

Cabinet hails security men for busting terrorist cell



Iran, Russia vow to oppose 'external' moves to dump Assad



Pfizer and Allergan to merge in \$160bn deal



Female player leaves Iran, husband overruled



AMIR HAS 'RECOGNIZABLE PLACE' WORLDWIDE: GUL

FORMER TURKISH PRESIDENT TACKLES REGIONAL ISSUES



Min 14°
Max 22°
High Tide 10:47 & 22:18
Low Tide 04:27 & 16:31



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conspiracy theories

CHAOS CREATES OPPORTUNITIES-II



By Badrya Darwish

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G uys, yesterday I told you chaos creates opportunities. Today, the government is not wasting any time since global oil prices fell a little over a year ago. Luckily for us in Kuwait, we have a wise government that sets our budget at \$55 per barrel, though we sold it for many years for more than \$100 and we accumulated more than 15 years of multibillion-dollar budget surpluses.

Thank God oil did not collapse completely, and on average did not collapse beyond our budget requirements. But still, the government has taken it as an opportunity to frighten us with stories of deficit after deficit after deficit. Now the new suggestion that Kuwait will face a deficit of KD 25 billion over the next five years. What if the prices of oil shoot up next year? Who knows, maybe things will improve.

Meanwhile, security is the issue on most people's mind. Since people are more worried about security - especially with the recent attack on a mosque in Kuwait and the activity of Daesh all over the world and especially in our region - so this is another opportunity to exploit the chaos.

It seems the government is planning a far-reaching taxation program. Calling it service fees is just a nicer name for taxation. I don't mind to be taxed, but in return I expect better quality services and transparency, which is the most important thing. Will we get that? And actually, the suggested increases in fees which Minister Anas Al-Saleh announced sounds to me to be a bit over-exaggerated. He actually said it will not affect citizens with fixed incomes. Excuse me, Mr Al-Saleh, 80 percent of the nation is on fixed incomes.

If you are saying that you will increase the fees for private schools up to 33 percent to 40 percent, do you think that these school owners will really pay this and not increase tuition? Same thing applies to private universities. And what about the co-ops? You suggested they pay an increase of up to 50 percent. The next day on the shelf, I assure you the item that was KD 1 will be KD 4. So how is that not affecting fixed-income people in Kuwait?

Perhaps you are mentally preparing us for a compromise. You suggested very high numbers so that the nation will panic, and when the government later agrees to only small increases, we will say thank you and accept them easily. But still you taxed us wrongly and unfairly. And it's actually the fixed-income people who will suffer at the end of the day.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (left) meets former Turkish president Abdullah Gul at the Turkish embassy yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 2)

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and KUNA

KUWAIT: Visiting Former Turkish President Abdullah Gul emphasized that HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has a recognizable place worldwide as a decision-maker because of his outstanding efforts and his "vast and rich" political experience that has enabled him to find solutions to most prominent issues in the region. This remark was made by Gul in an interview with Kuwait TV and Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) yesterday.

"Dialogue" is the Kuwaiti leader's approach toward solving regional and international issues, especially humanitarian ones, Gul said, who is visiting the country for four days. He expressed his appreciation on visiting Kuwait on the invitation of HH the Amir, who has made several visits to Turkey, adding that Turkey and Kuwait enjoy "strong" ties in all domains. These ongoing visits tackled many regional and international matters on security and safety of the Middle East region, and bilateral issues such as investment. Gul reiterated the importance of promoting bilateral relations, especially on the education front, inviting Kuwait to send its students to pursue their education in Turkish institutes.

Later, at a press conference held at the Turkish Embassy and attended by Kuwait Journalists Association members, Gul highly praised HH the Amir's wisdom on regional issues. "We have shared regional concerns and are fighting terrorism and developing bilateral relations in all levels that are expected to grow further," Gul said.

On Turkish-Egyptian relations, Gul stressed that Egypt is a major regional country and that both countries shared the Mediterranean shores and waters and were like "two halves of an apple".

Continued on Page 13

MPs, ACTIVISTS BLAST GAG ON SENIOR CLERIC

UAE 'JAILS' EX-MP DUWAILAH

By B Izzak

SAUDI KING ASSURED ABOUT AMIR'S HEALTH

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call from King Salman bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia, who inquired and was assured about the health condition of the Amir. The Amir thanked King Salman for asking about his health, which reflected brotherly relations between the two countries and people.

The two leaders also discussed means of bolstering the common GCC action towards integration in all domains, in order to honor aspirations of the peoples of the Gulf countries.

The common action, they agreed, would guarantee prosperity, development, security and stability of the six GCC countries. HH the Amir and King Salman also discussed regional and international developments. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Several MPs and activists yesterday blasted a decision by Minister of Justice and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yacoub Al-Sane to reportedly ban senior Sunni preacher Othman Al-Khamees from the ministry. The decision to suspend Khamees from giving Friday sermons and religious lectures at mosques has not been officially announced yet, but was widely reported on social media and harshly criticized by activists.

Khamees, a leading cleric, was last week fined KD 20,000 for allegedly insulting Shiites. The ruling is not final as it can be challenged before the appeals and cassation courts. Former Islamist MP Mohammad Hayef said the decision is not correct and called on the minister to revise the decision because it is not directed against Khamees only.

MP Abdullah Al-Turajji called on the minister to withdraw the decision since no final ruling has been issued against Khamees, adding that the minister should have waited for the final verdict from the supreme court.

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News

in brief

MoCI social media accounts hacked

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry yesterday reported that its social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram had been hacked and that it was currently working on retrieving them. In a press release issued yesterday, the ministry stressed that the hackers had posted statements against certain people with the aim of settling personal scores with them. The ministry strongly denied any relation to such information and statements and promised to sue the hackers. The ministry stressed that it had reported the matter to relevant authorities concerned with e-crimes so that proper legal measures could be taken to track down the hackers and hold them legally accountable.

Kuwaiti jailed 4 yrs over Saudi tweets

KUWAIT: The lower court yesterday sentenced an activist to four years in jail for posting comments on Twitter deemed offensive to Saudi Arabia. The court convicted Hamed Buyabes, a Kuwaiti, of "insulting a brotherly country and endangering diplomatic ties with it" a year ago, the verdict said. The former columnist confirmed the sentence on Twitter, saying he had only been defending the interests of his country during a row with Riyadh over a border port. The sentence is not final as it can be challenged before the appeals and supreme courts.

Massive Dubai blaze disrupts metro service

DUBAI: A massive blaze engulfed three residential blocs in central Dubai and led to services on a metro line being suspended yesterday, local media reported. The fire broke out in the Al-Shamsi buildings in the city's Deira neighborhood, across the road from the above-ground Green Line of Dubai Metro, Gulf News said on its website. Local media said no casualties were reported as fire fighters battled the blaze. Footage posted on social media showed flames spewing out of the five-storey buildings while thick black smoke billowed above. Dubai transport authority said on its Twitter account that the service between Union and Abu Hail stations was disrupted.

US embassy warns of fake media accounts

DOHA: The US embassy in Qatar yesterday warned web users about fake social media accounts in the name of its ambassador created "to scam people out of money". "We have recently been made aware of fake social media accounts claiming to be Ambassador Dana Shell Smith," the embassy said in a press release. "These accounts purporting to be Ambassador Smith were used in attempts to scam people out of money and are fake." Smith also took to Twitter to caution her almost 10,000 followers that a fraudulent account on networking site LinkedIn had been created in her name. Smith, who has been the US ambassador in Doha since July 2014, tweeted: "If you received a job offer from me, it is fake. I don't have a LinkedIn account, & I will never ask you to send money."



ABU DHABI: US Secretary of State John Kerry (center) gestures alongside Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (left) and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir yesterday. — AFP

KERRY RALLIES GULF BEHIND ANTI-IS PUSH

ABU DHABI: US Secretary of State John Kerry travelled to the Gulf yesterday to stress the urgent need to unite a region riven by conflict against the threat from the jihadist Islamic State group. Kerry held meetings with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Later yesterday, he sat down to talk at "great length" with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir about his outreach to the Syrian opposition.

In the wake of the attacks in Paris earlier this month and the security scare in Brussels, fears are rising that IS is gaining in strength and reach. France's President Francois Hollande is due in Washington today to lobby President Barack Obama to focus US military and diplomatic firepower on the group. Russia's Vladimir Putin claims his forces are already doing this, dismissing Western and Arab concerns about Assad's rule as a distraction from the main fight.

But Washington thinks it can quickly launch a peace process designed to sideline Assad and build a stable Syria while still leading a military coalition against the jihadists.

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MINISTER ESSA COMMENDS KUWAIT-LEBANON RELATIONS



KUWAIT: Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa and Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Khodhr Helwe cut the ceremony's cake. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Ambassadors pictured at the event.

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa Sunday commended the strong relations between Kuwait and Lebanon, affirming His Highness the Amir's keenness to further cement them.

In a statement to reporters on sidelines of a reception held by the Lebanese Embassy on the occasion of the country's national day, Essa hoped Lebanon would enjoy security, stability and prosperity. He said Kuwait has always supported Lebanon in times of need, citing contributions of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to development in Lebanon.

Asked about closure of the Cultural

Office in Lebanon, Essa attributed it to security conditions and the small number of students.

He said the Ministry of Higher Education registered all Kuwaitis who were studying in the Lebanese universities in other countries. Essa explained that there should be around 200 students in a foreign country to open a cultural office.

Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Khodhr Helwe expressed gratitude for His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, parliament Speaker, government and the Kuwaiti people for the promotion of dialogue for the sake of international peace. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends the signing ceremony of an agreement between Kuwait and Nicaragua yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT, NICARAGUA INK BILATERAL DEALS

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Nicaragua signed several agreements during a ceremony held yesterday at Bayan Palace, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The agreements are related to bilateral consultations, visa exemption for diplomatic and special passports and economic, technical and agricultural cooperation. They were signed by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Nicaragua's Vice-President General Moises Omar Halleslevens Acevedo.

The signing ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Advisor to His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan and head of the mission of honor, Dr Humoud Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Saud Al-Sabah and head of protocols at the Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Earlier, His Highness the Crown Prince received the visiting Nicaraguan Vice-President, who delivered a written letter to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega on bilateral relations between both friendly countries and ways of bolstering them in various fields as well as several issues of mutual interest. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf then held a luncheon banquet at Bayan Palace in honor of Acevedo and his accompanying delegation. Acevedo and his delegation arrived in Kuwait Sunday on a three-day visit.

Later, Acevedo received His Highness the



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Governor of the US State of Virginia.

Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in his residence at Bayan palace. The meeting was attended by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Electricity and Water Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Dr Humoud Al-Otaibi, and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Americas

Affairs Ambassador Reem Al-Khaled.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince received Governor of the US State of Virginia, in presence of Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Head of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



Former Turkish President Abdullah Gul meets Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Former Turkish President Abdullah Gul is pictured with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.



Former Turkish President Abdullah Gul is seen during his visit to the American Cultural Center of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah.

GUL MEETS AMIRI DIWAN MINISTER

KUWAIT: Former Turkish President Abdullah Gul met with Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. Head of the accompanying mission of honor and Amiri Diwan Advisor Khalid Yousef Al-Fulaij attended the meeting. Later, Gul and his delegation visited the American Cultural Center of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (DAI), where they were welcomed by DAI Director General Sheikh Hessa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. On Sunday, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held a dinner banquet at Shuwaikh Palace in honor of the visiting Turkish ex-president and the delegation accompanying him. — KUNA

KUWAIT GREAT ADVOCATE FOR GENDER EQUALITY: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Kuwait has always been a great advocate for gender equality, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih stressed yesterday. She pointed out that women take up 43.4 percent of the workforce market, in comparison to only 24.7 in Arab countries.

Subaih made this remark in a press conference to launch '16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women' awareness campaign in cooperation with United Nation Development Program (UNPD) office in Kuwait. The campaign coincides with "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" celebration on November 25. The Kuwaiti legal system protects women against violence and pre-

serves their rights in all realms of life, the minister pointed out.

She added the Gulf country set an example to follow on supporting women, noting that this year women will be empowered even further by supporting their small and medium-sized enterprises to enable women to be part of the country's economic development.

Women should be encouraged to have more social participation, Subaih added, especially since they were granted their rights to get involved in the political process a year ago. She reiterated the importance of eliminating all forms of violence against women, noting that the UNPD office in Kuwait is ready to work on achieving this goal. — KUNA

HEALTH MINISTRY LAUNCHES LIFE-SAVING CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry yesterday launched a national life-saving campaign purposed to boost public awareness about first aid practices. At the opening ceremony, Head of the Organizing Committee Jamal Al-Harbi said the life-saving campaign is mainly intended to educate the public about first aid treatment by

means of providing emergency medical care to the wounded and patients in a correct manner.

Now that chronic diseases, mainly heart problems, are mainly to blame for death in Kuwait, it has become a pressing need to organize training courses for life-saving, he added. The program aims to educate the public on first aid,

and provide individuals with necessary responses in case of an emergency, Harbi pointed out. He added that the programs targets better awareness of secondary school and university students and employees, and educate 10 percent of Kuwaiti adults on first aid practices over a span of five years. — KUNA

GCC INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARIES BEGIN MEETING

DOHA: A scheduled meeting of GCC interior undersecretaries got underway yesterday, with the officials tasked of preparing for an upcoming meeting at the ministerial level. Major General Saad bin Jassim Al Khulaifi, Director General of Public Security Department at Qatar's Ministry of Interior, affirmed in the opening statement that the undersecretaries got together to prepare for the forthcoming ministerial meeting, indicating they would discuss plans for combating various forms of crime and terrorism "manifestations of which have multiplied claiming innocent lives, annihilating properties, assets, breaching peoples' honor, sanctity of religions and worship sites. This situation prompts us to examine the very significant thinking process that precedes criminal action."

The Qatari official noted in this respect need for collective action and efforts at the GCC level, through coordination among various segments of GCC societies to guide the youth about challenges and dangers.

He called for revising legislations in GCC countries to combat terrorism and extremism and activate joint security pacts for "confronting surrounding dangers on basis of our religious, moralistic and humanitarian principles."

Warning that perils threatening GCC countries are not expected to disappear soon, Maj. Gen. Al Khulaifi called for closer inter-GCC cooperation to fight crime, exchange and employ expertise and develop joint security programs.

Meanwhile, GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Security Affairs Hazza'a Al-Hajri said the meeting agenda includes follow-up on implementation of GCC interior ministers' decisions at their 33rd meeting, held in Kuwait last year, and following up on their decisions at a consultative meeting hosted by Qatar last April. The Kuwaiti delegation taking part in the meeting is headed by Interior Undersecretary Lt Gen Sulaiman Al-Fahad. — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait yesterday, concluding an official visit to the country. He was seen off by the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and a number of senior parliamentary officials. — KUNA

KUWAIT DONATES \$1.1 MILLION TO CHARITIES IN JORDAN

AMMAN: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij handed over a collection of donations of \$1.1 million to two charitable organizations supporting the Syrian refugees. The donations came from the Social Reform Society with \$543,000, Al-Najaf Charitable Society \$563,000 and Revival of Islamic Heritage Society \$73,000.

The donations were given to Jordan's Al-Rahma Charity, an affiliate of Social Reform Society and Al-Takaful Charity. The Ambassador stressed yesterday that the Kuwaiti leadership always supports humanitarian causes worldwide, especially refugee-hosted countries. He pointed out that philanthropic activities should continue, expressing Kuwaiti embassy's readiness to facilitate the process. The two Charities expressed appreciation for receiving this generous donation,

pointing out that the money will be used to hold a collective marriage ceremony of 20 couples, to hold a hand-made product exhibition, to support orphanages, to provide in-kind aid, to support education and school supplies for students. More \$558,000 will be allocated to help refugees.

Yemen

In other news, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced yesterday the arrival of the fourth humanitarian aid shipment to Aden in Yemen, where it will be delivered in cooperation with NGOs in the country. The aid includes 10,000 food packages, 10,000 cleaning substances and 5,000 kitchen supply packages, the society's Board Chairman Dr Helal Al-Sayer said, adding that the aid will be delivered to all Yemeni governorates.

ANOTHER SMUGGLED ORANGUTAN SAFELY REPATRIATED TO INDONESIA

KUWAIT: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Zoo and Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia as well as the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation have again successfully and safely returned home the orangutan, that was illegally smuggled to Kuwait in July 2015, to Indonesia by Kuwait Airways KU415 on 22 November 2015 and landed in Jakarta on 23 November 2015 at 15:50 local time.

This orangutan, named by Kuwait Zoo as Zafrana, is one out of two orangutans that were smuggled to Kuwait in July and

was successfully confiscated by relevant authority in Kuwait. The first orangutan, who was named by the Kuwait Zoo as Moza, has been sent home on 13 September 2015. Both orangutan are Borneo of the sub-species Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii.

This repatriation of orangutan shows strong commitment both from Government of Indonesia and authorities in Kuwait to preserve the endangered species as listed by CITES Appendix I which, unfortunately, includes the orangutan. The Government of Indonesia will hold into account anyone involved in this illegal activity and brought the perpetrator to the court.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday. — KUNA

CABINET HAILS SECURITY PERSONNEL FOR ARRESTING TERRORIST CELL

KUWAIT: The cabinet yesterday hailed the Ministry of Interior for arresting recently a terrorist cell and uncovering their subversive goals. During its weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet voiced full confidence in the ability of security apparatuses to maintain the security of the nation and citizens.

Wishing Kuwait everlasting security and stability, the cabinet hoped that the Kuwaiti people would be well aware of existing challenges and risks and, thence, the necessity of national unity, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a press statement following the meeting. The cabinet also called on people to cooperate intensively with security personnel to cut off the way for those plotting to disrupt security and stability in the country, he said.

Terrorist attack

Moreover, the ministers sharply condemned a recent terrorist attack targeting a hotel in Bamako in Mali, which left scores of people killed or wounded. The cabinet reiterated Kuwait's emphatic denunciation of such heinous criminal acts that breach all heavenly religions

and human values and principles, while offering condolences to the government and people of Mali over the victims of the attack.

In this context, the cabinet urged the international community to stand united in the face of terrorism with all its forms and manifestations, voicing Kuwait's support to every effort aiming to fight and eliminate this scourge.

Bosnian president

Meanwhile, the cabinet was briefed on a recent letter sent to His Highness the Amir from

Bosnian President Dragan Covic, inviting His Highness the Amir to visit his country in order to discuss ways of promoting and developing bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Then, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah kept the ministers posted on the outcomes of the recent meeting of the GCC foreign ministers in Riyadh. He also apprised them of the outcomes of a recent summit in Abu Dhabi on the protection of children against cyber abuse. — KUNA



Officials from the Indonesian embassy, Kuwait Zoo and BOS Foundation bid farewell to 'Zafrana.'

MP JEERAN DEFENDS KUWAIT'S CHARITY

By A Saleh

Dashti's case

KUWAIT: MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran stressed that charity collection in Kuwait is subject to law and regulations and that talk about using charity funds to purchase weapons or support 'military' organizations abroad was hypothetical and ungrounded.

MP Abdulhameed Dashti yesterday filed a request to disqualify the panel hearing the case filed against him over charges of slandering Bahrain, which was filed by the foreign ministry on a request from the embassy of Bahrain in Kuwait.

ELECTRIC CABLES' THEFT GANG BUSTED

By Hanna Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Jahra detectives busted a gang of five Egyptians, including one who is currently outside the country, and an Iranian who stole electric cables from various areas. Detectives also found old ammunition they melted for copper. The arrest was made when detectives noticed three men trying to steal cables from a transformer. When their car was searched, several cutters of various sizes were found. The arrested men said they stole from the same transformer before, and gave the stolen material to the fifth suspect who sold it for KD 800, took KD 100 and gave KD 700 to the fourth suspect who is outside the country. KD 140 was given to the first suspect, KD 160 to the second, KD 180 to the third while the fourth suspect kept KD 320 for himself. The first, second, third and fourth suspects confessed that they went to steal replacement cables in the transformer after the initial theft, but the ministry did not replace anything. The fifth suspect told police about the person who bought the stolen material at Amghara scarp yard, who was arrested at Kuwait Airport with KD 1,025 and 40,000 Iranian toman, along with several transfer receipts.



Electric cables and ammunition found with the suspects.

Police campaign

Policemen arrested 52 wanted persons, 33 persons who were ordered arrested, 17 absconders and 32 whose residency permits were expired, while 241 traffic citations were issued and 31 vehicles impounded.

Landmines

Director General of Relations

and Security Information at the Interior Ministry Brig Adel Al-Hashash warned against the danger of approaching or playing with landmines and foreign objects found in open and remote areas. He said any person who finds such things should call authorities at once, either at the police stations or on 112.

Hawally fire

Firemen put out a fire that broke out in a Hawally building. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Fugitives caught

Sulaibiya detectives arrested three Saudi nationals who were sentenced to serve jail terms. The first suspect was sentenced to two years jail and deportation, followed by four years after he serves the first, and he was wanted on charges of escaping after his arrest. The second suspect was sentenced for three years, and the third for four years.



Flames coming out of an apartment's window in Hawally.

TWITTER OFFENDER REMANDED IN CUSTODY

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The public prosecution yesterday remanded in custody a number of suspects charged in a case related to operating a Twitter account under the handle 'Chabreet Seyassi 2' (political matches 2) and using it to slander His Highness the Amir and other Kuwaiti figures. The court also summoned lawyer Falah Al-Ajmi and media figure Bader Abdulaziz for the same case. Police had arrested a man who allegedly operated the controversial account, and who has been identified as the brother of Waleed Fares, a man arrested earlier on

charges of making similar offensive remarks using a Twitter account named 'Chabreet Seyassi' (political matches).

Teachers sentenced

The misdemeanor court yesterday sentenced two expatriate teachers working for a private school to two weeks in prison with labor over their responsibility for the death of a child. The kid, named Nawaf Al-Azmi, had drowned in a swimming pool under their supervision at the school. The victim's family attorney had demanded maximum punishment for the two teachers.

National support

Sources at the Manpower Public Authority said that a special committee reviewing the grievances filed by national laborers working for the private sector for suspending the payment of their 'national labor support allowances, has met with 20 persons and discussed their grievances. The payments were suspended under the claim that the workers did not update their information with the authority's systems, the sources said. The sources stressed that all grievances were reviewed within a maximum of 15 days because ministerial decisions ban any retroactive payments.



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A Wonderful World



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah inaugurates the third official season of the National Assembly.



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah signs the independence treaty with Britain.



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah receives a draft of the Constitution of Kuwait from Abdullatif Al-Ghanem.

KUWAITIS RECALL LATE SHEIKH ABDULLAH AL-SALEM AL-SABAH 'FATHER OF INDEPENDENCE, CONSTITUTION'

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis nowadays recall with distress the crucial reign of the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah who passed away on November 24, 1965, after a life full of accomplishments namely establishment of modern Kuwait's foundations.

The number-one architect of the State of Kuwait's Constitution had passed away at the age of 70. He was the 11th Ruler of Kuwait, who worked hard for the homeland service and his 1950-1965 reign was witnessed a series of constitutional measures that earned him the title 'Abul Dostour' (father of the Constitution).

Passion

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, born in 1895, had received education in the country and was known for passion for history and literature. He started his career in the leadership during the rule of the late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, serving as head of the administrative and financial affairs department. He chaired the legislative assembly (1938-1939), the municipality, the health and orphanage departments.

On February 25, 1950, he took the helm of power after demise of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, thus Kuwait ushered a new phase toward modernization, as his rule was distinguished with political, cultural and economic openness, in addition to cementing ties with Arab states.

Kuwait's transformation into an independent and sovereign state began on June 19, 1961, when Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem worked out the independence treaty with Britain, thus scrapping the protectorate's status of the country that had been in effect since 1899. This accomplishment earned him another title, "father of the Independence."

On the Independence Day, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem addressed the people of Kuwait, lauding the close cooperation between the Ruling Family and the faithful citizens. "On this day, while citizens smile wholeheartedly, we pray to His Almighty for gratitude for this great bounty," he said in his famous speech, also hoping that the close cooperation between the leadership and the people would continue for attaining sustainable progress and development of Kuwait.

New flag

In September the same year, the old Kuwait Flag was replaced with the new one. It was hoisted atop Seif Palace and government buildings in the morning of November 24, 1961. Following the Independence, Kuwait joined the Arab League, in 1961, and the United Nations in 1963, to be the 111th member of the international organization.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem is being remembered as a staunch advocate of unity of the Arab and Muslim nations. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) was established in end of December, 1961, to aid Arab, Muslim and developing nations. One of his accomplishments was establishment of the constituent assembly for enacting the National Constitution. The council was assigned to form a special commission for the task, on August 26, 1961. An Amiri Decree had been issued calling for public elections to set up the constituent assembly, to be charged with drafting the Constitution.

First session

Sheikh Abdullah had inaugurated the first session of the

assembly, addressing the people of Kuwait, urging them to be united. On November 11, 1962, the late Amir endorsed the Constitution after presenting it to the assembly on the 8th of the same month. First elections were held on January 28th, 1962. The late Amir had opened the legislative term on January 29, 1963. Other accomplishments were inauguration of Kuwait Radio in May 1951, holding the first census in April 1957 and issuance of the judicial law on December 19th, 1959.

At the economic level, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem had devoted special attention to the oil sector. His rule witnessed noticeable rise of crude proceeds and amendment of the accord with Kuwait Oil Company, whereby the company would pay Kuwait half of the profits, after paying a small portion of the earnings.

His health started to deteriorate as of October 24th, 1965, when he suffered a stroke while attending a legislative session. He passed away on November 24, 1965. "Kuwait's wealth belongs to the people and I am the guardian," this is his eternally-lived announcement; engraved in the Kuwaitis' hearts and minds. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Visitors at the Omani artists' gallery in the Kuwait Arts Association. — KUNA

22 OMANI ARTISTS HOLD EXHIBITION IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Paintings of 22 Omani artists have decorated the walls of the major exhibition hall of Kuwait Arts Association, depicting the beauty of the country, ranging from the traditional costumes, handicrafts, buildings, dances and games. The paintings were showing the market, woman, tradition of Oman, feminism, horse racing, sadu, life in general in Oman and story of colors, drawn in different types of painting tools.

Ali Al-Roumi, Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development at the Ministry of Social

Affairs and Labor, who represented Minister Hind Al-Subaih, told reporters Kuwait has always opened its doors for all Arab artists. He admired the paintings and the subjects they conveyed, which reflected the genuine Omani culture and tradition.

Chairman of Kuwait Arts Association Abdulrasoul Salman said the exhibition aimed at cementing the cultural bonds between Kuwait and Oman. He said art in Oman has been growing amidst an increasing awareness in culture. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Embassy of Bangladesh in Kuwait hosted a reception recently on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh. Defense attaches, diplomats, government officials and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

PALESTINIAN CULTURE CENTER OPENS 43RD EXHIBITION AT BAYT LOTHAN

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Palestinian Culture Center held its 43rd exhibition at Bayt Lothan yesterday, with stylish Palestinian dresses on display. Siham Abu Ghazaleh, in charge of the exhibition, expressed her happiness seeing people supporting Palestine by buying beautiful handmade works made by 550 women and girls in Palestinian camps in Jordan. She said this year, the Palestinian women made dresses in a new style that can match the Kuwaitis' style in fashion.

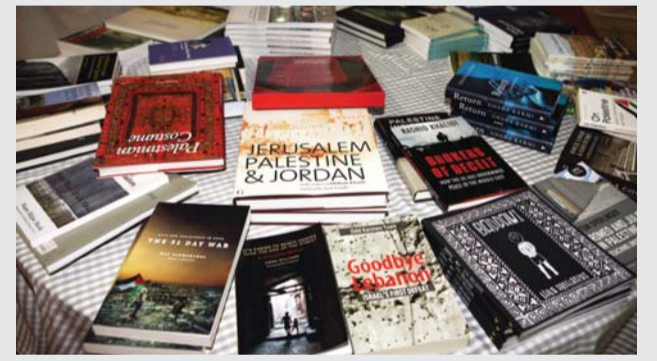
"The exhibition aims to preserve the rich heritage and culture of Palestine, help empower women and their families in refugee camps become economically independent and sustain needy Palestinians in their homeland and the diaspora," she said. Abu Ghazaleh told Kuwait Times that this year, new books in English and Arabic are available. "The most interesting book that we have this year in our exhibition is Mohammad Ghosheh's book that talks about Al-Aqsa. His book is unbelievable - he describes every single detail of Al-Aqsa Mosque that you can see through your imagination by his words," she said, adding that kids also can find interesting stories and educational books that talk about Palestine.

"The proceeds of this exhibition are for Jerusalem, as we always try to help and support Jerusalem and Palestinians, especially now," said Abu Ghazaleh. She called on people to support Palestine by supporting the exhibition. She invited people to attend a Palestinian folklore "dabkah" dance that Al-Mejanah band will perform with Maher Al-Ateli on Thursday at 6:30 pm, and a Palestinian poetry session by Bushra Abu Sabra. Women at the exhibition have prepared a "good deeds plate" with traditional Palestinian food such as thyme, sumac, baked goods and other dishes.

The exhibition at Bayt Lothan in Salmiya will run for four days from Monday, November 23 through Thursday, November 26. It is open to the public from 10 am to 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm.



KUWAIT: Siham Abu Ghazaleh is pictured at the exhibition. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



CLIMATE CHANGE IS FOR REAL AND PEOPLE ARE CAUSING IT: PROFESSOR

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Another awareness seminar about climate change was held yesterday at Kuwait University's main campus in Shuwaikh. The event was organized by the university in association with the French Embassy in Kuwait in support of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris. France has been organizing events in various countries as a prelude to the biggest climate change summit, which will be held from November 30 to December 11.



KUWAIT: French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle speaks during a seminar about climate change at Kuwait University yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle emphasized France's commitment to the COP 21, stressing continuous preparation to welcome thousands of delegations from all over the world. According to Nakhle, COP21, also known as 'Paris Climate 2015', has side events in many countries to prepare everyone for the global conference.

Widespread agreement

Speakers yesterday included Professor Eric Guilyardi, who presented the facts about climate change. He said climate change is for real and people are causing it. "There is widespread agreement among scientists, about 95 percent of us, who believe it's real and people are causing it, but it can be mitigated if not limited if we choose to," he stressed. He defines climate and weather

as follows - climate is the average of weather over a long time period, while climate varies with seasons, years, decades, centuries or millennia.

"Weather is what you get, climate is what you expect, and the climate will tell you which clothes to buy and wear," he said. According to Guilyardi, climate change is real, as evidence by scientists shows it's quite alarmingly visible now compared to 100 years back. "We see a rapid change of climate over millennia and it was because of various unkind human activities such as CO2 emissions over years, and the blow was felt only in recent years. The temperature rose by 1 degree Celsius from 1950-2000, drastically changing the sea level, meaning unprecedentedly rising of seawaters in the past years," he added.

"The problem of a one degree rise is like human temperature; if it's above 40, we don't know whether you'll survive or not. The temperature right now is pretty close to that. If you remember in 2003, a heat wave in Europe killed thousands. The problem is that 15 days of heat may increase to one month, and just imagine the casualties if this happens," Guilyardi warned.

Important facts

Dima Al-Khatib, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), presented her agency's activities here and some important facts related to the environment and climate change. "We have been working in 170 countries all over the world. In Kuwait, we started our work in 1964. Our mandate as of every other UNDP office is to support the implementation of the country's development plan and development strategies. We work with the country's program and action plan. We focus on four areas - socioeconomic development, environment, human development and governance, south-south cooperation and tripartite collaboration," Khatib said.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) is a yearly conference that aims to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change, preservation of the planet, and reducing the greenhouse effect. Due to the alarmingly increased rate of greenhouse emissions worldwide today, France is targeting an ambitious goal of reducing it by 40 percent by 2030, 60 percent by 2040 and finally 80-95 percent by 2050 (compared to 1990), to ensure a safer future for generations to come.

Egyptian Rice 0.190 KD Per Kilo	Cucumber (Small Box) 0.290 KD	French Green Apples 0.250 KD Per Kilo
Sultan White Sugar 10 Kg 2.650 KD / 1.290 KD	Royal Umbrella Rice 10 Kg 4.995 KD / 2.750 KD	Whole Fresh Chicken 1.100 KD / 0.500 KD Per Kilo
Al Wazzan Tuna in Oil 160 g 1.370 KD / 0.990 KD 4 Pcs	Kuwaiti TSC Eggs 40 x 50 1.150 KD / 0.790 KD	Country XL Indian Basmati Rice 20 kg 13.350 KD / 7.500 KD
Nido Instant Milk Powder 2.5 Kg 6.250 KD / 4.500 KD	Nescafe 3 in 1 20 g x 28 Pcs 1.300 KD / 0.750 KD	Aqua Gulf Drinking Water 1.5 Ltr 0.660 KD / 0.250 KD 6 Pcs
Mobile iPhone 6 16 GB Limited Quantity 169.950 KD / 149.950 KD	Tide Assorted Powder Detergents 6 Kg 5.350 KD / 1.990 KD	Dettol Antiseptic Disinfectant 750 ml x 2 Pcs + 500 ml 3.250 KD / 2.250 KD



Manar Al-Hashash

KUWAITI IT EXPERT TO MENTOR EUROPEAN YOUTH AWARD

KUWAIT: European Youth Award (EYA) chose Kuwaiti IT expert Manar Al-Hashash as member of its mentoring team for the Wings of Success Initiative for the second time in a row. EYA chose top European experts to mentor the initiative, Hashash told KUNA yesterday, adding that the program, currently held in the Austrian city of Graz, includes guidance seminars, presentations of qualifying projects and workshops on IT and communication. The EYA mentorship program offers every winning project a yearlong business experience under a mentor's wing, Hashash also noted.

Meanwhile, head of the award said that Hashash was chosen due to her experience in the field and her efforts in supporting creative youth. She said that the Kuwaiti expert was also chosen to hold a seminar on the future of the electronic field in front of top European experts, aiming to influence European youth engaged in IT.

Hashash is the Secretary General of Kuwait E-Award; a member in the World Summit Award WSA board of directors and in High-Level Panel of Advisers of Gaid - United Nations. Since 1999, she has been involved in media and public work in many ways to achieve that goal. She prepares and presents the weekly IT program 'Compunet World' on Kuwait TV as well as preparing and presenting another weekly IT program on KTV2 in English called 'Zero Ones'.

In 2004, Al-Hashash launched and managed a Local e-Content Annual Contest under the name of 'Ghiras electro Contest' which aims at youths in Kuwait (14-22yrs) competing for Best website design, Best Presentation, Best Graphic design and Best mobile e-greeting card, all focus on local content.

She also has rich experience in the press media publishing for IT, as she wrote a weekly IT page for the official daily newspaper in Kuwait from 2000 till 2005, where she concluded that experience by launching the IT magazine 'Dot' of which she was owner and Chief Editor. As a student Manar was awarded an IEEE for her outstanding Internet and e-Commerce projects in 2000. The European Youth Award (EYA) is a pan-European contest to motivate young people to produce socially-valuable digital projects that address the goals defined by the Council of Europe and Europe 2020. — KUNA

INFORMATICS FORUM SEEKS ROADMAP FOR DIGITAL PROJECTS

KUWAIT: The global informatics forum 2015 slated for early December will seek through its sessions to design a roadmap on the stages of digital projects, organizers of the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali AlSabah Informatics Award said yesterday.

The forum, to be held under: prerequisites for success of digital projects in knowledge economy, will be co-organized by Sheikh Salem Al-Ali AlSabah Informatics Award and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the organizers said in a statement. It is basically on economy and the four sessions will focus on how to reach an idea for a digital project, and the subsequent stages, the statement added.

The idea is a major pillar for accessing the world of business and it is the hardest step for an entrepreneur, the statement said. A panel session will be devoted to the fact that a sound idea is the base of a successful digital project.

A host of entrepreneurs from developed and developing countries - Bahrain, France, Germany and Brazil - will address the session on their experience and projects, especially how they could reach a sound idea.

A Kuwaiti entrepreneur, Abdullah Al-Zaben, a company founder and CEO, will review his experience and how his idea turned into a successful digital project. He will also address the difficulties that face entrepreneurs in the field of small and medium-size enterprises, in general, and in digital projects in particular. The forum, the first of the kind in the Middle East, seeks to encourage the Kuwaiti youth to enter the world of knowledge economy. — KUNA

EGYPTIAN SCHOLAR ZIEDAN GRATEFUL FOR KFAS PRIZE

KUWAIT: Youssef Ziedan, a renowned Egyptian scholar who specializes in Arabic and Islamic studies, said Sunday evening his honoring by Kuwait will give a great impetus to his literary march particularly in the short story writing.

Ziedan, director of the Manuscript Center and Museum of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, has won the award of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) for his book 'Al-Shamil fil-Sina'a Al-Tibbiyya' (the comprehensive in the medical industry).

"Through my interest in fiction writing is primarily focused on novel, I felt duty bound to write short stories which require exceptional writing and linguistic talents," he said at a seminar titled "brainstorming on the writer Youssef Ziedan."

The seminar was held on the fringe of the 40th Kuwait international book fair which continues until November 28. On Al-Shamil, Ziedan said the book falls in 30 volumes and took 12 years of laboring to complete, noting that he used to devote 15 hours daily to writing.

Born in Sohaj, Upper Egypt, in

1958, he moved with his grandfather to Alexandria when he was still a child. He got his PhD degree from the philosophy department, the University of Alexandria, in 1989. Recalling his childhood memories, Ziedan said this Mediterranean city had great impact on his fiction and historical writings that total in number 50 books.

"This impact was clearer in my second novel 'Azazeel', a historical-theological work which won the 2009 International Prize for Arabic Fiction," he pointed out. The first work is 'Zil Al-Af'a' (Shadow of Serpent). He called on the educational and cultural institutions in the Arab countries to do more efforts to maintain the cultural identity of the young generation and bring the Arab peoples closer to each other.

Ziedan worked as a consultant in the field of Arabic heritage preservation and conservation in a number of international institutions, including UNESCO, ESCWA and the Arab League, and has directed a number of projects aimed at the delimitation and preservation of Arabic manuscript heritage. — KUNA

Crime

Report

MAN BUSTED IN HEROIN IMPORT SCHEME

KUWAIT: A man was caught when received a package containing heroin. The man was arrested when customs detectives discovered the illicit drugs in a parcel sent from Pakistan and the man admitted he had received four similar parcels previously. He was sent to Drugs Control General Department. The amount of heroin found is estimated at 500 grams, 100 grams more pure heroin were found in the suspect's house. In another drug-related incident, airport customs officers arrested an Asian with one kilogram of marijuana that was hidden in his luggage. He was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD).

Debtors arrested

A man was sent to Civil implementation department as he is wanted on four debt cases totaling KD 36,000. The arrest was made near Kuwait Zoo in Omariya. In another incident, a citizen wanted for debts totaling KD 100,000, as well as forgery and impersonation, was arrested by Mubarak Al-Kabeer police and sent to concerned authorities.

Imposters rob expats

Two men who were posing as detectives used a stolen sports-utility-vehicle (SUV) to attack expats and rob them. Farwaniya detectives are working on arresting the two following several complaints by expats who said the two men stormed their residences and rob them, when detectives checked on the license plate they found the vehicle was reported stolen.

Car thieves busted

Farwaniya police arrested three juveniles while trying to steal items from a car, and were sent to juveniles protection department. Policemen saw the three while breaking the glass, then when police approached them claimed to have locked the keys inside the car. On checking, however, police discovered the three did not own the car.

Warehouse theft

A citizen discovered that KD 8000 worth of food stuff was stolen from his company warehouse, so he reported that to Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh police station. The stolen material include 160 boxes of dates, 70 sacks of cardamom and coffee. Police are investigating.

