:00 Napoleon Dynamite
10:00 Big Fat Liar
12:00 You Again
14:00 The Nutty Professor (1996)
16:00 Napoleon Dynamite
17:45 Renaissance Man
20:00 High Road
22:00 The Inbetweeners Movie 2

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

01:00 My Last Day Without You-
PG15
03:00 The Disappearance Of
Eleanor Rigby: Him-PG15
05:00 The Disappearance Of
Eleanor Rigby: Her-PG15
07:00 Stone Markers-PG15
09:00 Draft Day-PG15
11:00 Belle-PG15
13:00 Yellow Rock-PG15
15:00 Stash House-PG15
16:45 Draft Day-PG15
18:45 For Greater Glory-PG15
21:15 Lords Of London-PG15
23:00 As I Lay Dying-18

OSN MOVIES
FESTIVAL

01:30 Network
03:30 Frank
05:15 Waitress
07:00 Inescapable
08:45 The Invisible Woman
10:45 Odeio O Dia Dos
Namorados
12:30 Evita
14:45 The Alamo
17:00 The Invisible Woman
19:00 A Mighty Heart
21:00 Eternal Sunshine Of The
Spotless Mind
23:00 The People vs Larry Flynt

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 Ask Me Anything-PG15
03:00 The Railway Man-PG15
05:00 Tarzan-PG
07:00 No Clue-PG15
09:00 Hercules-PG15
10:45 The Hobbit: The Battle Of
The Five Armies-PG
13:15 Miss Julie-PG15
15:30 Chef-PG15
17:30 Hercules-PG15
19:15 The Other Woman-PG15
21:00 Afternoon Delight-PG15
23:00 The Gambler-18

OSN MOVIES
KIDS

01:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The
Lost Ants
02:45 The Nightmare Before
Christmas
04:15 Delhi Safari
06:00 Cher Ami
08:00 Hammer Boy
09:45 Scooby-Do! Frankencreepy
11:15 Tarzan
13:00 The Nightmare Before
Christmas
10:30 Clarence
14:30 Marco Macaco
16:00 Christmas Is Here Again
18:00 Happy Feet
20:00 Miffy The Movie
22:00 Marco Macaco
23:00 Christmas Is Here Again

OSN MOVIES
PREMIERE

00:00 Deliver Us From Evil-18
02:00 Slinger-PG15
04:15 Heaven Is For Real-PG
06:00 Police Story-PG15
08:00 The Monuments Men-PG15
10:00 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG
12:00 HairBrained-PG15
14:00 40 Days And Nights-PG15
16:00 The Monuments Men-PG15
18:00 Lucy-PG15
20:00 22 Jump Street-PG15
22:00 Paranormal Activity: The
Marked Ones-18

CN
CARTOON
NETWORK

03:14 Grojband
03:35 Johnny Test
05:05 Total Drama: All Stars
05:27 Total Drama: All Stars
05:50 Regular Show
06:00 The Amazing World Of
Gumball

07:00 Uncle Grandpa
07:25 Adventure Time
07:50 Teen Titans Go!
08:35 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
09:45 Regular Show
10:30 Clarence
10:55 Dreamworks Dragons:
Riders Of Berk
11:20 Total Drama World Tour
11:40 Total Drama World Tour
12:05 Johnny Test
12:50 New Steven Universe
13:02 Steven Universe
13:15 Uncle Grandpa
13:40 Regular Show
14:25 Adventure Time
15:10 The Amazing World Of
Gumball
16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:30 Teen Titans Go!
18:20 Regular Show
19:05 New The Amazing World Of
Gumball
19:16 The Amazing World Of
Gumball
19:30 The Amazing World Of
Gumball
19:51 Adventure Time
20:15 New Steven Universe
20:27 Steven Universe
20:40 Uncle Grandpa
21:00 Teen Titans Go!
21:50 Ben 10 Omniverse
20:55 Adventure Time
00:10 Regular Show
01:40 Total Drama: Revenge Of
The Island
02:03 Total Drama: Revenge Of
The Island
02:26 Total Drama: Revenge Of

The Island
02:51 Grojband

ID.
INVESTIGATION
DISCOVERY

03:10 California Investigator
03:35 California Investigator
04:00 Blood Relatives
04:45 Waco: The Survivors' Story
05:30 True Crime With Aphrodite
06:20 The Will
07:10 The Will
08:00 Nightmare Next Door
08:50 On The Case With Paula
Zahn
09:40 Fatal Encounters
10:30 Murder Shift
11:20 Forensic Detectives
12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
13:00 The Will
13:40 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 California Investigator
15:05 Nightmare Next Door
15:55 Fatal Encounters
16:45 On The Case With Paula
Zahn
17:35 Murder Shift
18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Forensic Detectives
20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
20:55 California Investigator
The Will
22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
22:35 Who On Earth...
23:00 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
23:50 California Investigator
00:15 California Investigator
00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:05 Who On Earth...
01:30 The Haunted
02:20 Ghost Lab

Disney
JUNIOR

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



THE RAILWAY MAN ON OSN MOVIES HD

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

Disney
XD

07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
07:25 Supa Strikas
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 K.C. Undercover
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
09:35 Kirby Buckets
10:00 Annedroids
10:30 Phineas And Ferb
10:55 Rocket Monkeys
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Super Matrak
12:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:40 Mighty Med
13:05 Ultimate Spider-Man
13:30 Supa Strikas
14:00 Kickin' It
14:25 Pokemon: XY
14:50 Phineas And Ferb
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:35 Kirby Buckets
16:55 Phineas And Ferb
17:00 Mighty Med
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:55 Supa Strikas
18:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
18:45 Mighty Med
19:10 Annedroids
19:40 Kickin' It
20:05 K.C. Undercover
20:30 Supa Strikas
20:55 Lab Rats
21:25 Kirby Buckets
21:50 Kickin' It
22:15 Mighty Med
22:40 Phineas And Ferb
23:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
23:30 Phineas And Ferb
Programmes Start At 7:00am
KSA

