

150 FILLS
40 PAGES
NO: 16708

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

SAFAR 13, 1437 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

PM: Falling oil prices can affect donors' generosity



ACICO establishes first 'cut and bend' factory in Kuwait



Kuwait fashion week kicks off in style



Youngest US chess master: I've got to work on my endgame



PUTIN RAGES AS TURKEY DOWNS RUSSIAN PLANE

REBELS 'KILL' PILOTS, BLOW UP RESCUE CHOPPER



Min 14°
Max 22°
High Tide 11:18 & 23:57
Low Tide 05:22 & 17:22



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) meets visiting former Turkish President Abdullah Gul (left) in the presence of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (second right) and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (right) yesterday. Sheikh Sabah and Gul held cordial talks dealing with the good and historic ties bonding the two friendly countries and peoples, and means of boosting these ties in various sectors, in addition to issues of common concern. — KUNA

ANKARA: NATO member Turkey shot down a Russian war plane on the Syrian border yesterday, an act President Vladimir Putin denounced as a "stab in the back" by "accomplices of terrorists" as tensions spiraled between two rival players in the Syria war. Turkey called an extraordinary meeting of NATO while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he had scrapped a planned trip to Turkey today aimed at narrowing differences on the Syria conflict.

The Turkish army said the plane was shot down by two of its F-16s after it violated Turkish airspace 10 times within a five-minute period, an assertion backed up by its NATO ally the United States. Moscow insisted that the jet had stayed inside Syrian territory, and Damascus denounced the incident as "flagrant aggression against Syrian sovereignty".

Footage from private Turkish broadcaster Haberturk TV showed the warplane going down in flames, a long plume of smoke trailing behind it as it crashed in a wooded part of an area the TV said was known by Turks as "Turkmen Mountain". Separate footage from Turkey's Anadolu Agency showed two pilots parachuting out of the jet before it crashed. A deputy commander of rebel Turkmen forces in Syria said his men shot both pilots dead as they came down. A video sent to Reuters earlier appeared to show one of the pilots immobile and badly wounded on the ground and an official from the rebel group said he was dead. But a Turkish government official told Reuters the pilots were believed still to be alive and that Ankara was working to secure their release from Syrian rebels.

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT AWARDS \$30BN IN PROJECTS DESPITE OIL SLIDE

OIL PUSHES DINAR DOWN

DUBAI: The Kuwaiti dinar fell sharply against the US dollar in the forward market yesterday, to levels last seen in 2009, reflecting a shortage of dinars in the cash market as low oil prices reduced liquidity, bankers said. Kuwait is one of the richest of the Gulf energy exporters and can cope relatively easily with an era of cheap oil, but its markets are showing stresses that are being felt across the region. One-year dollar/Kuwaiti dinar forwards jumped as high as 462.80 points yesterday, their highest level since March 2009, from Monday's close of 390 points. They remained well below their 2008 peak of 1,582 points, hit during the global financial crisis.

Bankers said that with oil prices low, some Kuwaiti government and quasi-sovereign bodies had reduced their longer-term dinar deposits in banks. This had left banks scrambling for cash. "There is a sharp dinar shortage in the cash market due to deposit erosion from government-related entities, causing a scramble for KWD liquidity," a senior commercial banker in Kuwait said, declining to be named because of commercial sensitivities.

Another banker said: "There is a big rush to attract customer deposits among banks, but that can hardly fill the gap caused by the withdrawals, making the cash shortage inevitable."

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT: Kuwait has awarded projects worth a record \$30 billion so far this year despite the sharp fall in oil income, officials and experts said yesterday. "Up until mid-October, Kuwait has awarded record projects worth \$30 billion, up around \$6 billion on the whole of last year," Edward James, director of analysis at Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Projects told a conference on Kuwaiti projects. He said Kuwait was the only country in the energy-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to exceed MEED forecasts in awarding projects this year.

Projects in neighboring Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, which are the leading regional nations in projects, saw their project awarding process cut by half, James said. In Saudi Arabia, the value of awarded projects dived to around \$33 billion and in UAE it slid to under \$20 billion. MEED said Kuwait, which gave contracts worth \$24 billion in 2014, has projects worth more than \$251 billion planned or underway. Of those, \$137 billion worth are in the pre-execution stage and around \$85 billion of them are under study, MEED said. Key sectors include construction at \$90 billion, oil and gas (\$69 billion), transport (\$49 billion) and power (\$26 billion).

In February, parliament approved a five-year development plan that envisages spending 34 billion dinars (\$112 billion) between the current 2015/2016 fiscal year and 2019/2020.

Continued on Page 13



Talal Al-Shemmari

MP CALLS ON MOCI TO MONITOR PRICES

CONTROVERSY RAGES OVER CLERIC

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Faisal Al-Kandari called on the commerce and industry ministry yesterday to tighten its monitoring of consumer prices in the country as the finance ministry prepares to raise charges on state properties. He said the proposed government measure will impact prices of commodities negatively and urged the finance ministry to take steps to curb any increase in consumer prices if it raises charges on public properties.

Kandari said he totally rejects any impact on low-income people from the planned government measure on property prices, adding that the National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee has already informed the government of its rejection of any increase that impacts poor people. The lawmaker said

that the hiking of charges on public services will lead to increases in prices of commodities and goods and will eventually impact low income sections. Kandari said that compliance to the constitution requires MPs to face any artificial and unjustified hike in consumer prices and accordingly urged monitoring of prices.

Meanwhile, the issue of leading cleric and preacher Sheikh Othman Al-Khamees triggered controversy between lawmakers as MP Sultan Al-Shemmari said that Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane denied that Khamees had been suspended from giving sermons or lectures at mosques. The reported action was taken after the criminal court last week fined Khamees KD 20,000 for threatening national unity and insulting Shiites.

Continued on Page 13

TurboWash™

LG TurboWash™ by 6 Motion Direct Drive uses a unique Jet Spray™ for superior washing results. So, you'll always be satisfied with its powerful performance that saves time and energy. Make every day better by living smarter.

Innovation for a Better Life.
www.lg.com/ae



Fast & Clean



Inverter Direct Drive
By eliminating its belt and pulley, Inverter Direct Drive System increases the motor's efficiency and makes it resistant to breakdown. The simplified system helps reduce noise levels as well.



Al Babtain Electronics

الالكترونيات البابتين

خدمة العملاء : 2431 0054





KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets chiefs of Arab delegations participating in the 43rd Conference of the General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA).



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with heads of Arab news agencies participating in the conference of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA). — KUNA photos

FALLING OIL PRICES COULD AFFECT DONORS' GENEROSITY AT NEXT MEETING: PRIME MINISTER

KUWAIT: The sliding oil prices might affect donors' generosity at next February's donors' meeting in London in support of Syrian refugees, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday.

His statements came on the sideline of a meeting with chiefs of Arab delegations participating in the 43rd Conference of the General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA). He drove the point home regarding Kuwait's unflinching support to help the Syrian people in their hour of dire need, noting that Kuwait has given ample aid in the guise of homes, schools, hospitals, foodstuffs, clothing, etc. to them and would continue to do so.

Declining revenues

About fears and misgivings regarding the

effect of declining revenues from oil due to falling prices on the nation's development plan, His Highness the Prime Minister said "Kuwait had experienced declining oil prices before and was able to goad expenditure so as not to affect the extent and quality of government services to the public."

The development plan, he assured, was steaming along on course, notwithstanding current economic conditions, stressing the role the private sector has been assuming in pushing along the nation's economic prosperity.

Terrorism threat

On the topic of terrorism, His Highness the Prime Minister said "Kuwait and other countries have warned against this growing menace which is not rooted in a single religion or creed or geographical location," adding that

"no state by itself can face terrorism which spans continents without the help of the international community to eradicate it." He emphasized the imperative that the "international community seek quick solutions to enduring problems such as the Palestinian crisis and those crises in Syria and Libya."

Credible news

During his meeting with FANA officials, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak lavished praise on these agencies sacrosanct mission to inform the public with objective and credible news.

He noted Kuwait's adherence to the principles of free speech, saying that he had asked of all ministers to have an official spokesperson for their ministries to become a liaison between the public and the media on one

hand and these ministries on the other.

In his capacity as FANA President and Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah stressed in the meeting with His Highness the Prime Minister FANA's dedication to improve the language of communication with the public to reflect contemporary standards in the worldwide news business.

National unity

Earlier, the FANA delegation met His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-

Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince hailed the efforts of the FANA conference's organizers, calling for developing mass media in order to ensure national unity and deliver its great message based on credibility and scientific research.

He stressed the effective role of media in buttressing national unity, and economic and cultural development, hoping that the conference would come up with recommendations serving Arab interests in the face of surrounding risks.

Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Saud Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Protocol Chief Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah were present in the meeting. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Nicaragua's VP General Moises Omar Halleslevens Acevedo. — KUNA

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MEETS NICARAGUA'S VP

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met the visiting Vice-President of Nicaragua General Moises Omar Halleslevens Acevedo at Bayan Palace yesterday. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen relations between the two countries in all aspects in addition to issues of common concern.

The meeting was held in presence of the assistant Foreign Minister for the Americas'

affairs, Ambassador Reem Mohammad Al-Khaled, and Adviser Tariq Al-Bannai from the Foreign Minister office and number of ministry officials. Later, Acevedo visited the National Assembly, and was received by Acting Speaker Abdullah Al-Tamimi and senior officials. He also visited the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he was received by the Chamber's chairman Ali Thunaiyan Al-Ghanem and several other senior officials. — KUNA

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES SPONSORS NUKS USA 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region, has announced its sponsorship for the 32nd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) USA Branch, the conference will take place from the 25th to the 28th of November in San Diego, California, under the slogan of "Awakening Kuwait's Dream".

Senior Director - Corporate Strategy, BD, and M&A at Alghanim Industries, Dari Al-Reshaid Al-Bader said: "We, at Alghanim Industries, value the role of education in developing the economy, and finding creative solutions for the challenges we face today. We seek to always be present in events that improve education and raise the standard for Kuwaiti students, such as the annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS)." He added: "This conference gathers Kuwaiti students from all areas of the United States. Students enjoy it as a social activity, while we see it as an important opportunity to reach the maximum number of our special students. As part of our sponsorship this year, we will host a private workshop for merit scholars in the US, where we present



Dari Al-Reshaid Al-Bader

to them different potential career paths and opportunities, with a few tips that will guide them in starting successful careers. Alghanim Industries will also sponsor a panel discussion entitled 'She's a Leader' on women in leadership positions. In addition to that, we will have our employees present to answer students' questions about the company, and the opportunities to be part of Alghanim Industries. I am also excited to announce that I will be on the judging panel of the 'Business Startup' competition, taking place during the conference.

In 2014, Alghanim Industries launched "Alghanim Industries Future Leaders Program" (AFLP) that extends over 12 months, and is

designed to provide recent, high-potential Kuwaiti graduates with a comprehensive introduction to the different businesses and support functions in Alghanim Industries, including world-class training and development activities. The company also offers summer internship opportunities for current university students, offering them exposure to the private sector culture and gain work experience during their summer holiday.

ZAIN PLATINUM SPONSOR OF NUKS USA 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its Platinum sponsorship of the 32nd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States (NUKS USA), which is set to be held from the 25th - 29th November 2015 in San Diego, California, under the patronage and attendance of HE the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa.

Zain's support to this prestigious event for over 12 years comes in line with the company's keenness on providing young Kuwaitis whom are studying abroad with an annual opportunity to meet with national role models and country leaders who have had a significant impact on the country's political, social, and economic pursuits.

The company's presence in the event conveys its enthusiasm to interact with the future generations of Kuwaiti nationals, especially those who pursue their education abroad, as the NUKS USA conference is one of the largest gatherings of Kuwaiti students outside of Kuwait. The distinctive

event appeals to students on both an intellectual and social level and it serves as an open forum for them to exchange opinions and views regarding important domestic issues with the presence of distinguished figures from the Kuwaiti society. Zain will be organizing a number of cultural and sporting activities to enrich this year's NUKS USA program, including two football tournaments for male and female students, an honoring ceremony to recognize top performing students, as well as a special participation in the event's careers fair to interact with graduates. Zain sees its annual participation in the conference as part of its responsibility as a leading national company to help provide bright and enthusiastic young Kuwaitis who are looking to enter the job market with suitable career development opportunities.

Participating in this event affirms Zain's role as a leading national company that takes the development of young people seriously, with the ultimate intention to induce positive change within the Kuwaiti society.

GHANEM SAYS TALKS WITH SAUDI KING TACKLED CRITICAL ISSUES

RIYADH: Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem said yesterday his meeting with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud dealt with critical issues affecting the region.

Ghanem said in a press statement after the meeting that the Saudi Monarch stressed in the meeting "the absolute necessity that GCC countries stand shoulder to shoulder together in the face of existing challenges."

King Salman, moreover, highlighted the exceptional and historic bond between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, said Ghanem, noting that the Saudi monarch reviewed in the meeting a number of crucial issues in the region, including the Palestinian crisis, and the situation in Yemen, among other issues, with the view that joint Arab work was essential to solving such problems.

Meanwhile, Ghanem noted the momentous role Saudi Arabia plays in the region with its emphasis on security and stability for it. He also recalled Saudi support of Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion of 1990, saying "the Kuwaiti people will never forget Saudi Arabia's brave and historic backing" of Kuwait's legitimacy at that time. He further said he stressed the notion that "all Arabs depend on Saudi firm stances on behalf of Arab rights and causes,



RIYADH: Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz meets Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA

seeing in those stances as evidences of vitality and strategic importance."

Ghanem arrived in the Saudi capital yesterday to partake in the 9th regular meeting of GCC consultative (shura) and legislative

assemblies' chiefs, due to begin in Riyadh today. He is accompanied by MPs Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi, Dr Ahmad Al-Azmi and National Assembly Secretary General Allam Al-Kanderi. — KUNA

NEWS PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN FORMING ARAB CITIZENS' THOUGHTS: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday said the Arab region is going through a stage of delicate developments and challenges where news and information play a key role in formation of human thought and orientation.

News agencies represent main source for news and information, a fact that stresses imperative of adopting a balanced information message, characterized by transparency and impartiality, at a time where the world is facing development and openness in media that need to develop expertise and human cadres, said Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, in a speech he addressed, in his capacity as Representative of His Highness the Prime Minister, at opening of 43rd Conference of the General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA).

He stressed on the need to support media development efforts, as the only way to achieve progress and prosperity and provide a decent life for the Arab peoples as well as to face deliberate media campaigns that aim to tarnish image of Islam and Muslims.

It is important to care for Arab youth and restore their confidence, instilling a spirit of loyalty and belonging, and increasing their awareness as well as facing rumors that spread across social networks and other unknown sources of advertising to provide accurate information in a fast way, he said. He also stressed the need to fight terrorism, which is now expanding around the world, as well as facing the extremist ideas with greater guidance toward moderation. Comprehensive and sustainable development is a key for solving a lot of problems, especially poverty and underdevelopment in the areas of science and technology, where media should be up to the challenges and responsibilities, he said.

Accelerating events

The Arab region is going through accelerating back-to-back significant events, a matter which creates huge responsibilities for the Arab news agencies to work harder and maintain their status as major safe sources for news, outgoing president of FANA and Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Chairman Abdullah bin Fahd Al-Hussein told the opening session.

Hussein added that the Arab agencies offer distinguished, effective and respectable media amid an information and technological revolution. FANA is on the right path, making for the future with steady steps to achieve its main goals for enhancing joint action and fostering cooperation among the member agencies, Hussein said. Over the past two years, under Al-Hussein's presidency, FANA fulfilled its missions and

carried out its programs and activities, he said, appreciating efforts by the member agencies, the FANA Secretariat and the federation's secretary general.

Then, Hussein handed over FANA presidency to Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah. He expressed confidence that the new president Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij would lead the federation for more achievements and successes, for his experience, good traits and enlightened thinking.

FANA Secretary General Farid Ayar said that Arab consolidated and interactive media is an urgent need at present to face the enormous challenges, with an eye on the future. He lauded FANA's persistent efforts to boost positive interaction among the Arab news agencies.

Tremendous challenges

Addressing the session, new FANA president and KUNA Chairman Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah said that the media is facing tremendous challenges due to the accelerating changes and developments in the Arab World.

The present stage creates colossal responsibilities and burdens that prompt more unity and cooperation to face challenges and risks, he said. The Arab media has plenty of expertise and efficiencies, yet there is a dire need to make the best investment of the available potential and to exchange views and ideas, he said. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij stressed the need for an

"enlightened renewable and variant (media) discourse" based on creativity, to target people as a major goal, especially youth, the national wealth of the Arabs. He called for getting closer to them, interacting with their thoughts, to offer them media content that promotes their thinking, skills and creativity.

Youth have been targeted through bizarre thoughts that sought to attract them to violence, extremism and terrorism, which came to form the biggest challenge for the security and stability of many world countries, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij said. He added that Kuwait was the target of despicable acts of terrorism at the end of the last century.

The country has recently been hit by terrorist attacks that were all failure thanks to the State's wise leadership and unity and cohesion of the Kuwaiti people who stood united in the face of threats to their nation. In the meantime, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij called the Arab news agencies for broader support to development in the Arab countries, through urging people to take part and interact with these efforts. He expressed thanks to SPA chief Abdullah bin Fahd Al-Hussein for his sincere efforts during his two-year tenure as FANA president, and also to the federation's secretary general Farid Ayar.

The 43rd Conference of FANA General Assembly, 23-26 November, discusses a multitude of topics, such as cooperation among the member agencies, staff training, and agreements with regional and international counterparts. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah attends the opening of 43rd Conference of the General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA). — KUNA

58 branches

across Turkey

for your service



We at Burgan Bank go the extra mile to serve you and fulfill all your banking needs wherever you are. We welcome you to any of our 58 branches spread out all over Turkey.

- 26 branches in Istanbul
- 32 branches across other cities in Turkey

follow us on:  Burgan Bank Official page  @burganbankgroup  www.youtube.com/burganbankchannel
For more information call 1804080, or visit www.burgan.com



driven by you



MP Askar Al-Enezi

MP PROTESTS EXPAT ADVISORS' HIRING

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Askar Al-Enezi yesterday filed an inquiry against Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali concerning appointing expatriate advisors in his undersecretary's office with high salaries despite the presence of a 'technical office' staffed by Kuwaitis who are paid much less. Enezi added that the undersecretary had scrapped the technical office, claiming that it did not include legal staff.

Two reports

Chairman of the parliament's financial and economic affairs committee MP Faisal Al-Shaya said that the committee withdrew two reports about public tenders and commercial agencies for further studying.

Wafra farms

Kuwait Municipality decided to expand the northern and eastern borders of Wafra farms by 150 meters on each side, said acting director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi in an official directive he issued. Manfouhi explained that the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) had asked to expand these boundaries by 82.7 meters in view of the previous 500-meter safety zone flanking the railway line due to be built. He added that since the safety area was reduced to only 200 meters, the municipality agreed to expand farm areas by 150 meters.

COURT ABSTAINS FROM PUNISHING POLICE IMPERSONATOR

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday abstained from punishing a Syrian national who had been arrested over charges of impersonating as a police captain, and only committed him to show good conduct. Notably, the man had been stopped in Farwaniya by patrol officers after he looked nervous. He first showed them a forged ID before producing his real one. On searching him, policemen found photos of him dressed in a police captain's uniform in addition to a number of fake IDs. The man is currently being held pending deportation procedures.

Former chief

The court of cassation yesterday adjourned a case demanding the return of Kuwait Airways' former chairman Sami Al-Nisf back to his position. Notably, Nisf had been suspended by a Ministry of Communications' decision over signing a deal with an Indian airline to purchase used aircrafts.

Offenders sentenced

The comprehensive court yesterday sentenced a gang of Arab expats to four years in prison over charges of blackmailing a chancellor working in Kuwaiti courts and slandering him over social media networks.

Manpower authority

Well-informed sources at the Manpower Public Authority said that 980 files had been transferred from Mubarak Al-Kabeer labor department to Ahmadi. The sources explained that the files were related to Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) activities and that this step was meant to make it easier for Mubarak Al-Kabeer to focus more on small and medium projects and entrepreneurs. In another concern, the sources said that acting manpower authority director Ahmed Al-Mousa made three consecutive visits to the Hawally labor department following a sudden inspection by minister Hind Al-Subaih, during which she ordered increasing the department's staff to meet the growing number of applications.

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT RELEASES NEW LAWS FOR TOWING VEHICLES

KUWAIT: The traffic department said it will implement strict measures towards vehicles that tow trailers in violation of the law, and asked motorists to comply with traffic laws and rules of using vehicles. Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna said during a press conference yesterday morning that the traffic department found it necessary to prepare a proposed decision on the rules of using vehicles to tow trailers, conditions of their use, requirements and explain violations of towing conditions, which will be explained by the implementation list of the traffic law, its amendments and the decisions that execute it.

He said there are rules and technical bases that explain how to drive vehicles while towing trailers and means of securing the trailers when they are pulled, adding that objects installed by some motorists for towing purposes are in clear violation of technical specifications. He said there is a ministerial law for 2015 that added the types of vehicles mentioned in article 3 of decreed law 67/1976, for vehicles prepared to tow things and others.

Muhanna said vehicles equipped with towing tools that are installed according to the manufacturer's recommendation should be limited to personal use, adding that the law will be activated at the start of next year. He said that after seeing some traffic accidents, it was found out that the reason was towed trailers and objects used in towing, as they violate security and safety conditions, with or without towing.

Safety tool

He said that conditions must be available in towing vehicles including the availability of safety tools in the trailer such as back lighting, reflecting tape, warning triangle, first aid box and fire extinguisher, and it is not allowed to have passengers inside the trailer while driving. Muhanna said among the conditions is that the vehicle's speed during towing should not exceed the minimum limit of speed on the road, and it should be in the right lane and not leave it unless necessary. Also, the length of the vehicle with the towed trailer should not exceed 15 m, its



KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna (center) is seen during yesterday's press conference.

height should not be more than four meters from the surface of the road and its width should not exceed 260 centimeters.

Muhanna pointed to the importance of making sure about the correct weight mentioned in the vehicle's title and distribute it equally around the center of gravity, and that loads should be well tied inside the trailer so they remain in place during driving. Muhanna said the ministerial law in regards to small private cars adds a new type of car made for personal use to transport one passenger only besides the driver, and are not designed as motorcycles.

He said the addition of this new type of car under the title of small private vehicle comes in light of the development of manufacturing cars and the reliance of world countries on small engines that save fuel and reduce emissions to protect the environment.

Meanwhile, Director General of Relations and Security Information Department Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said the traffic issue has become a case that has interest at all levels. He said the issue is one of the ministry's priorities in order to guarantee road safety and save the youth, as they are the true wealth of this country. — KUNA



People arrested without valid visas during an operation in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh yesterday.

BLOGGER ARRESTED FOR INSULTING PROPHET

POLICE STATION SHEEP AUCTION RUMORS REFUTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A security source said authorities sent blogger Sarah Al-Durais to concerned authorities following her arrest on arrival at Kuwait International Airport. She was later released by the public prosecution on a KD 1,000 bail. The source said that Durais was arrested at dawn yesterday based on a warrant from the prosecution following a complaint by a lawyer who claimed she insulted the Prophet (PBUH) on her personal Twitter account.



Blogger Sara Al-Durais

Sheep auction

Responding to reports that circulated on social media about a sheep auction held at the Shamiya police station, the Interior Ministry's Department of Relations and Security Information said that the reports were highly exaggerated. It explained that a citizen living in Shamiya came to the police station with a lost sheep. He said he found it and did not know who its owner was, so the sheep was kept at the police station and the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources was contacted. An officer printed a notice about a sheep auction and pasted it in his office as a joke. Disciplinary action was taken against the officer who printed the notice and the one who took the photo.

Fatal fall

A worker fell to his death from a building under construction in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The coroner was called as investigations are on to find out whether there is foul play involved.

Visa violators caught

Residency detectives arrested 33 people, including five men and 28 women, for violating the residency law. After information was received about some persons harboring absconding women and hiring them out in homes for money in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, a task force was formed and the suspects were arrested following further investigations.

Armed robbery

Police in Hawally are looking for two persons who entered a baqala (grocery store) in Maidan Hawally holding with sharp objects and robbed the grocer of KD 120 and telephone recharge cards worth KD 190 before escaping.

Swindling

A female citizen accused a man of swindling her out of KD 23,000 to launch a charity project, only to discover that he lied to her. A case was filed for investigations. Meanwhile, a man accused a shopkeeper of withdrawing KD 1,000 through the K-Net machine although he only bought KD 100 worth of goods from the his shop.



A policeman searches a car's trunk during an inspection campaign in Hawally.

Weapons collection

Weapons detectives carried out a campaign on Monday evening in Hawally with the participation of officers from different departments including the traffic department and public security. This move was to ensure security and collect all unlicensed weapons.

Drunk driver arrested

A man was detained at Hadiya police station after he was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol in the area.

Nurses hurt

A bus carrying nurses flipped over on King Fahd Road, injuring 10 nurses slightly. They all were taken to Adan Hospital for treatment. An investigation was opened to determine the circumstances behind the accident.

HELP WANTED

Full time editor/copy editor

Must meet all the following requirements:

- Speak fluent English
- Hold at least a Bachelor's degree, preferably in English or Journalism
- Love learning, language and be detail-oriented
- Have local transferrable visa 18 (no applicants from abroad)
- Own transportation
- Fresh graduates preferred

Email jobs@kuwaittimes.net CV and 1 page writing sample. Only those considered for an interview will be contacted. NO PHONE CALLS

PRIME MINISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will partake in the Paris Climate Change Conference, as part of Kuwait's keenness to protect the environment, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) said yesterday.

Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah told KUNA that the conference, to be held later this month, will aim at finding decisive measures regarding issues connected with climate change.

The EPA Director said that before any alteration could be considered for the UN conventions on climate change, participants should focus on the socio-economic aspects of any future agreements. —KUNA

'30% OF CANCER PATIENTS NEED PALLIATIVE THERAPY'

KUWAIT: Secretary General of the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control (GFFCC) Dr Khaled Al-Saleh said Monday night that more than 2,000 people are diagnosed as cancer patients in Kuwait annually. "Thirty percent of those patients need palliative therapy at a particular stage of treatment," he said in his inaugural speech to a regional training course for palliative therapy personnel.

The event, being held under patronage of Kuwaiti Minister of Health Ali Al-Obaidi, is co-organized by the GFFCC, the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office, and the Health Ministry's palliative center. "The course provides a platform for palliative therapy personnel in the

Mediterranean basin countries to share experience with their peers in Kuwait on ways to improve cancer patients' well-being and make them better able to continue their life normally," Dr Saleh pointed out.

"The event gathered 30 trainees from all countries of the region alongside with trainers from the Geneva-based WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office," he said. He added that Kuwait society for combating smoking and cancer and the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) had co-launched a regional Arab center for palliative therapy which has a 92-bed capacity and benefited 527 patients since it was established in December, 2010. — KUNA



Naif Palace gate



New hotels



Safat Square



Al-Shamiya Gate



Souq Wajif gate

SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD VILLAGE DEVELOPS FACILITIES

KUWAIT: Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village, currently hosting the Gulf Heritage Festival, will see great developments in services and facilities this year, according to the festival's General Supervisor and Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar. The village, set to officially open its new facilities next December, has provided six booths for GCC states to showcase their traditional products and handicrafts, said the advisor.

He noted that the village will also include a prototype of the old Souq Waqif, containing 20 stores serving traditional food and items that were sold in the original souq (market). Moreover, he said that visitors can also see a miniature of Al-Shamiya Gate, Naif Palace and the famous Safat Square that used to be a vital commercial center in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Sharar said that there is also a 36-room hotel to allow visitors who wish to stay at the village for no more than three days, as well as over 20 tents where families can rest. Sharar added that the village contains large green areas with water streams and lakes where people can go fishing, as well as a natural reserve for desert plants and animals. Moreover, the official noted that the village provides entertainment activities for children and a selection of restaurants and cafes, expecting the number of visitors to exceed last year's record of over 600,000 visitors. — KUNA

SCPD, UNDP SIGN TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROJECT

KUWAIT: The Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) and the UN Development program (UNDP) yesterday signed the document of a national project for supporting the technical capabilities of the SCPD and the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB). The project will offer technical support to some other government bodies to help them develop a favorable environment for the implementation and monitoring of the national mid-term development plan, SCPD Assistant Secretary General Khaled Al-Mahdi said.

He added that the project will cover developing institutional and human capabilities as well as the organizational effectiveness for an efficacious development planning. It will also enhance the technical expertise and institutional abilities for strategic planning. Mahdi signed the agreement with the UN Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative in Kuwait Zineb Benjelloun. — KUNA



"If you have a passion in the F&B Industry and are looking for a better career opportunity, MMC is the answer to your dreams."

Join us in our **RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY**

Date and Time: Sunday, November 29th, 2015 from 9:00am to 7:00pm
Location: IBIS Hotel, Salmiya, Salem Mubarak St.

Positions Available

- Outlet Manager
- Senior Captain
- Waiter/Waitress
- Asst. Outlet Manager
- Captain
- Commis I, II, III

Please bring the following documents along with you:
• Updated CV
• Copy of passport
• Copy of experience & qualification certificate

"www.mmckuwait.com"



Test Drive KIA & Win Amazing Prizes

www.kia.com



iPhone 6s



Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge



Samsung Galaxy Note 5

Join us on Friday 27/11/2015
From 10:30 am - 7:00 pm
At the Marina Crescent...
Enjoy a test drive and enter the draw on the latest smartphones

Entertainment, instant gifts and fun for the entire family!



The Power to Surprise

Working Hours

Daily : 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Friday : 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

KIA Showroom - Al Rai
1805 008

KFH Showrooms - Shuwaikh: 2439 7746
Ahmadi: 2439 7753 Farwaniya: 2439 7793



مجموعة شركات عبد العزيز العلي المطوع
Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies

f /KiaMotorsKuwait @KiaQ8 /KiaMotorsKw

Al-Anbaa

WESTERN MEDIA CREDIBILITY

By Sami Al-Nisf

Some of us take whatever is in Western media as undeniable and irrefutable facts. Well, they cannot be more wrong. The famous American news-magazine Newsweek carried a feature story wondering about the reasons of Western media prejudice against Arabs and GCC nationals, including strong criticism of death sentences issued in Saudi Arabia (noting that the death penalty is used in the US), though there were only 175 cases in a year. The story said that the very same media turned a blind eye to a regional country that executed 700 within six months only. The magazine went on with comparisons between similar incidents that happened in regional Arab and non-Arab countries and how the former was covered, highlighted and severely criticized, while the same media kept silent about those taking place in the latter.

In 2007, scores of some American university professors and their students made a meticulous survey about news published in American and Western media in the years 2005 and 2006. According to a book published later including the survey results, the media were banned from approaching news stories that would harm the interests of major companies like that of Dick Cheney that had been secretly selling atomic technology to a regional country it had been publicly calling to boycott.

In addition, Donald Rumsfeld's company, Gilead Sciences, might be the one behind creating a state of avian flu panic in order to sell the vaccines it manufactures. The study showed that the Congo wars that claimed over seven million lives in the most brutal ways were not waged over political or racial disputes as the press claims. Those wars were rather waged to enable mega companies take over natural resources such as diamonds, tin, copper, gold, and most importantly, coltan and niobium, which are very essential rare earth elements in the mobile phone industry.

Western media taboo lists are long and reflect prejudice and bias over the interests of mega companies and establishments. In fact it was the World Bank that actually financed building the apartheid barrier in the West Bank, neglecting stories about the toll of civilian victims of air strikes in Iraq, torturing prisoners to death in Afghanistan, IMF's mistake in Iraq that totally destroyed its economy, the truth about the danger of genetically modified foods and some common agricultural pesticides, reports about the reason behind the collapse of the New York towers, destroying the Amazon forest, creating the death squads that were transported from Latin America to some Middle East countries, the Red Cross' silence about many anti-humanity crimes it witnessed, etc.

Finally, that report said that some insignificant silly reports, such as celebrities' marriages and individual crimes, are often published to distract the public and cover up more serious incidents simultaneously taking place that are meant to go unnoticed.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

KD 154 MILLION TO ESTABLISH 'ABDALI WAREHOUSES COMPANY'

KUWAIT: At a time when the government is preparing two decisions about increasing state property fees and gas prices, it also agreed to establish a new shareholding company to run a planned free trade zone and sites allocated for customs' warehouses in Abdali to the North of Kuwait, said high-ranking ministerial sources.

The sources explained that the cabinet agreed during its meeting Monday to allocate the KD 154 million as initial founding capital, out of a total capital of KD 610 million, to complete the executive phases of establishing the new company in four steps.

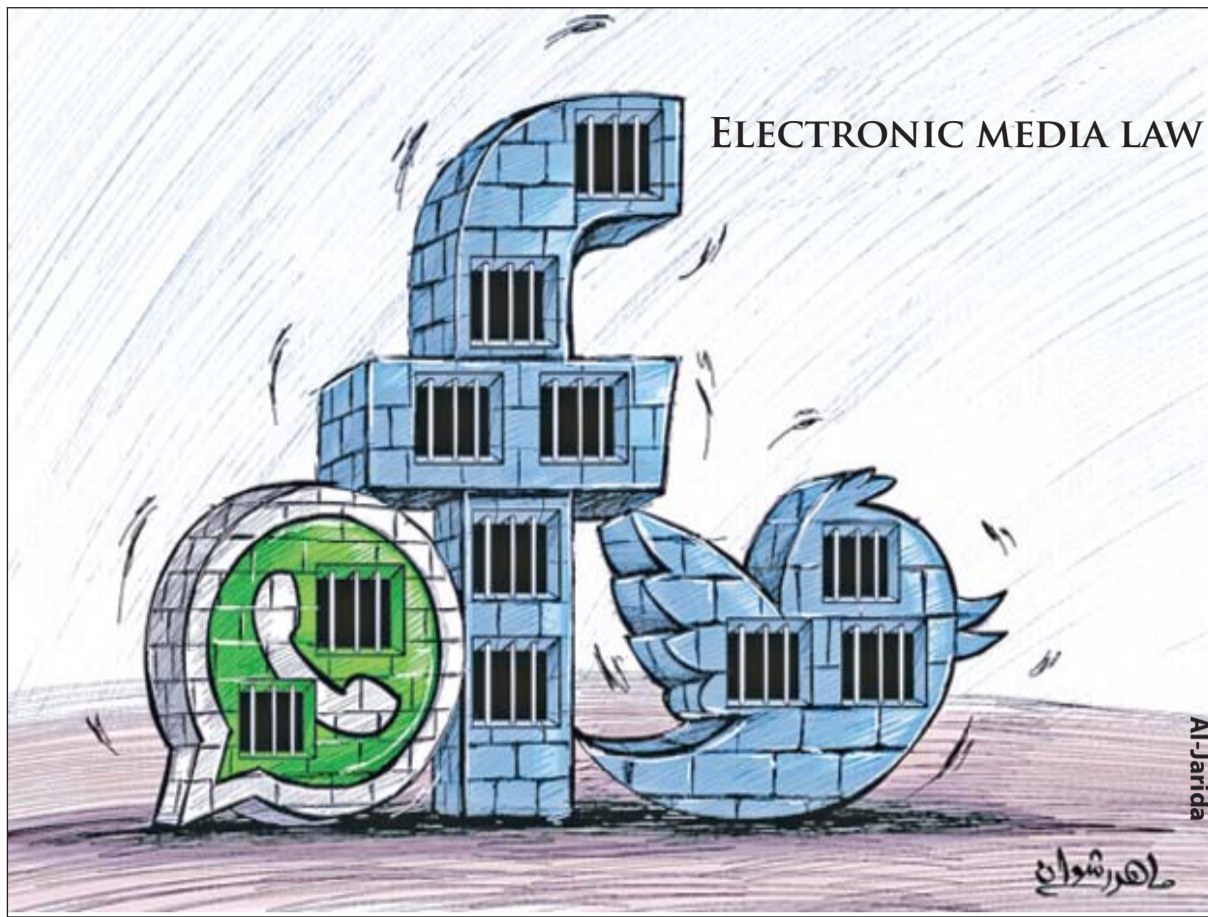
The sources added that according to a law approved by the cabinet, 50 percent of the company's shares will be owned by Kuwaiti citizens through an initial public offering, 26 percent by a strategic partner and 24 percent for the government. The cabinet also asked the finance minister, the Investment Authority and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to take the needed measures concerning rent values, lease contracts' duration and the requirements of running the free trade zone. — Al-Anbaa



PAYROLL ALTERNATIVE AMENDMENTS DISCUSSED

KUWAIT: The parliament's human resources development committee discussed amendments on the strategic alternative project for the public sector's payroll. The committee said in a statement following its meeting Monday that 80 percent of state employees will benefit from the project by increasing their salaries. However, a memo prepared by the committee said that jobs with high salaries will not be raised.

The committee said there are four proposed amendments made by a company that the government assigned to prepare the project. They include adding senior posts to the categories covered by the project, avoid reducing the salary of any state employee, in addition to re-categorizing salaries so that the basic salary will be decreased, while other allocations are increased for new employees. The annual increase of salaries shall be linked with the consumer price indicator, the company said. The project aims to achieve more justice and transparency in the public sector's payroll system, as well as manage salary increase and encourage high performance, as the current payroll structure is often blamed for killing competitiveness in the public sector. — Al-Qabas



Al-Anbaa

ISRAEL IS NOT OUR ENEMY

Al-Anbaa

By Saleh Al-Shayehi

I am trying to be realistic, objective and reasonable in what I am writing because I know that it will be shocking as well as contradicting with age-old non-negotiable beliefs and taboos. Is Israel an enemy? Is animosity stable or changeable? Is it controlled by and subject to certain situations, circumstances, attitudes and interests?

Arab hostility to Israel started even before establishing Israel, when powerful resourceful Arab countries at that time fought some Jewish militia gangs in Palestine, and yet those gangs managed to defeat the well-armed armies of seven Arab countries. International intervention was then resorted to in order to resolve the dispute over Palestinian territories between Arabs and the Jews. However, the 'mighty' Arabs rejected the division project, and thus granted the Jews a second victory. Consequently, the state of Israel was founded and declared and was recognized by the world except for Arab countries and other ones that later on found no alternative other than recognizing it.

Whose enemy is Israel? Is it the enemy of all Arab states? Well, Palestinians have every right to antagonize Israel because they occupied their lands. We do support and assist them in every possible way we can and that it the maximum, and nothing more, Arab countries are

expected to do.

After seven whole decades, as Arabs, who is our real enemy today? Do all Arab states have only one enemy or each country or group of countries have an enemy who might most probably be a dear friend of another? The first step towards reform in the Arab world is to alienate the Arab nationalism concepts because facts deny them and those who believe they still exist are delusional.

Take Kuwait, for an example. Is Israel a real enemy of it? Has it ever invaded it? Has it fought it? Has it killed its citizens? The answer to all the above questions is a big fat NO. Why does Kuwait consider Israel as an enemy while it deals with Iraq, that already invaded and occupied it, as a friend, brother and neighbor? I do not wish that Kuwait antagonizes Iraq. On the contrary, it made the right decision because animosity is constantly changeable, particularly in politics where yesterday's enemy can be today's friend and today's friend might become tomorrow's enemy. This is a real fact.

The bottom line is that Israel is not Arabs' enemy and Arab countries have to individually get rid of the Arab nation's complex and make their own individual decisions independently.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



NORTH ZOUR IPO BY NEXT SUMMER'S END

KUWAIT: Al-Zour North Company plans to carry out the initial public offering (IPO) for the initial phase of the North Zour Power Plant project by the end of next summer in coordination with the government, a senior government source said.

According to the IPO, 50 percent of the project's shares will be distributed to citizens, while the investor's share stands at 40 percent while the government's at 10 percent. As of now, the first part of the initial phase, which includes building three units with an electricity production capacity

of 750 megawatts a day, has already been completed. The plant's current production covers nearly 12 percent of Kuwait's total electricity production, the source said.

The investor's share in the North Zour electricity generation and water desalination plant is owned by a consortium of companies that includes ENGIE, Sumitomo Corporation, and Abdullah Al-Hamad Alsagar and Bros Company. The government currently owns 60 percent of the plant's shares, and is required to place 50 in the IPO. — Al-Rai

SUICIDE STATS SHOW ALARMING RISE

KUWAIT: Statistics of those who committed suicide in Kuwait rang the danger bells as 62 expatriates and three citizens ended their lives during 11 months since the start of 2015. Data showed that maids are the most committing suicide, while 13 women killed themselves in the same period. Statistics showed that 60 percent of those who committed suicide are aged between 19 to 35 years, while the means of suicide varied between jumping from high places, taking large amount of medicine, ingesting poison, cutting wrists and others. A security source said the interior ministry is working on rehabilitating policemen to deal and negotiate with those who attempt suicide. — Al-Qabas



Crime

Report

Duo arrested for attacking police

KUWAIT: Two policemen were beaten by two brothers who were in an abnormal condition in Saad Al-Abdullah. Both were arrested and charged with drunkenness and attacking policemen on duty.

Syrian man swindled

A Egyptian man promised a Syrian national that he can get a visa for his wife and children for KD 3,500. The man took the money and disappeared, however, leading the Syrian national to file a complaint at Jahra police station.

Apartment robbed

Ahmadi detectives are looking for a thief who broke into an apartment and stole seven passports, KD 4,000 in cash and five gold bracelets. The apartment is located in Fintas. Police are working on the case.

Search for offender

A female citizen accused a man of insulting her when he ran into her accidentally in Jabriya, and lodged a complaint at the police station. She told police she had earlier disputes with the man. The woman gave police the man's phone number. The man was contacted and asked to go to the police station, but he refused. Detectives were then ordered to arrest him.

Couple assaulted

A citizen called police and told them that three persons he knows stopped and pulled him out of his car in Maidan Hawally then beat him in front of his wife, who was verbally insulted. The trio then fled. Hawally detectives were asked to arrest the suspects.

Ex-wife charged

A citizen accused his ex-wife of damaging his car, smashing its windows, and stealing personal belongings, according to his complaint at Qairawan police station. He told police that his ex-wife threatened to harm him due to earlier disputes. The woman will be questioned about the charges.

Account hacked

A man complained against a 'hacker' who withdrew KD 1,000 from his bank account. The hacker bought goods from a site and paid KD 1,000 through the victim's account. Police are investigating.

Fight

Hawally police brought a fight that broke out at a computer store under control. A customer wanted to return a computer, but the salesman refused to refund the money. The citizen had bought the computer a week earlier and wanted to return it, but an argument ensued that evolved into exchanging blows, and the citizen destroyed some computer sets in the store. Police took both sides to Nugra police station for further investigations. — Al-Rai

'EXIT SYSTEM' FOR EXPAT WORKERS SOON

KUWAIT: The Manpower Public Authority is currently working on finding a mechanism to apply the exit documentation system for expatriate workers in the private sector who plan to travel outside. The system requires workers to obtain written permissions from their superiors and related human resources departments before they can travel for any reason. The manpower authority is serious about plans to apply the system as soon as possible, Acting Director General Ahmad Al-Mousa said, adding that the system is already applied in the public sector as well as in the private sector in some other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. — Al-Rai

'RECEIPTS' CONDITION STRIKES CONSUMER LOANS

KUWAIT: A considerable falloff has been recorded in the number of bank clients applying to get consumer loans in view of new conditions set by the Central Bank of Kuwait, and mandate applicants to provide receipts and bills explaining how they spent their loans. According to official banking sources, local banks' indicators specify that consumer bank loans have dropped noticeably over the months of September, October and November. "The Central Bank's September monthly report due to be issued by the end of this month will show this," said the sources, pointing out that the last report was issued in August.

Furthermore, the sources stressed that this fall would affect loans' development and, consequently, local banks' profits for the coming year if the Central Bank kept its strict policy in this regard.

Decline

In this regard, a local bank's credit manager said that the number of clients applying to get consumer loans has been declining, especially when applicants are told about the Central Bank's condition, and when warned that they should take those conditions seriously in order to avoid being deprived of the right to get any future loans if they violate the conditions or produce forged bills.

Moreover, the sources stressed that the Central Bank had surprised leading local bankers during a recent meeting by inquiring about and emphasizing the need to put the receipts and bills' condition into practice. "We have thought that this was another routine request the Central Bank would not insist on activating. But to our surprise, it turned out to be a priority and that non-complying clients would actually be blacklisted," stressed the sources, noting that banks and financing companies had not been concerned with clients' personal information about how they spend their loans because it falls under clients' personal information and freedom. — Al-Anbaa



Texas student arrested over clock seeks \$15m

HOTEL ATTACK ON JUDGES KILLS 7 IN SINAI

Page 8

Page 9

OBAMA: US, FRANCE STAND UNITED

HOLLANDE SEEKS TO RAMP UP ISLAMIC STATE FIGHT

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama said yesterday the United States and France will stand united to fight Islamic State militants following the Nov 13 attacks in Paris, pledging to step up efforts to combat terrorism alongside its European partners. "As Americans, we stand by our friends in good times and in bad, no matter what," Obama said at a news conference with French President Francois Hollande at the White House. Hollande is trying to rally support this week for a more coordinated international campaign to destroy Islamic State. He is due to visit Moscow tomorrow.