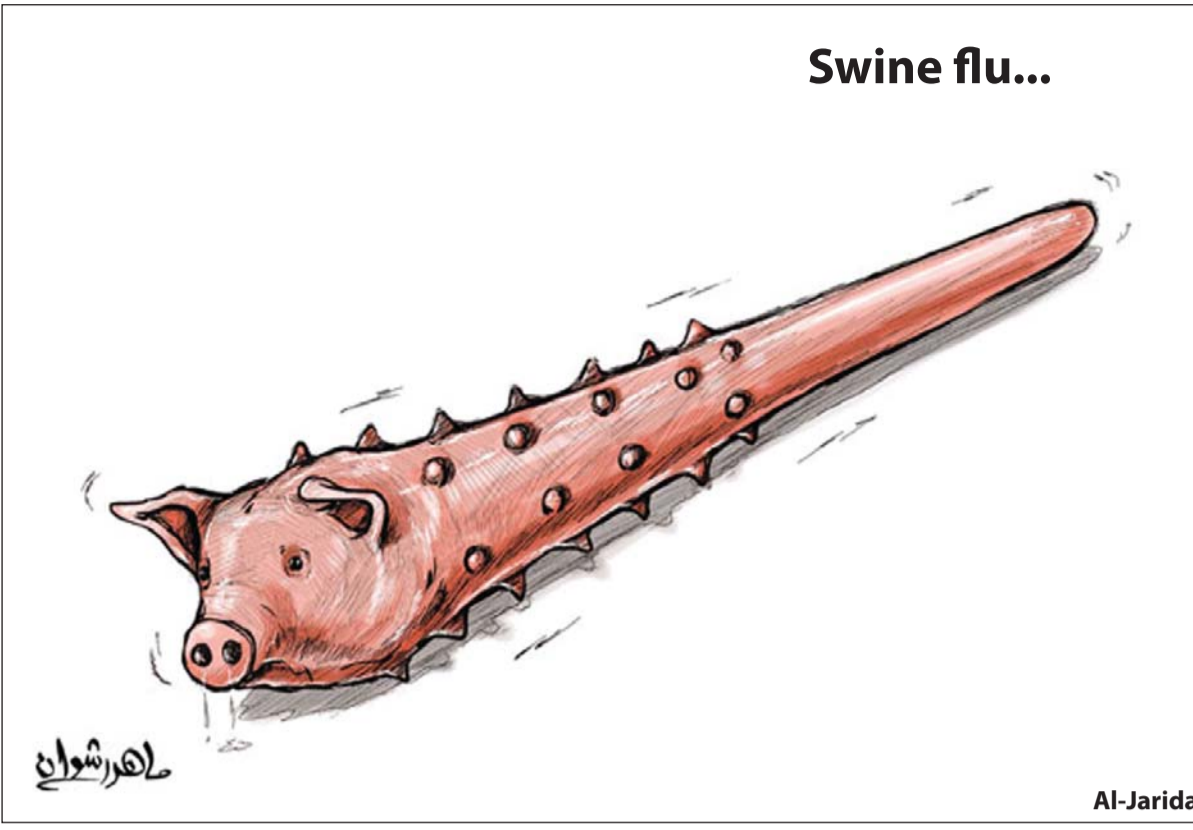
Gamblers arrested

Vice police arrested 11 gamblers in a Salmiya apartment. Criminal detectives received information about several persons who frequented a flat to carry out illegal activities. Detectives found out that the apartment is run by a number of expatriates, and obtained warrants to raid it, when they found the suspects.

'SPENDING RECEIPT' HALTS EXPATS LOANS

KUWAIT: Several banks have found confusing a number of instructions recently given by the Central Bank of Kuwait, pertaining with mandating bank clients who get consumer loans to provide receipts which prove how the loans were spent, sources said. The major problem about such condition is how to receive receipts from expats who get loans to spend them abroad, the sources explained. "The central bank left this point unclear in terms of who to hold accountable if an expat, for instance, provided fake receipts and documents about how the loan was spent," stressed the sources, pointing out that, accordingly, some banks have become very meticulous about giving loans to be spent abroad, while others suspended such loans until things become clearer.

Notably, all banks ask expatriate clients to provide salary continuation and indemnity statement certificates to guarantee collecting the loans back from either clients or their employers. Furthermore, the sources said that both the Central Bank and local banks had met several times in the past without managing to decide who would be responsible for determining the validity of those receipts and bills. They also stressed that in case those documents were proven fake within six months from giving the loan, the concerned client, including those spending their loans locally, would be blacklisted. —Al-Anbaa



Swine flu...

Al-Jarida

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

KUWAITI TOURISM

By Saad Al-Motesh

Whenever I accidentally go to some place where a nice discussion is going on, I immediately think of the saying: "An accidental meeting may be better than a date", and before I go further into this, I would like to urge my readers to drop the idea of using this saying on seeing a pretty face.

A few days ago, I had an accidental discussion with a wonderful young Kuwaiti who has great ambitions about serving his country through his field of expertise. This young man is the manager of the tourism department, Faisal Al-Duraei. Talking to him, I found out that some men have a strong desire and will to further develop Kuwait.

Knowing about his position, I started my discussion with a provocative question about tourism in Kuwait and whether Kuwait's climate allows such an industry. Well, his calmness and wonderfully convincing answer made me take his side and encourage him to carry on with his hard work and persistence to succeed in his line of work.

Faisal told me that Kuwait's climate was much better than that in many regional countries, and that high temperatures only prevail during a limited period of four months from June to September. "Why don't we make use of the remaining eight months when the weather is kind of acceptable?" he argued.

Therefore, I do urge everybody to support this young man culturally and media-wise and to overcome all governmental and bureaucracy obstacles so as to turn Kuwait into a destination for family tourism as we all wish. I also urge them to support all ambitious youth in any field that can be of use to Kuwait and beware of those claiming to want to serve Kuwait while they actually work for their own personal benefits.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

E-CRIMES LAW TAKES EFFECT JANUARY 12: ATTORNEY GENERAL

KUWAIT: Attorney General Chanceller Dherar Al-Asousi stressed that the media and information prosecution, which is part of the Public Prosecution, would be responsible for investigating all the cases included in the new 'Electronic Crimes Law' number 63/2015 that is due to take effect by January 12, 2016.

Asousi explained that the media and information prosecution would be responsible for handling and investigating such crimes to decide whether to shelf or refer them to court. Furthermore, Asousi said that according to the law, the public prosecution would be responsible to investigate various e-crimes including those committed using various social media networks and the internet.

directive explaining the violations to be dealt with as crimes and those to be dealt with as misdemeanors. According to the directive, crimes



Dherar Al-Asousi

like conspiring to topple the regime would be penalized by a maximum of ten years in prison, creating websites for or promoting human trafficking would be penalized by a maximum of seven years imprisonment and a KD 10,000-30,000 fine and that money laundering would be penalized by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and a minimum of KD 20,000 fine. "Those accused of creating websites promoting terrorist organizations or individuals or manufacture explosives and materials used in terrorist acts would be penalized by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and a KD 20,000-50,000 fine," he added, pointing out that a maximum six month imprisonment and a KD 500 - 2000 fine was set for unauthorized access to any account. —Al-Jarida

Notably, Asousi had issued a

القباس

Al-Qabas

RUSSIA PLANS A NEW MIDDLE EAST

By Abdelmohsen Jamal

What is going on in the Arab region? And where are the Arabs? Is what is happening today taking place in coordination with them, or are they the last to know? What is happening is saddening, saddening and saddening because the Arab reality has given all its cards to others, as if it is asking for liquidating the Arab governments and desecration of the Arab nation in a way that calls for bemoaning a nation that gave up all its political papers to others.

The nation had differences, so it could not solve its disputes in a peaceful manner as Islam asks for - rather it got shredded to groups and sects, while each group depended on foreign powers. And because foreign policy does not know emotions and acts through its interests and strengthening its influence, the Arab arena has become a field for international struggles.

Instead of having foreign powers act alone in drawing the Middle East future, Russia was able to put a foot in the region, because of the West's mistakes and arrogance, who clumsily bet on extreme religious powers to be the spearheads to topple Arab governments, only to be surprised that they could not be trusted, and that they turn on everyone when they see the time is right for them.

Russia, in cooperation with Syria, was able to form an alliance through which the Syrian state is helped to get rid of the armed groups, especially those that are considered terrorist movements according to Security Council resolutions. The Russian role has become stronger following the latest Paris explosions, which Daesh claimed responsibility for.

Today, following the meeting of international decision makers in Austria, and their decision to eradicate terrorist movements that have a religious direction, especially in Syria and Iraq, they once again strengthened the Russian role in Syria, which may expand to Iraq, Lebanon and Libya, which will give the Russians and their allies an important role in having influence on the future image of the region.

It is now clear that Arab countries will see a new reality in the coming days that is built on new political formulas that relies on several facts, including, the major powers getting closer in forming their new interests, recognition of the Russian role by the West and giving it a role in the coming political movement, monitoring the areas that are financing the expiatory movements to hold them accountable and dry up their resources, change the Arab roles according to the new international view, which the Russians are seeking to make them come out with an international resolution that may embarrass some Arabs and comfort others. It is a new scenario to adjust the Western path, which was alone in drawing the region's future, so Russia and its allies will have a share in the Arab reality, which its people wasted due to their differences and inability to find solutions. —Translated by Kuwait Times

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

REGIONAL HIDDEN, PROXY WARS

By Sami Al-Nisf

The modern alternative of traditional military wars that aim at destroying the enemy, spreading division amongst its lines and defaming it before other peoples in order to achieve political, economic and security gains at their expense, is highly sophisticated intelligence wars that mainly depend on conspiracies, deception and implanting secret agents who claim antagonizing their 'bosses' in order to achieve the very same goals of destroying the enemies and dividing them through people who claim to be religious, patriotic, reformist and anti-corruption; those acting through the media, mosque pulpits and various social media networks.

They usually distribute roles amongst agents who create fake animosity and division amongst leaders, so that by having them fight each other, many naive followers get killed and nations' infrastructures get destroyed in a way that makes it impossible for target countries to revive for decades or even centuries, and thus remain weak forever.

Intelligence wars involve brainwashing the most stupid, dumb, life- and people-hating young people through discussions and chats with them over social media networks by people who pretend to be innocent, god-fearing young men or women and not integrated intelligence agents. They are then turned into senseless and mindless human time bombs.

Closely watching what young Saad Al-Enezi did by murdering his cousin in cold blood in front of the camera and then killing innocent Muslims with the illusion of going to heaven (paradise) for doing so is the bet proof of such brainwashed young people. Islamic regulations tell us that pulling down the Kaaba is easier and more tolerable than shedding an innocent Muslim's blood. Saad and his likes have been brainwashed using sophisticated methods and drugs. Initial investigations in the Paris blasts proved that the presence of drugs in the blood of those who are supposed to be very radical religious people.

Back in the 1960s, intelligence agencies developed pills known as LSD to use them in manipulating youth minds and turn them into merciless murderers so that they could be used as soldiers in the Vietnam war. The Paris terrorists killed innocent children and women and abused drugs. What else have they left for the infidels to be used as a reason for killing them?!

Turning young men into obedient killing machines that kill as ordered in cold blood even if they get killed themselves in terrorist acts they carry out is not a new 'invention' or something related to certain religions or doctrines, or even, to win paradise nymphs, as they are told. The same was done centuries ago by the sheikh of the citadel of death, Al-Hassan ibn Sabah. It was also done in the 1970s by the communist, Pol Pot (brother number one) who called the year when his troops killed half the Cambodian people as the 'Zero Year'.

Another contemporary of Pot's was terrorist Abu Nedal, who killed one third of his organization's youth only to brainwash the remaining ones and intimidate them enough to hate life and be thankful to him for not killing them or their families (Stockholm Syndrome), and then unleash them to kill hundreds of innocent people without due cause without even considering the possibility of their own death, because death was like salvation for their agonies and daily horrors. Saddam and Gaddafi's sons used the same technique with their followers and militias.

Finally, and as an example of this method, when asked by the judge whether he wished to say something before sentencing him, the young Palestinian sent by Abu Nedal to assassinate the Kuwaiti media figure Ahmed Al-Jarallah, and fired eight shots at him, said that if the judge spares his life and he somehow and someday manages to escape prison, the first thing he would do was to kill Jarallah. This young man had never known Jarallah, who had never harmed or called for killing Palestinians or PLO leaders as Abu Nedal did before he was killed, or rather say vanished, in Baghdad a few months before it fell in 2002. —Translated by Kuwait Times



BURGAN BANK CONCLUDES UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank concluded its celebration of the Universal Children's Day event which was held at The Gate Mall on 20 November 2015. The event was organized by the Kuwait Child's Right Society (KCRS) and involved several entertainment activities for children and an awareness session for parents on the importance of wellbeing of their children.

During the event, children enjoyed a warm and friendly environment of exciting educational games, face painting, competitions, and many more entertaining activities, while parents got the chance to know more about the child's right law and the importance of protecting children in Kuwait against abuse, maltreatment, or negligence. The awareness

session was led by Dr Hanan Al-Razuqi, head of Kuwait Child's Rights Society and Dr. Hind Al-Mazeedi, Vice-head of Kuwait Child's Rights Society.

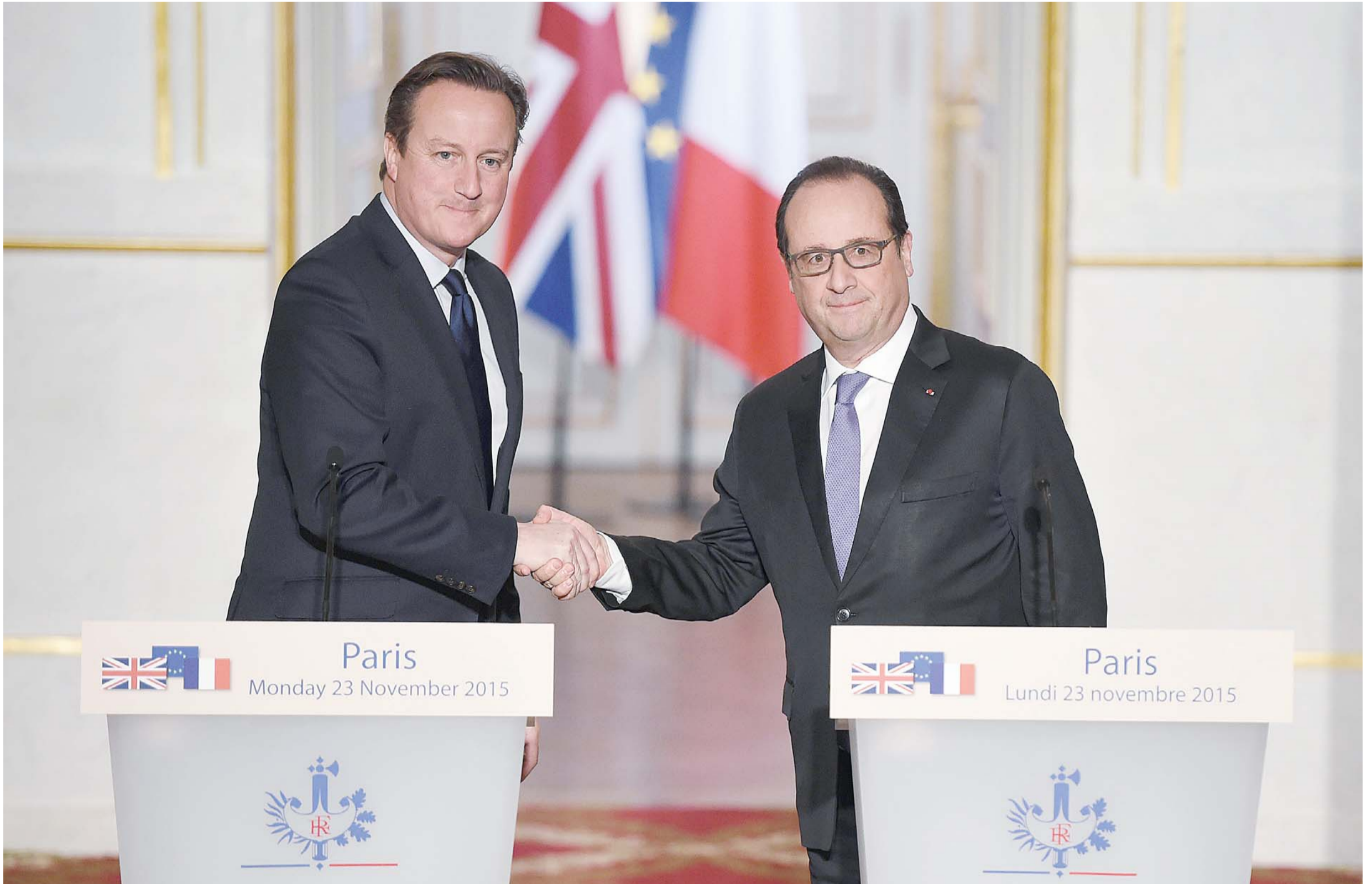
Burgan Bank was honored to be part of such a remarkable event which, not only carried a happy factor for children, but also highlighted the importance of children's wellbeing to parents. At

Burgan Bank, we take similar causes in all seriousness, especially in spreading awareness on a crucial issue tackling our society." Burgan Bank's participation in the Universal Children's day event came as part of its corporate social responsibility strategy which was designed to lend a helping hand to all segments of the society.



Macri topples Peronists, tough reforms ahead

EXPLOSION HITS CONTROVERSIAL TOKYO WAR SHRINE



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande (right) and British Prime Minister David Cameron shake hands after a joint statement following talks yesterday at the Elysee Presidential Palace. —AFP

GLOBAL DIPLOMACY IN 'HIGH GEAR'

HOLLANDE, CAMERON BID TO RALLY GLOBAL SUPPORT AGAINST IS

PARIS: Global efforts to combat the Islamic State group gathered pace yesterday as British Prime Minister David Cameron pledged solidarity during a visit to France and Russian leader Vladimir Putin met his allies in Iran. A week of frantic international diplomacy was under way with French President Francois Hollande set to meet all five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the United States trying to rally support for a ceasefire in Syria. "I firmly support the action President Hollande has taken to strike ISIL in Syria," Cameron said after a breakfast meeting in Paris, using another acronym for IS. "It's my firm conviction that Britain should do so too," he added.

Meanwhile, Putin met Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in his first trip to Tehran for eight years. Describing the meeting

as "quite constructive", a Kremlin spokesman said the two countries were against "external attempts to dictate scenarios of political settlement in Syria". The priority for both Iran and Russia has been to protect their ally, Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad, but Moscow has shown signs it will cooperate more closely with the West since one of its passenger jets was blown up by IS over Egypt last month.

At the same time, US Secretary of State John Kerry was in Abu Dhabi hoping to forge a coalition of Syrian opposition groups for peace talks. Kerry hopes his Emirati and Saudi allies can pressure rebel factions into accepting a ceasefire with Assad within "a few weeks" - a step seen as crucial to refocusing the war on IS. "You can be confident that the diplomatic front is in high gear, with a very real plan on the table to be implemented," Kerry said.

'Joint Obligation'

In Paris, Cameron and Hollande stood side by side after laying a wreath at the Bataclan concert hall, where 90 of the 130 victims were killed in the Paris attacks of Nov 13. Cameron has said he will make his case to the British parliament in the coming days for joining air strikes on Syria. While Britain has joined US-led coalition strikes on IS in Iraq, it has so far held back from hitting targets in Syria, where the jihadists also hold large swathes of territory. The British leader said he had offered France the use of a strategically located British airbase in Cyprus, RAF Akrotiri, to facilitate air strikes, and assistance with refuelling French jets.

Defining Week

The first fighter jets took off yesterday from France's Charles De Gaulle aircraft carrier, newly

deployed to the eastern Mediterranean, for operations over IS territory in Iraq and Syria. The nature of the operations was not disclosed. Hollande, who has said France is in a "war" against the jihadists, is embarking on what could be a defining week of his three-year-old presidency. Today, he will fly to Washington for talks with President Barack Obama and a day later will meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Paris.

Completing a series of meetings with each of France's fellow UN Security Council members, Hollande will travel to Moscow for talks with Putin on Thursday, and hold a working dinner with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Paris on Sunday. The Security Council on Friday authorised countries to "take all necessary measures" to fight IS in a resolution that won unanimous backing in the wake of the bloodshed in Paris.

The measure drafted by France calls on all UN member states to "redouble and coordinate their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks" committed by IS and other extremist groups linked to Al-Qaeda.

Hollande said he hoped the resolution would "help mobilise nations to eliminate Daesh", using another alternative name for IS. The US-led coalition has been pounding IS targets in Syria for over a year, but France joined the campaign only in September and has concentrated its air strikes on the jihadists' Syrian stronghold, Raqqa. Russia has also bombed IS targets but has attracted criticism from Western powers for bombing other rebel groups opposed to Assad, a long-time ally of Moscow. Iran has been Assad's other main backer since an uprising broke out against his rule in 2011 and escalated into a brutal civil war. —AFP

BRUSSELS IN LOCKDOWN AS FIVE HELD IN RAIDS

BRUSSELS: Soldiers patrolled the streets of Brussels and police detained five more people on the third day of a security lockdown yesterday, as Belgium hunted a suspected Islamist militant who has been on the run since the attacks in Paris. Authorities are still warning of possible imminent attacks like those in the French capital this month, in which 130 people were killed, and hunting Brussels barkeeper Salah Abdeslam, who returned to the city from Paris hours after the Nov. 13 attacks.

Police did not find Abdeslam, whose brother blew himself up in Paris, in 22 raids late on Sunday when 16 people were detained. Five more people were arrested during searches of seven houses in the Brussels and Liege regions early yesterday. Police have given no details of those held. No weapons were found on Sunday but 26,000 euros in cash, found at a single site, was seized by prosecutors. The metro, museums, most cinemas and many shops stayed shut yesterday in the usually bustling EU capital where many staff have opted to work from home. There was also no school or university for almost 300,000 students.

On the Grand Place, a historic central square that usually draws crowds of tourists, an armoured military vehicle was parked under an illuminated Christmas tree. NATO, which had raised its alert level since the Paris attacks, said its headquarters in the city were open, but some of its 1,000 staff had been asked to work from home and external visits had been cancelled. EU institutions, which employ some 21,000 people in Brussels,

were also open with the soldiers patrolling outside.

'Serious and Imminent'

Prime Minister Charles Michel said the city of 1.2 million will remain on Belgium's fourth and highest level of security threat, meaning the threat of an attack was "serious and imminent". "What we fear is an attack similar to the one in Paris, with several individuals who could possibly launch several attacks at the same time in multiple locations," he told a news conference. Authorities were due to review the situation again yesterday afternoon. Interior Minister Jan Jambon told RTL radio, however, that Belgium's capital was still operating. "Apart from the closed metro and schools, life goes on in Brussels, the public sector is open for business today, many companies are open," Jambon said on Monday morning.

The city's buses were running normally and many shops in the suburbs were open. Workers were also setting up stalls for the city centre Christmas market, which is due to open on Friday, and local organisers of the Davis Cup tennis final between Belgium and Britain in the city of Ghent, 55 km to the west of the capital, said it would go ahead this weekend. Germany has kept security along its border with Belgium at a high level since the Paris attacks, a German police spokesman said after media reports that Abdeslam was spotted near the frontier.

Several Belgian media carried unsourced reports saying he had been seen in a car near the eastern city of Liege heading towards Germany. There have been

numerous reported sightings in recent days. However, Belgian prosecutors said yesterday that a BMW car that failed to stop for a routine check near Liege, close to the German border, had been found and inquiries showed there was no link to the Paris attacks investigation.

Shares on the Brussels stock exchange initially dipped, but had recovered by mid-session. ING economist Philippe Ledent noted the biggest companies' business was international and therefore the global situation was more important to them. "For smaller companies active mostly in Belgium, they will have business in the rest of the country which is less affected," he said. "If this is limited in terms of days, in terms of area, it's not so much of a problem."

Belgium has been at the heart of investigations into the Paris attacks after French law enforcement bodies said two of the suicide bombers had lived there. Three people have been charged in Belgium with terrorist offences, including two who travelled back with Abdeslam from Brussels. Among those who decided to go out yesterday was Zineb Toubarhi, a business engineering student in Brussels, who was waiting to catch a bus on a frosty morning. "I am going to my friends' place to look after their children today. They must go to work and the schools are closed. I've had classes cancelled at the university so I will help them," she said. "It feels strange to see armed soldiers in the streets but this is for our security. So, I don't know why, but I am not afraid." —Reuters



BRUSSELS: Soldiers and a policeman patrol on the Grand Place as the Belgian capital remains on the highest possible alert level yesterday. —AFP

MALI IN MOURNING AS SIEGE HOTEL YIELDS CLUES

BAMAKO: Mali began three days of national mourning yesterday for the victims of a jihadist siege at a luxury hotel that left at least 19 dead, with neighbouring Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea joining in solidarity. "The investigation is advancing," said prosecutor Boubacar Sidiki Samake, who is in charge of the anti-terrorist probe. Samake said police hoped to soon "flush out the attackers and bring them to justice," adding that "it is clear that they had accomplices who helped them come to the hotel". "You will see developments in the coming days," he said, adding that police had staged several raids on homes.

The police found a suitcase with grenades in the hotel lobby and were following up "several leads" linked to "objects" left by the gunmen, a Malian police source told AFP. The attack has been claimed by two separate jihadist groups and a manhunt launched for three suspects. Gunmen went on the rampage at the Radisson Blu hotel from early morning on Friday, shooting in the corridors and taking 170 guests and staff hostage.

The assault, which ended when Malian and international troops stormed the building, left 19 people dead, including 14 foreigners, as well as two attackers, according to a "definitive"

report by the government. The victims included six Russians, three Chinese, two Belgians, an American, an Israeli, a Senegalese and a member of the Malian special forces. The UN peacekeeping force in Mali, MINUSMA, however spoke of 22 fatalities, including two attackers.

Senegal's President Macky Sall visited Bamako on Sunday to show national solidarity and the support of the West African regional bloc ECOWAS which he chairs. "Mali will never be alone in this fight, we are all committed because we are all involved," he said, announcing that Mali's neighbours Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea would also observe three days of mourning.

New Claim of Responsibility

The Al-Murabitoun group, an Al-Qaeda affiliate led by notorious one-eyed Algerian militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The group said Sunday there were only two attackers and suggested they were Malian. In a recording broadcast by Al-Jazeera, a spokesman identified them as Abdelhakim Al-Ansari and Moez Al-Ansari, the term "Al-Ansari" indicating they were indigenous jihadists.

But a jihadist group from central Mali, the Macina Liberation Front (LWF),

also claimed the attack in a statement sent to AFP Sunday, saying it was carried out by a squad of five, including "three who came out safe and sound". An informed source spoke of "three or four accomplices" believed to have aided the "foreign" gunmen who attacked the hotel frequented by businessmen, diplomats and other expatriates. "Everything points to two foreigners," the source said.

The same source said "it appears that the two foreigners went from bar to bar to avoid attracting attention, and at dawn (Friday), Malians may have guided them in the attack on the Radisson". Guinean singer Sekouba Bambino Diabate, who was among the survivors, told AFP the gunmen spoke English among themselves. French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has said Belmokhtar, one of the world's most wanted men, was "likely" the brains behind the assault. "He is circulating," he said of the Algerian jihadist believed to be in Libya.

Return to Normal Life

Despite a state of emergency imposed late Friday, residents of Bamako were trying to return to normal life. Security remained high at the major hotels and was tighter than usual,



BAMAKO: A man reads a newspaper near a newsstand yesterday, three days after a deadly attack at the Radisson Blu hotel. — AFP

though more discreet, at public buildings and banks. "People are not being vigilant. We forget. I don't know whether it's because of the problems of daily life, but people just aren't being careful here," said hotel worker Daouda Sissoko.

Others are concerned that Friday's attack will have more economic repercussions for a country still recovering from a 2012-13 civil war. Mali has been

torn apart by unrest since the north fell under the control of jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda in 2012. The Islamists were largely ousted by a French-led military operation launched the following year, but large swathes of Mali remain lawless. France has more than 1,000 troops in its former colony, a key battleground of the Barkhane counter-terror mission spanning five countries in Africa's restive Sahel region. —AFP

HRW SAYS TORTURE STILL HAPPENING IN BAHRAIN

NICOSIA: Bahraini security forces are torturing detainees during interrogation as regulatory bodies set up after the 2011 uprising "lack independence" and officials are not held accountable, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. Sunni-ruled Bahrain, a key ally of the West, has been rocked by a Shiite-led uprising since Feb 2011. Scores of opponents have been detained, with many facing trial, while others convicted of involvement in violence have been handed heavy sentences, including loss of citizenship and life in prison.

In its 84-page report, HRW said it interviewed 10 detainees "who said they endured coercive interrogations" by authorities. The New York-based group cited four other inmates of Jaw prison "who said authorities had tortured them in March 2015", four years since reforms that were announced after the initial revolt was crushed. Reported physical assaults include "being subjected to electric shocks; suspension in painful positions, including by their wrists while handcuffed; forced standing; extreme cold; and sexual abuse," HRW said.

In one case, a detainee in the report described an officer shoving something under his nose and being told it was "the blood of people who don't cooperate". One said officers beat his genitals with a hose and penetrated him with their fingers. Another told HRW that officers threatened to rape his wife. The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), set up by King Hamad to probe allegations of government wrongdoing, said in a Nov 2011 report that police had used "excessive force" and tortured detainees in that year's crackdown on opponents. More than four years later, the situation remains unchanged despite the government establishing three bodies to end torture in interrogation and detention facilities, according to HRW.

"Bahrain can't claim any progress on torture while its anti-torture institutions lack independence and transparency and until it takes some serious steps to address the complete lack of accountability for the abuse of detainees," said HRW's deputy Middle East and North Africa director Joe Stork. "The

claims of Bahrain and its allies that authorities have ended torture in detention are simply not credible. All the available evidence supports the conclusion that these new institutions have not effectively tackled what the BICI report described as a 'culture of impunity' among security forces," said Stork.

These institutions, controlled by the interior ministry and public prosecutor, provide "little" information on "complaints, investigations and prosecutions", the watchdog said. The tiny but strategic kingdom's authorities should ensure that these bodies are neutral and form a civilian committee of independent experts to guarantee this, said HRW. It urged Bahrain to "issue an immediate and open invitation to the UN special rapporteur on torture to conduct a country visit and allow unfettered access to detainees and all places of detention".

Police 'Suspended'

On Friday, Bahraini authorities announced that an investigation was underway into detainees' complaints of ill-treatment by police guards. Interior ministry undersecretary, Major General Khalid Salem Al-Absi, said in a statement on the official BNA news agency that "initial investigations were conducted and a number of policemen named in the complaints were identified, suspended and the case was referred to the public prosecution." He insisted that if proven, the abuses "involve individual cases of misconduct that go against the principles and values of the interior ministry."

In May, a Bahraini court jailed six police officers for up to five years after convicting them of torturing inmates, one of whom died. In 2013, an appeals court cut from seven years to three the jail terms of two policemen convicted of torturing a Shiite detainee to death. That same year, the jail term of a policeman convicted of shooting dead a protester in 2011 was also reduced from seven years to three. Bahrain is home to the US Fifth Fleet and work began in the kingdom on October 31 to construct Britain's first permanent military base in the Middle East since 1971. —AFP



This photo made from the footage taken from Russian defense ministry's official website yesterday shows fuel tanks hit during an attack by Russian warplanes in Syria. —AP

SYRIAN TROOPS SEIZE TERRITORY FROM IS IN CENTRAL PROVINCE

RUSSIAN STRIKES, HEZBOLLAH AID ADVANCE

DAMASCUS: Syrian troops backed by Russian airstrikes captured areas from the Islamic State group in the central province of Homs yesterday, in the latest push since the aerial campaign began nearly two months ago, state media and a monitoring group said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said troops backed by pro-government gunmen entered the town of Mheen and the nearby village of Hawareen after midnight Sunday and were in full control of the area hours later.

Syrian state TV also reported that Mheen and Hawareen were captured, adding that government forces are now removing the mines and explosives left behind by the extremist group to try to slow down the army's advance. "A big victory was achieved by our heroes," said a Syrian TV reporter embedded with government troops in Mheen.

The capture of Mheen and Hawareen helps secure the highway linking the capital Damascus to the central city of Homs. The government's next push is expected to target the nearby town of Qaryatayn and later the historic town of Palmrya, which was taken by IS in May. Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad said in remarks

published Sunday that his forces are advancing on "almost" all fronts thanks to Russian airstrikes.

Advance

Russia has conducted an air campaign in Syria since Sept 30, and the airstrikes have sharply intensified in recent days. The head of the Observatory, Rami Abdulrahman, said Russian warplanes and helicopter gunships played a major role in opening the way for troops to advance in the desert near Homs. He added that around 50 IS fighters were killed in days of fighting in Mheen, Hawareen and surrounding areas. Homs-based opposition activist Bebars Al-Talawy said that government forces were backed by members of Lebanon's Hezbollah group.

Syrian troops have captured dozens of villages in northern, western and central Syria since the Russian airstrikes began. The Observatory said the Russian airstrikes have killed 403 civilians, including 97 children under the age of 18. It said the strikes killed 381 IS fighters as well as 547 gunmen from other insurgent groups. The Violations

Documentation Center in Syria, an activist group that keeps track of Syria's dead, wounded and missing persons, said that the first 45 days of Russian airstrikes killed 526 civilians, including 137 children and 71 women.

In neighboring Iraq, the country's Civil Aviation Authority suspended flights to the northern Kurdish self-ruled region for two days starting yesterday due to Russia's air campaign in Syria, it said in a statement late Sunday. The statement said the suspension of flights to the cities of Irbil and Sulaimaniyah is to "protect travelers" as cruise missiles and bombers cross northern Iraq from the Caspian Sea to Syria. It said airports in other parts of the country will operate normally.

Last month, Russian warships in the Caspian Sea fired cruise missiles nearly 1,500 km over Iran and Iraq. Russia says its intervention is aimed at helping the Syrian government defeat IS, but local activists and US officials say the strikes have also targeted Western-backed groups fighting to overthrow Assad. In September, an intelligence sharing center was set up in Baghdad by Russia, Iraq, Iran and Syria to coordinate efforts to combat IS. —AP



MANAMA: In this Jan 18, 2012 file photo, Hassan Al-Marzooq, deputy general secretary of the opposition National Democratic Assemblage society, runs across a street as riot police move in to disperse anti-government protesters. —AP

EGYPT KILLS FIVE SUDANESE MIGRANTS ON ISRAEL BORDER

CAIRO: Egyptian border forces shot dead five Sudanese migrants trying to cross from Egypt's turbulent North Sinai region into Israel yesterday, the military said in a statement. "Law enforcement tasked with protecting the border spotted at dawn today a group of Africans trying to sneak through the international border in cooperation with criminal elements involved in illegal immigration," the military said. "The force fired several warning shots and moved to arrest those trespassers who shot at the security force. The force engaged them, killing five, injuring six and arresting five more. All of them were Sudanese."

North Sinai, which is bordered to the east by Israel and the Gaza Strip, is the epicentre of an Islamist militant insurgency. Militants

there have killed hundreds of soldiers and police. On Nov 15, Egyptian police found the bodies of 15 African migrants who appeared to have been shot dead in the same region, security sources said at the time. They said another eight migrants had been wounded in that incident and that it was not clear who had attacked the migrants or which countries they had originated from. Sudan's foreign minister said the migrants from the Nov 15 incident were also Sudanese and that 16, not 15, had been killed. He said the Egyptian police had killed them. "We can confirm (that) Egyptian police killed 16 Sudanese people as they tried to go to Israel and we will (follow up with) Egyptian authorities investigating this case," the minister, Ibrahim Ghandour, told Sudan's parliament yesterday. —Reuters

THREE PALESTINIANS SHOT DEAD

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian stabbed and killed an Israeli at a petrol station in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday, and in Jerusalem two Palestinian girls attacked and slightly wounded an elderly man with scissors before a policeman shot them both, killing one. In a day of rapidly unfolding violence, the latest in an eight-week surge of stabbings, shootings and car rammings, a Palestinian was also shot dead near the West Bank city of Nablus after approaching soldiers with a knife, the military said.

The Palestinian health ministry said the shot Palestinian was 16. It said an 18-year-old Palestinian woman was critically wounded in the incident, but had no further details. The attack in Jerusalem occurred on Jaffa Road, a busy downtown street near the market. Two Palestinian girls, one aged 14 and the other 16, used scissors to stab and slightly wound a 70-year-old man, who turned out to be Palestinian, not Israeli. Video on YNet, a popular Israeli news website, seemed certain to raise questions over whether a passing policeman used excessive force to subdue the teenagers after the attack.

At the petrol station in the West Bank, on the side of a road regularly used by Israelis to drive between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, a Palestinian stabbed two Israelis, killing one of them, before he was shot dead by soldiers. Gunfire from the troops hit a passing car, slightly injuring its Israeli driver. The incidents occurred a day before US Secretary of State John Kerry was due to visit Israel and the

Palestinian territories to discuss ways to stem the violence.

Eighty-six Palestinians have been killed in the spate of violence since Oct 1, some while carrying out attacks and others in clashes with Israeli forces. Twenty Israelis and an American student have been killed by Palestinians, either in stabbings, shootings or purposefully

run down by vehicles. It is the worst violence to strike the region since the Gaza war last year, fuelling talk of a new Palestinian uprising, or Intifada, against Israel's occupation. The first intifada lasted from 1987-1993 and the second from 2000-2005, although both were far more intense and deadly than the current violence. — Reuters



KHIRBIT AL-MISBAH: Israeli soldiers stand next to the body of a Palestinian man who was shot dead by security forces at a gas station on a main road between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv yesterday. —AFP

PKK LEADER SAYS TURKEY HARMS FIGHT AGAINST IS

QANDIL MOUNTAINS, Iraq: Unperturbed by the Turkish fighter jets flying over the mountain where he sat, a top Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader said the conflict between his group and Ankara was undermining efforts to counter Islamic State. Cemil Bayik said the PKK and its Syrian affiliate had proven the most effective of the forces arrayed against the ultra-hardline militants and were key to the US-led campaign to "degrade and destroy" them.

But the breakdown of a peace process between Turkey and Ankara is hampering that effort, the most senior PKK figure at large and one of Turkey's most wanted men told Reuters. "All channels have been closed," Bayik said in a weekend interview when asked about the prospect of a resumption of talks to end the PKK's more than 30-year-old armed uprising against Ankara. "They have eradicated all grounds for any negotiations."

Citing an increase in PKK attacks on the security forces, Turkey resumed bombing the militants in July, targeting them in the country's southeast and across the border in northern Iraq where they have bases. Bayik, seated on a plastic chair in bright sunshine after Turkish air raids targeted nearby PKK positions overnight, said there were no longer contacts - direct or indirect - with the Turkish

state. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan vowed earlier this month to hunt the PKK until every last militant was "liquidated", in a conflict that has claimed more than 40,000 lives. The renewed conflict has also complicated Turkey's role in the US-led fight against Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and threatened more violence against the West. Although the PKK's fight against Islamic State has improved its image, it is still classified a terrorist group by the European Union and United States, which have said Turkey has the right to defend itself by striking the militants.

PKK guerrillas played a role during a recent offensive that drove Islamic State militants out of the town of Sinjar in northwestern Iraq and broke critical supply routes for the group. In the summer of 2014, fighters from the PKK's Syrian affiliate helped rescue members of Iraq's Yazidi minority from Islamic State fighters who were purging them. PKK guerrillas have a relatively small presence on the front line in northern Iraq alongside the peshmerga forces of the autonomous Kurdistan region, with which Turkey has good relations. In Syria however, its YPG affiliate has alarmed Ankara by emerging as a key ally for the US-led coalition, driving Islamic State back in the northeast and declaring self-

administration in territory along the border with Turkey.