NAT GEO
WILD HD

03:45 Caught In The Act
04:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown
05:35 World's Deadliest Killers
06:30 Animals Gone Wild

07:25 Caught In The Act
08:20 Wild Survivor
09:15 Cameramen Who Dare
10:10 Africa's Wild Kingdom
Reborn
11:05 World's Weirdest Pets
12:00 Shark Attack Experiment
12:55 World's Deadliest: Jaws &
Sins
13:50 Animals Gone Wild
14:45 Caught In The Act
15:40 Wild Survivor
16:35 Evolutions
17:30 Night Stalkers
18:25 World's Weirdest Pets
19:20 Caught In The Act
20:10 Wild Survivor
21:00 Evolutions
21:50 Night Stalkers
22:40 World's Weirdest Pets
23:30 Shark Attack Experiment
00:20 World's Deadliest: Jaws &
Sins
01:10 Animals Gone Wild
02:00 The Pack
02:50 Dangerous Encounters

TLC
HD

03:40 The Undateables
04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
05:00 Little People, Big World
05:30 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Bakery Boss
07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Say Yes To The Dress –
Bridesmaids
08:30 Say Yes To The Dress –
Bridesmaids
08:55 Nida'a
09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:35 Sister Wives
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Cake Boss
12:15 Cake Boss
12:40 Bakery Boss
13:00 Perfect Look
14:20 Our Little Family
14:45 Our Little Family
15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:50 Sister Wives
17:40 Cake Boss
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 Ultimate Shopper
19:20 Perfect Look
20:10 Bakery Boss
21:00 Nida'a
21:50 My 600lb Life
22:40 Psychic Matchmaker
23:05 90 Days To Wed
23:55 Nida'a
00:45 My 600lb Life
01:35 Psychic Matchmaker
02:00 90 Days To Wed
02:50 Sister Wives

BBC
lifestyle

00:05 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent -
Specials
00:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook:
Cosmo Cook
01:45 A Taste Of Greenland
03:30 The Planners
04:20 The Planners
05:10 Come Dine With Me
07:10 The Planners
08:00 Come Dine With Me
10:05 Fat & Fatter
10:55 Building Dream Homes
12:25 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook:
Cosmo Cook
13:15 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook:



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 ON OSN MOVIES HD 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

SITUATION WANTED

Accountant (Indian) having 23 years of experience in Middle East doing all kinds of Accounts up to Finalization & Audit Reporting, looking for a placement with transferable Iqama. Contact: 97934610. **(C 5075) 16-11-2015**

MATRIMONIAL

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 email: benjaminbabu57@gmail.com **(C 5074) 15-11-2015**

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

FOR SALE

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

Government of 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.kanmail.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

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.kanmail.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

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.

The ideal applicant must have 5 years of experience with a main duty of driving and recent experience in general office support/training errands. Driver should have basic knowledge of car/mechanics, local driving regulations, safety and local routes. Driver must speak English or French. Arabic would be an asset.

A full statement of qualifications, essential criteria, conditions of employment, and selection procedures can be found at www.kanmail.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/or on the title page of the fax (965)2256-0173. Please include a cover letter and CV. Closing date: 25/11/2015

Please note that only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.

THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

EMERGENCY 112

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:49
Shorook	06:11
Duhr:	11:33
Asr:	14:32
Maghrib:	16:53p
Isha:	18:13



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



Arrival Flights on Monday 16/11/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam	00:05
MSC	403	Asyut	00:15
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
DLH	635	Doha	01:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00
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
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25
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
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
KAC	362	Colombo	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50

Departure Flights on Monday 16/11/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	528	Asyut	00:05
PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
MSC	406	Sohag	01:00
UAL	981	IAD	01:10
MSC	404	Asyut	01:15
BBC	044	Dhaka	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
CEB	7695	Manila	05:20
JZR	560	Sohag	06:10
FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:55
RJA	643	Amman	07:05
THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	537	Sohag	08:20
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
BAW	156	London	08:45
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	501	Beirut	10:00
KAC	561	Amman	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
KAC	153	Istanbul	10:40
QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00
OMA	642	Muscat	11:05
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
AXB	890	Mangalore	12:15
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
KAC	103	London	12:25
UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10

MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	617	Doha	14:45
KNE	481	Taif	14:50
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
KAC	513	Tehran	15:10
KNE	473	Jeddah	15:35
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
JZR	238	Amman	17:30
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
RJA	641	Amman	17:55
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
MSR	615	Cairo	18:35
JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
SYR	342	Damascus	19:05
FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
KAC	353	BLR	20:40
KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
KAC	351	Kochi	20:55
KAC	331	Trivandrum	21:10
KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
DLH	634	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
JZR	502	Luxor	22:00
KAC	381	Delhi	22:00
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
FDB	5053	Dubai	22:30
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
FDB	060	Dubai	23:35

CROSSWORD 1081

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

ACROSS

1. An arithmetic operation performed on float-ing-point numbers.
5. Large family of important mostly marine food fishes.
12. Animal reproductive body consisting of an ovum or embryo together with nutritive and protective envelopes.
15. A cord that is drawn through eyelets or around hooks in order to draw together two edges (as of a shoe or garment).
16. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
17. Liquid excretory product.
18. A member of the Algonquian people of southern Ontario.
19. A law officer having duties similar to those of a sheriff in carrying out the judgments of a court of law.
21. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
24. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
25. (law) A courtroom conference between the lawyers and the judge in a trial that is held out of the jury's hearing.
28. (Old Testament) The first of the major Hebrew prophets (8th century BC).
30. A quantity of no importance.
31. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
34. (Sumerian) Sun god.
37. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsu-pial with gray furry ears and coat.
40. A Spanish river.
42. Similar to the striped mullet and takes its place in the Caribbean region.
46. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
47. The compass point that is one point east of northeast.
48. An awkward and inexperienced youth.
51. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
53. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
56. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
57. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
59. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
60. Informal terms for a mother.
62. The elementary stages of any subject (usu-ally plural).
64. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
68. The act of scanning.
71. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
72. One or some or every or all without speci-fication.
76. Fiddler crabs.
77. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
78. (anatomy) Of or relating to or associated with the parietal bones in the cranium.
79. Decay usually accompanied by an offensive odor.
80. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
81. Not wooded.
82. Used of a single unit or thing.