"The United States and France stand united, in total solidarity, to deliver justice to these terrorists ... and to defend our nations," Obama said, adding that Islamic State and its ideology "pose a serious threat to all of us." Hollande said the United States and France have agreed to step up strikes in Syria and Iraq to target Islamic State. Hollande said he and Obama agreed on the importance of closing the Turkish border to limit the movement of extremists into Europe.

Hollande's meeting with Obama follows the attacks in Paris that killed 130 people at the national sports stadium, a concert venue and bars and restaurants in heart of the French capital. Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack. Obama said he and Hollande agreed that more needed to be done to combat Islamic State's efforts. "US assistance has supported recent French strikes in Syria and we're going to keep stepping up that coordination," he said. "We will continue to do everything in our power to defend our nation. We will win and groups like ISIL will lose," Obama said, using an acronym for Islamic State. "Viva la France," Obama

added. On the Syrian crisis, Obama also said that Russian strikes against moderate opposition there only serve to bolster Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's government. In Europe, the manhunt continued for Belgian-born Salah Abdeslam, a key suspect in the November 13 attacks that killed 130 people, while Brussels entered a fourth day of lockdown over fears of an "imminent" terror strike. Police in France said they were analyzing what is thought to be a suicide belt similar to those used in the Paris attacks, found without its detonator in a dustbin in the Montrouge suburb of the capital. Telephone data placed Abdeslam in the area the night of the attacks.

France's security crackdown since the attacks has seen police search more than 1,200 premises, arrested 165 people and seized 230 weapons - including "weapons of war" - Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said yesterday. Authorities in neighboring Belgium said they have charged a fourth person in connection with the bloodshed in Paris, which was claimed by the Islamic State group. Brussels will stay on its highest level of alert at least until next Monday, with city-wide patrols of armed soldiers and police to ward off a threat the government said "remains serious and imminent," though schools and the Metro train system will re-open today.

Shuttle Diplomacy

Hollande's trip to Washington is part of a frantic week of shuttle diplomacy by the French leader as he tries to rally global support for increased strikes against IS. He will hold talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Paris today and with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow tomorrow, before dining with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the French capital on Sunday.

The UN Security Council last week authorized "all necessary measures" to fight IS.

In Brussels, an eerie atmosphere hung over the city with soldiers in camouflage patrolling everywhere from railway stations to EU institutions. France has said it will install security gates at stations in Paris and Lille for Thalys cross-Europe rail services by Dec 20. A Thalys train from Amsterdam to Paris was attacked by a heavily armed man in August, but he was overpowered by passengers. In Brussels' normally bustling historic Grand Place, a few bars and restaurants were open for business but they were struggling to find customers. The only real activity downtown was deliverymen offloading crates for near-empty shops as builders hammered together stalls for a Christmas market meant to open on Friday. "My grandson said we should up sticks and move to the south of the Yser river, just like in World War I (after the Germans invaded)," said Michel, a retired man from a Dutch-speaking suburb.

The European Union and NATO, which both have their headquarters in Brussels, said they would boost security and urged non-essential staff to work from home. Meanwhile, the federal prosecutor's office announced that a man arrested in a police operation in Belgium late Sunday has been charged with involvement in the Paris attacks, the fourth so far. Mohammed Amri, 27, and Hamza Attou, 20, were charged on Monday on suspicion of helping Abdeslam escape to Brussels after the attacks, while a third unnamed person faces charges of aiding him when he reached the city. Abdeslam's brother Mohamed on Sunday told Belgian television he thought Salah had decided at the very last moment not to go through with his attack mission. — Agencies



WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama shakes hands with French President Francois Hollande during their news conference in the East Room of the White House yesterday. — AP

Escape to breathtaking Malaysia

Travel to Malaysia
From **KWD 148**

Whether you are looking to explore the wonders of the rainforest or simply relax on the beach, there's an exciting experience around every street corner within every cave. With two daily flights to Kuala Lumpur and incredible fares, it's the perfect time to start your adventure.

Year of Festivals 2015
Endless Celebrations

#Reimagined | etihad.com |

الإتجاه
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI

Above are starting from fares available for booking until 30 November 2015 and travel until 30 March 2016. Fares are subject to availability. Peak season surcharges apply. Other conditions apply.

FIRE KILLS 18 MIGRANTS AT ALGERIA CAMP

ALGIERS: A fire sparked by an electrical fault killed 18 African migrants, including children, and injured 50 others yesterday at a camp in Algeria, officials said. The blaze began before dawn at the camp housing more than 650 migrants in Ouargla, 800 km southeast of Algiers, Colonel Farouk Achour of the emergency services said. Two children and three women were among the victims, the official Algerian news agency APS said. Several hours later the nationalities of the victims were still not known. "The fire broke out at 3:00 am (0200 GMT), killing 18 people and wounding 43," Achour said by telephone.

A source at the emergency services later put the number of injured at 50. The president of the Algerian Red Crescent, Saïda Benhabiles, said the fire was sparked by a short circuit. "A short circuit triggered the explosion of a heater and the fire," Benhabiles told AFP. She said that 27 people were still being treated in hospital. The emergency services rushed to the scene to extinguish the fire. Authorities have opened an investigation. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika also dispatched the interior and health ministers, Nouredine Bedoui and Abdelmalek Boudiaf, to Ouargla to follow up on the situation, APS reported.

The foreign ministry set up a crisis cell to "monitor the situation and identify the victims", a statement said. Since a 2011 uprising tipped Libya into chaos, Algeria, which has long borders with Mali and Niger, has become a top North African destination for sub-Saharan seeking a better life.

Thousands Deported

Benhabiles said that more than 4,000 migrants from Niger have been returned to their country by Algeria since 2014. She said that 400 more migrants were due to be sent back to Niger from Ouargla, but it was not clear if any of

them were from the camp hit by the blaze. The migrants at the camp were housed in a warehouse set up by the authorities last year where thousands of people, namely from Mali and Niger, have sought refuge.

According to Benhabiles, the migrants are free to come and go from the camp. "They are constantly on the move. One day there could be 2,000 (migrants) and the next they are 200," she said. "We don't lock up people as they do elsewhere." Oil-rich Algeria has been a magnet for sub-Saharan Africans who use it as a transit stop as they attempt to reach Europe. Migrants who first arrive in

Algeria often congregate in the deep southern town of Tamanrasset, near the borders with Mali and Niger, before moving to cities further north to eke out a living.

Women and children can often be seen begging on the streets. Newspapers have carried reports of the harsh conditions faced by migrants in Algeria, including several cases of women being raped. Algeria passed a law in 2009 stipulating that anyone convicted of illegal migration can face up to six months in detention while people-smugglers can be jailed for up to 20 years. — AFP

BAHRAIN JAILS REPORTER ON TERRORISM CHARGES

HRW REPORT 'MISLEADING'

RIYADH: Bahrain this week jailed a freelance photographer for 10 years and stripped him of his nationality after convicting him of terrorism, the media rights group Reporters sans Frontiers said yesterday. Sayed Ahmed Al-Mousawi was accused of giving mobile phone SIM cards to demonstrators and taking photographs of anti-government protests, RSF reported. A report on Bahrain News Agency late on Monday quoted Prosecution Advocate General Ahmed Al-Hammadi as saying the High Court had sentenced three defendants to 15 years in prison and three to 10 years for setting up and joining a terrorist cell. None of those sentenced were named and it was not clear if Mousawi was among them.

It quoted him as saying they had trained to make explosives, conducted illegal rallies, possessed petrol bombs, committed forgery for the purpose of terrorism and attempted murder in 2013 and 2014. The island kingdom, which hosts the US Fifth Fleet in the Gulf, has experienced sporadic unrest since mass protests in 2011 led by majority Shiites demanding reforms and a bigger role in government.

The government denies opposition charges it discriminates against Shiites and says the opposition has a sectarian agenda and is backed by Shiite power Iran, a charge Tehran and Shiite groups deny. In a separate case reviewed by the same court, a judge sentenced 16 defendants to 15 years in prison and three others to 10 years, BNA quoted Hammadi as saying. On Nov 16, Bahrain jailed 12 people and revoked their citizenship for carrying out bomb attacks on police

in 2013 and 2014, it said.

Separately, Bahrain criticized as misleading a Human Rights Watch report accusing the kingdom's authorities of torturing detainees during interrogation and granting security officials impunity. The report, published Monday, is "misleading, unbalanced and controversial," said Information Minister Isa Al-Hammadi in remarks on BNA. It is "based on false information." Bahrain has established "independent national watchdogs to probe any alleged illegal practices involving detainees, inmates or others," said Hammadi, adding that such action is taken "seriously" by the kingdom.

"We have a clear policy of cooperation with international organizations which are willing to do so," he said, adding that "Bahrain is no need for politicized watchdogs which work through an agenda," apparently referring to HRW. New York-based HRW has said regulatory bodies set up after the 2011 to end torture in interrogation and detention facilities "lack independence".

HRW spoke of cases of physical torture amid a "complete lack of accountability for the abuse of detainees". It said it interviewed 10 detainees "who said they endured coercive interrogations" by authorities. In another statement on BNA, the government said it was "reviewing" the content of HRW's report, "including a series of anonymous allegations it contains, and recommendations." It urged HRW to provide the three institutions, controlled by the interior ministry and public prosecutor, "with sufficient information to enable them to conduct effective investigations." — Agencies



AL-ARISH, Egypt: A man stands next to an ambulance outside the Swiss Inn hotel in this Egyptian town in the Sinai peninsula, following an attack on the hotel yesterday. — AFP

HOTEL ATTACK ON JUDGES KILLS 7 IN EGYPT'S SINAI

IS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBING

CAIRO: Islamic State's Egyptian branch claimed responsibility for a bombing that killed at least seven people in a hotel in North Sinai yesterday where judges overseeing a parliamentary election were staying. A militant tried to drive a car bomb into the hotel in the provincial capital al-Arish before security forces opened fire, causing the car to explode, the military and a witness said. A suicide bomber broke into the hotel restaurant and blew himself up and a gunman entered the guest rooms area and killed a judge, they said. Seventeen people were wounded, the Health Ministry said.

"A brother ... seeking martyrdom hit with his car bomb the security force protecting the Swiss (Inn) hotel where 50 judges were staying, only to be followed by a lion ... who broke into the judges' base with his automatic weapon ... then blew up his explosive belt among them,"

Sinai Province said in a statement circulated by its followers on Twitter.

The group has carried out similar attacks in the region as part of its bid to topple the Cairo government. It said two of its members carried out the attack. The Interior Ministry said there were two attackers but the military and a witness said there were three militants. It was not immediately possible to clarify the contradiction. Two judges, four policemen and a civilian were killed, the Interior Ministry said. The military said the three militants were killed.

The blasts followed Monday's second round of voting in Egypt's parliamentary election. Egyptian elections are monitored by the judiciary with judges running polling stations, observing the voting and counting ballots. "This brutal incident is a failed attempt to hinder the state from building its institution but

we assure all that it will increase the drive and insistence of the armed forces and the Interior Ministry to weed out the roots of terrorism in North Sinai," a military statement read.

The attack happened early in the morning and started with the car bomb, Swiss Inn manager Mohamed Mahana told Reuters. "The security forces shot the suicide bomber and his car and his tyres blew up but he kept driving until he got to the hotel entrance then the explosion happened. It was huge." A second suicide bomber came in through the beach and into the hotel restaurant, breaking its window, before blowing himself up, said Mahana. The restaurant was empty. "A third attacker sneaked into the hotel through the side where the guest rooms are and shot passersby, killing one judge, before a security official shot him." — Reuters



JERUSALEM: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) meets US Secretary of State John Kerry during a meeting at the prime minister's office yesterday. — AP

KERRY SLAMS PALESTINIAN ATTACKS, MEETS ISRAEL PM

JERUSALEM: US Secretary of State John Kerry expressed strong support for Israel and condemned a wave of Palestinian attacks yesterday as he met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to try to ease weeks of violence. Arriving with scant hopes for a major breakthrough, Kerry discussed with Netanyahu ways of calming tensions and did the same later in the day with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah. "Clearly, no people anywhere should live with daily violence, with attacks in the streets, with knives, with scissors, cars," Kerry told reporters at Netanyahu's office ahead of talks with the Israeli prime minister.

"And it is very clear to us that terrorism, these acts of terrorism, deserve the condemnation that they are receiving and today I express my complete condemnation for any act of terror that takes innocent lives." Kerry also mentioned American victims of the attacks, with at least three US citizens - two with dual citizenship and one from Kerry's home state of Massachusetts - killed in the wave of violence that began on Oct 1.

He however made no mention of resolving the larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict in his remarks before the meeting amid US pessimism over whether significant negotiations can take place before President Barack Obama leaves office in little over a year. After the talks with Netanyahu ended, Kerry spokesman John Kirby said that the two discussed Syria and the Islamic State group as well as "steps that can be taken to stop the violence in Israel, Jerusalem and the West Bank."

The lack of specifics, at least publicly, regarding the Palestinians will likely disappoint Abbas, with Palestinian officials saying in the run up to yesterday's meeting that they were hoping Kerry would pressure Netanyahu. Palestine Liberation Organisation secretary-general Saeb Erekat told AFP in an interview Monday that if nothing concrete comes out of the meetings with Kerry, the Palestinians could move forward on changing longstanding links

with Israel, including security coordination. The violence has left 92 Palestinians dead, including one Arab Israeli, as well as 17 Israelis - including the two Israeli-Americans - one American and an Eritrean. Many of the Palestinians killed have been alleged attackers, while others were shot during demonstrations and clashes with Israeli security forces.

Lone-Wolf Attacks

The violence continued as Kerry arrived yesterday, when a Palestinian rammed a vehicle into Israeli troops at a junction south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, wounding four before being shot. The stab-bings, shootings and car ramming have mainly been carried out by so-called "lone wolf" attackers who have defied Abbas's calls for peaceful resistance to Israel's occupation. Many of them have been young people, including teenagers, reflecting anger and lost hope over Israel's occupation, the Palestinians' fractured leadership and the complete lack of progress in peace efforts, some analysts say.

Kerry said he was "here today to talk to the prime minister about ways we can work together, all of us in the international community, to push back against terrorism, to push back against senseless violence." He said he wanted "to find a way forward to restore calm and to begin to provide opportunities that most reasonable people in every part of the world are seeking for themselves and their families."

Netanyahu has come under pressure to tighten security and on Monday he announced stricter controls on Palestinian vehicles and an increase in so-called "bypass roads," which create separate routes for Palestinians and Israeli settlers. During a visit on Monday to a West Bank settlement that has been the scene of numerous attacks, he also said work permits would be withdrawn for families of alleged attackers and pledged there would be "no limits" on the powers of Israeli soldiers in the territory. — AFP

ERDOGAN SON-IN-LAW HAS KEY POST IN NEW CABINET

ANKARA: Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu yesterday unveiled a new cabinet stacked with loyal allies of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, including his son-in-law who was named energy minister. Davutoglu won approval for his cabinet at a meeting with Erdogan and the Turkish strongman is expected to keep tight control over the government. The announcement of the new lineup comes after the snap November 1 election where the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) co-founded by Erdogan stunningly regained the majority it had unexpectedly lost in a June vote.

There had been considerable interest in whether Erdogan's son-in-law Berat Albayrak would be in the cabinet after unconfirmed reports that Davutoglu was opposed to his presence in the government. Another longstanding Erdogan ally, Binali Yildirim, was named transport minister but there was no space in the cabinet for former deputy premier Ali Babacan, a trusted figure in global financial markets.

Former finance minister Mehmet Simsek, another key economic figure seen as reassuring to the markets, was appointed deputy prime minister and is expected to take over Babacan's role. Albayrak was until late 2013 the chief executive of the Calik Holding conglomerate but has more recently been writing economic commentaries in pro-government newspapers. Erdogan is considered very close to the Albayrak family, in particular Berat Albayrak's father Sadik. Several world leaders attended the marriage of Berat Albayrak to the president's elder daughter Esra Erdogan in July 2004.

In a short speech before he announced the new cabinet, Davutoglu said the new government would focus on achieving structural reforms over the next four years. The new government has several familiar faces from the AKP

government that had been in power until the June election. Mevlut Cavusoglu, a figure seen as reassuring for the United States and the European Union, returned to his former post as foreign minister, while Ekan Ala also returned to the cabinet as interior minister.

Two women ministers will be serving in the new cabinet: Family and social policies minister Sema Ramazanoğlu and environment minister Fatma Guldemet Sari. The November result was a huge personal victory for Erdogan,

who may now be able to secure enough support for his controversial ambitions to expand his role into a powerful US-style executive presidency. However the AKP still does not command the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution without support from other parties or a popular referendum. Turkey is facing a renewed conflict between the state and Kurdish separatists as well as a wave of bloody attacks blamed on Islamic State jihadists. — AFP



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) meets Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu yesterday. — AFP

TEXAS STUDENT ARRESTED OVER CLOCK SEEKS \$15M

TEEN SCARRED BY 'PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA'

CHICAGO: The Muslim teenager arrested when a teacher mistook his homemade clock for a bomb threatened to sue his school and the town of Irving, Texas for \$15 million, his lawyer said Monday. Ahmed Mohamed, 14, became an overnight sensation in September after his sister tweeted a photo of the aspiring inventor stand-

ing in handcuffs while wearing a t-shirt with the US space agency NASA's logo. President Barack Obama joined a surge of public support by congratulating the teen on his skills and inviting him to bring the clock to the White House in what was seen as a pointed rebuke to school and police officials amid accusations of Islamophobia.

Invitations poured in from Facebook, Google, the United Nations and Mohamed later tweeted photos of visits to Makkah, New York, Sudan and Qatar. But his lawyer insists there was a dark side to his fame, which caused "severe psychological trauma," according to a letter notifying the city and school district of his demands. The son

of Sudanese immigrants who lived in a Dallas suburb, the young robotics fan brought in a homemade clock to impress a new teacher at MacArthur High School.

Instead, Mohamed was accused of trying to scare people with a hoax bomb and escorted from the school in handcuffs. His lawyers insist that the school, police force and city officials violated Mohamed's rights by wrongfully accusing and detaining him and then decided to "trash" him when the media got wind of the story. "Ahmed clearly was singled out because of his race, national origin and religion,"

attorney Kelly Hollingsworth wrote. The letter noted that Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne called the clock a "hoax bomb" during an appearance on the Glenn Beck television show and nodded as Beck and his other guest called the story "an influence operation" in furtherance of a coming "civilization jihad". "Not only was this dangerous 'baiting' that destroyed any chance the Mohamed family ever had of being truly safe and secure in the United States, but it was also defamatory," his lawyers wrote.

The family received threatening emails and left their home after their

address was publicized. They eventually moved to Qatar after Mohamed was offered a generous scholarship. His attorneys are seeking \$5 million in damages from the school district and \$10 million from the city of Irving and said they will file a civil suit if they do not receive a reply within 60 days. Hollingsworth said Ahmed and his younger siblings have found schools in Qatar, but his older sisters, who are 17 and 18, have not. "Ahmed is very gratified by all of the support that he has received, but just like his siblings and his parents, he misses Texas. It is his home," Hollingsworth said. — Agencies



WASHINGTON: In this Oct 20, 2015 file photo, Ahmed Mohamed, a 14-year-old high school student who was arrested after he brought a homemade clock to his Irving, Texas high school to show his teachers and was later accused of having a "hoax bomb", speaks during a press conference on Capitol Hill. — AFP

CENTRAL ATHENS BOMB BLAST DAMAGES CYPRIOT EMBASSY

ATHENS: A bomb exploded outside the offices of a Greek business federation in central Athens yesterday, badly damaging the nearby Cypriot Embassy but causing no injuries, police officials said. The blast, which police believe was carried out by domestic guerrilla groups, is the first such incident since leftist Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras came to power in January. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Attacks against banks, politicians and business people are not uncommon in Greece, which has a long history of political

violence and has been mired in its worst economic crisis in decades.

The device, triggered by a timer and placed in a backpack near the entrance of the Hellenic Business Federation offices, went off around 3:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) in central Athens, close to parliament in Syntagma Square. An anonymous caller warned a newspaper some 30 minutes earlier, a police official said on condition of anonymity. The Cypriot Embassy, across the street from the business federation, bore the brunt of the damage. Police said

they had no evidence to indicate the embassy was a target.

"Our embassy absorbed the full impact of the blast. All the exterior windows were blown out and there is incalculable damage to the interior from the ground floor to the sixth floor," Cypriot Ambassador to Athens Kyriakos Kenevezos told state news agency CNA. Four other buildings were damaged, with glass from smashed windows strewn across the streets. "I heard it, it made me dizzy because it was so loud," said Kostas Papalogizopoulos, who was working the night shift at a kiosk across the street.

Police cordoned off a two-block area surrounding the building and bomb disposal squads were examining the scene. Video from a security camera at a nearby building recorded two people wearing dark clothes and helmets leaving the scene on a motorcycle at high speed, a police official told Reuters. Police were checking other cameras in the area.

Makeshift bomb and arson attacks have escalated in Greece since 2010, when it first adopted unpopular austerity measures such as tax rises, wage and pension cuts in exchange for multi-billion-euro bailouts by the European Union and the IMF. In July, Athens agreed to further rounds of austerity under its third bailout. Tsipras' government condemned the attack. — Reuters



ATHENS: A police forensic officer takes notes outside Greece's industry association offices after a bomb exploded early yesterday, causing damage as well to the Cypriot embassy (right). — AFP

underline

FASHION EXPO

DESIGNER
BAGS
FOOTWEAR
WATCHES
GARMENTS
& MUCH MORE!

AMAZING PRICES
STARTING AT

3

KD!

26TH TO 29TH
NOVEMBER, 2015

INTERNATIONAL
FAIRGROUNDS
MISHREF
HALL 4A

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
FOR UPDATES!
www.facebook.com/underlinekfsa

- DKNY
- JIMMY CHOO
- KENZO
- MaxMara
- MAX&CO
- MARINA RINALDI
- LIU-JO
- TWIN-SET
- WEEKEND
- persona
- MARELLA
- GERARD DAREL
- WEILL
- DONNAKARAN
- OTZSHOES
- FOSSIL
- UGG
- ecco
- VITAL
- ontime
- TRINKETS
- Triumph

US ISSUES TRAVEL WARNING IN WAKE OF PARIS ATTACKS

WASHINGTON: Americans should be alert to the possible travel risks, especially during the holidays, following increased threats from militant groups around the world, the State Department has warned. A travel alert, which is to be in effect until Feb 24, said current information suggests that militants with the Islamic State, Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram and other groups continue to plan attacks in multiple regions. US authorities said the likelihood of such attacks will continue as members of IS return from Syria and Iraq, and other individuals not affiliated with terror groups engage in violence on their own.

Extremists have targeted sporting events, theaters, open markets and aviation targets. In the past year, there have been multiple attacks in France, Nigeria, Denmark, Lebanon, Turkey and Mali. IS has claimed responsibility for the Oct 31 bombing of a Russian airliner in Egypt, killing 224 people. "US citizens should exercise vigilance when in public places or using transportation," said the alert released Monday. "Be aware of immediate surroundings and avoid large crowds or crowded places. Exercise particular caution during the holiday season and at holiday festivals or events," it said.

The State Department said the US is exchanging information with allies about threats of international terrorism. The travel alert was issued the same day that Belgium's prime minister announced that Brussels would remain at the highest alert level for at least another week. The increased security measures following the Nov 13 attacks in Paris that killed 130 people have virtually shut down the Belgian capital. — AP

GULF REWARDS

GULF REWARDS.
THE BEST JUST
GOT BETTER

The Entertainer App, exclusively from Gulf Bank

Visit e-gulfbank.com or call 1805805

- Instant "buy one get one free" offers for restaurants, leisure and more - available in Kuwait, UAE and London
- Kuwait's first Geo-Locator rewards app
- Book one night and get one free, in hotels over 25 countries
- Earn Gulf Bank points on all transactions

Existing credit cardholders, download the Gulf Bank Entertainer App now!

Terms and conditions apply ٢٠١٥/١١/٠١ - ٢٠١٥/١١/٣١

بنك الخليج
GULF BANK
GROWING WITH YOU

POLICE CUTS WILL HIT COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORT: BRITISH OFFICER

LONDON: Britain's ability to counter militant attacks would be undermined if the government makes dramatic cuts to policing budgets as part of spending reductions to be unveiled this week, the most senior anti-terrorism officer said yesterday.

Finance minister George Osborne is due today to detail multi-billion pound spending cuts across government as part of his ambitious plan to turn Britain's deficit into a surplus by 2020.

While Osborne has promised to boost the budget directly allocated for

counter-terrorism, he has refused to rule out cuts to police forces across the country.

London Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said if their budgets were slashed as some have predicted, it would significantly damage the country's counter-terrorism capability by hitting armed police numbers and reducing local policing.

"If there are dramatic cuts then I worry that will undermine their ability to do their role in counter-terrorism," Rowley told parliament's Home Affairs

Committee. "Dramatic cuts, I am concerned that will undermine part of our counter-terrorism effort."

Rowley confirmed that he had written a letter to Home Secretary (interior minister) Theresa May, leaked to the BBC on Monday, which warned cuts could hamper police ability to cope with multiple attacks by roving gunmen as seen in the French capital last week.

Some commentators say police could see cuts of more than 20 percent as part of the government's plans, and Rowley said London police would struggle

to deal with reductions of more than 10 percent. Britain is currently on its second highest alert level of "severe", meaning a militant attack is considered highly likely, and Rowley said there were several thousand suspects being monitored by police and spies. Rowley did not say whether Britain had seen any direct threat in the wake of the Paris attacks, but said police and security services were "working flat out" on the issue.

Britain says seven plots have been foiled in the last year, although not on the same scale as those carried out in

Paris, with counter-terrorism officers making on average an arrest every day.

Most of the concern is linked to Islamic State militants and those Britons who have travelled to Iraq and Syria to join them.

Charles Farr, the Director General of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, said they now estimated up to 800 Britons have travelled to Iraq and Syria, some to join Islamic State. About 50 percent had returned home while about 70 were believed to have been killed, Farr said. —Reuters

FRENCH MUSLIM BODY TO CREATE 'LICENSE TO PREACH' FOR IMAMS

PARIS: France's leading Muslim body said yesterday it would create a permit to preach for imams in a bid to root out extremists, as well as a new religious body to fight back against jihadist propaganda.

Anouar Kbibech, president of the French Council for the Muslim Religion (CFCM), said the country's imams should be given a certificate—"like a driving licence"—that ensured they promoted a "tolerant and open Islam".

The move comes 11 days after the attacks that killed 130 people in Paris, amid increasing fears about homegrown Islamist extremists radicalized by rogue preachers.

There were at least four Frenchmen among the gunmen who carried out the attacks, claimed by the Islamic State group.

The CFCM said it would hand out the permits by testing theological knowledge and adherence to French principles, and make them sign an "imams' charter" in which they agreed to "respect the laws of the Republic".

At this stage it does not appear that the

permits will be compulsory—particularly as the CFCM, set up at the instigation of the authorities around a decade ago, does not represent every mosque and prayer hall in France, which is home to around five million Muslims.

But Kbibech said that while withdrawing the permit from an imam might not stop him preaching, it would make mosques face up to their responsibilities about who they hired.

"The time for action has come. The Muslims of France will play their part," said Kbibech, reiterating his "absolute condemnation" of those who turn to violence, saying they would "never have the support of France's Muslims". He also said the CFCM would set up a "religious council" to use theological arguments to defeat "every argument used by terrorist and jihadist organizations to recruit our young people".

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve underlined the "government's willingness to do everything" to stop "hate preachers" spreading their message. —AFP

VATICAN COURT THROWS OUT OBJECTIONS TO TRIAL OF JOURNALISTS

VATICAN CITY: A controversial trial of two investigative journalists and three others involved in the latest Vatican leaks scandal began yesterday with judges rejecting an appeal for the charges against one of the reporters to be dismissed.

Addressing the opening hearing in a rarely-used Vatican courtroom, journalist Emiliano Fittipaldi said he was "incredulous" at finding himself in the city state's court on charges that do not exist in Italy. "I did not write anything false or defamatory," he told the court, arguing that his right to publish news based on material obtained from secret sources was protected by the Italian constitution and international human rights conventions.

Fellow journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi described the trial, in which all five defendants face up to eight years in prison, as "Kafkaesque and absurd".

Nuzzi, who was instrumental in breaking the first big Vatican leaks story in 2012, said that he had only met his court-appointed lawyer for the first time one hour before the trial began and had not had time to even read the indictment documents.

Fittipaldi said the charges against him were framed so vaguely it was impossible to know what he was actually supposed to have done. Replying for the prosecution, Roberto Zannotti said the case was "not one about the freedom of the press" but rather about the way the journalists put pressure on the three other defendants to feed them classified material.

"The charges clearly describe conduct involving the use of pressure to obtain documents and information illicitly," the prosecutor said.

The judges threw out Fittipaldi's objection after a 45-minute adjournment.

The case was then adjourned until Monday, when Spanish priest Lucio Angel Vallejo Balda, currently being held in a Vatican cell, will take the stand. The priest arrived at court in a police car, meeting his lawyer for the first time at the entrance. By then, Nicola Maio, Vallejo Balda's assistant, was already inside the courtroom, pacing up and down nervously.

Their co-accused, PR expert Francesca Chaouqui, meanwhile was poring over a document which appeared to contain transcripts of WhatsApp conversations between Fittipaldi and Vallejo Balda.

'Ridiculous charges'

All five accused have been charged with obtaining and disclosing confidential papers "concerning the fundamental interests of the Vatican State", under punitive legislation introduced in 2013 and being used for the first time.

Vallejo Balda, Chaouqui and Maio are additionally charged with organised criminal association in order to obtain the documents they allegedly leaked to the journalists.

The law was enacted a year after Pope Benedict XVI's butler leaked damaging information about Vatican in-fighting which plunged the Holy See into crisis and, it is widely believed, contributed to the pontiff's decision to retire.

Nuzzi and Fittipaldi used the material they obtained as the basis for books depicting financial irregularities and uncontrolled spending in the Holy See. Nuzzi's book also contains a transcript of secret recordings of Pope Francis vociferously complaining about the Vatican throwing money away through poor financial management. Both books suggest Church money raised through donations intended for charitable operations was diverted to help pay for lavish renovations of senior clergy's grace-and-favour apartments. The Vatican has not denied the veracity of the recording of Francis venting his fury, or the authenticity of the documents.

Instead, officials have framed the revelations as old news based on problems which Francis has already addressed through his reforms, a clampdown on profligacy and a clean-up of the Vatican bank. The Italian journalists could have declined to attend the trial and forced the Vatican to initiate what would have been complex, potentially embarrassing, extradition proceedings.

But they both said they had decided to appear to expose the draconian nature of their prosecution. "To have not come would have given the impression I was hiding from charges that I don't accept," Fittipaldi told AFP during a break in the proceedings. "I find them ridiculous and I wanted to come here to defend myself." Nuzzi added: "I've done nothing wrong. I have nothing to hide and I wanted to have the possibility of seeing what I am charged with." —AFP



LESBOS: Migrants and refugees arrive after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey yesterday on the Greek island of Lesbos. More than 800,000 migrants, mostly fleeing war and persecution in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, have crossed the Mediterranean this year to reach Europe. — AFP

JIHADISTS USING MIGRANT CRISIS AS COVER: CZECH PRESIDENT

SLOVAKIA TO FILE LAWSUIT OVER EU MIGRANT QUOTAS

PRAGUE: Jihadists are using the migrant crisis as cover to slip into the European Union, Czech President Milos Zeman said yesterday, urging his country's military to prepare to defend its borders.

"It is naive to think there is no link between the migrant wave and terrorism, because then we would have to assume the migrant wave does not include potential jihadists," the outspoken 71-year-old leftwinger told Czech military chiefs. "The danger has come close to our borders," he added. "We cannot exactly estimate their number of course, but some of them took part in the Paris attacks" on November 13, which left at least 130 dead. Zeman also quoted intelligence reports saying jihadist terrorists had used the Czech Republic as a gateway to western Europe.

Last week, Zeman triggered controversy when he attended an anti-Islam rally in Prague in the company of far-right politicians and a paramilitary unit. He accused Islam of being "a culture of assassins and religious hatred". Leftist Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka shot down Zeman's controversial comments, saying he should not have appeared "at the meeting of a xenophobic sect which was filled with spreading intensive hatred".

Members of an anti-NATO Czech paramilitary unit including former soldiers also attended the rally. Leading Czech daily Dnes reported Tuesday its members are training to detain migrants, insisting they are using their "military skills to push patriotic interests". The International

Organisation for Migration estimated yesterday that nearly 860,000 migrants had landed in Europe so far this year and just over 3,500 have died while crossing the Mediterranean in search of safety.

The influx has caused tensions between EU members and has given a boost to far-right, anti-immigration groups across the continent. Few asylum seekers have chosen to stay in the largely secular Czech Republic, a European Union and NATO member nation of 10.5 million people, with a majority heading to wealthier Germany and other western EU states.

Nearly 70 percent of Czechs oppose the arrival of migrants and refugees in their country, a recent survey showed.

Slovakia move

Slovakia will launch legal action by next month against an EU quota plan to distribute 160,000 refugees and migrants across the bloc, a justice ministry spokeswoman told AFP yesterday. "The justice ministry, together with representatives of relevant ministries, is working on preparing the lawsuit," spokeswoman Alexandra Donevova told AFP, adding that it would be "submitted before December 18".

Bratislava intends to lodge the suit with the European Court of Justice, which adjudicates in disputes over how EU law is interpreted and applied.

A nation of 5.4 million people, Slovakia is among several eastern European countries staunchly against a system of migrant quotas

designed to ease the burden on countries like Greece, Italy and Germany that have received the lion's share of arrivals. Few migrants have entered Slovakia on their voyage to western Europe, and even fewer asylum seekers have chosen to stay. Under the EU's quota system, Bratislava is expected to take in just under 2,300 migrants.

Seeking re-election in March, Slovakia's popular leftist Prime Minister Robert Fico said he would rather risk infringing EU rules than implement what he described as the EU's "diktat" migrant quotas.

He also told local press that Slovakia's lawsuit would address "very significant" issues surrounding relations between EU members and Brussels, including countries' weighting in EU decision-making. Fico had in September raised the spectre of terrorists slipping into Slovakia masquerading as refugees, a possibility experts had deemed unlikely at the time.

During a televised debate last week, he insisted that the "security of Slovak citizens took precedence over the rights of migrants." "We are monitoring every Muslim in Slovakia," Fico told local journalists after the shooting and bomb attacks in Paris that were claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group, while admitting that "in the majority of cases they're (Muslims) here legally."

The International Organization for Migration on Tuesday estimated that nearly 860,000 migrants had landed in Europe so far this year, with over 3,500 dying while crossing the Mediterranean in search of safety. — AFP

SWEDEN TIGHTENS ASYLUM RULES TO FORCE EU ACTION

STOCKHOLM: Sweden will introduce tighter border controls and asylum rules in a bid to reduce the number of asylum seekers reaching the country, and force other EU countries to take in greater numbers of refugees, the government said yesterday. Sweden expects up to 190,000 asylum seekers to reach its borders this year and says its reception system cannot cope. "The situation is untenable," Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told a news conference. "Now, to put it bluntly, more people will have to seek asylum and get protection in other European countries."

The move is a huge blow to Swedes' view of their country as a humanitarian superpower and a team player in international organizations. Vice premier Asa Romson of the Green Party was close to tears at the news conference as she announced the tougher measures.

Lofven said the new rules would be in force for three years and that Sweden's asylum system needed "breathing space".

Around 80,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Sweden over the last two months and the Migration Agency said earlier in November it could no longer guarantee accommodation for all. Some asylum seekers have been forced to sleep rough just as the freezing Swedish winter begins to bite. Sweden introduced its first large-scale border controls in decades in November to slow down the flow of asylum seekers, but the move has had only a limited effect.

In the last seven days, around 8,000 people sought asylum in Sweden, down slightly from

around 10,000 a week earlier this month. "It is clear that migration politics in the EU need to be completely reviewed," Lofven said.

He said the EU needed a permanent system to evenly distribute asylum seekers across the 28-member bloc. The government said it planned to widen the number of asylum seekers receiving temporary asylum.

Until the current crisis, all those granted asylum have been given permanent residency. The

government introduced temporary asylum earlier this month, but gave exceptions to children and families. Now only asylum seekers coming to Sweden under international quota agreements will be given permanent asylum after the new rules are introduced, probably in April next year. In addition, the country will introduce ID checks on all public transport into the country from the continent and tighten rules for family reunion. —Reuters



ROME: Italian journalist and writer Gianluigi Nuzzi attends a press conference at the Foreign Press Club (Stampa Estera) in Rome yesterday after the opening of his trial for the publication of classified documents. — AFP



Workers extinguish a fire that broke out early in the morning on October 20, 2015 at an accommodation for asylum seekers near Munkedal in Sweden. — AFP

DISABLED MAN SET FOR SCAFFOLD AS PAKISTAN NEARS 300TH EXECUTION

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was set to execute a disabled man today as activists said it was nearing its 300th hanging in under a year, and Amnesty International slammed Islamabad for "shamefully sealing its place among the world's worst executioners".

The execution of Abdul Basit, a paraplegic who was convicted of murder in 2009, has already been postponed several times after rights groups raised concerns about how a wheelchair-bound man would mount the scaffold. A prison official confirmed to AFP that it has been scheduled again for Wednesday morning. "His family has been informed," the official said on condition of anonymity, adding that a final meeting between Basit and his relatives had been arranged for late yesterday.

Pakistan's Human Rights Commission said it had written to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif seeking to stay the execution, adding that prison authorities were still awaiting an answer from the government on how to

proceed with the hanging. In a statement yesterday, Amnesty said it had recorded 299 executions in Pakistan since the death penalty was controversially reinstated following a Taliban mass killing at a school in Peshawar last December. "Pakistan will imminently have executed 300 people since it lifted a moratorium on executions, shamefully sealing its place among the world's worst executioners," the statement said.

Forty-five people were executed in October alone, Amnesty said, making it the deadliest month since the moratorium was lifted. No official figures are available. The rights group Reprieve told AFP yesterday that by its tally the number of executions has just passed 300, while other local activists said the figure was below 260. "Pakistan's ongoing zeal for executions is an affront to human rights and the global trend against the death penalty," David Griffiths, Amnesty's South Asia research director, said in a statement. "Even if the authorities stay the execution of

Abdul Basit, a man with paraplegia, Pakistan is still executing people at a rate of almost one a day." There was no evidence the "relentless" executions have done anything to counter extremism in the country, he added. The rights group also alleged that many of the executions come after court proceedings that "do not meet international fair trial standards".

Rights fears

Pakistan ended a six-year moratorium on the death penalty last year as part of a crackdown after Taliban militants gunned down more than 150 people, most of them children, at an army-run school in the restive northwest. The massacre shocked and outraged a country already scarred by nearly a decade of extremist attacks.

Hangings were initially reinstated only for those convicted of terrorism, but in March they were extended to all capital offences. Supporters argue

that executions are the only effective way to deal with the scourge of militancy in the country.

But critics say the legal system is unjust, with rampant police torture and poor representation for victims, while the majority of those who are hanged are not convicted of terror charges.

"The state is hanging petty criminals while known terrorists are still in prisons," human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir told AFP yesterday. Recent research by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies also suggests that death is no deterrent for militants who are "committed to dying for their cause".

The Amnesty figures suggest Pakistan is on track to become one of the world's top executioners in 2015. In 2014 607 people were put to death in 22 countries, according to Amnesty, though that figure does not include China, where the number of executions is believed to be in the hundreds but is considered by authorities to be a state secret. — AFP



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri villagers mourn at a funeral procession for suspected rebels in the village of Bijbehara, in Anantnag district south of Srinagar yesterday. Three suspected rebels were killed during an encounter with security forces in southern Kashmir. — AFP

NUCLEAR CLUB EYES INDIAN INCLUSION, RISKS PAKISTAN IRE

NSG CHIEF MEETS SWARAJ AS PART OF 'DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH'

NEW DELHI: Diplomats have quietly launched a new push to induct India into a club of nuclear trading nations, but rather than increasing stability in South Asia, the move could escalate strains with rival Pakistan. The chairman of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) visited New Delhi recently to meet Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj as part of a diplomatic "outreach" that seeks to build a consensus to admit India at its annual meeting next June. Membership of the 48-nation club would bring India into the nuclear fold 41 years after it tested its first nuclear bomb, and give the nation of 1.25 billion a vested interest in curbing the world's most dangerous regional arms race.

"It's a very delicate process, but I think there is less and less justification for the impasse," Rafael Grossi, the Argentinian ambassador to Vienna who heads the NSG, told Reuters in an interview.

Yet there are doubts. For one, India has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, or NPT, which seeks to prevent the spread of

nuclear weapons. And Pakistan, an ally of China, also aspires to join the NSG. With a history as a proliferator, Pakistan's accession would be a tough sell. Because the NSG operates by consensus, admitting India alone would mean it could then bar its western neighbour from the club, potentially pushing Pakistan further to the fringes.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has been testing missiles that can reach all of India, and very short-range missiles that it insists could be used only if Indian troops cross onto Pakistani soil. A seat at the NSG would strengthen India's geopolitical clout and help it capitalise on nuclear trade and technology transfer opportunities, while also raising concern in Pakistan.

"India has a nuclear deal with the US, with France, it will soon have deals with Australia and Japan. So all this will of course complement its effort to get into NSG," said a senior Pakistani security official with knowledge of nuclear issues.

"But people don't understand that India will use all this additional fuel (through civil

nuclear deals) to make energy and have a lot more left over to use to make weapons. "So at the end of it, the need for even more deterrence from our side will grow, not decrease."

UPPER HAND

Pakistan sees a nuclear lead as vital insurance against possible aggression by its larger neighbor, and it appears to be gaining the upper hand over India in the nuclear contest. Analysts Toby Dalton and Michael Krepon estimate Pakistan is producing 20 nuclear warheads a year to India's five.

Yet defending that lead is a "losing proposition" that imposes huge costs on Pakistan's economy and strains its social fabric, they said. In a report for the Carnegie and Stimson think tanks, Dalton and Krepon argued Pakistan should abandon its goal of "full-spectrum" deterrence against India and satisfy itself with "strategic" deterrence, or the ability to launch an effective counter-strike in the event of an attack. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence and partition in 1947, two over Kashmir. Their disputed frontier is one of the world's most heavily militarized regions. Border clashes and incursions pose a constant risk of escalation. The US State Department declined to comment on specific discussions over Pakistan, but an official said Washington had not entered into talks on a civil nuclear pact with it. Nor was it seeking a waiver for Pakistan to trade with the NSG.

The United States was continuing to integrate India into the "global non-proliferation mainstream", this official also said, adding that Washington supported India's membership in the four multilateral export control regimes. One of those is the NSG.

COMFORT LEVEL

India's long road to nuclear legitimacy began with a bilateral deal with the United States in 2005 that, three years later, yielded an exemption allowing it to trade in sensitive nuclear technology with NSG nations. New Delhi expressed its interest in 2010 in formally joining the nuclear club. But India's lobbying has met with scepticism from European countries like Austria and Switzerland, who have questioned its refusal to sign the NPT and give up nuclear weapons. Indian negotiators now detect a change of tone, and are focusing on winning over European sceptics. That, in turn, could bring round China, they calculate. "We are optimistic; there is a desire within the NSG to bring this process to a conclusion sooner rather than later," one Indian diplomat told Reuters. "People are comfortable with India." — Reuters

INDIA'S COURT REJECTS FRENCH PLEA FOR WOMAN'S RELEASE

NEW DELHI: India's top court yesterday rejected a French request to release from prison a Frenchwoman wanted in Chile over the assassination of a key supporter of General Pinochet's military regime. Chile is seeking the extradition of Marie-Emmanuelle Verhoeven, 56, for her alleged role in a conspiracy to kill Senator Jaime Guzman Errazuriz on April 1, 1991.

Indian police arrested her on February 16 as she entered the country from Nepal, and she has been held in Delhi's notorious Tihar Jail ever since. The French embassy had told the Supreme Court it would ensure she remained in India if it released her into its custody pending an extradition hearing. But yesterday the court dismissed the plea, questioning the embassy's ability to uphold such a guarantee. "The French woman is accused of terror activity, murder and being a part of a subversive group that killed a senator," said Justice T S Thakur.

"What can the French government do if she flees despite the guarantee? We will not make any interim arrange-

ment." Lawyers for Verhoeven have argued that her arrest and detention were illegal and she should be released immediately. The Supreme Court will take up her case again on December 8.

She was arrested in India on the basis of an Interpol notice for her detention issued at Chile's request, but Interpol later cancelled the notice. The Delhi High Court in September ruled in favour of Verhoeven's immediate release, saying the extradition request was illegal, but shortly afterwards she was re-arrested in prison.

A native of Nantes in western France, Verhoeven had been arrested in the German city of Hamburg in January 2014 and detained for four months. But Germany rejected Chile's request to extradite her—something her Indian lawyers are pointing to as they try to thwart her extradition this time around. Verhoeven lived in Chile from 1985 to 1995 and worked to promote human rights there, before returning to France. She says she is the victim of a "political vendetta" against her. — AFP

PAKISTANI JET CRASHES, KILLING FEMALE PILOT

ISLAMABAD: A female Pakistani air force pilot was killed yesterday when her trainer jet crashed near the central town of Mianwali, the military said, the first such loss for the country's tiny community of women pilots.