Fears of Separatist Aspirations

Turkey regards the YPG as a terrorist group like the PKK and fears the militia's gains in Syria will stoke separatist sentiment among its own Kurdish population. It has struck the YPG several times after it ventured west of the Euphrates river in Syria, a red line for Turkey as it could lead to control of the whole border. Bayik accused Erdogan of leveraging Turkey's cooperation against Islamic State and the refugee crisis to win Western support for his policies, including the war on the PKK.

By accommodating Turkish demands, the West has been left with a contradictory policy that impairs its response to the Islamic State threat, which is evolving, as the recent attacks in Paris show, Bayik said. "They (the West) don't want to be in conflict with Turkey or the Kurds, so they are somehow balancing, but that is not right," Bayik said. "If the Kurdish question (in Turkey) is not resolved, the problem of Daesh will not be resolved," he said, using a derogatory Arabic acronym for Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL. "What happened in Paris is a clear message that this policy (of balancing Turkey and the Kurds) cannot continue."

Bayik said the PKK was in contact with the United States indirectly, but wanted

to establish direct relations in order to coordinate efforts against Islamic State. "If they (the international community) want to eliminate Daesh they should help the force that is fighting Daesh best and that is the PKK and the YPG." Russia's intervention in Syria had already positively changed the balance of power, Bayik said, but there was also a downside because Moscow's primary motive was to shore up President Bashar al-Assad. "That regime has to change, but first Daesh must be defeated," Bayik said. "As long as Daesh remains, you cannot change the regime."

PKK guerrillas man checkpoints on the road through Qandil, where trees have been bronzed by autumn, and the oncoming winter is now coating the peaks with snow. In a graveyard on the mountain, row upon row of headstones mark the men and women who have died for the PKK's cause since it took up arms against Turkey in 1984 with the aim of carving out a separate state for the country's Kurds.

The PKK no longer seeks statehood, but rather devolution of power within existing national borders. The cemetery also shows the PKK's changing role in the Middle East: the freshest grave belongs to a PKK fighter from Iran killed in Sinjar. The previous three are victims of renewed Turkish bombardment since a

two-year ceasefire fell apart in July. Bayik accused Erdogan of deliberately reigniting the conflict for political purposes after the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) helped deprive his AK Party of its majority in parliament.

The AK Party regained its majority in a re-election earlier this month but the bombing continues. Bayik also charged the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which dominates in northern Iraq and is close to Turkey, of assisting Ankara in the war against the PKK by providing intelligence on their positions. Iraqi Kurdish authorities have previously denied that. For peace talks to restart, Bayik said there would have to be a bilateral ceasefire, and a third party to oversee the process based on the ten-point "Dolmabahce agreement", which set out a framework for a peace deal earlier this year.

PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has been imprisoned on a Turkish island since being captured 16 years ago, would have to be at the forefront of any process. Access to Ocalan has been denied since April 5. Ultimately, the conflict could only be resolved with a new constitution enshrining Kurdish rights, Bayik said. "If they accept these conditions we are ready," he said. "They will stop (the war) when they realise they cannot eradicate this movement". —Reuters

STUNG BY ATTACKS, TURKEY TOUGHENS ANTI-IS STANCE

ISTANBUL: Long criticized by its allies for taking too soft a line against jihadists, Turkey is taking firmer action against the Islamic State (IS) on the border with Syria after being shaken by attacks on its soil and the Paris assaults. Ankara is sealing its border to the jihadists who moved to and fro across the frontier during much of the four-year civil war in Syria and stepping up raids against IS suspects. It says it is also moving with the United States in a joint air operation backed by rebel forces on the ground to wrest 98 km of the Syrian border in the hands of jihadists.

Until now, Turkey's NATO allies had been alarmed Ankara turned too much of a blind eye to extremist Islamist forces in Syria in the hope they could help in its aim of ousting President Bashar al-Assad. Western sources lamented that jihadists would arrive in Istanbul by air from Europe, go by road to the southern cities of Sanliurfa or Gaziantep and then cross the border into Syria. "The Turkish authorities were perfectly aware of this traffic," said a western diplomat. "They let it happen, making the bet that it would hasten the fall of their arch enemy Assad."

Turkey has vehemently rejected accusations of failing to properly police the 911 km border, saying its sheer length makes it impossible to block off entirely. Ankara has also called for better intelligence sharing from its allies - a complaint also echoed by its western partners.

'Indisputable Improvement'

Yet there has been a shift as it became clear that IS was a threat to Turkish territory as anywhere else. Aside from the attacks in Paris, on a Shiite suburb of Beirut and a Russian aircraft above Egypt, there have been three deadly attacks blamed on IS inside Turkey the last months. On June 5, four people were killed in an attack on a rally of the main pro-Kurdish party in Diyarbakir while on July 20, 33 people were killed in a suicide bombing on activists in

Suruc on the Syrian border.

And in the worst attack in modern Turkey's history, 103 people were killed on October 10 when two suicide bombers ripped through a crowd of peace activists in the capital Ankara. The military now announces almost daily that suspected militants have been detained at airports or the border. Meanwhile, there has also been an increase in raids against suspected jihadists - particularly ahead of Turkey's hosting of the G20 earlier this month. Turkey is also putting up a concrete wall along the border with Syria in its southern Hatay province, a third of which has now been built. "That things have improved is indisputable," said a western diplomat. "But it's not enough."

'Real Threat to Turkey'

Turkish officials dispute the notion that Ankara has suddenly woken up to the IS threat, noting the group has been listed as a terror organisation by Turkey since its emergence. Ankara has also put 26,600 suspected militants from across the world on an entry ban list, officials say. "Turkish authorities have been doing more to clamp down on ISIS activities both inside Turkey as well as across the Turkish border since the start of 2015," said Naz Masraff, Europe director of the New York-based political risk analysis firm Eurasia Group.

There is "a growing awareness that ISIS posed a real threat to Turkey's own security," she added, using a variant name for IS. But observers warn this will not be enough, given the likely existence of IS sleeper cells in Turkey and the risk of jihadists mixing into genuine refugees from Syria. "Hundreds of Syrians cross the border daily so it isn't difficult for members of Daesh to infiltrate them," said Taym Ramadan of the NGO Raqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently, using the Arabic acronym for IS. "Daesh is able to move its members not only between Syria and the whole world, not just Turkey." — AFP



BUENOS AIRES: The head of government of the autonomous city of Buenos Aires and candidate for the Cambiemos (Let's Change) party Mauricio Macri celebrates next to his wife Juliana Awada and his daughter Antonia at the Cambiemos party headquarters on Sunday. —AFP

MACRI TOPPLES PERONISTS, TOUGH REFORMS AHEAD

DIVIDED ARGENTINA AWAKES TO POST-KIRCHNER ERA

BUENOS AIRES: Conservative challenger Mauricio Macri turned Argentine politics on its head on Sunday, kicking the ruling Peronist movement out of power with a promise to liberalize the ailing economy and end a culture of divisive politics. Macri, the son of an Italian-born construction magnate, won the election by tapping into frustration over anemic growth, high inflation and corruption, and will become only the third non-Peronist leader since the end of military rule in 1983.

The other two failed to finish their terms, however, a reminder of the difficulties that Peronist labor unions, state governors and opponents in Congress could cause Macri if he is unable to get the economy growing quickly. After an unpredictable campaign that pitted poorer Argentines grateful for generous welfare programs against others exasperated with state shackles on the economy, Macri will need to deliver on pro-business reforms without hurting the poor.

"We've been saying from Tierra del Fuego in the south to Jujuy in the north that we have to build an Argentina with zero poverty, and that's what we're going to do together," Macri told his jubilant supporters on Sunday night. Argentine sovereign debt rose yesterday on news of his election, with the 2033 dollar discount bond hitting its highest level since April 2007. While Argentina's stock market was not yet open for business, the Frankfurt-listed American Depository Receipt of Argentina's Grupo Financiero Galicia jumped 6.28 percent.

Macri defeated leftist ruling party candidate Daniel Scioli as voters punished outgoing President

Cristina Fernandez for her handling of the economy and her abrasive style of leadership. The 56-year-old faces a number of economic challenges. Slow growth is driven by unsustainable spending, inflation is at well above 20 percent and capital controls have backfired to leave foreign reserves at nine-year lows. The country is also mired in a messy debt default that is blocking access to global credit markets.

Macri, who served two terms as mayor of Buenos Aires, has promised to dismantle a web of currency controls and trade restrictions that have deterred investors and hobbled growth. Policy changes such as eliminating hefty taxes on grains exports and revamping economic data long viewed as manipulated by Fernandez's government will be quick hits to underscore his intent to bring change.

But elsewhere he will have to move carefully. Removing capital controls that have curbed access to dollars and unifying a multi-tiered exchange rate may lead to a sharp devaluation which, while needed to restore trade competitiveness, will likely feed into consumer prices. In the final stages of campaigning, Macri indicated he favored a more staggered lifting of currency curbs. "We cannot solve all the problems that this government is leaving behind on the first day," Macri said ahead of the run-off vote on Sunday.

He is expected to scale back energy and transport subsidies in his first year in order to narrow a yawning fiscal deficit. Economists estimate about 20 percent of government spending is on subsi-

dies, but weaning Argentines off cheap power and transport may prove unpopular.

Hard Transition Ahead

"The transition from failed country to global power is likely to be both bumpy and slow," said Roberto Lampl, Head of Latin American Investments at Alquy Investment Management. "Macri will have to undo twelve years of damage but looks set to prioritise the economy and growth. Today there is an optimism in Buenos Aires which hasn't been seen for over a decade, change has finally come to Argentina."

Scioli, a moderate Peronist, had the support of Fernandez loyalists but he failed to convince others he would restore investor confidence at a time when Argentina seeks to exploit vast shale oil and gas reserves. Even so, his warnings that Macri's pro-market policies will put the interests of big business ahead of workers, erode salaries and destroy pensions have laid down possible battle lines between Macri and his opponents over the next four years.

"If Macri devalues then people could go out into the streets and protest," said Scioli voter Ana Marchessi, a 56-year-old lawyer. Macri's margin of victory was less than 3 percentage points and his challenge will be to show an economic recovery is taking root by late 2016 or he could face a hammering in a mid-term Congressional elections the following year. The past two non-Peronist leaders since democracy was restored in 1983 failed to complete their terms. —Agencies



AKCAKALE, Turkey: This file picture taken on June 15, 2015 shows Turkish soldiers detaining men who came from Syria and supposed to be Islamic State fighters, near the Akcakale crossing between Turkey and Syria in Sanliurfa province. — AFP

TURKISH TOWN PICKS UP PIECES AFTER LOCKDOWN

SILVAN, Turkey: Sahin Donmez surveys the damage to his house after almost two weeks of street battles between Kurdish militants and the Turkish security forces in the southeastern town of Silvan. "Look. The fruit of 40 years of work," said Donmez, who fled the town with his family when the fighting began. "Gone up in smoke." The local authorities imposed a curfew in three key districts of Silvan, a town of around 40,000 in Diyarbakir province, early this month.

It was the latest in a string of ongoing military lockdowns ordered by the authorities in mainly Kurdish southeastern Turkey to pursue "anti-terror" operations against suspected militants allied to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). For 12 days, army tanks and elite snipers tracked fighters from

the PKK's youth branch, the Patriotic Revolutionist Youth-Movement (YDG-H). The militants dug ditches and erected barricades in a bid to hit back at the police. The toll was heavy - with five Kurdish fighters, an army officer, two police and two civilians killed, according to official figures.

'I Have Nothing'

The office of the local governor of Diyarbakir region finally lifted the curfew in the afternoon of November 14, signalling the end to the military operation. "A new house, a new life. We will try," Donmez said. "From where did this start? From which sides did the shots come? We don't know," he said. The authorities have hailed the operation as a great success, saying the town has been entirely rid

of PKK militants who had threatened the security of every citizen. But Nedret Yakan, 35, saw no consolation as she contemplated the cracked window of her hairdresser's salon with its shattered mirrors and smashed furniture. "Twenty years of my life, wiped out in a few days," Yakan sent her children to relatives in Istanbul. "If I am helped to repair my shop, I will be able to resume my work. But if I don't, I will not be able to devote 20 more years of my life to it." The authorities blame the damage on the PKK, saying that if its armed militants were not present in urban centres there would be no need for such operations. The restaurant, shop and apartment that Dogan Celik owned were devastated by explosives that he said were placed by PKK supporters. "Last week I was rich. Now, I have nothing." —AFP



SILVAN, Turkey: A picture taken on Nov 14, 2015 shows a Kurdish woman trying to open the door of her home after clashes between Turkish forces and Kurdish militants. —AFP

MERKEL HAILS LATE LEADER SCHMIDT FOR ANTI-TERROR FIGHT

HAMBURG: Political leaders bid farewell to former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt with a state funeral yesterday, paying tribute to his steady leadership in the face of terror attacks and economic crisis. Under tight security, Chancellor Angela Merkel, much of her cabinet, former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker gathered at the landmark Saint Michael's Church in his native port city of Hamburg with 1,800 mourners.

Schmidt, who died on November 10 aged 96, led then-West Germany from 1974 to 1982. Standing by his coffin draped in the black, red and gold German flag and surrounded by bouquets of sunflowers and white lilies, Merkel hailed Schmidt for his unwavering stance during a bloody campaign by the far-left Red Army Faction (RAF).

"We are again faced with horrific attacks," she said. "Our thoughts constantly drift to Paris. The motives today are different and the circumstances are too. But terror remains terror." Merkel, 61,

said the answer, then as now after this month's deadly jihadist attacks in the French capital, lay in a muscular response without a sacrifice of shared values. "Freedom is stronger than terror and hatred," she said. "Humanity is stronger than barbarity."

'Vision and courage'

Schmidt led his country as it rose to become a global economic powerhouse, and steered the post-war republic through some of its darkest hours. In 1977 when Palestinian militants hijacked a Lufthansa plane and demanded the release of jailed leaders of the extreme-left RAF, Schmidt ordered the aircraft be stormed. In the same year, three high-profile figures including a federal prosecutor were killed in a wave of RAF assassinations, bombings and kidnappings that shook West Germany throughout the decade.

Merkel, a conservative, also pointed to the centrist Social Democrat Schmidt's leadership in responding to a global economic downturn sparked by

the oil crisis by establishing the forerunner to G7 summits of industrialized nations with the French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who also attended the funeral. Kissinger, 92, praised his friend and fellow practitioner of Realpolitik, the cool-headed pragmatic politics in a Europe riven by the Iron Curtain, as a kind of "global conscience" with "vision and courage".

He quoted one of Schmidt's famous aphorisms: "Politics without a conscience can lead to criminal acts." Following an outpouring of public affection since his death, Merkel noted that Schmidt had remained a "sharp-witted political observer and commentator" until his death. A chain smoker well into his 90s, Schmidt was the only German granted permission to light up whenever and wherever he chose, even during his frequent appearances on television chat shows. Capable of being both amusing and brusque, Schmidt once famously dismissed an interviewer's question, saying: "Anyone who has visions should see a doctor." — AFP



HAMBURG: Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, center talks to German Chancellor Angela Merkel as they leave the church after the official memorial service for former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Hamburg, yesterday. — AP



LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron, center, talks with Royal Navy personnel during his visit to Royal Air Force station RAF Northolt, in west London yesterday before presenting his government's Strategic Defense and Security Review (SDSR) to Parliament. — AP

CAMERON UPS PRESSURE ON MPs FOR SYRIA STRIKES VOTE

PM COULD PLEDGE AN EXTRA £12 BILLION FOR ACTION AGAINST IS

LONDON: Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday argued that the terror attacks in Paris have bolstered the case for Britain to join air strikes in Syria, as the government unveiled an increase in defence spending. Cameron is to make his case for strikes to parliament this week and the indications are that dozens of opposition Labour MPs rebelling against their party leader could swing a subsequent vote in his favour.

"What's going on in the world matters to the United Kingdom, so we should be helping to shape it and with today's announcement we can do just that," Cameron said during a visit to a Royal Air Force base in west London, referring to a boost in military budgets.

"I'll be making a statement in parliament later this week where I will set out in full our strategy for combatting ISIL, both in Iraq and Syria," he said, using a term for the Islamic State group, which has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks. Cameron earlier on

Monday visited Paris, where he met President Francois Hollande and paid homage to the 130 victims of the November 13 shootings and bombings outside the Bataclan concert venue where 90 of them died. In a speech to parliament later yesterday, Cameron was expected to pledge an extra £12 billion (\$18.2 billion, 17.1 billion euros) for the military to act against threats including the Islamic State group.

The five-year Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will include measures such as the creation of two new 5,000-strong rapid reaction strike brigades which will be available for global deployment at short notice by 2025, officials said.

'Not some remote problem'

Writing in yesterday's Daily Telegraph newspaper, the prime minister said: "As the murders on the streets of Paris reminded us so starkly, Islamic State is not some remote prob-

lem thousands of miles away; it is a direct threat to our security." While British forces are taking part in air strikes on IS targets in Iraq, they are not involved in the international effort targeting Syria due to resistance from opposition parties still mindful of unpopular interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Labour's anti-war leader Jeremy Corbyn is against any military action but Cameron appears increasingly confident that he can persuade enough Labour MPs to pass the vote, particularly after last week's United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing countries to "take all necessary measures" against IS. A Times/YouGov opinion poll last week found that 58 percent of people would approve of Britain joining air strikes on targets in Syria compared to 22 percent against.

Labour's shadow defense minister Maria Eagle also on Monday told BBC Radio 4 that "there will be some support from the Labour party for him (Cameron) to do what he wishes" if they approve of his plan. Reports suggest the government could call a vote on the issue by the end of next week if ministers are confident of winning it.

"The prime minister would welcome support from across the House on this issue," Cameron's spokesman said yesterday, adding: "When the prime minister feels he has the consensus, he will go back to the House."

Questions on police funding

The defense review being announced yesterday has been planned for months and will also include a 10-year extension to the lifespan of the Royal Air Force's Typhoon fighter jets, which are also being upgraded to give them ground attack capabilities.

The government will also announce that counter-terrorism funding is being increased by 30 percent in Wednesday's autumn statement delivered by finance minister George Osborne.

However, Osborne faces a row over claims from police chiefs that cuts to the number of frontline officers who do not fall under the counter-terrorism budget could increase the risk of an attack in Britain. The SDSR is underpinned by the government's commitment to meet NATO's defence spending target of at least two percent of gross domestic product.

That came following criticism from the armed forces after the defence budget was reduced by some eight percent since 2010 in austerity cuts designed to tackle Britain's deficit. — AFP

IN KENYAN TOWN, CHRISTIANS WORSHIP UNDER POLICE GUARD

GARISSA, Kenya: As song and prayer drifted from the open, ivy-lined doorways of a Catholic church in Garissa, several security officials, including Muslim, stood watch on the grounds nearby.

Their presence was a reminder of the violence that hit this Kenyan town in April, when Islamic extremists killed nearly 150 people at a college of mostly Christian students. Yet it was also a sign, they said, that interfaith relations had improved - the men were relaxed and smiling, and all but one were in plain clothes. After the service ended, they chatted jovially with the priest.

"Welcome, welcome! Feel free!" one official, Omar Tawane, said to an Associated Press reporter, as though eager to get the word out that Garissa was no longer a place of fear and suspicion. Tawane, the regional prison commander and a Muslim, was doing the rounds on foot near St. Peter's Catholic Church, which is next to the high walls of a prison. Tawane said townspeople are quick these days to inform authorities of any suspicious activity and are united against their common enemy: Al-Shabab, the Somali group that carried out the attack. But he acknowledged the threat of militant infiltration remains.

"We cannot say they are not around. We don't know," he said. Garissa offers a snapshot of what France and Lebanon, both targeted in recent attacks, and other countries face - the challenge of harmonizing Christian-Muslim relations at a time of danger from extremists. The issue is one Pope Francis is expected to address during his trip this week to Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic, where Christian-Muslim violence is flaring.

Backdrop

While the pope won't visit Garissa, the attack is likely to be a backdrop, especially when he meets with youth on Friday. "One of the motives for going to Africa is to bring a message of peace and reconciliation," said the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi. "These are young people who need to be encouraged, and urged to look forward in a situation where it isn't easy to live out their Christian experience."

Garissa, 225 miles (365 kilometers) east of the capital, Nairobi, lies in a mostly Muslim area. But the country is about 80 percent Christian. Decades ago, Kenya clamped down here on ethnic Somalis seeking union with Somalia. Some residents say the government still has not invested enough in what a British administrator described in 1963 as "one of the poorest places that people have ever quarreled about." Camels amble and makeshift canvas dwellings dot the scrubland outside Garissa; officials scan traffic at a bridge checkpoint on the edge of town.

On a recent afternoon, youths played soccer in a dusty area where seven months ago security forces displayed the corpses of the school attackers to crowds.

Survivors of the attack said the gunmen fired indiscriminately but also asked some students what faith they belonged to first. At the time, Francis condemned the act of "senseless brutality," using similar language as for the attacks in Paris that killed 130 people.

Yet for the mostly Christian survivors of the daylong rampage in the college by four gunmen, forgiving is easier than forgetting.

"We try to forget, but it's just coming now, the memories, especially when you remember friends you used to be with," Joyce Kioyi, a 21-year-old student who survived the slaughter, said by telephone from her home in the town of Embu. The Paris attacks, she said, "just reminded me about what happened on the second of April."

The Rev. Nicholas Mutua, a local Catholic priest, welcomed the deployment of police to guard Garissa churches during services and noted that the Bible and the Quran carry similar messages of tolerance. But he also said the fear of attack undermines the right to worship in peace. "We don't have freedom," he said as he sat on a doorstep in the compound of the Our Lady of Consolation Church, where extremists injured several people with grenades in 2012. Just across the street stands the Ibnu Mubarak institute for Shariah and other studies.

Some Muslims also feel like targets in Kenya. At a Nairobi meeting in October, Muslim leaders expressed concern about alleged extrajudicial killings and disappearances by security forces during operations against suspected al-Shabab operatives. Kenyan officials declined to comment on an Associated Press investigation in 2014 that reported similar allegations. Muslim activist Hassan Sheikh Ali said Garissa University College was actually of little benefit to the town because it had hosted mostly Christian students from elsewhere. He has sued the government, alleging primary and secondary students in the Garissa area have performed badly because the state failed to adequately fund education. "How can these people have no fallback?" Ali said. "The Muslims, the Christians, what we want is governance."

A sign at the town entrance describes Garissa University College as an "Oasis of Innovation," but the college has not reopened since the attack in April. While Christians continue to worship, Mutua acknowledged that people in Garissa can relate to the attacks in Paris.

"We can feel with those people in France," he said via telephone. "It is still fresh in our minds." — AP

EU REGULATORS TO PROBE HUNGARIAN FUNDING FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS

BRUSSELS/BUDAPEST: European Union regulators will investigate whether Hungary's plan to finance the construction of two new nuclear reactors breaches the bloc's state aid rules, four days after it took the country to court over the tender for the project. Hungary wants to expand the plant near the town of Paks and last year picked Russian state-owned nuclear company Rosatom to build the reactors, partly funded by a favourably priced 10-billion-euro (\$10.6 billion) Russian loan.

The European Commission said it was concerned the Hungarian investment may not be compatible with market pricing. It opened an in-depth investigation on Monday to look into the business case for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the two reactors.

"Given the size and importance of the Paks project, the Commission has to carefully assess whether Hungary's investment is indeed on market terms or whether it involves state aid. This requires a complex analysis," European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government said it was convinced the deal would stand up to EU scrutiny, in a statement

released to state news agency MTI. "The Hungarian government is firmly of the view that the Paks II project does not involve state aid," it said. "Any rational investor would implement the investment because the expected returns of the project are higher than the cost of capital invested."

The small opposition LMP party has called on the government to halt preparations for the project until European regulators complete their enquiries, according to comments by one of the green-liberal party's lawmakers, Bernadett Szel, quoted by MTI.

Last week, the EU executive sued Hungary over its contract with Rosatom, saying this may violate the bloc's procurement rules ensuring all interested parties get a fair chance to take part in tenders.

Orban however told state radio last Friday that the project would go ahead despite the Commission's legal action. "It is Hungary's basic interest to operate, sustain and potentially expand the nuclear power plant, or else the price of electricity will skyrocket. Paks equals cheap electricity, so the Hungarian government will execute the investment," he said. — Reuters



IDOMENI: Migrants and refugees from Iran with their mouths sewn shut sit on railway tracks as they wait to cross the border of Greece and Macedonia (also referred as Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia) near Idomeni yesterday. — AFP

HOPES FADE AS MYANMAR MINE LANDSLIDE TOLL TOPS 100

YANGON: Rescuers were searching for victims of a huge mine landslide in northern Myanmar yesterday as the toll passed 100 in a disaster highlighting the perils of the country's secretive billion-dollar jade trade. Authorities in the remote town of Hpakant, the epicentre of the world's production of highly valuable jade, have pulled scores of bodies from the earth since a huge mountain of debris collapsed onto dozens of flimsy shacks early on Saturday morning.

While recovery operations continue, desperate rescuers have little hope of finding survivors with only dead bodies pulled from the rubble yesterday. Those killed are thought to be mainly itinerant workers, who scratch a living picking through the piles of waste left by large-scale industrial mining firms in the hope of stumbling across a previously missed hunk of jade that will deliver them from poverty.

"First we kept the bodies in Hpakant hospital but there were so many it could not hold them all so we arranged to burn them at the cemetery," said Dashi Naw Lawn, of Kachin Network Development Foundation, a community group helping with the search. Hpakant Township Administrator Tint Swe Myint said the total toll had risen to 113, with eight more bodies retrieved from the rubble on Monday. "We will go on searching tomorrow," he told AFP.

Officials in the area have said they do not know precisely how many people are missing because they did not have figures for the number of workers living in the ad hoc slum area. But Monday's state-backed Global New Light of Myanmar news-



Jade mine workers and rescue members carrying victims of a landslide walk on dump soil in Hpakant, Kachin State, Myanmar. — AP

paper said "many more people are still missing" after the accident. The landslide is thought to be the deadliest in recent memory in the hard to reach and impoverished area of northern Kachin state bordering China, where locals say scores of workers have died this year alone in frequent landslides.

Stone of heaven

Myanmar is the source of virtually all of the world's finest jadeite, a near-translucent green stone that is enormously prized in neighbouring China, where it is known as the "stone of heaven". The Hpakant landscape has been turned into a moon-

scape of environmental destruction as firms use ever-larger diggers to claw the precious stone from the ground. But while mining firms—many linked to the junta-era military elite—are thought to be raking in huge sums, local people complain they are shut out from the bounty. In an October report, advocacy group Global Witness estimated that the value of Myanmar jade produced in 2014 alone was \$31 billion and said the trade might be "biggest natural resource heist in modern history". Much of the best jade is thought to be smuggled directly to China. With little help from authorities, Hpakant community groups have pooled limited resources to help workers injured in the accidents which have become commonplace as the diggers creep closer to villages.

Heroin and methamphetamine are also easily and cheaply available on Hpakant's dusty streets, a side effect of Myanmar's massive narcotics trade. Locals have launched desperate campaigns to try to persuade Myanmar's quasi-civilian government, which replaced outright military rule in 2015, to force mining firms to curtail their rapidly expanding operations. But their pleas have so far fallen on deaf ears. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy swept landmark November 8 elections and will form a new government early next year. But it has not yet outlined any firm plans for the jade trade beyond pledges for a more equitable allocation of profits from the country's natural resources.

NLD spokesman Win Htein told AFP that some party members were helping out with search and rescue operations at the site. "It is our duty to help the country when we can," he said. — AFP

PAKISTANI MILITANTS KILLED IN DRONE STRIKE BURIED

PESHAWAR: Thousands have attended the weekend funerals of 21 Pakistani militants killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan, local officials and residents said, with one official putting the total death toll around 50. The strike was carried out last Wednesday on a training camp in the eastern province of Khost near the border with Pakistan, local authorities said.

They said it was launched by the United States. There was no immediate confirmation from the US-dominated NATO force which is combating Taliban and other militants in Afghanistan.

It is unclear how many people were killed. The Khost provincial governor Hukum Khan Habibi put the figure as high as 50 but that could not be confirmed. A local Pakistani security official and residents told AFP Sunday that 21 bodies were brought to the Upper and Lower Dir districts in Pakistan's northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for burial.

"I myself attended the funeral prayer for four fighters, villagers told me they were mujahideen," said Alamzeb Khan, a district official in Lower Dir.

Khan said the coffins were wrapped in

the flag of Al Badr, a Pakistani militant group linked to the Taliban, and guests at the funeral shouted jihadi slogans against US troops in Afghanistan.

The bodies were badly mutilated, and one villager who attended the funeral said the names of the fighters had been written on the wooden coffins for identification.

"I fear that the number of fighters killed in the drone strike was high and we may receive more dead bodies," the security official told AFP. Governor Hukum Khan Habibi said the strike was staged on Wednesday. "In this incident, more than 50 Pakistani fighters were killed," Faizullah Ghairat, Khost provincial police chief, confirmed the attack and said it was carried out by the US.

In June 2014 the Pakistani army launched a major attack on militants operating in Pakistan's tribal areas on the border, where they had previously been operating with impunity, driving many into Afghanistan. US drone strikes have long targeted militants hiding along the porous border between the two countries. The program has caused uproar in Pakistan and Afghanistan over civilian casualties in botched strikes. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi policemen guard, as activists who have been campaigning for capital punishment for war criminals march in a rally, behind, to protest against a nationwide strike called by the main Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami in Dhaka yesterday. — AP

DHAKA ASKS ISLAMABAD NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS

PAKISTAN'S CRITICISM OF EXECUTIONS IGNITE ANGER

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh accused Pakistan yesterday of interfering in its internal affairs by criticizing the execution of two opposition leaders for alleged war crimes during the country's 1971 war of independence. Bangladesh Junior Foreign Affairs Minister Shahriar Alam said a "strongly worded protest note" was handed to Pakistan's envoy saying the criticism was unacceptable. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry earlier said the men's trials were flawed and that it was "deeply disturbed" by their executions on Sunday. Bangladesh was the eastern part of Pakistan until the 1971 war in which it became independent. Two war crimes tribunals set up by the government in 2010 and 2012 have convicted 18 people, mostly leaders of an opposition Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami. There has been international concern about the legal process.

The party openly campaigned against independence for Bangladesh during the war.

Bangladesh's government says Pakistani soldiers, aided by local collaborators, killed 3 million people and raped 200,000 women during the fighting. Bangladesh was on high alert yesterday against any violence in response to Sunday's hangings, with thousands of security personnel patrolling its cities.

Jamaat-e-Islami called for a nationwide strike to protest the executions of its general secretary, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, and opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury. Mujahid, 67, was found guilty of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction during the independence war, while Chowdhury, 66, was convicted of torture, rape and genocide.

Few were expected to heed the call to strike. The Islamist party has only about 3 percent of the country's vote. While traffic was lighter on Monday, government offices and services

remained open. Nevertheless, authorities said they were increasing vigilance after a series of killings claimed by Islamist extremists this year, including the murders of four secular bloggers, a publisher and two foreigners.

A reporter was also shot and wounded Sunday after covering Chowdhury's funeral in Chittagong district. The journalist for Mohana TV, Rajib Sen, was on his way back from the funeral when his car was sprayed with bullets, the station said. Three other journalists in the car were unhurt. It was not immediately clear who attacked the car.

The TV station is owned by a member of the ruling Awami League party. Jamaat-e-Islami and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party say the trials were politically motivated, an allegation Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has denied. Two other senior Jamaat-e-Islami party leaders have already been executed. — AFP



Pakistani relatives, Islamic parties activists and residents prepare for the funeral prayers for Pakistani militants killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan in Timergara in the Lower Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. — AFP

INDIAN DOCTOR HELD FOR TRYING TO BURN PATIENT'S BODY

HYDERABAD: Police in India have arrested a doctor accused of trying to set a patient's body on fire after he died during treatment for back pain and fever, police said yesterday.

Salman Shiekh's 45-year-old patient became unconscious and died shortly after being given painkillers at a private clinic in the southern city of Hyderabad on Saturday, said senior Hyderabad police officer T Sudhakar. "Apparently he was having back pain and fever. As soon as he was given the injections he fell unconscious and died," Sudhakar told AFP. Shiekh allegedly took the body on a motorcycle to an isolated location and

doused it with petrol. The doctor tried to set the body on fire but was stopped by alarmed locals, Sudhakar said.

The registered doctor, who had treated the victim on previous occasions, is in custody pending the outcome of the police investigation. He faces initial charges of murder and destroying evidence, Sudhakar said.

The body has been sent for an autopsy to establish the cause of death. The case is the latest highlighting poor health care. Earlier this month at least 14 people in the western state of Maharashtra were left blind in one eye after bungled cataract surgeries. — AFP

HELICOPTER CRASH KILLS PILGRIMS IN KASHMIR

SRINAGAR: A helicopter flying pilgrims from a mountain temple dedicated to a Hindu goddess crashed yesterday, killing seven people in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir. Police officer Sameer Kotwal said the helicopter caught fire as it hit the ground near its landing site in Katra town.

Rescuers recovered the bodies of the six pilgrims and the pilot, Kotwal said. The cause of the accident is being investigated. The heli-

copter belonged to a company that operates flights to Vaishno Devi temple, which is in a cave in the Himalayas at a height of 5,300 feet (1,600 meters). The helicopter trip is popular with pilgrims who find it difficult to trek to the temple. The area is 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Jammu, the winter capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state. Every year, more than 10 million people visit the temple, which is dedicated to goddess Mahalakshmi. — AP

PAKISTANI JAILED FOR FACEBOOK 'HATE SPEECH'

LAHORE: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has jailed a Shiite Muslim for 13 years after he posted what it deemed sectarian hate speech on Facebook, officials said yesterday, with rights activists condemning the ruling as "extremely concerning". Saqlain Haider, 32, who ran a small hotel in Chiniot district south of Islamabad, was also fined 250,000 rupees (\$2,300) for "posting hateful material against companions of the Prophet of Islam on Facebook", an official of the Counter Terrorism Department told AFP, requesting anonymity.

Abdul Majeed, a senior local counter-terrorism official, confirmed the incident. "The convict was arrested on October 27 after locals complained about him and he was charged for spreading sectarian hatred under various clauses of the anti-terrorism act," he told AFP. Majeed said the accused was released on bail a day later, then arrested and imprisoned on November 21 after the court convicted him. Pakistan, a mainly Sunni Muslim nation, had previously tolerated many sectarian organizations. But it has taken action this year as part of a "National Action Plan" to counter terrorism after a Taliban attack killed more than 150 people—mostly children—at an army-run school in Peshawar. In May an imam in the Kasur district of Punjab was jailed for five years for inciting hate against a rival minority Shiite sect. In October a former leader of a banned sectarian party was imprisoned for six months for hate speech.

Bytes for All, a human rights group, said it had not been able to verify the details of Haider's case, but added: "We are extremely concerned that an anti-terrorism court has been used to hear a case

apparently related to online speech rather than any violent activities." A spokesman pointed out that banned militant groups including the Pakistani Taliban and sectarian groups like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi have a significant social media presence in Pakistan and "appear to be operating freely under the eyes of authorities".

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has

blocked hundreds of jihadist and sectarian websites and social media accounts in the past but they often pop up anew under different names.

Bytes for All said Haider's case was the first it knew of in which someone was convicted for posting sectarian material on Facebook, but that blasphemy charges were often brought against social media users. — AFP



KATHMANDU: Nepalese activists and hospital patients rally against the block on humanitarian supplies at the Nepal-India border, in Kathmandu yesterday. Nepal is heavily dependent on India for fuel and other supplies, but little cargo has crossed the border from India since protests against the constitution broke out in late September. — AFP

VIETNAM COMMUNIST PARTY PREPARES FOR GENERATION OF NEW LEADERS

Vietnam as a new emerging country in ASEAN is preparing for its 12th National Congress of the Communist Party in early 2016. The Communist Party of Vietnam continues to be the country's leading party after having made significant achievements. The Party hopes Vietnam will become a modern, industrialized nation by 2020.

In basically, Vietnam holds National Party congresses every five years. Up to now, the congress of Vietnam's 63 administrative units for the term 2015-2020 has been held successfully. Next, the country is now preparing the final steps of organizing the Party's 12th National Congress. A generation of new leaders is expected to make remarkable breakthroughs in the upcoming congress. The average age of secretaries and

newly-elected provincial officials is 52, while some of them are even as young as 39. This shows that Vietnam is rejuvenating its leadership with those who were trained in developed western countries, like America.

Looking back at what Vietnam has achieved in its history is remarkable; it has won wars against colonialism and imperialism to become a new emerging economy. According to analysts, the leadership and orientation of the Communist Party is the key reason why Vietnam has achieved such success.

An economic growth rate above the world average, constant improvements in the lives of the people, and hundreds of thousands of satisfied tourists—these are the results of significant policy changes made in the 80's under the leadership of the Communist Party.



Nguyen Phu Trong - General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Almost partners in the world appreciate the Vietnamese achievements.

Moreover, Vietnamese foreign policy has become multilateral and diverse, especially in regards to the Middle East. Many Middle Eastern nations are developing Vietnam's strengths by promoting cooperation between one and another. With Vietnam's developing economy and improving investment environment, big enterprises in the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait have been coming and finding opportunities with the country.

Finally, with a young, new leadership in the Communist Party, Vietnam will become more open to the world, and foreign partners, including the Middle East, will have more opportunities to cooperate with Vietnam.

AT LEAST 12 MEN OR BOYS ON AUSTRALIAN TERROR WATCH-LIST
PM CONVENES NATIONAL SECURITY MEETING

SYDNEY: Australian officials said yesterday they were aware of 12 men or boys in the community who they believe could commit an act of terror, as Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull convened a national security meeting.

Canberra has become increasingly concerned about the prospect of lone-wolf attacks by individuals inspired by groups such as Islamic State, and a tightening of counter-terrorism laws is underway. Six attacks in Australia have been foiled over the past year, according to the government. But several have not, including a police employee shot dead in Sydney last month by a 15-year-old reportedly shouting religious slogans. The Australian Federal Police's counter-terrorism chief Neil Gaughan told ABC television that a group of 12 men or boys capable of committing an act of terror were being closely watched. "I think there can be no doubt that there's a small group in Sydney that are engaged in activity which wants to upset the Australian

way of life," he said. The national broadcaster said the 12 were part of a larger group of 19, seven of whom were in prison.

Some of those under surveillance were subject to orders controlling their movements and communications because police believed there was an "unacceptable, high risk they will commit a terrorist attack", Gaughan added.

"Our first point of call in relation to these investigations is where there's been a criminal offence committed we arrest, charge and prosecute," he said. "If we don't meet that threshold, the next step we look at is a control order."

The revelations came as Turnbull met in Canberra with his national security committee to discuss further ways to deal with violent extremism. He had returned from several overseas summits dominated by terror concerns following the Paris attacks that left 130 dead.

Turnbull told parliament that tackling the financing of terrorism and the use of social media

for propaganda, as well as helping build greater social cohesion, were high on his agenda. "The terrorists want us to bend to their will, to be frightened, to change the way we go about our lives, to abandon our values," he said.

"If we do that, they win. And they will not win, we will not let them win." A poll in The Australian newspaper showed 76 percent of 1,573 interviewees believe a terror event in their country is either inevitable, very likely or likely. Authorities raised Australia's terror threat alert to high just over a year ago. They introduced new security laws and have since conducted several raids. The moves followed Melbourne police shooting dead a "known terror suspect" who stabbed two officers in September 2014, just one day after Islamic State militants called for Muslims to indiscriminately kill Australians. Last December Iranian-born self-styled cleric Man Haron Monis and two hostages were killed following a 17-hour siege at a central Sydney cafe. — AFP



YOKOHAMA: Babies compete in a baby crawling competition hosted by a Japanese magazine that specializes in pregnancy, childbirth and child-rearing, in Yokohama, Kanagawa prefecture yesterday. — AFP

BABIES CRAWL, AND BAWL, TO FINISH LINE IN JAPAN RACE

TOKYO: More than 600 babies in Japan wriggled to the finish line on their hands and knees in the world's largest crawling competition yesterday.