DOWN

1. A soft loosely twisted thread used in embroi-dery.

2. Club consisting of a heavy stick (often bam-boo) bound with iron.
3. The cardinal number that is the sum of seven and one.
4. Female peafowl.
5. A state of southwestern India.
6. A soft white precious univalent metallic ele-ment having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
7. An informal term for a father.
8. Being nine more than forty.
9. A young unmarried woman.
10. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
11. The sense organ for hearing and equilibri-um.
12. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
13. A toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism in order to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion.
14. Cut off the testicles.
20. Sudden mass fear and anxiety over antici-pated events.
22. An industrial city in southern Poland on the Vistula.
23. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metal-lic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).
26. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
27. A public promotion of some product or service.
29. Being one more than one.
32. Depressing in character or appearance.
33. Italian lawn bowling (played on a long nar-row dirt court).
35. Bound or secured closely.
36. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
38. Fast-growing herbaceous evergreen tree of South America having a broad trunk with high water content and dark green oval leaves.
39. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
41. A small cake leavened with yeast.
43. Of or relating to or characteristic of the pre-historic Aegean civilization.
44. Being nine more than ninety.
45. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
49. (Greek mythology) The blind prophet of Thebes who revealed to Oedipus that Oedipus had murdered his father and married his moth-er.
50. A Dravidian language spoken in south cen-tral India.
52. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
54. (Bible) The archangel who was the messen-ger of God.
55. Kit consisting of a complete outfit (clothing and accessories) for a new baby.
58. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
61. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
63. The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
65. (Zoroastrianism) Title for benevolent deities.
66. Back and sides of a hog sated and dried or smoked.
67. Make less active or intense.
69. An Indian nursemaid who looks after chil-dren.
70. The work of caring for or attending to some-one or something.
73. (usually followed by `to') Naturally disposed toward.
74. A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt pro-duces a current of 1 ampere.
75. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

It seems as if events are happening for no reason today, befud-ling your thinking and throwing off your entire game. Nevertheless, you're not one to give up without a fight, especially since you are expected to accomplish measurable results. On the other hand, if you can spend the day in spiritual practice or watching waves at the beach, then all may be going just as planned. Ultimately, the less you try to do now, the more likely you will find peace. Although it's not cosmically feasible to exercise complete control over your environment, there is much to be learned from simply letting go.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your stress level rises when someone won't play according to your rules. In fact, others might even go so far as to tell you that your approach is not viable. In general, scheming to gain advantage won't likely work out in your favor since there are too many hidden forces influencing the outcome of your plan. Assume a low profile now for the best results. You can jump back into the dri-ver's seat tomorrow if you don't exhaust yourself shadowboxing today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might have to rethink your immediate career objectives due to constraints on your time. It's not that your work is taking longer than you planned; it's just that you may have bitten off more than you can chew. Nevertheless, it's best to stay on your current course for a while longer; alter-ing your trajectory now will only create more problems than it solves. Don't make any impulsive decisions today as you will likely change your mind a few more times before you land on the best solution. Patience is your friend.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Generally speaking, you water-loving Crabs aren't all that com-fortable when the Moon takes up residence in dry Capricorn. However, the low emotional tide might actually bring relief to an otherwise challenging day by offering you some much-needed common sense. You may be over-whelmed by a lack of clarity in a current relationship because it's impossible to read the energy of your friend or lover today. Nevertheless, it's not wise to succumb to the temptation to grasp at straws for the sake of stability now. Find your security from within before asking anything of others.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could be sending mixed messages now without even realiz-ing it. Your need to be efficient at work today is being challenged by the pow-er of your overactive imagination. Although you're unwilling to compromise your dreams, the ambitions of others can further stimulate your own personal fantasies. Luckily, there's no need to resolve this dilemma now; just stay aware of the potential effect your choices have on everyone else. In the long run, your dedication to your goals will create a greater impact than anything else.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Wrapping your logical mind around the complexity of the forces at work is impossible today. Although cerebral Mercury inspires you to process the unfathomable information being presented by transformational Pluto, compre-hension still remains just beyond your grasp now. Nevertheless, your current mission is to deepen your psychological understanding of your relationships. Don't be dismayed by this daunting task; determination is your greatest ally at this time. Delving into the mysteries of love is a curiously captivating endeavor.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Finding balance in your life could be a study in frustration today because some-thing is drawing you to step out of the mundane world and into your subcon-scious mind. Although you may be required to follow through on your real obli-gations anyhow, you realize the vital importance of your inner world. However, you're better off finishing your tasks first before pursuing your spiritual quest. Honoring your priorities is essential now, no matter how compelling your soul's journey seems in the moment.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Although you harbor great hopes of moving an ongoing discussion into a more meaningful direction, the conversation might not go according to your wishes. The provocative Moon's cosmic hookup with your key planet Pluto just won't leave you alone today, creating difficulties as you attempt to commu-nicate your intense feelings to your friends and coworkers. Thankfully, a healthy debate can work to your advantage if you're willing to adapt to the changing dynamics. Let go of your attachment to any preconceived outcome and simply seek satisfaction by staying present in each moment.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your stubbornness may prove problematic today, especially if you are adamant about sticking to your own way of doing things. It feels as if your work is being called into question by someone who attempts to exert power over you. Although you naturally think in broad strokes, a disagreement could result from a simple misunderstanding now. Preventing a major conflict might be as easy as focusing on the details. Whether you are talking or listening, leave no stone unturned.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Others appear to be withholding their feelings from you today, but it's possible that you're the one who is being overly guarded. You may be unusu-ally pessimistic now because you're driven to understand the dynamics at play, even if the real issues are buried deep beneath the surface. The more deter-mined you are to uncover the truth, the more you have to dig. However, don't go back to try to solve an old mystery; just move on and pay closer attention in the future. The hidden secrets will come out in the open when you stop relent-lessly searching for them.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A personal issue demands that you redirect your focus away from career matters today. However, it's frustrating that your intention to make things right isn't enough. In fact, you might not be able to find any quick and easy fixes to your current dilemma. Nevertheless, your heartfelt sincerity eases the stress at home and on the job. Do whatever you can along the way without forcing your pre-ferred solution on anyone else. Ultimately, the river will find its way to the sea without major interference on your part.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your plans may be disrupted today by circumstances beyond your control. Your first inclination is to resist any changes, but you could wear yourself out fighting the inevitable. Don't put too much effort toward getting your day back on track. Instead, give yourself some leeway and let the unfolding events continue to determine what you should do next. Your flexible attitude holds the key to your current happiness.