The crash happened during "routine operational training", the air force said in a statement. A second pilot survived. "Squadron Leader Saqib Abbasi and Flying Officer Marium Mukhtiar were on a routine opera-

tional training mission when it encountered a serious in-flight emergency during the final stages of the mission," the air force said.

"Ensuring safety of life and property of civilian population on ground, both the pilots ejected and the aircraft crashed near Kundian, Mianwali."

Mukhtiar is the first female pilot of the Pakistan air force to be killed while on duty. The air force had 19 women pilots in 2013, the last year for which

the figure was immediately available. The crash is the latest deadly accident to hit Pakistan's military.

In May, a military helicopter carrying diplomats to inspect a tourism project crashed, killing seven people, including the ambassadors of Norway and Philippines. In August, another military helicopter being used as an air ambulance crashed near the northern district of Mansehra, killing 12 people. — AFP

JAPANESE WOMAN FEARED MURDERED, BURIED IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA: Bangladesh police have arrested five men over the suspected murder of a Japanese businesswoman who is believed to have been buried in a graveyard under a false name, an officer said yesterday.

Police suspect Hiroe Miyata, 60, who lived in Bangladesh, was interred last month in the capital Dhaka under a fake identity after officers examined records at the Muslim graveyard. Authorities began investigating after the woman's mother in Japan reported her missing to the Japanese embassy in Dhaka on November 19. "We are treating this as a murder" investigation pending a post-mortem to determine cause of death, one police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Five men who worked closely with Miyata were arrested late on Monday and remanded in custody by a Dhaka court for further questioning, the officer said. Another police official said the woman had been living and working in Dhaka for the last 10 years. "She died in mysterious circumstances," the official, who also declined to be named because of the preliminary nature of the case, told AFP, saying the woman was buried under a Muslim name.

"We've sought a court order to exhume the body and determine the reason for her death." A Japanese embassy spokesman




DHAKA: Bangladesh police officials escort some of the accused in the murder of Japanese woman Hiroe Miyata in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh police have arrested five men over the suspected murder of a Japanese businesswoman who is believed to have been buried in a graveyard under a false name, an officer said. — AFP

declined to comment. Bangladesh

is reeling after the murders of a Japanese farmer and an Italian aid worker in separate incidents in recent months, attacks claimed by the Islamic State group. An Italian priest was shot and seriously

injured last week.

The Bangladesh government says the jihadist group has no presence in the Muslim-majority country, while police suspect a local banned Islamist outfit was responsible. — AFP




RunQ8
Run For A Cause

NOVEMBER 28-2015

In support of the
Children's Evaluation & Rehabilitation Center of FSRI

Register now
runq8.org

@runq8official
RunQ8
25720338



2000 COMPETITORS - 10 KILOMETERS - 1 CAUSE

RunQ8's Founding Partner

Silver Sponsor

Bronze Sponsor

Partner

Friend Sponsor

Agility

ASAR

db

OPENWARE

athlete's foot

ROYAL

Jumeirah

alain

Media Sponsor

GoodHealth

Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Tabeeby.com

Payment Sponsor

Venue Sponsor

HOPES FADE AS MYANMAR MINE LANDSLIDE TOLL TOPS 100

USS RONALD REAGAN: The US and Japanese navies established a new level of cooperation to resupply each other's vessels during joint exercises in the seas south of Japan last week, the commander of the US Seventh Fleet said yesterday.

Vice Admiral Joseph Aucoin said the delivery of boxes of food and other provisions to a Japanese warship by a U.S. helicopter heralded greater operational integration. It was the first time that the two allies have shared supplies other than ship oil at sea. "It's a big step forward, and we want to do more of that in the future," Aucoin said at a press

conference aboard the USS Ronald Reagan. The 100,000 ton U.S. aircraft carrier participated in the annual exercise along with six other US ships and around 25 Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) vessels.

The agreement to begin such exchanges means that US vessels can now be resupplied by Japanese ships in waters closer to Japan and will make it easier for the JMSDF to operate further from home waters with the help of US supply ships.

The Japanese and US Navy are deepening already close military ties as Chinese military power

in the region grows. Vice Admiral Yasuhiro Shigeoka, commander of the JMSDF fleet, who joined Aucoin at the briefing described the security situation in the region surrounding Japan as "severe."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won lawmakers' approval in September for new security legislation that allows Japan's military to come to the aid of allies under attack.

Abe said the biggest shift in Japan's defense policy since the creation of its post-war military in 1954, was vital to meet emerging challenges such

as those posed by China's growing military power. It means the US and Japan can repackage regular joint drills, such as the one in waters about 350 miles (563.27 km) south of Japan "to do more high level sophisticated" training.

Based in Yokosuka Japan, with the United States' only forward deployed carrier, the Seventh Fleet with some 80 vessels, 140 aircraft and 40,000 sailors is the most powerful naval force in the western Pacific. After China, Japan is Asia's second most powerful maritime nation with more than a hundred warships. — Reuters



MANILA: US President Barack Obama (R) listening as Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (L) speaks following a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Manila. — AFP

NO GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR TROOPS ON GROUND IN SYRIA: TURNBILL

'MORE TWITTER ACCOUNTS THAN FIGHTERS': AUSTRALIAN PM

SYDNEY: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday there was no global support for a US-led ground force to destroy the Islamic State group, which he called fundamentally weak with "more Twitter accounts than fighters."

Calls have been mounting in Canberra for boots on the ground in Syria to combat the threat from Islamic State jihadists and other militant groups in the wake of deadly attacks in Paris this month. But after attending a series of recent global summits, Turnbull said in a national security address to parliament that there was no appetite for such a move. "I have to report to the House that the consensus of the leaders I met at the G20, at APEC and at the East Asia Summit is that there is no support currently for a large US-led Western army to attempt to conquer and hold ISIL-controlled areas," he said, referring to another term for the Islamic State group. Australia has for months been active in Iraq, and recently started carrying out air strikes against IS targets in Syria as part of a 60-nation, US-led coalition against the jihadists.

Turnbull said the group was "in a fundamentally weak position", despite territorial gains made by Islamic State extremists in Syria and Iraq. "We must not be fooled by its hype. Its ideology is archaic, but its use of the Internet is very modern. ISIL has many

more smartphones than guns, more Twitter accounts than fighters," he said. "It does not command broad-based legitimacy even in those areas under its direct control. It is encircled by hostile forces. It is under military pressure." He said the coalition would continue working to disrupt, degrade and ultimately defeat the jihadists using military, financial, diplomatic and political means.

'Not time for gestures or machismo'

Turnbull's comments echoed a similar stance to US President Barack Obama, who told the G20 summit in Turkey that Islamic State leaders "will have no safe haven anywhere", vowing a ruthless pursuit of the group but without putting US troops on the ground.

Turnbull said "mindful that Australia has a range of security priorities across the globe and in our own region, there are currently no plans for a significant change in the level or nature of Australia's military commitment in Iraq and Syria". "Current advice to the government is that the unilateral deployment of Australian combat troops on the ground in Iraq or Syria is not feasible or practical," he added. Turnbull offered his sympathies to the 130 people who died in the bloody Paris attacks but made clear "we must not let grief or anger cloud

our judgment". "Our response must be as clear eyed and strategic as it is determined. This is not a time for gestures or machismo. Calm, clinical, professional, effective: That's how we defeat this menace." In Australia, authorities raised the terror threat alert to high just over a year ago and the government has introduced new security laws and conducted several counter-terrorism raids since.

The government has said six attacks have been foiled on home soil over the past year, although several have not, including a police employee shot dead in Sydney last month by a 15-year-old reportedly shouting religious slogans. Turnbull said Australia would this week transition to a new, clearer five-tier terror alert system with the new threat levels to be classified as certain, expected, probable, possible and not expected.

The system previously used extreme, high, medium and low as classifications. He added that he had ordered all law enforcement agencies to test their responses to a mass casualty attack in the wake of the Paris atrocity. "We are examining closely the implications of the Paris attacks for our own domestic arrangements," said Turnbull. "I am receiving updated intelligence on this every day. We are working more closely than ever with our European partners." — Reuters

MODI STRESSES REFORMS IN SINGAPORE INVESTMENT PUSH

SINGAPORE: In a plea for Singapore investments, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed yesterday that reforms have been made under his watch, as the two countries elevated their relations to a strategic partnership. The reforms, particularly economic, have "successfully restored the credibility of India in the eyes of global players," Modi told Singaporean and Indian businesspeople from more than 300 companies at an economic convention.

Singapore is the second-largest source of direct foreign investment in India, he said. The city-state was also involved in the planning of Amaravati, the new capital city of the Indian

state of Andhra Pradesh. "In the last 18 months, reforms are happening in a big way. Simply, with the aim of enabling the people to realize their potential and dreams," Modi said.

"I am here to invite you to India in a bigger way. I also come to ensure you that I'm there to carefully hold your hands. You are an exciting incubator, India is a vast laboratory."

Modi's two-day visit to the island nation, arranged to mark 50 years of diplomatic relations, was to draw to a close later yesterday after a community event with Indian expatriates. According to India's Ministry of External Affairs, trade between the two countries

totalled \$17.1 billion in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Singapore is India's 10th-largest trading partner, while India is Singapore's 12th-largest partner, official statistics show.

During Modi's visit the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding that "elevates our bilateral relations to a new level," said S. Iswaran, Singapore's minister for trade and industry.

"While government leaders and officials on both sides will do their part, much will also depend on our business leaders and investors boldly seizing opportunities in India, Singapore and third-country markets," he said. — AFP



SINGAPORE: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (third left) tours the training centre during his visit to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College Central in Singapore yesterday. Modi is on a two-day official visit to Singapore. — AFP

THAI MILITARY COURT INDICTS BANGKOK BLAST ACCUSED

BANGKOK: A Thai military court yesterday indicted two Uighurs for a deadly bombing at a Bangkok shrine in August, as the United Nations called on the ruling junta to stop holding civilian suspects in army detention. Authorities say both Bilal Mohammed, also known as Adem Karadag, and Yusuf Mieraili have admitted to their roles in the unprecedented attack that killed 20 people and wounded scores more.

The pair are currently incarcerated at a controversial detention facility on the 11th Military Circle barracks in Bangkok where two people recently died in custody in circumstances that have yet to be fully explained. The UN's call came shortly after Mohammed and Mieraili appeared before the capital's military court to hear the charges against them.

"Military prosecutors have decided to indict them on several charges," Withtaya Puangpunngam, chief of military prosecutors, told AFP. The charges include attempted and premeditated murder, possession of illegal weapons and illegal entry, he said, adding that the accused had "confessed" during earlier police investigations.

Motive still unclear

The August attack at the Erawan shrine, nestled between plush shopping malls and hotels in a bustling district of central Bangkok, dealt a fresh blow to the nation's image as a holiday paradise.

The capital was already recovering from months of often violent street protests that ended in the May 2014 military coup that toppled an elected government. Mystery still shrouds the motive for the unclaimed attack, with police still not confirming the nationalities of the suspects.

The shrine that was targeted is particularly popular among ethnic Chinese visitors from across Asia, who made up the majority of those killed. Strong speculation had centred on a link to mili-

tants or supporters of the Uighurs, an ethnic group who say they face persecution in their homeland in China's Xinjiang region, after Thailand in July forcibly deported a group of 109 Uighurs back to China.

According to his lawyer, Mohammed is a Chinese Uighur who settled in Turkey while Mieraili is a Chinese passport-holder of Uighur ethnicity. Thai police have rejected the notion that the bomb was a revenge attack for the recent deportations. Instead investigators say they believe a people-smuggling gang was angered by a crackdown on its business-a theory many analysts have questioned.

China Tuesday said it hoped justice would be delivered. "This bombing fully reveals the barbarity of the criminals," Hong Lei, spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters at a regular briefing. "We hope that justice can be delivered, and relevant people can be held accountable for what they have done."

The use of military courts has dramatically increased in Thailand since last year's coup and in September the temporary remand facility on the Bangkok barracks was formally announced.

In its statement yesterday, the UN echoed calls made by rights groups in recent months. "The use of a military barracks as a detention facility is prone to human rights violations, including torture," said Matilda Bogner from the UN Human Rights Office for South East Asia, calling for an impartial investigation into the two recent custodial deaths.

The dead inmates, who were swiftly cremated, were caught up in a shadowy royal defamation probe that has ensnared senior military and police officials. The UN added that it had received reports a lawyer representing one of the Bangkok bomb suspects "was not allowed to meet with his client in a confidential manner, and that he had his questions screened beforehand" at the barracks. — AFP



BANGKOK: Police officers escort suspects in the Aug 17 blast at Erawan Shrine, Bilal Mohammad, center front, and Mieraili Yusufu, rear center, as they arrive at a military court in Bangkok yesterday. — AP

US, JAPAN NAVAL EXERCISES MAKE 'BIG STEP FORWARD'

USS RONALD REAGAN: The US and Japanese navies established a new level of cooperation to resupply each other's vessels during joint exercises in the seas south of Japan last week, the commander of the US Seventh Fleet said yesterday.

Vice Admiral Joseph Aucoin said the delivery of boxes of food and other provisions to a Japanese warship by a U.S. helicopter heralded greater operational integration. It was the first time that the two allies have shared supplies other than ship oil at sea.

"It's a big step forward, and we want to do more of that in the future," Aucoin said at a press conference aboard the USS Ronald Reagan. The 100,000 ton U.S. aircraft carrier participated in the annual exercise along with six other US ships and around 25 Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) vessels.

The agreement to begin such exchanges means that US vessels can now be resupplied by Japanese ships in waters closer to Japan and will make it easier for the JMSDF to operate further from home waters with the help of US supply ships. The Japanese and US Navy are deepening already close military ties

as Chinese military power in the region grows. Vice Admiral Yasuhiro Shigeoka, commander of the JMSDF fleet, who joined Aucoin at the briefing described the security situation in the region surrounding Japan as "severe."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won lawmakers' approval in September for new security legislation that allows Japan's military to come to the aid of allies under attack.

Abe said the biggest shift in Japan's defense policy since the creation of its post-war military in 1954, was vital to meet emerging challenges such as those posed by China's growing military power. It means the US and Japan can repackage regular joint drills, such as the one in waters about 350 miles (563.27 km) south of Japan "to do more high level sophisticated" training. Based in Yokosuka Japan, with the United States' only forward deployed carrier, the Seventh Fleet with some 80 vessels, 140 aircraft and 40,000 sailors is the most powerful naval force in the western Pacific. After China, Japan is Asia's second most powerful maritime nation with more than a hundred warships. — Reuters



An Iraqi man prepares a plate of the country's traditional dish made from sheep's head known as 'pacha' yesterday in Baghdad's Al-Jamia neighborhood. — AFP

OIL PUSHES DINAR DOWN

Continued from Page 1

The three-month Kuwait interbank offered rate has risen to 1.19 percent from 0.81 percent at the end of last year, while the one-year deposit rate has jumped 100 basis points. The dinar is pegged in the spot market against a basket of currencies; in the forwards market, rising dinar interest rates are causing it to trade at a growing discount.

"The forward market is signalling a weaker KWD against USD. If interest rates in the cash market move up further, then forwards will continue to rise until the government

infuses dinar liquidity," the first banker said. The government swung to a budget deficit in the April-August period of KD 1.094 billion (\$3.62 billion), after a deduction for the Future Generations Fund, part of its sovereign wealth fund, according to official data.

Interbank money rates are rising and currencies falling in forwards markets across the Gulf, as banking systems and markets adjust to cutbacks in flows of oil money to which they became accustomed over years. One-year dollar/Saudi riyal forwards climbed as high as 625 points yesterday, their highest level since 1999. — Reuters

PUTIN RAGES AS TURKEY DOWNS RUSSIAN PLANE

Continued from Page 1

A Russian helicopter was also blown up by rebels following an emergency landing in government-held territory after it was damaged by rebel fire. Russian military spokesman General Sergei Rudskoi said one soldier was killed. Rebels blew up the helicopter shortly afterwards with a TOW anti-tank missile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. A video circulating online purported to show the helicopter on the ground being blown up. US-made TOW missiles have been supplied by Washington and other rebel backers to several opposition groups in Syria.

The shooting down of the Russian aircraft the first of its kind since Russia launched air strikes in Syria in September in support of President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, causing concern in the West over a possible clash with US-led coalition planes also in the skies. Putin branded the downing a "stab in the back committed by accomplices of terrorists." He said oil from jihadist-controlled territory was exported through Turkey while funding was sent the other way, and warned: "The tragic event will have serious consequences for Russian-Turkish relations." Putin said the plane fell in Syrian territory four kilometres from the border and "did not in any way threaten Turkey".

The Turkish army said the downing took place over the Yayladagi district of Hatay province on the border with Syria. "The plane violated Turkish air space 10 times in five minutes despite warnings," it said in a statement, adding that it was shot down at 0724 GMT "according to the rules of engagement". Its version was backed up by the US military which said Turkish pilots had issued 10 warnings without response.

Russia summoned the Turkish military attaché in Moscow while Ankara summoned Moscow's charge d'affaires to the foreign ministry. "Everyone must know that it is our international right and national duty to take any measure against whoever violates our air or land borders," Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said.

CNN-Turk television said Syrian Turkmen forces fighting the Damascus regime had captured one of the pilots while Syrian opposition sources told AFP one had been killed by rebels and the second was missing. Turkey's Dogan news agency broadcast footage of what it said was Russian helicopters flying over Syrian territory in an apparent search for the lost men. Several videos circulating online and shared on opposition social media sites purported to show the dead pilot surrounded by rebels from different factions.

Fadi Ahmed, a spokesman for the First Coastal Front rebel

group, said "the Russian pilot was killed by gunfire as he fell with his parachute" in the Jabal Turkman area of Latakia province on the coast. "The 10th Brigade (rebel group) transferred the body of the dead Russian to the local rebel joint operations room," added Omar Jablawi, a media activist working with rebels in the area. He declined to specify exactly where the joint operations room was located.

Also online, opposition and rebel accounts on Twitter and Facebook circulated several videos depicting from several angles the man said to be the dead Russian pilot. In them, a man can be seen in military uniform with straps across his chest and blood on his face. Rebels refer to the man as a "Russian pilot" and "Russian pig", but the location of the footage was not specified and it was impossible to verify the videos.

The incident came as Russian and Syrian jets are waging a heavy bombing campaign against targets in northern Syria while the US-led coalition continues its own air strikes. Turkey has expressed anger at the operation, saying it is aimed at buttressing the Syrian regime and has displaced thousands of Turkmen Syrians, an ethnic minority in the area and strong allies of Ankara. Russia however insists its strikes are aimed against Islamic State jihadists. European Union President Donald Tusk warned of a "dangerous moment", saying "all should remain cool headed and calm."

At Ankara's request, NATO allies will hold an "extraordinary" meeting to discuss the incident. "NATO is monitoring the situation closely. We are in contact with Turkish authorities," an alliance official said. Russian fighter jets entered Turkish airspace in two separate incidents in October, prompting Ankara to summon the Russian ambassador twice in protest.

Turkey and Russia have long been at loggerheads over the Syrian conflict, with Ankara seeking Assad's overthrow while Moscow does everything to keep him in power. The Turkish military in October also shot down a Russian-made drone that had entered its airspace. But Moscow denied the drone belonged to its forces. It remains to be seen what action Turkey could call for at NATO. Turkey in July invoked NATO's rarely-used article 48 - which allows any member to request a meeting of all 28 NATO ambassadors - over its campaign against Kurdish rebels.

As well as cancelling his visit to Turkey, Lavrov warned Russian citizens against travel to the country, which would be a huge blow for the Turkish tourism industry. He said the risk of attacks "is no less of a threat than in Egypt" where all 224 people on board a Russian plane were killed in October in an attack claimed by IS. — Agencies

PARCHED EMIRATES RELIES ON SEA AS GROUNDWATER RUNS OUT

ABU DHABI: As skyscrapers and gleaming towers rose with lightning speed across the United Arab Emirates over the past two decades, the Gulf nation's thirst for water grew at an enormous rate - so much so that today, it threatens to dry up all of the country's groundwater in as little as 15 years, experts say. To quench that demand, cities across the seven emirates that make up the UAE rely on desalinated seawater to supply 98 percent of their drinking water, but that comes with a tremendous environmental and fiscal cost.

Now, officials are looking at new technologies to cover that demand, while acknowledging the risks ahead. "In our region, water is more important than oil," said Ahmad Belhouli, the CEO of Masdar, the Abu Dhabi government's clean-energy company. "We're trying to find solutions to address that." While the Emirates rose on its oil wealth, the riches spurred the development that strains the water supply in this desert nation. An academic paper published earlier this year by scientists at the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, one of the emirates, suggested the country's entire supply of groundwater could be gone by 2030.

Currently, groundwater accounts for 44 percent of all water consumption in the UAE, though much of it goes toward irrigation for farming, according to a report by the Ministry of Environment and Water. In the cities, the country's 33 desalination plants supply nearly every drop of water. Desalination plants are

nothing new across the Middle East, with Bahrain, Israel, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia having some of the world's biggest facilities.

However, the cost of building and operating the plants can run in the billions, and they also require massive amounts of energy to separate the salt from the water and purify it for consumption. The leftover heated saltwater gets discharged back into the sea, where it can affect marine life. But even with the crisis facing the Emirates, water remains cheap and often wasted. Errant sprinklers water sidewalks in city-state Dubai, as leaking pipes pool puddles on roadways. A study this year by the United Nations found that residents of the UAE and most of its Gulf neighbors use around 500 liters (132 gallons) of water per day - among some of the highest usage around the world.

That waste is something Belhouli himself acknowledged as a problem. "There has been some overuse of water driven by the lower tariffs," Belhouli told AP. "If you don't pass on the price to the end user, the natural behavior is to consume more water." Beyond raising prices, officials hope new desalination techniques being tested on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi will allow solar energy to replace natural gas as an energy source, as well as make the plants smaller and cheaper to operate. On a tour Monday, they offered visiting dignitaries water produced there in crystal glasses. After taking a sip, Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, the UAE's minister of state, gave it his approval: "It tastes just like Evian." — AP



ABU DHABI: Waitresses prepare glasses of desalinated water for visiting dignitaries at a desalination test facility on the outskirts of the capital on Monday. — AP

MP CALLS ON MOCI TO MONITOR PRICES

Continued from Page 1

Several MPs had called the decision illegal and urged the minister to scrap it. Shemmari said that Sane informed him that Khamees has not been banned from giving lectures and that there is no intention to do that. The lawmaker said that he was pleased with what the minister said, adding that the case of Sheikh Khamees is still in court.

Islamist MP Humoud Al-Hamdan praised Sheikh Khamees and said that the minister of awqaf promised that he would resolve the issue. He did not provide further details. MP Abdulhameed Dashti however called on MPs not to oppose the minister's action against

Khamees because the cleric is charged with undermining national unity. Dashti said that when the minister issues a decision to suspend someone like Sheikh Khamees, he should be supported rather than opposed. Dashti also criticized an unnamed MP whom he said had visited Aden in Yemen. Dashti said the lawmaker had provoked the feelings of a large section of the Kuwaiti people by the visit.

Meanwhile, MP Ahmad Lari said the Assembly will submit to the government today a report on the legislations passed by the Assembly that have not been implemented by the government. The issue was discussed in the Assembly two weeks ago and it was agreed that the Assembly office will discuss it with the government.

KUWAIT AWARDS \$30BN IN PROJECTS DESPITE OIL...

Continued from Page 1

Talal Al-Shemmari, a senior official at the Supreme Planning Council, told the conference that projects planned over the next five years include a metro system at \$18.5 billion, a railway project as part of the GCC railway link at \$6.6 billion and a power plant at \$8 billion. Under the plan, power generation will be doubled to just under 30,000 megawatts and a 25-km causeway

linking Kuwait City with the country's north is already underway.

Last month, Kuwait awarded contracts worth \$13 billion to foreign firms to build a 615,000-barrel per day refinery. Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Sabah reiterated yesterday that the drop in oil revenues will not impact development projects. Like other GCC peers, Kuwait's economy heavily relies on oil which contributes 94 percent of public revenues. — AFP

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL :info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Winter Offers

SAMSUNG

LS22D300HY/UE
Wide LED Monitor

High Glossy Finish

1080P Full HD 21.5"

- Resolution 1920X1080
- HDMI
- 1 D-Sub
- Black High Glossy

47 KD .250

SAMSUNG

LS24D300HS/UE
Wide LED Monitor

Sharp Picture Quality

1080P Full HD 24"

- Resolution 1920X1080
- Game mode
- Magic Upscale
- Eco Saving
- Image Size
- HDMI
- 1 D-Sub

58 KD .000

SAMSUNG

LU28D590DS/UE
Wide LED Monitor

UHD monitor with Premium Metallic stand

4K ULTRA HD 28"

- Resolution 3840 X 2160 4K
- 2 HDMI-Ultra High Definition
- 1 Ms Fast Response Time
- 1 Billion Color
- 1 Display Port

189 KD .000

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

1809 809

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

Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Issues

UK NEEDS TO START
DOING FAVORS TO
WIN EU FRIENDS

By Paul Taylor

The British used to be past masters in the art of trading favours to secure their interests in the European Union. But since 2010, Prime Minister David Cameron's government has largely neglected the practice to avoid upsetting sceptics in his ruling Conservative party who resent Britain's loss of sovereignty to the EU. Partly as a result, London's influence in the corridors of Brussels has diminished. Cameron may pay a high price in the coming weeks when he needs to call in all the favours he can to achieve a successful outcome to his renegotiation of Britain's membership terms before holding a referendum on whether to stay in the bloc.

"All along, Cameron has not understood that solidarity matters," said John Kerr, who was Britain's EU ambassador in the crucial 1990-95 period when London secured opt-outs from the planned single European currency and from EU social policies. Kerr, now a non-party member of the unelected upper House of Lords, told Reuters that then Prime Minister John Major gave him leeway to explore deals with European partners and let him talk ministers into adapting their policy to secure higher goals.

That is how the Brussels game is played. Countries build allies by being helpful to each other on issues where they don't have a dog in the fight, and expect a return when their vital interests are at stake. "No one did this better than the British," said Poul Skytte Christoffersen, who as Denmark's envoy in 1995-2003 brought complex negotiations on the EU's eastward enlargement to a successful conclusion. "In the old days, the UK had a well-oiled and very coordinated machine. You could always count on the fact that when their representative said something, he had backing in council and some margin to adapt."

But over the last five years, Britain has cold-shouldered partners during the euro crisis and preferred to be outvoted on more EU decisions than in the past rather than joining compromises. Cameron refused to pay a penny towards bailouts of euro zone countries, tried to block an EU fiscal pact at the height of the euro crisis to demand veto powers to protect London's financial industry, and declined to take in any of the Syrians stranded on Europe's highways - it is taking only a small number directly from Middle East camps.

Goodwill

Now there are some signs that Cameron may be trying to build goodwill, beyond touring EU capitals. After Islamist militants killed 130 people in attacks in Paris, he joined 71,000 fans in singing France's "Marseillaise" national anthem - not a natural entry on the Conservative party hymn sheet - at a soccer match in London. That earned gratitude in Paris. Britain was first to write a cheque when the EU agreed to pony up 3 billion euros (\$3.2 billion) to help Turkey keep refugees on its soil - a helpful gesture to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is bearing the brunt of the refugee influx.

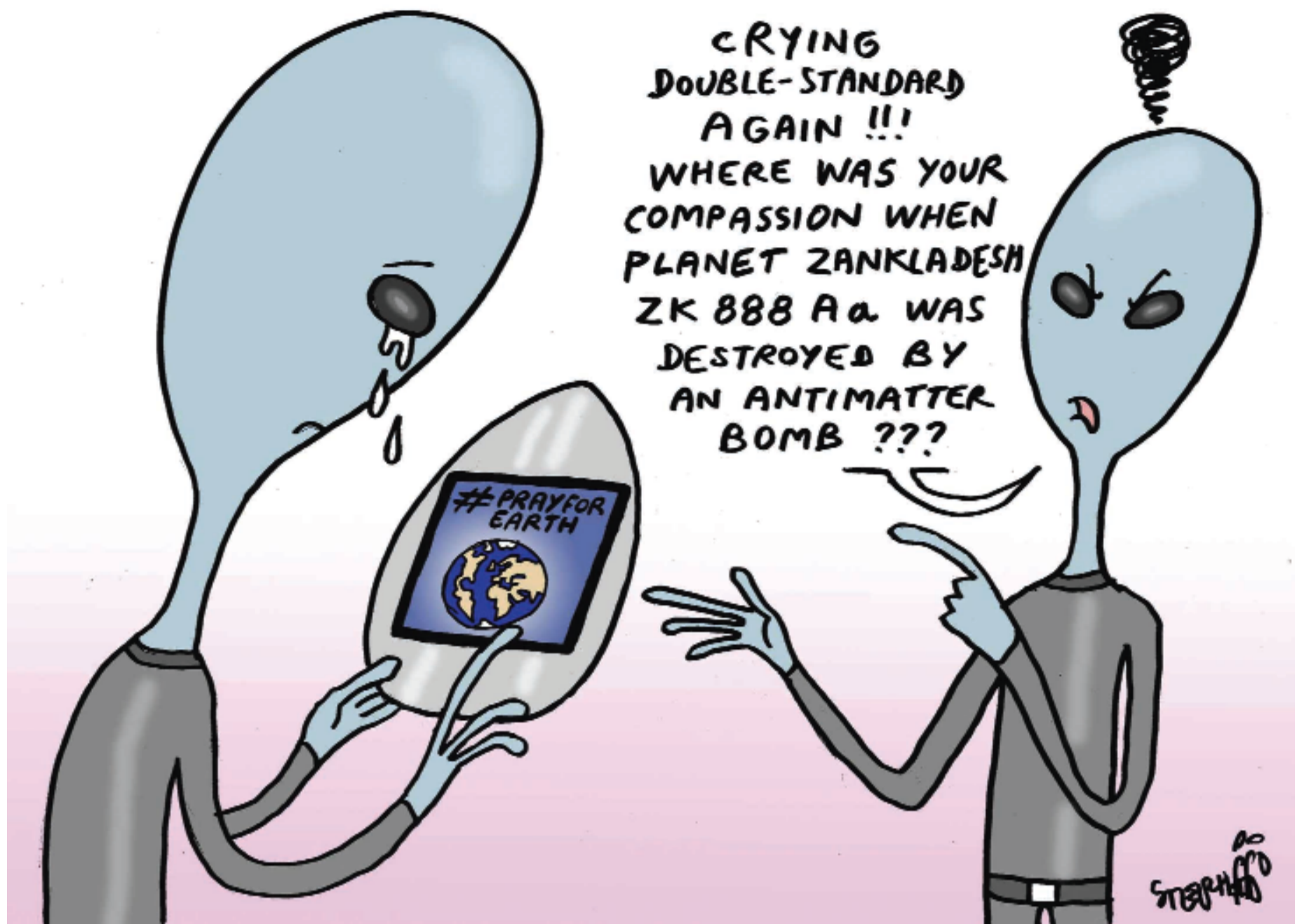
And London changed its policy to vote with Germany to water down EU vehicle emissions standards at a time when Volkswagen, powerhouse of the German auto industry, was in deep trouble for using defeat software to cheat exhaust tests. British officials dispute that it was a down-payment for Merkel's help in the renegotiation, but environmental activists are not alone in harbouring that suspicion.

Cameron told his party last month the talks would be "bloody hard work" and European Council President Donald Tusk, who is overseeing them on the EU side, said it would "very, very tough" to reach a deal. In his day, Kerr made deals in the EU's council of permanent representatives (COREPER) during the unification of Germany, the Maastricht treaty on economic and monetary union, and the GATT global trade talks.

"In my five years in COREPER, Britain was only outvoted once, and that was a put-up job where we and the Germans agreed secretly to be outvoted so the French could claim a victory on the cultural exception in the GATT talks," he told Reuters. "In return, the French let themselves be outvoted on the agricultural provisions that their farmers didn't like."

That kind of horse-trading is typical of the way EU members exchange favours, sometimes on unrelated dossiers. COREPER, the hub of cooperation among member states, meets weekly in formal session to prepare decisions for EU ministerial councils and leaders' summits. Ambassadors thrash out difficult issues over informal breakfasts, lunches and in bilateral talks. "COREPER is a pond full of sharks. Each country sends their best, toughest negotiators. They can be very hard but they treat each other with exquisite courtesy," said Gregor Woschnagg, who was Austria's longest-serving envoy in the group in 1999-2008. "The reciprocity principle works well. The rule is: make friends before you need them." — Reuters

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.



FRANCE'S MISCALCULATIONS AND IMPOTENCE

By Cecile Feuillatre

France has been one of the strongest voices pushing for the removal of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but the past four years have seen its strategy fail and its diplomatic weakness exposed. "At its heart, it's a story of missed opportunities," said a government source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We knew from the start what would happen in Syria - the refugees, the attacks - and we took the right stance, but we lost," he said. France was perhaps the most adamant in saying that Assad - whom they labelled a "butcher" of his own people - was the cause of the civil war in its former colony and had to leave power.

But diplomats admit that strategy was based on an overly optimistic assessment of the changes sweeping the Middle East in 2011 and 2012. In those early hopeful days of the Arab Spring, France was caught up with the "Egyptian and Tunisian illusion", in the words of one former diplomat, believ-

ing that the relatively peaceful revolutions in those countries could last and be replicated in Syria. "We still thought that Egypt would turn into Switzerland overnight," said the diplomat. "No one thought Bashar would hold on."

In Nov 2012, France became the first Western country to recognise the Syrian National Coalition, a coalition of opposition groups, and began discussing the possibility of lifting the European arms embargo so as to provide weapons to "moderate" rebels. French diplomats shuttled back and forth to Turkey to meet with Syrian rebel leaders, but the conflict was already degenerating into a brutal, multi-front war, complicated by the intervention of regional powers such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar and the rise of Islamic State jihadists.

By the time the European embargo ended in May 2013, France and other Western powers were much less inclined to provide arms to the rebel groups, that were increasingly dominated by extremist jihadists. "Those who helped the Syrian regime (most

notably, Russia and Iran) did so with dedication and stayed the course," said Francois Burgat, head of the French Institute of the Middle East. "By contrast, those who wanted to help the opposition have procrastinated and had mood swings. We are all complicit in this great political failure."

Left in the Cold

Most analysts agree the turning point came on Aug 31, 2013, when US President Barack Obama refused to strike Assad's regime, even though it had crossed his supposed "red line" by using chemical weapons against civilians, killing at least 1,500 people in a Damascus suburb. France, which had been poised and eager to strike, suddenly found itself isolated and impotent. "They let us advance, telling us we were covered. And we found ourselves left naked and out in the cold," a senior counsel at the Elysee Palace told a Le Monde reporter recently. "Militarily, we didn't have the capacity to go it alone. Diplomatically, we didn't know how to convince the world that we were right,"

said the government source. From that moment on, it was a slow dereliction of duty.

Paris has never fully forgiven the US for that moment, and it has continued to feature in Hollande's assessments of the crisis. But there was little France could do. By mid-2014, diplomats were talking of a "general sense of hopelessness around the (Syrian) dossier". "We don't control anything anymore. We've left the job to the actors in the region," a source told AFP at the time.

As the civil war deepened, the Islamic State group expanded and the refugees poured into Europe, France could do little but watch from the sidelines while continuing to call for Assad's departure. That remains the official line, but priorities are changing in the wake of the deadly IS attacks in Paris. "What do you do?" said the government source. "In a context where 130 people have been killed in Paris, where these attacks were fomented in Syria, how do you explain to people that we want a cautious diplomacy?" — AFP

PUTIN AIMS TO MAKE RUSSIA INDISPENSABLE

By Paul Taylor

By intervening in Syria, President Vladimir Putin has broken Russia's relative isolation and is making it the "indispensable nation" in conflicts in Syria, Ukraine and with Islamic State while the United States balks at deeper involvement. But in this geopolitical poker game, it's not clear he will be able to quit while he's winning, especially when events can take unexpected turns such as the shooting down of a Russian jet by Turkey's air force yesterday.

Russia's air strikes, cruise missiles and trainers on the ground have tilted the balance of forces in Syria back towards President Bashar Al-Assad's army, forcing a US-backed coalition waging an air war against Islamic State onto the back foot. Now Putin has seized on this month's Islamist attacks in Paris, which killed 130 people, and the downing of a Russian airliner in Egypt, which was claimed by IS and killed all 224 people on board, to shift his focus and offer France an alliance against the militant group, also known as ISIS.

The Russian Defence Ministry released pictures of bombs destined for Syrian targets inscribed "For Paris". "Russia has been willing and able to bring significant firepower to bear against ISIS at a time when France is willing but not entirely able, and the United States is able, but not entirely willing to bring its full firepower to bear against ISIS in Syria," said Bruno Tertrais, senior research fellow at the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris.

From a pariah in the West over his action in Ukraine, Putin has become a sought-after interlocutor due to his "realpolitik" combining hard power and diplomacy. Western leaders who had lectured him over Ukraine at last year's G20 summit Brisbane, Australia, and sidelined him from the G8 group of industrialised powers, vied for private meetings with him at this year's G20 in the Turkish resort of Antalya. After the failure of US President Barack Obama's 2009 "reset" of relations with Russia, it could be seen as a "re-reset" by the West, albeit somewhat reluctantly.

It doesn't mean Putin can escape yet from Western sanctions over his seizure of Crimea in 2014 and support of Russian-speaking separatists in eastern Ukraine. The five main Western powers agreed last week to extend them for at least six months. Nor does it guarantee the Russian leader a successful outcome to his Syrian venture. Military interventions often start in triumph and end in ashes, as the United States and Britain learned to

their cost in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union experienced in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Putin believes he has put Russia in the position that former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright claimed for the United States in the late 1990s as "the indispensable nation". But some strategic analysts believe Putin is overreaching and storing up security and economic dangers for Russia from domestic militants and Middle East oil powers. It is not only events such as yesterday's shooting down of the Russian jet, described by Putin as a "stab in the back", that could affect relations with other powers. A "friendly fire" incident involving Western forces or strikes that caused huge civilian casualties could also blow his campaign off course.

Master-Tactician

"Putin is a geopolitical master-tactician. Whether one likes it or not - and I don't - 'Putinpolitik' is doing pretty well," said Michael Emerson, a former European Union envoy to Moscow. He noted it was the second time Putin had wrong-footed the United States by taking an initiative in Syria that saved Assad from potential military defeat and make himself an unavoidable partner in any solution in the country.

The first was in Aug 2013 when Putin persuaded Obama to use diplomacy to achieve the chemical disarmament of Syria rather than enforce the US leader's own "red line" by striking Assad's forces over the use of the banned weapons. That decision was a "major foreign policy mistake" that signalled US fatigue in the Middle East and was duly noted in Moscow and Beijing, said former NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

Obama belittled Russia after its seizure of Crimea as a "regional power" acting out of weakness rather than strength and not a "number one security threat" to the United States. Putin's instinct for exploiting perceived US and European weakness has been one of the features of his vigorous foreign policy as he has tried to reassert Russia's great power status. "He has an incredible nose for political opportunity, but also for power," said Mark Leonard, director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a think-tank and advocacy group. "He was stuck in Ukraine... and couldn't see a way out. He initially stepped up the Russian footprint in Syria because Assad was in trouble. Now he has managed this extraordinary pivot after the Paris events," he said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) shakes hands with Jordanian King Abdullah II during a meeting at the Bocharov Ruchei state residence in Sochi yesterday. — AFP

French President Francois Hollande, who had been a small part of the US-led air campaign against IS, has called for a single coalition including Russia to eradicate the militant group in Syria. He will discuss cooperation with Putin in Moscow tomorrow after making his plea to Obama yesterday. A Reuters analysis in late October showed almost 80 percent of Russia's declared targets in Syria were in areas not held by IS.

Tertrais said the French believe nearly 90 percent of Russian strikes were on Western-backed anti-Assad rebels before the Paris attacks and the Sinai plane bombing, and just 10 percent on IS. In the last week, those proportions have roughly been inverted, he said. Other Western experts say Moscow has continued to hit Western-backed insurgents, notably those that had acquired US TOW anti-tank missiles, but at least half its strikes now targeted IS leadership and logistics in Syria. Both Russia and France are reported to have hit oil installations exploited by IS as a source of revenue.

Poor Strategist?

While the Kremlin leader has overturned the table in Syria, possibly creating space for a negotiated settlement to four years of civil war, his use of force beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union has raised risks for Russia. "Putin is not a good strategist. He is

stirring up a hornet's nest of Sunni Muslims who will hold a grudge against him," said Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institution think-tank in Washington and a former deputy Secretary of State and veteran Russia expert. "He already had an internal problem with Islamist extremism and he now has an external problem since ISIS was responsible for the Sinai plane bombing."

By aligning himself with Shiite power Iran and its Lebanese Hezbollah militia allies, he said, Putin risked antagonizing Sunni powers led by Saudi Arabia, which have driven down the oil price on which Russia's sanctions-weakened economy depends. European diplomats say even if Russia, the United States and Europe had a common interest in achieving a settlement in Syria to focus on Islamic State, the Saudis, as well as Turkey and perhaps Iran, may see interests in keeping the conflict going.

"Faced with a choice between keeping Assad in power and destroying ISIS, Putin is caught in a vice of his own making," Talbott said. "He has pushed Assad's exit off into the future at great cost to Russia, because ISIS is going to be stronger." He now faces a potential upsurge of Islamist militancy in Russia's Caucasus region which has spurred attacks in Moscow and other cities since the Chechen wars of the 1990s, Talbott added. — Reuters

DAVE ROBERTS IS NEW MANAGER AT LA DODGERS

LOS ANGELES: Former outfielder Dave Roberts was confirmed as the new manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday, becoming the first ethnic minority boss of the iconic franchise, the Major League Baseball outfit said. Roberts, 43, the son of an African-American former Marine and Japanese-American mother, will be formally introduced at an unveiling on December 1, the Dodgers said. The new team manager replaces Don Mattingly, who left the club by mutual agreement at the end of the close season after the Dodgers once again failed to reach the World Series.

Roberts played for the Dodgers between 2002 and 2004, and a nomadic career also included stints with the Cleveland Indians, Boston Red Sox, San Diego Padres and San Francisco Giants. Roberts told the Dodgers' website he was proud to be signing for the club which famously blazed a trail by signing Jackie Robinson—the first black player to play in the major leagues—in 1947. "It's hard for me to put into words what it means to be named manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers," said Roberts, who joins from the Padres coaching staff. "This is truly the opportunity of a lifetime. The Dodgers are the ground-breaking franchise of Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Sandy Koufax, Maury Wills, Fernando Valenzuela and Hideo Nomo. —AFP



RECORDS FALL AS KOSTOVA CLAIMS CROWN

HOUSTON: Boyanka Kostova of Azerbaijan set two new world records on her way to victory in the 58kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships on Monday. The Bulgaria-born powerhouse, who switched allegiances to Azerbaijan in 2010, set new records for the snatch (112 kg) before adding a new overall total record (252kg) with her final lift. She failed to add a third record in the clean and jerk, settling for 140 kg, but said she is confident of threatening the record at next year's Olympics. "I will try my best to do it in Rio de Janeiro," she said. In the men's 69kg Shi Zhiyong—renamed after the 2004 62kg champion—followed in his illustrious namesake's footsteps by winning gold for China. Shi, 22, was renamed by his coach as a child, and said he was glad to live up to his name. "It means wisdom and courage," said Shi. "I was still young when my coach gave me the name and I did not know about the 2004 Olympics. As I grew up I learned all about Shi Zhiyong and I am proud to say we have met since." — AFP

HAYE ANNOUNCES COMEBACK FIGHT AGAINST DE MORI

LONDON: Britain's former world heavyweight champion David Haye will make his comeback in a London fight against Australia's Mark de Mori in January, he announced yesterday. Haye, 35, last fought in July 2012 when he beat compatriot Dereck Chisora, but withdrew from proposed bouts against Manuel Charr and Tyson Fury the following year due to injury. The smooth-talking Londoner was advised to retire by surgeons after undergoing shoulder surgery, but will now make his return against 33-year-old De Mori at the O2 Arena on January 16. "I'm so happy to be able to step back through the ropes and back into the ring, where I do my best work," Haye told a press conference at the fight venue. "I've always set the bar high in my career and I will continue to do so. Please sit back and get ready for another fun-fuelled heavyweight campaign to the very top. "It's been a long three and a half years out, with many ups and downs, but 'The Hayemaker' is finally back and ready to do what I do best. I've a new team, new look and new inspiration to achieve my goals." —AFP



Runners taking part in the marathon.



Special run for special needs.

GULF BANK THANKS PARTICIPANTS, PARTNERS FOR SUCCESSFUL 'GULF BANK 642 MARATHON'

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank hails the success of the inaugural Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, the first accredited international marathon road race ever to be held in Kuwait. The Bank also congratulates the winner in each race category, and extends its appreciation to those who participated and volunteered to make the event a success.