Japanese publisher Benesse organized the one-day event at a shopping mall in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo, inviting infants aged between six months and one year and four months to participate in the three-metre (10-foot) race.

Some vigorous babies crawled determinedly towards the finish line and their waiting parents, while others refused to

participate, sitting stationary on the starting line and crying loudly. "About a month ago she could not crawl well over a long distance, but I am so glad to see her grow," said Hitomi Nanba, mother of Saho, who took part in the race. The competition, involving 601 babies, was logged as a new Guinness World Record, replacing the previous record of 451 infants at a similar race in China last year. The winner was awarded a headset digital camera, which allows parents to take pictures and videos of their children with their hands free. — AFP

MH370 HUNT MOVES TO WHERE BRITISH PILOT BELIEVES IT CRASHED

CANBERRA: The deep sea hunt for a missing Malaysian airliner has shifted to a remote part of the Indian Ocean where a British pilot has calculated that the Boeing 777 made a controlled ditching last year with 239 people aboard, officials said yesterday.

The patch of deep ocean southwest of Australia that Capt Simon Hardy has determined is the most likely resting place of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 will be searched through December, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is coordinating the search on Malaysia's behalf, said in a statement.

But Australian authorities are not being guided by the experienced Boeing 777 pilot's analysis. Martin Dolan, the bureau's chief commissioner, said the search was moving farther south within a 120,000-square-kilometer (46,000-square-mile) priority area because the southern hemisphere spring had made the extreme conditions in the southern ocean calmer. "We're aware that we're in the area that Capt. Hardy specifies, but we're in that area because it was next in our search sequence, and we've been moving progressively south because the weather is improving," Dolan said.

Hardy's theory of where Flight 370 went after it inexplicably flew far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing on March 8, 2014, has been widely published in recent months. He used mathematical analysis and a flight simulator to plot the course he believed the airliner took when it vanished in one of aviation's

most baffling mysteries. "I am fairly confident that the wreckage will be found within the next four to eight weeks," Hardy told The Australian newspaper. Experts directing the search have discussed Hardy's theory with him. Hardy could not be immediately contacted for comment yesterday. "There are many theories from members of the public and various independent experts and all are considered," the bureau said in its statement, which described Hardy's analysis as credible. But searchers do not accept a key aspect of Hardy's conclusion: that whoever was flying the plane made a controlled landing at sea, which allowed it to sink largely intact.

The only confirmed wreckage of Flight 370 to be recovered was a wing flap found on a remote Indian Ocean island in July. Dolan said authorities still believe that the final satellite transmission from one of the jet's engines indicated that it was out of fuel, meaning the plane would have plummeted into the ocean out of control and disintegrated.

Australia and Malaysia have split the cost of the search of the vast expanse of seabed that began in October last year based on satellite analysis of the jet's flight for more than six hours after it went off course. The search, taking place more than 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) off the Australian coast, has so far covered 70,000 square kilometers (27,000 square miles). Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged an additional \$14.5 million over the weekend to fund the continuing search. China lost 153 citizens in the disaster. — AP



TOKYO: A shrine worker puts up an umbrella as he walks past the police officers after an explosion was reported at the shrine's restroom at Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

EXPLOSION HITS CONTROVERSIAL TOKYO WAR SHRINE, NO INJURIES

TOKYO: A suspected explosive device damaged a bathroom at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine yesterday, but no one at the controversial war memorial was hurt, officials and news reports said.

Police received reports of a loud bang and smoke rising near the public bathroom inside the shrine on Monday morning, a spokesman said. Public broadcaster NHK said the small blast occurred as a larger-than-usual number of people were visiting the shrine for an annual harvest festival. Police found the ceiling and wall of the bathroom damaged and burned, NHK said, adding that they also found a battery and wire there.

A bomb unit attended the scene and police have now launched an investigation into whether the incident was a targeted attack.

"Fortunately, no one was injured," a shrine official said, adding that it had not received any

threat in connection with the explosion. The incident came as Japanese authorities were beefing up security in the capital after the Paris attacks that killed 130.

"I was a bit surprised as (terrorism) just occurred in France," a visitor to the shrine told NHK. A South Korean national was charged two years ago for attempting to set fire to the shrine, while a man was also arrested in December for suspected arson there, the broadcaster said.

The shrine honours millions of Japan's war dead, but also controversially includes several senior military and political figures convicted of war crimes. Visits to the shrine by senior Japanese politicians routinely draw an angry reaction from Beijing and Seoul, which see it as a symbol of Tokyo's military past. An attached museum portrays Japan more as a victim of US

aggression in WWII and makes scant reference to the extreme brutality of invading Imperial troops when they stormed through Asia.

In October, three state ministers from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet paid homage to mark the autumn festival. The nationalist Abe has visited the shrine once during his time in office, in December 2013. That sparked anger among Japan's neighbors and a diplomatic slap on the wrist from the US, which said it was "disappointed". Chinese social media users were quick to laud the bomber. "I don't know who blew it up, but they blew it up well," read one comment on micro-blogging site Sina Weibo, with another adding: "You blew it up well. That's worthy of celebrating!" Another user said: "If it were another place, I'd say 'don't let it happen again', but it's Yasukuni, so I just laughed." — AFP

HK'S 'UMBRELLA SOLDIERS' WIN SEATS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement got a boost yesterday with about eight candidates involved in crippling protests last year winning office at district-level elections, while some veterans from both sides of the political divide suffered defeat.

The election of the so-called Umbrella Soldiers - named after the 2014 demonstrations in which activists used umbrellas to guard against tear gas and pepper spray - reflects continued support for political change in the Chinese-ruled city.

"The paratroopers are the new force," said James Sung, a political analyst at the City University of Hong Kong, referring to candidates inspired by the Umbrella movement. "The paratroopers are a new power, a challenge to the government and the central authorities in Beijing." Results from Sunday's polls, which saw about 900 candidates compete for 431 district council seats, where pro-Beijing parties currently hold a majority, were announced on Monday.

"My greatest wish at this moment is to serve the community well," said Wong Chik-ken, 38, who took part in the protests and has

been referred to in local media as an Umbrella Soldier. The election of candidates who took part in the protests now casts them in a legitimate political light, in contrast to how they were perceived by some during the demonstrations, which were deemed illegal by the central government in Beijing. District councillors wield little power, acting more in an advisory role in which they can push forward policies, in particular grass-roots concerns, for the government in the Chinese-controlled city to consider.

But the poll results may provide insight into how elections for the city's powerful Legislative Council, due next year, and a controversial leadership poll in 2017 could pan out.

"The results show that the Umbrella Soldiers reflect the intention or wishes of the youngsters," said political commentator Johnny Lau. At least 40 candidates who took part in the democracy protests, or were inspired by them, ran in the elections, local media reported.

Two democracy veterans lost their seats. Democratic Party lawmaker and heavy-weight Albert Ho, who faced stiff competition in the gritty new town of Tuen Mun in the

western New Territories, lost his seat. So, too, did Frederick Fung, another pan-democratic candidate who ran in the working-class district of Sham Shui Po. On the pro-Beijing side, Chung Shu-kun of the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong was unseated in a surprise move after 21 years.

The mixed results from the elections, in which a record number of people voted, will not significantly change the numerical make-up of pro-democracy and pro-government groups.

The 79-day demonstrations last year, when activists streamed on to highways to demand full democracy for the former British colony, became the biggest political challenge to Beijing's Communist Party leaders in years. The protests failed to persuade China to allow a fully democratic vote in 2017. Beijing says city voters have to choose from a list of candidates it has approved if they want a vote.

Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that gives it substantial autonomy and freedoms, with universal suffrage promised as an "ultimate goal". — Reuters



Flight Lt Jason Nichols on board a Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion, takes notes as they search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in southern Indian Ocean, Australia. — AP

KERRY RALLIES GUL BEHIND ANTI-IS PUSH

Continued from Page 1

"While there are still foreign fighters trying to get to Syria, there are literally thousands, tens of thousands that have been stopped," Kerry said. He said IS funding from oil exports was being cut off and that the group has lost 25 percent of its territory in its heartland of eastern Syria and northern Iraq. And now, US special forces are preparing to deploy into Syria to help local groups battle IS.

The Vienna powers have set an ambitious target date of January 1 for talks and a ceasefire to begin, but the participants have yet to be identified. Saudi Arabia, which supports some of the Sunni rebel forces on the battlefield, has taken charge of assembling a motley coalition of opposition exile groups and armed factions. Kerry was keen to hear from Jubeir how this process is going and whether the key players would be ready for the Jan 1 target date for talks to begin.

These would exclude IS and the Al-Qaeda affiliated Al-Nusra Front. However, they could draw in groups such as

Al-Nusra's powerful Islamist ally Ahrar al-Sham. The hope is that if a broad enough "moderate" opposition coalition can enter peace negotiations with Assad's loyalists, a path to a political transition can be found. Meanwhile, the various local and international armies which have been drawn into the conflict will focus their fire on hard-line jihadists like IS.

Asked whether Washington was under pressure from European allies to work with Russia against IS, Kerry said some of them "were wondering whether it was possible". "And," he added, "under the right circumstances the answer is 'yes, it's possible, but we need to get the political process moving, we're weeks away, maybe one or two weeks." But he warned that if "certain entities" think that by working with Russia the United States is helping Assad cling to power, that would imperil efforts to get Sunni rebels to the table. "And then you'll have greater support going to bad actors which ultimately could fuel greater growth in Nusra and Daesh," he said, using an Arabic term for IS. — AFP



TEHRAN: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei looks at a copy of the Holy Quran presented by Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) during their meeting yesterday. — AP

AMIR HAS 'RECOGNIZABLE PLACE' WORLDWIDE...

Continued from Page 1

"Disagreements happen even amongst Arab countries themselves, and we hope the clouds will soon disperse and normal relations would be resumed soon," he said. On the presence of the Muslim Brotherhood in Turkey, Gul responded, "Are not all Muslims brothers?" noting that Turkey has many other parties with different ideologies and programs.

On situation in Syria and the likelihood of ground troops in the operations there, Gul stressed that, according to US President Barack Obama and European leaders' recent statements, all parties were keen on reaching a peaceful solution and that there was no such possibility. Gul also strongly denied that Turkey approves the division of Iraq and Syria. "Some leaders act against their own countries," he remarked, referring to a letter he had sent to Syrian President Bashar Al-Asaad when he was in office urging him to hold immediate reforms and avoid actions that lead to killing the Syrian people.

Commenting on recent statements made by some displaced Syrian refugees to the Arab satellite TV news channel Al-Arabiya, Gul expressed regret for such remarks, noting that Turkey could not receive all displaced refugees and check their IDs.

As far as the Russian intervention in Syria was concerned, Gul stressed that it is not surprising and is clear that both Iran and Russia fully supported Assad since the beginning of the problem. However, he said that he does not expect reaching a solution to the Syrian problem at the upcoming Vienna conference. He also urged diplo-

rats to come up with a permanent solution.

Gul also denied that his country had asked for a buffer zone along the 900-km-long border with Syria. "We only asked for a 'safe' zone to protect Syrians from death from they had escaped in their own territories," he underlined. On Turkey's request to join EU, Gul stressed that it he who started those negotiations and stressed that some politicians view the EU as a closed club for a certain religion, while others express fears of Turkey's growing and developing economy.

In the interview with Kuwait TV and KUNA, Gul pointed out that current developments in the region have a ripple effect on Turkey, calling on having a unified front against what he called "turbulence" in the region. On terrorism, he pointed out that there is an international responsibility and duty to combat terrorist organizations. Armed conflicts in the region created a void where extremism took advantage of to exist, he said, urging to having a global unification to uproot terrorist cells everywhere.

Gul stressed that newer generations in the Arab world should be given attention to be rehabilitated through education in order to create a solid foundation, based on creativity and advancement, for their nations. Hence, young adults should be "nurtured and protected" so that they can't be drifted on the dark path of extremism of thought and behavior, Gul stressed. On Turkey's development, he pointed out that his country has seen political and economic advancement since 2000 because of its ruling party that has made it a priority to achieve prosperity and democracy for Turkey and its people.

IRAN, RUSSIA VOW TO OPPOSE ASSAD OUSTER

TEHRAN: Russia and Iran will jointly oppose "external attempts" at regime change in Syria, a Kremlin official said yesterday in Tehran after President Vladimir Putin met supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The comments were a direct rebuff of repeated demands from the United States, France, Britain and Saudi Arabia that President Bashar Al-Assad should step down and play no future role in war-torn Syria. On his first trip to Iran in eight years, Putin, accompanied by his Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, went straight into a meeting with Khamenei, the Islamic republic's ultimate authority.

Describing the 90-minute encounter as "quite constructive" and longer than planned, a Kremlin spokesman said the two countries had "unity of views" on Syria. Russia and Iran are against "external attempts to dictate scenarios of political settlement" in the conflict-ravaged state, and only Syria's people could decide to dump Assad in elections following a ceasefire. Khamenei said the US had a "long-term plan" to dominate Syria and the Middle East that would "disadvantage all countries, especially Iran and Russia".

"This threat should be neutralized wisely and with closer interaction," he was quoted as saying in a statement, meaning cooperation with Russia. "Syria's president was elected by people of various political, religious and ethnic views in a general election. The US cannot ignore Syrians' vote and choice," he added.

The countries that oppose Assad, led by the US, have said the Syrian leader's actions against his own people, including the barrel-bombing of civilians, mean he had lost all legitimacy and should leave office. Putin and Khamenei met before the Russian leader spoke at a major summit of gas exporting countries hosted by

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani in the capital. Iran and Russia have become increasingly allied in Syria providing support that has propped up Assad's government and forces since an uprising erupted in 2011.

The threat from IS has taken on new potency and spread into Europe since the jihadists committed coordinated gun and bomb attacks in Paris on Nov 13, killing 130 people. France on Monday launched air strikes against IS targets in Iraq, the first sorties from the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, newly deployed in the eastern Mediterranean. For Russia, defending Assad and confronting IS has become more important since the militants blew up a Russian airliner over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Oct 31, killing all 224 on board.

Russia had one month earlier launched a wave of air strikes in support of Assad, whose Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiism, has close ties to Iran, the region's main Shiite power. Both Iran and Russia, which has a major sea port base in Syria, are seeking to limit US leverage in the Middle East. Iran has sent commanders from its elite Revolutionary Guards to support and advise Assad's forces, with Tehran coordinating a collection of Shiite militias on the ground. On the economy, Russia and Iran are looking at business deals once sanctions are lifted under the July 14 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, including Moscow. Putin stood alongside Rouhani at the opening of the gas summit, attended also by counterparts Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria and Evo Morales of Bolivia. Russia is also emerging as a long-term arms partner for Iran, despite the countries having a complicated history over territory, oil, commerce and communism. — AFP



A Kashmiri man walks surrounded by dense fog on a cold morning on the outskirts of Srinagar yesterday. — AP

MPs, ACTIVISTS BLAST GAG ON SENIOR CLERIC

Continued from Page 1

The lawmaker said that several administrative procedures should have been followed before taking the decision, especially since Khamees is a well-known preacher and has many followers. Turaiji also claimed that the ministry has not given the same harsh treatment to Shiite cleric Hussein Al-Maatouq, who is on trial for insulting security authorities.

MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran said there is no legal justification for the decision and warned it could trigger a crisis with the government. MP Fares Al-Otaibi sent a series of questions to the awqaf minister inquiring if the decision to suspend Khamees had been actually issued. He also asked if the suspension applies only to Friday sermons or to other lectures too. He demanded to know the reasons for the decision and asked if it was influenced by pressure from any side.

Meanwhile, rapporteur of the National Assembly's public funds committee MP Saif Al-Azemi categorically denied that the panel's investigation on the issue of the Dow project was not neutral. He said that the committee completed its investigation and interviewed all people concerned and recommended that it be referred to the public prosecution for possible legal action. The lawmaker said the report includes all the necessary doc-

uments, adding that the final decision on the report will be taken by the Assembly during the debate of the report, probably next week.

The committee investigated why Kuwait unilaterally scrapped a multibillion-dollar joint venture with US' Dow Chemical and why the government rushed the payment of a \$2.2 billion fine ordered by an international arbitrator. However, MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi, who claimed the report was incomplete, reiterated his claims yesterday saying that it appears there are some who want to protect thieves of public funds. He said the committee report does not include previous investigations by the government and the Audit Bureau and insisted that a number of officials connected to the issue had not been summoned for investigation. The lawmaker vowed that he will expose key information not included in the report, adding that all those who played a role in the issue must be punished.

Separately, a United Arab Emirates court yesterday sentenced former Islamist MP Mubarak Al-Duwailah to five years in jail for allegedly insulting the UAE and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed. A Kuwaiti court last week acquitted Duwailah of the same charges in a case filed by the foreign ministry. The remarks were made by Duwailah during an interview with the National Assembly's satellite channel.

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Focus

FRENCH MUSLIMS
FEAR DEEPER DIVIDE
AFTER PARIS ATTACKS

By Serene Assir

A fireman of Algerian origin, Faisal helped evacuate thousands from the Stade de France during the Paris attacks, guiding panicked football fans to safety as suicide bombers blew themselves up outside. Now he fears the Nov 13 massacre across the French capital will deepen a dangerous "them and us" schism between France's five-million-strong Muslim population and the rest of society. The jihadists behind the attacks appear to be Europeans of Arab origin, and the 40-year-old fireman worries that French Muslims may suffer greater discrimination as a result.

"If you have a Muslim name, they stop seeing you as a French person and they start to see you as an Arab, a potential terrorist," Faisal said. The attacks will also exacerbate an existing problem, he fears - that many Muslims don't feel part of France, and even resent it. And that resentment is precisely what the Islamic State group seeks to exploit. Like others around Boulevard Barbes, a bustling microcosm of Paris' second and third-generation ethnic communities, Faisal condemned the attacks outright.

"I was working inside the Stade de France Friday night when we got the call on the radio to evacuate everyone. But when this kind of attack happens, it deepens the separation between us and the rest of society," the fireman said. France's Muslim community - the largest in Europe - is as diverse as the country itself. But there are many who voice anxiety about their place in a country with a bloody colonial history in North Africa and a commitment to secularism that some see as contradictory with Islamic traditions. This anxiety spiked as politicians such as ex-prime minister Alain Juppe calling on Muslims to publicly "say they have nothing to do with this barbarism." "Muslims do not have to justify themselves... Are they guilty by association?" responded an opinion piece writer, Hatem Nafti, in left-leaning daily Liberation.

Alienation

French-born Mohammad, a 30-year-old Algerian CD and DVD shop owner in Barbes, and his friend Samir did some painful soul-searching. "The problem is with how they treated immigrants to begin with (40-50 years ago). They put the Arabs in (sprawling suburban areas) far from everyone else," Mohammad said, nervously puffing at a Marlboro cigarette.

Decades after the first major waves of migration in the 1960s, many thousands of people still live in low-cost housing projects in Paris' downtrodden banlieue (suburbs), where petty crime is rife and life is completely different from the glittering city centre. Jobs are harder to come by, with unemployment estimated in 2013 at 23 percent in contrast with nine percent elsewhere in the city. The suburbs - and also parts of the 18th district, where Barbes is located - saw major riots in 2005 that emphasised the alienation. It is this feeling of disenfranchisement that can be exploited by IS, warn researchers, with people on the fringes drawn to a movement that can give misguided aims to directionless youth.

'Dis-integration'

Didier Lapeyronnie, who teaches sociology at Paris' La Sorbonne university, said many French Muslims "do not feel like they are part of the national community." And for a tiny minority, jihadism can be used to build an alternative worldview. "Terrorism is not necessarily linked to marginalisation," Lapeyronnie said, adding however that "in some areas... a counter-culture, a counter-society has been created, and Islam is used to construct a worldview." "There is a political failure of the integration model... a process of dis-integration," he said. Paris-based expert Karim Bitar says IS takes full advantage of this. The group "has a well-honed dual strategy of tapping into feelings of humiliation of Sunnis in Iraq and Syria and simultaneously exploiting the alienation of disenfranchised Muslim youth in Europe," he told AFP. Some 1,000 French men and women have joined IS in Iraq and Syria. The group has "everything to gain from recruiting French youth: they improve their operational capabilities considerably and they psychologically score a victory by sharpening the contradictions within Western societies," said Bitar of the Institute for International and Strategic Affairs.

'In it for the Adrenalin'

European recruits do not necessarily know much about Islam at all, nor are they necessarily seeking to escape a life of want. Two of the Paris attackers, Brahim and Salah Abdelslam, ran a bar in Belgium which was shut down because of reports that customers smoked marijuana there. Jihadist recruits "are often in it for the adrenalin, the adventure, the excitement and to escape their existential malaise," Bitar said. Wearing his hair close-shaven and a black leather jacket, Samir in the Barbes music shop agreed. "They (the jihadists) recruit people with criminal records online to do their dirty work, offering them protection," said Samir, a security guard, as electronic Algerian pop boomed in the background. "It hurts that they don't see the difference between me and the terrorists." —AFP



CHAOS, VIOLENCE WON'T END WITH IS DEFEAT

By Steven R Hurst

The chaos and violence gripping the Middle East are not likely to evaporate even if the forces arrayed against the Islamic State group manage to crush the brutal army and its drive to establish an Islamic caliphate in Iraq and Syria and beyond. Why? The national structures and boundaries created by European colonial powers after the Ottoman Empire was dismantled at the end of World War I are collapsing or already have disintegrated. That has unleashed powerful centrifugal forces that are melting the glue that was holding together increasingly antagonistic religious and ethnic populations.

The mix of Muslims - Sunnis, Shiites, Alawites - Christians and the big ethnic Kurdish populations in the north of both Syria and Iraq are a stew of ancient discontent, sectarian frustration and flagrant injustice. Those social explosives were detonated by the upheaval unleashed by the US war in Iraq and the civil war in Syria. "The level of damage that has been done by the United States in Iraq and the civil war in Syria is probably irreparable," said Wayne Merry, senior associate at the American Foreign Policy Council.

In Iraq, Saddam Hussein and his fellow Sunni Muslims - a minority in that country - ruled brutally over the majority Shiite Muslims. The United States removed Saddam and eradicated his Baath Party structures, most famously the army.

Washington then oversaw the establishment of a new government that is fundamentally controlled by the Shiites. That new structure subsequently disregarded the needs and rights of the Sunnis.

Al-Qaeda

While the US military still controlled the country, radical Sunnis came together under the banner of Al-Qaeda in Iraq in a force arrayed against American forces, moderate Sunnis and the Shiites majority. Shiite militias formed to attack from the other side and a civil war erupted. That was only tamped down when Washington instituted the surge of more troops and began paying Sunni tribal leaders and their fighters to turn their guns on fellow Sunnis in Al-Qaeda.

With the departure of US forces in 2011, Al-Qaeda regrouped in the Sunni regions of Iraq and became the Islamic State group, the extremist organization that spread as well into the void created in neighboring Syria by the civil war there, now in its fifth year. Estimates have put IS control of territory as high as one third of both countries. Particularly important is the terror organization's control over the cities like Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in Iraq.

For months, the United States has bombed IS positions with some success and now France and Russia have joined that effort. Russia turned its attention to IS after a bomb, claimed by the Islamic State group, brought down a Russian airliner

over Egypt. The French reacted after the IS attacks in Paris. Military and intelligence experts had said, before the airliner bombing, that Russia had primarily targeted opponents of Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad who are not allied with IS but deeply involved in the civil war, fighting to overthrow Assad. The Obama administration insists Assad must be removed. Russia and Iran say he must be part of a political solution, at least temporarily. Regional powers Saudi Arabia and Turkey want him gone.

Many analysts saw Russian involvement in Syria as an attempt to save the Assad regime. Syria was a last outpost of Russian influence in the Middle East, home to Russia's only Mediterranean port and a big customer for Russian weapons. The appeal of IS in Syria grows from the same root as it does in Iraq. And that is the sense of Sunni disenfranchisement. In Syria, unlike Iraq, it is longstanding. Assad is an Alawite, a subset of Shiism. He and his father before him ruled brutally over the Sunni majority in Syria, much as Saddam killed and brutalized the Shiite majority in Iraq.

Kurds

And none of that deals with the complication added to the chaos in both countries by the ethnic Kurdish drive for a homeland. The Kurds have big populations in northern Iraq, Syria and Iran. And they have periodically been at war with Turkey, where they live in huge numbers in the southeast of that country. The Kurds have

been the strongest American partners in the fight against IS, battling - often with significant success - as a US-allied ground force against IS. They also have created a virtually autonomous, self-governed region in Iraq and control significant Iraqi oil reserves. US backing for the Kurds puts the United States at odds both with NATO ally Turkey, which is also an enemy of Assad in Syria and the Shiite-dominated US-backed Iraqi government in Baghdad.

Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that a military victory over IS will not end the chaos in the Middle East unless the United States, other countries in the region, Russia, Europe and Iran join together to create a "platform of political stability." But how can such a platform be created in a region that has been unable to overcome a 1,300-year schism in Islam, the Kurdish drive to create a country that the ethnic group has never had and the attendant complications mixed in by a plethora of other religious and ethnic minorities. The defeat of IS, if it happens, will not solve those deep and underlying divisions.

A final political solution likely will require the resettlement of large populations driven from their home territories by the Iraq war, the Syrian civil conflict and the expansion of IS. It will require compromises that haven't been made for centuries. It is a huge mission that will take a long time to accomplish - if it ever can be. —AP

BIBI TIMES: RELATIONSHIP WITH MEDIA TANGLED

By Maayan Lubell

"You have to play the media like a piano," an adviser recalls being told by his ex-boss, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But critics say Netanyahu, known as "Bibi," is hitting the wrong note when it comes to the media, weakening press freedom and holding sway over TV broadcasters in a country that bills itself as the Middle East's only true democracy. Already Israel's longest-serving leader since David Ben-Gurion, Netanyahu wields broad power. As well as being prime minister he is economy minister, foreign minister, regional cooperation minister and communications minister.

That concentration of authority has raised eyebrows among critics, particularly when it comes to the media. Elected to a fourth term in March this year, opponents, members of the press and media experts say Netanyahu not only enjoys the unbending support of Israel's most popular newspaper but holds the keys to the survival of two TV news channels, too. The prime minister, who heads a rightwing coalition and has described broadcasters as overly critical, says his aim is to strengthen pluralism, bring in new players and boost competition in a sector many Israelis see as leaning heavily left.

"I completely reject claims that I'm trying to take over the media. I am in favour of a multiplicity of channels," Netanyahu told Israeli journalists in a briefing in May. Rather than the nightly news, it is the free-sheet morning press that many opponents see as promoting Bibi's agenda. Since 2007, US casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson, a major Netanyahu supporter, has published a free handout called Israel Hayom, Israel Today. It now has the nation's largest circulation, eclipsing Yedioth Ahronoth, founded in 1939.

With a daily dose of pro-Bibi headlines, and often recycling the government's talking points verbatim, the newspaper has drawn criticism even from members of Netanyahu's government. "Israel Hayom is Pravda, it's the mouthpiece of one man - the prime minister," Education Minister Naftali Bennett, who heads a far-right, pro-settlement party, said last year. Adelson bats away criticism of his publication. Debating last year whether Israel can be both Jewish and democratic, he said: "I don't think the Bible says anything about democracy... Israel isn't going to be a democratic state. So what?" A spokesman for Adelson did not respond to a request for comment.

In court documents filed in February in reply to a petition requesting the paper be declared propaganda and

banned ahead of the election, the newspaper and Netanyahu both said the prime minister had no present or past involvement in Israel Hayom or what it prints. But the paper did say its ideology was in line with Netanyahu, whose office has acknowledged that he is a "personal friend" of the paper's editor and owner. The Supreme Court rejected the petition.

Several Israel Hayom journalists declined to comment, but foreign affairs editor Boaz Bismuth said the criticism was based on animosity towards Netanyahu and competitors' anger at losing ground to the paper. "In seven years I've never had any interaction about what I write with anyone outside," he said. "I report to my editor."

Yedioth Ahronoth, which has lost advertising revenue as its circulation has fallen behind Israel Hayom, is critical of Netanyahu. That has led to public spats, with Netanyahu accusing its publisher of trying to overthrow his leadership. Yedioth's publisher, Noni Mozes, did not respond to requests for comment, but the newspaper said its journalists operated with utmost professionalism, as expected in a free democracy. "Journalism's role is to expose wrongdoing and criticize the government," the newspaper said. "Regrettably this is not taken for granted any more with the direction in which Israeli media is headed in the past few years."

Self-Censorship

The tangles over Israel Hayom are only one area in which critics see Netanyahu as being compromised. There is greater concern about the influence he has over TV operations as Israel's communications minister. The country is in the midst of government-mandated reforms that will transform the broadcast landscape, and as communications minister, Netanyahu is driving the changes.

State-run Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) is expected to be shut down and replaced by a new body. The reforms have been in the works for a while, but since taking over the communications portfolio in May, IBA journalists say Netanyahu has made his presence felt from afar. Fearing for their careers, journalists say output has become less critical of Netanyahu. "When was the last time you saw us run a report that shook up the government?" IBA reporter Rotem Avrutsky told Reuters. "Censorship is the minds of the journalists. They're afraid of their professional future."

A public council is meant to oversee the process of winding up IBA and establishing its successor. But its members, selected months ago, have not been approved by Netanyahu. That means decision-making remains in the

hands of the ministry's director-general, who was appointed by the prime minister. Bitter disputes over budgets and layoffs have ensued. "He is constantly creating an atmosphere of financial and existential uncertainty, keeping people on their toes and by that creating leverage," said Elad Man, a legal analyst for The Seventh Eye, a long-running Israeli media review programme.

The Communications Ministry said approval of the council was delayed by Jewish holidays in September and October and the process would continue "in the coming days". The prime minister's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Broadcast Overhaul

As well as IBA, which Avrutsky described as "just one link in the creation of a docile, submissive media", Netanyahu's communications role gives him a say over the future of Israel's most popular news show, Channel Two News. Under a separate government-led initiative, Channel Two, a commercial station, is expected to be split up by 2017, which would lead to the break-up of its news operation.

A panel set up by Netanyahu to overhaul broadcasting regulation is meant to submit its findings by the end of the year. The liquidation of IBA, and the establishment of a better-run state broadcaster, is widely seen as positive in Israel. But any changes to the free-to-air commercial stations, Channel Two and 10, are seen as a concern.

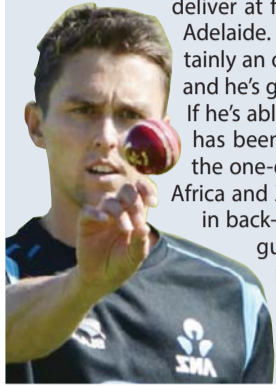
Amnon Abramovitz, Channel Two's political analyst and a Netanyahu critic, said the government overhaul amounted to bullying by the prime minister. "When you have a loaded gun, you don't have to shoot it, everyone knows you have it," he told Reuters. "There's no direct warning, but there is this constant threat in knowing he, as communications minister, rules and can set up new channels."

For Tehilla Schwartz Altschuler, the Israel Democracy Institute's media expert, the prime minister wants to get even with critics. "Netanyahu wants to educate and in some ways even take vengeance on the media," she said. "But in this war, no one is innocent, no side is clean." Israel Hayom, Yedioth Ahronoth, Channel Two, Channel 10 and the IBA all have an axe to grind in one way or another. Yet Schwartz Altschuler sees Netanyahu as spinning the grindstone. "He tells people, 'don't pay attention to what is written, they are liars, don't believe them'. This comes with a price," she said. "It gives him short-term gains at the ballot box, but in the long term it is detrimental to democracy." —Reuters

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BOULT FACES FITNESS TEST TO PLAY FOR BLACK CAPS

PERTH: Key New Zealand paceman Trent Boult has back trouble and must prove his fitness in training to play in this week's historic day-night Test against Australia, coach Mike Hesson said yesterday. The left-arter has an irritated disc in his back, similar to the complaint which hindered his new ball partner Tim Southee during the first Test loss in Brisbane. Boult did not bowl in the two-day tour practice game against a Western Australia XI in Perth over the weekend, and needs to show he can deliver at full pace without hindrance to play in Friday's third Test in Adelaide. "We'll have to see how he travels to Adelaide but he's certainly an option for the Test," Hesson told reporters. "We've got a plan and he's got to bowl flat out two days out from the Test (Wednesday). If he's able to get through that he'll be considered for the Test." Boult has been recovering from back problems which forced him out of the one-day series in England earlier this year and the tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe in August. Hesson said bowling on hard pitches in back-to-back Tests in the Australia series had not helped Boult. "I guess when you come back from a back injury there's an element of confidence and also being able to know when you can push through and when you can't," Hesson said. "He's in good hands with the physio.—AFP

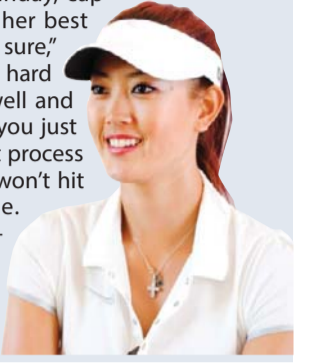


DAVE ROBERTS TO BE HIRED AS DODGERS MANAGER

LOS ANGELES: Dave Roberts will be hired as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Sunday night because the team hasn't announced the move that is expected yesterday. Roberts is a former Dodgers outfielder who will be the first minority manager in the storied franchise's history. His father is black and his mother is Japanese. The 43-year-old most recently served as bench coach of the San Diego Padres. Roberts played for the Dodgers from 2002-04 during his 10-year big league career. He also played for Cleveland, Boston, San Diego and San Francisco during his career that ended in 2008. Roberts was a career .266 hitter with 243 steals. He will succeed Don Mattingly, who mutually parted ways with the team last month after five years that included winning three consecutive NL West titles but never reaching the World Series. Roberts is perhaps best known for his stolen base in the 2004 AL playoffs that sparked the Red Sox to an elusive World Series championship. In the AL championship series, Boston was three outs from being swept by the New York Yankees. Roberts pinch-ran after Kevin Millar drew a leadoff walk from Mariano Rivera.—AP

WIE FINISHES 2015 SEASON FILLED WITH STRUGGLE

NAPLES: Michelle Wie's final stroke of the season was a long putt from just off the green, and when it dropped she couldn't wait to retrieve the ball from the cup. Her season, mercifully, was over. Wie hasn't won a tournament since the 2014 U.S. Women's Open, and wasn't even close this year. More than half the players on the LPGA Tour finished in the top 10 at least once this season, Wie not among them. She tied for 32nd at the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship that ended Sunday, capping her showing with a 5-under 67 that was her best round in weeks. "It was a frustrating season for sure," Wie said. "After such a great season last year, it's hard when you want to do well, you want to play well and then you just get injured and you get sick and you just can't. I'm excited to just get to 100 percent." That process starts Tuesday, when she heads to Hawaii. She won't hit another ball until 2016, not even in practice. Mentally, physically and perhaps even emotionally, Wie needs a break. "I'm doing the same thing that I always do: Not going to touch a golf club until Jan. 2," Wie said.



MCILROY TARGETS MASTERS AND GRAND SLAM IN 2016

PARIS: After another stellar season, Rory McIlroy says one of his priorities for 2016 is to win the Masters at Augusta which would complete the Northern Irishman's Grand Slam set of winning all four majors.

The 26-year-old put the finishing touches on his 2015 campaign when he won the DP World Tour Championship on Sunday and also retained his Race to Dubai crown for a bumper payday of some \$3.208 million (3.02m euros).

It was a season, in which the four-time major winner failed to defend both his British Open and PGA Championship crowns, the former after damaging ankle ligaments playing football with friends.

But it ultimately finished on a high as he came back to overhaul Englishman Andy Sullivan by one shot in Sunday's dramatic final round in Dubai. He will now try to emulate Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tiger Woods as the only players to win the Masters, US Open, British Open and PGA Championship when Augusta hosts the golfing world from April 7-10.

"I think every time you go to Augusta, there's a lot of hype. There was a lot of hype around myself this year and Tiger (Woods) making a bit of a comeback," McIlroy said after his Dubai success.

"Next year, the narrative might be around three guys. Myself going for the Grand Slam again. It's always going to be there until I get to put a green jacket on my back. It's obviously the first real goal of the year to try and get ready for the Masters and be in as good a

shape as possible going in there.

"I felt like I dealt with everything really well this year. I played well and competed well. Some years 12 to 14-under, that could have been good enough to win, but Jordan (Spieth) obviously just played much better than anyone else that week.

Ends season on a high

With the 2015 season successfully wrapped up, McIlroy says he is looking forward to a rest and then getting into top condition for the new season. "I want to try and get healthy and get stronger again, get my body back, because I haven't been able to do as much in the gym as I would have liked over the past few months, so really concentrate on that.

"I've got an eight week period where I don't have to play golf. I don't have to worry about being sore, going and playing a round of golf. So I really want to concentrate on that. I put a new driver and a new ball in the bag a few weeks ago, I think Turkey was the first place and I'm really happy with that. I don't really want to tinker much with my equipment going forward. I'm really happy with what I have.

The former world number one, who trails Spieth and Australian Jason Day in the rankings, will now recharge his batteries after finishing his season in style. "I'm happy that this was my last event of the year and I've done really well and ended the season on a high and happy to put the clubs away for a while," he added.—AFP

RUSSIA TO HOLD TALKS WITH WADA THIS WEEK

MOSCOW: Russia's sports minister said yesterday he would meet with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in Frankfurt this week to discuss a roadmap to revamp the country's scandal-ridden anti-doping system. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) this month provisionally suspended Russia after a bombshell report published by a WADA independent commission found evidence of state-sponsored doping and large-scale corruption in Russian athletics.

Both Russian anti-doping agency RUSADA and the Moscow anti-doping laboratory were also suspended over the report. "We have decided what to do with RUSADA with the laboratory," sports minister Vitaly Mutko told Russian news agencies. "We will have meetings in Frankfurt on the 25th and 26th, we will design a roadmap." Russia's suspension from international competition raises the possibility

that Russian track and field stars could be sidelined from next summer's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

But Russia's sports authorities remain adamant Russian track and field athletes will be in Rio, vowing to retrieve IAAF membership within three months. Mutko said he had discussed the criteria set by IAAF and WADA for Russia's readmission into the global athletics body with IAAF president Sebastian Coe, and that Russian sports authorities would meet with the IAAF in December. RUSADA had stopped collecting athletes' samples as of yesterday, Mutko said, adding the country was eager to reaccredit its anti-doping body.

WADA's report accused RUSADA of "routinely" violating international testing standards and allowing athletes banned for doping to compete despite having been suspended from competition, among other damning accusations.—AFP



HOMESTEAD: Kyle Busch, driver of the #18 M&M's Crispy Toyota, poses with his wife Samantha in Victory Lane after winning the series championship and the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday in Homestead, Florida. — AFP

KYLE BUSCH WINS NASCAR SPRINT CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

MIAMI: Kyle Busch completed a fairytale comeback story by capturing his first NASCAR Sprint Cup championship on Sunday. Busch endured a long recovery from a frightening crash at the season-opening race at Daytona International Speedway yet took home the title at the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

The 30-year-old Busch was top finisher in the Ford EcoBoost 400 among championship beating out contending drivers Kevin Harvick, Jeff Gordon and Martin Truex Jr "Pretty unbelievable. I just can't believe it with everything that happened this year," Busch told reporters.

"All the turmoil that I went through, that my family went through. This is for everyone that sacrificed so much to get me to this place today," Harvick, the reigning champion, finished a distant second. Gordon took sixth in what he says will be the final race of his decorated career, and Truex Jr. came in 12th.

After a caution flag late in the race, Busch was second with seven laps remaining but manoeuvred past leader Brad Keselowski and held on.

The end result looked like a distant dream early in the year when Busch's crash left him with a broken right leg and broken left foot.