Wordsearch Puzzle

IN THE TOOLBOX WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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

DRILL	HAMMER	PLIERS	TIN SNIPS
FLASHLIGHT	KNIFE	SAFETY GLASSES	WISE GRIPS
GLOVES	LEVEL	SCREWDRIVER	WIRE CUTTERS
GREASE GUN	MALLET	SCREWS	WOOD GLUE
HACKSAW	NAILS	TAPE MEASURE	WRENCH

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO OKLAHOMA! PUZZLE

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

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
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
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 Ikhlash Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

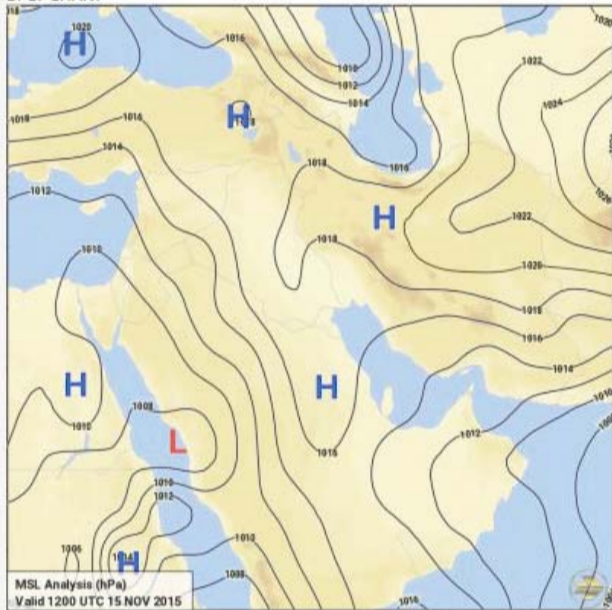
Issued 15/11/2015-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 13 °C

By Night :Cool with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

By Day : Sunny with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	sunny + scattered clouds	partly cloudy + scattered rain later	clouds to decrease + scattered rain	sunny
Min Temp °C	13	16	18	13
Max Temp °C	26	27	28	24
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly later on	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	12 - 35	15 - 40	10 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings

NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	18	25
KUWAIT AIRPORT	13	25
ABDALLY	12	26
BUBYAN	15	25
JAHLA	16	26
FAILAKA ISLAND	18	25
SALMIYAH	19	24
AHMADI	18	24
JAL ALIYAH	14	24
QAROH ISLAND	22	24
UMM AL-MARADEM	22	24
NUWAISIB	16	27
WAFRA	14	26
MANAGISH	13	24
SALMY	11	23
MUTRIBA	12	25

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	25
Min Temp (°C)	12
Max Rel Hum (%)	72
Min Rel Hum (%)	29
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm



Sunrise 06:12



Sunset 16:53

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:50
Sunrise	06:12
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:32
Sunset	16:53
Isha	18:13

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
Antiga	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	Nigar	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	Sao Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tone	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		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaoory	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-Mikhazeem	22639920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah 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	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General 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 Gupare	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. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah 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 Abidallah 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	

Psychologists
/Psychotherapists

Soor Center
Tel: 2290-1677
Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com
www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center
25716707

Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg,

Universal Music Group executive among Paris attack victims

A Universal Music Group employee was among the victims of the terrorist attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris Friday night where UMG artist Eagles of Death Metal were headlining a sold-out performance. Universal Music Group chairman-CEO Lucian Grainge confirmed the death of Mercury Records executive Thomas Ayad in what he called an "unspeakably appalling tragedy." According to a report on Mashable, an Eagles of Death Metal crew member who worked on merchandising, Nick Alexander, 36, of Britain, was also killed at the Bataclan.

Witnesses have given chilling accounts of the gunmen methodically shooting hostages one by one before police moved in on the theater. Ayad was an international product manager for UMG's Mercury Records unit. Eagles of Death Metal just released their first album in seven years, "Zipper Down," on UMG's T-Boy imprint last month. The band members, according to multiple reports, escaped the venue in the initial chaos after the attack began. Grainge indicated that other UMG staffers were in the crowd at the Bataclan. Here is Grainge's memo:

Dear Colleagues:

Today, I'm writing to you with a heavy heart. We, like so many around the world,

are struggling with last night's horrific tragedy in France. Paris is in our thoughts and prayers. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims as well as our fervent wishes for healing for all of those affected by this senseless violence. This is especially painful and personal for all of us. As many of you know, the band Eagles of Death Metal is part of the UMG and Mercury France family. The band and its crew as well as our own teams from Mercury and other UMG staffs were present at the Bataclan theater for last night's show.

At this point, we have confirmed that Thomas Ayad, an international product manager for Mercury Records lost his life in the attack on the theater. This is an unspeakably appalling tragedy. I cannot even begin to express the depth of my sorrow. On behalf of everyone here at UMG, we extend our most profound sympathies to his parents and all of his friends and family. We will update you further as information permits.