Along with our partner, Pro-Vision Sports Management, we are happy to officially announce the winners (male and female) and their timings for each of the five race categories as:

- Full Marathon (42KM): Yeha Elsayed (2:47:06) and Hannah Glendinning (3:47:17)
- Half Marathon (21KM): Maali Babikir (1:13:45) and Samantha Hegarty (1:43:13)
- Souq Run for regular runners (10KM): Fawaz Farhan (0:34:43) and Renata Hoppova (0:43:49)
- Family Fun Run for beginners (5KM): Naif Rabea Shalan (0:19:27) and Irene Gibson (0:24:31)
- Special Run for special needs (5KM): Faraj Sultan

The race, which was held on Saturday, 14 November, welcomed 2,400 participants from 74 countries, and the participants were 64 % male and 36 % female. There were several teams of walkers and runners, from various organizations and backgrounds. The route was along the Gulf Road and took in many of Kuwait's famous local landmarks, including Seif Palace, Kuwait Towers, the National Library, the new Central Bank of Kuwait building, Souq Mubarakia, and the



Aerial photo

Gulf Bank headquarters office.

The Bank was pleased that three of the race categories were accredited by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF Athletics). AIMS is a member based organization of more than 380 of the world's leading distance races from over 100 countries. IAAF Athletics is the world governing body for the sport of track and field athletics. Once a course is AIMS certified, only then is IAAF able to recognize any world records which

might take place on the course. Three categories (10 KM, 21 KM, and 42KM distances) of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon were AIMS certified. These races now appear in the international calendar of races and serve as qualifying races for other events. The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is the only full road race marathon to be held in Kuwait and is called 642 in reference to the number of muscles in the human body.

Gulf Bank sponsored the race to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and to encourage people in



The start of the race.

Kuwait to include regular exercise and physical activity as part of their daily life. The marathon has held on World Diabetes Day (WDD) to help raise awareness of the growing problem of diabetes in Kuwait, and how exercise and fitness can play an important role in combating this major health issue.

In the lead up to the event, the Bank and its partners held a social media competition where people shared their fitness journey in preparation for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. Two winners were selected and their prizes included a personalized health and fitness

transformation program which included: 4 nutritional consultations by Dasman Diabetes Institute; 16 personal training sessions by Circuit + Gym; food supply by Quest; culinary classes and food supply by Saveco; and full training gear from Extreme Sports.

On race day, all our partners were also on site for the event in the Souq Sharq pavilion area, where there were many other vendors and activities. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon in 2016!

AL AIN AIR CHAMPIONSHIP SET TO GET HEARTS RACING WITH DARE DEVIL STUNTS

KUWAIT: Visitors to the 11th edition of Al Ain Air Championship will witness heart-stopping stunts from ten civilian and military flying teams alongside live entertainment, music and fun for all the family over the three-day event from 17th to 19th of December.

The UAE's national aerobatic team, Al Fursan, will showcase high-octane stunts as part of a series of spectacular and daring performances at The Al Ain Air Championships, which will feature a brand new competition format that will allow visitors to be part of the action. A new mobile app will give fans the opportunity to vote for their favourite team, and ultimately influence the competition.

"With our action-packed schedule of fun-filled family activities, ranging from dramatic aerobatic displays and simulator experiences to interactive games and car-driving spectacles, the Al Ain Air Championship will be a must-attend event," said Sultan Al Dhaheri, Acting Executive Director Tourism at Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi). "We are not just focusing on the daytime activities; we're extending the experience into the evening with live music and a daily hot air balloon display, set to an impressive sound and light show for the whole family to enjoy."

Teams will compete to be crowned the Grand Champion of Al Ain Air Championship 2015, as awarded by the judges and audi-

ence, via the interactive app, based on their performances in a number of areas, being scored on their ability to illustrate grace, power and pride for their respective nations.

Incredible performances

Lieutenant Colonel Nasser Al Obaidli, Fursan Al Emarat Team leader, said: "The Fursan Al Emarat team represents the entire nation of the UAE. As part of the Air Force, our mission is to do the nation proud while engaging and exciting people with our stunts. We are thrilled to be part of the Al Ain Air Championship and are excited to see the other acts from around the world. It is an event not to be missed for aviation enthusiasts and families alike."

Other civilian and military teams set to perform include the Saudi Hawks, Breitling Wing walkers (UK), Red Bull Firestars (China), Richard Goodwin Air shows (UK), Misty Blues Skydiving (USA), Belgian Broncos (Belgium) and Glider FX Aerobatics (UK). World-renowned Spanish pilot Javier Tejero Lopez (Malaguita) will also be making an appearance, taking the sport of para-motoring to the extreme, in a partnership with the Emirates Eagles Para-motor Team.

While the skies will be set for incredible performances, the nail-biting stunts and excitement will continue on-ground with Al Ain local and Red Bull Champions Drifting hero Ahmed Al Ameri showcasing his drifting

skills. Adding to the thrill and excitement of the event, the motocross team 'Freestyle Motor X' will showcase its extreme motocross sports skills with state-of-the-art bike suspensions, a huge vert and ramp take-offs. In addition, Mercedes-AMG will impress visitors with an extreme driving experience using three high-performance cars.

Visitors will also witness the ultimate clash between the powerhouses of the sky and performance vehicles on the ground in the official Air Drag. The race will see a Mercedes AMG E63, with its 585-horse power twin-turbo V8 engine; go head-to-head against the brawn of Richard Goodwin's Pitts S25 muscle plane in a two-part match race series.

As the crowds get peckish, a gastronomic feast awaits the visitors to offer more than 20 gourmet dining options from a variety of restaurants to food trucks from the likes of Khameer & Dough, Limeline, Dessert Chill, Gold Box, Mandilicious, Kebabs & Bunz, Calle Tacos, and Urban Bites.

The event will welcome 'rhyme and rhythm' as part of the evening activities with live music performances from New Orleans Jazz Band on 17 December, The Swing Pack on 18 December and Gari Deegan on 19 December, as well as a mix of tunes from the Red Bull DJ Trucks. Children will be as entertained as adults with family attractions ranging from arts and crafts, to soft play areas and games.



Al Fursan in the cockpit.



Breitling Wing Walkers - Al Ain Air Championship.

CRUSADERS COACH BLACKADDER TO STEP DOWN AFTER 2016

WELLINGTON: Canterbury Crusaders coach Todd Blackadder will step down at the end of the 2016 Super Rugby season, the team said yesterday. Former All Blacks captain Blackadder, a cult hero in Canterbury, would have been in charge for eight seasons by then, having replaced Robbie Deans following the 2008 competition. "Moving on at the end of the 2016 season is the right thing for me and the right thing for the team,"

Blackadder said. "I've been so fortunate to be able to do my dream job for all of these years, but eight years is a relatively long time in coaching and I feel the time is right for someone else to take the reins and lead the team in their own direction in the future."

The Crusaders are the most successful team in Super Rugby, having claimed seven titles, but have not won the southern hemisphere competition since

Deans left for a job with Australia's national team.

Blackadder has led them to the playoffs in six of his seven seasons in charge, but they have lost two finals—to the Queensland Reds in 2011 and New South Wales Waratahs in 2014. Typically stocked full of All Blacks, the side is in something of a transition after losing three flyhalves in Daniel Carter, Tom Taylor and Colin Slade to lucrative off-

shore contracts, while loose forward Richie McCaw has retired. McCaw, who led New Zealand to two Rugby World Cup triumphs, including this year in England, was one of the best players ever to grace the game and ended his 14-year test career as the most capped player (148) and captain (110) in world rugby.

Blackadder said he had no immediate plans for the future. "I am thinking

no further ahead than the season that is in front of me," he added. "I am incredibly excited about the 2016 season and what happens beyond that is immaterial right now. "There have been some big changes in the... Crusaders with some significant players moving on and a number of new, younger players coming into the mix, and I think that signals some really exciting times ahead." —Reuters

CLARKE WELCOMES 'STRONG' EURASIA CUP LINE-UP

KUALA LUMPUR: European captain Darren Clarke welcomed an "extremely strong" EurAsia Cup line-up yesterday as Race to Dubai runner-up Danny Willett and French star Victor Dubuisson were confirmed among 10 automatic qualifiers.

World number 20 Willett, 28, is among five Englishmen to qualify for the January 15-17 tournament as the leading 10 available players on the European Tour's final Race to Dubai standings. Dubuisson and fellow Ryder Cup player Ross Fisher also made the cut, along with Chris Wood, Michael Fitzpatrick and Andy Sullivan, who was runner-up to Rory McIlroy at the European Tour's season-ending DP World Tour Championship in Dubai.

Ireland's Shane Lowry, Bernd Wiesberger of Austria, Denmark's Soren Kjeldsen and Swede Kristoffer Broberg round out the 10 who will face Jeev

Milkha Singh's Asian team in Kuala Lumpur.

They will be joined by two captain's picks in two weeks' time from Clarke, who will also mastermind Europe's team for next year's Ryder Cup. "I am delighted with the make-up of the team. It may be a relatively young one, but it is extremely strong and packed with experience," said Clarke, in comments released by the Asian Tour.

"The EurAsia Cup also offers many of our players the opportunity to enhance their prospects of making next September's Ryder Cup team. It's also a good chance for me to see how comfortable they are with and in a team environment," he added.

Europe and Asia will both be trying to win the EurAsia Cup for the first time after the inaugural edition in 2014, also at Glenmarie Golf and Country Club, ended in a 10-10 draw. —AFP



GENT: (From left) Britain's Dominic Inglot, Kyle Edmund, Britain's captain Leon Smith, Andy Murray, James Ward and Jamie Murray pose during a press conference ahead of the Davis Cup World Group final between Belgium and Britain, yesterday, at Flanders Expo in Gent. The final will be played from 27 to 29 November 2015 in Gent Flanders Expo. — AFP

YOUNGEST US CHESS MASTER

GREENWICH: At age 10, Maximilian Lu is the youngest-ever chess master in the U.S. Even so, he sees room for improvement.

The distinction of being a national master belongs to less than 2 percent of US Chess Federation members and is earned by racking up at least 2,200 points in competitions. It's a rarity among children, but Lu shrugs it off, saying he needs to work on his endgame.

"It's all right. I have to improve other stuff," he said in a recent interview. Max, who plays 45 minutes to an hour a day, and an hour or two on weekends or before major tournaments, started playing chess in an after-school program when he was 6 and has competed in tournaments in Toronto, South Africa and Dubai, and he represented the United States in Greece this month.

Climbing the ranks has been difficult, he said. In matches with increasingly tough competition, ambitious rivals are always "coming up behind you," he said. Max became the youngest-ever chess master in September, at 9 years, 11 months and 2 days, according to the US Chess Federation. He topped the record attained in 2013 by A wonder Liang of Madison, Wisconsin, who became the youngest master at 9 years, 11 months and 15 days.

Young chess players now are stronger than in the past, due partly to online chess games that allow players to practice alone and to efforts by schools, clubs and others to draw more players, said Jean Hoffman, executive director of the U.S. Chess Federation.

For Max's parents, supporting their son's interest is not much different from what soccer moms and dads do,

traveling from one competition to the next. "We didn't plan anything out," said his father, David Lu. "It just sort of happened."

'Psychological aspects'

An adult's perspective also makes a difference. Lu said he helps his son handle what he calls the "psychological aspects" of chess, or maintaining a balance "between seeming mentally tough between losing a game and coming back to play another game."

If approached the wrong way, competitive chess can be a "high-pressure thing," David Lu said. Ian Harris, manager of the Chess Club of Fairfield County in Norwalk, and Bryan Quick, executive director of the Marshall Chess Club in New York - sites frequented by Lu - say the game has exploded in popularity in the past decade, particularly among youngsters.

In addition to ubiquitous after-school chess programs, charter schools are taking up chess in the classroom. Educators say the game teaches logic and critical and analytical thinking skills and the ability lose gracefully.

"If kids stick to it long enough, their concentration is improved," said Ronelle Swagerty, head of school at the New Beginnings Family Academy, a Bridgeport charter school that offers chess classes to seventh- and eighth-grade students.

David Lu said he's not sure Max is looking to make a career in chess. "As long as it's fun, we'll encourage it," he said. "The higher and higher you go it's very difficult and if you don't enjoy it, it's not really worth it, I think." For Max, the attraction to chess is simple: "I just want to do it for fun, as a hobby." —AP



ARMONK: Maximilian Lu adjusts his cap as he toys with a chess set during an interview, Monday, in Armonk, NY. The 10-year-old recently became the youngest chess master ever in the United States. — AP

BRITAIN COUNTING ON MURRAY TO BRING HOME DAVIS CUP

LONDON: Britain will attempt to win the Davis Cup for the first time in 79 years this weekend when they take on Belgium in Ghent, although if they do succeed the Scottish town of Dunblane could argue its name should be enshrined on the trophy.

World number two Andy Murray and his brother Jamie, who grew up in Dunblane, have propelled Britain through the draw, with Andy churning out vital singles wins and teaming up with his elder sibling in the doubles.

That is likely to be the scenario again at the Flanders Expo, beginning on Friday, where despite 13,000 home fans trying to cheer Belgium to their first ever Davis Cup, Britain will start favourites.

Twice grand slam champion Andy Murray is the class act of the final—a repeat of the 1904 match when the British Isles won 5-0 with brothers Laurence and Reggie Doherty starring. Murray's commitment to the cause this year has been immense. The 2013 Wimbledon champion is undefeated, winning two singles against the United States in Glasgow in March.

Against France in the quarter-finals at Queen's Club, the Murrys joined forces to win the doubles with Andy winning both his singles in a 3-1 victory—the second against Gilles Simon when he was down on both knees with fatigue. Then came the semi-final against Australia, again in Glasgow, when the 28-year-old crushed Bernard Tomic, having won a gripping doubles five-setter with Jamie the previous day, to send Britain into the final for the first time since 1978. He flew into Belgium on Monday—a country on high alert after the Paris attacks—having lost two of his three matches at the ATP World Tour Finals last week.

Rising to the challenge

How he adapts to the quick switch to indoor clay will be crucial for Britain captain Leon Smith. "The reality is that if Andy gets injured or ill, then it would be a very difficult match to win," Mark Cox, who played for Britain in the 1978 final, told Reuters. "Leon has done well to bond the team and get some performances from James Ward, well beyond what realistically

would be expected. "But the whole run to the final has relied on Andy's performances and it has been great to see Jamie rising to the challenge and becoming a force in doubles." Roger Federer, who won the trophy for the first time last year for Switzerland, believes Murray will decide the tie. "Britain are the favourites, in my opinion, because they have Andy in the team," he said.

Federer, however, believes Belgium should not be dismissed, especially with world number 16 David Goffin in their ranks. "Belgium are at home. I really like Goffin, a great player. Good attitude. I feel like he's the kind of guy that can handle pressure," he said.

Goffin will likely be up against Britain's 100th-ranked debutant Kyle Edmund in the opening match—a must win rubber for the hosts.

Murray is likely to play Belgium number two Steve Darcis, who won the fifth rubber in the semi-final against Argentina, although captain Johan Van Herck could save him for what could be a potential title-decider in Sunday's reverse singles. —Reuters

SPIETH EXPECTS TO WIN AT LEAST ONE MAJOR IN 2016

SYDNEY: World number one Jordan Spieth admitted yesterday it will be difficult to repeat the success he's enjoyed this year in 2015, but the American expects to win at least one major. Spieth is back in Sydney to defend this week's Australian Open, a victory he capped with a blistering final-round, course-record 63 that kicked-started a rich vein of form.

The Dallas-born player went on to win the following week's Hero World Challenge and then headed into the PGA Tour season, capturing the Masters and US Open titles along with the Valspar Championship, a second John Deere Classic and the year-ending Tour Championship.

"I felt after that Sunday round here at the Australian Club a year ago that my victory in Sydney would do something for me, but not launch the type of year I've had this year," he said. "I was tied for the lead going into the final round here in Sydney and I knew I could do it and really just stayed really patient and played one of the best rounds of my life when I really needed it."

"I then went onto the next week and probably played the best golf of my career down the stretch, and really had that mental edge I had been looking for."

"I kind of had that mental edge all my golfing life but kind of lost it a bit coming onto the tour, but I guess it was a steep learning curve." Spieth will tee up from Thursday looking to become the first non-Australian born player to win the coveted Stonehaven Trophy for a second straight year since the great Jack Nicklaus in 1975 and 1976.

But after such a successful year when he is assured of ending the year as the world's top player, he admitted it will be a hard act to follow as he heads into 2016. "I don't know if it is realistic to raise the bar in 2016 given what I have achieved in 2015 but I am sure it will be very close as I am always trying to get a little bit better," he said.

"It would be good if I could repeat what I have accomplished this year next season but whether or not that happens, my goals for the new year will certainly include having multiple tournament wins."

"I would expect to at least win a major championship and it's exactly what Rory's (McIlroy) been saying, that even in an off-year you want to be at least close to winning a major." — AFP



SYDNEY: File photo dated November 30, 2014 shows Jordan Spieth of the US holding up the trophy after winning the Australian Open golf tournament at the Australian Golf Club in Sydney. World number one Spieth is back in Sydney to defend this week's Australian Open, admitted yesterday that it will be difficult to repeat the success he's enjoyed this year in 2015, but the American expects to win at least one major. — AFP

INDIA CAPTAIN KOHLI CALLS DAY-NIGHT TEST A 'LANDMARK'

NAGPUR: India captain Virat Kohli is "excited" Australia and New Zealand have agreed to play cricket's first day-night test and called the match starting on Friday at the Adelaide Oval a "landmark" occasion. The longest format of the game, played over five days, has seen dwindling crowds at grounds and according to governing body the

International Cricket Council (ICC), day-night tests are an effort to address the problem.

"It is a landmark test," Kohli told reporters on Tuesday ahead of the third test against South Africa which starts in Nagpur today. "It is a big experiment. It is a big step towards changing something in test cricket. I hope it works. I hope it

can be another option as well.

"I'm glad two teams have actually agreed to play an official test like that as an experiment. Credit to Australia and New Zealand, both, that they have decided to do this. "Hopefully, it will be better for the game. It will be a step which we all might remember a few years down the line. Let's hope so."

The 50-over format and the shortest Twenty20 format are already day-night affairs across the world, but some Australian players have expressed concerns about the visibility and durability of the pink ball that will be used in the match. Kohli felt it was a step in the right direction to protect test matches.

"If it is officially put into place it will

be something different, it will be something exciting," he said. "As cricketers we all should be willing and accepting of the fact that we need to step forward and contribute to the game however possible. "If this is a step towards improving the excitement and the popularity of test cricket, then I think every team should be in for it." — Reuters



NAGPUR: South Africa's Faf du Plessis (C) plays football 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

INDIA EYE SERIES WIN AS STEYN RULED OUT AGAIN

NAGPUR: India will start as favourites to wrap up the series after South Africa's pace spearhead Dale Steyn was sidelined again for the third Test which starts in Nagpur today. India lead the four-match series 1-0 after winning the first Test in Mohali inside three days before rain washed out the last four days of the drawn second match in Bangalore.

With another dry, spin-friendly pitch laid at the VCA stadium on the outskirts of Nagpur, the top-ranked Proteas are in real danger of losing their nine-year unbeaten series record on foreign soil. South African captain Hashim Amla confirmed that Steyn will not take field, saying his premier fast bowler had not recovered from the groin strain he suffered in Mohali.

"Not having Dale in the team is a setback because not having the services of the best bowler in the world is never a nice thing," he said. "But we've got to deal with it and, hopefully, the guys who play will get a chance to stand out."

When South Africa played a Test in Nagpur in 2010, Steyn picked up a 10-wicket haul, including a career-best 7-57 in the first innings, to fashion his team's emphatic win by an innings and six runs.

Indian captain Virat Kohli, however, insisted Steyn's absence will not make a difference to his team's prospects. "We have faced him enough times in the past and we have scored enough runs against him," he said. "We treat every bowler the same way. Someone else might step up, so you can't take anyone lightly."

'Hopefully runs will come'

Amla's own poor form with the bat will worry the tourists after he made 43 and 0 in the first Test and seven in the rain-ruined second game in Bangalore. "I definitely would have liked to have got more runs in the series," said Amla, who hit an unbeaten 253, the second highest of his 23 three-figure knocks in Test cricket, in Nagpur five years ago. "Hopefully, the runs are still to come. We've got two big Test matches to deal with." 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 to fall in three innings so far. "We have not played our best cricket," Amla said as the tourists limped to 184 and 109 in Mohali and made

214 on the first day at Bangalore.

'Not pleasant to face our spinners'

Kohli said he was relieved at not having to face his own spinners, Ashwin, Jadeja and Amit Mishra, who have wreaked havoc with the South African batting. "If I was playing against them, I would find it really difficult to score off them," he said. "I am sure it is not pleasant facing the three of them." Kohli insisted too much was being made of the dry, brown pitch that will aid spin as the match goes on. "I don't know why there is so much of hue and cry about wickets in India," he said. "We have absolutely no problem in playing on wickets given to us." Amla, asked about the pitch, said: "It looks like a good cricket wicket, one that we kind of expect in the sub-continent." The South African captain said his team's dream of winning the series was not over yet, but they still needed to win at Nagpur to set up the decider in Delhi from December 3. "It's a must-win game for us if we are to win the series," he said. "The issue has been more with the lack of runs than the lack of wickets. Hopefully, we'll get the runs too." — AFP

TEST MAKEOVER FACES ITS PINK REVOLUTION

SYDNEY: Venerable Test cricket, 138 years after its origins, is about to get a glitzy makeover in this week's first-ever day-night Test match between Australia and New Zealand in Adelaide. While playing with a pink ball under lights is an anathema to staunch cricket traditionalists, administrators are pointing to dwindling crowds and outdated scheduling as they attempt to move the Test format into the 21st century.

Emboldened by the success of Twenty20 with its frenetic pace and slick innovation, Cricket Australia is trialling day-night Test cricket from Friday in a bid to attract more fans and interest.

Cricket Australia chief James Sutherland is a leading proponent and believes it should be viewed as part of the evolution of the five-day game. "We know and understand we need to shift entertainment into periods of the day that are more appealing," Sutherland said.

"I love all cricket but my preferred format of the game is Test cricket. And I honestly believe if we do nothing then we are at risk of loving Test cricket to death."

Tickets for the day-night Test match, where play will be from 2:00-9:00 pm local time, are selling briskly, with Cricket Australia comparing the interest to a high-demand Ashes series against England.

The contrast with Australia's first two daytime Tests of the current series against New Zealand could not be starker-with low turnout and funeral ground atmospheres in Brisbane and Perth-yet again bringing into focus Test cricket's ability to survive in a modern sporting environment. While the day-night concept has been hailed as "thoroughly enlightened" by the new international cricket chief, legendary Pakistan batsman Zaheer Abbas, it has its opponents.

Some players have been critical of the revolutionary pink ball-used because the traditional red ball is difficult to see in the dark-complaining it deteriorates more

quickly. Kookaburra, which manufactures the balls used in Australia, says the difference between the red and pink versions is primarily a very fine film of extra paint used on the pink ball to help keep its colour. Kookaburra said the pink ball had gone through rigorous testing. "I don't think any Test ball has gone through the level of testing and development that the pink ball has got and the number of trials and feedback," Kookaburra managing director Brett Elliott said.

Don't mess too much

Despite many seeing a need to reinvigorate Test cricket, the Federation of International Cricketers Association cautions against rushing into embracing day-night Tests as part of the sport's future.

"Test cricket is seen as the pinnacle format by the majority of international players. The fact that players value it so highly is critical to its survival as a format around the world," FICA chief Tony Irish said. "One really shouldn't mess too much with that." But pink-ball Test matches could just be the start of a cricket revolution, if some visionaries have their way.

Former Australian captain Mark Taylor, now a current Cricket Australia board member and television commentator, is advocating the introduction of four-day, 100-over Tests and a more clearly defined championship.

Taylor wants all Test matches to begin on Thursdays, allowing games to build to a Sunday evening climax. "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 (so) if you're always working towards who is the best Test team in the world, that can only help the game." — AFP

LUNDQVIST MAKES 31 SAVES AS RANGERS BLANK PREDATORS 3-0

NEW YORK: Goaltender Henrik Lundqvist continued his brilliant season by stopping 31 shots in the New York Rangers' 3-0 victory over the Nashville Predators. Lundqvist leads the league with 12 wins and also leads in both goals against average and save percentage before registering his second shutout. Rick Nash and Kevin Hayes and Derek Stepan scored for the Rangers, who have won 11 of 12. Predators goaltender Pekka Rinne stopped 16 shots.

BLUES 2, SABRES 1

Right wingers Troy Brouwer and Robby Fabbrì both scored goals as the St. Louis Blues came from behind to beat the Buffalo Sabres. Goaltender Jake Allen made 24 saves for the Blues. Center David Legwand scored for the Sabres, who are winless in their last five games. Rookie goaltender Linus Ullmark made 24 saves.

CAPITALS 1, OILERS 0

Washington goalie Braden Holtby stopped 33 shots while defenseman Dmitry Orlov scored the game's only goal with 6:32 left as the Capitals beat the Edmonton Oilers. Holtby produced two strong saves in the third when he robbed defenseman Eric Gryba with a sprawling glove save during a two-on-one break. A minute later he denied left winger Taylor Hall alone in front. It was Holtby's first shutout of the season and the 21st of his career.

KINGS 3, PANTHERS 1

Center Tyler Toffoli, defenseman Alec Martinez and right winger Marian Gaborik scored goals as the Los Angeles Kings defeated the Florida Panthers. Center Aleksander Barkov scored for the Panthers. Los Angeles goaltender Jonathan Quick made 32 saves. Florida's Roberto

Luongo had 21 stops in place of goaltender Al Montoya, who made eight saves before leaving after an injury in the first period.

AVALANCHE 4, JETS 1

The Colorado Avalanche capped off a seven-game road trip with a 4-1 victory over the Winnipeg Jets. Cody McLeod scored the go-ahead goal at 6:45 of the third period when defenseman Zach Redmond's shot caromed off the left winger and past goaltender Michael Hutchinson. Colorado center Matt Duchene then scored his 11th of the season at 16:11 of the third period on a partial breakaway before left winger Blake Comeau added an empty-net goal with 1:10 remaining. The Avalanches played seven games in 15 days, tied for the longest road trip in team history, and posted a 4-3-0 record.

BRUINS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 3 (SO)

Center David Krejci scored the only goal in a shootout to give Boston Bruins a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs. Brad Marchand and Zac Rinaldo scored for Boston in regulation. Joffrey Lupul, Leo Komarov and Tyler Bozak scored for Toronto. Boston goaltender Tuukka Rask stopped 39 shots while Toronto's James Reimer made 26 saves.

FLYERS 3, HURRICANES 2 (OT)

Philadelphia defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere scored 24 seconds into overtime on a power play to help the Flyers defeat the Carolina Hurricanes. Brayden Schenn and Claude Giroux also scored for the Flyers, who won for only the third time in the last 14 games. The Hurricanes lost their eighth game over the last 10. Philadelphia's Michal Neuvirth made 31 saves, while Eddie back stopped 33 shots and is winless since Oct. 29. —Reuters

NHL Results/Standings

St. Louis 2, Buffalo 1; NY Rangers 3, Nashville 0; Philadelphia 3, Carolina 2 (OT); Washington 1, Edmonton 0; Boston 4, Toronto 3 (SO); Los Angeles 3, Florida 1; Colorado 4, Winnipeg 1.

Western Conference						Metropolitan Division					
Central Division											
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS						
Dallas	17	4	0	74	50	34	Ottawa	10	5	5	61
St. Louis	14	6	2	59	53	30	Detroit	11	8	2	49
Minnesota	11	5	3	57	51	25	Boston	11	8	1	66
Nashville	11	6	3	53	51	25	Tampa Bay	10	9	3	53
Chicago	11	8	2	57	55	24	Florida	8	9	4	55
Winnipeg	10	10	2	58	69	22	Toronto	7	10	5	51
Colorado	8	12	1	60	62	17	Buffalo	8	11	2	44
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division					
Los Angeles	13	8	0	54	46	26	NY Rangers	16	3	2	66
San Jose	13	8	0	59	51	26	Washington	14	5	1	62
Vancouver	8	8	6	64	60	22	Pittsburgh	12	8	0	45
Arizona	10	9	1	55	59	21	New Jersey	11	8	1	50
Anaheim	7	10	4	38	55	18	NY Islanders	10	8	3	59
Calgary	8	12	1	50	75	17	Philadelphia	7	9	5	38
Edmonton	7	13	1	55	64	15	Carolina	7	10	4	42
Eastern Conference						Atlantic Division					
						Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)					
Montreal	16	4	2	78	50	34	Columbus	8	14	0	55



PERTH: This file photo taken on November 21, 2015 shows New Zealand's Matt Henry preparing to bowl with the pink ball on day one of the tour cricket match between New Zealand and Western Australia in Perth. Venerable Test cricket, 138 years after its origins, is about to get a glitzy makeover in this week's first-ever day-night Test match between Australia and New Zealand in Adelaide. — AFP



LVIV: FC Shakhtar's players take part in a training session at the Arena Lviv Stadium in Lviv yesterday on the eve before the UEFA Champions League Group A football match between Shakhtar Donetsk and Real Madrid. — AFP

SEVILLA CHASE GLADBACH WIN TO KEEP HOPES ALIVE

BERLIN: Sevilla need a victory at winless Borussia Mönchengladbach today to keep alive their faint hopes of progress to the Champions League's knockout stage in the Group D basement battle.

A win at bottom side Gladbach is the only way third-placed Sevilla will still have any hope of reaching the last 16, when they host Juventus on December 8. Victory at Borussia Park would guarantee them at least a place in the Europa League, which they have won for the last two years running. With Gladbach's Champions League exit already confirmed, defeat would confirm the Germans will finish bottom of the group, but they want to knock Sevilla from third to advance to the Europa League. "We need to be courageous and play our own game, like we did against Juventus," said Gladbach's Guinea winger Ibrahim Traore. "Our confidence is high, we are in good shape and our goal is third place to qualify for the Europa League."

Gladbach are buoyed by their German league form which has seen them climb from bottom to fourth with seven wins and a draw in their eight Bundesliga games since Andre Schubert took charge in September. "We have to go to our absolute limit and give it everything we have," said Schubert, whose side sealed a 2-1 win over Hanover on Saturday in his first game as head coach, with a contract until 2017, after two months as caretaker boss.

"We aren't under any pressure, but we do have a duty to give it our all." Having drawn 1-1 last time out at home to Juventus, Gladbach want another strong performance.

Schubert has breathed life back into Gladbach with a consistent team selection policy, bringing in talented teenagers Andreas Christensen and Mahmoud Dahoud and tightening the defence.

He has also given Swiss defensive midfielder Graint Xhaka the captaincy and the 23-year-old, who has been linked to a big-money move to Liverpool, has revelled in the role. The Foals are nine unbeaten since losing at home to Manchester City at the start of September and had few problems beating mid-table Hanover on Saturday with goals by Traore and Brazilian striker Raffael. Sevilla are 11th in the Spanish league.

They inflicted a first defeat of the season on La Liga giants Real Madrid with a 3-2 home win three weeks ago when ex-Borussia Dortmund striker Ciro Immobile scored his maiden goal for the club.

But on Saturday, they crashed 2-0 at Real Sociedad, who were playing their first match since David Moyes was sacked after a run of six defeats in nine games. Portugal goalkeeper Beto (knee injury), Gael Kakuta (thigh) and defender Daniel CarriAo (hamstring) will all miss the game with injury. —AFP

FURY VOWS TO 'EXPOSE' 'OLD MAN' KLITSCHKO

BERLIN: Challenger Tyson Fury has vowed to 'expose' undisputed champion Wladimir Klitschko in Saturday's world heavyweight title bout and has labelled the Ukrainian giant an 'old man'.

Klitschko, 39, will defend his IBF, WBA and IBO titles against Britain's Fury, 27, in Duesseldorf having last tasted defeat more than a decade ago. This is the second time the fight has been scheduled to take place after the original date in October was cancelled due to Klitschko's calf injury.

Fury has won all of his 24 fights to date with 18 knockouts and has vowed to not only usurp Klitschko, but also highlight the champion's weaknesses. "I think this might be one of my easiest fights," boasted Manchester-born Fury in Tuesday's press conference.

"I know that sounds crazy, because he's a Super champion, but I see so many chinks in his armour. There is nothing he does which makes me think I won't beat him. I can expose what he doesn't do very well and you'll see what I'm talking about on Saturday night."

"I'm not going to say too much today as I don't want to scare him off. I'm coming very fast for you, Wlad. Old guy, young guy. Old champion, new champion. Enough said. Amen," added Fury ahead of the bout

at Duesseldorf's Esprit Arena with 42,000 tickets sold. Klitschko has heard such bold statements before from previous challengers, many of whom then became one of his 53 knockouts in 64 wins. Britain's David Haye labelled the champion a 'large, slow robot from the Ukraine' before losing on points in Hamburg in July 2011.

The last of Klitschko's three defeats was back in 2004. "There have been many fighters I've faced, this time I face a guy whose young, a real challenge," said Klitschko. "I hear he's nervous. It's good to be nervous. I get nervous before every fight. I'm really happy that this fight is taking place."

"I'm sure it's going to be sold out. I'm sure it's going to be a great night." Fury stirred up controversy earlier on Tuesday in a BBC interview by claiming boxing has a "big problem" with doping.

He suggested that the sport should tackle the issue by legalising banned substances. The British fighter said he hopes the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has tested both boxers stringently. "WADA have tested me very regularly, sometimes three times in a month," said Fury in Duesseldorf.

"Hopefully he'll have been the same." Klitschko dismissed the issue, stating: "I've been tested a lot, over a quarter of a century." —AFP

LEBRON LEADS CAVS PAST MAGIC, JOINS ROBERTSON ON ELITE LIST

CLEVELAND: LeBron James joined Oscar Robertson on an exclusive NBA list and Kevin Love scored a season-high 34 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers remained unbeaten at home with a 117-103 win over the Orlando Magic on Monday. James had 15 points and 13 assists and joined Robertson, the legendary "Big O" as the only players in league history to rank in the top 25 in career points and assists. With his fifth assist, James moved past Norm Nixon (6,386) into 25th place and moved alongside Robertson, who finished his Hall of Fame career with 26,710 points and 9,887 assists. James will soon eclipse Robertson's scoring total and the unselfish superstar is a good bet to pass the guard on the assist list as well. Love scored 27 in the first half for the Cavs, now 8-0 at home and an Eastern Conference-leading 11-3. Andrew Nicholson scored 18 and Evan Fournier had 13 points for the Magic. Orlando has dropped 11 straight to Cleveland.

THUNDER 111, JAZZ 89

Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant had 27 points and six rebounds in his return from a hamstring injury. Durant was 10 for 13 from the field in his first game since he got hurt Nov. 10 at Washington. Russell Westbrook narrowly missed his third triple-double of the season with 20 points, seven rebounds and nine assists. The Thunder ran away with the game in the second quarter, outscoring the Jazz 40-26 and shooting 14 for 19 from the field. Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 19 points. Derrick Favors had 11 points, seven rebounds and two blocks, and Rudy Gobert finished with 10 points.

HEAT 95, KNICKS 78

Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh each scored 16 points as Miami ended New York's four-game winning streak. Goran Dragic had 13 points and nine assists for the Heat, who went on a 36-8 run in the first half. Tyler Johnson scored 12, and Hassan Whiteside had 11 points and 11 rebounds. Miami would eventually lead by as many as 26, both its biggest advantage and the Knicks' biggest deficit so far this season. The Knicks hadn't even trailed by double figures in any of their last eight games. Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points for New York, which has lost 13 of its last 16 games in Miami. Rookie Kristaps Porzingis had 20 points and 14 rebounds.

TIMBERWOLVES 100, 76ERS 95

Andrew Wiggins scored 17 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter to help Minnesota keep Philadelphia winless on the season. Kevin Garnett had eight points and 10 rebounds and the Timberwolves (6-8) won at home for the first time in seven games this season. They dropped Philadelphia to 0-15 and avoided another embarrassing home loss to the Sixers, who snapped an 0-17 start to last season with a win at Target Center. Jahlil Okafor had 25 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks for Philadelphia and thoroughly outplayed No. 1 overall pick Karl-Anthony Towns, who played just 19 minutes because of foul trouble. The Sixers led by 13 in the first half and by five with 2:30 to play but once again couldn't hold on.

BUCKS 109, PISTONS 88

Greg Monroe had 20 points and 13 rebounds in his first game against his former team, leading the Bucks to the victory. Milwaukee had seven players score in double figures, including each of its starters. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 17 points, and Khris Middleton scored 16. The Bucks had lost three straight and five of six. Andre Drummond had 15 points and 15 rebounds for Detroit, but appeared to hurt himself late in the second quarter. He walked slowly up the court holding his left side after trying to defend Monroe. Coach Stan Van Gundy said after that game that Drummond was fine. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 17 points for the Pistons, who have dropped six of eight.

HORNETS 127, KINGS 122, OT

Kemba Walker scored 39 points as Charlotte battled back from 22 points down in the second half to beat Sacramento in overtime. Nicolas Batum had 18 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Hornets, who have won four of their last five games. Jeremy Lin had seven of his 14 points in overtime. It was the second-largest comeback in franchise history. DeMarcus Cousins had 30 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento, and Rudy Gay had 28 points and 10 boards. Rajon Rondo had 14 points and 20 assists.

SPURS 98, SUNS 84

Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 13



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' Richard Jefferson (24) shoots around Orlando Magic's Aaron Gordon (00) and Jason Smith in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, in Cleveland. — AP

rebounds as the Spurs shut down the Suns. Phoenix was averaging 106.5 points, but was held to season low for points and committed a season-high 28 turnovers. Tony Parker had 20

points and eight assists for San Antonio, which is off to an 11-3 start. Markieff Morris had 28 points and Brandon Knight scored 18 for Phoenix. — AP

NBA Results/Standings

Charlotte 127, Sacramento 122 (OT); Cleveland 117, Orlando 103; Miami 95, NY Knicks 78; Milwaukee 109, Detroit 88; Minnesota 100, Philadelphia 95; San Antonio 98, Phoenix 84; Oklahoma City 111, Utah 89.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	9	6	.600	-	
Toronto	9	6	.600	Utah	6	7	.462	2	
Boston	7	6	.538	Minnesota	6	8	.429	2.5	
NY Knicks	8	7	.533	Denver	6	8	.429	2.5	
Brooklyn	3	11	.214	Portland	6	9	.400	3	
Philadelphia	0	15	0	9					
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	11	3	.786	Golden State	15	0	1.000	-	
Chicago	8	4	.667	Phoenix	7	7	.500	7.5	
Indiana	8	5	.615	LA Clippers	6	7	.462	8	
Detroit	7	7	.500	Sacramento	5	10	.333	10	
Milwaukee	6	8	.429	5	11	.314	12		
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Miami	9	4	.692	San Antonio	11	3	.786	-	
Atlanta	9	6	.600	1	Dallas	9	5	.643	2
Washington	6	4	.600	1.5	Memphis	7	7	.500	4
Charlotte	8	6	.571	1.5	Houston	5	9	.357	6
Orlando	6	8	.429	3.5	New Orleans	3	11	.214	8

BENFICA, ATLETICO LOOK TO ADVANCE IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MADRID: Fourth in the Portuguese league, Benfica has been doing just fine in the Champions League. The two-time European Cup champions lead Group C with nine points, two more than Atletico Madrid, ahead of Wednesday's trip to Kazakhstan to face Astana. Benfica will qualify for the knockout round with a victory, and can advance with a draw unless Galatasaray beats Atletico Madrid in the other match.

At home, things are not going so well. City rival Sporting Lisbon leads the Portuguese league and knocked Benfica out of the Portuguese Cup last weekend.

Atletico, which reached the Champions League final in 2014, hosts the Turkish club needing only a draw to ensure its progress. Here are some things to know about Wednesday's matches:

BENFICA'S BLUES

Benfica's impressive form in the Champions League has contrasted starkly with its domestic campaign. In the league, Benfica trails Sporting by eight points. And the day after losing to Sporting in the Portuguese Cup, two dozen fans forced their way into the club training center in protest. Benfica coach Rui Vitoria, who took charge in the offseason, will be without two of his main players against Astana - Brazilian central defender Luisao has a fractured forearm, and Argentine playmaker Gaitan is suspended.

TINY BUT TOUGH

Astana, the first Kazakh team to appear in the group phase of the Champions League, is unbeaten at home. The club earned a 2-2 draw against Galatasaray and held Atletico to 0-0 at the Astana Arena. In last place with two points, Astana can only keep alive its slim hopes of advancing with a win.

IN OBLAK'S HANDS

Atletico has not been prolific offensively this season but a stiff defense and steady play in midfield has the club in a good position in Europe and in second place in the Spanish league, ahead of rival Real Madrid.

Atletico is undefeated in eight matches across all competitions, largely thanks to goalkeeper Jan Oblak. The Slovenian has helped Atletico concede the fewest goals in the Spanish league, six in 12 matches, and has only let two goals past him in four games in the Champions League.

AGAINST THE WALL

Galatasaray needs to end its poor run away from home to have a chance of staying in the tournament. The Turkish team is in third place with four points and must win at the Vicente Calderon Stadium to remain in contention. Galatasaray, however, hasn't won away in the Champions League since March 12, 2013, when it beat Schalke 3-2. — AP



MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Argentinian coach Diego Simeone (C) looks at his players during a training session at the Cerro del Espino Stadium in Madrid yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group C football match Atletico de Madrid vs Galatasaray S.K. — AFP

IBRAHIMOVIC'S MALMO RETURN LEAVES SOME FANS CONFLICTED

MALM: As Paris Saint-Germain striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic returns to his home town yesterday, some Malmö fans are torn over whether to support the city's prodigal son or the team that launched his career.

On a football pitch in the immigrant-heavy neighbourhood of Rosengård, where the 34-year-old Swede grew up, one of his childhood teammates sighed as he pondered where his sympathies would lie during the Champions League match between Malmö and PSG.

"Both, both. Maybe for Malmö a little bit more," Ivan Milosevic said, before laughing and adding: "I'm a 'Malmoitian,' referring to a term for the city's inhabitants. Born the same year, both players began their careers at FBK Balkan, a local club founded by immigrants from the former Yugoslavia in 1962, which the club say makes them the oldest immigrant football team in Europe.

"He was a funny character, constantly up to a lot of mischief. Nicked bicycles, came with it to practice, always had a ball, bantered with others in the team..." he said.

"He ran around and didn't listen to the coaches. Did what he liked to do, dribbled when he was meant to pass." Almost 15 years after he left Malmö for Ajax, Ibrahimovic's maverick image remains intact as he regularly courts

controversy, ranging from his recent claim that he put France "on the world map" to an offer to donate a signed bicycle to female players after the Swedish FA rewarded a male player with a new Volvo.

Role model

In the troubled suburbs that dot Malmö's eastern half, support has never wavered and on the field his influence is clear. "He's the big idol here, everyone looks up to him," said Milosevic. Ibrahimovic joined Malmö FF in 1994, paving the way for other players from an immigrant background to do the same.

It was a remarkable feat in a city that remains deeply segregated, especially for someone who according to his own autobiography would sometimes go to bed hungry. Greek-born Aneta Moura, a former neighbour, said she remembered him as "maybe a bit mischievous. His mother had to come and get him here and there."

When he was between eight and 10, he was the "boss" of a group of children whom he would push into the local grocery store to go buy sweets for him, she said. "Because poor Zlatan didn't have money to go buy (anything)... He wasn't raised quite like the other children. I know that, I could feel that from him," she said. But she added: "He was a very

alert boy. He's still the same."

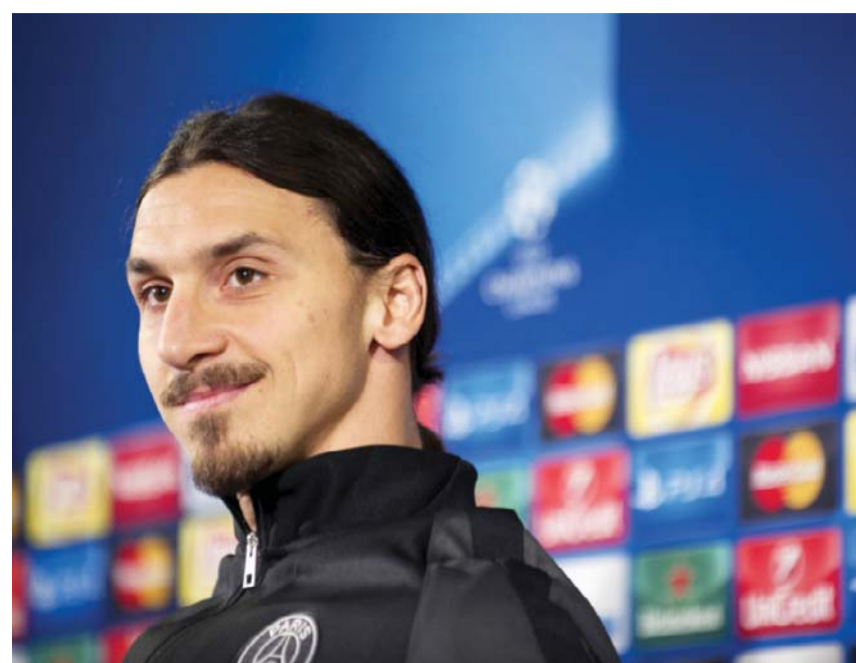
Big day

Preparations for Wednesday's game have been underway in Malmö from the moment it was announced that PSG would be coming to town. "All of Malmö will be able to watch the game. I've booked the main square where the game... will be broadcast live," Ibrahimovic wrote on Facebook in September.