Busch missed 11 races and NASCAR granted him a waiver to make the Chase provided he was able to win a race and crack the top 30 in points before the end of the 26-race regular season at Richmond International Raceway.

Busch met both requirements then held steady in the Eliminator Round with three top-five finishes to advance on points to the Championship 4. Fellow driver Dale Earnhardt Jr tweeted congratulations to Busch and his Joe Gibbs Racing team. "Amazing comeback throughout the year," said Earnhardt.

Season-ending race

Meanwhile, Indonesian driver Rio Haryanto and Britain's Jordan King will test with the Manor Marussia Formula One team in Abu Dhabi after next weekend's season-ending race.

The test today at the Yas Marina grand prix circuit is being run by Pirelli to evaluate the con-

struction of slick tyres for 2016 as well as a new ultrasoft compound to be introduced next season. Both Haryanto and King have competed in the GP2 support series this year. King is the team's official development driver, but has yet to get behind the wheel of a Formula One car, while Haryanto will be taking part in his third F1 test after ones with the same team in 2010 and 2012. "I'm really looking forward to being back with the team at the Abu Dhabi test," said Haryanto, who took part in his first test at the age of 17 and won three GP2 races this season.

"In many ways it is essentially the same team, although the car is quite different. I feel much better prepared for this test, and after a very competitive season in GP2, I can't wait to show how much I have developed to become a more complete driver," he added.

Manor are the only Formula One team yet to confirm any drivers for 2016. Their drivers this season have been Britain's Will Stevens, American Alexander Rossi and Spaniard Roberto Merhi. — Agencies

KERR WINS FINAL EVENT, KO CLAIMS \$1 MILLION JACKPOT



NAPLES: Lydia Ko, left, and Cristie Kerr hold their trophies at the conclusion of the CME Group Tour Championship golf tournament on Sunday, in Naples, Florida. — AP

FLORIDA: Cristie Kerr eagled the par-five 17th for a one-shot win at the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship in Florida on Sunday, while Lydia Ko held off Park In-bee and Lexi Thompson to claim the \$1 million Race to the CME Globe jackpot.

Kerr, 38, claimed her 18th career LPGA title and a \$500,000 check by rolling in a three-foot par putt at the 18th to complete a four-under-par 68 for a 17-under 271 total at the Tiburon course in Naples. Rookie Jang Ha-na of South Korea posted a 69 for 272 to share second place with American Gerina Piller, who fired a 67. World number one Ko was in a tight battle to hold on to her edge in the jackpot race, with South Korean Park missing a birdie putt at the 17th as did Thompson that would have put them out in front for that prize.

World number two Park shot a 69 for 276 and sixth place in the tournament to finish second in the race, while American Thompson returned a 68 for fourth place on 274.

"I think the hole is smaller than the ball today," said Ko, who carded a final-round 72 for 11-under 277 and a tie for seventh. Ko's par putt at the last lipped out and she did not learn she had won the jackpot until after she walked off the green and had a quiet, emotional moment.

"I'm happy that the season is over and I can relax now," said Ko, last year's Rookie of the Year. "It was kind of a tough day. I tried to stay patient all day. Every emotion went through me." Ko also secured Player of the Year honors, while Park narrowly edged her out for the Vare Trophy for the season's lowest scoring average.

"Earlier in the week I said if I could choose one of the awards, I would love to be the Player of the Year," said Ko. "To know that I am the Player of the Year, it's an awesome feeling." Ko became only the fourth LPGA player to follow up rookie honours with being Player of the Year, following Nancy Lopez, Beth Daniel and Annika Sorenstam.

The 28-year-old Park, who won two majors this season, also celebrated another achievement. By winning the Vare Trophy, Park earned her 27th point to qualify for the LPGA Hall of Fame, where she will be enshrined after completing a 10th LPGA season.

"Coming to today, I knew that I needed one point to wrap up the season. Not to think about a million dollars or the Player of the Year or the Vare Trophy. My focus was really getting the 27 points," said Park. — Reuters

TAYLOR CALLS FOR FOUR-DAY TEST MATCHES

SYDNEY: Pink-ball day-night Test matches, which make their debut this week in Adelaide, should only be the beginning of a cricket revolution, former Australian captain Mark Taylor said yesterday. Taylor, a Cricket Australia board member, is advocating the introduction of four-day, 100-over Test matches and a clearly defined Test championship. He wants all Tests to begin on Thursdays, allowing them to build to a Sunday evening climax.

"As someone said to me years ago,

why are we surprised when people go to one-day cricket and T20 cricket more than they do a Test match, when we put all the one-dayers and T20s on in school holidays and at night," he told the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

"And we put Test matches on during the week outside of school holidays." Taylor said he had discussed his ideas at an International Cricket Council level and they were now gathering some momentum with different options being brought forward.

"You've got to look at the game as a whole. Where is cricket going? The younger generation generally want more instant gratification and I think over five days to keep them interested in the game is not so easy," he said. "People are more about who is the best in the world at the moment. They like watching World Cup finals if you're always working towards who is the best Test team in the world, that can only help the game." Taylor said a Test championship would likely include a similar

scoring system to football, where three points are awarded for a victory and one given for a draw.

Australia face New Zealand in the first-ever day-night Test in Adelaide from Friday and Cricket Australia has reportedly already contacted the Pakistan Cricket Board about securing a similar game in Australia for the next southern summer.

The chief of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association, Tony Irish, warned against significant

changes happening too quickly. He said that while players should be given credit for allowing this week's Adelaide Test to go ahead, it should be seen as an experiment. "This match needs to be seen strictly as an experiment. If there's one thing that everyone agrees on, it's that the pink ball in Test cricket is a big unknown," Irish told Fairfax Media.

"The views of the players following the Test match have to be central to any future decisions." —AFP

PAKISTAN'S AMIR IN DHAKA ON REDEMPTION ROAD

DHAKA: Mohammad Amir's last appearance on a cricket pitch outside his native Pakistan led to a six-month sentence in a British prison for corruption. Five years on, the paceman was the headline act in the opening match as Bangladesh's Twenty20 league staged its own comeback after a fixing scandal.

But as Amir and the Bangladesh Premier League look to turn over a new leaf, one of cricket's most respected figures, Kumar Sangakkara, says the game could "die" if spectators are not convinced matches are clean.

Amir, playing for the Chittagong Vikings against the Rangpur Riders, took four for 30 on Sunday, delighted to be competing once more against stars such as Pakistan's Test skipper Misbah ul-Haq whom he bowled with a perfect yorker at Dhaka's national stadium.

Amir, now 23, was jailed in 2011 after admitting bowling no balls the previous summer against England at Lord's in exchange for cash. His captain Salman Butt and fellow bowler Mohammad Asif were jailed for similar offences.

Their hopes of returning for Pakistan look bleak, given they are in the autumn of their careers. But Amir, who has been playing Pakistan domestic cricket since earlier this year, told AFP recently he saw the BPL as "the first step towards reviving my international career" as he eyes next year's World T20 in India.

Although Amir has refused to talk to the media in Bangladesh, he said before his departure from Pakistan that he was "really thankful to the team for choosing me and I will try my best to give them my 100 percent."

His comeback remains controversial, with Pakistan batsman Mohammad Hafeez refusing to sign for the Vikings with Amir in its ranks. As Amir struggles to rebuild trust, the BPL faces a similar challenge after its 2013 edition was blighted by a scandal involving players and a team owner.

Former Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful, New Zealander Lou Vincent and Sri Lankan Kaushal Lokuarachchi were handed lengthy bans. And Shihab Jishan Chowdhury was also convicted of trying to fix the outcome of a match involving his Dhaka Gladiators team.

An embarrassed Bangladesh Cricket Board cancelled last year's edition but now believes its house is in order. Chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury said the BCB always had "zero tolerance" of corruption but felt compelled to do more after 2013.

It now has its own anti-corruption unit and runs an extensive education programme for players which includes addresses by police.

"A lot of things happened because of a lack of education, players not being aware of the consequences, not only for themselves but for the nation as a whole,"

Chowdhury told AFP.

'Soft targets'

Sayed Uzzaman, the journalist who broke the scandal, said the BCB deserved praise for bringing crooks to justice but feared the game remained vulnerable.

"The players are soft targets," said Uzzaman, of Dhaka's Kaler Kantho daily. "The bookies offer them a thousand times more (than they are paid by their teams)." While Amir is back playing in front of packed crowds, Ashraful keeps fit with nets in his backyard, still dreaming of an eventual international recall.

Neighbours are happy to bowl at the 31-year-old who set the record for the youngest player to hit a Test century but Ashraful is full of regrets. "I've lost almost everything I worked for ... I hope young cricketers will look at me and learn a lesson," the one-time golden boy told AFP. The local underworld was thought to have got its hooks into Ashraful long before he was caught and made a tearful confession.

Now he urges players against falling into the same trap. "My advice to any young cricketer would be say, very clearly, no."

'Just say no'

His view is echoed by Sangakkara, Sri Lanka's former captain who recently retired from international cricket. "It's very simple advice that I have for anyone, it's basically just say no and once you've said no you report every single approach," he told AFP while training for his BPL team, the Dhaka Dynamites.

"It's the responsibility of players as well to ensure the game stays clean. "Cricket, or any sport for that matter, has to uphold the public trust because if the crowds don't come to watch, if they feel cheated, cricket will die."

Gambling is illegal in Bangladesh but, as in most of South Asia, bookmakers routinely operate from backstreets—often controlled by crime syndicates.

Every country has its tale of fallen heroes, including South Africa whose late captain Hansie Cronje was exposed as in the pay of bookies. The cash-rich Indian Premier League was hit by a fixing scandal involving the son-in-law of the then head of the board in 2013.

While authorities say the punishments of players such as Amir and Ashraful have been a deterrent, few believe the corruption beast has been slain. Only last week, Pakistan coach Waqar Younis had to insist a defeat against England in an ODI was not fixed after claims the match was under investigation by the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

In a recent in-house interview, the ACU's head acknowledged fixing could never be wiped out. "I think the frank answer has to be never totally and absolutely eradicated," said Ronnie Flanagan. —AFP



NAGPUR: India's captain Virat Kohli (2R) dribbles a football past teammates during a training session ahead of the third Test cricket match between India and South Africa at The Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday. — AFP

AMLA KEY AS S AFRICA EYE COMEBACK IN INDIA

NAGPUR: Hashim Amla returns to the scene of a personal triumph looking to revive both his and South Africa's fortunes when the third Test against India starts in Nagpur tomorrow.

The Proteas captain hit an unbeaten 253, the second highest of his 23 three-figure knocks in Test cricket, at the same VCA stadium on the outskirts in Nagpur in 2010. Fiery pace bowler Dale Steyn then picked up a 10-wicket haul in the same match, including a career-best 7-51 in the first innings, to fashion South Africa's emphatic win by an innings and six runs.

The top-ranked tourists, down 1-0 in the current four-match series, will hope to recreate the same magic as they battle to preserve their nine-year unbeaten series record on foreign soil.

The usually prolific Amla has endured a lean series so far, making 43 and 0 in the first Test in Mohali and seven in the rain-ruined second match in Bangalore. The scores are a far cry from Amla's amazing record in India where in six previous Tests before the current series he had scored 823 runs at an average of 102.87 with four centuries.

Steyn's availability remains uncertain due to his slow recovery from a groin strain that he suffered in the first Test which forced him to miss the Bangalore match. With Kyle Abbott having already replaced the injured Vernon Philander, the tourists flew in fast bowler Marchant de Lange, who played the last of his two Tests way back in 2012, as cover for Steyn.

"At the moment we only have three fit seamers in Morne Morkel, Kagiso Rabada and Abbott," said South African coach Russell Domingo. "We want to be prepared in case one of the three breaks down."

South Africa have been let down so far by their inability to cope with India's spin twins, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, who have equally shared 24 of the 30 wickets in three innings so far. The tourists limped to 184 and 109 in Mohali to lose by 108 runs inside three days and scored 214 on the first day in Bangalore after being sent in to bat in overcast conditions.

'Hope lessons learnt'

AB de Villiers is the only batsman who appears to have adjusted to the turning ball, making a top-score of 63 in Mohali and a stroke-filled 85 in Bangalore on his 100th Test appearance.

When Amla's men take the field on Wednesday, it will be only their fifth day of international cricket over the past month, leaving them short of serious match practice. Domingo was, however, confident his team can turn the series around in Nagpur. "We've done it before," he said. "We know that we are still in the contest with two matches to play and the wickets are definitely going to produce results."

"We have a lot of inexperienced players who have not played in India before so hopefully they will have learnt a lot of lessons from these first two matches." India, meanwhile, are determined to wrap up the series after seeing their seven-Test winning streak at home being broken by the bad weather in Bangalore. Skipper Virat Kohli said the loss of four full playing days in the second Test had not affected either the morale or the momentum gained by his side.

"We are all in a very good space. I would like to give credit to the guys for staying in the zone," Kohli said. With the pitch expected to be a slow turner, the hosts may either bring back leg-spinner Amit Mishra or hand a Test cap to rookie off-spinning allrounder Gurkeerat Mann. —AFP



BANGALORE: In this photograph taken on November 13, 2015, South African captain Hashim Amla throws a ball during the team's net practice session on the eve of the second Test cricket match between India and South Africa at The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore. — AFP

TACTICAL BATTLE AS AUSTRALIA, NZ LOOK FOR NIGHT TEST SUPREMACY

PERTH: New Zealand are anticipating a battle of tactics as they venture into cricket's new world in this week's first-ever day-night Test against Australia, coach Mike Hesson said yesterday.

The cricket world is watching with interest as trans-Tasman rivals Australia and New Zealand face off with a revolutionary pink ball at Adelaide Oval from Friday. Zaheer Abbas, the new president of the International Cricket Council, hailed the day-night Test concept as "thoroughly enlightened".

The pink ball's capacity to swing freely and create collapses at night in preparatory matches means the final session of play has become more problematic than the first two sessions. It leaves rival skippers Steve Smith and Brendon McCullum with big decisions to make this week. Smith indicated his thinking

when captaining New South Wales in this season's day-night domestic Sheffield Shield round by declaring on day one to utilise the swing of paceman Mitchell Starc, who grabbed three wickets in the evening session with the aid of some notable inswingers. Hesson said the clamour to bowl at night could be a key battle at Adelaide. "There's definitely something to that (declaring to bowl at night)," he told reporters. "If you think that's the best chance to take a few early wickets, there'll definitely be some tactical plays throughout the Test." New Zealand suffered a collapse of four for 30 in their two-day practice tour match in Perth on Sunday after dinner against Western Australia. The Blackcaps' bowlers had created havoc by swinging the second new ball in Saturday's night session with WA losing five for 21. —AFP



DHAKA: In this photograph taken yesterday, Chittagong Vikings cricketer Pakistan's Mohammad Amir delivers a ball during the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Chittagong Vikings and Rangpur Riders at The Sher-e-Bangla cricket stadium in Dhaka. Mohammad Amir's last appearance on a cricket pitch outside his native Pakistan led to a six-month sentence in a British prison for corruption. — AFP

Sports

Djokovic ends year on high with Finals win over Federer



Sharks win 6th straight, beat Blue Jackets 5-3



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

TAYLOR CALLS FOR FOUR-DAY TEST MATCHES

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DENVER: Will Barton #5 of the Denver Nuggets dishes the ball off to teammate Darrell Arthur #00 of the Denver Nuggets against the defense of Andrew Bogut #12 of the Golden State Warriors at Pepsi Center on Sunday in Denver, Colorado. The Warriors defeated the Nuggets 118-105 to start the season 15-0. — AFP

WARRIORS ON CUSP OF HISTORY AFTER DEFEATING NUGGETS

DENVER: Klay Thompson scored 21 points and the Golden State Warriors tied the best start in NBA history, beating the Denver Nuggets 118-105 on Sunday night to move to 15-0. Golden State matches the start of the 1948-49 Washington Capitols and the '93-94 Houston Rockets. The Warriors can break the record Tuesday at home against the Los Angeles Lakers. Here's more history: The Warriors surpassed the '57-58 Boston Celtics for the best start by a defending champion. Thompson hit a 3-pointer with 2:08 remaining in the second quarter and Golden State never trailed again. The reserves built up a sizeable lead and allowed Stephen Curry to rest the entire fourth quarter. He had 19 points, the first time this season Curry hasn't reached 20. Darrell Arthur had 21 points for the Nuggets, who've lost three straight.

63 seconds, and Oklahoma City rallied from a double-digit third-quarter deficit to snap Dallas' six-game winning streak. Serge Ibaka had 16 points, nine rebounds and a key late blocked shot for Oklahoma City, which was without star forward Kevin Durant (injured hamstring) for the sixth straight game. Westbrook broke a 113-113 tie with a jumper with 1:03 left. Zaza Pachulia made 1 of 2 from the free-throw line to pull the Mavericks within a point before Westbrook's 18-foot jumper with 24 seconds left capped the scoring. Deron Williams led Dallas with 20 points, but missed an 18-footer and had his layup attempt blocked by Ibaka on consecutive possessions, and Wesley Matthews' last-second off-balance heave from 3-point range came nowhere close to the basket.

season high, also blocked four shots and had two steals. His last block came with 22 seconds left, when he tapped Mirza Teletovic's 3-point attempt from the right corner offline. The ball fell to Pelicans guard Ish Smith, and New Orleans held on from there. Ryan Anderson, who scored 30 in each of his previous two games, had 29 points for New Orleans. Eric Gordon added 20 points, while Smith had 17 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. Eric Bledsoe scored 29 points for Phoenix, which lost despite hitting 17 3-pointers. Brandon Knight had 19 points, but missed 13 of 18 shots.

games and held on after blowing most of a 22-point lead, their largest of the season. Joe Johnson added 17 points for the Nets, who have won two in a row at home, where they have barely played this season. Isaiah Thomas and Avery Bradley each scored 27 points for the Celtics.

seasons as coach was after his first game on the job, which they lost to the Lakers before winning their next three.

THUNDER 117, MAVERICKS 114
Russell Westbrook had 31 points and 11 assists, hitting two key baskets in the final

PELICANS 122, SUNS 116
Anthony Davis capped a 32-point, 19-rebound performance with a tiebreaking 3 in the final minute to lead New Orleans past Phoenix. Davis, whose rebound total set a

NETS 111, CELTICS 101
Brook Lopez had 23 points and 10 rebounds, Jarrett Jack scored 13 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Brooklyn earned a split of the teams' home-and-home series. Two nights after the Celtics won by 25 in Boston, the Nets dominated the second quarter that was pivotal in both

RAPTORS 91, CLIPPERS 80
DeMar DeRozan had 21 points, DeMarre Carroll scored each of his 21 points in the first half, and Toronto held Blake Griffin and Chris Paul scoreless through the first 20-plus minutes of a win over the Clippers. Luis Scola added 20 points and Kyle Lowry had 13 points and 10 assists for Toronto, which closed out a 2-3 road trip. The Raptors (9-6) shot just 37 percent from the field, but they outrebounded the Clippers 46-42 and forced 19 turnovers. J.J. Redick scored 17 points for Los Angeles (6-7), which has lost three straight and seven of nine after starting the season 4-0. The only other time they were under .500 during Doc Rivers' two-plus

TRAIL BLAZERS 107, LAKERS 93
Damian Lillard had 30 points and a career-high 13 assists, and C.J. McCollum added 19 points in Portland's sixth consecutive victory over the Los Angeles Lakers. Mason Plumlee added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers, who have won two straight after a seven-game skid. Portland has won a franchise-record five straight road games against the Lakers after maintaining a steady lead throughout the second half.

Kobe Bryant scored 18 points on 6-for-22 shooting, missing all five of his 3-point attempts in the Lakers' third straight loss. Los Angeles' 2-11 start is one game behind their pace from last season, the worst year in franchise history. Jordan Clarkson led the Lakers with 19 points, and Lou Williams added 14. — AP

FIFA COURT OPENS CASE AGAINST BLATTER, PLATINI

DECISION IN DECEMBER

LAUSANNE: The judgement arm of FIFA's ethics committee yesterday opened a case against the body's suspended president Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini, with a verdict in the corruption allegations surrounding both men due next month.

The panel of judges, known as the adjudicatory chamber, received the final report from the ethics committee's investigative branch on Saturday, which called for sanctions to be levelled against both men. A guilty verdict would almost certainly crush UEFA president Platini's hopes of succeeding Blatter at the top of world football's governing body. The investigative branch did not disclose the severity of the recommended sanctions, or the evidence collected, but both Blatter and Platini have been implicated in possible criminal conduct in a separate case launched by Swiss prosecutors.

In a statement, the adjudicatory chamber said it had "opened formal adjudicatory proceedings against Joseph S. Blatter and Michel Platini based on the final reports submitted by the investigatory chamber." The chamber "intends to come to a decision in both cases during the month of December", the statement further said.

FIFA's ethics committee provisionally suspended both men—once the two most powerful figures in world football—for 90 days in October. Blatter, Platini and their representatives can appear before the FIFA-appointed judges to mount a defence, while investigators can also make a presentation in the process that functions like an in-house court. — AFP



TEHRAN: A file picture taken on December 3, 2014 shows Iranian women's football captain Niloufar Ardalan during a practice session in Tehran. Ardalan, whose husband barred her from travelling to a major tournament abroad, has been allowed to leave the country for other matches after authorities stepped in. — AFP

FEMALE FOOTBALLER LEAVES IRAN, HUSBAND OVERRULED

TEHRAN: A female Iranian football player whose husband barred her from travelling to a major tournament abroad has been allowed to leave the country for other matches after authorities stepped in.

Niloufar Ardalan, 30, who plays futsal—a form of five-a-side-missed the final of the Asian Championship in Malaysia in September, which Iran ended up winning. Before the tournament she had been captain of the national side but her husband, Mehdi Tutunchi, a TV sports presenter, enforced his right under Islamic sharia law to ban his wife from leaving Iran. Explaining his decision, Tutunchi said the games coincided with the couple's seven-year-old son's first day at school. However Ardalan has since been granted a single exit visa by the judiciary that will allow her to compete for her country in a Futsal World Cup event in Guatemala from November 24-29.

State television's most popular football programme, "90" on Sunday announced Ardalan had left for Guatemala. "Niloufar Ardalan, accompanying Iran's national women futsal team to Guatemala. They are now in Mexico" waiting for their visas, the programme stated on its website.

"My presence in the national futsal team camp happened because of the prosecutor's permission and I have a single exit permit" on my passport, Ardalan was quoted as saying. Under sharia law, in force since Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979, a court can overrule a male guardian's decision relating to a daughter or wife.

"Niloufar Ardalan, who after problems with her husband missed the Asian championship matches, left the country without gaining his consent," the judiciary said on its news website. Ardalan had previously appealed for a change to the law, that bars women from leaving home, let alone the country, without permission from their guardian.

"I wish authorities would pass a law for sportswomen so we can defend our rights in these circumstances," she told Iran's NASIM news agency in September. Just as Iranian men who have not completed their military service get temporary permits to attend sport events abroad, "something must be done for us women too," she said. — AFP

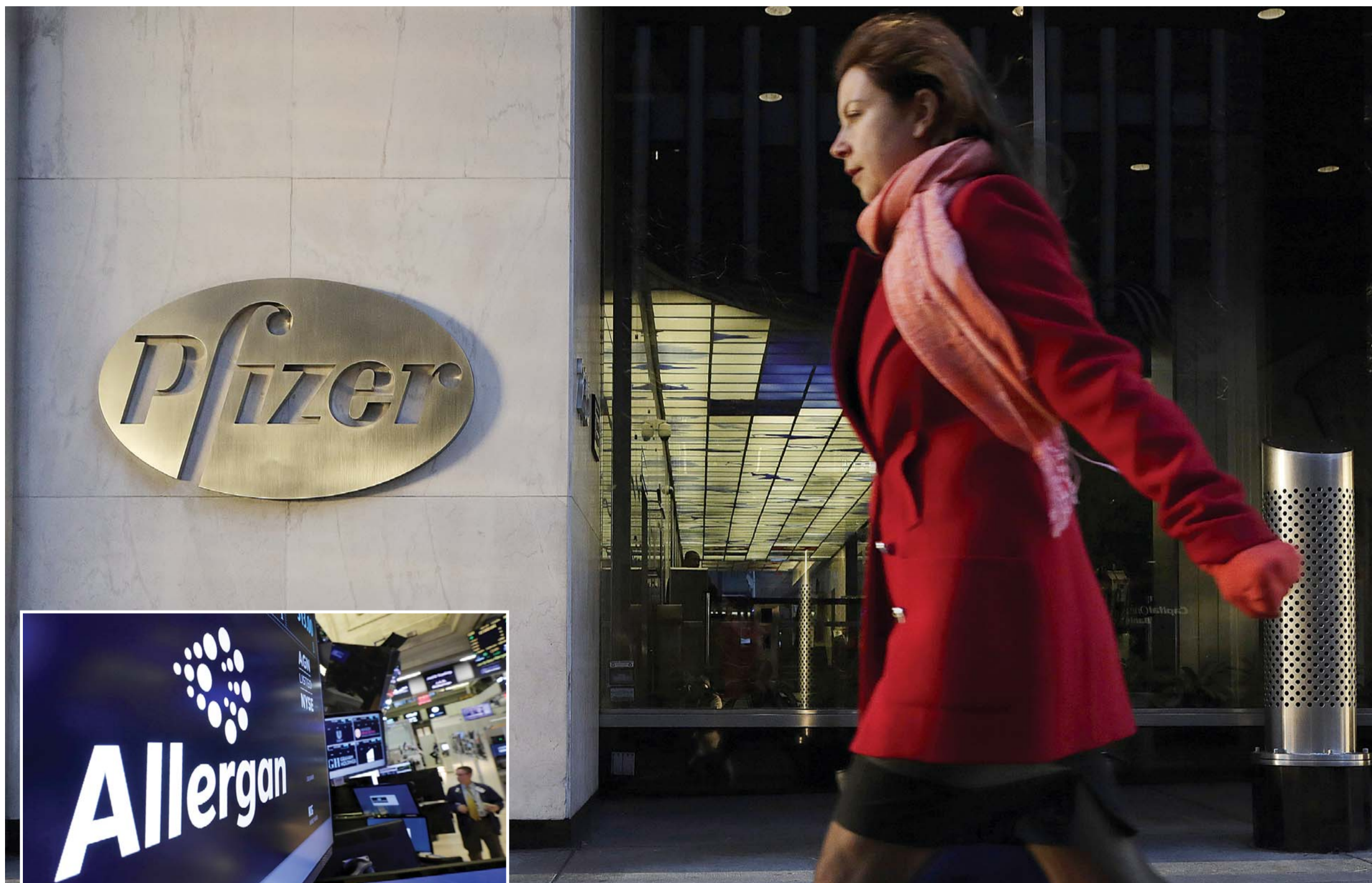
For Rent
ADAILIYA
BLOCK 2

- Floor Duplex Villa 3 Bedroom
- 3 Bathroom
- Maids Room
- Huge Living
- Kitchen And Balcony

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QUIET LUXURY: NEW 2017 LINCOLN MKZ



NEW YORK: A woman passes Pfizer's world headquarters yesterday in New York. Pfizer and Allergan (inset) will join in a \$160 billion deal to create the world's largest drugmaker. —AP

PFIZER, ALLERGAN TO MERGE IN \$160BN DEAL

MERGER TO CREATE WORLD'S BIGGEST PHARMACEUTICAL GROUP

NEW YORK: US-based Pfizer and Ireland-based Allergan said yesterday they will merge to create the world's biggest pharmaceutical group in a deal worth about \$160 billion. The transaction is the biggest merger announced this year and has been approved by the boards of both companies. It should be finalized in the second half of 2016 and will be fiscally advantageous for Pfizer as it shifts its headquarters to low-tax Ireland. "The proposed combination of Pfizer and Allergan will create a leading global pharmaceutical company with the strength to research, discover and deliver more medicines and therapies to more people around the world," Pfizer's chief

executive Ian Read said in a statement.

His counterpart at Allergan, Brent Saunders, called the merger a "highly strategic, value-enhancing transaction". Provided the deal receives approval from shareholders and regulators, the merged company, to be renamed Pfizer plc, will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trade under Pfizer's current PFE ticker.

Pfizer plc will have its global operational headquarters in New York and its principal executive offices in Ireland. According to a source close to the deal, Pfizer wanted to beat implementation of new US Treasury measures which will make it more difficult for US compa-

nies to escape taxes via a merger which moves their tax home abroad, a mechanism called a "tax inversion".

The US company has a large war chest of foreign earnings which it does not want to repatriate to the United States, where it would then have to pay taxes on the sums. Ireland is also known for its low corporate tax rates.

"Pfizer will have greater financial flexibility that will facilitate our continued discovery and development of new innovative medicines for patients, direct return of capital to shareholders, and continued investment in the United States, while also enabling our pursuit of business development opportunities on a more

competitive footing within our industry," said Read.

The two companies estimated their merger will deliver more than \$2 billion in operational synergies over the first three years after closing. Pfizer shareholders are expected to hold 56 percent of the merged company, with Allergan shareholders the remaining 44 percent.

Read will become the chief executive of the new Pfizer plc, while Saunders will become chief operating officer with oversight of all Pfizer and Allergan's combined commercial businesses, manufacturing and strategy functions.

Pfizer said it did not plan to change its divi-

dend policy of paying out roughly half of an adjusted measure of earnings per share and would continue with its planned \$5 billion share buyback in the first half of 2016. In pre-market trade on Wall Street, shares in Pfizer dropped 2.5 percent to \$31.36 and Allergan fell 1.5 percent to \$307.76.

The merger is the biggest announced this year, beating the \$121-billion combination of top brewers Anheuser-Busch InBev and SAB Miller clinched earlier this month. It could end up being the world's second-largest merger following British telecom company Vodafone's purchase of Germany's Mannesmann for \$172 billion including debt, in 1999. —AFP

GULF SLIPS ON WEAK OIL, ORASCOM HITS EGYPT

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets mostly fell yesterday because of weak oil prices, while a slide of shares in Orascom Telecom Media dragged down Egypt's bourse.

Brent crude oil tumbled more than 2 percent at one stage in Asian trade to below \$44 a barrel, though it later recovered above that mark. The Saudi stock index, which had surged 2.1 percent on Sunday, fell back 0.4 percent. Top petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries added 0.9 percent. But many banks fell with Al Rajhi losing 1.9 percent.

Emaar Economic City rose sharply in early trade but closed 4.2 percent lower. It had jumped 9.1 percent on Sunday after it said authorities, who have been investigating how the firm acquired land in the industrial zone which it is developing, would let it keep the land to protect the interests of investors. The Saudi market's losses increased during the day after Saudi Arabia's cabinet said it had decided to impose an annual 2.5 percent fee on undeveloped

urban land designated for residential or commercial use, in an effort to deter hoarding of land and resolve a shortage of affordable housing.

Real estate developer Dar Al Arkan dropped 2.3 percent; although it is still unclear how the tax will be applied, some investors fear the value of the company's land bank could decrease as a result of the tax. But builder Al-Khodari, which could benefit if housing construction increases, added 1.4 percent.

Dubai's index dropped 1.1 percent as real estate and construction firms slid, with Union Properties losing 3.1 percent. The euro hit a seven-month low against the United Arab Emirates dirham yesterday - negative news for foreign investment in the UAE property market.

Qatar's index fell 1.5 percent as drilling rig provider Gulf International Services slipped 2.5 percent. Egypt's index opened higher but closed 2.4 percent lower. Orascom Telecom Media, the most

heavily traded stock, sank 7.6 percent to 0.61 Egyptian pound after saying on Sunday it was removing its North Korean unit Koryolink from its consolidated financial statements because sanctions against Pyongyang had affected its ability to operate there.

EFG Hermes said it was cutting its rating of the stock to sell from neutral with fair value at 0.53 pound. Qalaa Holdings fell 4.6 percent after saying its subsidiary Mashreq Petroleum was in negotiations with the General Authority of the Suez Canal Economic Zone to terminate a contract to build, operate and transfer a liquid bulk station at East Port Said.

Orascom Construction dropped 3.6 percent after reporting third-quarter earnings and saying it would distribute a total cash dividend of \$0.36 per share in 2016, implying a yield of 5.1 percent based on its NASDAQ Dubai closing price of \$7.0 per share on Nov. 22. The Dubai-listed shares rose 2.9 percent, however. —Reuters

FRENCH ECONOMY HURTING FROM ATTACKS: SURVEY

LONDON: The attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and wounded hundreds more are hurting the French economy at a time when the wider 19-country eurozone appears to be growing at the fastest pace in four and a half years, a survey showed yesterday.

In a snapshot of business during November, financial information company Markit has found that service providers reported that the terrorist attacks in Paris had "negatively impacted on activity." Partly because of that, Markit said its purchasing managers' index for France - a broad gauge of economic activity - fell to a 3-month low in November of 51.3 points from 52.6 the previous month.

The drop takes the French economy nearer the 50 point level, which is the threshold separating economic expansion and contraction. The figures are prone to revision following further assessments, with the final results due in early December. The French slowdown contrasts with the overall 19-country eurozone, which according to Markit is expanding at the fastest rate since 2011. The equivalent index for the eurozone rose to 54.4 points in November from 53.9 the previous month.

"The improved performance in terms of economic growth and job creation



PARIS: A woman looks on at the first floor of the Eiffel Tower in Paris yesterday. —AP

seen in November are all the more impressive given last weekend's tragic events in Paris, which subdued economic activity in France, especially in the service sector," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit.

The survey, Williamson said, suggests the eurozone economy grew by a quarterly rate of 0.4 percent in the last three months of the year, possibly even 0.5 percent in sight if there's a modest uptick in December. Still, yesterday's survey is unlikely to dissuade the European

Central Bank from expanding its stimulus program next week as inflation across the region is very low. The ECB's primary policy consideration is making sure that there's a little bit of inflation in the eurozone - its target is just below 2 percent on an annual basis. Inflation is currently just 0.1 percent.

A new big stimulus program that was first announced in January could help keep interest rates low and shore up economic activity, stoking inflation through the economy. —AP

GE INVESTING IN YOUNG ENGINEERS: MOUSALLAM

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: General Energy (GE) recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the College of Engineering and Petroleum of Kuwait University. Kuwait Times spoke to Salim A Mousallam, Country Manager, Power Services - Kuwait and Bahrain, GE Power, on the sidelines of the Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge 2015.

"I have always been passionate about supporting young engineers, because we believe at GE that all new ideas and new innovations come from young minds, so the company has invested heavily in a lot of young engineers. It is my responsibility to make sure that I invest in young engineers everywhere GE sends me, and that is why we developed a great partnership with Kuwait University,"

Mousallam said. "It truly is an honor for us to be an innovation partner and a part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum, and with the first Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge," he said.

Mousallam told Kuwait Times that this is not GE's first time cooperating with Kuwait University, but GE had also participated in February at the Kuwait engineering innovation forum as an innovation partner. "We believe that competitions give students the opportunity to show their creativity, and that is what GE is searching for in the region," he explained.

Mousallam added that 650 people from 70 countries in 65 teams signed up, noting that they started by submitting their products and ideas on YouTube

in June, July and August. After that, the judging committee from Kuwait University in collaboration with GE shortlisted 17 teams from around the world to present their ideas in Kuwait City, and six



Salim A Mousallam

engineers from GE are part of the 17 shortlisted teams. Seven teams are involved in making solar energy economical, five

teams are focusing on advance health informatics and five teams on advance personalized learning. These teams are participating in the final challenge to compete for the first, second, third and fourth places.

The 17 teams were asked to present ideas on three global challenges among 14 that have been identified for the engineering sector by the National Academy of Engineering. "The shortlisted teams are being mentored by GE - especially in addressing a key challenge - making solar energy economical. This is a great example of localization and youth talent development led by Kuwait University and GE," Mousallam added.

Mousallam is the country manager for GE power services responsible for the financial performance, overall growth and capability-building for the power

services business in Kuwait and Bahrain. He has been with the company for 11 years. In his role, Mousallam brings together the contractual services and transactional portfolios under one common strategy centered around customer centricity and execution excellence driven with speed and simplicity. In addition, he helps define and implement growth, talent development and localization strategies.

Design expertise

Mousallam started his career at GE as a gas turbine engineering intern in 2005. In 2006, he joined the Edison Engineering Development Program (EEDP) where he developed strong gas turbine engineering design expertise. Upon graduating from EEDP in 2008, Mousallam joined GE Environmental Services in Atlanta as a thermal perform-

ance engineer.

In 2011, Mousallam moved to Saudi Arabia as a regional technical manager for PGS Global Operations, where he established and grew the regional performance testing and Inspections and Life Extension Services (I&LES) organizations in MEA.

Towards the end of 2012, Mousallam expanded his role as a regional engineering manager for PGS Engineering where he continued to lead the thermal performance engineering team, as well as the Edison Engineering Program.

Mousallam earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree from St Francis University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ENGINEERING GETS EUROPEAN AVIATION SAFETY NOD

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways Engineering, the Middle East's leading aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) provider, has become the first organisation in the Middle East to be granted an extended Part21J Design Organization Approval (DOA) by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to undertake major cabin design and modification. With the new approval Etihad Airways Engineering is entitled to design and certify major changes to cabin interiors, galleys or other interior equipment and related structure, and environmental and electrical systems.

Jeff Wilkinson, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President, Technical, said: "We are pleased to offer Etihad Airways, its equity partners and third party customers the flexibility of making major cabin modifications

to their existing fleet with this Part21J EASA approval. We remain committed to developing our maintenance, repair and overhaul capabilities as a one-stop-facility while focusing on new platforms and delivering the highest standards of safety and quality.

"I would like to thank the Design, Engineering and Innovation team whose diligence, expertise and close coordination with EASA has helped us in achieving this capability ahead of time. With the new approval, the company is now able to offer more comprehensive, tailor-made solutions covering a wide range of technical aspects."

Etihad Airways Engineering is an AS9110 certified organisation and already holds EASA 145 approval as well as EASA 21J approval for designing and undertaking minor changes and repairs.



(Right to Left): Michael John Adams, Vice President MRO Operations; Bernhard Randerath, Vice President Design, Engineering and Innovation; Dilek Senay Yazici, Senior Manager Airworthiness Monitoring; Ahmad Rajei, Senior Manager Design Engineering; and Shevantha Kamil Weerasesera, Head of Engineering Technical Services with the EASA Part21J Major Design Organisation Approval Certificate issued by EASA to Etihad Airways Engineering.

GE HIGHLIGHTS TRANSFORMATIVE SOFTWARE SERVICE SOLUTIONS

APPLICATIONS DRIVE PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

DUBAI: GE Power is providing transformative software service solutions for industrial plants in the energy sector through its partnerships with RasGas in Qatar and Engro, Sapphire and Saif in Pakistan. The industrial internet solutions by GE are powered by Predix, the world's first and only cloud-based operating system built exclusively for industrial assets, that bring unprecedented levels of productivity, efficiency and asset optimization.

Azeez Mohammed, President & CEO, Power Services - Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Sahara Africa, GE Power, said: "GE's Industrial Internet is a game changer for the energy sector, enabling our partners in the region to optimize their assets for greater reliability, efficiency and productivity. This in turn helps to meet the growing demand for power. GE's solutions bring higher power output at lower cost through improved efficiency across the energy spectrum - from power generation to power distribution to power users. The focus on predictive maintenance to avoid problems before they happen and the ability to drive performance improvement support our partners in achieving higher returns and long-term value for their assets."

Digital LNG at Rasgas in Qatar

Among the major partnerships is the first global deployment of GE's APM solutions by RasGas Company Limited (RasGas), one of the world's largest producers of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Qatar. Created specifically to meet the needs of the LNG sector, the Predix Cloud solution is projected to extend the life of RasGas assets. It will also lower operating costs through greater efficiencies and optimize product chain across RasGas assets.