In the meantime, please send all healing thoughts and prayers for those affected by this heinous act. Today is a dark day. We are a family. Let's support one another as we grapple with the weight of this darkness. Sincerely, Lucian. —Reuters



Producers Jon Kilik, and Nina Jacobson, actress Jena Malone, actor Liam Hemsworth, actress Jennifer Lawrence, actor Josh Hutcherson, director Francis Lawrence, actress Willow Shields, actor Donald Sutherland, actress Elizabeth Banks, actor Sam Claflin, actress Natalie Dormer, actress Julianne Moore and actor Stanley Tucci, from left, pose for the photographers as they arrive for the World premiere of the movie 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2' in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday. —AP photos

Music world in shock over Paris concert massacre



The assault on one of the leading concert halls in Paris sent shockwaves Saturday through the music world, with top-selling artists including U2 and Foo Fighters calling off shows. "Shocked, sad and angry. We are all Parisian today," tweeted Peter Gabriel, one of many prominent musicians who took to social media after Friday's night coordinated attacks in the French capital. More than 80 people were killed inside the Bataclan concert hall as gunmen opened fire during a performance by the California rock band Eagles of Death Metal, an attack for which the Islamic State group took responsibility.

France's Culture Minister Fleur Pellerin laid a bouquet of flowers Saturday in front of the Bataclan, a historic venue which is striking for its 19th-century chinoiserie architecture. A short while earlier, an anonymous man brought a mobile keyboard near the entrance and played songs including John Lennon's pacifist anthem "Imagine" under the eye of a pack of photographers.

Tragedy for music industry

The music industry was directly touched by the tragedy, with at least three employees of Universal Music France, part of the largest global label group, among the dead. "The Universal Music family is in mourning," tweeted Pascal Negre, president of Universal Music France, as he identified the dead by the first names Thomas, Marie and Manu. "This is crazy. It's normally a pleasant place where people come to relax. And then it was hell," said the television and radio presenter Pierre Janaszak. The 35-year-old

told AFP that he survived by hiding in the restrooms as the assailants took hostages and was freed in the police counter-assault.

Leading French music magazine Les Inrockuptibles said that one of its writers, Guillaume B. Decherf, was killed. Members of Eagles of Death Metal, a bluesy garage rock

band known for lascivious lyrics but rarely politics, were unhurt and were set to return to the United States, although a British crew member was killed. The Deftones, another California band who were in the audience ahead of their own since-cancelled shows at the Bataclan, were also safe and leaving Paris.



Irish band U2 lead singer Bono, guitarist The Edge, drummer Larry Mullen Jr and bass player Adam Clayton pay homage to attacks' victims near the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, a day after a series of coordinated attacks in and around Paris. —AFP photos

band known for lascivious lyrics but rarely politics, were unhurt and were set to return to the United States, although a British crew member was killed. The Deftones, another California band who were in the audience ahead of their own since-cancelled shows at the Bataclan, were also safe and leaving Paris.

The Bataclan, which has a capac-

ity of 1,500, is one of the most prominent Paris venues for successful but eclectic bands. The night before the assault, the acclaimed electronic artist St Germain performed with an ensemble of Malian musicians.

"We are devastated. Our thoughts are with the victims and

hall in Paris, despite weeks of promotion for a live television broadcast on HBO. The Irish rockers led by Bono later also appeared at the Bataclan to pay their respects. "This is the first direct hit on music that we've had in this so called war on terror or whatever it's called," Bono told Ireland's RTE radio. "It's very upsetting. These are our people. This could be me at a show," he said.

U2, whose last concert tour was the highest-grossing in musical history and are winding down their latest global trek, also called off a second date at Bercy yesterday. Foo Fighters-whose frontman Dave Grohl has collaborated with Eagles of Death Metal-separately announced that the band was cutting short its world tour. "In light of this senseless violence, the closing of borders, and international mourning, we can't continue right now. There is no other way to say it. This is crazy and it sucks," the band said in a statement. Foo Fighters had been due to play at Bercy, also known as AccorHotels Arena, the day after U2 and also had shows left in Turin, Lyon and Barcelona.

In contrast, another veteran rock band, Motorhead, will go ahead with a show. The high-decibel heavy metal group led by Lemmy will play the Zenith, the second-largest indoor venue in Paris at 6,000 capacity. Elsewhere, Coldplay scrapped plans to air a concert Saturday in Los Angeles live on streaming service Tidal. The British rock act, which is promoting an upcoming album, said it made the decision out of respect for victims but would still play a set of old material offline for fans with tickets. —AFP

After Katniss, Lawrence finds her voice

While heroine Katniss Everdeen leads a rebellion in the final "Hunger Games" movie, the actress who brought the character to life, Jennifer Lawrence, is coming into her own in a business dominated by men. With an Oscar and a number of hit films to her credit, Lawrence, 25, was ranked by Forbes as the highest-paid actress last year with an estimated \$52 million in earnings. Hollywood's top actors earned much more. When Lawrence spoke out against the wage gap last month, her comments went viral. Lawrence reprised her role as Katniss in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2," due in theaters on Friday. She said the franchise had shown that "a female lead in an action movie can still be a critical and commercial success."

"The huge misconception that women can relate to male leads but men can't relate to female leads, I think that's something studios are saying and it's just getting repeated. Hopefully that kind of mentality is on its way out," Lawrence said in an interview. Lawrence's brash sense of humor helps audiences relate to her. And she said that as she gets older, she is becoming more passionate about issues. "You can actually really start to appreciate that you do have a platform and a voice that people will listen to and the option to use it hopefully for betterment," she said.

Last month Lawrence wrote an essay for actress Lena Dunham's newsletter in

which she discussed being angry with herself for not asking for more money, as her male co-stars do, for fear of coming across as a "spoiled brat." "I was really shocked," Lawrence said of the mostly positive response. "When (Dunham) asked me to write something, I just typed something up and pressed send. I didn't really have any expectations." Lawrence has mainly played strong women. She won her first Oscar nomination for playing survivor Ree in 2010's independent drama "Winter's Bone." She played the outspoken Tiffany in "Silver Linings" and Katniss, the "Hunger Games" heroine.