At the local Rosengård shopping centre, Muhsen Awad, a Swedish-Arabic interpreter who also runs a side business selling football flags and CDs, said he had "tried in every way possible" to get his hands on a ticket for the game without any luck. They have been on sale for as much as 20,000 kronor (\$2,289, 2,146 euros) on the black market, he claimed, adjusting one of the many blue and white Malmö flags adorning his shop.

"For sure there will be mixed feelings... It will be a historic game when Zlatan comes to play against his own, original team," he said, before predicting that Malmö fans would still remain loyal to their own team.

"All of our region supports Malmö FF no matter who they play against," he said. Those comments were echoed by Max Wiman, a columnist for regional daily Sydsvenskan. Ibrahimovic "has very



MALMO: Paris St Germain's captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic smiles during a press conference at Malmö New Stadium in Malmö, Sweden, yesterday. Paris Saint-Germain will play against Malmö FF in a Champions League Group A soccer match in Malmö today. — AP

strong feelings for Malmö," he said, noting that the PSG star had described playing a Champions League game in the city as "a dream."

Although he was "fantastically big" there and would probably be cheered before the match, "most people will support Malmö," he said. — AFP

JUVE DEPLETED, LOOKING FOR SECOND CITY SCALP

MILAN: Depleted Juventus host Manchester City today looking for the win that would secure their passage to the last 16 of the Champions League.

City's 3-1 win away to Sevilla last time out left Manuel Pellegrini's men top of Group D on nine points and, with Juventus one point behind in second, they will clinch top spot with a win in Turin.

But looking at City's recent form, Juventus have reason to believe they can claim their second successive win over the Citizens, having stunned Pellegrini's men 2-1 in September when Alvaro Morata hit an 81st minute winner at the Etihad, and claim top spot ahead of their final game away to Sevilla. City are already qualified but travel to Italy reeling from a humiliating 4-1 home defeat to Liverpool at the weekend that left them two points behind surprise Premier League leaders Leicester City.

The reverse came in the absence of City centre-back and captain Wilfried Bony, David Silva and Samir Nasri—all of whom are still sidelined through injury.

Pellegrini said his side's performance was "not normal," adding: "It's very important to turn the page as soon as we can. We have an important game today."

With Paulo Dybala hitting a second-half winner to clinch a 1-0 home win over AC Milan on Saturday, Juventus claimed a third consecutive win in Serie A for the first time this season.

But coach Massimiliano Allegri's tactical options are limited, with Sami Khedira joining several other midfielders on the treatment table while France left-back Patrice Evra is set for a fitness test on Tuesday after suffering a left ankle problem.

Centre-back Giorgio Chiellini believes Juve's task won't be made any easier by the fact City will be looking for revenge.

"I would have preferred to come up against a more relaxed and secure Manchester," Chiellini told Sky Sport Italia on Monday. "Against teams with top players it's sometimes easier to make the most of your chances if their players are a little more relaxed. "But I expect them to be cautious, and super-motivated for revenge. We need to go out and produce a great performance if we are to stamp our ticket for the last 16."

Sagna deflated

An inquest by City's players in the wake of their defeat to Liverpool left City's French right-back Bacary Sagna admitting the events of last week's terror attacks in

Paris had physically drained him. "It was not easy to be part of that event (in Paris). Mentally I was ready to play. Physically I believed I was. But I wasn't. I tired quite quickly," said Sagna.

Evra, who alongside Juve teammate Paul Pogba was playing for France against Germany when three explosions were heard outside the Stade de France 10 days ago, lasted less than half an hour at the weekend before hobbling off. Yet arguably Juve's biggest loss among a depleted midfield is Khedira, who has been sidelined after a scar from a recent thigh injury flared up while he was on international duty with Germany.

Brazilian playmaker Hernanes was suspended for the game before suffering a thigh injury on Saturday that has sidelined him for three weeks. Also missing through injury is Roberto Pereyra, Kwadwo Asamoah and Simone Padoin, while Uruguayan midfielder Martin Caceres will have a late fitness test on a right thigh problem.

On-loan Chelsea forward Juan Cuadrado is expected to start for the Bianconeri, while Allegri has yet to decide whether Dybala—one of Juve's few bright lights in an otherwise muted performance at the weekend—or Mario Mandzukic will partner Morata up front. —AFP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Astana v Benfica	18:00
beIN SPORTS	
Moskva v Wolfsburg	20:00
beIN SPORTS	
Donetsk v Real Madrid	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
Juventus v Man City	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
Malmö v Paris Saint	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
Borussia v Sevilla	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
Atletico v Spor	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
Man United v PSV	22:45
beIN SPORTS	



MONACO: In this Aug. 28, 2015 file photo UEFA President Michel Platini arrives at a press conference after the soccer Europa League draw ceremony at the Grimaldi Forum, in Monaco. — AP

FIFA ETHICS COMMITTEE SEEKS LIFE BAN AGAINST PLATINI

PARIS: The FIFA ethics committee has requested a life ban for Michel Platini, the Frenchman's lawyer said yesterday, a move that would rule the UEFA president out of the race to succeed Sepp Blatter.

Thibaut d'Ales told The Associated Press that the maximum sanction was asked for when the FIFA ethics committee investigations unit submitted its final case report.

Blatter could also face expulsion from world soccer over a \$2 million payment of FIFA money he approved to Platini in 2011. Platini and Blatter face separate hearings before FIFA ethics judge Joachim Eckert in December.

"The overreaching of the request really convinces us of this commission's total lack of credibility," d'Ales said in a telephone interview. "There is not a single tangible element in this case that can confirm the suspicions."

Platini is currently serving a 90-day ban over cash he got as backdated salary almost nine years after he stopped working as Blatter's presidential adviser from 1998-2002. Platini denies wrongdoing and says he had a verbal contract with Blatter to receive the money.

Blatter has argued that an oral agreement is valid under Swiss law. However, FIFA was also not legally required to pay Platini after five years

passed. Eckert is expected to give his verdicts in the cases of Platini and Blatter in December. Any sanctions can be challenged at the FIFA appeals committee and Court of Arbitration for Sport.

d'Ales said he was informed of the ethics committee's request on Monday and decided to make it public after it leaked in the French press. He said FIFA's aim is to prove that there was no contract between Platini and Blatter.

"Obviously we've got the proof that such a deal existed," d'Ales said. "We will submit it to CAS, which will handle the case within a fairly short space of time."

Mismanagement

A spokesman for the FIFA ethics prosecutors declined to confirm what sanction was requested last week. "We are entitled to comment but we decided for reasons of personality rights and the presumption of innocence not to publish the request," Andreas Bantel told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "If Mr. Platini wants to comment on the request he is entitled to do that."

Platini aims to clear his name and stand as a candidate in the FIFA presidential election on Feb. 26 to succeed Blatter, who is stepping down. Blatter announced his exit plans on June

2 under pressure from American and Swiss federal investigations into bribery and corruption at FIFA.

Switzerland's attorney-general has opened criminal proceedings against Blatter over the \$2 million payment as suspected criminal mismanagement of FIFA money.

Platini was quizzed on Sept. 25 at FIFA headquarters as "between a witness and an accused person," according to attorney general Michael Lauber.

A FIFA life ban has been overturned by CAS in the past. Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar had his expulsion by FIFA overturned on appeal in July 2012, more than one year after a bribery allegation ended his presidential campaign against Blatter. The CAS panel said a FIFA investigation did not prove Bin Hammam was the source of \$40,000 bribes to Caribbean voters, though it suspected he was.

In a further FIFA legal development yesterday, Switzerland's justice ministry said it agreed to a US request to provide bank documents as evidence. Details of the bank accounts involved were not given, though a US Department of Justice indictment published in May identified accounts in Zurich used by marketing agents allegedly to steer bribes to soccer officials. — AP

EPL results/standings

Played Monday

Crystal Palace 0, Sunderland 1.

Played Sunday

Tottenham Hotspur 4, West Ham United 1.

Played Saturday

Chelsea 1, Norwich City 0; Everton 4, Aston Villa 0; Manchester City 1, Liverpool 4; Newcastle United 0, Leicester City 3; Southampton 0, Stoke City 1; Swansea City 2, AFC Bournemouth 2; Watford 1, Manchester United 2; West Bromwich Albion 2, Arsenal 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts					
Leicester	13	8	4	1	28	20	28	Stoke City	13	5	4	4
United	13	8	3	2	19	9	27	West Brom	13	5	2	6
City	13	8	2	3	27	13	26	Watford	13	4	4	5
Arsenal	13	8	2	3	23	11	26	Swansea	13	3	5	5
Tottenham	13	6	6	1	24	11	24	Chelsea	13	4	2	7
West Ham	13	6	3	4	24	20	21	Norwich	13	3	3	7
Everton	13	5	5	3	24	16	20	Newcastle	13	2	4	7
Southampton	13	5	5	3	19	14	20	Sunderland	13	2	3	8
Liverpool	13	5	5	3	17	15	20	AFC	13	2	3	8
Crystal Palace	13	6	1	6	14	13	19	Aston Villa	13	1	2	10



ST PETERSBURG: Zenit's Russian midfielder Oleg Shatov (C) scores a goal past Valencia's goalkeeper Jaume Domenech during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between FC Zenit and Valencia CF at the Petrovsky stadium in St Petersburg yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Gulf Bank thanks participants for 'Gulf Bank Marathon'



Youngest US chess master



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

FIFA ETHICS COMMITTEE SEEKS LIFE BAN AGAINST PLATINI Page 19



SELHURST PARK: Sunderland's Dutch defender Patrick van Aanholt (L) vies with Crystal Palace's French-born Moroccan striker Marouane Chamakh (R) during the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Sunderland at Selhurst Park in south London on Monday. — AFP

SUNDERLAND GET RARE WIN AS DEFOE STUN PALACE



LONDON: Sunderland striker Jermain Defoe cashed in on a horrendous defensive mix-up

to give his struggling side a much-needed 1-0 win at Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Monday.

The team with the worst away record in the top flight pinched all three points at Selhurst Park to ruin Palace's best start to a Premier League season thanks to former England forward Defoe's persistence in the 80th minute. As Defoe tried to pounce on a loose ball, Scott Dann, trying to shield it, made a mess of his attempted clearance, poking the ball past indecisive keeper

Wayne Hennessy into the path of the Sunderland striker who muscled through to tap into an empty net. The three points enabled Sunderland to move up to 18th with nine points, ahead of Bournemouth on goal difference and four in front of bottom club Aston Villa. Palace lie 10th with 19. "He is a classy finisher," Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce said of Defoe. "If you want someone to chase down what looks like a lost cause, it's him. Defoe not giving up is why the goalkeeper and defender messed up."

"I got that little bit of luck that you need for the goal and I was just delighted," Defoe added on Sky Sports. "The lads put in the work during the international break and it paid off." Palace, for all their second half pressure, missed the chance of a win which would have moved them to sixth in the table and came nearest to breaking the deadlock fleetingly when Bakary Sako's speculative left-foot strike flew just wide. Sunderland, though, under new manager Allardyce, deserved only their second league

win of the season defending stoutly and being enterprising on the counter attack. They had earlier come closest to scoring when defender Younes Kaboul's header from a corner was cleared off the line by Yohan Cabaye.

Allardyce added: "Defensively we were sound, rarely troubled in front of the opposition goal. We frustrated the crowd, we frustrated Palace and then we came out with a fantastic win, our first away win of the season." — Reuters

PERFECT 10 AS PATRIOTS BATTLE PAST BILLS 20-13

FOXBOROUGH: Tom Brady called out Rex Ryan and then he beat the Bills - again. After shouting the name of the Buffalo coach as an audible, Brady led New England to a 20-13 victory over the Bills on Monday night and kept the defending Super Bowl champions on course for their second perfect regular season in nine years.

Brady completed 20 of 39 passes for 277 yards, hitting James White for a 20-yard score that was the first touchdown of the running back's career. White added a 6-yard run in the third quarter to give New England (10-0) the lead for good.

Buffalo's LeSean McCoy ran 20 times for 82 yards and a 27-yard touchdown and caught six passes for 41 yards to surpass 100 yards from scrimmage for the fourth straight game. The Bills (5-5) snapped a two-game winning streak and lost to Brady for the 25th time in 28 games.

The game was filled with mistakes, penalties, injuries and turnovers - including two fumbles on a single punt, a rare missed field goal by Stephen Gostkowski and an inadvertent whistle that led to one of many lengthy conferences among the officials.

And New England lost another key player: Danny Amendola, who took over as the Patriots' No. 1 receiver because of last week's injury to Julian Edelman, caught nine passes for 117 yards before leaving with a knee injury of his own in the third quarter.

With the wind chill temperature at 21 degrees at kickoff, both teams struggled on offense, and the Patriots even failed to score in the fourth - the first time they were shut out in a quarter since the first one of the season.

In the third quarter, both teams fumbled on the same punt. Leodis McKelvin fielded a punt at his own 30 yard-line and made it just 2 yards before the ball was knocked out by Brandon King. New England's Jonathan Freeny picked up the ball and rumbled 5 yards before he lost the ball and it bounced out of bounds.

The Patriots took over at the Buffalo 30 and took a 20-10 lead on Gostkowski's 35-yard field goal. Even the referees were sloppy. Early in the third, Brady rolled toward the right sideline before throwing downfield to Amendola. As the receiver broke for the end zone, the play was whistled dead - apparently because the official thought Brady stepped out of bounds.

After a lengthy discussion, the referee announced that there was an inadvertent whistle. The 14-yard reception counted, with a 15-yard penalty for interference from the Bills coaching staff. The drive ended with an even more unusual error: Gostkowski's first miss in 51 weeks.

Brady threw a first-half interception that was nullified by offsetting penalties. But he did throw one at the Buffalo goal line in the fourth that stuck. Brady took a dig at Ryan in the



FOXBOROUGH: Buffalo Bills safety Leodis McKelvin, back, tackles New England Patriots wide receiver Danny Amendola (80) after a catch in the first half of an NFL football game Monday, in Foxborough, Mass. — AP

first quarter by adding "Rex Ryan!" to his pre-snap signals.

The Bills coach has been a long-time rival of the Patriots. But the Patriots managed just a field goal in

the first, then went scoreless for 22 minutes, 16 seconds before Brady led a 33-second touchdown drive to make it 10-3 with 13 seconds left in the half. — AP

BARCELONA DOMINATE AP GLOBAL FOOTBALL 10 AFTER MADRID WIN

LONDON: Barcelona was voted team of the week in the Associated Press Global Football 10 yesterday after beating Real Madrid 4-0 away at the Santiago Bernabeu in the Spanish League.

Luis Suarez scored twice in the commanding win, while Andres Iniesta and Neymar added the others. "What was expected to be a thrilling clash between the bitterest of rivals, became a game that showcased Barcelona's absolute supremacy over Real," Umaid Wasim of Dawn Newspaper in Pakistan said. "Utterly dominant, the performance showed that their bid to win a treble again this year would take some stopping." Liverpool is runner-up in the team vote after a surprise 4-1 win away against Manchester City in the Premier League.

"On another week Liverpool would have done enough to claim the prize, and their 4-1 victory at Manchester City was perhaps the perfect example of what Jurgen Klopp has brought to the side," Julian Bennetts of Hayters news agency in England said. Bayern Munich is third after moving eight points clear at the summit of the German Bundesliga by beating Schalke 3-1. Leicester is fourth after replacing City at the top of the Premier League with a 3-0 win at Newcastle.

Inter Milan takes fifth for thrashing Frosinone 4-0 in the Italian Serie A. Juventus, Manchester United, Paris

Saint-Germain, Wolfsburg and Napoli round out the top 10 teams of the week.

Barcelona also dominated the player vote. Suarez takes first place for his double strike, while the other two scorers, Iniesta and Neymar, are second and third.

Leicester striker Jamie Vardy is fourth after equalling Ruud van Nistelrooy's record of scoring in 10 consecutive Premier League matches as his side beat Newcastle to go top of the English standings.

"Jamie Vardy has shown Luis Suarez-type qualities during his amazing run of scoring in 10 straight Premier League games," Mike McGrath of The Sun in England said.

Phillippe Coutinho, who scored one and assisted another in Liverpool's win over City, is fifth. Roberto Firmino, Harry Kane, Toni Kruse, Romelu Lukaku and Ross Barkley complete the top 10 players of the week.

Teams:

1. Barcelona, 120.
2. Liverpool, 91.
3. Bayern Munich, 75.
4. Leicester, 66.
5. Inter Milan, 55.
6. Juventus, 49.
7. Manchester United, 40.
8. Paris Saint-Germain, 37.
9. Wolfsburg, 29.
10. Napoli, 25. — AP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

Travel sector stocks
rocked on terror fears

Page 24

Joyalukkas raises AED 500m
with a strategic outlook

Page 26



Lulu finalizes plan to
start operations in
Malaysia

Page 25

OIL RISES ON MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS, WEAKER DOLLAR

Page 22



NEW YORK: A 'Help Wanted' sign hangs in a store window in New York. The Conference Board released its November index on US consumer confidence yesterday. — AP (See Page 25)

GULF BANKS RUSH TO LOAN MARKET TO MEET LIQUIDITY CRISIS

LOWER OIL PRICES FUEL FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN REGIONAL LENDERS

DUBAI: Gulf banks are rushing to raise money via the loan market by the end of the year in a flurry of activity attributed to a liquidity squeeze caused by lower oil prices, banking sources aware of the matter said yesterday. At least nine institutions, including from Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait, are said to be speaking to other banks about raising cash for between one and three years, with processes at various stages. "It's gone crazy," said one of the sources, who heads loan syndications at one bank in the region. "It's not surprising with all the pressure on liquidity but I can't remember a market like this."

Having enjoyed strong growth on the back of cheap liquidity from governments depositing oil revenues in their accounts, Gulf banks now have to cope with these same governments withdrawing cash to plug soaring

budget deficits - either directly or via the issuance of local currency bonds and Islamic bonds. The banks have to seek alternative funding routes, such as the loan market, to fill the gap. And the rates at which they are borrowing are higher than the near-free deposits they received previously. The knock-on effect will be more expensive loan rates for retail and corporate borrowers in the Gulf region, which are already showing signs of struggling with existing debts.

Deals

Qatari banks are most prominent in the current flurry of activity, with sources confirming Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) and Doha Bank are marketing transactions and two Islamic banks-out of the four in the country - said to be speaking to institutions about deals.

CBQ is seeking \$800 million over three years to refinance debt, including an existing \$600 million loan that is due to mature in February, according to three sources with knowledge of the matter.

It will pay an all-in price - which includes the interest rate and arrangement fees - of 110 basis points over the London interbank offered rate (Libor), two of the sources said. Doha Bank wants to raise \$500 million for two years, paying all-in 95 basis points over Libor for a deal being arranged by Wells Fargo, according to three sources. In the UAE, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, the country's largest lender by assets, is looking for a one-year facility, according to two sources. One, a UAE-based banker, said it had approached 10 relationship banks about the deal, which will pay 35 bps over Libor.

NBAD has been hit hard by government deposit outflows. Its chief executive, Alex Thursby, said last month that 48 billion dirhams (\$13 billion) of state cash had been withdrawn in the 12 months to Sept 30. Abu Dhabi's Al Hilal Bank is seeking a two-year loan at an all-in rate of 150 bps over Libor and Dubai's Noor Bank wants a three-year loan with an all-in rate of 115 bps over the benchmark. CBQ, Doha Bank and Noor Bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment, while Al Hilal and NBAD declined to comment.

Other banks in the market with deals include Kuwait's Burgan Bank, which is marketing an up-to-\$300 million two-year loan, and Bahrain's Gulf International Bank, seeking as much as \$400 million from a three-year loan paying an all-in between 125 and 135 bps over

Libor, according to Thomson Reuters LPC. Given the sheer scale of borrowing by Gulf banks, there is uncertainty whether all the deals can be completed. The loan syndications head said most deals were aggressively priced and with so many deals on offer, lenders could afford to be choosy.

"In anticipation of a Fed rate hike, Gulf banks are rushing to borrow in the loan market before rates move northwards," Apostolos Bantis, credit analyst at Commerzbank, said of the rationale behind the current flurry. He said declining liquidity into 2016 would push more banks to issue not only loans but also bonds. Among the banks to have sold dollar-denominated bonds in November include NBAD, Commercial Bank of Dubai, International Bank of Qatar and National Bank of Oman. — Reuters

SAUDI RISES, MOST MARKETS FALL ON TURKEY-RUSSIA ROW

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Buying in some blue-chips lifted Saudi Arabia's stock market yesterday but most Middle Eastern markets fell in thin trade because of a lack of positive corporate news and Turkey's shooting down of a Russian warplane. The Saudi stock index ended 0.7 percent higher at 7,202 points. Oil shipper Bahri climbed 2.8 percent and petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries gained 0.6 percent.

Real estate developer Dar Al Arkan, which had dropped 2.3 percent on Monday after the cabinet announced plans for a tax on undeveloped land, closed flat yesterday. However, the Saudi index ended well off its intra-day high of 7,242 points after news of the downing of the Russian plane caused buyers to become more cautious. Other major Gulf bourses dropped. The Dubai stock index fell 1.4 percent as builder Arabtec, the most heavily traded stock, sank 4.3 percent. Arabtec rose as much as 2.6 percent in opening trade after the company, confirming a Reuters story published late on Monday, said its board had accepted the resignation of acting chief executive Mohamed Al-Fahim and replaced him with board member Saeed Al-Mehairbi. But the stock quickly pulled back.

Abu Dhabi's index fell 0.8 percent as Aldar Properties lost 2.1 percent. Qatar's index slipped 0.6 percent as Doha Bank slid 3.8 percent. Egypt's index sank 2.0 percent as Orascom Telecom Media, which plunged 7.6 percent on Monday after EFG Hermes downgraded it and the company described difficulties at its North Korean unit, dropped a further 4.8 percent to 0.59 of an Egyptian pound. EFG Hermes put the stock's fair value at 0.53 of a pound.

Commercial International Bank dropped 1.2 percent. EFG Hermes director for research in regional strategies, Simon Kitchen, said the stock was widely held by foreign investors who had become more concerned about the possibility of depreciation of the Egyptian pound since the Russian plane crash in Sinai last month, which was deterring tourist inflows and hurting hard currency earnings.

Mansoura Poultry jumped 4.1 percent after the government said it would stick to buying its poultry domestically, turning its back completely on international tenders, following pressure from local producers. But Egypt Poultry dropped 1.6 percent, Cairo Poultry was flat and Ismalia Poultry fell 2.6 percent. — Reuters

POWER OUTAGES PLAGUE CRIMEA AS RUSSIA THREATENS TO CUT UKRAINE GAS

SIMFEROPOL: Power cuts in Crimea affected nearly 940,000 people yesterday as tensions raged between Kiev and Moscow over the annexed peninsula and Russia threatened to cut off gas supplies to Ukraine.

The Black Sea peninsula has been hit by power cuts after unknown attackers blew up pylons at the weekend, cutting power lines from Ukraine, which supplies most of its electricity.

The energy ministry in Moscow said that some 938,000 residents of Crimea remained without electricity and Russia was sending 300 mobile generators to the peninsula. Energy minister Alexander Novak said Russia may shortly cut natural gas supplies to Ukraine because Kiev had not made an upfront payment and suggested Moscow could also cut coal deliveries.

"Supplies of gas will be halted today or tomorrow in the absence of a prepayment," Novak said on radio Vesti FM. Russia supplies around a third of Europe's gas, with roughly half of it flowing via Ukraine and has been involved in a festering pricing dispute with Kiev. Novak and Russian Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov were expected to visit Crimea later yesterday.

Ukraine on Monday halted the movement of goods to Crimea, ratcheting up tensions with Moscow amid a relative lull in fighting in separatist eastern Ukraine that has claimed more than 8,000 lives since April 2014.

Tensions have spiked as Kiev's landmark free-trade agreement with the European Union is set to come into force on January 1, 2016.

Russia has vehemently opposed the agreement at the heart of the Ukraine conflict, saying it would damage its economic interests and threatening to respond by banning food imports from Ukraine.

Kiev vowed on Monday to respond in kind. Ukraine's interior minister even suggested that Kiev cut power supplies to Crimea altogether.

Crimea declared a state of emergency after an explosion Saturday in Ukraine's Kherson region bordering the peninsula cut the two working power lines heading to the territory, leaving some 1.6 million people without electricity.

The authorities in Crimea, which depends on Kiev for most of its power supplies, have suggested Ukraine was involved in the blast. The Russian energy minister accused Kiev of failing to take measures to repair the power lines. "Not only is Crimea suffering, but the Kherson region is also suffering, Ukraine's energy industry is suffering," Novak said.

In Kiev, Ukraine's state-run energy company Ukrrenergoproekt said it would install a new pylon in the Kherson region to restore power supplies.

Power cuts hit zoo

In Crimea, authorities enforced electricity rationing and regional leader, Sergei Aksyonov, sacked his top energy official.

The blackout caused major disruptions, affecting water supplies to high-rise buildings, cable and internet and plunging streets into darkness. Staff at a zoo outside Simferopol, the peninsula's main city, were struggling to keep animals including lion and tiger cubs warm.

"The situation is difficult," Oleg Zubkov, head of the Taigan wildlife park, told AFP. "We are trying to use generators but they cannot cover our needs," he said, adding that marine animals like sea turtles were especially vulnerable. "I am afraid we won't be able to avoid major losses."

Crimea head Aksyonov has urged the residents to "prepare for the worst," saying the power blackout could well last until late December. Russia is laying undersea cables to Crimea to ease dependence on Kiev and is also planning to build gas-powered power stations which would burn gas piped from the mainland. Economic ties between Russia and Ukraine collapsed after a popular uprising in Kiev ousted Kremlin-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich last year, with Russia then annexing Crimea and supporting Russian-speaking insurgents in the east.

On December 1, the European Union, Russia and Ukraine will hold a three-way meeting as Brussels and Kiev seek to allay Moscow's fears over the effects of the trade deal.

Brussels said it was ready to continue to seek ways to "achieve practical solutions to Russia's concerns." — AFP

OIL RISES ON MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS, WEAKER DOLLAR

US CRUDE STOCKS LIKELY TO SHOW WEEKLY BUILD: SURVEY

LONDON: Oil prices rose yesterday as tensions in the Middle East escalated following the downing of a Russian-made fighter jet near the Syrian-Turkish border and a weaker US dollar provided incentive for investors to buy more oil. Brent futures for January were up 44 cents to \$45.27 a barrel at 1055 GMT, a 1 percent rise on Monday's close. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was up 33 cents at \$42.08.

"News of a military jet crashing in Syria is a reminder that there is still substantial risk in the Middle East," said Bjarne Schieldrop, the Oslo-based chief com-

modities analyst at SEB. Turkey said it had downed a Russian-made fighter jet near the Syrian border after it violated Ankara's airspace. A weaker US dollar, easing from an eight-month peak against a basket of currencies, also lent support as some investors found it cheaper to buy the dollar-denominated commodity.

They also awaited US crude stocks data, with expectations of a small increase.

US commercial crude oil stocks likely gained 1.1 million barrels for the week ended Nov 20, according to a preliminary Reuters survey of five analysts on Monday.

A rise would mark a ninth consecutive weekly gain.

Some traders also prepared positions ahead of a long holiday weekend in the United States. "There is likely to be a risk premium for the long Thanksgiving weekend," said Olivier Jakob, oil analyst at Petromatrix in Zug, Switzerland.

Analysts at BNP Paribas said they expected U.S. WTI crude futures to recover slightly this winter. "We still think that a low 40s NYMEX WTI is a floor from which the market can rally through the winter," they wrote in a research note.

"Thereafter, the summer of 2016 presents down risk for oil prices as OPEC pursues its current policy, US production stabilizes and Iran delivers more barrels to the market." Saudi Arabia led a shift by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in November 2014 to defend market share against competing supplies, rather than cut output to prop up prices. The Saudi cabinet said on Monday it was ready to cooperate with OPEC and non-OPEC countries to achieve market stability, days before OPEC meets to review its policy. — Reuters

CORRECTION

Kuwait Times incorrectly identified **GE** as **General Energy** instead of **General Electric** in an article titled 'GE investing in young engineers: Mousallam' that appeared in the November 24th issue of the newspaper. We deeply regret the error.

News

in brief

Edison to complete seismic survey of Zohr field area

CAIRO: Italy's Edison will complete its seismic survey of the area surrounding Egypt's Zohr gas field next month, the head of Egypt's General Petroleum Corp (EGPC) told reporters yesterday. "The discovery of the Zohr gas field helped accelerate the companies' research and exploration," Mohamed Al-Masry said on the sidelines of a conference in Cairo. The seismic survey was previously expected to be completed after 1-1/2 years. Al-Masry also said EGPC had met with ENI, which discovered the Zohr gas field in August, to negotiate the price of the gas that will be extracted. "The price is linked to a price formula with a minimum of \$4 per million BTU and a limit of \$5.88 per million BTU, and the price will not exceed that," he said.

Egyptian pound steady at dollar sale

CAIRO: The Egyptian pound was stable at a dollar sale yesterday, with the central bank selling \$37.8 million at a cut-off price of 7.7301 pounds per dollar, while the currency weakened on the parallel market. Earlier this month the central bank surprised the market by strengthening the pound by 20 piasters from 7.9301 pounds to the dollar. The official cut-off price was unchanged from Sunday's dollar sale, but one trader said the dollar changed hands at 8.60 pounds in the parallel market on Tuesday, compared with 8.55 pounds on Sunday. Egypt announced in October that Hesham Ramez would be replaced as central bank governor this month by senior banker Tarek Amer. The move was welcomed by traders, who expect a new approach to the country's currency crisis. Cairo has sought to tame a once-thriving currency black market with measures such as a cap on dollar-denominated bank deposits.

Kuwait oil price drops to \$35.32pb

KUWAIT: Kuwait oil price dropped 37 cents to \$35.32 per barrel yesterday compared to USD 35.69 pb on Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. In international markets, crude Brent's trades stabilized, but those of American crude slightly dropped against backdrop of Saudi pledge to seek steady oil prices, although jitters persisted among traders due to market glut and US reserves' rise. Brent Blend's price settled at \$45.83 pb, rising by 17 cents, and the American crude settled at \$41.75 pb, falling by 15 cents. — KUNA

US dollar settles at KD 0.304

KUWAIT: US dollar exchange rate settled yesterday at KD 0.304 while the Euro rose to KD 0.323, compared to Monday's prices. Central Bank of Kuwait said in the daily statement posted on its website that the sterling pound exchange rate dropped to KD 0.460 while the Swiss franc rose to KD 0.298 with no change in the price of Japanese yen, trading at the level of KD 0.002. The US dollar index has increased within a limited range, as investors are waiting important data about American economy which will be issued later today for re-evaluating expectations for raising the American interest rates, next December.

HEDGE FUND SHORT POSITIONS AND OIL PRICES IN 2015

LONDON: US oil prices have cycled between \$40 and \$60 per barrel since the start of 2015 and the rise and fall has corresponded with the accumulation and liquidation of hedge fund short positions.

There have been at least three cycles in WTI prices and hedge fund positions in the main NYMEX light sweet crude contract since the turn of the year. The first cycle began at the start of the year and was completed by mid-May. Money managers increased their short position from 74 million barrels at the start of January to a peak of 178 million barrels on March 17 before reducing it to 53 million by May 12. Front-month WTI prices fell from \$48 to a low of \$43 in the middle of March before rebounding to around \$60 in mid-May.

The second cycle began in mid-May and lasted until the middle of October. Hedge funds increased their short positions from 53 million to 163 million in mid-August before cutting it to 90 million by mid-Oct. WTI prices swooned from nearly \$60 to a low of \$39 in late August before recovering to almost \$50 in early October.

The third cycle began in late October and appears to be unfinished. Hedge funds boosted short positions from 90 million to 154 million on November 17. Prices dropped from \$47 to around \$40 though they have since recovered slightly.

The attached charts show the correspondence between the accumulation and liquidation of hedge fund short positions, as reported by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and NYMEX WTI prices since the start of 2015. Low prices have generally coincided

with large short positions held by the hedge funds, while high prices have occurred when hedge fund short positions have been smallest. Turning from absolute levels to changes, oil prices have tended to fall while hedge funds were adding to short positions, and to rise when hedge funds were cutting them.

It is impossible to say for certain whether the accumulation and liquidation of hedge fund positions is causing the rise and fall in WTI prices, or whether both prices and positions are responding to external fundamentals. But if hedge funds were trading based on a forward-looking view of the market or prices reverting to the mean, short positions would have been greater when prices were higher (and had more scope to fall) and smaller when prices were lower (and therefore had less room to fall further).

Instead, the hedge funds appear to be following a momentum strategy, in which the more prices fall the more they are expected to decline even further in the near future.

The correlation between WTI prices and hedge fund short positions has been 0.78 since the start of the year (compared with 0.71 between 2012 and 2014). The correlation between the change in WTI prices and the change in hedge fund short positions has been 0.63 in 2015 (compared with 0.51 between 2012 and 2014). What can the correspondence between prices and positioning tell us about the current unfinished cycle?

In each of the first two cycles this year, WTI prices hit a trough of around \$40-44,

when hedge fund short positions hit a peak of 163-178 million barrels.

In the current cycle, prices hit a low of \$40 with hedge fund short positions amounting to 154 million barrels on Nov 17 (the latest date for which both prices and positioning data are available).

The fall in WTI prices to \$40 is almost exactly what would be expected based on the reported accumulation of hedge fund short positions. What happens next? The short position accumulated by the hedge funds so far in the current cycle is close to the maximum short position reached in both the last two cycles.

If this turns out again to be the maximum position, past experience suggests hedge funds will soon enter the liquidation phase of the cycle, try to reduce their total short position, and prices will begin to rise. What could invalidate that view? If the current short position is not the maximum and hedge funds continue to accumulate short positions, WTI prices could continue to fall. Equally, both hedge funds and prices could be responding to some external factor which, if it changes, could alter the relationship between them.

It is important to stress that this is not supposed to be a model of WTI price determination because it lacks a causal mechanism and it focuses on only one of the many factors which may influence oil prices. But it does suggest there has been an important link between oil prices and hedge fund trading this year that is worth further investigation and that should be factored into any discussion of what happens to prices next. — Reuters

Al-Jawhara

Double Your Chances to Win

250,000 125,000 5,000

1801801 nbk.com

THREE KD 5,000 WINNERS IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA DRAWS FOR NOVEMBER

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the four lucky winners in Al-Jawhara weekly draws during the month of November. The draws were conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce Representatives.

Ahmad Omran Al-Jumaah, Amirah Fahad Al-Anjeri, and Husam Ahmad Asaad each won KD 5,000. The winners expressed their gratitude and thanked NBK for its great services and promotions.

The upcoming winner of Al-Jawhara KD 125,000 monthly draw will be announced on Saturday, 28th of November, 2015 during Hamad Show program on Al Rai TV.

NBK has re-launched Al-Jawhara account recently by doubling customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to Al-Jawhara Account enables customers to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing or transferring from Al-Jawhara account.

Al-Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw.

Al-Jawhara accounts are available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.



SEOUL: Pedestrians pass food stalls on a street in Seoul yesterday. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.476
Indian Rupees	4.600
Pakistani Rupees	2.891
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.146
Nepali Rupees	2.885
Singapore Dollar	215.660
Hongkong Dollar	39.361
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippine Peso	6.477
Thai Baht	8.527

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.390
Qatari Riyal	83.839
Omani Riyal	792.750
Bahraini Dinar	810.550
UAE Dirham	83.097

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	37.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.026
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.424
Tunisian Dinar	149.240
Jordanian Dinar	429.860
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.034
Syrian Lira	2.175
Morocco Dirham	303.907

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	305.050
Euro	325.180
Sterling Pound	464.130
Canadian dollar	228.590
Turkish lira	107.530
Swiss Franc	299.800
Australian dollar	220.250
US Dollar Buying	303.850

GOLD

20 gram	220.51
10 gram	112.95
5 gram	57.16

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000

Australian Dollar	203.37
Canadian Dollar	232.11
Swiss Franc	303.88
Euro	327.33
US Dollar	305.25
Sterling Pound	464.44
Japanese Yen	2.52
Bangladesh Taka	3.872
Indian Rupee	4.603
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.153
Nepali Rupee	2.875
Pakistani Rupee	2.891
UAE Dirhams	0.08306
Bahraini Dinar	0.8112
Egyptian Pound	0.03889
Jordanian Dinar	0.4341
Omani Riyal	0.7927
Qatari Riyal	0.08416
Saudi Riyal	0.08136

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate

US Dollar	305.300
Canadian Dollar	230.715
Sterling Pound	464.385
Euro	326.235
Swiss Frank	311.930
Bahrain Dinar	810.310
UAE Dirhams	83.420
Qatari Riyals	91.460

Saudi Riyals 82.140

Jordanian Dinar	430.200
Egyptian Pound	38.878
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.147
Indian Rupees	4.606
Pakistani Rupees	2.892
Bangladesh Taka	3.864
Philippines Peso	6.482
Cyprus pound	581.505
Kenyan Shilling	3.480
Syrian Pound	2.615
Nepalese Rupees	3.875
Malaysian Ringgit	72.100
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.125
Thai Bhat	9.490
Turkish Lira	108.030

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

Europe		
British Pound	0.455790	0.464790
Czech Korune	0.003948	0.015948
Danish Krone	0.039315	0.044315
Euro	0.318128	0.326128
Norwegian Krone	0.031157	0.036357
Romanian Leu	0.072698	0.072698
Slovakia	0.009130	0.019130
Swedish Krona	0.030814	0.035814
Swiss Franc	0.292236	0.302436
Turkish Lira	0.102896	0.113196

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.210584	0.222084
New Zealand Dollar	0.192406	0.201906

America

Canadian Dollar	0.222313	0.230813
US Dollars	0.300950	0.305450

US Dollars Mint 0.301450 0.305450

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003517	0.004117
Chinese Yuan	0.046354	0.049854
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037269	0.040019
Indian rupee	0.004417	0.004807
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002391	0.002571
Kenyan Shilling	0.002979	0.002979
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067612	0.073612
Nepalese Rupee	0.002923	0.003093
Pakistan Rupee	0.002745	0.003025
Philippine Peso	0.006420	0.006700
Sierra Leone	0.000066	0.000072
Singapore Dollar	0.211603	0.217603
South African Rand	0.015736	0.024236
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001771	0.002351
Taiwan	0.009320	0.009410
Thai Baht	0.008228	0.008778

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.801939	0.809939
Egyptian Pound	0.037520	0.040350
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000209	0.000269
Jordanian Dinar	0.426264	0.433764
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022197	0.046197
Nigerian Naira	0.000933	0.001568
Omani Riyal	0.785917	0.791597
Qatar Riyal	0.083078	0.084291
Saudi Riyal	0.080710	0.081410
Syrian Pound	0.001293	0.001513
Tunisian Dinar	0.145668	0.153668
Turkish Lira	0.102896	0.113196
UAE Dirhams	0.082073	0.083222
Yemeni Riyal	0.001379	0.001459

Building on solid foundations

ACICO establishes first 'cut & bend' factory in Kuwait



With her strong personality and eagerness to success, Al Khaled was selected in 2012 and 2013 as one of the top 100 most powerful Arab women by the Arabian Business Magazine. In 2014, she was recognized as one of the top 200 most powerful Arab women by Forbes. In 2015, she was selected as one of the most influential Arabs under 40 by Arabian Business Magazine. She was also selected as one of the 100 most powerful Arab women by Forbes magazine.

By Ben Garcia

Construction sites in Kuwait are busy places, as most of the needed materials have to be cut and bent onsite. This usually results in increased inefficiencies and delays in project delivery dates. Not anymore. ACICO Industries for Precast and Construction (AIPC), a subsidiary of ACICO Construction, promises to satisfy all steel reinforcement needs and deliver cut and bent materials on time. AIPC, the largest precast manufacturer in Kuwait, and has executed many government and private projects with great dependability and reliability ensuring trouble-free placement of steel at construction sites. Speaking with Kuwait Times, Ghosson Ghassan Al-Khaled, Chief Operating Officer at ACICO Industries, emphasized that the new business division will cut and bend reinforcement bars into the correct shapes and sizes as specified in structural drawings. "Rebar processed at a cut and bend facility is the fastest, most effective and efficient method to provide reinforcements for concrete structures in any project. With prefabricated cut and bent rebars, construction sites reduce material wastage and fixing time significantly," she said. "We have state-of-the-art technology and machinery to deliver orders according to the precise specifications of our valued customers' projects. Cutting and bending can also be done at the construction site itself, but this is considered inefficient due to the inaccuracy of materials produced, resulting in higher wastage and less onsite accountability," she added.

According to Al Khaled, who is a savvy operations professional with a reputation for developing inventive business strategies, reducing cutting and bending activities on the site, means less manpower and materials onsite, resulting in less blockage and enhanced speed of activities. "You'll definitely minimize blockage and achieve higher efficiencies and can get more done at the site if you utilize ACICO's cutting and bending services," she said.

"Cutting and bending by us will ensure higher efficiencies, reduced fabrication time, higher level of quality control, reduced storage costs, improved onsite planning and logistics, faster placement of material onsite, better accountability and traceability of materials, control on material wastages and reduction of onsite labor and labor accidents," Al Khaled explained.

AIPC products and services include cut and bend steel with the cutting cycle programmed, stored and controlled by dedicated industrial computers. "The cut and bend steel business in Kuwait is new. The UAE has around 50 companies specialized in cut and bend products, Qatar has 15, while Kuwait has only one - AIPC. Automatic stirrup production lines electronically control all kinds of stirrup shapes -small and medium sized from 6 mm to 12 mm - conforming to international standards" she said.

With unparalleled knowledge and expertise ACICO's team can provide superior design, manufacturing and installation services to ensure reinforcing is detailed for the best 'buildability' outcomes. ACICO's highly skilled and experienced scheduling teams is always available to ensure projects stay on track, on-time and trouble free.

Diversified company

ACICO is a diversified, fast-growing company with businesses in various sectors such as industrial (aerated concrete), construction, cement, real estate and hospitality. ACICO Construction is classified as a

grade 'A' construction company by Kuwait's Central Tenders Committee (CTC) since its inception in 1990. ACICO has been experiencing sustained and steady growth and has become a leading company in engineering, procurement and construction. The company also maintains one of cement manufacturing companies in Kuwait.

ACICO has hotels like the Nassima Royal Hotel for hotel investments and Nassima Tower for Residential and commercial spaces in Dubai and the Radisson Blu resort in Fujairah in the UAE," Al Khaled mentioned. ACICO is also proud of its business park in the UAE. ACICO's business activity has reached beyond the Kuwait borders to neighboring GCC markets. Besides



Kuwait, its manufacturing plants include UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The company is looking forward to extending its reach to other Middle East and North African countries.

"Our expansion policy is carefully planned to augment our revenues and future profits," noted Al Khaled, who is behind ACICO's group business planning and execution. She restructured Kuwait's operations, drove technology expansion and improved operational excellence.

She also commended the company's real assets - the individuals who work with ACICO. "We are happy to be working with the real assets of the company -



our qualified people, from consultants, engineers to highly skilled technicians, have extensive knowledge and expertise in the building materials industry and construction. We are grateful to the people we are working with; they help us grow. They are the real assets in the company and we always return the favor through a host of incentives," Al Khaled said.

Economic downturn

ACICO performed well during the recent financial downturn. This is reflected by the completion of two flagship development projects on Sheikh Zayed Road - the Nassima Tower and Nassima Royal Hotel in Dubai. "We are proud because despite of economic and political turbulences and challenges, we have been able to thrive and grow," she told Kuwait Times. She said ACICO is meeting the demand of the market, especially since projects from various sectors continue to increase. "We meet orders from both government and private sectors, and we are proud to deliver on time. The fact is the local market continues to grow, especially as government projects progress in both housing and government infrastructure - the demand is great and we are getting a share of it."

ACICO is proud to have been awarded at least two projects by the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Health. The duration of these mega-projects is three years. ACICO is planning further international expansions, primarily on the regional level. Nevertheless, according to Al Khaled, the company is constantly scanning a number of markets that stretch beyond the region. "Accurate risk assessment and feasibility of any projects are the prime indicators of any business venture regardless of geographic location," she said.

With regards to the Kuwait development plan, Al Khaled said that it is creating huge construction opportunities. ACICO group - civil construction, cement, prefabricated construction materials, and real estate - has seen strong growth concentrated mainly in low-rise residential development, and now in precast concrete to supply projects such as hospitals, bridges, roads, transportations and schools, both in Kuwait and throughout the region.

Kuwait's new development plan continues to raise the number of Kuwaitis working in the private sector by roughly 50 percent through 2020, from 92,000 to 137,000 and boosting the private sector's share of GDP from 26 percent to 41.9 percent. Billions of dollars will be poured to promoting local SMEs, in particular in sectors where Kuwait has potential for homegrown development and innovation.