Marking the effective integration of big data and advanced analytics, the path-breaking solution will support process optimization across RasGas operations. It will capture and analyze the unique volume, velocity and variety of machine data within a highly secure, industrial-strength cloud environment, leading to higher reliability in operation and optimizing resource use efficiency. Serving as a one-stop optimized solution, it benefits the LNG sector in scaling up its efficiencies and productivity to meet the future growth goals of RasGas.

Digital Power Plant in Pakistan

In Pakistan, GE Power has announced three new significant contracts. The first is with Engro Powergen Qadirpur Limited, a 217 MW independent power project and the only green facility of its kind in the country, to provide Industrial Internet solutions that will enhance operational performance and power plant reliability. Powered by Predix, GE Power will provide predictivity enhancement and performance improvement (PEPI) solutions for strengthening operations excellence.

GE Power is also supplying its APM solutions for the 234 MW power project by Sapphire Group near Lahore and for Saif Group's 225 MW combined cycle thermal power project developed under the government's power policy in Sahiwal. Both projects employ GE's advanced 6FA turbines that offer among the highest fuel efficiency.

The PEPI solutions installed by GE Power

ment and lower fuel costs.

GE harnesses the power of the Industrial Internet and delivers value to its customers via Asset Performance Management - software and technology that optimizes machines and operations to maximize business performance. Among the solutions include GE's digital power plant with asset performance management, familiar



OLDER WORKERS SEEKING OPTIONS FOR REDUCING HOURS ON THE JOB

NEW YORK: Robertson Williams' plan was to retire on his government pension and take a part-time job to make up the difference in salary. It didn't quite work out that way. Williams, 68, did retire but then started another full-time job with the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank.

"The plan was to work full time just until I got my feet wet," Williams said. "But, I ended up working full time for the next nine years." He's far from an aberration. Many aging baby boomers are caught between a desire to work less and a labor market that just isn't ready to let them go.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 17.7 percent of people 65 and older are still working in some capacity, compared with 11.7 percent in 1995.

Of course, part of this increase could be due to a growing fear felt by many Americans about financial insecurity during retirement. Survey data has shown that fears about outliving one's savings are factoring into retirement planning. That is even prompting 34 percent of workers age 60-plus to say they plan on working until they die, or are too sick to work, according to a recent Wells Fargo survey.

Some workers just want a gradual transition, whether for financial reasons or just to keep working jobs where they can still contribute and help train the next generation.

Slightly more than 40 percent of US workers hope to cut back hours or transition to a less demanding position before retirement, according to a 2015 report from the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies. One option offered by a small number of employers is "phased retirement," which allows retiring workers to go part time while also mentoring their incoming replacement, providing for a smoother transition. The Society for Human Resource Management puts the number at 8 percent.

In other cases, employers are eschewing formal arrangements in favor of short-term contracts.

"One thing we see is that employers are increasingly able to tap into a more flexible labor market, rather than going through formal HR structures," says Jean Setzfeld, AARP's senior vice president of programs. "So having hard-and-fast rules for this can be difficult."

For federal workers, Congress passed legislation in 2012 creating a phased-retirement program, and the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, formalized the rules last year.

To date, OPM has only finalized 16 applications for phased retirement from workers at the Library of Congress, NASA, the Broadcasting Board of Governors and the Energy Department. It expects to soon receive 12 more from the Smithsonian Institution, that's from a federal workforce where

45 percent of employees are aged 50 or over. OPM has stressed that it is up to individual federal agencies to decide when and if they will offer a phased-retirement option to their employees.

Tancred Lidderdale, 62, is one of the initial 16 who chose phased retirement. He works for the Energy Department as an economic forecaster, applying highly complex mathematical models to oil and gas markets. He's had an integral part in building these models over the past two decades.

"I know our agency would miss me," Lidderdale said. "They knew I was thinking about retirement and mentioned this option as a way to help pass on what I know before I leave."

Lidderdale will work part time for the next two years. But, after nearly three years of waiting, many other federal workers are wondering if the program will even arrive in time for them.

are at the stage of examining that market," Mariusz Zawisza said in an interview. He reiterated that PGNiG was considering buying production assets in Norway, the United States and Canada that would help it boost own oil and gas output.

Zawisza said the 100 million euros that PGNiG paid France's Total for stakes in several

Norwegian oilfields last year could be a reference point for future acquisitions.

PGNiG, which is also interested in buying heating power plants in Poland, sees 2016 investment as "comparable" to this year's, the CEO said. Earlier this year PGNiG expected 2015 capex at around 4.3 billion zlotys (\$1.08 billion).

PRICE TALKS

The CEO said talks with Russia's Gazprom, which is PGNiG's biggest gas supplier, on reducing prices in its long-term contract had reached a "mature" phase.

The companies started negotiations in November last year and in May PGNiG filed with the Stockholm Arbitration Tribunal,

looking to change the pricing of the contract in the face of falling oil and gas prices. "I assume that there is a real possibility of concluding the talks with Gazprom. Last time the negotiations also lasted several months. Now it has been a year since we started the talks and this is their mature phase," Zawisza said. —Reuters

POLAND'S PGNIG EYES IRAN'S OIL AND GAS MARKET

WARSAW: Poland's state-run gas distributor PGNiG is looking at various options in oil and gas exploration and production in Iran once sanctions on the country are lifted, PGNiG's CEO said.

"We are interested in the Iranian market (...) and we are considering various business configurations there. We have an office in Iran and



QUIET LUXURY: NEW 2017 LINCOLN MKZ

INTUITIVE TECHNOLOGY, EFFORTLESS PERFORMANCE AND DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

DUBAI: Discover your new favorite space. The new 2017 Lincoln MKZ combines intuitive technology, effortless performance and distinctive design to deliver an enhanced driving experience Lincoln calls quiet luxury.

Lincoln this week revealed the newly designed MKZ, focusing on areas most desired by today's luxury midsize sedan customer - quality, performance and style. The new model is expected to come to Lincoln showrooms in the Middle East late next year.

"Our customers are looking for three attributes in a luxury midsize sedan - technologies that ease their everyday experience, a beautiful design that is crafted with attention to detail, and a vehicle with impressive power that makes it a pleasure to drive," said Kumar Galhotra, president of Lincoln. "The new Lincoln MKZ elevates all of these attributes - and many more - to create a compelling entry in this large and highly competitive portion of the luxury market."

The new Lincoln MKZ is designed to appeal to those who are looking for something different in the luxury market. From the placement of technology features such as the push-button gear shift to reimagined interior spaces including the floating centre console, drivers can relish in discovering an unexpected experience based on intelligent function and beautiful form that offers, above all, an

enjoyable drive.

The Lincoln Experience is brought to life through the available Lincoln-exclusive 3.0-litre GTDI V6 engine, as well as intangible elements like the quiet cabin provided by the Active Noise Control system.

Features that make the new Lincoln MKZ a haven of refined comfort include curated spaces for storage, fully retractable panoramic glass roof, and concert-quality Revel audio with specially designed doors for optimal positioning of the speakers.

Intuitive technology

The new Lincoln MKZ is designed to make the drive ride easier and more enjoyable. Available adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go functionality can automatically slow the car, resuming higher speeds when traffic clears. The system activates the brakes automatically to bring the car to a complete stop if the driver fails to apply brakes in time.

An auto hold feature keeps the car at a complete stop without the driver having to press and hold the brake pedal - making bumper-to-bumper driving more relaxing for MKZ owners.

Available enhanced park assist uses ultrasonic sensors to help Lincoln MKZ seamlessly steer itself into a parallel or perpendicular parking spot. The car can assist with park-out as needed.

Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection is an available technology that can help avoid some

frontal crashes¹, or lessen the severity of such events.

Lincoln-exclusive engine provides effortless performance

An all-new, Lincoln-exclusive 3.0-litre GTDI V6 leads available engine choices for the new Lincoln MKZ. When paired with an intelligent all-wheel-drive system, the twin-turbocharged engine produces 406 PS and 542 Nm of torque^{2,3} for effortless performance and refinement.

Dynamic Torque Vectoring⁴, part of an available Driver's Package for MKZ with the 3.0-litre engine, enhances cornering agility without compromising ride comfort, helping drivers enjoy a smooth, seamless experience.

The new Lincoln MKZ provides a 2.0-litre GTDI, 248-PS2 four-cylinder engine with front-wheel drive.

Available Lincoln Drive Control allows drivers to adjust among three drive ride modes - comfort, normal and sport. The system includes continuously controlled damping, and electric power-assisted steering to provide comfortable, confident handling.

The Driver's Package for Lincoln MKZ with 3.0-litre V6 also includes 19-inch wheels, Ebony-painted calipers, light Magnetic-painted grille, Ebony interior with carbon fibre appliques, customisable multi-

contour seats and aluminium pedal covers. In addition, the package features retuned continuously controlled damping and suspension for enhanced driving dynamics.

Distinctive design

The new face of Lincoln is highlighted by available adaptive LED headlamps that help deliver cleaner, clearer lighting for drivers, complemented by the all-new one-piece Lincoln signature grille.

Inside, engineers paid particular attention to the sound and feel of new switches and dials that replace slider adjustments for easier control of ventilation and audio functions for new Lincoln MKZ customers. Commonly used buttons and USB ports are now even easier to access.

Lincoln MKZ's available fully retractable panoramic glass roof offers the largest open-air roof among sedans.

"The introduction of the new MKZ will help us compete in the second largest segment in the Middle East luxury industry; the mid-size luxury sedan segment. These are exciting times for Lincoln in the region, as our sales increase of 17 percent YTD clearly show," said Alex Schaeffer, head of Lincoln Middle East, unveiling our Lincoln Continental at the recent Dubai International Motor Show to huge critical acclaim adds to our growing portfolio of compelling products."



'AIANA MUNNAR - A MOONRIVER RESORT' IN VERDANT KERALA

DOHA: Aiana Hotels & Resorts, a Doha based global hotel management company has announced that it is offering fractional ownership to buyers for its first hotel property in India. The development offers a unique real estate opportunity for Qatari buyers to own a part of the luxury resort under the fractional ownership model.



Amruda Nair

"At Aiana Munnar resort, there is an option to buy an entire suite from the developer or a pocket friendly 1/6th portion fraction. There is no limit to the number of fractions that can be bought. A fractional owner would be buying built property plus an undivided share in the land around it, directly from the developer," said Amruda Nair, Joint Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Aiana Hotels & Resorts L.L.C.

Scheduled to open in 2016, the management company's first property in India, 'Aiana Munnar - A Moonriver Resort', is a niche all-suite villa resort spread across 20 acres of lush greenery. The resort is set amongst natural springs, scenic views and

will feature authentic dining experiences and an extensive Ayurveda-inspired spa. Each suite in the resort offers a private, heated plunge pool overlooking the rolling hills of Munnar.

Aiana Hotels & Resorts has now unveiled plans for managing two hospitality projects; first being the 180 key 'Aiana Suites and Residences, Doha' that will be located in the prestigious central business district of West Bay in Doha.

The launch of its second property within seven months of signing a joint venture agreement with Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al-Thani, Chairman of Al-Sawari Holding and Qatari Business Association is in line with the company's commitment to create a globally respected hospitality brand that embodies the best of Indian hospitality by innovating fresh service, design and operating concepts.

Alex Vacha, Managing Director, Moonriver Resorts, said 'Aiana Munnar - A Moonriver Resort has been envisioned as a grand retreat and luxury resort, created for the discerning traveller looking for a unique experience within a natural environment. A lot of detailing has gone into the finer aspects of the project and traces of local elements have been incorporated to stay true to the destination's rich heritage. The property has been developed bearing in mind the ecosystem and verdant allure of Munnar.'

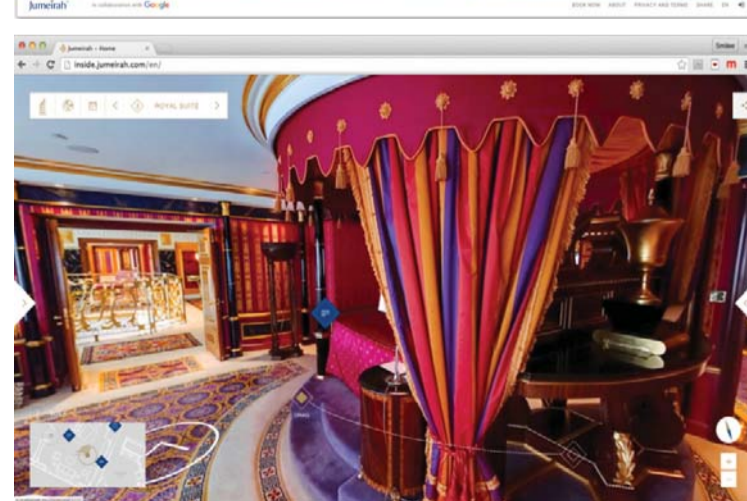
JUMEIRAH GROUP COLLABORATES WITH GOOGLE TO LAUNCH JUMEIRAH INSIDE

DUBAI: Jumeirah Group, the Dubai-based luxury hotel company and a member of Dubai Holding, has launched Jumeirah Inside - a virtual platform comprising 360° video and photography which enables users to make hotel bookings, access never-before-seen footage, discover hidden treasures and share them with the world.

Jumeirah Inside, developed in collaboration with Google, is a hotel industry first and offers a fully immersive digital travel platform which is accessible through jumeirah.com.

The platform provides access to Burj Al-Arab Jumeirah which is brought to life by 360° video, 3D sound, playful interactions and exclusive hotspots - this is not just a tour through a building, it's a journey through a brand.

Ross McAuley, Group Vice President of Brand, Digital and Loyalty, Jumeirah Group, said: "Jumeirah Inside is one of the most exciting digital developments for Jumeirah Group. Just as we aim to exceed our guests' expectations whenever they visit our luxury hotels around the world, so is our aim to give an unforgettable rich, immersive online experience in advance of their arrival. This is a world first for the hospitality sector. Jumeirah Inside has been initiated for us by Google's dedicated creative team. The platform works across desktop, tablet and mobile devices, in five languages, offering a film-focused exploration of the world's most luxurious hotel, Burj Al Arab Jumeirah. And in so doing it connects that remarkable property back to Jumeirah Group's portfolio of 22 other luxury hotels, our STAY DIFFERENT™ brand promise and the outstanding service guests can expect when they walk through the door of any



Jumeirah hotel."

Ivan Jakovljevic, Google's Head of Travel & Finance, Middle East and North Africa, said: "We

are very excited to see Jumeirah Inside spread its magic to the world. We worked very closely with the Jumeirah team to

unleash the creative potential of their brand enabled by the latest advances in digital technology to tell the best possible story from the consumer point of view at every step of an immersive travel journey. Innovation through technology is at the core of what we do. We are always striving to create new ways for our partners to find their audience and create rich, personal experiences with them. Jumeirah Group has set a high standard for the hospitality industry as a brand that consistently explores what is possible through adoption of digital. It is redefining the way people experience travel and we are proud to be a part of it."

The virtual journey begins at the world's most luxurious hotel where guests can see, hear and move around like never before. Users can uncover new information and explore the vibrant colours and playful water features in the atrium through 360° video. Other experiences include the chance to dive into the Talise Spa infinity pool, take a leisurely stroll through the magnificent Royal Suite, and explore Dubai from the exclusive helipad.

From there guests can continue their virtual journey and explore Jumeirah's hotels and resorts around the world. By clicking on 360° photo spheres, which each have informative hotspots, users will uncover Jumeirah's STAY DIFFERENT experiences which can be used to inspire their friends through Facebook, Twitter, Weibo, Wechat and Google Plus.

Optimised for mobile and tablet users, the site will offer the opportunity to make hotel reservations at any point. The fully immersive experience is available in English, Arabic, German, Russian and Mandarin.

BTB SERVICE CENTERS LAUNCH FREE WINTER CHECKUP CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Due to the great success of the winter campaign in previous years, Bumper-to-Bumper (BTB) service centers part of Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive Group announced that it will re-launch the free car checkup campaign for all car makes until January 31, 2016. The offer is part of BTB's commitment to provide high quality products and services to help ensure the safety of its customers especially during the winter season.

This offer applies to all car makes and is available at the main BTB branches including Shuwaikh, Jahra, Fahaheel and Sharq. The

checkup spans tires, brakes, headlights and signal lights, windshield wipers, battery, tire pressure and the suspension system. On top of that, customers can get a KD- 5 coupon for every KD 50 spent on repairs. The coupons can be redeemed across all BTB branches.

Founded in 1980, BTB started as quick-service shops that specialized in replacing and repairing exhaust systems. Five years later in 1985, the brand BTB was created as a unique concept in the Kuwaiti market. Today, BTB's clear mission is to exceed expectations by offering the best in car maintenance and

spare-parts services, for both individual customers and corporate owners. But what makes BTB truly stand out is the highly-trained team of technicians and professionals, who collectively provide an unprecedented level of support through state-of-the-art equipment and auto maintenance knowledge.

As one of the strongest local brands in the country, with more than 150,000 vehicles serviced each year, in one of 150 service platforms in 8 service centers throughout the country, BTB provides customers with total

convenience and peace of mind, dealing with all car makes and models. At BTB, the customer comes first and each center is designed with the customer's comfort in mind, including free wireless access, a spacious lounge area, cafe, playroom and much more.

Indeed, choosing BTB service centers means turning over your car to a crew of specialized technicians who operate the most advanced equipment and analyzing tools to produce a highly detailed report and an accurate estimate of total cost of repair. To top it off, BTB service centers offer genuine spare

parts for all car models, as well as warranties for parts and labor. BTB service centers also offer easy finance solutions such as installments and other payment plans.

BTB service centers are strategically located throughout Kuwait including Sharq, Fahaheel, Shuwaikh and Jahra, and are also integrated in Alfa Petrol Stations in Shaab, Agaila, Shuwaikh and South Surra.

For more inquiries about services, campaigns and locations, customers may contact BTB at 24969821 / 885 or visit their website www.bumpertobumper.me.

MANY HURDLES TO PARIS DEAL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NEW YORK: Almost 200 nations will meet in Paris from Nov 30-Dec 11 for a summit on climate change, seeking a turning point away from an increasing reliance on fossil fuels since the Industrial Revolution. Following are among the hurdles to a United Nations accord that will map out action by rich and poor nations beyond 2020 to curb greenhouse gas emissions blamed for warming the planet.

Finance

Developed nations promised in 2009 to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020, from both public and private sources, to help developing nations limit their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to more floods, heat waves and rising sea levels. The main group of more than 130 developing nations wants ever higher figures beyond 2020. The United States, the European Union and other rich nations do not want to guarantee higher figures. There are many uncertainties about how to count the money. Developing nations question estimates by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that climate finance reached \$62 billion in 2014.

Long-term goal

Hosts France said in a Nov 19 note that many countries favor the phrase "global transformation towards low-emission and climate resilient societies" to signal the long-term shift from fossil fuels towards greener energy. But that may be too vague for some. The Group of Seven industrialized nations set a target in June of a decarbonisation of the world economy this century. Some developing nations, and many climate activists, want a far tougher target of phasing out fossil fuels by 2050. China and India, heavily

dependent on coal, are among those reluctant to set clear dates for giving up fossil fuels they see as vital to lift millions from poverty. Developing nations want a long-term mechanism to help them cope with loss and damage from disasters such as typhoons or the impacts of a creeping rise of sea level rise. All governments agreed to set up a

loss and damage mechanism in 2013 but it has yet to do any substantial work and is up for review in 2016. France's note said nations want it included in the Paris deal. The United States and many other rich nations are wary, saying they will not sign up to any text that implies "compensation" or "liability" - fearing it expose them to a mass of claims linked to their greenhouse gas emissions.

Raising ambition

The United Nations says promises by about 170 nations to curb greenhouse gas emissions beyond 2020, made in the run-up to Paris, are too weak to limit rising temperatures to an agreed 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times. That means there will have to be a system to ratchet up action. France's Nov 19 note says many nations want a first "global stocktaking" in 2018-19. A weak agreement would delay any reviews until 2020 or 2025. France's note says a stock taking would merely identify "where we stand collectively" in fighting climate change, and not criticize laggards. It would help lay the basis for new rounds of promises to combat warming.

Legal force

All nations agreed in 2011 that the Paris deal will have some form of "legal force". They left open about whether that meant a treaty under international law or a looser deal anchored in each nation's domestic laws. Many developing nations and the European Union favour a binding treaty, or protocol. But the United States and China, among those reluctant to sign up for international oversight, prefer an accord based on domestic laws and regulations. — Reuters



SHANGHAI: Photo shows cars on an elevated road on a heavy polluted day in Shanghai. Locking in an action plan to cap global warming at two degrees Celsius will be the ultimate yardstick for success or failure at the Paris climate summit that opens on November 30. — AFP

WORLD LEADERS SEEK NEW PATH TO SLOW WARMING OF PLANET

2015 SET TO BE WARMEST ON RECORD

PARIS: Next week, in the waning days of what is set to be the hottest year on record, world leaders meet on the outskirts of Paris for a summit that seeks nothing less than to steer the global economy away from its ever-growing reliance on fossil fuels. The challenge is enormous and has proven elusive in the past. The UN-sponsored talks are aimed at getting 195 countries to agree on a path for cutting the greenhouse gas emissions which scientists say have raised global temperatures and begun upending the earth's climate.

Opening the summit at Le Bourget on Nov 30, heads of government from big carbon burning countries such as US President Barack Obama and China's Xi Jinping will seek common cause with leaders from the smallest emitters in Africa and island states. When it concludes two weeks later on Dec 11 - give or take a couple of days for last-minute wrangling - their negotiators are likely to claim success in committing both rich and developing nations to weaning the world off the coal and oil resources that gave rise to the Industrial Revolution. "Done right, it will shape the economy of the 21st century," said Andrew Steer, head of the World Resources Institute think-tank. Done wrong, critics warn, the consequences could be catastrophic.

For climate scientists who overwhelmingly say that continuing to burn carbon even at today's pace will raise global temperatures by several degrees, a weak agreement will trigger inhospitable changes to the earth's climate systems. A hotter planet would see dire - if hard to perfectly predict - effects: rising seas, more intense storms and droughts on land and extinction for vast numbers of life forms in warmer, more acidic oceans. Yet an array of other voices contend that severing the global economy from its foundations on coal, oil and gas risks unleashing pain of its own: rising energy costs that would deny the world's poor affordable power essential to improving their lives, and wound entire industries in wealthy countries.

Reconciling those forces has stumbled in past UN-backed talks. The last attempt to strike a global agreement collapsed in rancor in Copenhagen in 2009, when a few developing countries balked at a deal they said did not go far enough in requiring industrialized nations to cut their emissions. Chastened by Copenhagen and aware that another failure could dissolve any remaining appetite for collective action, expectations for Paris have been kept lower. And the mood will be somber, amid tight security after the attacks that killed 130 people in Paris.

From draft to deal

Negotiators still have to resolve deep differences in a 51-page draft but much of the work, including new policies and regulations meant to curtail high-carbon energy use, has already been done back home. About 170 countries have submitted plans for curbing emissions beyond 2020 - including some like Sudan or Bolivia that blocked the deal in Copenhagen. China, reluctant to submit to any outside over-

sight of its carbon pledges six years ago, has promised to steer its coal-powered economy onto a greener path. And there will be no repeat of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol that mandated specific reductions for rich nations. The agreement is unlikely to carry the force of international law, something the European Union wants dearly but the United States opposes.

2015 on track

Instead, most nations now seem willing to commit to reviews of their policies every five years as a means of holding each other to account. For those pushing a tough accord, the urgency has been cranked up by the latest temperature data: 2015 is on track to be the warmest since records began in the mid-19th century. Several scientific studies project that pledges made so far will - at best - hold the world to temperature rises of anywhere from 2.7 degrees to 3 or even 3.5 above pre-industrial times by 2100. That's well above an agreed 2-degree UN limit.

But there is optimism, too. Leaders of all major emitting countries have expressed support for an accord. Businesses, city mayors and religious leaders including Pope Francis have urged greater action to protect the environment. Even Europe's major oil companies, such as BP and Royal Dutch Shell, say they favor a price on carbon. "It's almost inconceivable that there won't be an agreement given the number of leaders who have called for it," says Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists. And big shifts in energy use are under way.

Campaigns calling for investors to divest from high carbon industries have added pressure on an already squeezed coal industry. US coal companies including Patriot Coal Corp and Walter Energy Inc have filed for bankruptcy as tighter regulations, falling energy prices and an economic slowdown in China have taken a toll. The UN says investment in renewable energy has grown 500 percent since 2004 to \$270 billion in 2014, and prices have fallen sharply. Britain, home of the Industrial Revolution, now plans to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2025. Even some OPEC nations are feeling the benefits of falling prices of renewables such as solar photovoltaics (PV). "Solar PV is cheaper than gas - even at Abu Dhabi prices," said Ahmad Belhou, chief executive of the United Arab Emirates green energy firm Masdar.

Many developing nations say the biggest obstacle to a deal in Paris is to secure new financing to help curb their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to changes in their climate, building flood defenses on rivers, for example, or shifting to drought-resistant crops.

Rich nations promised in Copenhagen to mobilize \$100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020, but are resisting targets for higher amounts beyond that. By one estimate finance reached \$62 billion in 2014. Indeed success in Paris may ride on that age-old argument of who pays: most developing countries have made their own promises contingent upon financing from the wealthier states. — Reuters



VARGEM: A man checks cracked ground in an area which used to be underwater at the Jaguari dam, in Vargem, 100km from Sao Paulo, during a drought affecting Sao Paulo state, Brazil. — AFP



WENLING: Vehicles and residents make their way through a flooded street in Wenling, in eastern China's Zhejiang province after strong storms hit the area during Typhoon Soudelor's landfall. Weather-related disasters have grown more frequent over the last 20 years, claiming more than 600,000 lives, the UN said yesterday, issuing a further call for nations to strike a landmark deal on climate change. — AFP

CLIMATE CHANGE ROOT CAUSE OF SYRIA WAR AND TERRORISM: PRINCE CHARLES 'NATURE'S BANK IS GOING BUST'

LONDON: Britain's Prince Charles has pointed to the world's failure to tackle climate change as a root cause of the civil war in Syria, terrorism and the consequent refugee crisis engulfing Europe. The heir to the British throne is due to give a keynote speech at the opening of a global climate summit in Paris next week where 118 leaders will gather to try to nail down a deal to limit rising greenhouse gas emissions.

The prince said in an interview with Sky News, to be aired on Monday and recorded before the Nov 13 attacks in Paris, that such symptoms were a "classic case of not dealing with the problem". "Some of us were saying 20 something years ago that if we didn't tackle

these issues, you would see ever greater conflict over scarce resources and ever greater difficulties over drought, and the accumulating effect of climate change which means that people have to move," he said.

"And in fact there's very good evidence indeed that one of the major reasons for this horror in Syria, funnily enough, was a drought that lasted for about five or six years, which meant that huge numbers of people in the end had to leave the land but increasingly they came into the cities." Britain's royal family is expected to stay out of politics, and the 67-year-old prince has faced accusations of meddling in the past when he has spoken out about climate change

and sustainability.

Asked in the interview, which Sky said was filmed three weeks ago, whether there was direct link between climate change, conflict and terrorism, Charles said: "Absolutely." "We never deal with the underlying root cause which regrettably is what we're doing to our natural environment," he said, noting that far greater problems lay ahead if climate change was not addressed immediately. Even in a time of austerity, the world could not afford not to act, he said. "I mean the difficulties in 2008 with the financial crash - that was a banking crisis. But we're now facing a real possibility of nature's bank going bust," he said. — Reuters

INDIA SEEKS 'CLIMATE JUSTICE' FOR THE POOR NATIONS AT PARIS TALKS

NEW DELHI: India will urge rich nations to deliver "climate justice" for developing countries at a major environmental conference in Paris later this month, the environment minister has said in an interview with AFP. Prakash Javadekar called on industrialized countries to commit to more stringent targets to free up "carbon space" for the developing world to generate emissions as a necessary byproduct of growth. The UN COP21 conference starting on November 30 will bring representatives of 190 nations together to seek a groundbreaking global agreement on curbing Earth-warming emissions.

"We want climate justice for the billions of poor of this world," the environment minister said in New Delhi, adding that the burden for curbing emissions should lie with developed economies. "India and the developing world has taken more than their fair share (of responsibility) and the developed world has taken much less than their fair share, much less than their capacity," Javadekar said. India will push for a 'polluter pays' policy in Paris, he added, a principle whereby polluting countries bear the cost of the environmental damage they cause. Last month India, the world's third biggest carbon-emitting country, vowed to slash carbon intensity - the amount of pollution per dollar of GDP-by up to 35 percent by 2030.

But unlike top two emitters the United States and China, India has balked at committing to major carbon reduction targets, instead defiantly vowing to double coal production by 2020. It argues stricter emissions targets would compromise efforts to boost living standards of more than a quarter of its 1.2 billion population which lives in poverty. Javadekar also called on wealthy countries to support the developing world in dealing with the effects of climate change, including the increasing frequency of floods, drought

and erratic monsoons. "The developed world needs to walk their talk on finance and technology. Technology brings the solutions... It has to be made available at an affordable cost," he said.

'Taking the brunt'

India has pledged to generate 40 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. Yet Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been insistent on increasing coal use to fulfill an election promise to end crippling blackouts and bring power to more than 300 million Indians living without electricity. US President Barack Obama has repeatedly urged Modi to act on the environment, saying during the premier's visit in

September that "India's leadership in this upcoming conference will set the tone not just for today but for decades to come".

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius visited Delhi on Friday as part of a last-minute tour of major emerging economies to ensure they are on board for an agreement in Paris. But India points out that it needs billions of dollars just to reach its current goal of 175,000 megawatts of green energy by 2022, up from 30,000 at the moment. "There is this central dilemma between the costs that you need to put in now and the climate benefits that you get later," Ajay Mathur, chief of the government's Bureau of Energy Efficiency said in a separate interview in Delhi. — AFP



BOTTROP: Photo shows steam rising from a coke producing plant in Bottrop, western Germany. — AFP



Bees swarm around honeycomb at the Bayer North American Bee Care Center in Research Triangle Park, NC. — AP photos



Sarah Myers (right) a manager at the Bayer North American Bee Care Center, shows a tray of bees to St Thomas More Academy student Maria Pompi (left) during a tour of the center in Research Triangle Park, NC.

BEE DIE-OFFS COULD DISRUPT THE HUMAN FOOD CHAIN

PESTICIDE-MAKERS POINT TO OTHER CULPRITS IN BEE DIE-OFFS



CALIFORNIA: File photo shows Nola, a northern white rhinoceros, in her enclosure at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in Escondido, Calif. — AP

ENDANGERED RHINO DIES IN US ZOO; 3 REMAINING WORLDWIDE

LOS ANGELES: A northern white rhinoceros, one of just four left on Earth, died on Sunday at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park after suffering from a bacterial infection and age-related health issues, zoo officials said. Nola, a 41-year-old rhino brought to the Southern California park in 1989 as part of a breeding program, took a turn for the worse over the weekend following a Nov 13 surgical procedure to drain a large pelvic abscess identified as the infection source, the zoo said in a statement. The 4,000-pound (1,800-kg) rhino had been placed under constant veterinary watch last week as her appetite and activity levels declined. After her condition deteriorated significantly, caretakers decided to euthanize the animal, zoo officials said.

"Nola was an iconic animal, not only at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, but worldwide," the zoo said. "Through the years, millions of people learned about Nola and the plight of rhinos in the wild through visits to the Safari Park, numerous media stories and social media posts." Her gentle disposition and affinity for having her back scratched made her a favorite of zoo staff. Northern white rhinos were declared extinct in the wild in 2008 because of poaching for their horns, prized on the

black market for their supposed medicinal properties in some cultures.

Nola was the only member of her kind left in captivity in the Western Hemisphere. With her death, just three others remain, all at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, zoo officials said. Nola was born in the wild in Sudan and captured at about 2 years of age, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. She arrived in California from a Czech zoo. Her death came weeks after six southern white rhinos, close cousins of northern whites, were brought to San Diego from South Africa in an effort to bring Nola's kind back from the brink of extinction.

Scientists remain unsure whether northern and southern white rhinos are two distinct species or subspecies of each other. Studies are under way to determine if southern whites, of which fewer than 20,000 are estimated to remain in the wild, are genetically similar enough to serve as maternal surrogates for implanted embryos that would be developed from northern white rhino DNA, zoo spokeswoman Christina Simmons said. Wildlife experts say southern white rhinos are in dire straits, too, killed by poachers at the rate of three a day. — Reuters

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK: In a Nordic-inspired building tucked in a corner of the Bayer CropScience North American headquarters, high school students wander through 6,000 square feet dedicated entirely to the specialness of bees. Children taste different types of honey and examine the differences between honeybee and carpenter bee specimens.

The pesticide maker highlights its work to foster the insects around the world, welcoming school-age children at the site built apart from plant research labs and executive offices. Amid the displays are bottles of Bayer pesticides, something that struck Cara Garrison, a student at Raleigh's St Thomas More Academy, as odd. "I thought it was a little weird to see some of that among all the bee-related things," Garrison said. "I was like, is that supposed to be there?" That display in that building captures Bayer's multi-billion-dollar balancing act.

Tobacco-derived chemicals

Some of those pesticides contain tobacco-derived chemicals called neonicotinoids that many researchers say play a role in declining bee populations. Bayer spent \$12 million last year, when it earned profits of more than \$3.6 billion, promoting bee health as the world's top neonic maker and No 2 Syngenta fend off suggestions the chemicals are bee-killers. Both companies are fighting pressure from regulators in the US and Europe with publicity campaigns and lobbying aimed at telling people that neonics are beneficial and safe when used correctly, and that bees face greater peril from parasites, pathogens and poor diets as wild flowering plants diminish.

Bee die-offs could disrupt the human food chain, with a third of the foods consumed by Americans and Europeans dependent on pollinators like them. Researchers suspect neonic pesticides play some role in reported die-offs and the mysterious Colony Collapse Disorder. But they don't know how much. A comparison of more than three dozen pesticides found neonics produced by Bayer CropScience and Syngenta among the chemicals most toxic to bees, according to a September study by USDA researchers.

Bayer, Syngenta and Monsanto - which coats its seeds with neonics - are encouraging nonprofits, landowners and governments to plant more flowers and other plants bees need to feed. Their representatives are speaking at beekeepers' conferences and visiting agricultural research universities. Besides inviting visitors to bee centers on its corporate campuses outside Raleigh, North Carolina, and Monheim, Germany, Bayer offers teachers a downloadable digital science lesson about bees. A company Twitter feed promotes the benefits of neonics and studies that refute their link to bee deaths, often using the hashtag #FeedABee.

Biggest bee killer

A global agro-chemical trade magazine recently honored Bayer's pro-bees campaign for what judges said was its effort "to broaden understanding and shift conversation from blaming solely pesticides towards a multiplicity of factors." Critics say that is all little more

than propaganda akin to the cigarette industry's efforts to confound people by highlighting inconclusive science. "I call it a red herring. You claim that ours isn't the only problem, so therefore it isn't a problem," said Massachusetts beekeeper Dick Callahan, a retired executive with a doctorate in entomology who co-authored a Harvard study on the effects of neonics on honeybees. The companies blame a parasitic mite as the biggest bee-killer. Callahan said while the mite may be the greatest adversary of his honeybees, it doesn't explain why mite-free bumble bees are also disappearing.

Neonics were a breakthrough because they can be used to coat seeds rather than sprayed over plants. As the plant sprouts, the chemical is incorporated into every part of it - from roots, to stalk, to the flowers that attract bees and butterflies. Without neonics, growers could face extensive crop losses since old pesticides have been phased out because of the hazards they posed to humans and wildlife, said Dominic Reising, an insect researcher at North Carolina State University who advises farmers. "I think the final verdict is still out there" on how large a role neonics play in bee deaths, Reising said. "I would say clearly there's something there, but is it one percent? Ten percent? Ninety percent? We don't know."

Bayer produces three of the world's top five neonic pesticides in a worldwide market estimated to be worth about \$3 billion, with Bayer's two top-selling products taking about half the market, said Sanjiv Rana, editor-in-chief of Agrow, a trade publication for the agricultural chemicals industry. Syngenta's best-

selling neonic is worth about \$1 billion in annual sales, Rana said. Becky Langer, the Bayer CropScience manager for US bee health, denied the company's 4-year-old campaign is related to the company's neonic sales. It grew out of decades of research on the interaction of chemicals and the crucial pollinators, she said.

Bee numbers

"One didn't pop up because of the other," said Langer, whose center oversees bee field research locations in North Carolina, California and Ontario, Canada. She said: "Bee numbers are actually not declining." But that depends how you count. On the one hand, figures from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the US Department of Agriculture show there are more bee colonies now than 30 years ago. But those numbers can be deceiving since beekeepers routinely separate a healthy hive into two, a practice that helps overcome accidental annual losses of about 18 percent.

Beekeeper Steve Hildebrand, who keeps about 20 hives outside Raleigh, annually divides healthy colonies to replace dead ones. "It's harder to keep bees than it used to be," he said. "It seems to get harder every year." Losses in the US the past five years have been especially acute, with reported annual losses of 30 percent to 45 percent, according to a study authored by researchers including the University of Maryland's Dennis vanEngelsdorp. The heavy death toll continues through the spring and summer, when bee populations are collecting pollen and should be their healthiest, the study said. —AP

FEAR OF CHOLERA AND FLOODS AS BURUNDI REFUGEES SCRAMBLE IN TANZANIAN CAMPS

NAIROBI: Heavy rains, flooding and a spike in new arrivals could threaten the lives of over 110,000 Burundian refugees in overcrowded camps in Tanzania, six aid agencies said on Monday, amid warnings of rising political tension in Burundi. Life-threatening malaria and diarrhoea have been spreading in Nyarugusu, the world's third largest refugee camp, since the rainy season began, and damage caused by a powerful El Nino has left aid agencies short of funds throughout east Africa.

"Refugees are arriving in their hundreds every day," the agencies, which include Oxfam, Save the Children and HelpAge International, said in a statement. "Many people are still living in overcrowded mass shelters months after their arrival, where wet floors and cramped conditions mean that the risk of respiratory infections and waterborne diseases is high." The agencies also fear a fresh outbreak of cholera, which killed 33 Burundian refugees in western Tanzania in May, as heavy rain sometimes makes toilets overflow and flood shelters. In April there was an upsurge in arrivals in the camps, which host almost 180,000 Burundian and Congolese refugees, after Burundian President

Pierre Nkurunziza made the controversial decision to run for a third term. At least 240 people were killed and more than 200,000 fled to neighboring states during the ensuing violence.

Nkurunziza won a disputed election in July, since when there have been violent clashes between protesters and security forces in the capital, Bujumbura, and a series of targeted killings. "Reports of escalating political instability inside Burundi have prompted fears of a new exodus of refugees into neighboring countries, which would push the current limits of the camps in western Tanzania to breaking point," agencies said. Burundians in the camps are more vulnerable because they live in fragile emergency shelters, whereas Congolese refugees have sturdier ones because they have been in the camps for many years.

To reduce congestion in Nyarugusu, more than 50,000 refugees are gradually being moved to a second camp, Nduta, some 100 km north. A third camp, Mtendeli, is also planned. There were mass killings in Burundi in 1993, and the country's ethnic make-up mirrors that of neighboring Rwanda, where a genocide took place in 1994. —Reuters

CLINIC
PAGE

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AT MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT

EXCITING PACKAGES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Marina Hotel Kuwait will officially kick off the holiday season with its festive tailor-made packages for guests this year. The special promotion starts from November 2015 to guarantee a memorable experience. Pamper yourself and your loved one this month and enjoy the charm of gen-

uine Arabian hospitality with a room for two persons inclusive of buffet breakfast and free access to the hotel's health club.

Throughout the month, the hotel's culinary team will pull out all stops to offer guests unique and diverse cuisines at the hotel's two renowned restaurants. Enjoy the

international buffet breakfast and the relaxed setting of The Six Palms' restaurant. The Atlantis restaurant which specializes in International a cuisine is the ideal place to be for lunch and dinner. It offers a 20 percent discount on lunch and dinner buffet and an exceptional choice for the mouth-watering

aroma of its fresh menu choices with a magnificent sea view.