Next up is "Joy," in which she plays the matriarch of a family business through four generations. It is expected to earn the Kentucky native her fourth lead actress Oscar nomination in five years. Lawrence does not see herself sticking with a particular type of character. "I don't think it's incredibly important as a part of my job or craft to play strong women," she said. "I think it's ok to play something more vulnerable, more passive or a little weaker." This year after wrapping up "Hunger Games" and "X-Men," in which she plays blue, shape-shifting Mystique, Lawrence will step into a post-franchise chapter of her career. She is co-writing a script with comedian Amy Schumer and filming space romance "Passengers" with Chris Pratt. "I have complete control over my schedule and I really like that," said Lawrence. —Reuters

Arab film community reacts with outrage to Paris terror attacks

The Arab film community is reacting to the tragic Paris attacks with shock, outrage and fears of a global backlash. "It's another 9/11 that we are living again," said Egyptian auteur Mohamed Diab who is shooting a film titled "Clash" about Islamic extremism. "I feel so bad for France and everyone who is not going to feel safe at home. It's the worst feeling in the world." Diab added that "as an Arab and someone who lived in the US post-9/11, I feel that we are also going to pay the price for all of this." Speaking from Cairo he noted that "here in my country I'm faced with terrorist attacks and unbelievable life conditions. Now when I go abroad I will be running from terrorists and from people who think that I am one." "And that's not just me, all Arabs and Muslims are in this condition. And still, with all this craziness, I can't blame anyone for judging me right now." Paris-based Arab cinema producer and agent Daniel Ziskind, who lost two friends killed by bullets on Friday evening while at the Eagles of Death Metal concert at the Bataclan Theatre, pointed out that in Paris "there is a generation of young people who will be shocked for the next ten years."

Cairo Film Festival

"For me the main target was young people who go out and drink in bars and see films and music events. It will affect cinema; it will convince people to stay home for a while. It's going to affect a big part of the economy because this is a war!" Ziskind added as he boarded a plane from Paris to Cairo to attend the Cairo Film Festival. All movie theatres in Paris were shut down on Saturday. Cairo fest President Magda Wassef and Artistic Director Youssef Cherif Rizkallah in a joint statement strongly denounced the attacks and expressed their solidarity with the French people.

"Against all form of sectarianism, it is more than ever necessary to stress the importance of Culture as a bridge between people and a tool to build a better world," their statement said. Prominent Paris-based Lebanese/Syrian actress and writer Darina El-Joundi, who in the current fifth series of "Homeland" plays the wife of a Syrian general, had

just returned home from the American hospital in Paris when the attacks took place. "I spent half my life in the civil war in Lebanon so I was more than shocked to have to relive these feelings in Paris, which is my other country," she recounted. All her friends from Lebanon were calling her in shock, to ask if she was safe. "It was like a reversal."

"The repercussions of this will be horrible," El-Joundi underlined. "My friends' kids are speaking English now in the streets of France because they are afraid to speak Arabic. It's horrible!" she exclaimed. Speaking from a movie set on the Red Sea, prominent Egyptian producer Mohamed Hefzy ("My Bother the Devil") also underscored the damage inflicted by the Paris attacks on the Arab world, besides expressing his heartfelt condolences to Parisians. "This is not a war of Islam against the West or a clash of civilizations," Hefzy said. "I think this is as much an attack on Islam itself as it is an attack on the peaceful, loving people of France."

Innocent life

"This is not going to do Islam any good. And it doesn't characterize Islam. There is a quote in the Quran which says that he who has killed an innocent life, it's like killing all of humanity. This is very much against the core of what Islam is. I hate to see catastrophic events like this tarnish the image of Islam," he noted. "Although this will leave a huge psychological scar for years and years to come, I think that we have to stick together and get over this and defeat whoever is behind this," Hefzy added.

Amr Waked ("Lucy"), who is Egypt's biggest international star, passionately pointed out that "terrorism tries to collapse societies through threats that destroy confidence and courage and faith in social fabric." "They use hate as part of their scheme to make societies not just hurt, but also self-implode." "The most important thing we should be focusing on is not to collapse against fear and hate," Waked underlined. "We have much more love and are far braver than people who are snatching an opportunity to kill civilians who have nothing to do with any conflict whatsoever." —Reuters



Visitors review items at the Statue of Liberty museum.



Visitors review items at the Statue of Liberty museum.

Bigger, more accessible museum proposed at Statue of Liberty

A full-scale copper replica of Lady Liberty's face is the first thing that greets visitors to the museum in the base of the Statue of Liberty. But the face that gives visitors a chance to get up close and personal with an aspect of the statue that otherwise looms far out of reach is available to only a limited number of visitors. The museum is open only to those who have tickets to the pedestal or the crown. The National Park Service wants to change that, and has proposed building a larger museum on Liberty Island that would be available to all of the approximately 4 million annual visitors to the site, not just the 20 percent or so who have statue tickets. "We'd like to make the visit as enriching as possible," said John Piltzecker, superintendent of the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island, who earlier this month announced the opening of public comment on the idea, among the initial steps to making it a reality.

The next step would be working with a private foundation to raise money for the planned 20,000-square-foot museum, since no federal dollars would be used for the project.

Piltzecker didn't have a figure on what the project could cost but was nonetheless optimistic the museum would open in three to five years. The park service has a location in mind, on the northwest side of the island somewhat away from the entrance to the statue, and has started thinking about what would go in it.

One possibility would be the original torch, which currently greets visitors in the pedestal lobby since it was removed in 1984. The material that's in the current museum, which covers the history of the statue as well as how it was made, would also make the move. That would include the giant face, as well as a replica of the statue's foot, and exhibits looking at the models and molds used to create Lady Liberty, who was a gift from France for the American centennial. Eileen Gormley, visiting from Princeton, New Jersey, said having access to the museum was important. "This part here is very important and very informative and to just walk up and look at it, you don't get any of the background and history," Michael Miller, of El Dorado Hills in California, agreed. "It brings it to life," he said. "It helps to make the seeing of the image itself more meaningful." — AP



Visitors view the Statue of Liberty during a ferry ride to Liberty Island.