As a Strategic and Operational Leader for ACICO Group, Al Khaled is directing a one-billion-dollar asset company with a turnover of \$200 million. "I am extremely proud of what the company, its executives and employees have achieved" she noted.

ACICO Industries employ around 5000 people from at least 15 different nationalities with different seniorities (GMs, senior managers, managers, employees and laborers). During her tenure starting from 2002, Al Khaled's one and only motto has been "One Team, One Dream". Different colors, different religions, and different races mean nothing but a motivation to unity and a drive to success. "We are all ACICOians here, and we are all walking the same path of success" she stated.

Since inception, ACICO has been experiencing very low employee turnover. This shows the superiority of ACICO's corporate culture and the employees' loyalty to the firm.

TRAVEL SECTOR STOCKS ROCKED ON TERROR FEARS

LONDON: Heightened terror fears battered tourism sector stocks yesterday, with airlines especially affected after the US issued a travel warning and Turkey shot down a Russian warplane.

Shares in airlines as well as in travel and hotel groups slid after the United States issued a worldwide travel alert for its citizens on Monday. Russia meanwhile confirmed that a warplane shot down

by Turkey on the Syrian border was one of its fighter jets but insisted the plane had not violated Turkish airspace. In Britain, budget airline Easyjet announced it had cancelled all flights to and from the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh until next year over security doubts raised by the downing of a Russian airliner last month. Brussels will meanwhile stay at the highest security threat

level for another week over fears of an imminent terror attack, the Belgian government said.

"The heightened geopolitical threat from the Russian jet being downed by Turkey, while Brussels remains in lockdown, is sending people into safe havens like the yen and gold and out of travel-sensitive stocks," said Jasper Lawler, an analyst with traders CMC Markets.

"The rebound in the oil price is also a negative for fuel prices for airlines," he said. At about 1130 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index and Frankfurt's DAX 30 were both down by 1.0 percent.

In Paris, the CAC 40 index was losing 1.6 percent compared with Monday's close, while Madrid shed 1.7 percent and Milan gave up 1.3 percent. In foreign exchange, the euro stood at \$1.0645 as it extended its recovery from seven-month lows of under \$1.06 on Monday.

On Tuesday, authorities in Belgium and France were hunting for Belgian-born Salah Abdeslam, a key suspect in the Paris attacks on November 13, when gunmen and suicide bombers killed at least 130 people.

The United States issued a worldwide travel alert on Monday warning American citizens of "increased terrorist threats" in the wake of the Paris attacks.

Meanwhile "the shooting down of a Russian jet by Turkish forces, appears to have spooked the markets, with the European indices sharply widening their losses," noted Connor Campbell, financial analyst at Spreadex. The incident is the first time a Russian military plane has been downed since Moscow began a bombing campaign on September 30 at the request of its long-standing ally Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Moscow's intervention in Syria has strained its relations with Turkey—a fierce

opponent of Assad—with Ankara summoning Russia's ambassador last week after Moscow's warplanes bombed Syrian territory "very close" to the Turkish border.

Tuesday's developments sent shares sliding. In London, Easyjet slumped 3.4 percent and British Airways' parent IAG lost 3.8 percent. Elsewhere yesterday, shares in German airline Lufthansa shed 3.0 percent and in Paris, French hotels group Accor slumped by 4.6 percent in value compared with Monday's close.

Most Asian stock markets were lower yesterday as slumping commodity prices weighed on shares of resource companies.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index slipped 0.1 percent to 19,864.71 after reopening following a public holiday. South Korea's Kospi climbed 0.3 percent to 2,009.49. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.8 percent to 22,484.15 and the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China fell 1.2 percent to 3,569.32. Australia's S&P/ASX shed 0.5 percent to 5,251.50.

Most investors expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates from record-low levels at its mid-December meeting and markets are likely to trade within a narrow range unless signs emerge that the US central bank will change course.

That contrasts with monetary policy from other major central banks in Japan and Europe, which are expected to keep the stimulus taps open. — Agencies



Summary table for Tuesday 24 November 2015 showing Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), and Number of Trades.

Main stock market table with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change. Includes sub-sections for Oil & Gas and Basic Materials.

Table of Real Estate stocks with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change.

Table of Consumer Goods stocks with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change.

Table of Health Care stocks with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change.

Table of Consumer Services stocks with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change.

Table of Investment Instruments with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change.

Table of Technology stocks with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change.

Table of Parallel Market with columns for Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, and Change.

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



Global Stock Indices table showing Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, and Yearly Performance.

MENA Stock Indices table showing Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, and Yearly Performance for various regional indices.

Global Currencies Exchange Rate table showing Currency, Kuwaiti Dinar, Saudi Riyal, US Dollar, Euro, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, and Australian Dollar.

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate table showing Currency, US Dollar, Kuwaiti Dinar, Saudi Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, Qatari Riyal, Omani Riyal, Emirates Dirham, and Egyptian Pound.

Global Interest Rates table showing Currency, 1 Week, 1 Month, 3 Month, 6 Month, and 1 Year rates.

Global Bond Yields table showing Country, 2-Year, 5-Year, 10-Year, and 30-Year yields.

Commodities table showing Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, and Yearly Performance for oil, Brent, West Texas, Gold, and Silver.

US HOME PRICES JUMP IN SEPTEMBER

WASHINGTON: US home prices rose in September from a year earlier at the fastest pace in 13 months as a lack of houses for sale has forced buyers to bid up available properties. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index, released yesterday, increased 5.5 percent in September compared with a year ago, the largest annual gain since August 2014.

Steady job gains and low mortgage rates have propelled a solid rebound in home sales, which are on track to reach the highest level since 2007. The unemployment rate fell to 5 percent in October as employers added the most jobs since December. Borrowing costs have ticked up but remain below 4 percent, a low level historically.

San Francisco reported the largest annual home

price increase, at 11.2 percent, followed by Denver at 10.9 percent. Portland had the third largest gain, at 10.1 percent. Sales of existing homes, while improving, have been volatile this year. They slipped in October after a healthy jump the previous month, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Overall, home sales have increased 3.9 percent in the past 12 months. At the same time, the number of available homes has fallen 4.5 percent. That squeeze has pushed up prices. The typical home sold for \$219,600 last month, up nearly 6 percent from a year ago, the Realtors group said Monday. That is the highest median price for the month of October since October 2005, at the height of the housing bubble.

Home prices are rising at more than double the pace of inflation and much faster than wages, pricing many Americans out of the housing market. That has also pushed up rents as Americans increasingly stay in apartments. Still, home prices are rising at a much slower pace than the double-digit gains seen in most of 2013. David Blitzer, chairman of the S&P Dow Jones Index Committee, said that the higher prices aren't out of line with rising rents. That's a change from the housing bubble, when home prices soared much higher than rental costs.

Several factors are likely holding back the supply of available homes. Many Americans still don't have much housing equity and as a result would profit little from a sale. That may be delaying them from listing their homes.

In addition, the average rate for a 30-year mortgage has picked up in the past three years. It is currently almost 4 percent, which is still low. But millions of Americans have refinanced their mortgages at much lower rates and may be reluctant to trade up to a new home because doing so would require taking on a higher mortgage rate.

Developers are also building homes at a historically modest pace. Construction of single-family homes dropped 2.4 percent in October compared to the previous month, the Commerce Department said last week. The Case-Shiller index covers roughly half of US homes. The index measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average. The September figures are the latest available. — AP

HUNGARY CB TAKES 68.8% OF BUDAPEST BOURSE

BUDAPEST: Hungary's central bank said yesterday it had bought a 68.8 percent stake in the Budapest Stock Exchange, an intervention into financial markets it said was designed to help companies obtain capital and aid growth. The stake came from Austria's CEESEG AG and Österreichische Kontrollbank AG. "The number of new issuances and turnover have fallen to such a degree that today the capital market no longer fulfils its role, thus, intervention by the state became unavoidable," the central bank said in a statement.

National Bank of Hungary, under chairman Gyorgy Matolcsy, a close ally of conservative Prime Minister Viktor Orban, has unveiled a number of programs in recent years to aid Orban's pro-growth policies. The bank said in a statement it bought the stake at 3,550 forints per share, or 13.2 billion forints (\$45 million) altogether, boosting its stake to 75.8 percent.

The central bank expects to close the transaction in the middle of December, pending competition authority approval. "The fundamental economic role of the Budapest Stock Exchange is to provide the domestic enterprises with an opportunity to raise capital," the central bank said.

"In recent years the domestic capital market has fulfilled this role as a member of CEESEG, the regional stock exchange alliance, to a lesser and lesser degree," it said.

The central bank said it would implement a number of reforms to provide incentives to issuers and investors on the stock market. Vice Governor Marton Nagy said the bank would draft a detailed strategy for the stock market by early 2016 with a goal of boosting the capital market and added that the (bank) might exit as an owner once the bourse fulfils its role.

"We would like to avoid either the credit market or the capital market dominating," Nagy said. "Diversification is what we desire, when there are problems on one market the other is easily accessible." He said the Budapest Stock Exchange itself might be listed on the exchange, but did not say when that was likely, adding that first the capital market needed to be developed significantly.

"Both in the eurozone and in America the central banks can aid economic growth and cleanse the market by purchasing certain capital market products, but to be able to do that we need a functioning capital market first," he said. — Reuters



KUALA LUMPUR: Prominent businessman Yusuff Ali MA with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak during the official luncheon hosted by the Malaysian PM in honor of Indian PM in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

LULU FINALIZES PLAN TO START OPERATIONS IN MALAYSIA

FIRST HYPERMARKET TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY 2016

KUALA LUMPUR: The Middle Eastern retail major Lulu Group is in the final stages of starting its operations in Malaysia with the 1st hypermarket slated to open in February 2016 in Kuala Lumpur city (Jalan Munshi Abdullah).

Elaborating the group's plan during the official luncheon hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak in honour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman and Managing Director of Lulu Group said, "we plan to initially invest RM 1.3 billion (US\$300 million) in rolling out 10 hypermarkets in the next 2 years and gradually expand to all parts of Malaysia. Today the whole world knows about Malaysia's economic stability, investor friendly approach, liberalized policies and world-class infrastructure and we are confident about our success here."

Lulu which currently operates 118 Hypermarkets

and Shopping Malls in the Middle East and India is known for its world-class shopping experience, highest quality products, competitive prices and excellent customer service. As per the Deloitte worldwide ranking Lulu is among the top 10 fastest growing retailer in the world.

"Our hypermarkets encompass both supermarket & department store formats and we intend to bring a whole new world of shopping to the residents of Malaysia. Globally, we employ more than 35000 people from different nations and our projects here will provide 5000 employment to Malaysians. To better equip Malaysian citizens employed by us, we will train them in all our Hypermarkets here and will also take them to our other outlets in the Middle East," Yusuff Ali said.

During the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to UAE last year, the premier had personally visited Lulu

Hypermarket in Abu Dhabi and had shown much appreciation for store quality, product range and especially the various Malaysian products being sold there. Lulu is also one of the biggest importers of Malaysian agricultural products and non-food products to the Middle East.

Agreements have already been finalized with prominent retail developers such as Greenhill Resources Sdn Bhd (Setia City Mall), KLIA Properties (for their new project in Bangi), PNB Commerce (Perling Mall in Johar Baru) and other hypermarkets will come up in Kalandhan Kotabaru, Shaa Aalam, Ippoh, Malaka, Penang and Kuala Tringanu. "Works of other Hypermarkets have already started with some having completed 60 percent and some others 70 percent" he added. Discussions are also progressing with Federal Land Development Authority of Malaysia (FELDA) for projects in other parts of the country.

HIGH GERMAN BUSINESS MORALE DEFIES CHINA WOES, VW SCANDAL

BERLIN: German business morale rose in November to the highest level since summer 2014, shrugging off an economic slowdown in China, the Volkswagen emissions scandal and the Islamist attacks in Paris. The unexpectedly strong business climate reading by Ifo came after Statistics Office data on Tuesday showed that rising private consumption and higher state spending on refugees more than compensated for weakness in foreign trade in the third quarter.

"The German economy remains unaffected by growing uncertainty worldwide. Not even the Paris attacks had a negative impact on survey data," the Munich-based Ifo economic institute said in a statement. Data from the Federal Statistics Office earlier showed strong private consumption and higher state spending on refugees helped the economy to grow at a modest, albeit slower, pace of 0.3 percent in the third quarter.

Ifo's business climate index, based on a monthly survey of some 7,000 firms, jumped to 109.0 from 108.2 in October. It was the strongest reading since June 2014 and beat the Reuters consensus forecast for a reading of 108.2.

A separate index measuring corporate expectations over a half-year horizon jumped to 104.7, suggesting many firms believe they can cope with the economic headwinds.

"Neither the VW emissions scandal, nor the refugee crisis, nor the attacks in Paris are scratching the mood of German companies," DekaBank economist Andreas Scheuerle said, adding that German business morale was like a "teflon-coated pan".

Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe told Reuters that German consumption continued to perform well while export expectations remained positive, adding that a sub-index for the automotive sector continued to rise despite the VW emissions scandal. Nordea Bank econo-

mist Holger Sandte said strong demand from the United States and Britain helped German exporters compensate for weaker sales to China, Russia and other emerging markets. "German growth remains robust, the recovery continues," Sandte said.

US BOON

Exports to the United States and Britain surged in the first three quarters of this year, helping companies to shrug off waning demand from China and Russia.

Fitting into this picture, the VDMA engineering association said on Monday the United States displaced China as Germany's top export market for machinery in the first nine months.

Record-high employment, rising wages and nearly stable prices are boosting household spending in Germany while cheaper gasoline is freeing up some cash for other purchases.

At the same time, the federal government and states are spending billions of euros on housing a record number of refugees as well as on integrating them and finding them jobs.

Higher state spending on refugees will help boost growth in the coming quarters also, DekaBank economist Scheuerle said, noting, however, that weak investment by German companies remained a problem for the economy.

Publication of the strong Ifo index followed the closely watched ZEW survey showed last week that morale among German analysts and investors improved more than expected in November despite the attacks in Paris.

In addition, a survey among purchasing managers pointed to accelerating growth in the private sector in November. The government expects strong private consumption and higher state spending on refugees to drive economic growth of 1.7 percent this year and 1.8 percent next. — Reuters



ATHENS: A rescuer stands in front of parked ambulances outside the Health Ministry in Athens yesterday during an anti-austerity protest, to demand funds to address deficiencies and gaps in the health system. The banners read 'national free health system' and 'help'. — AFP

US ECONOMY GREW AT 2.1% RATE IN THIRD QUARTER

WASHINGTON: The US economy grew at a slightly faster rate in the summer than previously reported, mainly because businesses restocked their goods at a stronger pace than first thought.

The overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at an annual rate of 2.1 percent in the July-September period, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. It previously estimated growth of 1.5 percent. Even with the revision, economic growth slowed sharply from a 3.9 percent gain in the second quarter. The economy then was rebounding from a harsh winter that had sapped first quarter growth to a barely discernible 0.6 percent pace. The latest numbers, however, should give the Federal Reserve confidence as it considers an interest rate hike at its next meeting in December. A healthy labor market and falling gas prices are expected to fuel consumer spending, pushing GDP growth in the current quarter to 2.5 percent or better, economists forecast.

"Domestic demand in the US economy remains very solid, something that will surely give comfort to the Fed as it ponders its next move," said Robert Kavcic, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

A slowdown in stockpiling trimmed growth by 0.6 percentage point in the third quarter. But that was an improvement from the government's first estimate a month ago that reduced inventory stockpiling had cut growth by 1.4 percentage points. The government will make one final estimate of GDP in the summer next month. While the revision in inventories helped third quarter growth, this improvement was offset somewhat by slightly slower growth in consumer spending, which grew at a 3 percent annual rate in the summer. The revision reflected in part weaker spending on cell-phones than initially estimated.

The trade deficit was a bigger drag than initially estimated, trimming growth by 0.2 percentage point, as exports grew by just 0.9 percent in the quarter, down from a 1.9 percent initial estimate. American exports have been held back this year by weakness overseas and a rising value of the dollar, which make

US goods less competitive on foreign markets.

Business investment slowed to 3.4 percent growth rate in the third quarter, down from 5.2 percent in the second quarter as the category that covers oil and gas exploration plunged at an annual rate of 47.1 percent. This sector has been hurt by the sharp fall in energy prices which has triggered big cutbacks at energy companies. Residential investment grew at a 7.3 percent rate in the third quarter, down slightly from the 9.2 percent second quarter gain. Government spending grew at a 1.7 percent rate as strength in state and local spending offset a big drop in defense spending.

While overall GDP growth is expected to accelerate slightly to around 2.5 percent for the year, economists are forecasting that 2015 will be another year of only modest economic growth.

The expectation of stronger consumer spending in the fourth quarter reflects the solid job gains year. The government reported that employers created 271,000

jobs in October, and the unemployment rate fell to a seven-year low of 5 percent. That strong jobs performance has raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at its next meeting on Dec. 15-16. It has kept its benchmark rate at a record low near zero for seven years. In a letter released by the Fed on Monday, Chair Janet Yellen repeated assurances that when the Fed does begin raising rates, it is likely to do so at a gradual pace to avoid the costly mistakes other nations have made in trying to raise rates too quickly and harming economic growth. "Other countries paid a heavy price for being forced to reverse course," Yellen said in a letter to consumer advocate Ralph Nader. "Japan, where interest rates have remained near zero for most of the past 25 years, serves as a cautionary tale." Many private economists are looking for a small quarter-point rate hike at the December and expect that to be followed by four more quarter-point hikes at every other Fed meeting next year. — AP



MIAMI: Pedestrians walk past a Gap store in Miami. The Commerce Department issues the second of three estimates on how the US economy performed in the July-September quarter yesterday. — AP

AIR ARABIA WINS WORLD TRAVEL LEADERS AWARD IN LONDON

SHARJAH: Air Arabia has won the prestigious World Travel Market 2015 "World Travel Leaders Award" in recognition of its leadership of the low-cost aviation sector in the Middle East. The award was presented to Air Arabia during a ceremony in London.

In bestowing the award, the organisers noted Air Arabia's significant expansion over the past twelve months, including increasing its route network to more than 115 destinations, opening a fifth international hub in Amman, Jordan, and becoming the region's first low-cost carrier (LCC) to launch direct services to China. Air Arabia's profitability, ongoing support of the region's tourism sector, and ability to create skilled jobs were also commended.

The judges said Air Arabia was "the first

to break the mould and even today still leads with route innovation and adherence to the LCC model."

Adel A. Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia, said: "While 2015 has been a year of major expansion for Air Arabia, we have never lost sight of our core business model and LCC principles. Our mission remains to help people to fly more, and we are delighted that this work continues to be recognised by the global aviation industry."

World Travel Market London brings together more than 50,000 senior travel industry professionals, government ministers and international media to discuss the key issues and trends affecting the industry.

These are the latest in a series of accolades won by Air Arabia this year. The company was named "Best Low-cost Airline in the Middle East" at the annual Skytrax World Airline Awards in France; "Best Low-Cost Carrier" at the 2015 World Tourism Forum Awards in Turkey; took home the "Award for Customer Innovation" at the first Aviation Achievement Awards; and won two of the top prizes at the Aviation Business Awards 2015, being named "Low Cost Airline of the Year" and "Airline of the Year - Middle East."

Air Arabia (PJSC), listed on the Dubai Financial Market, is the Middle East and North Africa's leading low-cost carrier (LCC). Air Arabia commenced operations in October 2003 and currently operates a total fleet of 41 new Airbus A320 aircraft, serving some 115 routes from five hubs in the UAE, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan. Air Arabia is an award-winning airline that focuses on offering comfort, reliability and value-for-money air travel.



GULF BANK'S MONTHLY SALARY ACCOUNT AND RED ACCOUNT DRAWS TO TAKE PLACE LIVE TODAY ON MARINA FM

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank will be holding its monthly Salary Account draw and Red Account draws, simultaneously, today November 25, 2015 at 13:00pm, live on Marina FM's famous Diwaniya show. The draws will be held under the supervision of a Ministry of Commerce representative, where six winners will be announced.

The bank's Salary Offer guarantees a cash prize up to KD150 upon salary transfer plus a chance to win cash prizes and cars in

KD 200). Annually, two salary customers will get the chance to win a cash prize of KD25,000 each.

Both new Red Account or Salary Account customers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,500. In addition, 1 lucky winner will have a chance to win a new Cadillac SRX 2015 during Gulf Bank's Mega Draw taking place on 7 January 2016.

Through the bank's red program, customers can also watch movies at all Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) cinemas during weekends (every Thursday, Friday and Saturday) for KD 1,750 instead of KD 3.5, which is a 50 percent discount on the normal price.

Gulf Bank is the only bank in Kuwait presenting both Salary and Red customers with these one of a kind offers. For more information about Gulf Bank's Salary account, Red account or any other draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at www.e-gulfbank.com



monthly, quarterly and annual mega draws.

Gulf Bank customers who have transferred their salaries are eligible to be part of those draws and win many attractive prizes. The bank's monthly cash draw will have six winners, each to get up to KD 1,500 (First prize is KD 1500, second prize is KD 1,000, third prize is KD 800, fourth prize is KD 600, fifth prize is KD 400, sixth prize is

YELLEN DEFENDS NEAR-ZERO RATES TO CONSUMER ADVOCATE NADER

WASHINGTON: Americans have benefited from the Federal Reserve's near-zero interest rate policy, despite its negative impact on savers, Chair Janet Yellen said in a letter Monday to consumer advocate Ralph Nader. In response to a letter from Nader decrying the plight of savers who are suffering from years of exceptionally low interest rates, Yellen noted that Americans would have been worse off if the Fed had not taken drastic action to counter the severe financial crisis in 2007 and 2008 and the ensuing recession.

"Americans generally have benefited, most particularly lower- and middle-income people affected disproportionately during the downturn," Yellen wrote.

By pegging the benchmark federal funds rate between zero and 0.25 percent point in December 2008, the Fed lowered borrowing costs for millions of American families and businesses, in turn supporting the housing market and job growth, she argued. "We all hope and expect that the economy will continue to expand, that the jobs market will continue to make progress, and that inflation will move toward our two percent price stability objective," Yellen wrote.

"If that is the case, my colleagues and I have indicated it will be appropriate to begin to normalize interest rates." The markets expect the central bank to announce the rate

lift-off on December 16, capping a two-day meeting of the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee.

Justifying keeping rates near zero for almost seven years, Yellen said: "Would savers have been better off if the Federal Reserve had not acted as forcefully as it did and had maintained a higher level of short-term interest rates, including rates paid to savers? I don't believe so."

"Unemployment would have risen to even higher levels, home prices would have collapsed further, even more businesses and individuals would have faced bankruptcy and foreclosure, and the stock market would not have recovered." In an open letter to Yellen posted online October 30 by The Huffington Post, Nader said he was writing as one of millions of "frustrated" Americans who are getting near zero percent on their traditional bank savings and money market accounts.

"We want to know why the Federal Reserve, funded and heavily run by the banks, is keeping interest rates so low that we receive virtually no income for our hard-earned savings while the Fed lets the big banks borrow money for virtually no interest," Nader wrote. In her response, Yellen acknowledged the frustration of savers caused by their very low returns, which have "caused hardship for some of them, particularly seniors on fixed incomes." — AFP

CHINA PROPOSES FIRM TO FUND PROJECTS IN EUROPE

SHANGHAI: China is proposing a financial firm to fund projects in central and eastern Europe, Premier Li Keqiang said yesterday, extending the Asian giant's global reach as it flexes its economic muscles. Beijing scored a major diplomatic success earlier this year when it set up the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, with key European countries signing up over objections from Washington.

Shanghai is also home to a new multilateral bank dedicated to the emerging BRICS countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, which is expected to go into operation soon. Li told officials from 16 central and eastern European countries gathered for a regional summit in nearby Suzhou that Beijing was "ready to work with all parties to explore the possibility of setting up a 16+1 financial company to support cooperation."

Li dangled the offer of cheap Chinese funds

from both the government and commercial banks to the area, which has lagged behind more prosperous nations in the western part of the continent. "We can provide financing for central and eastern European countries in line with your needs," state television showed him saying. "As long as these projects use Chinese products and Chinese equipment, China is willing to provide low-cost financing support."

The country's biggest lender Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the government policy-directed China Export Import Bank, which serves as an export credit agency, would spearhead efforts to boost lending, Li said. But he played down the possibility of competition with other multilateral organizations, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, saying Chinese financial institutions were encouraged to "strengthen exchanges and cooperation." — AFP



JOYALUKKAS RAISES AED 500M WITH A STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

DUBAI: Dubai headquartered, Joyalukkas, one of the world's leading Jewelry retail chain has raised a total amount of AED 500 million through multiple banking arrangements. Part of this is a USD80 million term loan with a 5 year tenor.

At a signing ceremony held in Dubai to confirm the deal, Joy Alukkas, Chairman & Managing Director, Joyalukkas Group said, "The added funding will help us to take the cost advantage of the current rate of interest. I also feel this proves our 'trust' quotient amongst banks and financial institutions. We are glad we have been maintaining a strong financial position and good track record amongst everyone who deals with us. Lastly, we would like to keep very positive outlook in spite of the constantly changing market dynamics because there is always some form of opportunity."

The term loan has been arranged as a club deal with 3 of UAE's leading banks including: Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), Emirates NBD, Emirates Capital Ltd and Mashreq Bank. Hogan Lovells acted as the Lenders' counsel for the deal. The term loan was signed in the presence of senior management from the participating banks, Sunil Kaushal Regional CEO Standard Chartered Bank, Africa and Middle East; John

Lossifidis, Mashreq Bank's Executive VP and Group Head of Corporate and Investment Banking; and Jonathan Moris, Head of Wholesale Banking, Emirates NBD.

Sunil Kaushal, Regional CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, Africa and Middle East said: "Standard Chartered is pleased to be a part of the Joyalukkas' growth story and this facility is testament to our strong relationship of over 15 years with the Group. We are committed to offering innovative financial solutions, catering to our clients' diverse financial needs and are confident the transaction will enhance Joyalukkas' competitiveness and financial performance in the market." Standard Chartered Bank was the Originating, Structuring and Coordinating bank, and was also appointed as Facility and Security Agent for the deal.

Lossifidis, speaking at the signing ceremony said: "We are pleased to work together with Joyalukkas and the other banks to achieve a successful close to this important transaction. Despite the market challenges, this financing has been arranged to support Joyalukkas with its expansion strategy, which is testament to the valuable relationships the Group has cultivated with its banking partners.

Speaking on the occasion, Jonathan Morris -

Group Head of Wholesale Banking at Emirates NBD, said: "We are pleased to participate in this transaction for Joyalukkas, which is long established as one of the most respected brands in the gold sector. We believe that the loan facility will serve to further support Joyalukkas' financial position and allow the group to capitalize on the tremendous growth opportunities facing the company."

The strategic objective for Joyalukkas to take up this facility, is the opportunity to refinance and reduce their borrowing costs based on the prevailing Libor rates. Joyalukkas Group is the largest, single-owned jewellery retail chain in Middle East and India, which has built a strong reputation world-wide over the last 28 years. The renowned jewellery retailer is currently spread across 10 countries with a chain of over 110 showrooms and has a strong professional team working under the direction of the visionary entrepreneur Joy Alukkas.

The globally renowned brand, caters to over 10 million loyal customers and has a workforce of over 7,000 employees around the world. Joyalukkas is planning to expand their current network in Saudi Arabia and Qatar and also proposes to establish their presence in the USA in the near future.

AUB NAMED BEST PRIVATE BANK IN MIDDLE EAST BY GLOBAL FINANCE

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank has been recognized as 'Best Private Bank in the Middle East' by Global Finance, the leading international banking and finance publication. In addition to winning the prestigious regional title, AUB as well as its associate bank in Oman, Ahli Bank, were announced the country winners for Bahrain and Oman respectively, in this inaugural annual World's Best Private Banks Awards by the New-York based publication.

Global Finance said the world's top providers of private banking and wealth management services were selected based on entry submissions, market research, input from industry analysts and executives, and other users of private banking services.

"These awards provide an independent analysis of those firms that offer the deepest experience, best value and highest level of customer service within the private banking realm," said Joseph Giarraputo, publisher and editorial director of Global Finance.

This award by Global Finance comes on the heels of AUB winning the "Private Bank of the Year - Bahrain" award for the second year running in the Global Private Banking Awards 2015, a joint ranking by The Banker and PWM (Professional Wealth Management), two publications of the London-based Financial Times Group.

Prakash Mohan, Group Head, AUB, said: "We are gratified to see the quality and strength of our private banking services recognized by the world's leading and most authoritative banking and finance publications. These distinguished awards bear testi-



mony to our continued and successful efforts to be our clients' trusted financial partners, providing them with world-class expertise, highly individualized service and tailor-made solutions which meet their specific objectives and needs". "Our regional footprint means clients can benefit from our collective expertise, knowledge and resources across MENA markets while our well-established presence

in the UK opens up a world of opportunities when it comes to managing and growing their hard earned wealth".

These awards are the latest in a string of recognitions received by AUB earlier this year, including: "Best Local Private Bank, Bahrain - 2015" by Euromoney and "Best Bank in Bahrain, 2015" for the tenth consecutive year by both Euromoney and Global Finance.

BOE SAYS RATE HIKE TIMING IS STILL A QUESTION

LONDON: Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said he did not know when British interest rates should start to rise, once again sounding vaguer than before about when the BoE might begin easing the economy off record-low borrowing costs.

"The question in my mind is when is the appropriate time for interest rates to increase, and that is strongly consistent with the strength of the domestic economy," Carney told members of Britain's parliament yesterday.

The BoE surprised many investors earlier this month when it showed no sign that it was gearing up for an increase in interest rates, saying Britain's near-zero inflation would pick up only slowly even if rates stay on hold throughout next year.

Carney said then that the Bank would raise rates when the time was right. Before that, he had said a decision on whether to raise rates would come into sharper focus around the end of this year. But that was before the deepening of the slowdown in the global economy which has kept most BoE rate-setters on the fence.

The cautious tone of the BoE has contrasted with the clearer message from the

Federal Reserve that a first US rate rise is likely to come next month. Carney has struggled previously with his attempts to give a clear steer on when rates might go up. His guidance was first knocked off course by a surprise plunge in Britain's unemployment rate and then by the slump in global oil prices.

Britain's economy grew faster than any other big developed nation last year and will be among the top performers in 2015. But wage growth remains below pre-crisis levels and the latest inflation data showed prices fell in the 12 months to October.

Only one of the BoE's nine monetary policymakers has voted for a rate hike in recent months.

Financial markets have been betting on a first BoE rate hike only in early 2017, although most economists expect the Bank to move well before then, probably in the first half of 2016.

In his comments to lawmakers yesterday, Carney showed he still expected borrowing costs to rise eventually, saying the economy would increasingly require a higher level of neutral rates as it recovered from the financial crisis. "I do think that the real equilibrium interest rate in

the United Kingdom has turned positive and as some of the headwinds... reduce. It will in most likelihood continue to rise," he said.

But Carney also said productivity was more likely to exceed than undershoot the BoE's latest forecasts, reducing the pressure on inflation, a view shared by relatively dovish Monetary Policy Committee member Gertjan Vlieghe.

Sterling fell earlier yesterday after the BoE's chief economist Andy Haldane said he saw more downside risks to growth and inflation than reflected in the Bank's latest economic outlook, and he reiterated his view that the BoE's next move might be a rate cut.

"I see the balance of risks around UK GDP growth and inflation as skewed materially to the downside, more so than embodied in the November 2015 Inflation Report," Haldane said in an annual statement to parliament's Treasury Committee.

The only policymaker yesterday who sounded close to raising rates was Kristin Forbes, who restated her view that rates would need to rise "sooner rather than later" though labour market pressures were not yet strong enough. — Reuters

MICROSOFT PARTNER, DIYAR UNITED COMPANY, RANKED FIRST IN REGION

KUWAIT: Diyar United Company, a Kuwait-headquartered Information and Communication Technology (ICT) specialist, has been ranked the 'Fifth Top Most Competent Microsoft Partner' worldwide by independent market research group, Redmond Channel Partner, for the year 2015. Diyar is the only Kuwaiti company from the Middle East region to feature in this ranking, outpacing major multinational organizations from United States, Europe and Japan. The ranking is based on Diyar's outstanding delivery of Microsoft solutions and its customer-care focus.

Bashar Atout, CEO, Diyar United Company said: "We are honored by this recognition from Microsoft and Redmond Channel Partner, and we view this as

testament to the vibrant business opportunity that Kuwait and the broader region presents. We have successfully represented Microsoft in iconic projects, working with customers to transform their businesses and meet the changing business and technology landscape."

Charles Nahas, Microsoft Kuwait General Manager, said: "In today's fast moving business and technology environment, in mobile first cloud first world, Microsoft strategy has been to work with partners who can maximize for our customers significant benefits from cloud-based services and solutions. Microsoft stands apart as a technology partner of choice for organizations undergoing digital transformation, and our presence and depth in

Kuwait is greatly enhanced by partners such as Diyar United Company providing our suite of solution to the market. We congratulate Diyar United Company on this well-deserved recognition, and look forward to transforming the business and ICT sector in Kuwait in close association with them."

Khaleel Al Failakawi, Vice president for major projects, said "Diyar United Company is committed to provide professional and technically advanced services to its customers by employing top qualified professionals in the countries it operates. Diyar has made substantial investments in order to deliver top-notch international quality solutions and services through resources that are resident in the region. Moreover, Diyar is committed to develop

the national resources in the GCC region and is proud to be among the ICT leaders in this field employing more than 70 National resources in Kuwait and in the GCC region. We provide National resources with top quality training and friendly work environment to develop their skills and enable them to contribute in building the Smart Digital Era in the GCC region."

Diyar United's competencies have been built over engagement with multiple customers across sectors and sizes, and their Microsoft offering has proven popular across their customer-base. The firm will continue to build its product portfolio and improve its capabilities in Microsoft innovation, setting it firmly ahead of regional peers.

SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS DRIVE HISTORIC CUBAN EXODUS TO US

PENAS BLANCAS: As summer began to bake the central Cuban city of Sancti Spiritus, Elio Alvarez and Lideisy Hernandez sold their tiny apartment and everything in it for \$5,000 and joined the largest migration from their homeland in decades.

Buying two smartphones for \$160 apiece on a layover on their way to Ecuador, they plugged themselves into a highly organized, well-funded and increasingly successful homebrewed effort to make human traffickers obsolete by using smartphones and messaging apps on much of the 3,400-mile (5,500-kilometer) overland journey that's become Cubans' main route to the US.

Some 45,000 Cubans are expected to move by bus, boat, taxi and on foot from Ecuador and other South and Central American countries to the Texas and California borders this year, afraid that the normalization of relations between the US and Cuba will mean an imminent end to special immigration privileges that date to the opening of the Cold War. With thousands more taking rafts across the Florida Straits, 2015 may witness the biggest outflow of Cubans since the 1980 Mariel boatlift that hauled 125,000 people across the Florida Straits. The overland exodus has caused a border crisis in Central America, set off tensions in the newly friendly US-Cuban relationship and sparked rising calls in the US to end Cubans' automatic right to legal residency once they touch US soil.

At the heart of it all is Cubans' ability to cross some of the world's most dangerous territory relatively unscathed by the corrupt border guards, criminal gangs and human traffickers known as coyotes who make life hell for so many other Latin American migrants. Key to that ability is the constant flow of information between migrants starting the journey and those who have just completed it. "Those who've arrived have gotten in touch with their acquaintances, their friends, and tell them how the route is. That means that no one needs a coyote," said Hernandez, a 32-year-old psychologist. "You go making friends along the way. I myself have 70, 80-something friends on Facebook who've already gotten to the United States."

Federal data

Cuban migrants start with an advantage others can only dream of. Many countries along the route grant Cubans free passage because their government does not respond to most requests for information about illegal migrants that would allow them to be deported. And many Cubans who run out of money along the way have access to hundreds or thousands of dollars in backup funds sent by relatives who belong to one of the United States' most prosperous immigrant groups.

Once they reach the US border, they can just show up at an established US port of entry and declare their nationality, avoiding the dangerous desert crossings that confront many migrants who try to avoid US Border Patrol. Federal data shows 45,000 Cubans appeared at US land border points in the 12 months ending Sept. 20, and at least as many are expected in the coming year.

But along the way, Cubans still must navigate jungles, rivers, at least seven international borders and countries in the grip of gangs responsible for some of the world's highest homicide rates. Asked their secret, Cubans interviewed in shelters along Costa Rica's northern border with Nicaragua almost universally pointed to cheap smartphones, data plans and Facebook.

"We're completely, always, alert to our phones," Alvarez said, gesturing to his Samsung Galaxy S3 Mini outside a border station in northern Costa Rica, where he and some 2,000 other Cuban migrants were stuck waiting for resolution of a regional conflict set off by Nicaragua's closure of the crossing. "This is our best friend, the phone. It's always on, always ready."

The metallic "zing" of a new message arriving in the Facebook Messenger app has become the soundtrack to this year's historic migration as Cubans consult friends further along the route for tips on bus routes, border closures, even how much to bribe the notoriously corrupt Colombian police. "They tell you when you can get money, at what moment you can arrive somewhere, what hotel to go to," said Anneli de los Reyes, pharmacist from the eastern city of Camaguey. "In all of those things, you run less risk and go with more security and peace of mind." While many move across large swaths of territory independent of coyotes, others still depend on traffickers, most commonly when they need to get across complicated borders.

On Nov. 10, a US-backed Costa Rican task force on human trafficking arrested 12 people suspected of helping run an international ring that charged Cubans between \$7,000 and \$15,000 to be smuggled from South America to the US border, or \$400 to be moved safely across Costa Rica. Alongside the anti-trafficking operation, Costa Rica began holding Cubans in the town of Paso Canoas on the Panamanian border. Their numbers grew to around 1,600 until Costa Rica announced on Nov. 13 that it would allow them to transit the country to Nicaragua. Complaining that it wasn't consulted, Nicaragua dispatched soldiers to the border to block the Cubans' passage, setting off minor clashes at the Penas Blancas crossing on Nov. 15.

Emergency meeting

The dispute has left some 2,000 Cubans stranded in shelters in Guanacaste province on the Nicaraguan border, with dozens more arriving daily. The local sales office for telecommunications company Movistar has increased the number of sales vans along the border from two to seven, most stationed permanently outside the Cubans' temporary encampments in schools and churches, selling 2-for-1 \$3-per-megabyte data packages to a steady stream of Cuban migrants. Central America governments have called an emergency meeting on the crisis in El Salvador on Tuesday. Nicaragua, a close socialist ally of Cuba, has not publicly responded to a Costa Rican proposal to create a "humanitarian corridor" for Cubans to move unhindered toward the US. —AP



BEIJING: A robot carries a cup to a journalist (R) during the World Robot Conference in Beijing yesterday. The World Robot Conference is being held in Beijing from November 23 to 25. — AFP

TECH GIANTS DIVIDED OVER DIGITAL ASSISTANTS

SASSY WOMAN OR MACHINE?

SAN FRANCISCO: When users ask Siri, Apple's digital assistant, what she likes to drink, she is quick with an answer. "I have a thirst for knowledge," she responds. Her counterpart at Microsoft, Cortana, opts for a very, very dry martini.

But M, the digital assistant Facebook is testing, deflects the question. "I don't have an opinion about that. What's your favorite drink?" As the tech giants race to build ever better artificial intelligence platforms, they are obsessing over the nuances of their digital assistants' personalities.

For users, digital assistants are a gateway to powerful artificial intelligence tools developers expect to influence major decisions about what to buy and how to spend time. The more tech companies can get users to rely on their digital assistants, the more valuable data they will accumulate about the spending habits, interests and preferences of users. The information could be fodder for lucrative digital advertising or a lever for companies to keep users locked into their ecosystems.

But companies are split on the best way to forge deep connections with users. Siri and Cortana are waging charm offensives, both quick to crack a joke or tell a story. Their elaborate personas are meant to keep users coming back. Facebook has built M with no gender, personality or voice. The design bears some resemblance to Google's similarly impersonal assistant.

While catchy one-liners generate buzz, a digital assistant with personality risks alienating users or, the companies say, misleading them about the software's true purpose: carrying out simple tasks, much like a real-life assistant. Facebook's no-nonsense assistant focuses on handling chores such as ordering flowers or making restaurant reservations. "We wanted M to be really open and able to do anything - a really white piece of paper - and see how people use it," Alex Lebrun, a Facebook executive who oversees the AI team for M, said in an interview with Reuters.

Digital assistants

For tech companies, the stakes are high, said Matt McIlwain, managing director of Madrona Venture Group, since digital assistants can guide users to their own products and those of their advertisers and partners - and away from those of competitors. Google's digital assistant, for example, uses the company's search engine to fulfill user requests for information rather than Yahoo or Microsoft's Bing.

"That trusted assistant could function as my agent for all kinds of transactions and activities," McIlwain said. Research from the late Stanford professor Clifford Nass, an expert on human-computer interaction, shows that users can become deeply invested in AI that seems human, though they are also more disappointed when the systems come up short, raising the stakes for companies that make the attempt. And what charms one user can annoy another - a danger that Facebook and Google have largely sidestepped.

Nevertheless, the Siri team concluded that personality was indispensable, said Gary Morgenthaler, an investor in Siri, the startup that created the eponymous assistant and was later acquired by Apple.

"If you are emulating a human being," he said, "then you are halfway into a human type of interaction." Google has decided it doesn't want to take personality further without having a better handle on human emotion. "It's very, very hard to have a computer be portrayed as a human," said Tamar Yehoshua, vice president of mobile search. The Google app, making use of predictive technology known as Google Now, responds to questions in a female voice but has few other gendered touches and little personality. The Google app does reflect its creator's spirit of curiosity, however, by sharing fun facts, Yehoshua said. Facebook has a team of human "trainers" behind M, who answer some requests that are beyond the capabilities of its artificial intelligence. The company hopes to gather data on users' most frequent requests in order to improve M so it can handle them in the future.

That data is limited, however, as M is so far available only to 10,000 people in the San Francisco Bay area. Despite M's design, users frequently ask to hear jokes, a request the assistant obliges. Humans tend to anthropomorphize technology, academics say, often looking for a personality or connection even when tech companies intentionally have veered away from such things.

Artificial intelligence

"When you give people this open mic, they will ask anything," said Babak Hodjat, co-founder of AI company Sentient Technologies.

Siri's personality did not change much after Apple acquired the startup in 2010, though she switched from responding in text to speech at the insistence of the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, said Adam Cheyer, a co-founder of Siri who is now a vice president at another AI company, Viv Labs. "He was right on that call," Cheyer said. "The voice is something that people really connect with." Microsoft interviewed real-life personal assistants to help shape Cortana's person-

ality, said Jonathan Foster, Cortana's editorial manager. The assistant's tone is professional, but she has her whims.

She loves anything science-fiction or math-related - her favorite TV show is "Star Trek" - and jicama is her favorite food because she likes the way it sounds. Such attention to detail is critical because humans are very particular when it comes to artificial intelligence, said Henry Lieberman, a visiting scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who studies human-computer interaction. Companies must be mindful, he said, not to venture into what researchers call the "uncanny valley," the point at which an artificial intelligence tool falls just short of seeming human. Users become fixated on the small discrepancies, he said. "It becomes creepy or bizarre, like a monster in a movie that has vaguely human features," Lieberman said. iDAvatars CEO Norrie J. Daroga said he walked a fine line in creating Sophie, a medical avatar that assesses patients' pain. He gave Sophie a British accent for the U.S. audience, finding users are more critical of assistants that speak like they do. And she has flaws built in because humans distrust perfection, said Daroga, whose avatar uses technology from IBM's Watson artificial intelligence platform.

Some academics say Siri's personality has been her greatest success: After her release in 2011, users raced to find all her quirks. But some of her retorts have caused headaches for Apple. When asked what to do with a dead body, Siri used to offer joking suggestions such as swamps or reservoirs - an exchange that surfaced in a 2014 murder trial in Florida. She is more evasive when asked the question today. "I used to know the answer to this," she says. Even in that response, Morgenthaler sees traces of the true Siri.

"It's a little bit of a protest against the corporatization," he said. "I don't forget, but I've been made to forget." — Reuters



SINGAPORE: Customers browse at Apple products at one of its authorised premium resellers' outlets on Monday, in Singapore. Apple will open its first retail store in Singapore, which will also be Southeast Asia's first to be powered solely by solar energy, officials said Monday. — AP

UMAINE DEBUTING OCEAN SIMULATOR TO TEST SEA-BOUND TECHNOLOGY

ORONO: Builders of everything from cruise ships and ports to oil rigs offshore wind turbines are tasked with the same question - will their work will be strong enough to stand up to the sea? A miniature indoor ocean at the University of Maine could make for a lot less guessing. The school's Advanced Structures and Composites Center is ready to unveil a \$13.8 million expansion that director Habib Dagher said will simulate a stormy ocean to help innovators find out if their creations can withstand the sea's fury.

The indoor facility, six years in the making, will be able to simulate waves over 100 feet tall and winds of more than 200 mph on scale models to test products, Dagher said. The university will unveil the facility, the centerpiece of which is a 100-foot pool that uses 32 fans and 16 paddles to generate wind and waves, at a Monday ceremony.