With a multitude of facilities and services, guest can break the daily routine and enjoy the vibrant white sands of the private beach along with the state of the art Coral Reef Health Club facilities and amenities all in close

proximity to Marina Mall and the Crescent, which is an ideal location for family leisure.

Marina Hotel Kuwait offers the perfect venue for the holiday season under the twinkling lights and the cool breeze of the Arabian coast. For more information, please visit our website: www.marinahotel.com.



KENNY BELAEY PERFORMS FOUR TRIAL BIKING SHOWS IN KUWAIT

Once again, Red Bull Kuwait strives to deliver the best athletic events to sports enthusiasts, this time by inviting its brilliant Trial Biker Kenny Belaey from Belgium to perform in Kuwait. Known as "The Magician", Belaey will perform four shows from 25-27 November. He will commence his tour at Kuwait University Shuwaikh on

Wednesday November 25th at 1pm, followed by another show at AUK on Thursday, November 26th at 1pm.

Belaey will also perform at the Marina Crescent on Thursday and Friday November 26th and 27th with two shows a day (7:00 pm and 9:00 pm). Red Bull invites you to join and witness trial biking like you have never seen

before. "I am happy to be in Kuwait, this is my first visit and I hope people will enjoy my shows." Said Kenny Belaey. Since his first junior outing in 1992, at the age of nine, the Red Bull athlete has produced an awesome list of achievement including two Cadet World Championships, two Junior World Championships, a Junior European

Championship, four Elite World Championships, an incredible six Elite World Cups, and three Elite European Championship titles. After seeing the tricks audiences are left wondering how he manages to move on a bicycle in the way that he does. From road to the street to walls, buildings and rails the city holds no limits for a trial rider.

Greetings



Many many happy returns of the day to Jannatul Al Jalal, who celebrates her 8th birthday on 25th November 2015. Greetings from her father Mohammad Jalaluddin (RTV), mother Bethee Begum, uncle Abdul Motaleb, Alauddin, Al Amin Rana, Al Amin Sawpon, Abdul Kader Mollah, Chunoo Mollah, Al Amin and all family members and, friends and relatives in Bangladesh and Kuwait.

BRIDGE RESULTS

A Bridge tournament was played on Wednesday, the 21st of October 2015. The results were as follows:

- First - Khaled Al Qubaidi - Samuel Jacobs
- Second - Nuamn Al Turki - Ahmed Saleh Al Roumi
- Third - Mustafa Saad - Abdul Salam Ibrahim
- Fourth - Abdul Aziz Dashti - Mohd Towfiq
- Fifth - Roula Akil - Syed Imran
- Sixth - Ahmed Alruaweh - Mark Madeley

We conduct duplicate Bridge tournaments every Sunday and Wednesday at 19:30 at the Graduates Club, next to Kuwait Engineering society. Interested Bridge pairs or individual players please contact Mohammed Merchant. Phone number 24815622 / 24841158 / 99612287.



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently met members of the 'Kuwaiti Positivity' voluntary team, led by chairperson Narjis Al-Shatti, and lauded their efforts in participating in environmental activities held around the governorate.

SOORYA INDIA FESTIVAL ON NOV 27

In association with UAE Exchange, Soorya Kuwait Chapter will stage Soorya India Festival 2014, on Friday, November 27, 2015, at the Indian Community School Auditorium (Senior), Salmiya at 7:00 pm. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain will inaugurate the festival, aiming to promote International integration through culture.

Conceived by Soorya Krishnamurthy, the founder of Soorya India Stage and Film Society, Soorya will be presenting a Bharatanatyam recital by Sreelatha Vinod, a Kathak by Rajendra Gangani and an Odissi trio by Raul Acharya, Sonali Mahapatra and Gayatri Ranbir, all renowned artists.

A growing dancer, Sreelatha Vinod will delight with her beautiful presence as she has an innate grace to charm the audience. Famous Kathak exponent Rajendra Gangani will enthrall the audience with his performance and the Odissi Trio will captivate with their scintillating performances, officials added. "The art lovers of Kuwait will have a new experience with the above combination of three oldest dances forms of India, officials added.

As usual, the entry will be strictly through invitations. Soorya India, led by versatile mastermind Soorya Krishnamurthy, is present in 36 countries. It has been propagating the art of India outside the country for the last 18 years with active support of its Chief Patron Dr B R Shetty, Managing Director, NMC Group of Companies.



ACK ORGANIZES 'SMART 2015' CONFERENCE

By Faten Omar

The International Conference on Sustainable Mobility Applications, Renewables and Technology (SMART2015) was held yesterday at Movenpick Hotel and Resort Al Bida'a. The conference was organized by the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) in collaboration with Virginia Tech and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), and with the technical co-sponsorship of The IEEE Industry Applications, Power and Energy, and Power Electronics Societies. The conference concludes on the 25th of November.

During his speech, ACK Chairman Abdullah Al-Sharhan said "In this meeting of minds, we have 80 researchers from 28 countries who came to Kuwait to discuss subjects which focus on creating a wiser use of resources through energy and development of sustainable energy."

"The whole world is oriented towards nurturing natural and renewable energy in a move towards enhancing sustainability of energy production and the environmental friendliness. Natural and renewable energy resources include solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass energy. Accordingly, it is essential to integrate smart grids within plants driving these resources," Sharhan added.

Sharing experiences

Meanwhile, Dr Mohamed Gaith, Chairman of SMART2015, expressed his happiness of being part of the first International Conference on Sustainable Mobility Applications, Renewables and Technology that will address state of the



ACK Chairman Abdullah Al-Sharhan attends the conference.

—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

art green energies-related researches over multidisciplinary engineering disciplines.

"SMART2015 will be an opportunity to share scientific, technical, business and social experiences," he said. "This conference shall be a valuable opportunity to meet and discuss new trends and challenges for better exploitation of friendly environment energies. Our technical

program is rich and varied with four keynote speeches and around 90 technical papers split between three parallel oral sessions and 1 poster session each day."

Ahmad Besharah spoke on behalf of KFAS. He praised the ACK's efforts in his speech, saying



SMART 2015 Chairman Mohamed Gaith speaks at the conference.

that "ACK has created a great learning environment and now it is one of the leading educational institutions in Kuwait, strongly contributing to the employment sector and continuing to produce knowledgeable, skilled and professional candidates for Kuwait's growing economy." "The world is witnessing remarkable progress in the field of renewable energy, and each state

has its own policy and programs of action related to the improvement of sustainable energy for the benefit of society. This conference will address the latest research and technology related to sustainable energy in the various fields of engineering that will help Kuwait and



Ahmad Besharah speaks on behalf of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science

the GCC countries in the future," he added.

Research and development

The International Conference covered topics related to the research and development of technologies, systems, devices and strategies dedicated to sustainable energy and mobility in different engineering fields, including

Sustainable energy systems (Solar, Wind, Biomass, Geothermal, Wave, Tidal, Waterfall and pumped-storage), Sustainable mobility systems (EVs, HEVs, Clean ICEs, Range extenders, Biofuels, Automotive energy management strategies, Embedded control systems), Energy conversion systems (Electric machine design, analysis, and control, Aerodynamics, Noise, vibration EMI and EMC, Static converter design, analysis, and control, Reliability, diagnostics, and fault-tolerance capability, Cooling systems, Efficiency assessment and enhancement), Energy storage and distribution (Batteries and ultracapacitors, Conductive and inductive charging infrastructures, Fuel cells and hydrogen infrastructure, Flywheel storage, DC/AC distribution, Smart grid, ICT for sustainable energy), Petroleum sustainable process (Petroleum sustainable technologies, Smart fields, Enhanced oil recovery, Water management, Unconventional reservoirs, Cost-effectiveness), Green buildings (Energy efficiency in buildings, Integration of renewable energies, Smart home, Sustainable construction materials and process, Water supply, Waste management, Recycling), and Social, economic and environmental impacts (National and youth programs, Education and employment, Market analysis, research and prediction, Economic benefits in short and long terms, Greenhouse gas emission reduction policies, Life cycle prediction and analysis, Safety).

BOOK FAIR SEMINAR DISCUSSES ROLE OF TRANSLATION IN HISTORY

The Kuwait International Book Fair hosted a seminar on translation in the Arab World, moderated by Dr Afrah Ali, and featured Dr Noemi Bandera, Dr Sadiq Johar and Dr Al-Momen Abdullah. Dr Ali spoke about the significant role of translation in spreading knowledge and serving civilization worldwide and throughout human history, and went on to speak about key works in the Arab and Islamic worlds

which were translated and served as bases for knowledge in Europe and the West.

Dr Bandera then spoke about translated publications between Arabic and Spanish, while Dr Johar focused on the history of translation between the Arabic and English languages. Meanwhile, Dr Abdullah highlighted the need to translate scientific publications instead of focusing on literature in the most part.



(From left) Dr Al-Momen Abdullah, Dr Afrah Ali, Dr Noemi Bandera and Dr Sadiq Johar attend the seminar. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

HEALTH MINISTRY HOLDS AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

As part of continuous awareness campaigns held by the Health Ministry through its medical centers around Kuwait, the Mahmoud Haji Haider Health Center in Jabriya and its Diabetes department held its annual awareness day. Patrons were offered free checkups for hypertension, blood sugar level, oxygen concentration, physical fitness, dental health, and foot care. Dr Fayeza Al-Mousawi was on hand along with her colleagues offering their advice and answering patients questions. Meanwhile, the Abdallah Al-Mubarak Health Center held its open awareness day on children's health. Consultations and means of dealing with children the right healthy way were given during the event, which was attended by many children, their parents and teachers. Dr Alaa Al-Kandari and her colleagues supervised the event, as they gave instructions and information to those present. Sebamed continues its support to such events and was present in both activities.



GULF BANK LAUNCHES 'ENTERTAINER' APP

Gulf Bank announced the launch of the 'Entertainer' app, an exciting new addition to the fastest and most rewarding loyalty program - Gulf Rewards. The 'Entertainer' app is Kuwait's first geo-locator based mobile application that gives customers instant exclusive offers in Kuwait, the UAE, and London. The offers are available instantly on your mobile phone and include deals at restaurants, hotels, spas, as well as offers on children's activities and interests.

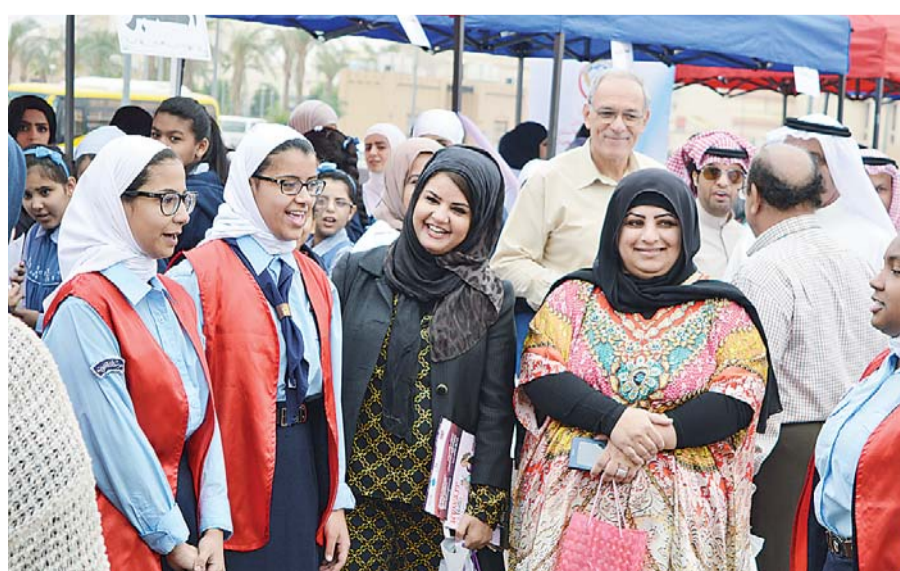
In addition to the 'Buy 1, Get 1 Free' offers from participating retail merchants in Kuwait, the UAE, and London, customers can also benefit from offers from free hotel nights at participating international hotels in over 25 countries including Malaysia, Thailand, UAE, Indonesia, Egypt, and other countries.

Customers are able to locate participating merchants through the geo-locator on their mobiles using Google Maps. Through the system they will receive instant offers at restaurants, entertainment venues, spas, and kid's activities. Every time a customer makes a payment transaction with a participating Gulf Bank credit card through the 'Entertainer' app, they will also earn points in the Gulf Rewards loyalty program, the fastest and most rewarding program in Kuwait. These Gulf Rewards points can be redeemed at any time for free travel and hotel stays worldwide.

The Gulf Bank 'Entertainer' app is now available for existing Gulf Bank credit card holders to download at App Store for iOS/iPhone and the Google Play Store for Android. You can also visit www.gulfbank.com to receive an activation code.

Cesar Gonzalez-Bueno, Chief Executive Officer at Gulf Bank, said: "Following the successful launch of the Gulf Rewards loyalty program we are pleased to offer this new, exciting addition to the program, a highly innovative free mobile app for existing Gulf Bank credit card holders called the 'Entertainer'. Gulf Bank's 'Entertainer' app, the first of its kind in Kuwait and launched exclusively by Gulf Bank, is easy to use and gives customers special instant discounts and many more exciting benefits in Kuwait, UAE, and London. We hope our customers will enjoy the great offers available on the 'Entertainer' app here in Kuwait and abroad."

To find out more about the Gulf Bank Entertainer app, customers can visit the bank's bilingual website at www.gulfbank.com, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches in Kuwait.



CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (19/11/2015 TO 25/11/2015)

SHARQIA-1
 THE FORGOTTEN 12:45 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 2:45 PM
 SPECTRE 4:45 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 7:45 PM
 SPECTRE 9:45 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 12:45 AM

SHARQIA-2
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 1:15 PM
 GOOSEBUMPS 1:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 4:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 6:45 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 9:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 12:15 AM

SHARQIA-3
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 11:30 AM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 2:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 5:30 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 8:45 PM
 SPECTRE 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-1
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 11:30 AM
 THE FORGOTTEN 1:30 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 3:30 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 5:30 PM
 SPECTRE 7:30 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 10:30 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 12:30 AM

MUHALAB-2
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 11:45 AM
 SPECTRE 1:45 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 4:45 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 8:00 PM
 SPECTRE 11:30 PM

MUHALAB-3
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 12:45 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 3:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 6:15 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 9:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 11:45 PM

FANAR-1
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 11:45 AM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 1:45 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 3:45 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 5:45 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 7:45 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 10:30 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 12:30 AM

FANAR-2
 SPECTRE 11:45 AM
 SPECTRE 2:45 PM
 SPECTRE 5:45 PM
 SPECTRE 8:45 PM
 SPECTRE 11:45 PM

FANAR-3
 TIGER HOUSE 12:00 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 2:00 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 4:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 6:00 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 9:30 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 12:45 AM

MARINA-1
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 12:45 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 2:45 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 4:45 PM
 PINOCCHIO 6:45 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 8:45 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 10:45 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 12:45 AM

MARINA-2
 SPECTRE 12:30 PM
 SPECTRE 3:30 PM
 SPECTRE 6:30 PM
 SPECTRE 9:30 PM
 SPECTRE 12:30 AM

MARINA-3
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 1:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 3:45 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 6:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 9:15 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 12:05 AM

AVENUES-1
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 12:15 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 2:30 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 4:45 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 7:00 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 9:15 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 11:30 PM

AVENUES-2
 PINOCCHIO 12:00 PM
 PINOCCHIO 2:15 PM
 PINOCCHIO 4:30 PM
 PINOCCHIO 6:45 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 9:00 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 11:15 PM
 ATOMIC EDEN 1:15 AM

AVENUES-3
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 1:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 4:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 7:00 PM
 SAT+SUN+TUE+WED 7:00 PM
 AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY-Malayalam THU+FRI+MON 7:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 10:00 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 1:00 AM
 THE FORGOTTEN 10:15 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 12:30 AM

360° 1
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 11:45 AM
 SPECTRE 2:00 PM
 SPECTRE 5:00 PM
 SPECTRE 8:00 PM
 SPECTRE 11:00 PM

360° 2
 TIGER HOUSE 12:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 2:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 4:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 6:45 PM
 ARBA'A KOTCHINA 8:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 10:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 12:45 AM

360° 3
 PINOCCHIO 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

AL-KOUT.1
 TIGER HOUSE 11:30 AM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 1:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 4:15 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 7:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 9:45 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 12:30 AM

AL-KOUT.2
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 12:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 2:45 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 5:30 PM
 THE FORGOTTEN 7:30 PM

THE FORGOTTEN 9:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 11:30 PM

AL-KOUT.3
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 12:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 2:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 4:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 6:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 8:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 10:45 PM
 TIGER HOUSE 12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.4
 SPECTRE 12:15 PM
 SPECTRE 3:15 PM
 SPECTRE 6:15 PM
 SPECTRE 9:15 PM
 SPECTRE 12:15 AM

BAIRAQ-1
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 12:45 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 3:45 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 6:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 9:15 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 12:05 AM

BAIRAQ-2
 SPECTRE 12:30 PM
 PINOCCHIO 1:30 PM
 SPECTRE 3:30 PM
 PINOCCHIO 6:45 PM
 SPECTRE 8:45 PM
 SPECTRE 11:45 PM

BAIRAQ-3
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 1:00 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 2:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 4:15 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 7:30 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 10:45 PM
 FIELD OF LOST SHOES 12:45 AM

PLAZA
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 3:45 PM
 AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY-Malayalam 7:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 10:00 PM

LAILA
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 4:00 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 23:30 PM
 SPECTRE 7:15 PM
 NO WED
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 10:15 PM

AJIAL.1
 AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY-Malayalam 3:30 PM
 AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY-Malayalam 6:30 PM
 AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY-Malayalam 9:30 PM

AJIAL.2
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 3:30 PM
 AKHIL-Telugu 3:30 PM
 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 6:15 PM
 AKHIL-Telugu 6:15 PM
 AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY-Malayalam 9:00 PM

AJIAL.3
 VEDHALAM-Tamil 4:00 PM
 THOONGAVANAM-Tamil 7:00 PM
 VEDHALAM-Tamil 9:45 PM

AJIAL.4
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 3:30 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 6:45 PM
 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO 10:00 P

FOR RENT

Surra, 3 / 4
 Bedroom Villa
 With Large
 Garden

No Agents Please!

Contact:
99653928
99734071

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Fahad Habib Dadapeer holder of Indian Passport No. G8813498 hereby change my name to Fahad Habib, Gadde Street, Rajampet, A.P. (C 5084) **24-11-2015**

Farida D/o Ismail, holder of Indian Passport No. J1328035 hereby change my name to Farida Pakawala, 16-Rituvan Collectorate, Paricer Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh. (C 5082) **22-11-2015**

Old name Murtaza, new name Murtaza Shabbir Saifuddin, Address - Dhiya New Abadi, VPO Partapur,

SITUATION VACANT

Driver needed for Kuwaiti Family, full time. Call: 6062330 (C 5080) **21-11-2015**

MATRIMONIAL

Christian Orthodox Parents of specialist Doctor (innocent divorcee) invite proposals for their son 35/180 cms, working in London Hospital (UK). Contact: drproposal2015@gmail.com (C 5081)

NRI Orthodox parents invite proposals for their daughter, MSc Nurse, 30/150, born & brought up in Kuwait, Asst. Professor in Bangalore, shortly joining MOH, from parents of professionally qualified, well settled Orthodox boys. Contact: kurien_v@yahoo.com (C 5083)

Urgent Job Vacancy

1- Sales Supervisor

2- Sales Women (out door for Ladies Saloons)

3- Marketing Secretary

- Minimum 3 years Sales experience in Kuwait.
- Own a car & driving license. (for vacancy # 1&2)
- Salary + attractive commission.
- Transferable Residence .

Send your C.V & Personal photo, with job vacancy #
Email: info@ntcq8.com / Fax: 24761122

WANTED

- Pastry Chefs
 - Bakers
 - Baristas
- to work in cafe

Email:

gust1202102003@gust.edu.kw

Mobile:

966 77 197

REQUIRED

Heavy Duty Drivers
 Trailer Drivers

- Experience of Minimum 2 Years
- Should have a valid Kuwaiti License
- Joining Date: Immediately
- Salary: KD 350.000

Please send your CV to
 careers@future-services.net

contact : 22464371 - 66988072 - 67009511

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)



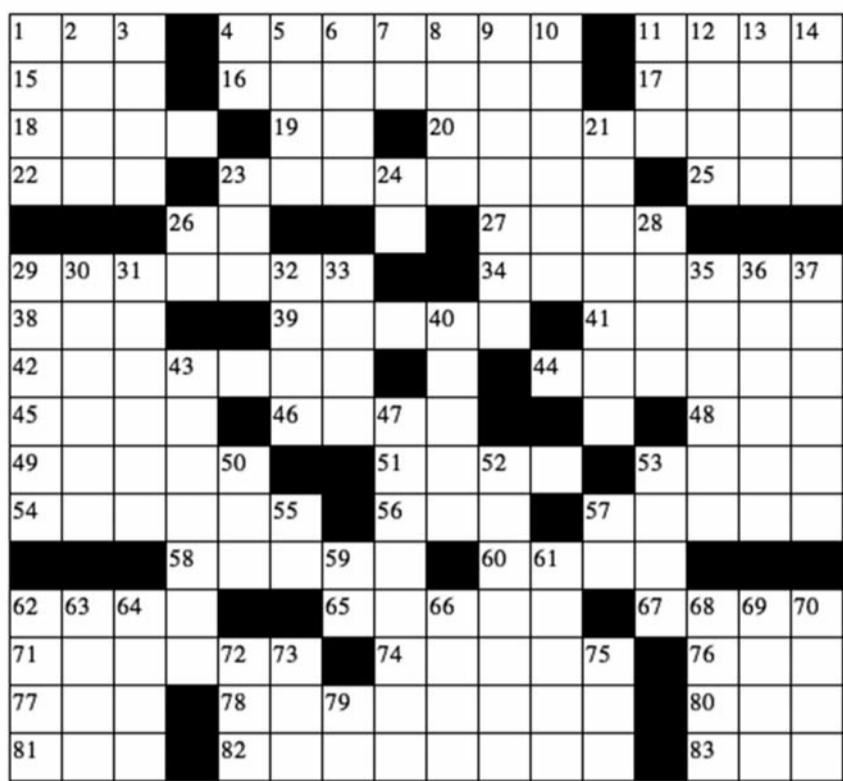
Flight Schedule

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

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 24/11/2015				Departure Flights on Tuesday 24/11/2015			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KNE	473	Jeddah	15:35
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
DHX	172	Bahrain	01:10	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	FBA	832	Al Najaf	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	JAD	302	Amman	16:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	JZR	238	Amman	17:30
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
ICV	673	MXP	04:20	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	764	Istanbul	05:55	MSR	615	Cairo	18:35
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	UAL	982	Bahrain	19:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	KAC	351	Kochi	20:55
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	KAC	343	Chennai	21:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	MSR	607	Luxor	21:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	KAC	331	Trivandrum	21:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
KAC	362	Colombo	09:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	381	Delhi	22:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	203	Lahore	22:10
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
JZR	1141	Dammam	11:35	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	23:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	FDB	060	Dubai	23:35
KAC	514	Tehran	14:10	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
				KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1089



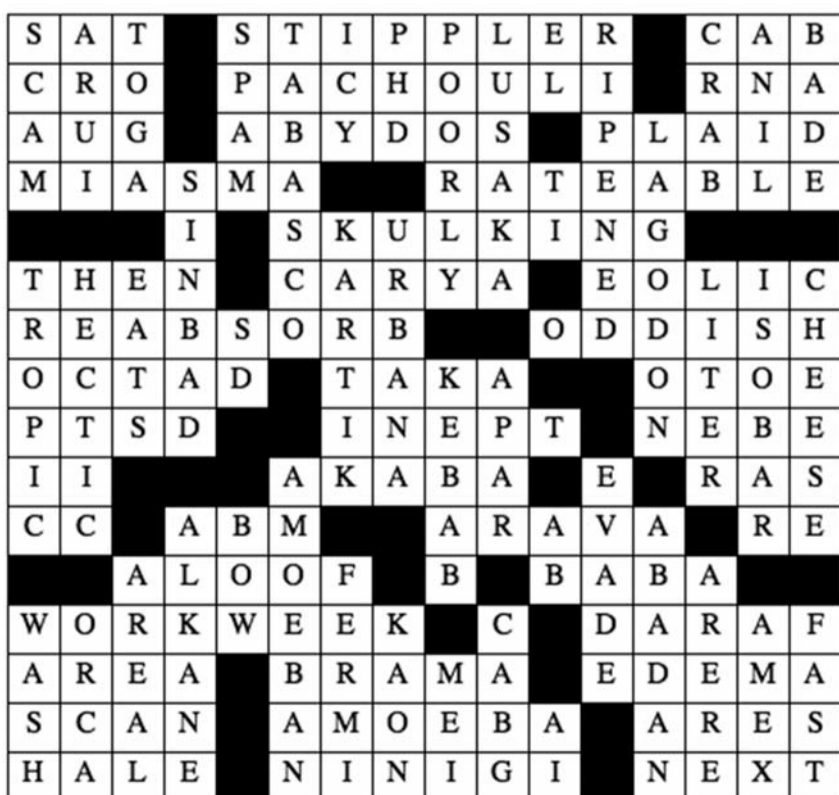
ACROSS

1. Tag the base runner to get him out.
4. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Carolinas.
11. Liver or meat or fowl finely minced or ground and variously seasoned.
15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
16. Entangle or catch in in or as if in a mesh.
17. Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
18. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
19. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
20. A process of using up or consuming again.
22. An associate degree in applied science.
25. A decree that prohibits something.
27. An informal term for a father.
29. A student enrolled in (or graduated from) Eton College.
34. Ancient Greek or Roman galley or warship having three tiers of oars on each side.
38. (Irish) The sea personified.
39. (Old Testament) The fourth son of Jacob who was forebear of one of the tribes of Israel.
41. (astronomy) An indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels.
42. A person who lacks good judgment.
44. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
45. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
46. A Hindu prince or king in India.
48. The sound made by a gentle blow.
49. Any of various plants of the genus Senna having pinnately compound leaves and showy usually yellow flowers.
51. Little known Kamarupan languages.
54. A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs.
56. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
58. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
60. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
62. American novelist (1909-1955).
65. A small faint zodiacal constellation in the southern hemisphere.
67. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
71. A member of the eastern branch of the Sioux.
74. The capital of Egypt and the largest city in Africa.
76. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
77. Being five more than one hundred fifty.
78. Lacking natural ease.
80. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
81. Grass mowed and cured for use as fodder.
82. The main land mass of a country or continent.
83. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.

DOWN

1. A quantity of no importance.
2. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
3. South African term for 'boss'.
4. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
5. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
6. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
7. An associate degree in nursing.
8. A person who is under the protection or in the custody of another.
9. An ability to understand a broad range of topics.
10. (zoology) Pertaining to alulae.
11. A proportion multiplied by 100.
12. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
13. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
14. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
21. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
23. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
24. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
26. A colorless explosive liquid that is volatile and poisonous and foul-smelling.
28. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
30. Any of several herbs of the genus Dipsacus native to the Old World having flower heads surrounded by spiny bracts.
31. Perennial northern temperate plant with toothed leaves and heads of small purplish-white flowers.
32. Slightly open.
33. Ctenophores lacking tentacles.
35. Related on the mother's side.
36. A port city and resort in Andalusia in southern Spain on the Mediterranean.
37. Any of numerous venomous fanged snakes of warmer parts of both hemispheres.
40. Jordan's port.
43. Telephone set with the mouthpiece and earpiece mounted on a single handle.
47. Of or relating to Jamaica (the island or the country) or to its inhabitants.
50. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
52. Egg-shaped terra-cotta wind instrument with a mouthpiece and finger holes.
53. Located at or near the back of an animal.
55. Half the width of an em.
57. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
59. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
61. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Thailand and Burmese borderlands.
63. Offering fun and gaiety.
64. A feeling of grudging admiration and desire to have something possessed by another.
66. (criminal law) Money that must be forfeited by the bondsman if an accused person fails to appear in court for trial.
68. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
69. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
70. A city in northern India.
72. Electronic warfare undertaken under direct control of an operational commander to locate sources of radiated electromagnetic energy for the purpose of immediate threat recognition.
73. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
75. Not divisible by two.
79. A state in New England.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Cautious optimism is your key phrase today. You might not be sitting on top of the world, but you're well on your way to reaching new heights. But don't attempt to stretch too far or you'll end up sabotaging your plans. Acknowledging the limitations of your schedule prevents disappointment for all parties involved. Running into a wall of resistance isn't much fun but once you accept the circumstances that are beyond your control, you can make corrective adjustments to your calendar. Instead of aspiring to conquer the world, find satisfaction from mastering yourself.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The contrast between your inner world and outer circumstances is glaringly obvious now. But there's no time for self-pity if your reality seems very far removed from your dreams. Rather than wistfully peering off into the distance today, your top priority is to meet your most immediate obligations. It's as if you're being tested by the cosmos. You must pass the current exam to graduate in order to be offered exciting opportunities in the weeks ahead.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your partner or close friend can be of assistance today, but you must be open to receiving their help. Unfortunately, you may be somewhat confused about what's most important now and might inadvertently brush your kindness aside to pursue a social distraction, instead. But rather than digging yourself out of a mess in a few days, maintain a close connection with those who encourage your ambitions. Demonstrate your wisdom by establishing your priorities early in the day and expressing gratitude to your support network.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Be careful of people coloring facts with enthusiasm to sell you a bill of goods now. If someone effusively declares how great everything will be in the future, take a deep breath and then ask a lot of hard-hitting questions. Others may not even realize the extent of their inflationary thinking today, but that doesn't mean you need to be their next unsuspecting victim. Retreating from the group for a while enables you to draw your own conclusions. Keeping yourself on track is as simple as following the trail to the truth.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Helping people less fortunate than you may be the most amazing medicine for your heart these days. It really doesn't matter whether you're nurturing your children or assisting at a local animal shelter as long as you creatively express your generous spirit. There's no reason to worry about the things you can't fix; just do what you can with your limited resources. Your most sincere actions are the best ones and they will gather momentum throughout the day. One good turn deserves another.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your home and family are the center of your world now. However, there's a catch; you may be feeling so distracted today that you want to shake things up. You're eager to expand your social horizons, but your time is restrained by more immediate emotional connections on the home front. Make sure that you know what you're getting into before you say yes. All the excitement you seek might be much closer than you realize.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You must tread lightly today when you tell others why you can't join in their activities. You intuitively realize you could be easily swayed off your own path if you get lost in someone else's cause today. Your current resistance makes you more vulnerable if someone pushes you to step beyond your comfort zone. You might easily overreact if you're swept up in a swirl of emotions. Nevertheless, you don't have to give in; you know what you feel now and no one can change your mind except for you.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are running on an adrenaline high today; your energy is buzzing, whether or not you drank any coffee this morning. Unfortunately, getting enough sleep may be a challenge now, since your system is on high alert and you are wired for action. Meanwhile, you know that you can't continue driving around in circles with nothing to show for your efforts. Take the time to check in with your inner GPS and make sure that you're still on course before you downshift and apply the gas.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your current idealism continues to draw you far outside of your regular routine. Move forward strategically now, since you'll actually feel safer once you break through your preconceived notions. Luckily, your growth is supported by the actions of people you might not even know. No matter what happens, act with caution until you're confident that all the logistics are securely in place. In the meantime, trust your instincts today above all else.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Keeping up with all of your responsibilities today is nearly impossible. But worrying isn't a productive use of your time; everything will turn out fine if you simply remember that your dreams are not real. Bring your attention back to your current obligations now or you could sail into the impenetrable mists of your own fantasies and crash on the rocks. Fortunately, acknowledging your commitments right from the start increases your chances for success.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You might be subject to bouts of pessimistic thinking as you confront an obstacle that's blocking your progress. You're enthusiastic about accomplishing everything on your list now, yet knowing where to apply your energy doesn't come easily. Chances are your resources are already stretched to the max, so don't waste time dwelling on your fears. The sooner you get things moving in the right direction, the more time you'll have later for your own personal pursuits.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may be tempted to abandon your job-related responsibilities in favor of chasing your dreams of pleasure. However, there's no way you can let others down when they are depending on you to keep everything on schedule. Put your best foot forward today; go out and do what is being asked of you. Although you might complain at first, your work will be more fun than you expect once you are in the flow. A positive attitude makes all the difference in the world.

WORD SEARCH

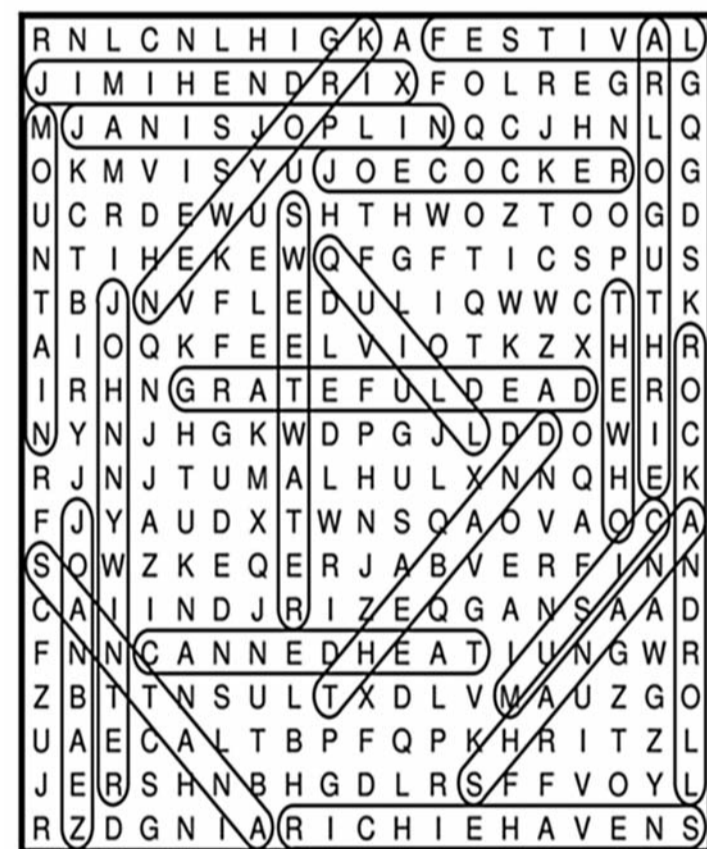
THE EYES HAVE IT WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



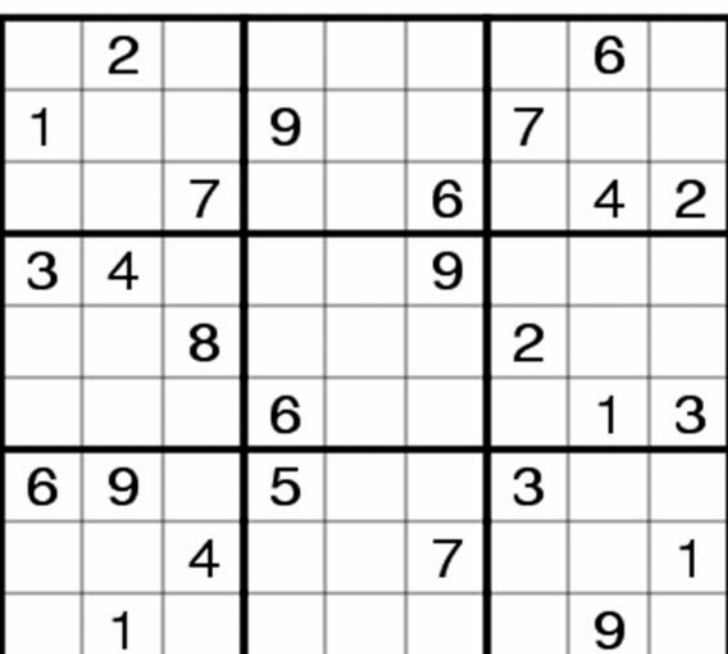
- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| ASTIGMATISM | CORNEA | LASHES | OPTOMETRIST |
| CATARACTS | DOUBLE VISION | MYOPIA | PINKEYE |
| COLOR BLIND | EYELID | NEARSIGHTED | PUPIL |
| CONJUNCTIVA | FIELD OF VIEW | OPHTHALMOLOGIST | RETINA |
| CONTACTS | GLASSES | OPTIC NERVE | SCLERA |

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO WOODSTOCK PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	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	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboubia Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

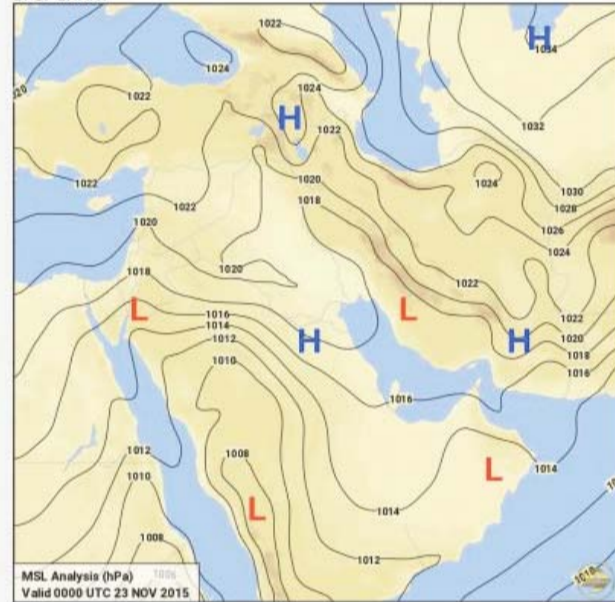
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 23/11/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 21 °C

By Day : Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times
By Night : Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	cloudy + scattered rain	fair	fair	fair + high clouds
Min Temp °C	13	14	11	12
Max Temp °C	20	23	24	25
Wind Direction	variable	variable	variable	variable
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	08 - 18	06 - 20	08 - 18

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings (Watch) Scattered thunder rain

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	17		22
KUWAIT AIRPORT	12		21
ABDALLY	11		23
BUBYAN	13		22
JAHRA	15		23
FAILAKA ISLAND	15		22
SALMIYAH	18		21
AHMADI	18		21
JAL ALIYAH	12		21
QAROH ISLAND	21		22
UMM AL-MARADEM	21		22
NUWAISIB	15		24
WAFRA	14		23
MANAGISH	14		21
SALMY	13		20
MUTRIBA	11		23

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	23
Min Temp (°C)	10
Max Rel Hum (%)	80
Min Rel Hum (%)	24
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise 06:19
Sunset 16:50

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:56
Sunrise	06:19
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:11



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	25736920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gajare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	
General Surgeons		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
Internists, Chest & Heart		
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446	
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291	
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060	
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290	
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		

Kate Moss renting holiday home with 'new boyfriend'

The 41-year-old supermodel and Nikolai Von Bismark - who she has been romantically linked with amidst rumors her marriage to Jamie Hince is on the rocks - recently spent 10 days on the Caribbean island and now look to be more frequent visitors after splashing out on a year-long lease for a villa in Toucan Hill. A source told the Daily Star newspaper: "This is a clear signal the relationship has moved up a gear into something permanent and serious." The hilltop property boasts four bedrooms, two infinity pools and seven acres

of grounds, and the British beauty - who has a 13-year-old daughter, Lila, with ex-boyfriend Jefferson Hack - wants the villa to be a family getaway. The source added: "Kate wants her daughter and Nikolai's mother Debbie to be able to join them on the island so it made sense to rent it for the next year and keep their options open. It was recently claimed Nikolai, 28, has secretly been living in Kate's London home.