The original torch for the Statue of Liberty greets visitors at the entry to its museum.



Youngsters gather for a photo on a life-size replica of the toes for the Statue of Liberty, inside its museum.



A leader bound book of donors to the Statue of Liberty is displayed among other historical artifacts at its museum.



Visitors review items at the Statue of Liberty museum in Liberty Island, NY. —AP photos



John Piltzecker, right, National Park Service Superintendent, prepares for an interview next to a large copper face replica of the Statue of Liberty inside its museum.



Jane Fonda speaks during the 7th annual Governors Awards ceremony presented by the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood. (Right) Filmmaker Spike Lee accepts an award onstage. — AP/AFP photos



First Oscars of season to be presented amid tight security



From left, Will Smith, Wesley Snipes, Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, honorary Oscar recipient, and Samuel L. Jackson pose onstage.



Jane Fonda arrives at the Governors Awards.



Laura Linney arrives at the Governors Awards.



Gena Rowlands looks on as her son Nick Cassavetes holds her award.

Tight security following the Paris terror attacks was in effect at Saturday night's seventh annual Governors Awards, where Spike Lee, Gena Rowlands and Debbie Reynolds were to receive the first Oscars of Hollywood's award season. Los Angeles police say security for the star-studded ceremony at the Hollywood & Highland Center was increased in the wake of the attacks, as it will at several other high-profile events around the city on Saturday night. Police say there are no known threats against the city, but the department was beefing up patrols as a precaution.

"If it falls under our jurisdiction, in light of what happened yesterday, you would think you'd have extra patrols out there," Los Angeles Police spokesman Mike Lopez said Saturday. "Event security details would be doing that as well ... especially if you have celebrities going in that venue." In addition to security, sentiment at the Governors Awards will likely run high, too, as celebrities reflect on the attacks while trying to maintain the gala's usual air of celebration for the film world's best. Film academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs opened the Governors Awards with words of support for France. "All of us here stand in solidarity and support of France and the French people," she said. "Our connection with the film-loving French is especially deep."

As the awards were presented Saturday in Hollywood, she said, "we mourn those who died. We send our deepest affection to our brothers and sisters in France." This year, Lee and Rowlands will accept Oscars for career achievement. Reynolds will receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in recognition of her decades-long commitment to raising awareness of mental health issues. Reynolds announced Friday that she'll be unable to attend the ceremony because of unspecified surgery and that her granddaughter will accept the award on her behalf.

Other celebrities expected at the motion picture academy's black-tie affair include Meryl Streep, Idris Elba, Cate Blanchett, Bryan Cranston, Jane Fonda, Samuel L. Jackson, Amy Schumer, Ava DuVernay and Quentin Tarantino. Portions of the untelevised ceremony may be included in the 2016 Oscar telecast. — AP



Cate Blanchett arrives at the Governors Awards.



(From left) Jason Mitchell, F Gary Gray, O'Shea Jackson Jr and Ice Cube.



Gena Rowlands accepts her award.



Billie Lourd accepts the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian award on behalf of Debbie Reynolds.



Aloe Blacc performs on stage.



Sunrise Coigney, left, and Mark Ruffalo arrive at the Governors Awards.



Harvey Keitel, left, and Daphna Kastner



Daniel Craig, left, and Rachel Weisz



Helen Mirren, left, and Bryan Cranston



Rooney Mara arrives at the Governors Awards.



Benicio del Toro arrives at the Governors Awards.



Danny Boyle arrives at the Governors Awards.



Steve Carell arrives at the Governors Awards.



Zoey Deschanel sings, wearing a blue, white, and red dress.



Saoirse Ronan arrives at the Governors Awards.



Carey Mulligan arrives at the Governors Awards.



Todd Fisher, from left, Carrie Fisher, and Billie Catherine Lourd.



Patricia Clarkson arrives at the Governors Awards.



Paul Dano, from left, Bill Pohl, and John Cusack.



Jason Segel arrives at the Governors Awards.



Amy Schumer, left, and Kim Caramela



Idris Elba, from left, Abraham Attah, and Cary Joji Fukunaga.



A light art installation entitled 'The World Machine' is projected onto the facade of Durham Cathedral as part of Lumiere Durham light festival in Durham, northern England. The biennial Lumiere Durham festival brings together international light artists to create 29 installations across Durham city Centre.—AFP

When Romanian inmates pick up the pen to earn freedom

They may be athletes, businessmen or politicians but the minute they are jailed, Romanian convicts often morph into “men of letters” thanks to a law allowing those who write a book while inside to get out quicker. The latest big name to leave prison early was the former Romania football great and Barcelona captain Gheorghe Popescu. Jailed in 2014 for three years over a football corruption scandal, he was released on November 4, largely thanks to four books about the beautiful game which he penned in his cell.

Under Romanian law, convicts can claim 30 days off their sentence if they publish a work of literature or science while behind bars. The legislation, which was first enacted in 2006 then amended in 2013, has brought forth a growing number of literary works from the jails of one of the European Union’s poorest nations, where corruption is rampant. After humble beginnings-around 10 books were published between 2007 and 2010 — the literary production of Romania’s prisons has exploded with no less than 157 new books published between January 2014 and June 2015, according to figures provided to AFP by the National Prison Administration (ANP). The rise coincides with a two-year crackdown on corruption targeting the powerful and the wealthy. One of the big fish to fall in this is former prime minister Victor Ponta, who resigned on November 4 following a deadly night-club fire in Bucharest which killed 55 and left scores more badly wounded. His trial on charges of graft is due to start in the coming weeks.