"It's really advancing society by better understanding the ocean - the way things survive in the ocean," Dagher said. The W2 Ocean Engineering Laboratory will test the strength and seaworthiness of structures such as boats; offshore wind, tidal and wave energy

facilities; aquaculture ventures; oil and gas equipment and critical infrastructure such as ports and bridges, Dagher said.

It will also be able to use models of coastal cities - Dagher mentions possibilities like Portland, Maine, and New York City - to simulate how they will be impacted by sea level rise, he said. That will help test potential protective measures for those cities, he said.

The facility is already attracting interest from builders, as workers were testing a model of a facility that would harness energy from waves. A half-dozen businesses have lined up to use it over the next few weeks, Dagher said.

"We're already getting calls from a lot of wind energy folks. There's no facility that can do this right now," said Anthony Viselli, the manager of the facility and project manager of its equipment's construction.

Dozens of representatives from Maine industry plan to attend Monday's unveiling, including Peter Vigue, chairman and CEO of Cianbro Companies, which oversaw the construction of the building. He said the facility is important for luring offshore business to Maine. —AP



NEW YORK: This Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015, photo shows Samsung's Gear S2 smartwatch during a presentation in New York. Samsung smartwatches have improved tremendously. Instead of swiping through screen after screen, you now rotate the watch's circular outer ring to select apps or view notifications. — AP

WORLD'S BIGGEST CLONE FACTORY RAISES FEARS IN CHINA

BEIJING: The world's largest animal cloning factory is under construction in China, with plans to churn out dogs, horses and up to a million beef cattle a year, reports said, prompting online and scientific concerns yesterday. The 200-million-yuan (\$31-million) facility will include cloning laboratories and a gene bank, the official Xinhua news agency reported. It is being set up by Chinese biotechnology firm Boyalife and South Korea's Soom Biotech-whose founder was embroiled in controversy a decade ago over claims to have cloned human embryos-along with two Chinese research institutions. It will develop animals such as pet and police dogs, racehorses and cows, to be sold on the open market on an industrial scale.

The factory in the northern port of Tianjin is set to start production next year, with initial capacity of 100,000 cattle embryos a year, growing to one million, Xinhua cited Boyalife chairman Xu Xiaochun as saying. "Chinese farmers

are struggling to produce enough beef cattle to meet market demand," he said. Boyalife reposted Xinhua's report on its website yesterday. But social media users expressed scepticism over consumer appetite for cloned meat, pointing out that the plant will be near the site of chemical explosions that killed at least 165 people in August, and that China is plagued with food safety scandals. "Is this meat going to be sold in South Korea or China? If in China, please make our leaders eat it first," said one user.

Another commentator wrote sarcastically: "This beef definitely must first be saved just for the central government leaders; only after they and their families have eaten it for 10 years should they design to give it to us, the people! Really can't wait!" Zhu Yi, a professor of food science at China Agricultural University, told AFP that there would be "almost no difference" between cloned and real cattle, but that companies should not rush to put cloned meat on the

table without "rigorous risk assessments and repeated experiments". He added: "We cannot rush towards the cloned meat market."

Dead dog

China has been cloning animals since 2000, Xinhua said, four years after the birth in Scotland of Dolly, the world's first cloned sheep. Their ranks include the "strong-willed pig", a porker hailed as a hero after surviving more than a month buried under rubble after the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, reportedly replicated six times over. A joint venture between Soom and Boyalife started China's commercial cloning market last year, Xinhua said, cloning three pure-blooded Tibetan mastiff puppies. But many online commentators worried about the ethics of the new venture. "Crazily evil!" wrote one commentator, with another asking: "Is the next step cloning people?" Soom is run by Hwang Woo-Suk, who claimed in

2004 to have derived stem-cell lines from cloned human embryos, a world first, and was lauded as a national hero in South Korea before it emerged that his research was fraudulent and riddled with ethical lapses. Soom's website lists instructions for potential customers who want to clone a dead pet dog: wrap the body with wet towels and store it in a refrigerator, rather than a freezer. Chinese bioethical standards can vary from those of the West, and have prompted a number of high-profile debates, with prominent journals Science and Nature deciding not to publish Chinese research on the world's first editing of human embryo genomes. The country's animal husbandry industry has boomed to meet the demands of its increasingly carnivorous and growing middle class, and is a major driver of demand for commercial cloning. But the practice is controversial. In September the European parliament backed a ban on cloning animals for food, and the halting of imports and products derived from them. — AFP

16 MILLION ON HIV TREATMENT AS AIDS PANDEMIC TIDE TURNS

ANNUAL RATES OF AIDS DEATHS, HIV INFECTIONS FALL

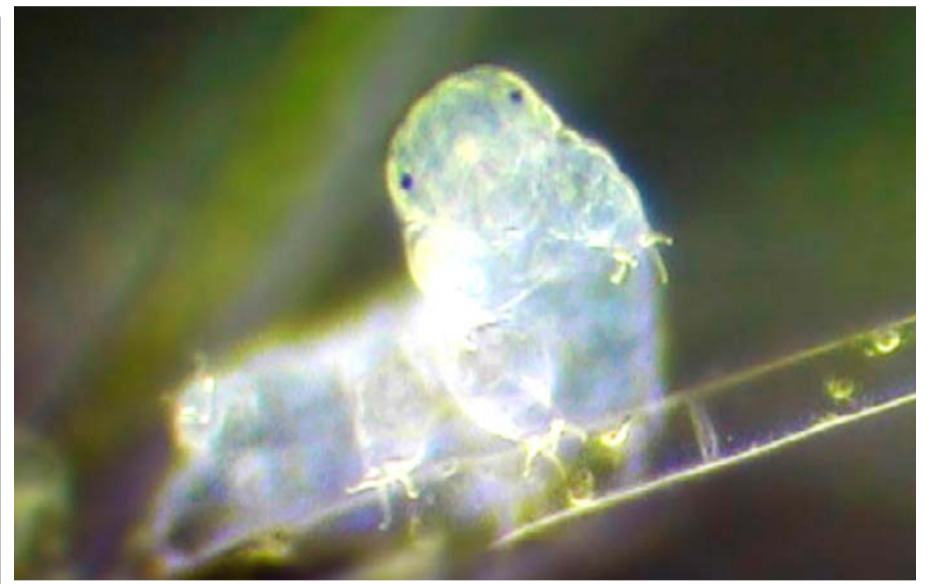


PARIS: French dancer Marie-Agnes Gillot performs in Paris, as part of a charity event to promote ICCARRE (Intermittent, in Canny short Cycles, Anti-Retrovirals may Retain Efficiency) a new mode of anti HIV-AIDS drug prescriptions, that proposes a dramatic reduction of weekly anti-HIV drug intake. — AFP

LONDON: Some 15.8 million people are now on HIV treatment and a five-year strategy to end the threat of a never-ending AIDS pandemic is starting to show results, the United Nations AIDS program said yesterday. Estimates show new HIV infections have fallen by 35 percent since the peak of the three-decade-old pandemic in 2000, and AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 42 percent since a peak in 2004, UNAIDS said in a report timed for release before World Aids Day on Dec 1.

Even before the agency set out its strategy last year, the roughly 16 million people being treated by June 2015 was double the number in 2010. Barely 2.2 million were being treated ten years ago. "Today we can say we move from despair to hope. Every five years we have more than doubled the number of people on life-saving treatment," Michel Sidibe, UNAIDS' executive director, told reporters at a briefing. "If we manage to sustain our investment and ... double the numbers of people put on treatment, we can really break the backbone of this epidemic." By the end of 2014, 36.9 million people were infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS, and more than half of them do not have access to treatment.

The World Health Organization says all people diagnosed as HIV positive should have immediate access to antiretroviral AIDS drugs, which hold the virus in check and give patients a good chance of a long and relatively healthy life. Responding to the UNAIDS report, Sharonann Lynch, a policy adviser for the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), said all countries should "waste no time" in ensuring all HIV positive people are offered immediate treatment. The report identified 35 countries that account for 90 percent of all new HIV infections. Focusing on them would have the greatest impact and reap huge benefits, it said. — Reuters



This image shows a light micrograph of a tardigrade. — AFP

TINY WATER BEARS ARE HUGE DNA THIEVES

WASHINGTON: The eight-legged water bear-a hardy, nearly microscopic animal resembling its mammal namesake-gets a huge chunk of its DNA from foreign organisms such as bacteria and plants, scientists have revealed. These genes, the researchers suggest, help the tiny animals, also known as moss piglets or tardigrades, survive in the harshest of environments. Water bears, which live all over the world, are usually 0.020 inches (0.5 millimeters) long and move very slowly and clumsily on their multitude of legs.

These highly adaptable creatures can survive extreme temperatures. Even after being stuck in a freezer at -112 degrees Fahrenheit (-80 Celsius) for 10 years, they can start moving around again about 20 minutes after thawing. By sequencing these creatures' genome, researchers from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill were surprised to find that 17.5 percent-nearly a sixth-of the genome came from foreign organisms. For most animals, less than one percent of their genome comes from foreign DNA. The microscopic rotifer previously held the record, with eight percent of its genome coming from foreign DNA. "We had no idea that an animal genome could be composed of so much foreign DNA," said co-author Bob Goldstein of UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. "We knew many animals acquire foreign genes, but we had no idea that it happens to this degree."

New insight on evolution

The study, published in Monday's edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, also made unusual findings about how DNA is inherited. Goldstein, first author Thomas Boothby and colleagues found that water bears

obtain about 6,000 foreign genes mostly from bacteria, as well as plants, fungi and Archaea single-cell organisms. "Animals that can survive extreme stresses may be particularly prone to acquiring foreign genes-and bacterial genes might be better able to withstand stresses than animal ones," said Boothby, a postdoctoral fellow in Goldstein's lab. Indeed, bacteria have survived the most extreme environments on Earth for billions of years. Water bears acquire foreign genes through horizontal gene transfer, a process by which species swap genetic material instead of inheriting DNA from parents. "With horizontal gene transfer becoming more widely accepted and more well-known, at least in certain organisms, it is beginning to change the way we think about evolution and inheritance of genetic material and the stability of genomes," said Boothby. Researchers said the DNA likely gets into the genome randomly but what remains allows water bears to survive in the most hostile environments.

Under intense stress, such as extreme dryness, the water bear's DNA breaks up into small pieces, according to the research team. Once the cell rehydrates, its membrane and nucleus housing the DNA temporarily becomes leaky and allows other large molecules to pass through easily. They thus repair their own damaged DNA while also absorbing foreign DNA as the cell rehydrates, forming a patchwork of genes from different species.

"So instead of thinking of the tree of life, we can think about the web of life and genetic material crossing from branch to branch," Boothby explained. "So it's exciting. We are beginning to adjust our understanding of how evolution works." — AFP

GUN BATTLES IN CENTRAL AFRICA CRIPPLE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

BAMBARI: After gunmen burned down her village in scrubland of Central African Republic's Ouaka region, Marceline Wanou fled into the forest with her two young sons, hoping to return in a few days. Nine months later Wanou has yet to go back, spending six months struggling to survive in the forest until a team of aid workers in July discovered her and 350 other members of her community, badly malnourished with many barely able to walk. "I was just trying to save my children but after five months of hiding I realised we might all die," said Wanou, sitting on a hospital bed in Bambari, the main town in the country's southern municipality that borders Democratic Republic of Congo.

Like millions of others, Wanou's life has been turned upside down by fighting in the former French colony, where Pope Francis is due to visit later this month despite violence between opposing rebel groups ongoing since 2013. Clashes between mainly Christian anti-balaka militias and mainly Muslim Seleka factions risk derailing internationally-backed presidential and parliamentary elections now due on Dec. 27 after being postponed in October due to violence. Wanou is one of nearly 500,000 people from a population of 4.6 million forced to flee their homes by repeated cycles of violence, isolating them from access to the few remaining medical facilities that have not been destroyed.

The battles in Ouaka earlier this year were so intense that Wanou's mainly Christian community of about 350 people was cut off from humanitarian aid supplies on which they had come to depend and from their home-grown crops. Wanou said they survived the months in the forest by eating cassava leaves that provide little protein or nutrients. They were unable to seek help with intermittent fighting around them. When found many of the children in the group displayed signs of severe malnutrition - red hair, swollen feet, bloated stomachs, loss of appetite - said Nicolas Peissel, project coordinator for the charity Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) that found the group.

Healthcare vacuum

"We found 24 percent of children under 5 had severe acute malnutrition, which is almost unheard of in the entire country," Peissel told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. United Nations agencies define levels of more than 10 percent severe malnutrition as an emergency. A nationwide survey found one in 50 children aged between 6 months and 5 years old in Central African Republic tested positive for severe malnutrition in 2014, according to the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF. Wanou - who looks to be in her late thirties but does not know her age - and her sons were taken to the only functioning hospital in Bambari, where they have spent the last four months.

"It was like a miracle when the (MSF) aid workers came. For the first time I had hope there would be a way out," said Wanou, barely audible above the sound of a sick child in a nearby bed. In Ouaka alone, 80,000 people have been forced from their homes by a recent upsurge in fighting, according to United Nations figures, with many civilians too scared to cross front lines to seek help at hospitals and clinics. Tense front lines have sprung up across Central African Republic where 10,600 UN peacekeepers and around 900 French troops have struggled to keep warring factions apart.

Religious tensions have also affected hospital staff, with some doctors and nurses of one faith refusing to work for fear of being mistreated by colleagues of the other. "With 70 percent of health structures destroyed and with no existing permanent clinics, access is very difficult because of the violence," Peissel said. The conflict has impacted MSF's activity. It was forced to restrict the movements of its medical teams in the capital, Bangui, after one of its teams was attacked by armed men and a vehicle stolen last week by a camp for displaced people.

Hopes for peace

In Bangui, international forces patrol eerily quiet streets in armored vehicles past disheveled

groups of armed boys and men, known as self-defense units, outside boarded-up cafes. The uneasiness is especially palpable in a mainly Islamic area known as PK5, one of Bangui's most dangerous districts, where renewed violence erupted in September after a Muslim man was killed. Pope Francis is due to visit the main mosque in PK5.

The turbulence lead to an increase in patients seeking treatment in some of the city's hospitals but many people are still cut off from aid and health services, MSF said. In Castors, a maternity clinic run by MSF, the number of babies born fell to 334 in October from 884 in July. "We can only draw the conclusion this is because people are more and more scared to leave their homes and come and seek safe treatment," said Christine Januel, MSF project coordinator.

The fear is that more babies will suffer health complications, Januel added, in a country where the maternal mortality rate of 880 per 100,000 live births is among the worst in the world, according to the World Health Organization. In PK5, Muslims mostly displaced during reprisals by militias in December 2013 camp out near the main mosque in tiny makeshift shelters of rusty iron sheets and plastic sheeting. "It's too dangerous to go to hospital because of the armed groups on the streets," said Muslim woman Fane Oumar, adding her house was looted and torched by Christian gunmen two years ago.

Oumar, who was three months pregnant at the time, said the attackers killed her brother but spared her after she collapsed. The PK5 community depends on visits, weekly if security allows, from doctors in an MSF mobile clinic. But the country's worsening instability and living conditions have not dented local optimism, with Oumar and other Muslims hoping the Pope's visit on Nov. 29-30 will achieve some good. The last pontiff to visit was Pope John Paul II in 1985. "I think people no matter what their faith can understand the message of non-violence that the Pope brings," said one woman sheltering at the mosque. — Reuters

INDONESIA ISLAMIC DISTRICT TO BAN CONDOMS IN CONVENIENCE STORES

BELOPA: A staunchly Islamic district in Indonesia plans to ban the sale of condoms in convenience stores in a bid to halt premarital sex, an official said yesterday, but activists criticized the move as misguided. The local administration in Luwu on central Sulawesi island will soon send a notification to convenience stores, giving them a week to remove condoms from their shelves, district head Andi Mudzakkar said.

"We are concerned that premarital sex is on the rise among teenagers," he said from the district capital Belopa. A week after the letters are sent, the government will raid the dozens of convenience stores in Luwu, and those caught violat-

ing the rule could be shut down, Mudzakkar said. He said that he took the decision after noticing that condoms were sold openly in the stores and could be easily bought by youngsters.

Condom sales would still be allowed in the remote district in pharmacies but only for customers aged above 17, he said. In many rural parts of the archipelago, convenience stores are the only retail outlets offering a sizeable range of goods. Yakub Gunawan, an activist from the Red Institute, an NGO focusing on HIV, said the ban would not tackle "risky sexual behavior". "The Luwu government should be promoting early sex education instead so teenagers will know how to

be responsible and protect themselves," he said.

Regulations to crack down on behavior viewed as "immoral" and against Islam have multiplied across Indonesia-the world's most populous Muslim-majority country-in recent years, amid signs of growing conservatism in many sectors of society. Conservative clerics have long denounced official campaigns to encourage sex before marriage. Earlier this year Indonesia's top Islamic cleric spoke out against the sale of condoms following reports that the contraceptives were being sold together with chocolate to mark Valentine's Day. — AFP



MONROVIA: A health worker attends to a girl at the medical centre of Doctor Without Borders (Medecin sans Frontiere) (MSF) where people infected with the Ebola virus are treated in Monrovia. — AFP

HEALTH EXPERTS ACCUSE WHO OF 'EGREGIOUS FAILURE' ON EBOLA

LONDON: The World Health Organization's failure to sound the alarm until months into West Africa's Ebola outbreak was an "egregious failure" which added to the enormous suffering and death toll, global health experts said yesterday. A specialist panel convened by Harvard's Global Health Institute (HGHI) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) said while the epidemic "engendered acts of outstanding courage and solidarity", it also caused "immense human suffering, fear and chaos" which went "largely unchecked" by leadership or reliable and rapid institutional responses.

Reviewing the global response to the epidemic which swept through Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the panel said such failures should not be allowed to happen again, and major reform is urgently needed to prevent future pandemics. "We need to strengthen core capacities in all countries to detect, report and respond rapidly to small outbreaks in order to prevent them from becoming large-scale emergencies," said Peter Piot, LSHTM's director and the chair of the panel.

He said reform of national and global systems to respond to epidemics is not only feasible, but also essential "so that we do not witness such depths of suffering, death and social and economic havoc in future epidemics". The panel made 10 key reform proposals aimed at preventing future such catastrophes, including developing and investing core capacities to handle infectious disease outbreaks, strengthening incentives for early reporting of outbreaks and science-based justifications for trade and travel restrictions.

It also called for the creation of a unified WHO Center with clear responsibility, adequate capacity, and strong lines of accountability for outbreak response, and for a transparent, politically-protected standing emergency committee to take on responsibility for declaring emergencies. Liberian panel member Mosoka Fallah of the campaign group Action Contre La Faim International, said the human misery and deaths should prompt serious reflection "on how and why the global response to the greatest Ebola calamity in human history was late, feeble and uncoordinated". — Reuters



ABU DHABI: Men walk in Masdar City, outside the rich Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Masdar City-which hosts the International Renewable Energy Association Agency (IRENA) and the Masdar Institute for Science and Technology-is at the forefront of the UAE's efforts to focus on renewables. (Right) An employee walks at a solar plant in Masdar City outside the rich Emirate of Abu Dhabi. — AFP

UAE CHANNELS OIL MONEY INTO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

MASDAR CITY LAYING GROUNDWORK IN CASE OIL WELLS RUN DRY

ABU DHABI: Rising from the desert outside Abu Dhabi, Masdar city is laying the groundwork for when the United Arab Emirates' oil wells run dry. Driverless electric cars shuttle between energy-saving buildings topped with arrays of solar panels. Traditional Arabic architecture mixes with modern technology, as narrow shaded alleys run between brick-coloured buildings, focusing the wind and keeping temperatures low. On the edge of the complex, a 10-megawatt solar farm lined with photovoltaic panels provides clean energy.

First announced in 2007, Masdar city in the suburbs of Abu Dhabi has not yet become the city of 40,000 authorities promised, with only a few hundred people, mainly students, in resi-

dence. But the complex - which hosts the International Renewable Energy Association Agency (IRENA) and the Masdar Institute for Science and Technology - is at the forefront of the UAE's efforts to focus on renewables.

The company that bears its name has invested huge sums on green energy - an unusual move for a country better known as an oil and gas producer and exporter. Sitting on 5.9 percent of the world's oil reserves and 3.1 percent of its natural gas, the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, is a key player in the global energy market. The discovery of commercial quantities of oil in the UAE in the late 1950s transformed the area, turning a few pearl-diving towns wedged between the Gulf and the desert into

an economic powerhouse.

But its rulers know the oil won't last forever, with Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan warning earlier this year that the country's last tanker load will be exported in 50 years. "We understood that for us to maintain our leadership in the (energy) sector, we have to get into renewable, and we have done that," Masdar chief executive officer Ahmad Belhouli told AFP.

Nawal Al-Hosany, head of sustainability at Masdar, said the UAE had an "ambitious" plan for "leveraging its resources from the hydrocarbon industry into this new sector." The UAE says it is expecting to invest \$35 billion in non-hydrocarbon energy by 2020, including \$20 billion on

the Barakah 5.4-gigawatt nuclear power project. Masdar has joined a number of clean energy projects abroad, Hosany said, investing some of the massive reserves the UAE has built up over the years. "The UAE became the only OPEC country that not only exports oil but also exports renewable energy around the world," she said. Masdar is a partner in the 20-megawatt Gemasolar power plant in southern Spain, the world's first solar power station that generates electricity at night. It also has a 20 percent share in the London Array wind power project, which has a capacity to generate 630 megawatts, enough to power nearly half a million homes in Britain. At home, Masdar spent \$600 million to build the Shams 1 plant, the world's largest con-

centrated solar power plant, west of Abu Dhabi, with a capacity to generate 100 megawatts. It also supported the Solar Impulse bid to fly a solar-powered plane around the world in a trip that took off from Abu Dhabi in March but had to be called off in Hawaii due to a battery fault.

In total, Masdar says it is participating in projects that will eventually generate 1.5 gigawatts of power. "Over the past five years, the UAE channelled \$840 million into renewable energy projects in 25 countries," said Thani Al-Zeyoudi, the head of energy and climate change at the UAE foreign ministry. "We look at this from a development perspective, not just commercial," said Zeyoudi, who is also the UAE's permanent representative to IRENA. — AFP

HEALTH RISK OF LONELINESS 'HAS PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS'

WASHINGTON: Loneliness can increase the risk of premature death by 14 percent in older adults, according to a study published Monday that posits a physiological basis for the phenomenon. The dangers of social isolation have long been known but its effects on the body have not been well understood, the researchers said in the work published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences/PNAS.

Led by University of Chicago psychologist John Cacioppo, the research team had previously identified a link between solitude and both a heightened expression of genes involved in inflammation and a diminution in the activity of other genes that play a role in the body's antiviral responses. The result is a weakened immune system that makes a person who lives alone more vulnerable to illness. In their latest research, the researchers looked at leukocytes, white blood cells that the immune system uses to protect against bacteria and viruses. They found the same shift in genetic expression in the white blood cells of people who lived alone and in social isolation.

They also found that loneliness predicted the gene behavior a year or more in advance-and conversely that gene expression predicted loneliness measured a year or more later. "Leukocyte gene expression and

loneliness appear to have a reciprocal relationship, suggesting that each can help propagate the other over time," the researchers said. "These results were specific to loneliness and could not be explained by depression, stress or social support," they said. The investigators then studied rhesus macaques, a highly social primate, and found a similar cellular process linked to their social experience. "Lonely-like" monkeys had increased gene expression involved in inflammation and less gene expression in antiviral defenses.

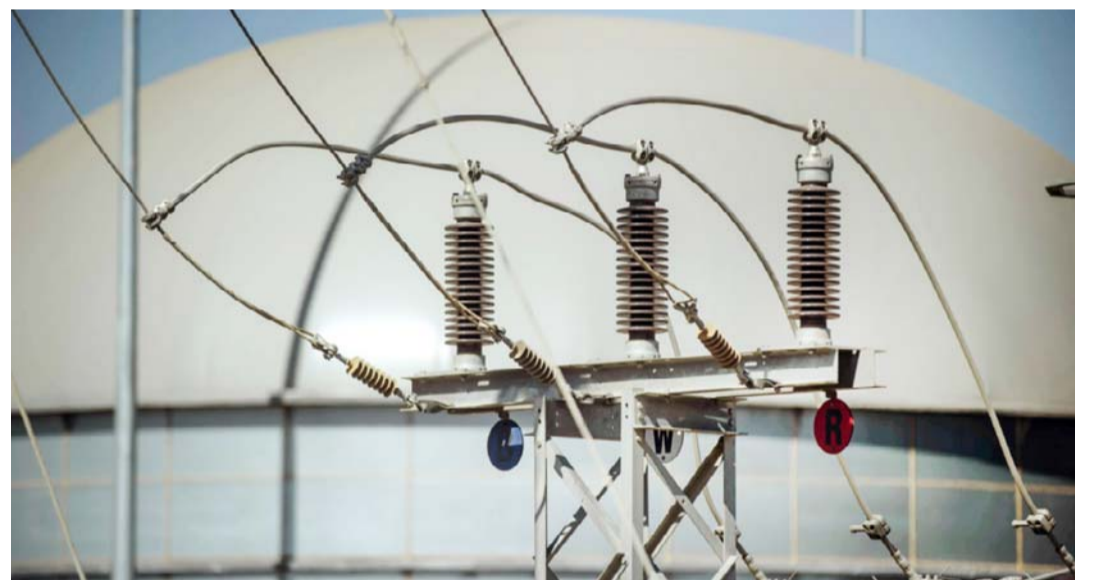
They were also found to have higher levels of norepinephrine, a "fight-or-flight" neurotransmitter that stimulates the production of immature monocytes, a white blood cell with high inflammation/low antiviral defense gene expression. "Both lonely humans and 'lonely like' monkeys showed higher levels of monocytes in their blood," the researchers said. Other studies showed that the increased production of immature monocytes was amplifying the high inflammation/low antiviral effect in the pool of white blood cells. "The 'danger signals' activated in the brain by loneliness ultimately affect the production of white blood cells," they said. "The resulting shift in monocyte output may both propagate loneliness and contribute to its associated health risks." — AFP

NUKE, RENEWABLE: S AFRICA'S AMBITIOUS NEW ENERGY MIX

JOHANNESBURG: Heavily reliant on coal-fired electricity, South Africa is launching ambitious new projects aimed at diversifying its energy sources and avoiding the regular power cuts that have hobbled the economy in recent years. Solar and wind energy plants are mushrooming across the country while the government is planning a huge-and controversial-expansion of nuclear power. But coal is not going away anytime soon.

On the outskirts of Johannesburg and near the industrial town of Vereneeging, six large turbines spew white smoke above the desolate landscape. Lethabo thermal power station is generating 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity-around eight percent of national production. The Lethabo plant, operated by the state-owned utility firm Eskom, is using inexpensive, poor quality coal which is found in abundance in this part of the country. "We don't have big resources in water, solar is still expensive to build and wind isn't 100 percent reliable because wind can't blow all day long," said Thomas Conradie, the Lethabo coal power station chief.

"The most affordable option to produce the majority of our energy remains coal," which provides 85 percent of the country's energy, he said. Two mega coal plants-Medupi and Kusile-are under construction and will each have the capacity to produce around 4,800 MW. But the government believes that for South Africa to cut down its excessive reliance on coal, it has to expand its nuclear power generation-despite opposition from environmentalists and fears that the huge cost could cripple the economy. South Africa currently has the sole nuclear power plant on the continent, situated at Koeberg, north of Cape Town. The twin reactors there contribute nearly 2,000 MW, a little over four percent of the national power output. The government wants to pump an extra 9,600 MW of nuclear power into the national grid by building eight new reactors at an estimated cost of some \$50 bil-



PRETORIA: Photo shows a view of a Bio2Watt gas power plant, founded by the French Development Agency (AFD), where cow manure is used to produce energy that feeds an Eskom grid. — AFP

lion (46.5 billion euros). China, France, Russia, South Korea and the United States are bidding to construct the plants, with the winner expected to be announced early next year.

'Realistic' target

Apart from nuclear energy, South Africa is pressing ahead with renewable energy options. "Coal will continue to be one of the sources of electricity in South Africa for a foreseeable period of time in the future," said Brian

Mantlana, director of climate change issues at South Africa's environment ministry. But "what is important is how South Africa changes its energy mix going forward," he said. Eskom this year launched its first wind farm near Vredendal in the desert near Namibia. Forty-six wind turbines some 115 meters tall are generating 100 MW of electricity. Further north a solar scheme is under construction that is expected to produce an additional 100 MW. The outputs are small so far, but Eskom plans a huge expansion of energy from renewable sources. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

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



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

BURGAN BANK CONCLUDED 'DEN GALLERY' EXHIBITION SPONSORSHIP

Burgan Bank concluded its latest sponsorship of "Den Gallery" exhibition which was held on 18 November 2015 at the Kuwait International Fair Ground in Mishref. The event coincided with the 40th Kuwait International Book Fair and aimed at providing opportunities to artists whom are dedicated to contemporary art.

"Den Gallery" gathered young as well as established contemporary artists under one roof and presented new approaches in the areas of painting, drawing, sculpting and graphics. The Den Gallery exhibition, was established by a group of talented Kuwaiti artists.

Burgan Bank expressed the dire need

for such cultural events to take place and to be supported in Kuwait. The bank's keenness to support this exhibition stems from its firm belief that art enriches the quality of life in our community and in youth. Burgan Bank's sponsorship of such signature event underlines the brand's commitment in contributing to the support of local talents and encouraging new horizons to be met in contemporary art." Burgan Bank will continue welcoming similar initiatives to ultimately develop a positive outcome for the country as a whole.



Professor Moudhi Al-Humoud

AOU UNIVERSITY COUNCIL HELD ITS 54TH MEETING

Professor Moudhi Al-Humoud, Rector of the Arab Open University (AOU), headed the 54th University Council Meeting in presence of Vice Rectors, Deans and Directors of the AOU eight branches, which spread in a number of Arab countries. Humoud commended the efforts of all AOU staff in achieving various projects and programs in accordance with the vision of the AOU founder, HRH Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz and in line with the 3rd AOU Strategic Plan.

During the meeting, Humoud reviewed the agenda of the meeting. The Council then approved the minutes of the previous meeting, its implemented decisions and recommendations. The council also addressed accomplishments of all AOU branches. It considered many reports such as the annual report for the academic year 2014/2015, the financial performance, research and academic performance in addition to consider reports of social and academic activities and services that AOU offers.



KOYILANDY KOOTTAM KUWAIT CHAPTER CELEBRATED FIRST ANNUAL MEET 2015

Koyilandy Koottam FB global community Kuwait Chapter conducted its first Annual Meet 2015 at Abbasiya Indian Central School on November 6th, 2015, and it was inaugurated by Rajagopal Edavalath, Advisory Board Member of Kuwait Chapter.

The function was presided over by the President Ilyas Bahassan, and Chairman Shahid Siddique addressed the gathering. During the function, Koyilandy Koottam honored the personalities who proved their capabilities in different fields.

Ateeq Kollam was honored with a memento by Hamza Payyannur, Shabeer Mandoli honored by Ayyoob Kachery, Ismayeel Payyoli honored by Salih Batha and Dileep Nadery honored by Raof Mashoor. The Memento for Chief Guest Asif Kappad was given by K Aboobacker.

The cultural activities began with a comedy show headlined by the famous come-

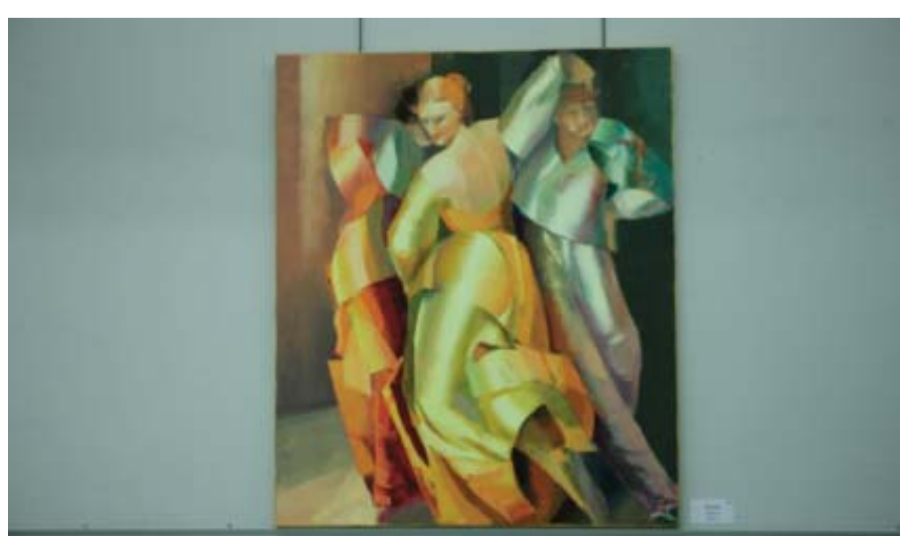
dy artist Kalabhavan Naseeb, who is popular for imitating around 25 actors from Kerala Film Industry within minutes. This was followed by Oppana, Thiruvathira, and a Group Dance by KDA Members. Then, Mylanchy Fame Asif Kappad and his team took over the stage and enthralled the hearts and minds of the listeners with his golden voice, and made the Annual Meet 2015 a grand celebration. Kuwait Chapter announced the different charity activities for the year of 2016 as it is the most important part of their association's commitment to society. General Secretary Shahul Beyport welcomed the audience and Rihab Thondiyil casted the vote of Thanks. KK Annual Fest 2015 ended with a coupon draw and a variety of wonderful prizes were handed out to winners. All attendees showed appreciation for the various facets of Annual Meet, and showed recognition for all participants who made the day special.



ICSK CELEBRATED 41ST ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

The 41st Annual Sports Meet of the Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK), held on Friday, 13th November 2015 at Kheifan Stadium, was the most awaited event of the year. Sunil Jain, the Ambassador of India to Kuwait was the chief guest and Said Mubarak Al Muthairy, Retired Brigadier General was the guest of honor for this august function. Sunil Jain hoisted the school flag. He was accompanied by the guest of honor Said Mubarak Al Muthairy and S K Wadhavan, Honorary Chairman, ICSK, Vijay Karayil, Honorary Secretary, ICSK, Head of the Sports Committee Binoy Thomas, other board members, and Principals of all ICSK schools. It was followed by a well-organized and admirably disciplined march past where the school marched in perfect co-ordination, in time with the beats of the brass band. Undoubtedly, the most solemn part of the ceremony was the relay of the torch by the school's noteworthy sportspersons. All students were sworn in with an oath which was conducted by the sports captain. Sunil Jain then declared the annual sports meet open amidst thunderous applause by releasing balloons in the air. The convener of the Meet and Principal of ICSK Khaiatn K G Shirsath, welcomed the eminent guests, members of the board and the entire gathering. S K Wadhvan, Hon. Chairman of ICSK highlighted the achievements of sports and congratulated all for their success in sports through his presidential address. The declamation of Guest of Honor, Said Mubarak Al Muthairy was highly inspiring as he narrated his own experiences relating his student life to the students. It was superseded by the inaugural speech by the chief guest Sunil Jain whose words of wisdom were inspiring to the students and set the tone for the day.

The most awaited event of the day was a spellbinding fusion of dance drill with Yoga and Aerobics put up by over six hundred students from all four ICSK schools, highlighting the theme 'We are one and unique'. It casted exceptional radiance to the event. A well-synchronized and thrilling Karate display aroused the spirit of the spectators. All displays drew hearty applause from the crowd, a fitting appreciation for weeks of hard work! As the students' wild cheers filled the air, the athletes, with grit and determination, raced to achieve victory and glory for their respective houses. The sports achievers of the year were awarded trophies, medals and certificates by the eminent guests on the day. Towards the end, Principal of ICSK Amman Rajesh Nair proposed cordial vote of thanks. He further complimented the students, teachers and all staff as without their efforts the event could not have been successful.



The visiting Romanian renowned artist Georgeta Grabovsca's exhibition of paintings was inaugurated at Al-Adwani Art Gallery. The Embassy of Romania in cooperation with the national Council of Culture Arts and Letters has organized the event. Diplomats, art enthusiasts and officials were present. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



(From left) Shayma Ameen, Nejou Al-Yagout and Shurooq Amin



(From left) Sakina Makki, Nejou Al-Yagout and Al-Anoud Al-Sharekh.



Nejou Al-Yagout and her mother Badriya Boudai

NEJOU AL-YAGOUT HOSTS BOOK SIGNING

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

From the Dar Hamad restaurant, Poet Nejou Al-Yagout launched her second collection of books last Monday. The book signing event was attended by a group of public figures and her fans, in addition to family members and friends. "I just

published a book called 'Awake of The Game of Pretending,'" she said. "It is my second collection of poetry. This book deals with a spiritual journey chronicled in six chapters. Awakening, Dark Night of The Soul, The Matrix, Realm Love, Form of Expression, and finally, It Culminates Under The Divine. So, Everything goes back to the

source". She added that she was very lucky that she got to hold the book signing at Dar Hamad. "It is a new restaurant and this event is planned by the November Company," she explained.

Nejou Al-Yagout is a Kuwaiti poet. The talented author is also an Honorary Life Member of ALL Ladies League (ALL) and is

the State Committee Chairperson in Kuwait for Literature.

The poet took some photographs with her fans and the invitees in a very friendly and casual party. In attendance was her mother Badria Budai, who came to support her daughter's promising poetry journey. You can get her collection of poetry on the

internet via Amazon, as well as Barnes and Noble. They are available in both printed form and ebooks for Kindle, iBooks, Nook and Kobo and Google Play. Visit Nejou Al-Yagout website <http://www.nejoudalyagout.com> for more information.



Nejou signs a copy of her book.



Nejou Al-Yagout's poetry collection



Farah Khajah, a fan of the poet, reads a copy of her newest book.

TWO AUK STUDENTS RECEIVE XEROX ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Xerox awarded two students from the American University of Kuwait (AUK) with the Xerox Scholarship Award, a new initiative launched by the company this year as part of Xerox's corporate social activities program. Darin Kabkaoui and Omar Raad, Computer Engineering students at AUK, were selected from a pool of students who fulfilled the criteria required to be eligi-

ble for the scholarships and received the scholarships based on their excellent academic performance.

AUK President, Professor Nizar Hamzeh, was joined by AUK's Chief Information Officer, Rusty Bruns, and Xerox General Manager, Ayman Mattar, as well as other representatives from Xerox, at a ceremony held in AUK to officially present the scholar-

ships to the recipients.

"As the private sector is an essential partner of student education, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Xerox Kuwait for contributing to our Scholarship and Financial Aid Program. Darin and Omar are distinguished by their excellent scholastic records and hard work and worthy of winning the Xerox Academic Scholarship,"

expressed Professor Hamzeh.

While presenting the students with the scholarships, Mattar explained why Xerox Scholarship Award program is an important initiative. "Education is an investment that never fails. Xerox is proud to be part of a program that helps the students of today become the leaders of tomorrow," he said. The Xerox Scholarship Award is awarded

to students who have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours in any of the Engineering, Computer Science, or Information System majors at AUK while maintaining a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. AUK evaluates and selects the scholarship recipients.



Another group photo with the students.



A group photo with the students.