Charlie Puth says Meghan Trainor is just a friend

The two stars turned heads at last night's American Music Awards (AMAs) when they shared a lengthy kiss at the end of their performance of 'Marvin Gaye' but the 23-year-old singer claims they were just keeping in with the theme of the song. Speaking backstage, Charlie said: "There was a lot of making out. The dancers were making out and I'm sure some of the other dancers were making out. I think that's it though. "We're friends and it's all part of my whole vision when I made 'Marvin Gaye', for people to hear the record and spontaneously make out with each other."

"That was the goal tonight for the live show." And 'All About That Bass' hitmaker Meghan took to Instagram to reassure her fans she is "single". She posted alongside a picture of the kiss "All about dat ass grab doe @charlieputh proud of you Charlie #imsingle. (sic)" Ahead of their performance, Charlie had told People magazine on the red carpet at Los Angeles' Microsoft Theatre to expect "a lot of making out" when they took to the stage.



Khloe Kardashian has 'nothing' because she is always working

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star - who is dating James Harden - is frustrated she frequently has to fulfill family promotional commitments because her sisters Kourtney Kardashian and Kim Kardashian West are too busy with their own children. Speaking after undertaking a grueling promotional trip to Australia on her own, she told her sisters: "Sometimes I feel like I really pick up the slack a lot of times when I'm doing a kids promotional tour and I don't have any kids. "You guys have families and kids. I don't have friends any more. I don't have time to meet people or go on dates because I've done too many jobs or picked up the slack because I've lost everybody. "When I want to have my fun time, maybe you guys could ease up on me just a little?" Khloe admitted she felt annoyed that her life is often overlooked just because she doesn't have kids. Speaking on last night's episode of 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', she said: "I'm picking up the slack for my sisters. They have so much going on in their personal lives and apparently I don't. "I want to play fair, but I want my sisters to pull the same share of the weight that I pull. Just because I don't have a child doesn't mean I don't need me time to enjoy my life a little more."



Princess Charlotte getting on well with noisy brother Prince George



The six-month-old tot's mother, the Duchess of Cambridge, has revealed her son, two years, is struggling to contain his excitement about Christmas approaching. When asked how preparations for the festive holiday are going, she said: "I haven't started yet, but George will be starting to talk about Christmas soon. "They are doing really well, thanks. Charlotte is getting bigger and getting on well with her noisy big brother." The 33-year-old royal made the comments as she toured North Wales with her husband, Prince William. During their visit, they met with a number of people affected by mental health and the charities associated with them. Paul Farmer, the CEO of the mental health charity, Mind, said of their visit: "Every day in the UK 13 men take their own life. We have seen here the power of friendship and shared understanding and being able to bring people together. "They are shining a light on the millions of people who experience mental health problems and people who are struggling to get the right kind of support."

Kylie Jenner sparks rumors she's reconciled with Tyga

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star, 18, reportedly dumped the 26-year-old rapper three days ago following a year of dating, but it seems things are very much back on between the pair after she arrived at the glamorous event, held at the Microsoft Theatre, with the musician in tow. After posing for photographs on the red carpet, the pair then made their way inside the venue and claimed their seats next to one another, according to PEOPLE.com. And tongues were set wagging once more when Kylie strutted up to the stage to present the rap/hip-hop album winner Nicki Minaj with her trophy, and Tyga was the first to leap out of his seat and clap the beautiful reality TV star. Meanwhile, earlier on in the evening, the couple sent romance rumors into overdrive after Kylie posted a picture on Snapchat of them lying down on a bed together. While the picture didn't show their faces, Tyga's distinctive hand tattoo can clearly be seen in the brief shot. She captioned the image: "Everyone needs to chill." Kylie's post came after it was reported Tyga was "devastated" that the pair decided to go their separate ways.



Jennifer Lopez's 'dreams came true'

The 'On the Floor' hitmaker was delighted to take to the stage at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles as she revealed the annual ceremony was one of her inspirations to pursue a career in performing. Recalling how she was inspired by past performances from the likes of musical icons such as Prince, Madonna and the late Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson, she said: "This show truly inspired me and made me dream someday I would be one of the lucky ones who would perform on this stage for fans of music everywhere. "That's why we all do this: to touch your hearts and give joy to you with our music. My dream has come true." The 46-year-old star donned a sequined bodysuit to open the show with a slowed-down version of her 1999 hit 'Waiting For Tonight' but insisted she wasn't looking for applause. She said: "Wait, don't clap. Tonight's not about me. Tonight is about the music!" And Jennifer then launched into a dance party, asking the audience: "This year's music makes me want to dance: Do ya'll wanna dance with me? This is a party. Let's dance!"





Ethan Hawke's daughter is set to join family business

The actor and his wife Ryan Shawhughes believe Maya, 17, Ethan's daughter with ex-wife Uma Thurman will follow her parents into acting. Ryan said: "That's definitely a possibility, she's a talented girl." Ethan added: "I'll go along with that yeah. When they're little you have this idea that you can control them. You can't." Ethan also revealed that he is careful about what roles he takes on to ensure that he doesn't spend too much time away from his family. He explained to the Sunday Times magazine: "These days you have to do a lot of movies to make a living, they pay you less for each other. The upside is that to keep the pay down, they make the shoots shorter. My deal is I can go on location with the kids when they're on school break or I fly home every weekend. "The best thing is doing things together with Ryan and the kids. We trained for a marathon together in a dozen different cities where I was working, we did a book together, all of us, and most of all, we're raising these kids together."



Angelina Jolie does not want to be young again

The 'By The Sea' star insists she is content with getting older as she feels more "settled". She said: "I feel older, and I feel settled being older. I feel happy that I've grown up. I don't want to be young again." The 40-year-old actress is also pleased she has already had an early menopause, after she had surgery to remove her ovaries and fallopian tubes earlier this year. She added to the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "I actually love being in menopause. I haven't had a

terrible reaction to it, so I'm very fortunate." Meanwhile, Angelina previously admitted she is proud to have reached the milestone birthday as a lot of the women in her family have died young. She explained: "I turned 40 this year and I am so happy. Most women in my family start to get sick and start dying in their 40s and I am going to be very happy to become 50 and 60. I love getting older."

Rooney Mara resisted acting 'because she was worried'

Although she took drama classes when she was younger, Rooney, 30, admitted she didn't take it seriously during her teens because Kate, 32, was so good. She explained: "My sister started doing musical theatre, and I'm not very musical - that was never an option for me. So I just took some drama classes and loved it. For someone who was quite shy as a child and is more of a guarded person, it was a nice way to release now and then. It was something I wanted to do but I resisted it for most of my adolescence. "I thought Kate was so brilliant and I didn't want to do it and not be good. But I also sort of knew from a very young age that I didn't want to be a child actor, that I wanted to go to college, then start acting when I could be taken seriously." And since making up her mind to act, Rooney has been careful about what roles she has chosen as she doesn't want to be embarrassed by her work.



Adele is 'all right' because of family

The 'Hello' hitmaker credits her partner of four years, Simon Konecki, and three-year-old son Angelo for being "loyal" and allowing her to feel as though she could pen tracks about her life for her new album. She explained: "Being in such an amazing relationship with someone that's so there for me and so loyal and is really part of my core now, that's what made me write about everything I've ever done, because I've got his love. "I know that sounds a bit like I'm trying to write a Hollywood movie but

it's only because of him and because of our kid and stuff that I'm all right." The 27-year-old star also revealed Simon was a huge fan of her latest record, '25', despite not usually caring about the sort of music she produces. Speaking on 60 Minutes Australia, she added: "That was the real test. He cares about me more than anything but he doesn't care about the style of music that I make and stuff like that and he just loved it."



Gigi Hadid met her new heroes

The 20-year-old model dropped by the CHOC Children's Hospital in Orange County, California and was amazed by the determination and bravery of the patients. Captioning a photo of her visit on Instagram, she said: "Got to spend this afternoon with all my new heroes at @chocchildrens thanks to @ryanfoundation. "These kids are so inspirational in their ability to find and show positivity, sense of humor, and personality regardless of their circumstances. My heart is so full today because of them. So much love. (sic)" One patient

particularly captured her heart, a young girl called Princess, who wanted to "take a nap" before they had a photograph together. In another post, she added: "This is Princess. She was tired so we decided to take a nap before pics with mom. Best personality. "Thank you @ryanfoundation and @chocchildrens for this opportunity and for everything you do the make the kids' day a bit easier. (sic)"



Selena Gomez is playing hard to get with Bieber

The former couple have ignited rumors they may rekindle their romance after the 'What Do You Mean' hitmaker was spotted serenading the 23-year-old beauty at a bar on Friday but an insider claims she isn't giving into him that easily. A source told PEOPLE magazine: "Justin was in a great mood and serenaded her. She was still a bit pouty and playing hard to get. "They were friendly at the [hotel] bar but they didn't act like a couple." Meanwhile, the 21-year-old singer previously admitted the pair - who split in October last year - could get back together one day. He said: "Maybe? We have a lot of history together and I am sure it could possibly happen. I think we are both just on our own journeys and figuring ourselves out and I think maybe once we figure ourselves out we can come back and make an awesome duo or she finds someone awesome and I'll find someone awesome. I just want her to be happy. "She is someone I love dearly. I'm never going to stop loving her. I'm never going to stop checking in on her. I don't think if you end a relationship, you should end that, unless it was super toxic and you guys were hurting each other physically or mentally. We always respected each other and we still respect each other."



Cheryl Fernandez-Versini wants own clothing line

The 'X Factor' judge is reportedly keen on designing her own range of clothes after she talked through "various possibilities" with fashion mogul Sir Philip Green. A source said: "Cheryl has been approached a lot over the years to work on a clothing range but it's never quite worked out. "A few years ago she released a range of shoes through an online store but this time around she'll finally put her name to a series of outfits that will no doubt fly off the shelves. She wants to do it properly and has been chatting to lots of people. "Sir Philip Green had her fellow 'X Factor' judge Nick Grimshaw do a range for Topshop, so they both met up with Cheryl to talk about various

possibilities. Sir Philip gave Cheryl loads of invaluable advice and she was thrilled to have met him." Meanwhile, the 32-year-old beauty previously revealed she doesn't mind going out without any make up on.





Actress Jennifer Lawrence attends the premiere of 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2' at the AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13 in New York. — AFP photos



Actors Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence and Julianne Moore attend the premiere of 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2' at the AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13 in New York.

'Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2' is a smash hit, So why the disappointment?

The final film in the "Hunger Games" series debuted to numbers that few pictures in history have ever enjoyed, but not everyone seems impressed. Indeed, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" is a victim of the franchise's success. The film's \$101 million bow ranks as the lowest of the four installments and is off 17% from the previous film in the series. Globally, the picture also struggled to attract as big crowds. The \$247 million it made worldwide fell short of the roughly \$300 million that many analysts expected the picture would generate. Outwardly, Lionsgate, the studio that nurtured the futuristic series and then saw its share price climb on the films' success, said it was pleased with the results.

Film Review

"Any time we can have a conversation about a movie grossing over \$100 million in its opening weekend, that's an unbelievable result," said David Spitz, Lionsgate's domestic distribution chief. Others were less sanguine. The media was particularly hard-hitting in its assessment, with many outlets arguing that the series' popularity has waned. The Wall Street Journal said the film "didn't hit a bullseye," and Forbes suggested the opening "may be cause for despair." Lionsgate's shares dropped on Friday and could continue to fall in trading Monday on news that the picture had missed estimates that had it opening to \$120 million or better.

Analysts were split, recognizing that the film fell short commercially, while acknowledging that it seemed untoward to grouse about an opening that dwarfed that of other major releases like "Spectre" or "Inside Out." "Who has ever had to defend an \$100 million opening before?" said Jeff Bock, an analyst with Exhibitor Relations. "They do because of how big a success the first two films were and how big a drop the last two had. That quick a fall off shows that you can't churn these movies out. It's a learning point for the industry."

In retrospect, there were signs that the franchise was losing steam. The opening weekend for "Mockingjay - Part 1" fell more than 20% from its predecessor, "Catching Fire," and critics have grown less kind as the series progressed. The fourth and final picture had a Rotten Tomatoes score of 70% "fresh" compared to a 89% "fresh" rating for "Catching Fire." The diminished enthusiasm was reflected in social media. Facebook and Twitter mentions for "Mockingjay - Part 2" were off substantially from the first installment in the two-part sendoff. Compounding issues, "Mockingjay - Part 2" ends on a relatively downbeat note.

Although a series built around children fighting to the death always had dark undercurrents, the film ended with political maneuvering and betrayals that prevented it from concluding on a triumphal note. Moreover, some of the novelty of the concept had worn off by the fourth and final installment. "Sometimes with

the first installments there's a lightheartedness that's not there at the end," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at Rentrak. "Because of their newness, it's exciting, and it's fun to be at the forefront and the beginning of a new franchise before the fatigue sets in." Bock blames the drop in popularity on Lionsgate's decision to spread "Mockingjay" over two pictures, which he argues there wasn't enough story to justify. Dramatically, that had its problems, but investors are unlikely to argue with the over \$1 billion in box office the two films have already racked up.

Business usually trumps art and Wall Street isn't overflowing with cinephiles. "Lionsgate makes a lot more money by splitting it up," said Eric Handler, an analyst with MKM Partners. "From a consumer perspective, it's questionable, but financially it was the right thing to do." The films may have suffered from an accelerated cultural metabolism. The "Harry Potter" pictures were able to stretch out their story lines for more than a decade, but in today's streaming, sharable, clickable, 24/7, hyper-stimulated media landscape, films and television shows are lucky to capture the zeitgeist for more than a millisecond. Some audience members may have aged out of the world of Panem or moved on to other diversions in the relatively swift four years that it took for the stories to unfold.

It's a signal, perhaps, that "Fifty Shades of Grey" and other hot, would-be franchises are wise not to wait too long between install-

ments. But it was a reboot of another venerated film series that overshadowed and dampened excitement for the final "Hunger Games." "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" doesn't hit theaters for another month, but the return to the galaxy far, far away, snatched headlines from "Mockingjay - Part 2" this week when news broke that the film had shattered pre-sales records. "It hurt it," said Bock. "There was not one story about 'Hunger Games' pre-sales hype. The coverage was all about 'Star Wars.'"

Despite falling short of out-sized expectations, "Hunger Games" remains a Tiffany franchise. A series that has upended old rules of what makes movies successful and will influence a rising generation of filmmakers, just as "Star Wars" once did. It dispelled the old myths that audiences wouldn't accept action films with female leads. It proved that pictures without superheroes can inspire fan bases that are as fervent and devoted as those of "The Avengers" or "The Dark Knight." And it cemented Jennifer Lawrence's status as the most bankable actress of her generation at a time when star power is at its nadir. The problem is that after four years and countless copycat series, from "Maze Runner" to "Divergent," some of the novelty wore off. A franchise that once seemed fresh and hot and new, is showing signs of age. —Reuters

Tallinn - Sudhanshu Saria finds 'Loev' amid homophobia in India

For most novice filmmakers, unveiling one's first feature involves baring part of your soul to the world at large. For Indian writer-director Sudhanshu "Suds" Saria, the stakes are raised a little. His tender gay love story "Loev" marks his coming-out in more ways than one—the film emphatically marks his engagement with his own sexual identity, in a way his own family won't have seen coming. "They're all celebrating my sister's engagement at the moment," he says with a chuckle. "They don't know what the film is about. If word gets through to them, I'll be like, 'What's the big deal? It's 2015.'" Not that Saria approached the film—a tale of two longtime friends negotiating their mutual desire over the course of a weekend visit—quite so nonchalantly. "I wrote the script to deal with a hurt I didn't know to process at the time," he explains on the eve of "Loev's" Tallinn world premiere. "Through it, I've learned how to talk about my sexuality. I'm dating now, which could never have happened without this film."

As personal as the film is, it remains something of a defiant political act to make a gay-focused film in India, where homosexuality is still constitutionally decreed to be "against the order of nature." Now based in Mumbai after years of studying and working in the US, Saria explains that he completed post-production of his 2013 short "His New Hands"—a magical-realist story of young African-Americans in the South-in India as a kind of litmus test for the local industry: "It was encouraging to hear Indian heads of department senior technicians get it right away, to bond with a story that was so alien to them. That gave me the confidence to make 'Loev' there." Furthermore, his concern that it would be difficult to find local actors willing to play gay roles proved unfounded. "I gave the script to a Mumbai casting director and asked if we'd be able to do this. And she said, 'There are tons of actors in India who never get to really act, to do what they love to do—all they get to do is dance.'" For outside auds, meanwhile, Saria hopes that "Loev" showcases a relatively under-exposed side of contemporary Indian life—away from what he describes as the "poverty porn" of Indian cinema on the festival circuit. He laughs. "Of course, at home, people think it's not a real film at all. There are no songs in it." —Reuters

Nicole Kidman, James McAvoy among winners at London Theater Awards

Nicole Kidman took the award for best actress and James McAvoy was named best actor at the 61st London Evening Standard Theater Awards Sunday at a ceremony at London's Old Vic theater. Kidman was honored for her performance in Anna Ziegler's "Photograph 51," in which she played scientist Rosalind Franklin, whose pioneering work contributed to the discovery of DNA's double helix structure. The play, which was directed by Michael Grandage, ran at the Noel Coward Theater. McAvoy earned his honor in Peter Barnes' satire "The Ruling Class" as an aristocrat who believes he is the Messiah, a role Peter O'Toole took in the 1972 film. The play, which was directed by Jamie Lloyd, ran at Trafalgar Studios.

The award for top play was picked up by Stephen Adly Guirgis' "The Motherf**ker with the Hat," which was directed by Indhu Rubasingham. The New York-set comedy centers on a drug dealer, recently released from prison and trying to go straight, and his volatile girlfriend. The production formed part of the Rufus Norris' first season as artistic director at the National Theater. Robert Icke earned the directing prize for his reworking of Aeschylus' "Oresteia," which has been lauded for its ingenuity and ambition. The play initially ran at Almeida Theater, and then transferred to Trafalgar Studios.

Imelda Staunton won the award for musical performance for her role as Mama Rose, the mother of stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, in Stephen Sondheim's "Gypsy" at Savoy Theater. Staunton sang "Everything's Coming Up Roses" from the production at the awards ceremony. Gemma Arterton was named best newcomer in a musical for "Made in Dagenham," which focuses on the fight for equal pay for women in 1960s Britain. The production played at Adelphi Theater.

Anna Fleischle took the honor for design for Martin McDonagh's 60s-set "Hangmen," which moves from the starkness of a condemned cell to a cluttered pub, where a former state executioner retreats to following the abolition of the death penalty in the U.K. The play ran at the Royal Court. Molly Davies was named most promising playwright for her satire "God Bless the Child" about a group of eight-year-old school kids rebelling against a new educational regime. The play ran at Royal Court Upstairs.



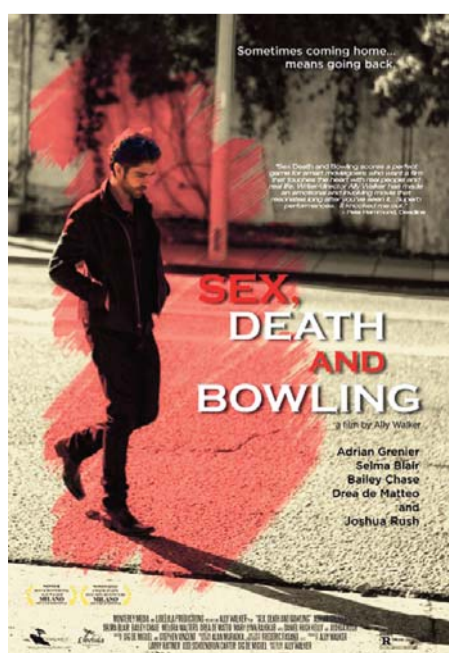
British actress Anne Marie Duff (left) and her British actor husband James McAvoy pose on the red carpet as they arrive to attend the 61st London Evening Standard Theatre Awards at the Old Vic Theatre in London on November 22, 2015.

David Moorst won the emerging talent award for his role as geeky teen Liam, who is the object of violent bullying from his hard-drinking father, in "Violence and Son" at Royal Court Upstairs. The Editor's Award was presented to Vanessa Redgrave, and the Lebedev Award went to Stephen Sondheim, who celebrated his 85th birthday this year. The ceremony, which was co-hosted by Judi Dench, Ian McKellen and the Evening Standard owner Evgeny Lebedev, was presented



Australian actress Nicole Kidman poses on the red carpet as she arrives to attend the 61st London Evening Standard Theatre Awards at the Old Vic Theatre in London on November 22, 2015. — AFP photos

by Rob Brydon. Guests included Gillian Anderson, Arterton, Shirley Bassey, Kate Beckinsale, Anne-Marie Duff, Ralph Fiennes, Salma Hayek, Jeremy Irons, Kidman, Lindsay Lohan, McAvoy, Joely Richardson and Anna Wintour. — Reuters



'Sex, Death and Bowling'

Film Review

Rather oddly titled for what's basically a sentimental family pic, "Sex, Death and Bowling" mixes numerous formulaic, overfamiliar elements that never quite gel. Chief among them are the precocious kid protagonist; underdog sports-team comedy; a gay-positive, anti-bullying message; and three generations of dysfunction healed by terminal-illness tearjerking. There's no absolute reason these elements couldn't work-together or at least individually—but they never quite do in veteran TV actress Ally Walker's pedestrian first feature as writer-director.

A medium-wattage cast will ensure some sales for a film whose logical destination is as a passable time-filler for cable and streaming customers. It's been opening on single screens in scattered markets since Oct. 30. Eli McAllister (Joshua Rush) is a sixth grader whose voiceover narration immediately informs us he's one of those only-in-the-movies children who apparently think in the prepackaged wis-

doms of a middle-aged Hollywood scenarist.

His cutesy musings on God and the afterlife, which lead him to "interview" with representatives of various churches, do have an underlying motivation: His Iraq-veteran father Rick (Bailey Chase) is dying from cancer, and his mother, Glenn (Selma Blair), is a mess as a result, so their only child has fixated on the hope of reincarnation or some other supernatural solution to the family crisis. Not much help is curmudgeonly grandfather, Dick (Daniel Hugh Kelly), a bowling fanatic who's stopped visiting his eldest son, as he can't bear a repeat of the first wife's death that he didn't handle well, either.

Second wife Evie (Melora Walters) is now the glue that holds the McAllisters together, with Eli also acting as generational go-between. Returning after a long absence to their Southern California small town is Rick's sibling Sean (Adrian Grenier), who's gone from being a picked-on high schooler (as seen in gauzy flashbacks) to a famed fashion designer living

in England. While here to see his brother one last time, he'll have to attempt some kind of reconciliation with dad Dick, who drove him away in the first place over some murky explained scandal.

Meanwhile, Eli is being bullied by classmates in an echo of his gay uncle's formative travails; the distraught Glenn is taking out her frustrations on hospice nurse Ana (Drea de Matteo); and a series of injuries forces cantankerous Dick to accept under-age Eli, athletically disinclined Sean and dweeby African-American newcomer Ben (Wayne Wilderson) as emergency teammates for an all-important local bowling match. While some conflicts are rather poorly developed, they're all predictably resolved, and the cluttered narrative nonetheless frequently manages to feel momentum-challenged. Part of the problem is that tonally, the individual parts don't mesh at all, leaving the pic to seesaw awkwardly between maudlin and more farcical elements, none of which are inspired.

Performances are competent, but better the more restrained they are. Thus Grenier, Chase, Walters and de Matteo are fine, while Kelly's character wavers between brutish and comic caricature, and Blair tries to convey a dark emotional complexity that the script never quite gets a grasp on. Already a 5-year showbiz vet at age 11 when the pic was shot two years ago, Rush here comes off as the kind of overly facile little performer who is not at risk of providing a genuine moment. Sum results are never convincing, let alone as funny or touching as intended. But they're innocuous enough (despite some unwisely R-rating-necessitating F-bombs of the "maggot" rather than "muck" kind) to work for tube audiences in search of entertainment that hits the right safe, anticipated emotional and narrative beats. Tech/design contributions are routinely pro, with the exception of one cutout-style animated sequence that's quite charming. —Reuters

Awards



One Direction poses with their award at the 2015 American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California on November 22, 2015. — AFP



Rapper Nicki Minaj accepts the Favorite Rap/Hip-Hop Artist award onstage during the 2015 American Music Awards. — AFP

1D, NICKI MINAJ, WEEKND WIN AT AMAS; GRANDE, LOPEZ PERFORM

One Direction might have debuted at No 2 on the Billboard charts behind Justin Bieber, but they won the top award at Sunday's American Music Awards. "This is a testament to how incredible our fans are," Louis Tomlinson said onstage at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. "We just want to thank everyone that's helped us in the last five years," Liam Payne added. The band won the top award at last year's show - as a quintet with Zayn Malik. They also won favorite duo or group - pop/rock Sunday night.

Bieber, who won best collaboration with Diplo and Skrillex, closed the night with a medley of his hits, including "Sorry," "Where Are U Now" and "What Do You Mean." Purple laser lights beamed from the stage as the singer danced and sang for the loud audience. He ended it drenched after standing under a waterfall. Billboard announced Sunday his new album, "Purpose," will debut at No. 1 on its charts Monday after selling 649,000 equivalent albums. It beat out One Direction's "Made In the A.M.," which sold 459,000 equivalent albums.

Bieber's performance wasn't the only well-received one: Celine Dion paid tribute to the victims of the recent Paris attacks by singing Edith Piaf's "Hymne à l'Amour" in French as some audience members cried. Jared Leto, who introduced Dion, said his band 30 Seconds to Mars recently performed at the Bataclan, the Paris concert hall where 89 people were killed in the Nov. 13 attack. Dion earned a rousing applause after her performance, which started with the Eiffel Tower projected behind her.

The Weeknd's performance was also a favorite, and he walked away with two awards, and presented the first one from Prince. "Make some noise for Prince, ladies and gentlemen," the singer said after picking up favorite album - soul/R&B for "Beauty Behind the Madness." Nicki Minaj was also a double winner, taking home favorite artist and album - rap/hip-hop. She encouraged her feverish fans to "find their voice." "I want to just thank you, the fans, for allowing me to change and have a different voice every time I come back out (with a new album)," Minaj said.

"And please find your voice and find your purpose before it's too late. Love you." Other girls at the awards show encouraged their peers: Zendaya and Hailee Steinfeld danced excited as Selena Gomez performed onstage; Fifth Harmony and Rebel Wilson sang as Demi Lovato was in strong form with "Confident"; and Gomez sang as Grande performed "Focus" in a shimmering number.

Meghan Trainor and Charlie Puth's performance got additional attention after the singers made out onstage after singing their song, "Marvin Gaye," which features the lyrics: "Let's Marvin Gaye and get it on." "I'm still laughing at Charlie and Meghan smooching," Bryan said onstage after winning favorite male artist - country. Bryan beat out Jason Aldean and Sam Hunt, who won new artist of the year. Host Jennifer Lopez kicked off the AMAs in a dance routine that highlighted some of the year's biggest hits like "Where Are U Now," "Anaconda," "Uptown Funk!" and "Hotline Bling." She also impressively sang in almost a cappella form.

Taylor Swift, who is out of the country shooting a music

video, was the top nominee with six. She won song of the year for "Blank Space," favorite album - pop/rock for "1989" and favorite artist - adult contemporary Swift lost favorite female artist - pop/rock to Grande, who was shocked when accepting the honor. "I think I owe a lot of this to my nonna who made sure to remind me that she voted. She goes, 'Ariana, I went on the computer, I voted, so I think you'll win,'" Grande said in an Italian accent. The three-hour show, which aired on ABC, also included a clip from the upcoming "Star Wars" film. Performers included Coldplay, Gwen Stefani, Alanis Morissette, 5 Seconds of Summer and Carrie Underwood, who won favorite female artist - country. — AP

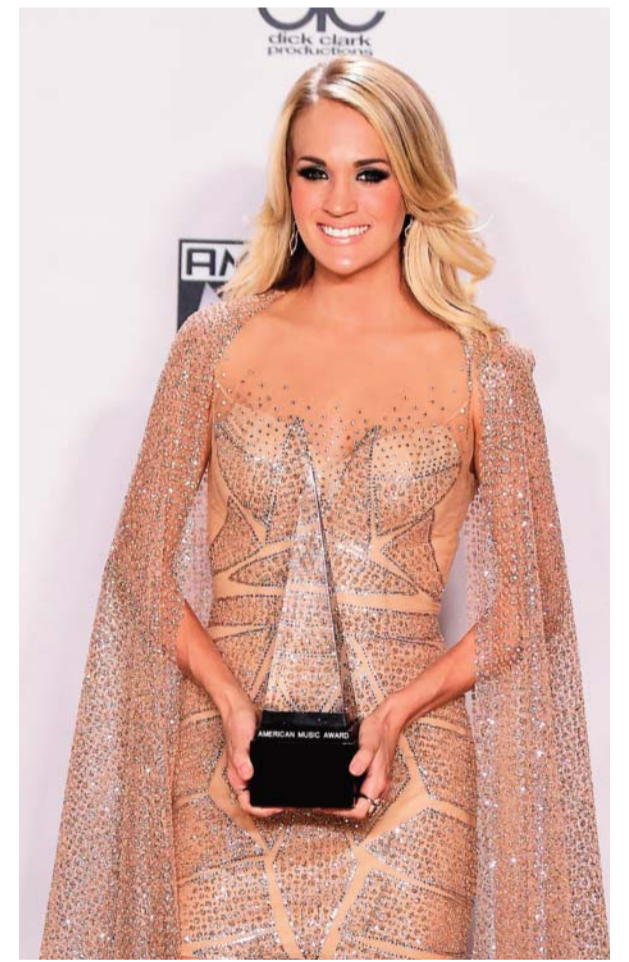


Ariana Grande poses with her award in the Press Room. — AFP

Winners

The 2015 American Music Awards were given out on Sunday in Los Angeles, with Taylor Swift and One Direction taking the top accolades. Following is a list of winners grouped by musical genre.

- ARTIST OF THE YEAR - One Direction
- NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR - Sam Hunt
- SONG OF THE YEAR (Blank Space) - Taylor Swift
- COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR (Where Are U Now) - Skrillex & Diplo Featuring Justin Bieber
- FAVORITE MALE ARTIST (POP/ROCK) - Ed Sheeran
- FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST (POP/ROCK) - Ariana Grande
- FAVORITE BAND (DUO OR GROUP - POP/ROCK) - One Direction
- FAVORITE ALBUM (POP/ROCK) '1989' - Taylor Swift
- FAVORITE MALE ARTIST (COUNTRY) - Luke Bryan
- FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST (COUNTRY) - Carrie Underwood
- FAVORITE BAND (DUO OR GROUP - COUNTRY) - Florida Georgia Line
- FAVORITE ALBUM (COUNTRY) 'Anything Goes' - Florida Georgia Line
- FAVORITE ARTIST (RAP/HIP-HOP) - Nicki Minaj
- FAVORITE ALBUM (RAP/HIP-HOP) 'The Pinkprint' - Nicki Minaj
- FAVORITE MALE ARTIST (SOUL/R&B) - The Weeknd
- FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST (SOUL/R&B) - Rihanna
- FAVORITE ALBUM (SOUL/R&B) 'Beauty Behind The Madness' - The Weeknd
- FAVORITE ARTIST (ALTERNATIVE ROCK) - Fall Out Boy
- FAVORITE ARTIST (ADULT CONTEMPORARY) - Taylor Swift
- FAVORITE ARTIST (LATIN) - Enrique Iglesias
- FAVORITE ARTIST (CONTEMPORARY INSPIRATIONAL) - Casting Crowns
- FAVORITE ARTIST (ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC) - Calvin Harris
- TOP SOUNDTRACK - "Pitch Perfect 2"



Carrie Underwood poses with her award. — AFP



The Weeknd poses with his award at the 2015 American Music Awards in Los Angeles. — AFP



Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley of Florida Georgia Line pose with their award at the 2015 American Music Awards in Los Angeles. — AFP



Luke Bryan accepts the award for favorite male artist - country at the American Music Awards. — AP



Singer Celine Dion performs onstage during the 2015 American Music Awards at Microsoft Theater on November 22, 2015 in Los Angeles, California. — AFP



(Left to right) Musicians Michael Clifford, Luke Hemmings, Ashton Irwin, and Calum Hood of 5 Seconds of Summer perform onstage during the 2015 American Music Awards at Microsoft Theater on November 22, 2015 in Los Angeles.



Justin Bieber performs at the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015. — AP



Camilla Cabello, (from left) Ally Brooke, Lauren Jauregui, Normani Hamilton, and Dinah-Jane Hansen of Fifth Harmony present the award for best alternative artist at the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theater. — AP



Singer Chris Martin (center) and musicians (left to right) Jonny Buckland, Will Champion and Guy Berryman of Coldplay perform onstage during the 2015 American Music Awards. — AFP

Celine Dion leads music world in mourning the Paris victims

Celine Dion on Sunday led the music industry in an emotional tribute to the victims of the Paris attacks, as the American Music Awards heard appeals for a peaceful world. The Canadian singer sang Edith Piaf's classic "Hymne à l'Amour" ("Hymn to Love") in French at the star-studded ceremony in Los Angeles, which went ahead barely a week after the assault on a concert hall and other civilian targets across Paris. In front of a screen flashing images of Paris that culminated with the Eiffel Tower in the French flag's tricolor, Dion sang the song of lost love as some members of the audience were seen in tears.

Dion was introduced by the actor and musician Jared Leto, who recalled playing with his band Thirty Seconds to Mars earlier this year at the historic Bataclan theater that saw the heaviest death toll in the November 13 attacks. Some 130 people died but "another seven billion will forever be scarred by this horrific and senseless tragedy," Leto said. "France matters, Russia matters, Syria matters, Mali matters, the Middle East matters, the United States matters—the entire world matters. And peace is possible," he said to applause. Leto also took aim at anti-foreigner sentiment that has emerged in the wake of the Paris attacks, which was claimed by the Islamic State group. "Many of us here are the sons and

the daughters of immigrants," he said, pointing out that late Apple innovator Steve Jobs was of Syrian heritage.

Music 'positive' amid tragedy

The tribute was a rare somber note in the made-for-television gala, although the electronic producer Skrillex also referred to world turmoil as he accepted an award for his work with pop celebrity Justin Bieber. "There is so much negative stuff going on in the world, so it's up to us to be positive," Skrillex said of musicians' role. The rap duo Macklemore and Ryan Lewis also took to the stage to debut a new song, "Kevin," a politically charged tale of drug addiction's toll in modern America that featured the soul singer Leon Bridges. The American Music Awards are designed as a glitzy extravaganza and, unlike the more prestigious Grammy Awards which will take place in February, the winners are determined by voting from fans rather than the music industry. For the second straight year, British boy band One Direction won Artist of the Year. The prize comes just after the band released its latest album, "Made in the A.M.," that the group says will be its last before a hiatus. Pop superstar Taylor Swift won three awards, more than anyone else, including favorite album for her blockbuster "1989."

Surprise moments

Ariana Grande, the child star turned repackaging pop singer, beat out Swift for favorite female pop or rock artist. The 22-year-old, initially at a loss for words, thanked her gray-haired grandmother who had been sitting next to her in the audience. "I think I owe a lot of this to my nonna," Grande, who is of Italian descent, said in reference to her grandmother. "She told me, 'Ariana, I went on the computer and voted, so I think you'll win.'"

In a sign of the burgeoning US market for country music, the award for favorite new artist went to Nashville crooner Sam Hunt, who outpaced emerging stars in other genres including The Weeknd who won in the two R&B categories. In one of the moments that drew the most attention on social media, young singer Charlie Puth passionately kissed Meghan Trainor after they sang together. Puth and Trainor, who has become a star in part due to her struggles with body image, had teamed up for his song "Marvin Gaye," which uses the name of the legendary "Let's Get It On" R&B singer as a euphemism for sex. — AFP

Colombian bombshell Vergara, Joe Manganiello tie the knot

Colombia-born film star Sofia Vergara, America's highest-paid TV actress, tied the knot Sunday in what the entertainment world called the celebrity wedding of the year. The "Modern Family" star pledged her eternal love to fellow actor Joe Manganiello at "The Breakers" a swank Palm Beach resort, before a gathering of friends and family, the culmination of a weekend-long wedding celebration.

Vergara posted photos from her nuptials on Instagram, including various pictures showing the curvaceous 43-year-old actress in her torso-hugging, strapless lace bridal gown with plunging neckline. She carried a bouquet of white orchids and wore her famous flowing mane loose, aside from a jeweled clip which pinned it to one side. Among the stars at her nuptials were Hollywood's Reese Witherspoon, Channing Tatum and the cast of her hit television show "Modern Family." Vergara's son from a previous marriage, Manolo, 23, walked her down the aisle.

For the past few years, the Colombian-born bombshell has

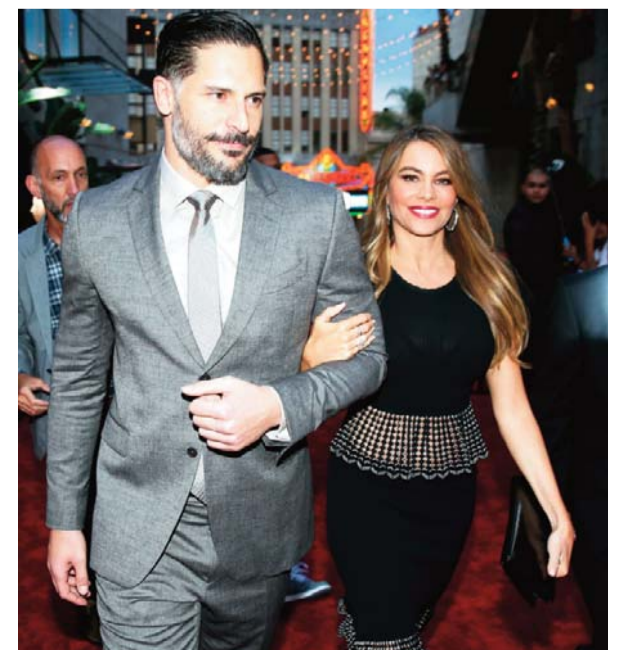
been America's top-earning TV star. In 2014, Forbes magazine estimated she made, \$37 million, considerably more than the top paid actor, Ashton Kutcher, who earned some \$26 million. Vergara reportedly makes \$325,000 an episode for "Modern Family," but earns much more from endorsements including being the face of Diet Pepsi. Manganiello is famous for his roles in the hit movie "Magic Mike" and the TV series "How I Met Your Mother." The couple met about a year and a half ago, and got engaged last December during a Hawaiian vacation.

1,657 hours-wedding dress

The "Modern Family" actress worked closely with designer Zuhair Murad on the gown she wore to marry Joe Manganiello in Palm Beach, Florida, yesterday and the stunning design required 32 people to work around the clock to complete it on time. The 43-year-old beauty had previously said she wanted to look "sexy" and the designer hoped his white, strapless, silk-tulle creation - which had a sweetheart

neckline, hand-embroidered 3D embellishments, detachable skirt and pearl beaded belt - did just that by showing off her "famous curves". Zuhair told People magazine: "I was delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate with Sofia on her dream wedding gown."

"I wanted Sofia to look phenomenal on her wedding day, showing off her hourglass physique and enhancing her famous curves. She expressly said that she wanted to look sexy, so I created a design that blended soft sensuality from the transparencies of tulle with the ornate glamour of ornate embroideries and mini pearls." The gown was made even more eye-catching thanks to the addition of 6lbs of pearls and 11lbs of sequins in the intricate bead work, and Sofia teamed the dress with 55 carat diamond earrings by Lorraine Schwarz, as well as more gems by the same designer in her hair and on her wrist. — Agencies



File photo shows Joe Manganiello and Sofia Vergara arriving at the Los Angeles premiere of 'Jurassic World' at the Dolby Theatre. Vergara and Manganiello tied the knot on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015, in a Palm Beach, Fla ceremony according to a posting on Vergara's official Facebook page. — AP