Writing-down a sentence

A prisoner who wants to make his mark in the world of letters must first receive a recommendation from a university professor who specializes in the area he wishes to cover. Then his request must be screened by a special committee inside the prison. “If his demand is accepted by the prison committee, he will have access to the prison library and to a computer which is not connected to the Internet,” the ANP explained. The aspiring writer must then find a publishing house willing to print his opus-at the author’s expense.

According to editors consulted by AFP, the publication of several hundred copies of a book costs around a thousand euros (about \$1,073), a modest expenditure for those described by the press as “high-end/luxury prisoners”. The prisons authori-

ty, however, said some of those who wrote books did not end up benefiting from the hoped-for shortening of their sentence. But the press have raised questions about the number of works approved by the prison authorities, not all of which are autobiographical and some of which have a decidedly eclectic subject matter.

George Copos, former head of Rapid Bucurest football club, produced five literary works while in custody, noticeably shortening his four-year sentence for fraud and tax evasion. One of them, entitled “Marital Alliances As Policy Among the Romanian Princes of Wallachia and Moldavia in the 14th-16th Century”, earned him allegations of plagiarism from a historian who had submitted his 2005 doctorate on the same theme.

Gigi Becali, the eccentric and outspoken owner of Romania’s top football club Steaua Bucuresti, penned four works of literature, including one called “Mount Athos, Home of Orthodoxy”. Sentenced in 2013 to four years on two counts of graft, he was released in April. A handwritten letter from Becali-full of spelling mistakes-to the head of the prison nevertheless raised questions among sceptics bout who actually wrote the book.

A Romanian Balzac?

But the record for speed writing behind bars looks set to go to Ioan Niculae, Romania’s richest man who was sentenced in April to 30 months for illegal financing of the 2009 presidential campaign. The billionaire businessman has penned five works in less than five months. “That makes one book every 29 days. And Balzac, well, have you ever counted how many books he wrote?” responded his lawyer Florin Surghie when pressed by journalists. Sorin Apostu, former mayor of Romania’s second city Cluj who was sentenced to four-and-a-half years for corruption, has likewise enriched specialist literature with an opus called: “The Production of Meat Derivatives”.

Fearing abuse of the system, Romania’s Superior Council of Magistracy (CSM), a judicial body separate from the executive branch, has called for more restrictive legislation. “The big Romanian writers are being dwarfed in comparison to the classics being penned nowadays, from prison,” remarked a vry editorial in the Adevarul daily. For now, many of these works remain absent from libraries and book-shops.—AFP



Romanian football player Gheorghe Popescu (center) high's his family as he was released from the Jilava penitentiary in Jilava village, near Bucharest.—AFP

Asian appetite for luxury boosts global art and jewel auctions

They are not in the room rubbing shoulders with traditional wealthy buyers, instead choosing to remain in the shadows, making their multi-million bids by telephone. Asian millionaires and billionaires have this week discretely stolen the show at a range of auctions, dishing out record sums for works of art and precious gemstones put on the block. Auction houses Christie’s and Sotheby’s say the spectacular sales are part of a wider trend in which their business is increasingly turning towards Asia.

Christie’s Asia chief Francois Curiel told AFP that the auction house had quadrupled its Asia-based staff since 2010 to 220 to keep up with the demand. “When I arrived in Hong Kong in 2010, our Asian clients represented five percent of our sales on a global scale. In 2014, they represented 31 percent,” he said. The same is true of competing auction house Sotheby’s, where Asian clients today account for about a third of global high-end jewelry sales, Asian director Patti Wong told AFP. “Asian participants make up a hugely important part of our global client base,” she said, adding that over the past decade “we’ve seen tremendous growth” from Asia.

This past week, Asian clients have certainly taken centre-stage. The first spectacular hammer blow fell Tuesday evening at a Christie’s art auction in New York, when a former Chinese taxi driver turned billionaire financier, Liu Yiqian bought a famed Modigliani nude for more than \$170 million. The 51-year-old tycoon, who made his fortune in real estate and finance in the 1990s, has made a string of purchases for his two museums in China’s commercial hub Shanghai.

‘Sweet Josephine’

The same day, Hong Kong property tycoon Joseph Lau dished out \$28.5 million for a huge 16.08-carat pink diamond at a Christie’s jewel

auction in Geneva, and immediately renamed it “Sweet Josephine”, after his seven-year-old daughter. According to the auction house, that marks a world record for a pink diamond in the highest color category, “fancy vivid”. Lau, 64, was not satisfied though. On Wednesday, he struck again, snapping up a 12.03-carat blue diamond dubbed “Blue Moon” for a record \$48.4 million, this time at Sotheby’s in Geneva.

David Bennett, head of Sotheby’s international jewelry division, said the “Blue Moon” sale broke several records, making the gemstone “the most expensive diamond, regardless of color, and the most expensive jewel ever sold at auction”. The jewel, set in a ring, also fetched the highest-ever price per carat, he said, with the buyer shelling out 4.02 million Swiss francs per carat. The shimmering blue stone was also immediately renamed after Lau’s daughter, and is now called “The Blue Moon of Josephine”. A Hong Kong-based spokeswoman for Lau confirmed the two diamond purchases to AFP.

This is not the first time Lau has bought rare jewels for his daughter. In 2009, he reportedly spent \$9.5 million on another blue diamond, which he renamed the “Star of Josephine”. Josephine is his daughter with girlfriend and former aide Chan Hoi-wan, according to local media. The 64-year-old also has two children with long-time partner Yvonne Lui. Life is not all family bliss for Lau. In March last year, he was found guilty of bribing a former minister in the gambling enclave of Macau in an attempt to purchase a prime development site. Lau, who was not in Macau for the sentencing, is unlikely to serve time as the two semi-autonomous Chinese cities do not have an extradition agreement.—AFP



A model smiles as she wears the ‘Blue Moon’ diamond during a “Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels” sales of the Sotheby’s auction house on November 11, 2015 in Geneva.—AFP



Runners with balloons, covered in coloured powder dance after taking part in the Color Run of Sevilla. The Color Run is a race where participants are showered with colored powder.—AFP photos