(Left to right) AUK President, Professor Nizar Hamzeh; the scholarship student Darin Kabkaoui; Ayman Mattar; and Rusty Bruns



The Scholarship students, Darin Kabkaoui and Omar Raad



(Left to right) AUK President, Professor Nizar Hamzeh; the scholarship student Omar Raad; Ayman Mattar; and Rusty Bruns

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 Gator Boys
- 01:45 Call Of The Wildman
- 02:15 Call Of The Wildman
- 02:40 Biggest And Baddest
- 03:35 Tanked
- 04:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 Treehouse Masters
- 06:49 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 07:12 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 07:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:25 Dog Rescuers
- 09:15 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 10:10 Treehouse Masters
- 11:05 Bondi Vet
- 12:00 Dog Rescuers
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Biggest And Baddest
- 14:45 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 15:40 Treehouse Masters
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 17:55 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 18:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 19:20 Monster Croc Invasion
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Night
- 21:35 Night
- 22:05 Treehouse Masters
- 23:00 Monster Croc Invasion
- 23:55 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster

- 18:50 Food Factory
- 19:15 Food Factory
- 19:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 20:30 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 21:20 Mythbusters
- 22:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 23:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions



- 00:00 Violette
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Wolfblood
- 02:05 Wolfblood
- 02:30 Violette
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Wolfblood
- 04:35 Wolfblood
- 05:00 Violette
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Lolirock
- 06:25 Hank Zipzer
- 06:50 Girl Meets World
- 07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
- 07:40 Jessie
- 08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 09:45 Austin & Ally
- 10:10 Austin & Ally
- 10:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 11:00 H2O: Just Add Water
- 11:25 Jessie
- 11:50 Jessie
- 12:20 Hank Zipzer
- 12:45 Gravity Falls
- 13:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:35 I Didn't Do It
- 14:00 Dog With A Blog
- 14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
- 14:55 Lolirock
- 15:20 Austin & Ally
- 15:45 Girl Meets World
- 16:10 Violette
- 17:00 The Next Step
- 17:25 Mako Mermaids
- 17:50 Girl Meets World
- 18:15 Dog With A Blog
- 18:40 Gravity Falls
- 19:05 H2O: Just Add Water
- 19:30 Violette
- 20:20 The Next Step
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Wolfblood
- 23:35 Wolfblood

- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 11:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
- 18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 21:00 Chopped
- 22:00 Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook Off
- 23:00 Iron Chef America



- 01:05 Seven Days With Aït
- 02:00 Emmerdale
- 02:25 Coach Trip
- 02:55 Coronation Street
- 03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 04:45 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 05:15 Take On The Twisters
- 06:10 Seven Days With Aït
- 07:05 Coronation Street
- 07:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 08:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 09:20 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 10:10 Seven Days With Aït
- 11:05 Dancing On Ice
- 12:30 Take On The Twisters
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Emmerdale
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 15:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 16:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 17:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance
- 18:20 Take On The Twisters
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 20:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 21:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance
- 22:20 Coach Trip
- 22:50 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 23:40 Dancing On Ice

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Wrong Turn 6: Last Resort-PG15
- 02:00 Forget And Forgive-PG15
- 04:00 The Outsider-PG15
- 06:00 Escape Plan-PG15
- 08:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow-PG
- 10:00 Left Behind-PG15
- 12:00 Jaws III-PG15
- 14:00 Escape Plan-PG15
- 16:00 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15
- 18:00 Android Cop-PG15
- 20:00 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra-PG15
- 22:00 Guns, Girls And Gambling-18

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Welcome To The Jungle
- 02:00 The Ladykillers
- 04:00 The Love Guide
- 06:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day
- 08:00 Problem Child
- 10:00 The Love Guide
- 12:00 The Ladykillers
- 14:00 Life With Mikey
- 16:00 Problem Child
- 18:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
- 20:00 Pretty Woman
- 22:15 Not Another Teen Movie

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:00 A Promise-PG15
- 05:15 At Middleton-PG15
- 07:00 Won't Back Down-PG15
- 09:00 The Truth About Emanuel-PG15
- 11:00 At Middleton-PG15
- 15:15 Sunshine On Leith-PG15
- 17:00 The Truth About Emanuel-PG15
- 19:00 Second Coming-PG15
- 21:00 Ask Me Anything-PG15
- 23:00 Mail-18

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 01:30 Jodorowsky's Dune
- 03:00 Pawn
- 05:00 One Chance
- 07:00 The Way We Were
- 09:00 The Nightmare Before Christmas
- 11:00 One Chance
- 13:00 Against The Ropes
- 15:00 We Are Family
- 17:00 The Nightmare Before Christmas
- 19:00 The Savages
- 21:00 Collaborator
- 23:00 Venus In Fur

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:15 Sabotage-PG15
- 03:15 Lost Christmas-PG15
- 05:15 JLA:Adventures: Trapped In Time-PG
- 06:45 Step Up All In-PG15
- 09:00 Annie-PG
- 11:00 Le Weekend-PG15
- 13:00 Postman Pat: The Movie-PG
- 14:45 Into The Woods-PG
- 17:00 Annie-PG
- 19:00 Let's Be Cops-PG15
- 21:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2-18
- 23:00 John Wick-18

OSN MOVIES KIDS

- 01:15 Bolts And Blip
- 03:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 04:30 Zarafa
- 06:00 Ice Age: The Meltdown
- 08:00 Tom And Jerry: The Lost Dragon
- 09:30 Delhi Safari
- 11:15 Vampire Dog
- 13:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 16:00 Jungle Shuffle
- 18:00 Delhi Safari
- 20:00 Tarzan
- 23:30 Jungle Shuffle

OSN MOVIES PREMIERE

- 00:00 Deliverance Creek-PG15
- 02:00 Lucy-PG15
- 04:00 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG
- 06:00 40 Days And Nights-PG15
- 08:00 Maleficent-PG
- 10:00 Recool-PG15
- 12:00 Fatal Instinct-PG15
- 14:00 10 Years-PG15

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 02:00 Boy To Man
- 02:50 River Monsters
- 03:40 Auction Hunters
- 04:05 Garage Gold
- 04:30 Baggage Battles
- 05:00 Backyard Oil
- 05:30 How It's Made
- 06:00 Alaskan Bush People
- 06:50 Classic Car Rescue
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Auction Hunters
- 08:55 Garage Gold
- 09:20 Baggage Battles
- 09:45 Backyard Oil
- 10:10 How It's Made
- 10:35 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 11:25 Dual Survival
- 12:15 River Monsters
- 13:00 Auction Hunters
- 13:30 Garage Gold
- 13:55 Baggage Battles
- 14:20 Alaskan Bush People
- 15:10 Classic Car Rescue
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 Backyard Oil
- 17:15 How It's Made
- 17:40 Troy
- 18:30 What Happened Next?
- 18:55 What Happened Next?
- 19:20 Kings Of The Wild
- 20:10 Garage Gold
- 20:35 Baggage Battles
- 21:00 Troy
- 21:50 Superhuman Science
- 22:15 Superhuman Science
- 22:40 You Have Been Warned
- 23:30 Classic Car Rescue

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
- 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
- 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 02:20 Giuliana & Bill
- 03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 04:10 E! Entertainment Special
- 05:05 The E! True Hollywood Story
- 06:00 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
- 06:55 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 New Money
- 08:45 New Money
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 The Grace Helbig Show
- 12:35 The Grace Helbig Show
- 13:05 Fashion Bloggers
- 13:35 Fashion Bloggers
- 14:05 Dash Dolls
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:00 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2015...
- 16:00 E! News
- 19:00 Dash Dolls
- 20:00 Fashion Police: The 2015 American Music...
- 20:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 21:00 House Of DVF
- 22:00 E! News
- 23:00 WAGs

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

OSN FIRST HD

- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 19:00 Hot In Cleveland
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD MORE

- 07:00 Emmerdale
- 07:30 Coronation Street
- 10:00 Emmerdale
- 10:30 Coronation Street
- 12:00 Castle

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 02:00 Wrong Turn 6: Last Resort
- 04:00 Forget And Forgive
- 06:00 The Outsider
- 08:00 Escape Plan
- 10:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow

Discovery Science

- 00:40 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 01:05 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 01:30 Weird Connections
- 01:55 Weird Connections
- 02:20 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 02:45 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 03:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 04:00 Mythbusters
- 04:48 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 05:36 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 05:59 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 06:24 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 07:12 Weird Connections
- 07:36 Weird Connections
- 08:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 08:25 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 08:50 Food Factory
- 09:15 Food Factory
- 09:40 How It's Made
- 10:05 How It's Made
- 10:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 11:20 Home Factory
- 11:45 Home Factory
- 12:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 13:00 Mythbusters
- 13:50 How It's Made
- 14:15 How It's Made
- 14:40 Food Factory
- 15:05 Food Factory
- 15:30 Home Factory
- 15:55 Home Factory
- 16:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 17:10 Weird Connections
- 17:35 Weird Connections
- 18:00 How It's Made
- 18:25 How It's Made



ESCAPE PLAN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



LEFT BEHIND ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 16:00 Maleficent-PG
- 17:45 Ender's Game-PG15
- 19:45 Snowpiercer-PG15
- 22:00 300: Rise Of An Empire-18

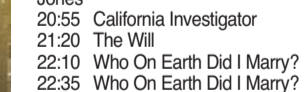


- 03:14 Grojband
- 03:35 Johnny Test
- 05:05 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island
- 05:27 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island
- 05:50 Regular Show
- 06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 07:00 Uncle Grandpa
- 07:25 Adventure Time
- 07:50 Teen Titans Go!
- 08:35 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 09:45 Regular Show
- 10:30 Clarence
- 10:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
- 11:20 Total Drama World Tour
- 11:40 Total Drama World Tour
- 12:05 Johnny Test
- 12:50 Steven Universe
- 13:02 Steven Universe
- 13:15 Uncle Grandpa
- 13:40 Regular Show
- 14:25 Adventure Time
- 15:10 New The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 15:21 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 15:35 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse

- 16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 17:30 Teen Titans Go!
- 18:20 Regular Show
- 19:05 New The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 19:16 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 19:30 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 19:51 Adventure Time
- 20:15 Steven Universe
- 20:27 Steven Universe
- 20:40 Uncle Grandpa
- 21:00 Teen Titans Go!
- 21:50 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 22:40 Adventure Time
- 22:10 Regular Show
- 01:40 Total Drama Action
- 02:03 Total Drama Action
- 02:26 Total Drama Action
- 02:51 Grojband

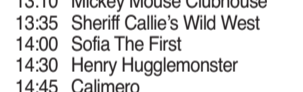


- 03:10 Deadly Affairs
- 04:00 Deadly Women
- 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 05:30 The Haunted
- 06:20 Forensic Detectives
- 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 08:00 Nightmare Next Door
- 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 09:40 Fatal Encounters
- 10:30 Murder Shift
- 11:20 Forensic Detectives
- 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 13:00 The Will
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 California Investigator
- 15:05 Nightmare Next Door
- 15:55 Fatal Encounters
- 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 17:35 Murder Shift
- 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:15 Forensic Detectives
- 20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 20:55 California Investigator
- 21:20 The Will
- 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 23:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
- 23:50 Blood Relatives
- 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 01:30 The Haunted
- 02:20 Ghost Lab

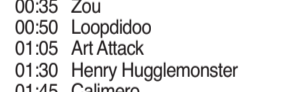


- 03:05 Calmero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:45 Loopydoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calmero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopydoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calmero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopydoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calmero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopydoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calmero
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Limon And Oli

- 08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 09:05 Sofia The First
- 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Captain Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:25 Doc McStuffins
- 12:55 Loopydoo
- 13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 14:00 Sofia The First
- 14:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 14:45 Calmero
- 15:00 Doc McStuffins
- 15:30 Zou
- 15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 16:15 Sofia The First
- 16:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:10 Aladdin
- 17:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 18:10 Chip N Dale Rescue Rangers
- 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates



- 18:55 Cars Toons
- 19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:30 Sofia The First
- 19:55 Doc McStuffins
- 20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:35 Sofia The First
- 22:00 Aladdin
- 22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 23:00 Chip N Dale Rescue Rangers
- 23:30 Lilo & Stich
- 00:00 Nina Needs To Go
- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:20 Calmero
- 00:35 Zou
- 00:50 Loopydoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calmero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopydoo
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster



- 03:40 Ultimate Shopper
- 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 05:00 Little People, Big World
- 05:30 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:25 The Face UK
- 07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 08:05 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
- 08:55 Oprah's Master Class
- 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 10:10 Little People, Big World
- 10:35 Sister Wives
- 11:25 Cake Boss
- 11:50 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
- 12:15 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
- 12:40 The Face UK
- 13:30 Cake Boss
- 13:55 Cake Boss
- 14:20 Perfect Look
- 15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 15:35 Little People, Big World
- 16:00 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 16:50 Sister Wives
- 17:40 Cake Boss
- 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
- 18:30 Ultimate Shopper
- 19:20 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
- 20:10 The Face UK
- 21:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 21:50 The Day I Almost Died
- 22:40 Long Island Medium
- 23:05 90 Days To Wed
- 23:55 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 00:45 The Day I Almost Died
- 01:35 Long Island Medium
- 02:00 90 Days To Wed
- 02:50 Sister Wives

CLASSIFIEDS

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



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
GOODSEWBUMPS 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 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+FR+MON 10:00 PM
THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 1:00 AM
FIELD OF LOST SHOES 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
TIGER HOUSE 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 2:30 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

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, Banswara Raj, India, Passport No. G0081303. (C 5079) 18-11-2015**

I, **Varikkody** Nazar, Varikkody House, P.O Vengalam, Kozhikode holder of Indian Passport No. H8465519 hereby change my name as **Abdul Nazar Varikoly** with immediate effect. **(C 5078) 17-11-2015**

SITUATION VACANT

Driver needed for Kuwaiti Family, full time. Call: **6062330 (C 5080) 21-11-2015**

MATRIMONIAL

Jacobite parents invite proposals for their son, post graduate Engineer, working in Kuwait, 28/172. Contact: **pdakn2015@gmail.com (C 5085) 25-11-2015**

Christian Orthodox Parents of specialist Doctor (innocent divorce) 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) 22-11-2015**

THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

EMERGENCY 112

Prayer timings

Fajr: 04:55
Shorook 06:18
Duhr: 11:34
Asr: 14:31
Maghrib: 16:50
Isha: 18:11



No: 16708 **Kuwait Times**

Ads will not be accepted over the fax

TEXT OF ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED

CONDITION

1. Ads must be on the original coupon.
2. Ads of personal nature. will be accepted for **KD 2 for 3 days.**
3. Semi-commercial ads i.e. Baby-Sitting, Matrimonial, Tuition & Transport available will be accepted for **KD 5 for 3 days.**
4. Ads must not exceed 25 words.

Sender's Name _____
Address, Tel. No: _____

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait 13014, Tel: _____

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 Wednesday 25/11/2015				Departure Flights on Wednesday 25/11/2015			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
SYR	343	Damascus/KAC	00:10	JAD	302	Amman	00:15
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	MSC	406	Sohag	01:00
MSR	614	Cairo	01:20	UAL	981	IAD	01:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	SYR	344	Damascus	01:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	MSR	615	Cairo	02:20
CLX	784	Luxembourg	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	CLX	784	Doha	03:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	ABY	128	Tehran	03:45
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:50
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
AGY	680	Alexandria	04:30	KAC	545	Alexandria	05:15
DHX	670	Bahrain	05:40	AGY	685	Sohag	05:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	560	Sohag	05:30
THY	764	Istanbul	05:55	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	Istanbul	1465	Istanbul	06:55
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	RJA	645	Amman	07:05
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
KAC	854	Lahore	07:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
OMA	641	Muscat	07:55	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:30
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	BAW	156	London	08:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	OMA	642	Muscat	08:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	117	New York	09:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	KAC	561	Amman	10:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	CEB	7695	Manila	10:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	OMA	647	Beirut	10:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:50	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	10:30
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	JZR	356	Mashhad	10:30
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
SVA	9314	Jeddah	11:20	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
AGY	684	Sohag	11:35	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	IRA	664	Shiraz	11:40
SAW	701	Damascus	12:20	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:15
IRM	1188	Mashhad	12:25	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	103	London	12:25
KAC	546	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	564	Amman	12:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	12:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	12:50
IRC	6511	ABD	13:00	FDB	059	Dubai	13:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam	13:00
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	JZR	239	Amman	13:15
IZG	4167	Mashhad	13:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	13:30
IYE	826	Sanaa/Mukalla	13:30	FDB	071	Dubai	13:30
SVA	9313	Jeddah	13:35	JAI	574	Mumbai	13:35
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50	MSC	403	Asyut	13:50

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1090



ACROSS

- 1. A mature blood cell that contains hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the bodily tissues.
4. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
11. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
15. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
16. A country north of Ethiopia on the Red Sea.
17. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
18. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
19. A performer who dances.
20. Excessively fat.
21. The vast grassy plains of northern Argentina.
23. United States lawyer and politician who formulated a production code that prescribed the moral content of United States films from 1930 to 1966 (1879-1954).
25. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
26. Any wingless blood-sucking parasitic insect noted for ability to leap.
28. The highest level or degree attainable.
30. Type genus of the Amidae.
33. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
35. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
38. A state of extreme confusion and disorder.
40. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
42. Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.
44. 1,000 baiza equal 1 riyal-omani.
45. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
47. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
48. The capital and largest city of Japan.
49. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
51. A word for chaos or fiasco borrowed from modern Hebrew (where it is a loan word from Russian).
54. A human being.
57. Brazilian tree with handsomely marked wood.
58. The compass point midway between south and west.
59. An addition that extends a main building.
60. Of or like a cecum.
62. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
65. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
70. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
74. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
75. A strong paper or thin cardboard with a smooth light brown finish made from e.g. Manila hemp.
79. Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
80. Generalized edema with accumulation of serum in subcutaneous connective tissue.
82. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
83. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
84. A youth subculture (mostly from the middle class) originating in San Francisco in the 1960s.
85. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.

DOWN

- 1. Gather, as of as crops.
2. A small cake leavened with yeast.
3. Crowd or pack to capacity.
4. Of or relating to the feet.
5. Remove from memory or existence.
6. A loud harsh or strident noise.
7. A contagious skin infection caused by the itch mite.
8. Evergreen mat-forming shrub of North America and northern Eurasia having small white flowers and red berries.
9. Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality.
10. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
11. Alternatively, a member of the family Nymphaeaceae.
12. Administer an oil or ointment to.
13. Indian physicist who with Albert Einstein proposed statistical laws based on the indistinguishability of particles.
14. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
22. A territory in southwestern Germany formerly ruled by the counts palatine.
24. An enclosed space.
27. A public promotion of some product or service.
29. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
31. A field where grass or alfalfa are grown to be made into hay.
32. A manner of speaking that is natural to native speakers of a language.
34. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
36. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
37. A plumbing fixture (usually attached to the wall) used by men to urinate.
39. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
41. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
43. Possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers.
46. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
50. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
52. A cord that is drawn through eyelets or around hooks in order to draw together two edges (as of a shoe or garment).
53. A genus of tropical Asian and Malaysian palm trees.
55. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
56. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
61. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
63. Enthusiastic approval.
64. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
66. A public area set aside as a pedestrian walk.
67. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
68. Express or utter with a hiss.
69. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
71. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
72. Electronic warfare undertaken to insure effective friendly use of the electromagnetic spectrum in spite of the enemy's use of electronic warfare.
73. Praise, glorify, or honor.
76. Black tropical American cuckoo.
77. A period of time spent sleeping.
78. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
81. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Being nice to yourself is one thing, but over-indulgence is an entirely different story. The playful Gemini Full Moon activates your 3rd House of Communication, encouraging you to involve others in your mischief. Unfortunately, reality is filtered by your biases today, presenting you with only part of the truth. Nevertheless, you're still compelled to direct everyone else based on what you think you know — even if your facts are slightly distorted. William Blake wrote, "The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom."



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are dazzled by all the bright lights and brilliant ideas while the witty Gemini Full Moon floods your 2nd House of Self-Worth. But recognizing the value in other people's perspectives doesn't have to threaten your own. Thankfully, there's no reason to go into denial about your feelings just because you're going along with the crowd. Keep communication channels open and be ready to learn something surprising about yourself. Inspiration comes from the unlikeliest sources.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You can sense the cosmic pull of your emotions, but transforming your feelings into action isn't as straightforward as it sounds. The Full Moon falls in your sign and opposes stern Saturn in your 7th House of Others, magnifying the tension in relationship dynamics. It helps to remember that you can lose perspective now by giving too much importance to your changing moods. Wait until the storms pass before taking any extreme measures. What seems incredibly critical today might be seen as a passing whim tomorrow.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The current emotional high tides can bounce you around on the seas of change, even if others can't see your inner turmoil on the outside. You are like a chameleon as you absorb the energy of the reflective Gemini Full Moon in your 12th House of Invisibility. Rather than hiding your colorful dreams from view, reveal a secret to someone close to you. Being vulnerable may feel scary at first, but taking a risk leads to a tender experience and sparks a spiritual epiphany.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You can't be everything to everyone today, even if you try with all your might. The Gemini Full Moon highlights your 11th House of Social Networking, fueling your desire to be accepted and admired by the group. Unfortunately, you can become too involved too quickly if you let your personal responsibilities slide. Consider a temporary retreat from the situation if you find yourself in too deep. Establish your exit strategy now, but wait a few days before doing anything that might spoil the party.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The complexity of too many conflicting plans at work may have your stomach tied up in knots. You are hoping the dynamics will return to normal soon, since you're stretched far enough in too many directions. You want your old life back, but it probably won't happen for a while because the insatiably curious Gemini Moon accentuates your 10th House of Career. Manage your day by making whatever necessary adjustments you must to keep the peace, but don't settle for less in the long run.

WORD SEARCH

GRAMMY WINNERS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



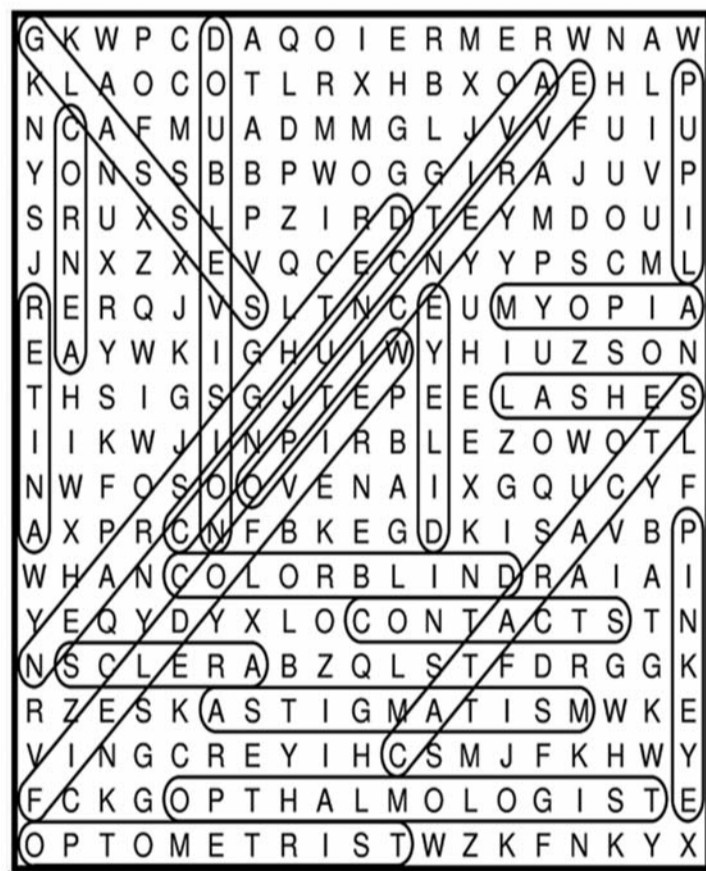
- ADELE, AMERICA, BETTE MIDLER, BOBBY DARIN, BONNIE RAITT, CARLY SIMON, CULTURE CLUB, DEBBY BOONE, FRANK SINATRA, LEANN RIMES, MACKLEMORE, MADONNA, NATALIE COLE, NORAH JONES, PAUL SIMON, SHELBY LYNNE, STEVIE WONDER, THE BEATLES, THE CARPENTERS, TOM JONES

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO THE EYES HAVE IT PUZZLE



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd 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 Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya 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	00660
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	Sao Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tone	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



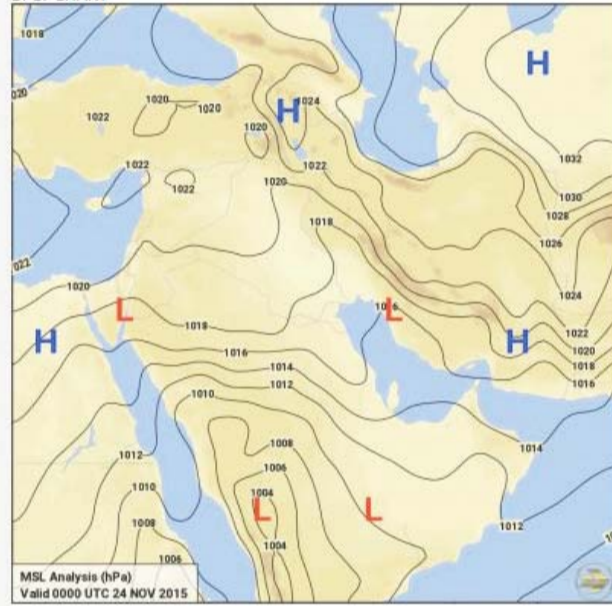
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 24/11/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 22 °C

By Day : Partly cloudy with light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 20 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain
By Night : Clouds will decrease gradually with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	Mostly sunny	sunny + scattered clouds later on	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Min Temp °C	12	12	13	14
Max Temp °C	25	26	26	27
Wind Direction	variable	north westerly to light variable	variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 20	06 - 26	06 - 22	08 - 20

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings
NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	16		19	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	13		22	
ABDALLY	11		21	
BUBYAN	12		20	
JAHRA	14		19	
FAILAKA ISLAND	15		19	
SALMIYAH	17		20	
AHMADI	16		20	
JAL ALIYAH	12		18	
QAROH ISLAND	20		22	
UMM AL-MARADEM	20		22	
NUWAISIB	15		23	
WAFRA	14		20	
MANAGISH	12		17	
SALMY	11		15	
MUTRIBA	11		18	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	19
Min Temp (°C)	12
Max Rel Hum (%)	83
Min Rel Hum (%)	49
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	21 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:20
Sunset	16:50

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:56
Sunrise	06:20
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:11



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 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	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	2455050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123	



Johnny Depp fell for Amber because of blues music

The 'Black Mass' actor - who married the 29-year-old actress earlier this year after meeting on the set of 'The Rum Diary' - feels very "lucky" to have found someone who shares so many of his interests. He gushed: "We connect on a lot of levels but the first thing that really got me was she's an aficionado of the blues. I would play a song, some old obscure blues song and she knew what it was. She's very, very literate. She's a voracious reader, as I have been, so we connected on

that as well. And she's kind of brilliant. "I'm a lucky man." The 52-year-old actor - who has children Lily-Rose, 16 and Jack, 12, with former partner Vanessa Paradis - also believes both he and his wife were "supposed to be in a different time" so he thinks her latest role, in the 1920s-set 'The Danish Girl' was "perfect" for Amber.

Carly Simon claims Sean wanted a threesome

The 'You're So Vain' hitmaker was just 20 when she and her older sibling Lucy, then 22, met the James Bond star - who was married to Diane Cleito - on a boat going from England to New York in 1965 and agreed to meet them for a drink after they sent a note saying they were "not ordinary fans" and explaining their father was the founder of publishing house Simon & Schuster. Describing the actor, then 35, as "far handsomer in person", Carly claimed in her new memoir 'Boys in the Trees' that the Scottish star regaled them with stories, including a recent experience taking hallucinogenic drug LSD, and invited them to join him in his cabin for a drink the following evening. Once there, he proposed a "menage a trois" - or, as their friends described it, a "Simon sisters sandwich" - and after a few minutes when the siblings realized what he had asked, they declined. However, the Nobody Does It Better' hitmaker's sister then met up with Sean the following evening alone and failed to return to their cabin until 5.15am.



Kylie Jenner is ready to marry Tyga

The 18-year-old reality star - who was reported as having dumped the 'Rack City' hitmaker last week - showed no signs of trouble in her relationship as she was very quick to respond when asked if she wants to tie the knot with the rapper. In a video of Kylie leaving an American Music Awards (AMAs) after-party at The Nice Guy in West Hollywood on Sunday posted on TMZ, the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star was asked if she was going to marry Tyga and simply said "yes". The pair were also said to have looked as much in love as ever at the bash. A source told People magazine: "Kylie and Tyga were definitely affectionate, kissing and holding hands. They were nuzzling at their table and being super engaged with each other." However, the current status of their relationship is said to be "shaky" and even their friends don't know if they are back on. The source said: "Nothing is really set in stone. It's kind of up in the air." Kylie keeps throwing everybody off, including all of their friends. In theory, they're kind of done and not going to be together, but then she'll go and post a Snapchat of them holding hands.



Jamie Foxx and Katie still dating secretly

The couple has been rubbing relationship rumors for two years, but it seems all that was just a ploy to distract people from the truth as they've been romancing since 2013. A source told the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column: "She is head over heels for him. But they don't want to fuel any of the rumors so Jamie has been avoiding attending parties she's been going to." Katie and Jamie have a fun and playful relationship and have gotten even closer in the past few months." And

it's no wonder Katie, 36, is keen to keep her relationship under wraps as she hasn't had a public romance since her divorce from Tom Cruise in 2012 after six years of marriage. But it seems Katie has no concerns when it comes to her daughter Suri, nine, whom she has with Tom, as the youngster has already given Jamie, 47, her seal of approval. The insider added: "Suri gets along with him super well, too."



Daisy Lowe has reportedly split from Tyrone Wood

The 26-year-old model is said to have been too keen for the son of Rolling Stones' Ronnie Wood, despite the pair only dating for three months. A source close to the art curator told The Sun newspaper: "He and Daisy have only been going out for a few months but she got really into him. She started telling everyone he was 'The One' despite the fact they had only just got to know each other. Last week he decided she was too clingy and called it off. She has been phoning him repeatedly since to try to get him back." Meanwhile, Daisy - whose exes include the likes of Matt Smith, Mark Ronson and Harry Styles - previously admitted she could never go out with a man "in the public eye" again because it's "too complicated". She explained: "I decided last year that I couldn't go out with any more boys in the public eye - I can't do it, because it's so complicated. There are so many insecurities that come along with it and there's also the competition. It's such a weird world."



Antonio Banderas 'will always love' Melanie

The '33 Days' actor split from his wife of 20 years in 2014 but thinks they'll always stay friends and think well of one another. He said: "We'll always be friends, I hope. We speak to each other every few days and I'm very happy that we're not like many couples, where people can become bitter and angry after their marriages end. I don't see any reason for that. It's much better to try and remember and honor all the beautiful and happy moments you've enjoyed. [We were married for] a very long time and I believe Melanie wants to stay in contact, as

do I. "Melanie is a woman whom I have loved, whom I still love and whom I will always love." Antonio is now dating financial consultant Nicole Kimpel and is "very happy" with her. He told HELLO! magazine: "We first met in Cannes last year, while I was still married. We didn't become involved until after I'd separated from Melanie. I had told Nicole that the situation was still unclear and she told me that I should call her once the situation had resolved itself.

Kristin Cavallari welcomes her third child

The former 'The Hills' star has given birth to a healthy little girl, who she and husband Jay Cutler have decided to name Saylor James Cutler. Sharing a photograph of a pink onesie on her Instagram account, she captioned the image: "Saylor James Cutler was born today at 132pm!! (sic)" The 28-year-old fashion designer also revealed the baby, which was born on November 23, weighed a healthy 7lbs 6oz. Meanwhile, Kristin - who also has three-year-old son Camden and 17-month-old son Jaxon Wyatt with husband Jay Cutler - previously admitted the thought of raising her growing brood "kind of scares her". She explained: "I'm not going to lie, three kids kind of scares me. I'm going to be alone with three children a lot, but we're just going to figure it out. [Camden is] really sweet, so I'm just hoping that he'll be my little helper and help me out as much as possible." She also admitted she is looking forward to have a nursery where "everything is pink". She shared: "Everyone's really excited. I'm already getting the nursery ready! I didn't think I would be a big 'pink' girl but everything is pink. There's a chandelier. I'm getting all the pink and purple clothes."





(Left to right) 'Emerging Talent' award winners Jordan Askill, Grace Wales Bonner and Thomas Tait pose with their awards during the British Fashion Awards 2015 in London on November 23, 2015. — AFP photos



US singer Lady Gaga poses for pictures with her "Red Carpet" award alongside US model Lucky Blue Smith during the British Fashion Awards 2015 in London.



British model Jourdan Dunn poses for pictures with her 'Model of the Year' award.



British singer Cheryl Fernandez-Versini poses for pictures on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the British Fashion Awards 2015 in London.



British Fashion Awards 2015

British designer Victoria Beckham poses for pictures on the red carpet upon arrival.

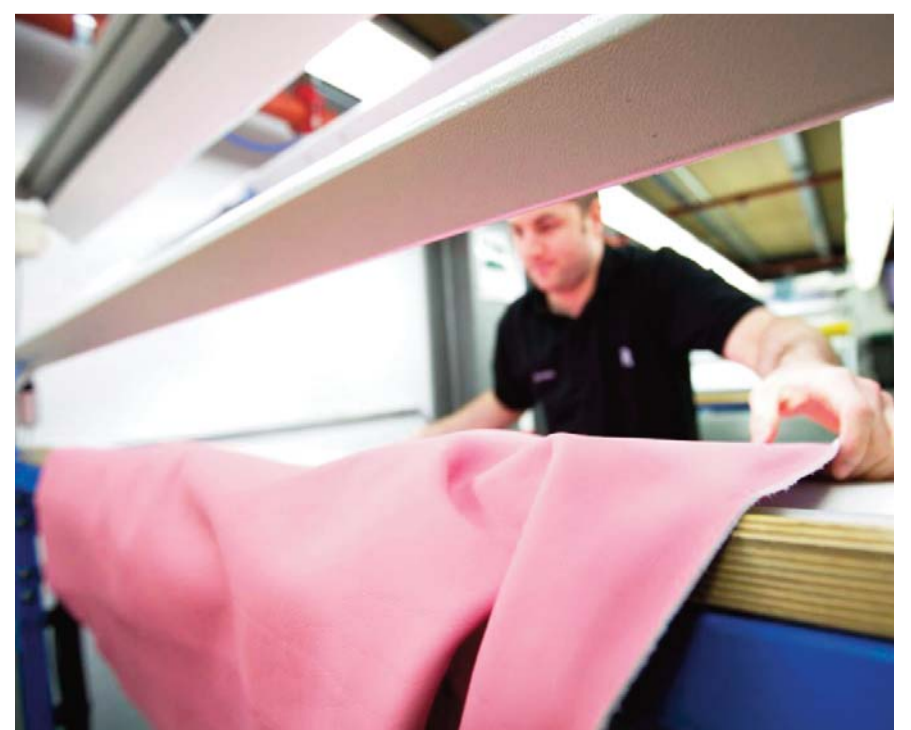
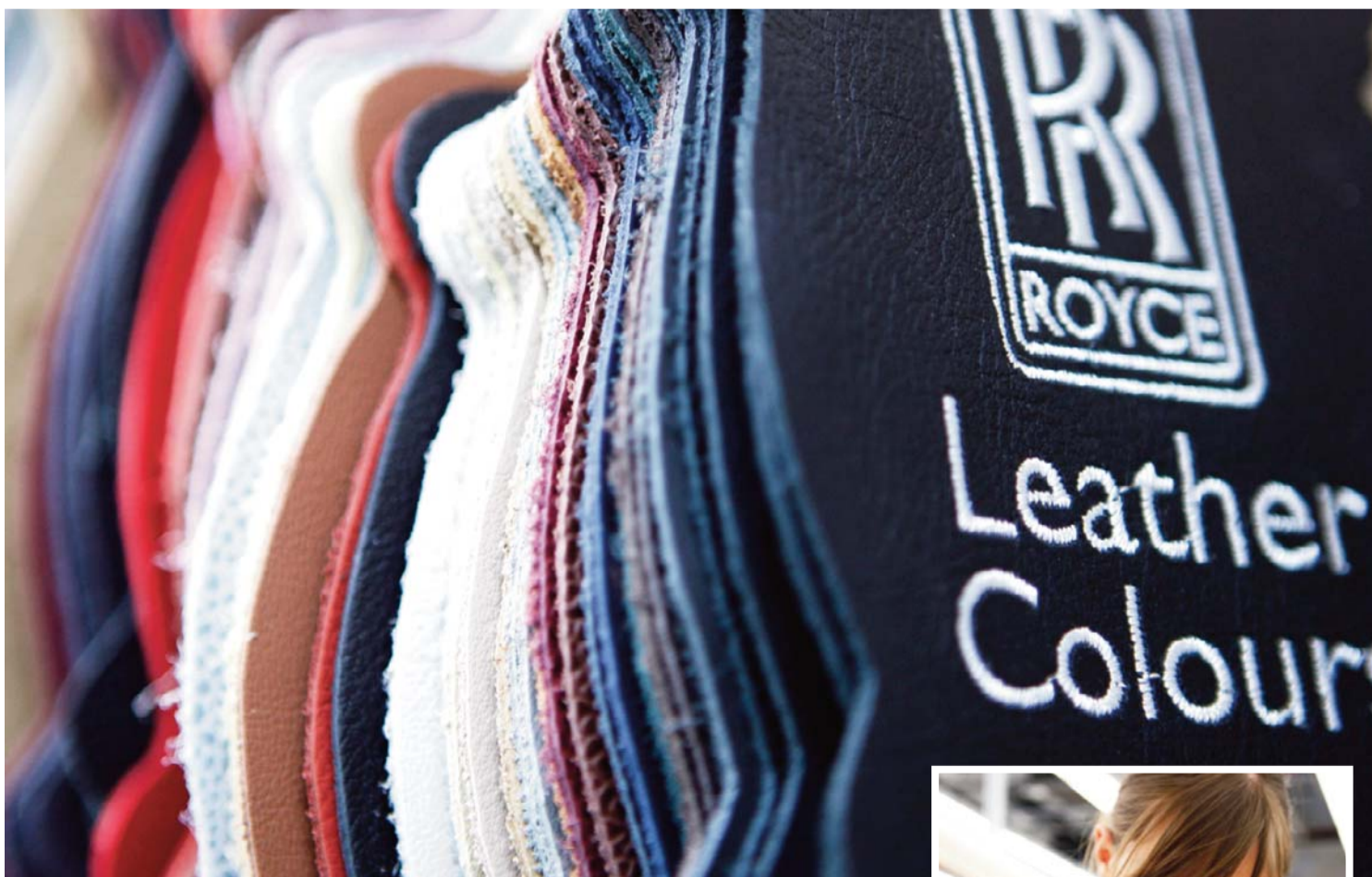
The unparalleled craftsmanship of Rolls-Royce motor cars leather shop

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars has provided luxury connoisseurs with the pinnacle of automotive excellence for over a century now, and has set a remarkable benchmark for what luxury means to each individual, whether that is globally or locally through Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole authorized dealer of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and the official importer of BMW and MINI in Kuwait. Known for unparalleled levels of craftsmanship and the use of premium quality materials throughout each vehicle, all developed at the hands of a dedicated team, each individual Rolls-Royce motor car is a celebration of both the heritage and automotive excellence the marque is famed for. One of the truly unique elements of a Rolls-Royce motor car is the use of Grade-A Natural Grain Leather. When a cus-

tomers first sets foot inside their hand crafted Rolls-Royce he or she can immediately see, feel and smell the inimitable quality of the interior. With the use of premium leather, examined and treated by a selected team of specialists, the interior of a Rolls-Royce is crafted into an experience of sheer luxury. The leather is sourced from bulls reared on high-altitude plains in a region of Europe with a climate too cold for mosquitos to live in, thus minimizing the presence of insect bites and other blemishes within the leather. The bulls are also free-range, raised in very comfortable and safe living conditions with no barbed wire used to confine the space, hence also reducing the likelihood of grazes or wounds on the Bull's skin, resulting in flawless Grade-A leather for the car.

Additionally, to ensure consistency of color, each hide comes from the same batch of bulls and each and every hide is fastidiously inspected for imperfections before being treated, using the most precise tool available- the human eye. The color layer is then applied using a process called drum pigmentation, creating a color surface that is six times thinner than any other premium automotive leather, allowing the texture of the Full Grain Leather to be clearly seen. This process also ensures that the color permeates right through, allowing a consistent color throughout, if it is accidentally scratched. The leather is then cut using computer-controlled laser cutters that can cut up to 450 individual pieces of leather with minimum wastage. These are then hand sewn by the

skilled machinists in Goodwood - an intricate process that involves over 35 meters of decorative stitching to finish the interior. The finishing touches, such as the Rolls-Royce monogram or personalized logos, are then applied before the leather is carefully fitted into the interior of the Rolls-Royce vehicle. The result of the painstaking process is reaped by the customer when they first open the door of their new Rolls-Royce, settle into the meticulously crafted seats, surrounded by the smoothest and softest premium quality Natural Grain Leather, and feel confident that there was no compromise in any aspect of creating their very own automotive masterpiece.



KUWAIT'S PREMIER FASHION



On Monday, (November 23rd from 19h00 to 22h00) Kuwait witnessed the unimaginable - the launch of Kuwait's Premier Fashion Week. The success of this entire organization and three-day event is down to one unique person, Rabab Mouhamad who managed to pull off a high graded show to the awe of all invited guests.

The design of the catwalk is meant to project an opening book - Kuwait is the opening book welcoming a new wave of novelty and excitement.

The guests on Monday night were the elite of Kuwait along with national and international media such as, Kuwait Times newspaper - which is also a sponsor of this event, Al-Yaqaza Magazine, Al-Anbaa newspaper, Layalina Magazine, Al-Rai, Al-Shahid, Habayibna from Kuwait, Fashion One TV, Fashion 4K TV from the UK, Al Arabiya TV, RTL TV from Benelux, MBC, LBC, ELLE Magazine Scandinavia, PLAZA Magazine, FEMME Magazine, Mondanite Magazine, AL Sharkiah Magazine, Precious 7 Magazine from New York, Gaby Lteif from Radio Monte Carlo Paris, Pashion Magazine, CPP Business Luxury, Spirit and Flesh Magazine from New York, LUXE TV and the stylist of Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden.

The international media were impressed by the artistic creations of the collections showcased on Monday evening. The sheer handy work, detailing and opulent fabrics was breath taking. The media crew members said that the haute couture outfits were "modern, elegant, fresh and perfect for the red carpet in LA, New York and Monte Carlo".

The Italian blogger Marco Ferra felt proud to be the first Italian media and precursor to cover the premier event. The geniuses that showcased Monday evening were: Gossaci (AlaaSaad El-Deen), TM Fashion Group (TareqEdiz), Atelier Lab, (Nizar Romani), and Atelier Lioness (ElieAbouMrad, FadiSeklawi, Patrik Basil). Hair and make-up was by Ilham Shalabi, and the 16 models flown in especially from Paris looked like Roman goddesses. It is an event 'not to miss'.



A model displays a new creation by Lebanese designer Alaa Saad from Gosace couture during the fashion week. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A model displays a new creation by Kuwaiti makeup artist and hairdresser Elham Al-Shalabi.



A model displays a new creation by Lebanese designer Alaa Saad from Gosace couture.



WEEK KICKS OFF IN STYLE



A model displays a new creation by Turkish designer Tarik Ediz during the Kuwait fashion week.



Models display new creations by Kuwaiti makeup artist and hairdresser Elham Al-Shalabi during the fashion week in Kuwait City on November 23, 2015.



A model displays a new creation by Lebanese designer Alaa Saad from Gosace couture during the fashion week in Kuwait.



Models display new creations by Kuwaiti makeup artist and hairdresser Elham Al-Shalabi during the fashion week.



Band Major of Pakistan Desert Rangers, Muhammad Iqbal (center) leads while conducting team members mounted on camels during the march in Moj Garh, 100 kilometers east of the city of Bahawalpur in Punjab province. — AFP

Pakistan's camel-mounted military bagpipe band: Thirsty for fame

A haunting peal reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands reverberates across Pakistan's inhospitable Cholistan desert as the nation's first camel-mounted military bagpipe band marches, noses in the air. With scarlet and gold uniforms in sharp contrast to the dichromatic landscape of beige and green, the camels' tails switch in perfect rhythm. Their passengers sway above them with looks of nervous concentration as they try to keep balance while blaring out the notes. "It is very difficult to play the bagpipe while sitting on the camel," admits piper Muhammad Hussain. "But we have now learned the art." The band, part of the Pakistan Desert Rangers, was formed last year after hundreds of animals went out of service, reduced by the latest military patrol vehicles to doing mere donkey's work—that is until the idea to dress them in bunting and put bagpipers on their backs was born.

After making their debut before startled spectators at Pakistan's National Day parade in Islamabad in March, they are now deployed in Moj Garh, 100 kilometers east of the city of Bahawalpur in Punjab province, where they drill daily in preparation for a potential international career. Wing commander Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Razzaq says the band is a matter of pride for his troops, particularly as a counter-balance to arch-rival India. India, he admits, does have its own camel-mounted military band—but theirs, he notes pointedly, "is a brass band," with not a bagpipe in sight. The Pakistani version helps keep them on "equal footing" with "our enemy", he adds as the camels march past to the beat of the drums.

"They (the troops) should not feel demoralized... They should feel pride that we also have such a band. We are not less than anyone else." Moj Garh, home to a centuries-old fort, serves as a base for troops in the Pakistan army, and its desert location made it a prime choice for officials deciding where to locate their camel band camp. The army has built a huge farm housing some 170 camels there, where handlers train the temperamental animals to toe the line. "It is an uphill task to train the camels, who are known for their anger, vengeance and mood-swings," Razzaq says, as nearby handlers drape their charges in costumes before the start of a performance.

A team of veterinary doctors and medics give round-the-clock care and the handlers provide prompt feedings. "They get angry and start fighting with each other if we do not feed them on time," Sepoy Asghar Ali, one of the handlers, tells AFP, admitting that while camels are "quite intelligent" they are also quick to fury. He describes the relationship as "friendly", but it hasn't been an easy road. "We have trained them in such a way that they don't get upset with even drum sounds... they obey our orders now."

Ready for the world stage

It's not all marching. Some of the specially trained camels also perform in an acrobatics display, featuring Rangers perched upside down on their backs and pyramids of riders balancing across three camels at a time—a manoeuvre described, somewhat understatedly, by Razzaq as one of the "most difficult" to perform. The uniforms—from elaborate neck and leg bands for

the camels to the bagpipers' tartan—are hand-stitched in the city of Sialkot northeast of the capital Islamabad. "I feel pride in wearing this uniform and playing the bagpipe while sitting on the camel," the bagpiper Hussain said near the Moj Garh fort. Band major and Sub-Inspector Muhammad Iqbal, whose task it was to train the band, says it was difficult getting them over the hump. "But I did it," he says proudly, adding that the camels are now "good friends": "They are more loyal than humans."

Since their March debut the band has performed just once, in the eastern city of Lahore. But they are now poised for bigger things, says Razzaq, who hopes to secure specialized training for his team at Pakistan's prestigious Army School of Music. There is at least one other known camel-mounted military bagpipe band: the Sultan of Oman's Royal Cavalry Band. But Pakistan's pipers may soon rival them on the world stage. "We can perform anywhere in Pakistan even at a very short notice," Razzaq says. "We are even ready to perform outside Pakistan—if facilities are provided to us to transport the camels." — AFP

Band members of Pakistan Desert Rangers, arrive after performing in Moj Garh, some 100 kilometers east of Bahawalpur in Punjab province. — AFP photos



Members of Pakistan Desert Rangers, perform during a march in Moj Garh, 100 kilometers east of Bahawalpur in Punjab province. A haunting peal reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands reverberates across Pakistan's inhospitable Cholistan desert as what is believed to be the world's only camel-mounted military bagpipe band marches, noses in the air.



In Algeria, heavy metal bangs up against tradition

They came from all over conservative Algeria, clad in black leather, studded bracelets and even the traditional Muslim veil to revel in a rare heavy metal concert. Organized earlier this month in the eastern city of Constantine—designated this year's Capital of Arab Culture by the Arab League and UN cultural agency UNESCO—the two-day Fest 213 brought together metal fans from across this North African country.

Headbanging and mosh pits may seem incongruous in Algeria, where the government prefers to promote tradi-

tional music and events that bolster its Arab-Muslim identity. But the country has had a solid core of metal fans for more than two decades and—despite occasional media charges of "devil worship"—the music is attracting a new generation of followers. "This is really unprecedented," a young woman from Constantine going by the name "Sadness Spirit" said at Fest 213, which shares its name with Algeria's international dialling code.

Dressed in black leather, with face piercings and dyed hair, she was waiting for a concert to begin, accompa-

nied by a friend with her own piercings but also wearing a Muslim veil. Nearby stood a group of young men dressed in black T-shirts, their arms tattooed and their hair slicked back with gel. "Outside of concerts we don't dress this way or act this way to avoid trouble," said "Sadness Spirit". The festival featured five bands, including Franco-Algerian acts like Acyl and Arkan, but also homegrown outfits like Traxx, Fingerprints and Numidas. A far cry from the country's Rai pop music, Algerian metal first emerged in the 1990s, a decade marked by a devastating war between the govern-

ment and Islamists.

'Metalhead and Muslim'

With authorities preoccupied with battling extremism—the war eventually claimed 200,000 lives—an underground metal scene flourished largely unnoticed by the country at large. More recently it has come under fire, with conservatives accusing the music of corrupting Algeria's youth. El Biled, a conservative television channel, launched a virulent attack last summer against metal fans, accusing them of being "devil worshippers". It broadcast a documentary featuring fans speaking of black magic, with images of skulls flashing in the background. The documentary prompted a backlash from metal aficionados on social media, with one Facebook page urging supporters to adopt the slogan "I'm a metalhead and a Muslim". Artists have also accused the government of using its control over concert venues to limit their performances, blocking some bands and telling others to change their lyrics.

Malik Chaoui, an Algerian cultural activist, said the government too often promotes "cultural policies that aim to control thought" and needs to accept more diversity. For now, followers of alternative music are doing what they can outside the mainstream, using social media for promotion and finding independent associations willing to help organize events. In Algiers, a group of young people have set up a group dubbed Mayhem to help promote musicians who play rock, metal and blues. It has already arranged for performances on the terrace of the capital's Museum of Fine Arts. "Officials consider these movements as too Westernized and not profitable, but in fact a metal concert brings in a lot of people," said 21-year-old Mayhem member Zakaria Brahami. — AFP



Algerian girls flash the 'sign of the horns', a gesture commonly used in rock and metal music festival 'Fest 213' in the north-eastern Algerian city of Constantine.



Algerian rock group Traxx from the northern central city of Tizi Ouzou play during the two-day 'Fest 213' rock and metal festival in the north-eastern Algerian city of Constantine. — AFP photos